



The FALCON

ARBORBROOK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Spring 2025

Arborbrook's Strategic Vision: Progress & Promise

In 2020, the Arborbrook Board established a strategic plan to guide the school's continuous improvement efforts. This plan is built around three key goals:

Three Key Goals



Facility

Maintaining a campus that is reliable, attractive, and well-kept.



Faculty & Staff

Recruiting and retaining exceptional educators who align with our mission and values.



Finances

Fostering a culture of generosity and giving to sustain and grow our school community.

ROOTS

Milestones Along the Way

✓ ROOTS Campaign – Now in its third and final year, this initiative aims to build an upper school facility as the first step toward a comprehensive master campus plan. Read on for exciting updates on the campaign's progress.

✓ Operation 80% – To ensure our teachers are well-supported, we've launched this initiative to provide faculty salaries at 80% of Union County Public Schools' pay scale—an appropriate benchmark considering our four-day school week. This investment will add nearly \$450,000 to next year's salary budget, carefully structured to keep tuition costs as manageable as possible.

✓ Fundraising Success – 2024 was a record-setting year for generosity! Arborbrook received nearly \$425,000 in donations for the ROOTS campaign, bringing our total raised as of January 31, 2025, to \$1,021,923—with pledged contributions expected to push that number to \$1,250,000! We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of the Arborbrook family.

Grant Applications & Trusting the Process

Arborbrook applied for two grants this year—one of which encouraged us to reapply in July, while the second decision is expected by mid-April. Though we didn't receive one grant this spring, we remain steadfast in trusting God's provision to "Close the Gap" needed to break ground on our new facility.

Looking Ahead

While there are still steps to take to fully realize our Strategic Plan, we take time to celebrate God's faithfulness and the remarkable growth along the way. Arborbrook is thriving, with record enrollment and strong momentum heading into next school year. Our relationship with Central Baptist Church has never been stronger, and exciting new developments are just around the corner!

We remain committed to partnering with parents to equip, encourage, and empower students in cultivating godly character, pursuing lifelong learning, and deepening their love for Jesus Christ.

Join Us in Closing the Gap!

If you would like to help Arborbrook reach our goal and get shovels in the ground this year, visit www.arborbrook.org/roots. Thank you for being part of the Arborbrook story!

Student Life

Ashley Ruiz Named Arborbrook’s Next Lower School Principal

Arborbrook Christian Academy is excited to announce that Mrs. Ashley Ruiz has been appointed as the new Lower School Principal, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. She will work alongside current principal Mrs. Woodman in the coming months to ensure a smooth transition before officially stepping into the role on July 1. The school is deeply grateful for Mrs. Woodman’s mentorship and guidance during this period— and for her many faithful years of leadership. Her impact on students, families, and faculty has been lasting, and she will be greatly missed. We wish her all the best in this next season!



Mrs. Ashley Ruiz, Lower School Principal beginning 2025-2026

Mrs. Ruiz brings a strong passion for Christian education and an impressive background as a bilingual educator. With over 24 years in children and youth ministry, 10 years of teaching, and 4 years in administrative leadership, she has successfully led teams, developed engaging curricula, and implemented effective systems to support both academic and spiritual growth.

Having served in diverse educational settings both internationally and in the U.S., Mrs. Ruiz is already a valued member of the Arborbrook family as a 6th grade teacher. Her leadership, vision, and dedication to students and families make her a wonderful fit for this new role. Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Ruiz!

High School Students Serve with Purpose at Home and Abroad

Arborbrook Christian Academy’s high school students lived out their faith in powerful ways this year, serving both locally and abroad. During Love Boldly, a four-day service initiative, 37 students took one week off from classes and dedicated 375 hours to local outreach—assembling thousands of meals, supporting assisted living residents, and preparing hygiene kits for the homeless. Their efforts touched lives across six organizations, embodying Christ’s love through action.

Beyond their local impact, a team of 19 students and eight chaperones traveled to Guatemala, where they built homes, led a Vacation Bible School, and served at Mimi’s House orphanage alongside Catalyst Resources International. Their mission trip, grounded in Mark 16:15, strengthened their faith as they shared the Gospel through service and connection. Whether in Union County or Central America, Arborbrook students demonstrated that love, generosity, and faith know no borders.

Celebrating Excellence: Arborbrook’s Class of 2025

Arborbrook takes great pride in acknowledging the academic achievements of the Class of 2025. These students have demonstrated exceptional dedication and perseverance in earning these honors. It’s evident that their hard work, resilience, willingness to seek assistance, and willingness to push their limits have played pivotal roles in their success. Arborbrook celebrates not only their accomplishments but also their commendable work ethic.

Many seniors have attained an honors distinction and were presented with cords on March 20, 2025, to be worn during the upcoming graduation ceremony. The criteria for honors distinction are based on students’ cumulative GPA, requiring a minimum of 3.5 to graduate with Honors, 3.8 for High Honors, and 4.0 for Highest Honors.

The students achieving Highest Honors are Dominic Andrade, Lili Carroll, Rachael Janzer, Emmanuel Riad, Cairo Tineo, and Connor Woodman. Ella Robson is graduating with High Honors, while Ava Rushing is graduating with Honors.

In addition, Arborbrook is pleased to announce the Class of 2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Eligibility for these titles necessitates a minimum of two years attendance at Arborbrook in high school. The Valedictorian, Rachael Janzer, achieving the highest cumulative GPA, will deliver a speech at the graduation ceremony. Lili Carroll, the Salutatorian with the second-highest cumulative GPA, will have the honor of selecting and reciting scripture. Being named Valedictorian or Salutatorian is a testament to their enduring commitment and perseverance throughout their high school journey, a fact of which Arborbrook is immensely proud.

Lastly, Arborbrook would like to express appreciation for the entire Class of 2025. These outstanding young individuals have been a delight to teach over the past four years. They embody the values of Arborbrook and will be sincerely missed as they embark on new endeavors.



Valedictorian Rachael Janzer (left) and Salutatorian Lili Carroll (right) receive special recognition at the March 2025 All School Honors Assembly.

Athletics

Winter Sports Recap

The winter sports season at Arborbrook Christian Academy was filled with remarkable achievements and spirited participation across all levels.

Upper School Basketball

In his inaugural year, High School Coach Sam Daigle guided the JV and Varsity Boys Basketball teams to impressive winning records, laying a solid foundation for future success. Senior Cairo Tineo provided exemplary leadership both on and off the court. Looking ahead, Coach Daigle aims to build upon this season's accomplishments as Arborbrook prepares to join the NCISAA as full-time members.



Pictured left to right: Ezra Briles, Cairo Tineo, Diego Tineo – Key players from Arborbrook's upper school basketball team, who helped lead the Falcons to a strong season.

Middle School Basketball

Coach Jamal Locke led the Middle School Boys team to victory, clinching the SPAA Conference tournament championship. The home crowd's enthusiastic support on that early February Friday night added to the celebratory atmosphere. Congratulations to the Middle School Boys team for their dedication and hard work!

Lower School Basketball

The fifth and sixth-grade boys' team delivered a thrilling performance, securing a championship win with a buzzer-beater three-pointer, edging out their opponents by a single point. A special shoutout to Coach Dave Rackley and the team for this exciting achievement!

Saturday mornings were lively in the Arborbrook Gym, with Coaches Jen Stretch, Jamal Locke, and Michael Krauter leading our third and fourth-grade basketball teams. Over 25 students participated, forming three teams that competed in a six-team league, fostering both skills and camaraderie.



Arborbrook Upper School Cheerleaders, led by team captain Gabi Hart, energize the crowd with a spirited performance during a Falcons' home basketball game.

Cheerleading and Pom Squad

The spirit at games was elevated by the enthusiastic performances of over 30 young ladies from Arborbrook's Lower School Pom Squad and Upper School Cheerleading team. Coaches Melissa Betancourt and Ashley Krauter introduced the Lower School Pom Squad to the fundamentals of cheerleading and tumbling, culminating in spirited Saturday morning performances. Under the guidance of second-year Cheer Coach Jaime Murray, the Upper School Cheerleading team energized the crowds during middle and high school games, with Senior Gabi Hart serving as the dedicated captain.

Both groups showcased their talents with impressive stunts, flips, and tumbles at the season-ending Pep Rally, marking a fitting conclusion to a vibrant winter sports season.

Congratulations to all athletes, coaches, and supporters for a season marked by growth, achievement, and school spirit!



Young Arborbrook athletes battle for possession in a fast-paced lower school basketball matchup!



Pom Squad lines the court to cheer on basketball players during their home game entrance

Arborbrook Delivered Powerful Performance of *Godspell*

Arborbrook Christian Academy students brought the beloved musical *Godspell* to life in a vibrant and engaging production.

Through a creative mix of games, storytelling techniques, and plenty of humor, the cast portrayed the parables of Jesus Christ in an unforgettable way.

Featuring an eclectic blend of music—from pop to vaudeville—*Godspell* told the story of Jesus’ life with energy and heart.

Audiences experienced moments of joy and laughter, leading into a powerful depiction of the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection.

The show beautifully captured Jesus’ message of kindness, salvation, and love, making it a truly moving experience for the entire community.



Congraulations to the cast & crew!



2025 *Godspell* Cast Photo
Back row, left to right: David Rackley, Josh Lewis, Luke McAndrew, Will Alderman, Ezra Briles, Rylee Schindler, Callie Godley, Taylor Knight, Catie Matheson, Front row, left to right: Crescena Brown, Eliana Riad, Elana Newey, Cora McGill, Simone Quaranta, Naomi Quaranta, Elizabeth Mangum, Ciel Quaranta, not pictured: Trudi Barker

Arborbrook Christian Academy
4823 Waxhaw-Indian Trail Road
Matthews, North Carolina 28104
704-821-9952 | arborbrook.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 17-21.....Easter Break
- May 2.....High School Prom
- May 6 & 8....Spring Program/Art Show
- May 7...Faculty & Staff Appreciation Day
- May 15.....Athletics Banquet
- May 19-22.....Finals for High School
- May 23.....Baccalaureate
- May 24.....GRADUATION
- May 27.....Award Ceremonies (7-12)
- May 28.....Award Ceremonies (K-6)
- Last Day of School (K-11)
- & Family Fun Day