

WINTER 2025

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The Delaware County Christian School (DC) *Keynoter* is published bi-annually to communicate our school vision and news to alumni, friends, family, and prayer partners of the school. DC was established in 1950. The school serves students in grades PK2–12 on campuses in Newtown Square and Devon, PA. DC is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Association of Christian Schools International. DC admits students of any race, color, and national/ethnic origin to all of the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national/ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, or athletic and other school-administered programs. In addition, DC is authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant students.







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Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV

A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear DC Families and Friends,

As the church in Ephesus read these stirring words from their beloved Paul, I wonder if the memories of Paul's time with them in Ephesus came flooding over them. In Acts 19, we read of Paul's ministry in Ephesus, where the church saw God do mighty works... immeasurably more than they could ask or imagine. In Acts 19:11-12 we read, "And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them." Paul's benediction to the Ephesians serves as a reminder and a charge forward: The same God who worked extraordinary miracles while I was in your presence now wants to do immeasurably more in you and through the Church!



Similarly, DC's story is one of God's faithfulness. This year, DC celebrates 75 years of excellence in Christian education! Since our founding in 1950, DC has seen evidence of God's miraculous provision each decade. These markers serve as a reminder of God's hand at work through the faculty, staff, and leadership of DC to continually advance His ministry.

There are thousands of stories of lives transformed as DC fulfills its mission to educate students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action. The stories and photos in this issue of the Keynoter celebrate the work of DC to prepare students for a life of impact through an innovative and exemplary education rooted in Christ. Students prepared for a life of impact

means giving our kids a greater sense of who they are, of their true purpose, of how the world is broken and will be made whole, and of their role in God's great redemption story.

Even as we celebrate DC's 75th Anniversary Year, we step forward in faith and claim tomorrow's miracles, anticipating God will work immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria,

De RSO

Dan Steinfield, Head of School



















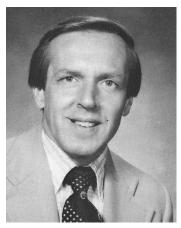


Homecoming Weekend 2024 was a spectacular event celebrating DC's 75th Anniversary over four days of festivities from October 10-13. The record-breaking attendance of this weekend was not just fun for all ages, but also a testament to the vibrant community that has been built over the decades through the Lord's faithfulness. The weekend allowed the DC community to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and look forward with anticipation to the future.

HALL of HONOR



DR. ROY W. LOWRIE, JR



MR. KENNETH H. TANIS



DR. DANIEL A. HUSSAR '58



MRS. LUCY B. MALMBERG '67

On the evening of Friday, October 11, the inaugural Hall of Honor program took place. Inductees for the Hall of Honor Class of 2024 included: Dr. Roy W. Lowrie, Jr., head of school from 1954-1980; Mr. Kenneth H. Tanis, head of school from 1980-2002; Dr. Daniel A. Hussar, class of 1958; Mrs. Lucy B. Malmberg, class of 1967. These individuals were recognized for their contributions to DC, their communities, and the world. The inductees and their families were invited to a private reception held beforehand, and the program that followed was open to all in the community. As the Hall of Honor cements itself as a new DC tradition, the hope is that our alumni, former faculty and staff, parents, grandparents, and current students will join us each year to celebrate the incredible work of individuals in our community.

To read more about each inductee, please visit https://www.dccs.org/dc-life/hallofhonor or use the QR code.













It's time to submit your nominations for



Class of 2025!

To learn more about the qualifications, please visit dccs.org/dc-life/hallofhonor/nomination or use the QR code.



FOCUS on FACULTY



 $ROB\ ATKINS\ completed\ his\ Ph.D.\ in\ educational\ leadership\ from\ Columbia\ International$ University, where he successfully defended his dissertation, A Convergent Mixed Method Study of Head of School Practices that Contribute to Mission Stability. Rob has taught at DC for 15 years and is currently the Bible department chair and Bible teacher in the upper school.



STACEY HICKLIN is now the director of curriculum and instruction and has shifted her focus more heavily on curriculum while still teaching a reduced number of science classes in the middle school. She has taught at DC for seven years and has been integral in training DC's faculty in Teaching for Transformation (TfT).



CHRISTINE ALLEN is now the director of college & career counseling at DC. Christine is in her thirteenth year of outstanding impact as a member of DC's faculty. First as a classroom teacher and then as a student support teacher, Christine is beloved for her meticulous organization and focus on meeting the individual needs of each one of her students. During her tenure, Christine has also served as the assistant director of the international student program, shepherding international students through all aspects of their DC experience, including academic advising and the navigation of the college application process.



MARK DIXON '99 will assume the role of assistant head of school beginning July 1, 2025. Mark has served as the head of upper school for seven years, during which time he has successfully coached faculty, developed student culture, and shepherded students and parents. Mark previously served as a faculty member and athletic coach at DC, as well as a division head at both The Stony Brook School and Montgomery School. Mark is a highly gifted leader who, as assistant head of school, will provide direct oversight to the four academic divisions of the school. Creating this role continues a longstanding DC tradition to raise up strong internal leadership and will provide support to the head of school.



JOY LUDWIG will complete her tenure as head of lower school on June 30, 2025. Joy will move into a new position at DC as director of mission sustainability and expansion. In this new role, Joy will be working with the head of school to develop additional opportunities for access to Christian education. Joy has served faithfully in leading the lower school to new levels of academic and cocurricular excellence, creating outdoor education programs, starting a variety of after-school club offerings, and facility upgrades. Joy excels in shepherding parents and students and has blessed many with her steady and spiritual guidance.



KRISTEN LEVIS '92 has been named as the next head of lower school, effective July 1, 2025, following a national search and approval of the Executive Leadership Team. Kristen Levis has dedicated 19 years to her career at DC, and has served in many roles, including fourth-grade teacher, library and technology teacher, second-grade teacher, and currently, as the assistant head of lower school. In her current role, she has worked to assist with the administrative, instructional, and student life functions to meet the educational needs of students and carry out the school's mission, vision, and strategic goals. Kristen is known for her godly, servant leadership. Her kindness, servant heart, and generosity create a strong Christian community among the lower school faculty. Faculty repeatedly note Kristen's profound ability to shepherd, mentor, and care for the faculty.



LORICHUNG, interim director of human resources, will continue to serve DC as the chair of the upper school head search through completion. Lori is an HR expert and high-level leader who has contributed significantly to DC's Executive Leadership Team. We are grateful for her service and leadership to the school.



HANNAH (ZUBYK) GRIM '14 joined DC in January as the new director of human resources. Hannah holds a bachelor's degree in management from Penn State University. Most recently, she served as the district manager at Aldi, where she was responsible for overseeing multiple store locations and leading store managers in all HR-related matters. We warmly welcome Hannah and her husband, Gator Grim '14, back to the DC community.





 $VERA\ COBOURN\ ,\ lower\ school\ student\ support\ services\ teacher,\ will\ retire\ at\ the\ conclusion\ of\ this\ school\ year,\ marking\ 36\ years\ of\ service\ at\ DC.\ Vera\ and\ her\ husband\ Charles\ have\ two\ children\ who\ graduated\ from\ DC\ (Alexandra\ '12\ and\ Charles\ '16)\ and\ just\ became\ grandparents\ to\ Lily\ Grace\ Cobourn.\ Vera\ is\ respected\ by\ the\ faculty,\ staff,\ students,\ and\ parents\ at\ DC\ and\ she\ will\ be\ greatly\ missed.$



 $CHUCK\ YOUNG\ ,\ middle\ school\ Bible\ teacher,\ will\ retire\ at\ the\ conclusion\ of\ this\ school\ year.\ Chuck\ has\ served\ at\ DC\ for\ 40\ years,\ having\ started\ as\ a\ middle\ school\ history\ and\ Bible\ teacher\ in\ 1985.\ Chuck\ has\ also\ served\ as\ assistant\ middle\ school\ principal,\ curriculum\ coordinator,\ head\ of\ middle\ school\ ,\ and\ coach\ of\ the\ middle\ school\ softball\ and\ basketball\ teams.\ Chuck\ and\ his\ wife\ Elaine\ have\ three\ children\ who\ graduated\ from\ DC\ (Melanie\ '98,\ Chuck\ '03,\ Katie\ '04)\ and\ currently\ have\ a\ grandchild\ in\ the\ ECC.$

An Unexpected Journey:

New Faculty Testimony





As I reflect on my first year teaching at DC, I'm overwhelmed by gratitude for how God orchestrated my journey here.

Joining the DC community felt both unexpected and deeply purposeful—a calling I didn't initially foresee but now recognize as part of God's perfect plan.

The story of how I came to DC began with a period of prayerful seeking. I completed my student teaching during COVID-19 and finished my time at Temple University with an uneasy heart. After time away and much wrestling, I felt a stirring in my heart to return to the classroom and longed to be in a place where faith and education could intertwine more intentionally. Around that time, I heard about DC through a friend who spoke highly of the school's commitment to academic excellence and Christ-centered teaching. I was hesitant at first, wondering if I was ready for such a significant change. But through prayer, scripture, and wise counsel, I felt God nudging me forward. Doors opened unexpectedly, and before I knew it, I was signing my contract and preparing for this new chapter.

Looking back, I can see how God's path for my life has been both surprising and intentional. If you had asked me a few years ago where I'd be today, I wouldn't have guessed it would be in a Christian school setting. But in hindsight, God was preparing me all along—through past teaching experiences, relationships, and even challenges—to step into this role with confidence and trust. His plans often unfold in ways we do not expect, but they are always better than what we could imagine.

One of my favorite things about teaching at DC has been the opportunity to connect with students in a way that goes beyond academics. This school fosters an environment where we can openly talk about faith, pray together, and explore God's truths as part of our daily learning. I love seeing students grow not only in knowledge but also in their relationship with Christ. It is a privilege to be part of their spiritual journey and to witness how God is working in their lives.

Each day in third grade brings unique challenges and opportunities to inspire curiosity and critical thinking. Whether we're diving into a thought-provoking discussion or working on a group assignment, I'm constantly amazed by my students' insights and enthusiasm.

My hope for every student who enters my classroom is that they feel valued and encouraged to see their God-given potential. I want them to know they are loved by their Creator and that their talents and abilities can be used for His glory. My prayer is that they leave my class not only with a stronger understanding of the subject but also with a deeper confidence in who they are in Christ.

This first year at DC has been a transformative experience, and I'm excited to see how God will continue to work through me and this incredible school community. His plans are truly worth trusting, even when they take us on unexpected journeys.

- Hayoung Sun, Third Grade Teacher

The Heartheat of DC



DC's history is woven from the myriad voices that have walked its halls; the voices of students, teachers, staff, and the community, each contributing a unique thread to the school's rich tapestry. They carry stories of growth, challenges, triumphs, and transformations, all of which shape the identity and legacy of a school committed to Christ, educating students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action.

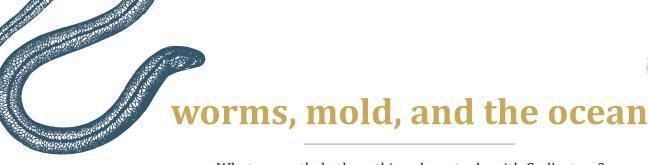
In the summer 2025 issue of the Keynoter magazine we want to feature stories from you!

Here are some examples of stories to share:

- A reflection on a formational experience in a classroom or extracurricular
- A teacher who shaped your path at DC
- How God prepared you for life beyond DC
- How the DC community has impacted your life
- Why you choose to send your child(ren) to DC

Send your stories to advancement@dccs.org or use this QR code.





What on earth do these things have to do with God's story? A DC fifth grader could answer that question with confidence.

by Grace Newman '16, Advancement Office Administrative Assistant

The 2024-25 school year kicked off with one of the largest science units in fifth grade. Combining a new Mystery Science curriculum with the traditional unit on ocean ecosystems, science teachers Brooke Kees and Andrew McCorkell designed a truly memorable learning experience with the help of faculty members, parent and grandparent volunteers, and organizations in the local community.

Mystery Science has enhanced classroom engagement with short video discussions, which then prompt students to conduct hands-on science investigations. Some questions include, "Where do fallen leaves go?" or "Why do you have to clean a fish tank but not a pond?" This curriculum also teaches children how organisms depend on one another in food webs, before diving deeper into content on the ocean ecosystem.

In addition, fifth graders enjoyed many outdoor learning opportunities on and off campus. Director of Outdoor Learning Kevin McIntyre, led a watershed study on DC's Lower Campus and the Waterloo Preserve next door. The purpose, says McIntyre, is to "make observations about the water: not about what's in it, but where does it come from? What are our sources of water? Where does it go, and what does it

take with it?" By examining the headwater stream on the Lower Campus, students begin noticing that "all water goes somewhere." For instance, our stream pours into the Darby Creek, which leads to the Schuylkill River; then the river flows into the Delaware Bay and ultimately ends up in the Atlantic Ocean. This activity challenges students to connect their learning to their environmental impact.

Traditionally, DC fifth graders take a field trip to Cape May, NJ to observe an ocean ecosystem up close. The Wetlands Institute has partnered with DC for several years in running this trip, but this fall the Science Education at Sea (SEAS) program was added to the itinerary. Teachers,

chaperones, and students boarded a boat and were fully immersed in their studies. Not only were they able to watch dolphins from the deck, but students cast out drag nets and examined each creature that was caught. Kees shares, "When they pulled in the net, they got to walk along the boat as they all carried it [which] was a team effort. What they pulled in, they were able to touch it, learn about it, and feel it!" The instructors set up different stations for students to rotate through, and even provided technology to magnify the phytoplankton (microscopic algae). However, McCorkell's favorite creature to learn about was the horseshoe crab: "I never would have thought a horseshoe crab to be so interesting! They even had the kids kiss it for good luck."

Amy Ransom, HIVE teacher, also partnered with fifth-grade teachers in the HIVE (Hub of Innovation and Exploration). They discussed the impact of plastic pollution on God's creation, then applied engineering skills to create an ocean cleanup interceptor to capture "trash" in a model bay. After all groups presented their contraptions, Ransom shared examples of engineers who conducted similar experiments to prevent trash tsunamis in Guatemala and pick up waste in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. She explains, "The purpose [of the activity] is developing a mindset to want to help God's creation. They are at a point in their life where they can start understanding there is a bigger problem." Upon learning about the interceptor experiment, one student exclaimed, "We're doing something REAL!"

The ocean unit culminated with an aquarium exhibit project that lined the halls of fifth-grade classrooms. In groups, students researched the deep sea, kelp forests, coral reefs, and rocky shores. Students designed posters listing habitat facts, the animal's diet, and ways to protect them from potential threats. The project spilled into other core subjects, as students practiced research skills and implemented grammar rules while creating their posters. What made the exhibit truly pop was the additional decor fifth graders

> included to immerse guests in a life-like aguarium! Kees explains, "They had some class time, but if they wanted to they could spend lunch, recess, or time at home to create the aquarium [decorations]." Parent volunteers donated their time and items like pool noodles for use as coral. The project united the DC community in more ways than one. Younger students were given opportunities to tour with their teachers, and the display remained up during parent-teacher conferences so families could see the finished product.

However, the aquarium's purpose is not only to be a beautiful, educational display for visitors. As guests young and old walked through the aquarium, they stopped to read short descriptions about how

the ocean ecosystem points to a biblical narrative: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. Furthermore, when students reflected on the unit as a whole, many mentioned a desire to participate in beach clean-ups and reduce their use of plastic or styrofoam. Kees says, "It's nice to hear them thinking that way. They're starting to ask themselves, 'What are we doing with this knowledge?'" The true value of a Christian education is that each discussion, lesson, and project aims to tell God's story and calls young believers to impact His Kingdom.

"The purpose is developing a mindset to want to help God's creation. They are at a point in their life where they can start understanding there is a bigger problem."









God made everything in the ocean work perfectly together. Every creature, big or small, has an important job. Coral reefs protect fish, and plants make oxygen. This shows how we are all connected, just like in God's plan. God cares for the ocean and for us with great love.



God made the ocean beautiful and full of life, but sin has hurt it. Pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction have caused problems. Plastic harms sea animals, coral reefs lose their color, and there are fewer fish. When we see trash in the water instead of healthy ocean life, it reminds us that our sins can hurt our connection with God and others.



redemption

Jesus has defeated sin, and one day everything will be made new! God didn't give up on us. He sent Jesus to save us and fix our relationship with Him. The Bible says, "I am making all things new!" How can you help fix something broken in God's world?



restoration

It's amazing how God's creation can heal. By God's grace and our care, forests can regrow after fires. Coral reefs can rebuild, and wildlife can return to damaged areas. Signs of restoration give us hope that one day, the world will be fully restored as God intended. Just as nature heals, we too are being renewed day by day becoming more like Christ, reflecting His perfect design.

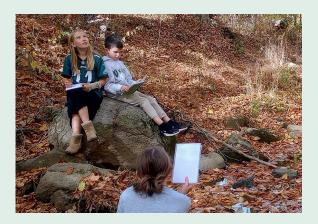






Art in the Lower School

Third, fourth, and fifth graders in the art enrichment class led by Karla Pankratz participated in a long-term project during the fall semester. Students began on their seasonal landscapes during art enrichment and spent time outside observing the colorful hues of autumn on the Lower Campus, working along Darby Creek and taking inspiration from their surroundings to practice drawing trees. Pankratz says, they then "took their inspiration inside and worked on a landscape in the season of their choice." Students had the opportunity to share their work at an event at Church of the Saviour, in Wayne, PA, called CREATIVE: A Night of Original Worship. Their artwork was on display alongside many local Christian artists for an evening of singing original worship songs, poetry readings, and artwork that "points toward our God in worship," says Pankratz. These same seasonal landscapes were also displayed at A Bit of the Arts, an art festival created and run by Upper School Art Teacher Liz Coats, in November.









Learning to Look

In Kim Williams' middle school art class, students are "learning to look." This phrase is her "storyline," a Teaching for Transformation (TfT) learning tool, which helps students "see the story that invites them to be a part of how God is making all things new." Learning to look stems from Williams' Deep Hope: "We are imago dei, created to be creative. Therefore, by learning to look at God's creative patterns in the world, we will train our imaginations to do the good, seek the true, make and enjoy the beautiful."

The goal in Williams' classes is for students to truly see all of God's creation, to know God as the true source of beauty, and to love beauty. Students look for patterns in creation and draw from life as much as possible. Throughout the year, Williams brings in a range of items for drawing, from flowers and branches to cupcakes piled with frosting.

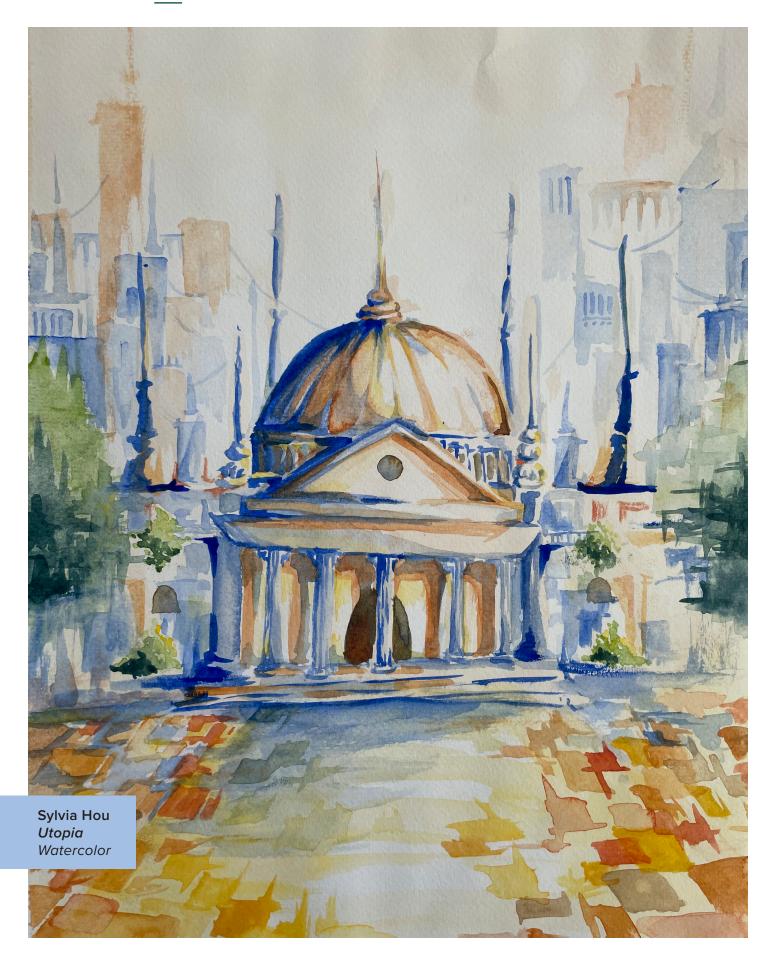
Drawing from real-life objects and learning to look, students can open themselves up to being taught by God's creative patterns in the world.

The Miracle Worker

This year's fall play, *The Miracle Worker*, performed by the advanced theatre class, was a beautifully impactful portrayal of the life of Helen Keller (senior Annika Callan) and her teacher Annie Sullivan (junior Erin Robertson). The show weaves in often poignant moments with notes of occasional lightheartedness. The cast of *The Miracle Worker* handled both the dramatic scenes and humor with poise and maturity. Robertson and Callan's relationship as Keller and Sullivan made it evident to the viewer that both actors worked well together

and their dynamic brought the whole production together. "This performance was unlike anything I've ever done before, and helped me to have a deeper understanding and empathy for struggles people can endure, both above and below the surface," explained Callan. Other stand-out performers included Talya Thomas as Kate Keller, William Painter as Captain Keller, Emma Morton as Aunt Ev Keller, and Ian Kauffman as James Keller.





Rebuilding a Legacy

Over the past few years, the DC football and field hockey teams have both had recent seasons of noteworthy success following the intentional rebuilding of their programs.

FOOTBALL

After earning the 11-man 1A District Champs title in 2017, DC's football team hit a rough patch of low numbers after the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing them to step down to 8-man teams. Despite struggling for the first two years with losing records, the team came back and made a name for themselves during the 2024 season, finishing with a record of 8-1, and playing in the KSFL (Keystone State Football League) Championship game. In spite of the final loss, the team's journey was inspiring. Much of their success can be attributed to practice but also by letting players settle into their positions, and "getting a few more games under our belts," as senior running back and kicking specialist Caleb Videon puts it. Head Coach Lloyd Hill, remarked, "We had the talent but we just had to place them [the players] in a spot on the field to be successful. The results certainly showed by having back-to-back seasons with the highest scoring offense in the league and in the county."

Upperclassmen leadership also played a role in the team's success in the KSFL Championship. The hard-working attitude and camaraderie among the men "served as an inspiration as well as an example to the rest of the team as to how much effort should be put into each and every play," says sophomore outside linebacker and slot receiver Andre Kremin.

The squad was able to make a firm statement in their final season in the 8-man realm, defeating the defending KSFL Champions, the Maryland School for the Deaf Orioles, in the regular season. They even contended in their first 11-man game since COVID-19, taking down Ridley High School's JV team in a close defensive shootout; 12-6 the final. "To me, that indicated that we had arrived," asserted Thom Houghton, home announcer and avid supporter of the program.

In December 2024, athletics announced that the football program would be moving from 8-man football to 11-man football for the 2025 season. This change allows DC to compete in more local contests, join a league, and contend for district and state championships. It will also align football with all of DC's other sports teams under the PIAA.

The flourishing program has families and players invigorated and excited about the 2025 season and players are putting in the work in the offseason to ensure that they can attack the new competition full steam ahead.

FIELD HOCKEY

The field hockey team has had a similar story over the past four years, but has emerged as one of the stars of the DC Athletic Department in recent years. The team had numerous key wins throughout the 2024 season, including the large public school Upper Moreland, long-time rivals Faith Christian Academy, and an astounding victory over their division rivals Dock Mennonite on the turf field during DC's Homecoming Weekend.

Junior defender Maryn D'Antonio said, "I think that [victory over Faith] showed our determination as a team and the fact that we were able to accomplish more than we thought." The team ended the regular season with a 14-5 record, the highest it's been in years, and clinched the two seed as a district qualifier.

These wins, among many, were not by chance. "These games were more than just wins—they were moments where the team's hard work, unity, and resilience shone brightly," says Head Coach Jackie (Barr) Daniel '15, and "In every game, they demonstrated a commitment to excellence, sportsmanship, and a desire to glorify God through their efforts."

The perseverance and determination of this team were contagious, much like our football team, as the girls were able to rally together and bring home countless wins for the Knights, including a breathtaking 11-game win streak during the 2024 season. The field hockey's rebuilding season had started when, in 2023, the team broke into districts for the first time in over a decade. This type of grittiness and ability to rise to the occasion was a specific quality that this year's team also possessed because "everybody played their hardest," said junior midfielder Leah Darnall. On this achievement, Coach Daniel remarked, "This milestone set a new standard of excellence and gave the players a vision of what could be achieved through hard work and perseverance."

-Sam Dixon '25, Communications Prefect





FALL SPORTS Awards

VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

Head Coach: George McFarland Assistant Coach: Jocelyn Confino

AWARDS:

Addison Atkins

All BAL - First Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Ella Clipston

All BAL - Second Team

Grant Mast

All BAL - Second Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Hugh Nicholson

All BAL - Second Team

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

Head Coach: Rob Atkins

Assistant Coaches: John Levis, Jesse Byler, Nate Shackleton, Micah Collins

Season Record: 10-10-1

AWARDS:

Matteo DeBellis

All BAL - Second Team

Matthew Levis

All BAL - First Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Ben Norbury

All BAL - First Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Jude Sacks

All BAL - Second Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Cameron Vavala

All BAL - First Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Brecon Williams

All BAL - Second Team

VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS

Head Coach: Analia Peters '97 Assistant Coach: Todd Curyto '94

Season Record: 5-6

AWARDS:

Sonya Curyto

All BAL - Second Team - Singles

Sonya Curyto and Lily Peters

All BAL - Second Team - Doubles

Addie Smith

All BAL - Honorable Mention

VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

Head Coach: Rob Irias

Assistant Coaches: Alison Levis '18,

Jeremy Donovan

Season Record: 12-6-1

AWARDS:

Julia Evans

All BAL - First Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Abby Gifford

All BAL - Second Team

Ella Irias

All BAL - First Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Hallie Kees

All BAL - Second Team

Kate Latchford

All BAL - First Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Kiley Schmitt

All BAL - Second Team

Kat Wolfe

All BAL - First Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

VARSITY FOOTBALL

Head Coach: Lloyd Hill

Assistant Coaches: Chip Ridewood,

Andrew Krider, Malik Graves

Season Record: 8-1

AWARDS:

Sam Dixon

All Delco - Honorable Mention - All Purpose

VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY

Head Coach: Jackie Daniel '15 Assistant Coaches: Darah Groce, Joni

Mindrebo '97 Season Record: 14-5

AWARDS:

Alexa Cardone

All BAL - First Team

Maryn D'Antonio

All BAL - First Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Leah Darnall

All BAL - Second Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Sophia Dixon

All BAL - Second Team

All Delco - Honorable Mention

Sonny Groce

All BAL - First Team

All State - Honorable Mention

All Delco - Honorable Mention

VARSITY BOYS GOLF

Head Coach: Jack Mangene

Assistant Coaches: Zach Bruecks, Alex

McGee

Season Record: 11-3

AWARDS:

James Connolly

All BAL - Honorable Mention

Andrew Dell'Arciprete

All BAL - First Team

Santo Gentile

All BAL - First Team

Everett Luft

All BAL - Second Team

Porter Roberts

All BAL - Honorable Mention

Alex Sterious

All BAL - Honorable Mention

Billy Sterious

All BAL - First Team















TIP-OFF TOURNEY















Photos by Athletics Prefect Caleb Videon '25

One of DC's most anticipated events is the Basketball Invitational Tip-Off Tournament, which brings together Christian schools to the Malin Road campus to compete over the course of two days. "Tip-Off," as it is affectionately called, is the longest-running Christian basketball tournament in the United States, and was founded in 1966 by Dr. Roy Lowrie, DC's first head of school. The DC Knights-both varsity boys and varsity girls teams-prevailed as the winners each round, beating out The City School, The Christian Academy, and Atlantic Christian. This is the first time both DC teams have won the Tip-Off Championship during the same weekend in nearly a decade. Both teams went on to win BAL championships, and as of this magazine issue going to press, are looking forward to competing in States. Be on the lookout for a full basketball season recap in the next issue of the Keynoter.







student life

- 1. Students gather together at DC's annual picnic & dedication service
 - 2. ECC GrandFriends Day
- 3. Upper Campus students celebrate DC's 75th birthday with a surprise party
- 4. Upper Campus GrandFriends Day
 - 5. Cooking Class during SAIL









student life

- **6.** Students arrive at the Lower Campus for the first day of school
- 7. Freshman Launch
- 8. Sean Ellsworth Jr. '09 and his father, Sean Ellsworth Sr., speak at Veterans Day Chapel
- **9.** Students on the Lower Campus celebrate DC's 75th birthday
- **10.** Knight Tones perform at Upper Campus GrandFriends Day









During the summer break of 2024, DC's boys soccer team had the privilege of traveling to Medellín, Colombia to both serve children through the game of soccer and to compete against other athletes their age. The team partnered with former DC board member, Dave Urban's, global soccer ministry, Missionary Athletes International (MAI), and a youth soccer ministry, Christian Union Sports Club of Columbia (COSDECOL), to engage in this exhilarating experience. COSDECOL's mission, "Reaching youth for Christ through soccer," specifically targets impoverished children in Medellín, Colombia. Through this ministry, COSDECOL provides jerseys, soccer balls, coaching, and games for the kids to have fun and enjoy the game of soccer, while simultaneously experiencing the love of Christ and hearing His Word.

Naturally, this was the perfect missionary opportunity for our State Champs, as they were exposed to this unique way of serving others through the game they love while serving the God they love. The boys had the opportunity to play with the kids and to develop them as soccer players; captains Ben Norbury and Matthew Levis were even blessed with the chance to share a devotional with the children post-practice. In the evenings, the team competed against multiple COSDECOL teams, including two 16U teams and one 24U team, with a record of 2-1.

Additionally, the testimonies of the COSDECOL coaches were the driving force behind the ministry and extraordinary examples of the radical life-changing power of the gospel. Reflecting on this, Head Coach Rob Atkins remarked, "The biggest thing that I observed is that the fruit of the ministry was seen in the lives of the coaches." The majority of the coaches who are now leading the charge for COSDECOL had rough upbringings, much like those of the children the boys served, and were involved in the prominent drug cartels and militia groups in Columbia. After getting involved with COSDECOL, these coaches heard God's Word preached to them and gradually turned their lives around to give back to the ministry that ignited this remarkable change in their hearts. After hearing the testimonies of these coaches, many of the players, including Ben Norbury, expressed a deep "appreciation as we witnessed God working in the lives of the coaches and players of COSDECOL."

Experiencing this life-changing power of both God and sport through the lives of others was certainly one of the many benefits of this trip, as was God's faithfulness which is just as evident in Columbia as it is on DC's very own campus.

- Sam Dixon '25, Communications Prefect

Impacting the World

Students Serve the Community, Locally and Beyond

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

At the Lower Campus, the Student Advisory Council participates in service opportunities throughout the year and works on a larger project as a group with the goal of bringing beauty to the school campus. In years past, they have painted murals, created a peace path, and more. As part of their service over the holiday season, these third through fifth graders gathered items donated during the Thanksgiving food drive and delivered them to Chester County Food Bank.



SERVING IN THE CITY

Over the summer, students in sixth through tenth grades served on a mission team with The Philadelphia Project and Roxborough Church. During their week in the city, students spent time at various worksites in Philadelphia. They cleaned and put furniture together for a relocated family; cleared a walkway for an elderly homeowner; painted, spackled, and installed drywall. The theme of the week was "Into the Wilderness." Students went home with a better understanding of how following Christ includes growth in and through the wilderness of life.



YOUTH SERVICE BOARD



Led by junior Alex Sterious, the Youth Service Board was created by students, to create opportunities for other students to serve locally. The Youth Service Board was birthed out of a SAIL (Schools for Applied and Innovative Learning) class on philanthropy and service.

Their desire is to:

- 1. Help teams and other student groups identify relevant service opportunities
- 2. Help teachers identify community needs and opportunities that are relevant to their curricula
- 3. Help DC identify larger service opportunities for students, families, and the DC community as a whole to help with community-building and fellowship
- 4. Help create a culture of service at DC

Sterious says, "As a Christian school, one of DC's focuses should be serving the community around us." And true to that mission, the Board is indeed hard at work serving those around them. During the holiday season, Sterious organized a group of students to work with CityTeam Chester to help pack Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas gifts to bless families.

For those students on the Youth Service Board, Sterious hopes "they find passion and love for service," and that they can learn that service is "done for the community, not for ourselves."



A Teacher's Take

The Costa Rica trip was a joint effort between our Spanish and biology classes designed to both explore Costa Rica and learn about the different ecosystems they have. This trip also granted them the opportunity to learn more about and better appreciate our Creator by studying His creation.

We also wanted our students to immerse themselves in Spanish culture on the trip, and what better way to do that than speaking with locals, ordering food, serving on the ministry day, and just practicing with each other?

My hope is that the students realize that they are far more capable of communicating in Spanish than they thought and that they can apply what we've been learning in class to real life.

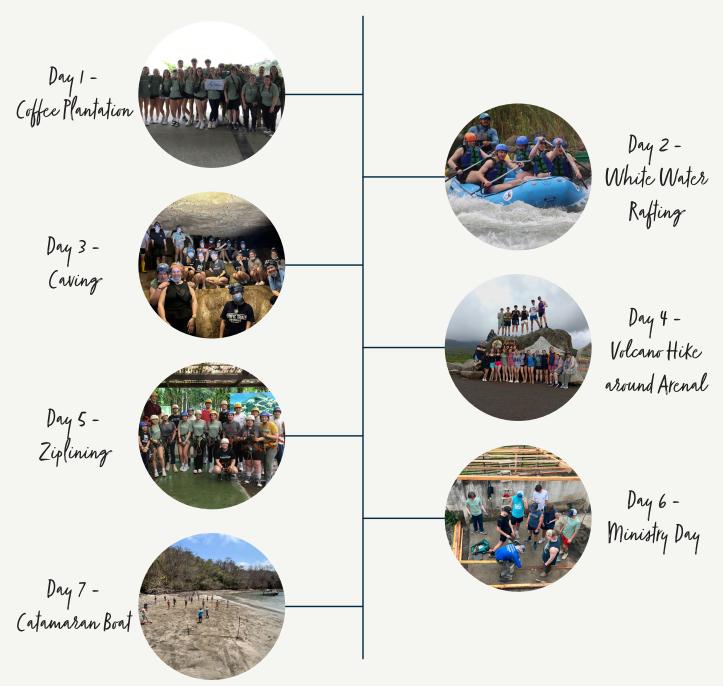
- Meggan Arnold, Upper School Spanish Teacher



Exploring the Country

Students went to Costa Rica over SAIL week in April 2024 and spent 7 days traveling the country.

Trip Overview



"I loved exploring God's creation in so many different ways, including white-water rafting, ziplining, and seeing the Arenal volcano."









"When we make God's love the center of our Christmas, everything shifts. His love reminds us that our worth is not found in our perfect plans but in His perfect grace."

- Claire Vesper '06, Assistant Head of the Early Childhood Center

Excerpt from "Finding Freedom in God's Steadfast Love This Christmas." You can read all of our Advent devotionals, written by faculty and staff, at this link: dccs.org/advent2024







REDEMPTIVE **IMPACT**

A Center for Innovation Update

The Center for Innovation prepares students for a life of impact by helping them discover new things, learn to create with those things, and then use the skills they have developed to have a redemptive impact in the world for God's glory.

The culminating program is known as the DC Innovation Incubator. In this program, students are welcome to propose a project they want to work on. Projects range from developing a computer application to solving an engineering problem or starting a business.

After they propose their idea, the Center for Innovation comes alongside them with resources, space, time, class credit, and coaching. The project becomes a class where students are given leadership roles, and the opportunity is opened for other students to enroll.

An example of one of these projects is Cornerstone Engineering and Design, a new student-run engineering team that is working with Agua Pennsylvania to develop a de-chlor filtration system.

The student-leaders who proposed the idea in the Incubator have trained their team in circuitry, 3D design, chemistry, and design thinking. They have emailed vendors and clients, scheduled meetings, coordinated logistics, made purchases, and led the team while conducting site visits and interviews.

Now, they are using these skills while collaborating with industry experts to develop and test their prototype. They are preparing to propose their solution to Aqua in a meeting before the end of the school year.

This is a redemptive impact.

Another example is Spectral Video Production, a student-run business that produces promotional videos for schools, churches, and businesses.

These teams have to do professional development for film with professional equipment. They schedule their teams, send proposals for work, develop a website and marketing funnels, manage their finances and make purchases with their own accounts, send invoices with Quickbooks, conduct the shoots, meet with clients, and ship their products.

Recently, they worked with Logan Hope School in North Philadelphia

- A video production business
- An engineering team working with Aqua
- An Investment fund
- A 3D design team

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• A social media mark.

• Contracted Specting 11 teams this year!

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on a fundraising campaign. Logan Hope contracted Spectral to create the centerpiece of their marketing efforts during their banquet

This is a redemptive impact.

The Center for Innovation at DC is developing new ways to give our students opportunities like these for deeper learning experiences that are innovative, excellent, and rooted in Christ. This is preparing them to lead lives of redemptive impact.

- Matthew DeFranza. Director of the Center for Innovation



Spectral Video Production Team

From Faith into Practice

Kaylani Barnes shares her internship experience

Just a few years ago, senior Kaylani Barnes said she could never have imagined working in the medical field, but today, her mindset has changed completely. As part of an internship called Medical Careers, Barnes is pursuing a career in medicine and following a passion that God put on her heart because of her grandpa.

Growing up, Barnes says she spent ample time in hospitals visiting her grandpa. As the years passed, she became more and more fascinated with the idea of helping patients herself. Now, her passion is to "figure out how to help people and how to get them back home to their families." She is getting a head start on this goal by participating in Medical Careers.

Delaware County Medical Careers is a competitive, year-long internship opportunity available to high school students in the area. DC's Director of Academic & College Counseling Christine Allen, describes the internship as a combination of "classwork and clinical experience." Students at DC can receive class credit for this work, which is "the equivalent of two core classes," says Allen. Barnes has nearly completed the classroom-heavy portion of the internship, which also includes field trips to fire stations, ambulance ride-a-longs, and listening in on emergency calls to learn about and get a sense of the diverse areas of work a medical career can embody. Over the winter and spring, Barnes will begin her onsite experience at Bryn Mawr Hospital, where she is "very excited to learn how to work with patients," and see what a job in nursing looks like in a hospital setting.

Thinking back over her years in school, other internships, and now Medical Careers, Barnes says that she sees how God has given her leadership roles, and how she has enjoyed taking on these responsibilities. Barnes was able to exercise this skill in her summer internship while working with other students on their rounds to bring WaWa refreshments to visitors and the nursing staff of Children's

Hospital of Pennsylvania. Under Barnes' leadership, the group was able to complete their rounds more efficiently.

Barnes says she has clearly seen God's confirmation of her decision to participate in Medical Careers. After receiving her grades, she was, she says, admittedly "amazed" she was excelling. Allen has expressed enthusiasm for Barnes' excellent work. Students in the Medical Careers program receive quarterly report cards and are graded on tests and homework, including an evaluation in the area of "work ethic." Allen says, "Kaylani is the only student I have ever seen who has gotten a 100 percent in 'work ethic."

Kaylani Barnes never imagined that God would lead her on this journey into the medical field, but continues to find doors opening for her to pursue this path. "I think God has put me in these positions because He knows how much I really love to help people," she says, "and He really knows the passion I have in my heart." She looks forward to the day when she is working in medicine so she can "help not just the patients, but their families as well. That's my drive."

- Alexandra Morra '12, Communications Manager

give to another high school student interested in Medical Careers, Barnes says, "Don't get discouraged, and continue to pray, because it is going to get hard." The internship is challenging, but being a part of a community of teachers and friends who support her has been one of the biggest blessings. Barnes encourages students who may be apprehensive about doing a similar internship to open up to their community and share experiences. "People want to support you," she says.





Coming in Out of the Wind

By Mark Dixon '99, Head of Upper School

At the beginning of June 2023, I remember sitting in the Student Union, chatting with a few colleagues about an article entitled "Get Phones Out of Schools Now" published in The Atlantic that week by Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist at NYU. We were particularly intrigued by Haidt's insights because DC faculty had recently read a book he co-authored in 2018 with Greg Lukianoff called *The Coddling of the American Mind*.

Our conversation centered on the power of "community liturgies," in essence, the habits that we do together that shape our character and our "loves" over time. Having followed and appreciated Haidt's work over the previous five years, I was particularly inspired by the author's bold admonition to schools.

Though the month of June is typically a time of the year when I begin to mentally unwind, I found myself wrapped up in writing a lengthy (and hopefully compelling) rationale for why we needed to completely remove student cell phones from the DC school day. I titled it, "Coming In Out of the Wind: Of Cell Phones and Learning and Community Liturgies." The metaphor noted in the title belongs to C.S. Lewis, who described the human experience this way:

... the real problem of the Christian life comes where people do not usually look for it. It comes the very moment you wake up each morning. All your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists simply in shoving them all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in. And so on, all day. Standing back from all your natural fussings and frettings; coming in out of the wind (*Mere Christianity*).

"...the change has built more community in the school than I expected and I find myself talking to more people..."

Our conviction as educators is that we intentionally cultivate a community environment in which students can quiet the noise in their lives, and learn to listen for the still, soft voice of the Spirit. Accordingly, the summer of 2023 was full of research and conversations related to the topic, and ultimately, we rolled out our new cell phone policy at the start of the 2023-24 school year. As one would imagine, we fielded a wide range of reactions, questions, and commentary. At the time, very few schools in our region had taken such an aggressive stand.

After a month or two of adjustment, our student body acclimated to the "new normal." One DC junior reflected:

"I like it. It forces us to interact with each other more. It took me a few weeks to appreciate it, but I have to say I get way more done during PRT (Personal Responsibility Time) and it actually feels good to be distanced from my phone for a while." A DC senior shared:

The adjustment to communicating via email instead of texting during the school day has been annoying. However, I will say that the change has built more community in the school than I expected and I find myself talking to more people on campus during the day than I thought I would.

Faculty have been resoundingly positive about the policy, noting that it has been "well received by students" and "has become a seamless part of our daily routines and rituals on campus." One upper school teacher notes, "I really haven't heard complaining from the students, and it has clearly improved school culture in significant ways." Many teachers highlight the relief it has been to not have to address cell phone use constantly. One teacher also noted:

"... it has been encouraging to see students standing together around campus throughout the day simply talking to one another, as opposed to standing in a circle staring at their phones."

DC is committed to regular re-evaluation and improvement of our daily practices and community liturgies in hopes that we can, as G.K. Chesterton put it, "give room for good things to run wild." Removing cell phones from the school environment is not a magic solution, but it is part of a network of community practices that we believe cultivate growth in attentive listening, critical thinking, and Spirit-led action. We hope that students' time on campus at DC will give them a taste of the power found in the quiet, inner life of the Christ-follower.

uture:



HOW TWO DC ALUMNI ARF WORKING TO IMPROVE THE FOSTER SYSTEM

Unlike traditional parenting, fostering often lacks the community support that new parents typically receive. With this in mind, Katie (DiLullo) Casey '02 and Sarah (Prettyman) Todd '04 set out to help other foster families by providing meals, emotional support, and mentoring for young adults who have aged out of the foster care system. "Our concept is partnering people with others to create a community where people feel seen and known," says Casey. The result of this passion to help others: Well Rooted.

The journey to what Well Rooted is today, began when Casey's husband, Michael '00, was coaching basketball at DC and met a child in foster care, which sparked a passion in the couple to start fostering. Todd and her husband Jim '00 were also called by God to become a foster family. Both the Todds and Caseys made the decision to adopt their foster children. Through these shared experiences, both families realized the overwhelming need for support within the foster care system in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Well Rooted has evolved significantly since being founded in 2002. While relationships and community remain at its core, the organization has expanded its focus to address more tangible needs. There are two branches of Well Rooted. The first focuses on foster and biological families, partnering volunteers with foster families for two to four weeks. Volunteers bring hot meals, check in with texts, and give the family support in any way they can. The goal is to make sure these families feel seen and supported during a potentially challenging time.

The second branch involves working closely with young adults who are aging out of the foster care system. Well Rooted works to provide employment opportunities that will allow young adults to live independently. The co-founders hope to establish housing opportunities in the future for these young adults and are exploring the potential for opening a coffee shop to provide a community gathering space and jobs.

Well Rooted has built a strong base of supporters in the Greater Philadelphia area, which includes several DC alumni. Jon Addy '01 and Dave Rivell '00 serve on the Well Rooted board, while Tara Summers '01, has been instrumental with a background in fundraising. "Well Rooted wouldn't exist without the relationships formed here," Casey says. Their time at DC was a transformative period, where they experienced firsthand how deeply God could be woven into every aspect of life. "Today, our core group of people are from DC, because they are all rooted in Christ. DC is a very unique experience and that has connected us and others," Todd reflects. "To see the community of DC not only impact the individual but also the world—that's exciting. There are so many classes who love Jesus and are going out to make a difference in the world." This deep faith has shaped the Well Rooted mission and the relationships they have built within the organization.

Casey's advice is this: "If you have an inkling in your heart when you hear the words 'foster care,' there is a place you can help. Whether through mentoring, volunteering, or financial support, there are so many ways to get involved." Well Rooted continues to seek more people to join its mission, building a community of support for foster families and young adults in need. Their work stands as a testament to the power of faith, community, and the lasting impact of relationships formed through shared service.

- Logan Plosker, Manager of Alumni & Parent Engagement

Well Rooted wouldn't exist without the relationships formed [at DC].

ALUMNI NEWS











70s

1. Donna (Van Halsema) Kallemeyn '77 says "Dan and I have four kids; three are married and we have five grandchildren. We are truly blessed! Our daughter Linda (not married) competes for Special Olympics Illinois and does very well in every sport she competes in, including softball and basketball, just to name a few"

2. Elizabeth Diffin '01 married Paul Lyzenga on October 18, 2024. DC wedding participants included Melissa (Hauber) Ozer '01, Meg Patton '01, and Bonnie (O'Brien)

Small '01. The Lyzengas reside in Wyoming, MI, with their beagle, Windsor. Elizabeth works as a senior content specialist for the Million Dollar Round Table and Paul is an IT systems analyst for Apex Controls.

3. Elizabeth Steele Coats '03 and her husband CG welcomed Baby Liliana at 4:50 pm on November 21, 2024. Liliana joins siblings Logan (1st grade) and Owen (4th grade). Everyone is healthy and blessed!

Erik Schlenker '10 says "I went into an online computer science degree dreaming of riches, yet now that I have it and work a software job, I see why John Smith read the verse 2 Thessalonians 3:10 at Jamestown: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." I have not found big riches with this degree yet, although I realize that work has dignity in itself, and will be starting a second job this week at a Panera bakery for added total work I do in a week."

4. Laura Ressler Cook '11 was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Honor at Eastern University, on September 21, 2024. Cook, the standout goalie from Media, PA, is the fifth field hockey player to be inducted and was also inducted as a member of the 2010 field hockey team. Her athletic achievements in field hockey include: starting 67 games in her three-year career; stopping over 85 percent of shots she saw; earning 38 wins









in goal over her final two seasons. In her senior season, Cook was honored as an NFHCA First-Team All-American in goal. She led her team to several Sweet-Sixteen Championships and reached the Elite Eight of the NCAA Division III Tournament. Cook resides in Jacksonville, FL, with her husband David, two daughters, and a foster child.

5. Elena O'Bryan Newton '18 and Tommy Newton were married on July 29, 2024 in Berwyn, PA. Her sister Alexa O'Bryan '20 and cousin Katy Tanis '18 were in the wedding party, with many friends and family to celebrate their special day. They currently reside in Waynesboro, VA. Elena works for the UVA Health System in Charlottesville.





6. Hannah Metricarti Hayes '19 married Dylan Hayes on December 16, 2024 in Sanford, FL.

20s

Alexa O'Bryan '20 graduated from Lee University in 2024 and is teaching fifth grade at Sarasota Christian School in Sarasota, FL.

7. Cherith Garner McIntosh '22 married Benjamin McIntosh on July 27, 2024, in Columbia, SC. Many alumni were in attendance: Brooke Van Eerden '21, Emma Carrington '22, Sarah Stahl '23, Ella Hines '22, Ainsley Serfass '22, Emily Chung '22, Shannon Elliott '22, and Kouassi Toukou '22.

Save the Dates!

Upcoming Alumni Events

AUGUST 18

Phillies Game

OCTOBER 9-11

Homecoming 2025





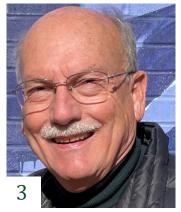
Alumni Events

- 8. Peter Ware '95, Andrew Ware '92, and guests enjoyed the alumni event at the Phillies vs. Miami Marlins game in August.
- 9. Alumni Alley at Homecoming featured alumni artists and crafters, including Aaron Elcock '14 and his custom guitars.
- 10. Alumni moms traveled to NYC to see the Rockettes in December.
- 11. Alumni gathered after All-School Christmas Chapel, including Eliza Connolly '22, Emma Chung '21, Ersy Neal '21 and Abbi Heacock '21.

IN loving MEMORY









- 1. Eric Driscoll, class of '13, passed away on July 14, 2024. Born and raised in PA, Eric was a loyal Phillies and Eagles fan and also enjoyed golfing and spending time with family. He will be remembered as a friendly and spirited individual, always ready with a smile and a helping hand. Eric's warm presence and infectious enthusiasm for life will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He is survived by his devoted wife, Maiya Schroeder Driscoll, his Aunt Lea Miller, Aunt Cathy Bradley (Rich), and an abundance of extended family.
- 2. Emmagene D. Akers passed away on August 22, 2024, at the age of 94. Her husband, P. Ivan Akers, worked at DC in facilities, and preceded her in death in 2001. All four of her children graduated from DC: Mahlon Edward Akers '69, Richard Mark Akers '71, Joel David Akers '77, and Jocelyn Elizabeth Whitpan '83. Emmagene was a member of First Baptist Church in Newtown Square, PA, and served on the Missions Committee. She enjoyed cooking and loved to read. She is survived by her sister Gladys Oaks (Don), sister-in-law Martha David, all four of her children and their spouses, 11 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.
- 3. Dr. Jay Mancini '67 passed away on October 10, 2024, at home in Athens, GA. He was on the faculty at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University for 32 years retiring as Professor Emeritus. His





research focused on the resilience and vulnerabilities of military youth and families. Jay is remembered for his generosity, mentorship, and sense of fun. Jay is survived by his wife, Deborah, and children, Nathan, David, and Suzanne; Jennifer Levin-Tavares (sister-in-law) and cousins: Karen Christy, Michele McGinniss, the late Vito (and Lois) Jacono, and Vincenzo (and Marlene) Jacono.

4. Michael Christopher Tabakin '98 passed away on October 23, 2024. Michael earned his bachelor's from West Chester University and his master's from Eastern University. His dedication to those with different disabilities led to his founding of iHi International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to identifying needs and developing solutions to improve the lives of vulnerable people worldwide, where he also served as president and CEO.

Sharon Critchlow '02 passed away on November 21, 2024, after over 15 years of chronic illness and much suffering. Jesus mercifully chose to heal her completely by taking her home to be with Him. Sharon had celebrated her 41st birthday just two weeks before her passing, and her family thanks God for the time they had with her.

5. Joseph I Moorhatch went to be with his Lord and Savior on December 15, 2024. He was a member of the Board of Directors at Delaware County Christian School where he served as Chairman of the Admissions Committee and member of the Long-Range Planning Committee. Joe was active in his church and served in many roles. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Rosalie (DiBenedetto) Moorhatch; his two children and DC alumni, Stephen Moorhatch '87 and wife Jennifer '88, and Linda (Moorhatch) Lehigh '91 and husband David; as well as five grandchildren: Joshua and wife Cassidy, Cody '17, Christopher, Katelyn, and Stephanie '23.

6. John Ykema entered His Lord's presence on January 11, 2025. John Ykema, P.E., had a 63-year electrical engineering career with ITE/SPD/L3 Harris, retiring at the age of 90. John was a long-standing supporter of DC and was on, and chaired, the Board of Delaware County Christian School. John's surviving children, all of whom graduated from DC, are: Linda Dolan '71 (Rob); Jan Mulberger '73; Sandy Ykema '76; and Steve Ykema '78. He also leaves three grandchildren: Wesley Ykema '04, Andrea deVries (who moved prior to graduating with the class of '07), and Stacy Mitchell '08; and five great-grandchildren. Firm in his faith in Jesus Christ, John is now in the eternal presence of His Lord.





Alex Szucs

On September 27, 2024, one of DC's faithful servants, Alex Szucs, entered the presence of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at age 96.

Alex Szucs joined the DC faculty in October 1955. After graduating from Scott High School in Coatesville, PA, he attended Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC, where he met his wife, Dorothy, from Toronto. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He later earned an MA in education from Temple University.

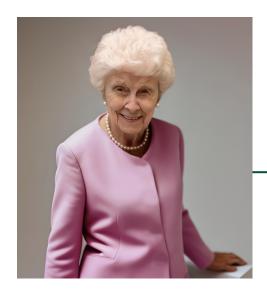
Dorothy and Alex were married in January 1955. Alex served in the military in Korea. When he returned, they settled in Broomall, PA where their sons Richard and David were born. Alex joined the faculty at Delaware County Christian School, Newtown Square, PA, in 1955, where he taught for over 50 years. He was one of the original high school faculty, teaching history, social studies, Bible, English, typing, and photography. Alex coached baseball and soccer and served as assistant high school principal.

At 30 years of service, Alex was asked what he enjoys about teaching at DC. Alex answered:

"The parental support and involvement has always been encouraging. Working with colleagues who love the Lord and are genuinely concerned for each student's academic and spiritual progress has added to my pleasure of being at DC."

Dorothy Elinor Szucs, his wife, preceded him in death in 2016. Alex was also preceded in death by his brother Andrew Szucs in 2017. Alex is survived by two sons: Dr. Richard Alexander Szucs '74 and his wife Ruth, of Richmond, VA, and Andrew David Szucs '76 and his wife Rhonda, of Garden Grove, CA; four grandchildren: Alexandra Szucs Tyree and her husband, Jeremy, Vera Szucs, Mathew Szucs and his wife Kinsey and Rachel Szucs Midei and her husband Nick. His first great-granddaughter, Samantha (Sammie) Szucs, was born to Matthew and Kinsey on his 96th birthday just a few weeks before his death. Alex loved his children and grandchildren very much.

A memorial service was held on Friday, October 4, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Garden Spot Village Chapel in New Holland, PA.



Margaret "Peg" Lowrie

As we celebrate DC's 75th Anniversary Year, we reflect that DC has been built on the foundation of many faithful servants who answered the call of the Lord to serve in the ministry of Christian education. These godly men and women had a vision that went far beyond the DC of their day. In faith they served to craft DC into the school of excellence we enjoy today. On December 1, 2024, one of these faithful DC servants, Margaret Smith Lowrie, entered the presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at age 96. She was the loving wife of DC's first Head of School Dr. Roy Walter Lowrie, Jr.

Margaret "Peg" Lowrie served as a kindergarten teacher at DC for many years. In fact, her kindergarten classroom was located in the barn by the turf field! Peg earned her undergraduate degree at Wheaton College and her master's in early education from West Chester University. Prior to marrying Roy, Peg was a kindergarten teacher at Manoa Presbyterian Church. Peg regularly assisted in the leadership of ACSI and started the ACSI Early Childhood Education Program. Mrs. Lowrie was also a national speaker on the topic of early childhood education. Additionally, Peg regularly offered programming for spouses of Christian school leaders through ACSI. Peg had a love for camping ministries, and she and Roy were very active in supporting Camp Sankanac in Spring City, PA. Peg was also the planner and organizer of many memorable family camping trips. Most importantly, Peg and Roy worked tirelessly to invest in the next generation of Christian school leadership, students, and families.

A celebration of Peg's life was held on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at Delaware County Christian School in the DeMoss Auditorium, and the interment was held privately by the family at Glenwood Memorial Gardens in Broomall, PA.

Praise God for the Lowrie family who served faithfully, paving the way for the DC of 2025. Mrs. Lowrie is now truly home in the presence of her Heavenly Father.

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." PHIL 1:3-6, ESV





Memorial contributions to the Lowrie Scholarship Fund can be made to Delaware County Christian School, 462 Malin Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073.





When the door of opportunity opens, let faith and hope enter first. When your faith leads the way, then your heart will follow.

We welcomed opportunities throughout the 2023-24 academic year as we gathered in community to enhance our students' educational and spiritual possibilities. With the support of hundreds of volunteers and donors, we provided gifts of time, talent, and treasure, which in turn assisted our faculty in enriching the lives of our students through academics, arts, athletics, and even more importantly, the continuation of pouring the message of God's faithfulness into their hearts and minds.

Throughout this issue, we acknowledge the many volunteer hours and the financial commitments made between July 2023 and June 2024. We highlight some key efforts that help distinguish Delaware County Christian School as a school fulfilling its mission to educate students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action. We empower our students to dig deep into their faith journey and see how wisdom from above ultimately produces success in the classroom and across the stage and playing fields. We desire for them to learn beyond what is comfortable and to take those lessons into the world to impact His kingdom here on earth.

We thank those who have donated your time, talent, and treasure. We have observed your generosity and enthusiasm for this great institution through our students' vibrant energy, intense curiosity, and faithful work. You have enhanced their educational experiences, provided them with immense opportunities, and ignited the spiritual growth found in a DC education.

As we continue into this new year, we look forward to what doors the Lord will open. We invite you to walk through those doors with us, allowing faith and hope to enter first.

With Gratitude,

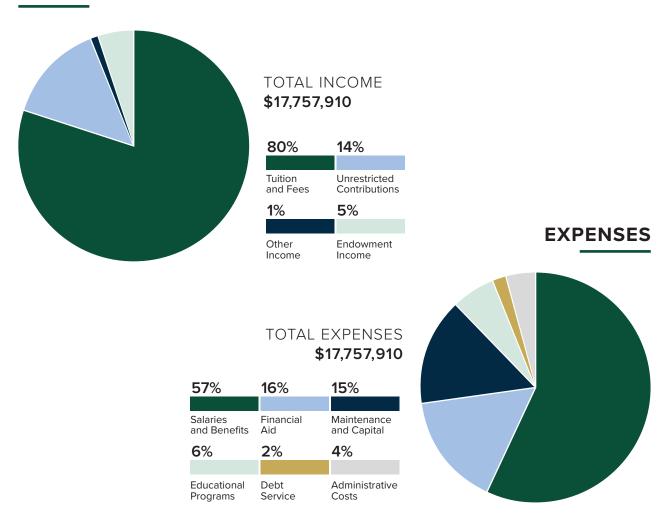
Allison B. Stinger

Director of Development and Communications

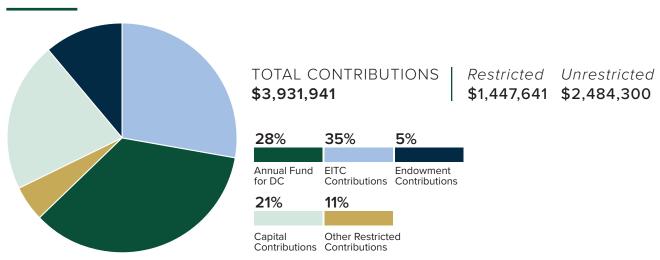


Delaware County Christian School commits to being a good steward of the generosity shared from members of our greater DC Community. DC is blessed to present a strong statement of operations for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

INCOME



CONTRIBUTIONS





GOLD Club

In its third year, the GOLD Club (Graduates of the Last Decade) invited the Class of 2024 to join with commitments, pledging support to the Fund for DC. We are pleased by the generosity of this class and welcome them as they join members of the classes of 2022 and 2023 in the GOLD Club. Although this program was developed in 2022, we encourage graduates of the last ten years who may also want to become members to consider committing in increments representative of their graduating year. Thank you to members of the classes of 2022 and 2023 who made payments towards their pledges between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.

Class of 2022

Miss Emma Carrington Miss Keturah Ferris Miss Brette Foutch Miss Molly Nichols Miss Ainsley Serfass Miss Allie Stevens Mr. Tyler Toms

Class of 2023

Miss Nelofar Asadi Miss Maya Collins Miss Rachel McEneaney

Class of 2024

Miss Chloe Bryant Mr. Ryan Carroll Mr. Andrew Clouse Miss. Leah Conde Mr. Anthony Danese Miss Faith DiBenedetto

Mr. Noah Dutton

Mr. Nicholas Fanelli-Salazar

Miss Ashanti Harris Miss. Caroline Jackson

Mr. Isaac Jackson Miss Isabel Lewis

Mr. Jackson Lewis

Mr. Jake Matthews

Miss Audrey McKeaney

Miss Elliot Oh

Miss Nellie Paulson

Miss Taylor Pendleton

Miss Sydney Petrulis

Mr. Griffin Schmitt

Miss Angelina Shmayger

Miss Cassandra Stinger

Mr. Damon Swaner, Jr.

Mr. Connor Transue

Miss Ava White



What is EITC?

For many, the concept may be hard to believe. Is it really possible to redirect your PA State Tax dollars to Delaware County Christian School and impact the lives of students? Does the Commonwealth really allow this to happen?

Since 2001, Pennsylvania's EITC program has allowed businesses and individuals to lower their tax bills by donating to private schools, scholarship organizations, Pre-K programs, and other educational enrichment initiatives. The bulk of the tax credits are reserved for donors who give to scholarship organizations that provide financial aid to children attending Pre-K-12 private schools.

For businesses and individuals who participate, it is an opportunity to receive up to a 90% tax credit. This is a win-win not just for businesses and individuals but for students who are offered scholarships that give them an alternative to public schools. This program allows donors to know exactly where their tax dollars are being spent while receiving a generous tax credit, opening up doors to students for alternative educational opportunities.





EITC / OSTC PROGRAM

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR PENNSYLVANIA TAXES TO SUPPORT A PROGRAM YOU BELIEVE IN?

Contributions made through the

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT (EITC) OR OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT (OSTC)

provide financial assistance to qualified and mission-appropriate students to attend Delaware County Christian School.

TURNING PA TAX DOLLARS INTO SCHOLARSHIPS

"We are honored to support DC financially and see this as an easy and cost-effective way to leverage our giving. Essentially, we are directing funds to DC that we otherwise would be paying to the Commonwealth of PA in the form of taxes. The EITC program enables us to convert our PA taxes into tuition support for DC students. This allows students to attend DC who otherwise would not be able to enroll but for the support, and gives DC the ability to offer a Christ-centered education to a broader socio-economic population. Who wouldn't prefer to have their tax dollars spent in a manner of their choosing? Check into it! Within minutes, you can impact students' lives and enhance the educational opportunities a DC education provides."

- Chris and Colleen Barbee AP'07'12'13GP'33'39, Board Member



SAMPLE TAX CALCULATION

(LLC, PARTNERSHIP, S-CORP, OR INDIVIDUAL BASED ON A 2-YEAR COMMITMENT)

CASH GIFT TO CHARITY - \$3500

PA TAX-CREDIT REDUCTION (90% OF CONTRIBUTION) - \$3150

NET-FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTION (37% OF TAX RATE) - \$130

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ALLISON STINGER, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT eitc@dccs.org or (610) 353-6522 x 2284



The Impact of Community

Remember the story of the young boy and the starfish? As the boy walked along the shoreline following a storm, he began tossing the starfish back into the ocean in an attempt to save as many as possible. A man watching from afar approached and asked what he was doing, sharing that it wouldn't make a difference. The boy responded respectfully as he tossed another in the ocean, "It made a difference for this one."

So often, we hear, "My capacity to give time or treasure can surely not have an impact on the school." But our reports indicate otherwise. Gifts range from six-figure to \$1.66 a month from a long-standing donor. Our average gift from a current parent, already paying tuition, is \$60. Just two years ago, when we launched our first DC Madness, the advancement and business offices counted more than \$2,000 in coins from our lower school students who went on to win the tournament based on their participation. That \$2,000 alone made a difference for the faculty of the Lower Campus.

When all these gifts are put together, that is where we see the impact. As you think about giving to DC, we invite you to consider Compound Giving. What is Compound Giving? It is is a way to support a cause over time by making small, consistent donations. The donations build up and can have a significant impact over time.

This is how it works:

- Start small: You can start with a small amount and give consistently.
- Be committed: You can commit to giving to the cause for the long term.

What are the benefits of such an effort?

- Builds up over time: The donations build up and can have a significant impact over time.
- No amount is insignificant: Even a small donation can make a difference.
- You can change a child's life by providing a high-quality education rooted in Christ. This sets them on a path of spiritual and academic success, enabling them to be godly leaders tomorrow.

Giving one's time or treasure is a profoundly personal decision. As we invite you to consider your donations, we ask that your gifts be made through prayer and reflection, knowing that a gift of any amount of time or treasure has an impact on our work here at Delaware County Christian School.



2023-24 **Volunteers**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chris Barbee Yvonne Bryant Alex Cardone Tom Corcimiglia Matt Cohen Tim Hussar Andy lott Jeff Jue Cassandre Juste Matt McGowen Michael Oh Naomi Povser Adam Sacks Damon Swaner John Wang

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Rob Atkins Rachel Green Tim Hussar Robyn Jameson Vaughn Schill Joslyn Serfass

BENEFIT FOR DC

Committee and Volunteers: Deborah Blake

Annette Brady Ashley Calderwood Staci Connolly Abbie Daise Marissa Ellsworth Amanda Frumin Catherine Gin Rachel Green Tameka Harris Alice Ho Natalie Holmes Annie Horton Micaela Huber Cristina Hussar Maricris Johnson Jianna Noble Abbey Leaman Jen Luft Dana Luzak Charlie Marquardt Mallory McGarrigle Lindsay McGowen Rachel Menser Julie Montaomery Debra Morton Scott Morton Angela Oandasan Stacy O'Rourke Beth Pass

Allyson Rosenberger Dawn Schmitt Jim Stinger Danielle Wenzel Chris White Chrissy Wolfe

Employee Volunteers: Frin Amann

David Andraka

Darlene Ceffaratti

Molly D'Antonio Deb DeLecce Aaron Dixon & Nutrition Management Services Team Mark Dixon Jeremy Donovan Debbie Elken Ric Elliott Jake Godino Anne Goneau Katie Gricco Teelah Grimes Robert lannarelli Jeannie Leaman Hana Lu Brendan Michael Alexandra Morra Grace Newman Reggie Parks Karen Piotrowski Logan Plosker Dan Steinfield Christian Taber Louisa Thompson Kevin Wallace Arlene Warmhold Zubin White DC Cleaning Crew

GOLF COMMITTEE

Tom Corcimiglia Russ Nixon

TRIVIA NIGHT

Committee:

Kristi Boucher Caitlin Corbit Chad Fenley Jamie Fenley Katie Gricco Josh Holmes Natalie Holmes Annie Horton D.J Horton Cristina Hussar Grace Killea Amanda Marzano Tim McGinley Julie Sindoni

Event Volunteers:

Chris Barbee Colleen Barbee Scott Bateman Peggy Bell Linda Bonsall Donna Daly Ray Daly Gary Fling Vicki Fling Jen Grush Susan Horton Polly McGowen Tabitha Mulholland Heidi VanderWaal

PVO (UPPER CAMPUS)

Tamara Crump Tameka Harris Grace Killea Vicki Kingsbury Julie Montgomery Debra Morton Angela Oandasan Dawn Schmitt

UPPER CAMPUS GRADE PARENTS

Annie Horton Nancy Campbell Jianna Noble Jen Luft Angela Oandasan Tammie Rao Allyson Rosenberger Crystal Wichard

PVO (LOWER CAMPUS)

Liz Altieri Kristi Boucher Courtney Claiborne Veronica Gonzalez Jeannette Grabe **Becky Jones** Danielle Kauffman Tracy Lane Lauren Lazatti Kristen Mitchell Angela Oandasan Shannon Schreiber Tash Taylor

HOMEROOM PARENTS

Early Childhood Center:

Annette Brady Erin Buchanan Ashley Calderwood Hilary Cannarella Becca Carr Kelsey Catania

Katie De La Rosa Heather DiCanzio Allie Eisel Jamie Heckman Ashley Jacobsen Nikki Militello Joni Mindreho Michelle Oliver Becky Palmer Alexandra Pavone Catherine Ricardo Jessica Schleusner Renee Skaer Stephanie Vincent

Lower School:

Erin Addy Danielle Ashworth Andrea Brown Rashanda Booker Becca Burkhart Laura Couchara Abbie Daise Sarah Daniels Monica DeBellis Jamie Fenley Kate Forester Annie Horton Micaela Huber Cristina Hussar Jane Jue Grace Killea Dana Luzak Lindsay McGowen Kimberlee Miller **Emily Peterson** Naomi Poyser Sara Ralph Amy Rhoads Joy Shih Melissa Weaver Rachel Menser

FOTA BOARD

Katy Dutton Lisa Halladay Elizabeth Neal Nivi Nelaturi Maryanne Robertson Joslyn Serfass

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS **BOARD**

Sally Berwick Khalilah Orange Holly Roberts Brian Tuttle

Sponsors

BENEFIT SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor

West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc. c/o Eric and Rachel Green

Dinner Sponsor

Anonymous

Reception Sponsor

The Serfass Family

Auction Sponsors

The Altieri & Harris Families

Table Sponsors

AOS Architects & W.S. CUMBY The Brady Family

The Brown Family

The D'Antonio Family

The DeVault Family

The Gricco Family

The Hussar Family

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The Newman Family

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The Schreiber Family

The Swaner Family

Trinity Financial

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Event Sponsor

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Anonymous Donor

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NewLaw PLLC

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19th Hole Sponsor

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On-Course Beverage and Snack Sponsor

La Cabra c/o The lott Family

Premium Hole Sponsors

Magna5 The Wang Family Univest

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Sovereign Insurance

Driving Range Sponsors

Scott and James Trotter

LinkBank

Hole Sponsors

Carbon Health Connor Strong & Buckelew Link Bank

TRIVIA NIGHT

Platinum Sponsor

COCOON

c/o The Payson Family

Gold Sponsors

Sindoni Consulting & Management Services, Inc. c/o The Sindoni Family

The Lex Family

The Masters' Baker c/o The Weldon Family

Prize Sponsor

The Lex Family

AV Sponsor

Harris Technologies c/o The Holmes Family

Round Sponsors

DaSTOR

c/o The McGinley Family

Element Risk Management c/o The Rivell Family

LPL Financial c/o the Brady Family

NewLaw PLLC c/o The McGowen Family

PONS Foundation c/o The Daise Family

Redwood Wealth Advisors c/o The Betz Family

Swayne Real Estate Group c/o The Rivell Family

Thomas Charles

c/o The Corcimiglia Family

Wharton Hill

c/o The Hussar Family

Wright Multifamily c/o The Altieri Family

SCARECROW SHUFFLE 5K

Wyebrook Farm c/o The Dill Family

The lott Family

Tracorp

c/o The McKeaney Family

COCOON

c/o The Payson Family

Cornerstone Counseling c/o The Connolly Family

Neal & Associates

New Direction Partners

The Tuttle Family

The Roberts Family

Trinity Financial

c/o The Jameson Family

Mid-Atlantic Sports Construction

Shearon Landscaping

G&C Foods

Matix Sports

David Rios

HOTWORX Media c/o The Luft Family DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

GOLF Classic



TUESDAY, MAY 20

APPLEBROOK GOLF CLUB

Malvern, PA

Presented by Mill Creek Capital Advisors





OPEN HOUSE

April 3 PK2 - 5th April 15 6th - 12th

9-11 am





DISCOVER! EXPLÖRE! EXPERIENCE!



WEEKLY SUMMER PROGRAMS

6/23 - 8/8 FOR AGES 3-14



DC Summer Day Camp provides a fun and active experience for campers ages 3-14 under the guidance and direction of our highly trained and qualified staff members.

HIGHLIGHTS: CREATIVE THEME DAYS, ART, SWIMMING, NATURE STUDIES, CLIMBING TOWER, ARCHERY, AND FIELD TRIPS





The Knight's Sports Academy offers campers ages 8-12 the opportunity to develop new skills, grow in confidence, sportsmanship, and teamwork. Instructed by DC Varsity Head Coaches and held at exceptional facilities, our sports camps are some of the best in the area.

OFFERINGS: SOCCER, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, FLAG FOOTBALL, FIELD HOCKEY, TENNIS, AND LACROSSE





Excel Summer Enrichment Programs are designed to engage children ages 6-14 in their individual interests. All courses are developed and taught by DC faculty members.

OFFERINGS: READING, CREATIVE WRITING, MATH, MUSIC, ROBOTICS. THEATRE, PHOTOGRAPHY AND SCULPTURE







Benefit for DC

Celebrating 75 Years. Great is His Faithfulness.

SATUDAY, MAY 3, 2025 AT 5:00 PM

Silent Auction & Reception

Dinner & Program

Live Music & Dancing

For sponsorship opportunities or to purchase tickets, visit dccs.org/benefit or use this QR code.





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UPPER CAMPUS 462 Malin Road Newtown Square, PA 19073

LOWER CAMPUS 905 S. Waterloo Road Devon, PA 19333

