

TRUMPETER

CVCA ALUMNI & FRIENDS MAGAZINE

Isaiah 41:10
Praying for him.
Playing for him.
Here for him.



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2026-2027 TRUMPETER

The Trumpeter is the annual reporting magazine for Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy and its community of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends. It is published once per year.

Alumni news and updates for *The Echoes* may be sent to advancement@cvcaroyals.org or submitted through the Alumni News form at cvcaroyals.org/alumni. Please include graduation year(s) and maiden names. Photos should be the highest resolution possible. CVCA reserves the right to edit alumni news for clarity, appropriateness, and space limitations.

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Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy is a non-profit ministry dedicated to Educating and Cultivating Servants for Christ. We are a middle and senior high school committed to high academic standards. Our biblically integrated, college-preparatory curriculum is delivered by a dedicated staff of Christian professionals committed to teaching from a biblical worldview and philosophy. We are committed to providing our students with experiences that will foster in them a servant's heart, including extra-curricular activities, inter-scholastic athletics, music, theater, short-term mission trips, and numerous service opportunities. CVCA aims to create a Christian school community characterized by transforming relationships that produce a lived-out faith in the lives of our students, faculty, and staff.



Physical progress continues across campus as a tangible reminder of God's faithfulness and the generosity of the CVCA community. Funded by the "For Such a Time as This" campaign, these new spaces build a foundation for a vibrant discipleship environment where student talents are multiplied for generations to come.

A Community Built for Such a Time as This

As we look back on this incredible year, we are overwhelmed by the unmistakable goodness and faithfulness of God. Through the "For Such a Time as This" campaign, our community has rallied together with overwhelming generosity and selflessness, raising an astounding \$16.5 million to support mission excellence now and drive us into the future. I've seen our community lift up hurting families in their times of greatest need. We have watched in awe as God has used His people to accomplish things far beyond our own strength, proving once again that when we step out in obedience, He works through us in ways we could never fully ask for or even begin to imagine. He has used this community of ordinary people to do extraordinary things in 2025-2026 – and it continues as you walk on campus now, noticing the physical progress that all comes from Him.

More than the financial milestones, however, the truest victory of this season is the spiritual awakening taking place within our hallways. We are witnessing a profound shift as so many of our students decide to truly make their faith their own – moving past simply "renting" their parents' faith and choosing

instead to possess a deeply personal, vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. It is a beautiful reminder of the promise in Ephesians 3:20-21:

"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."

Thank you, parents and alumni, for your prayers, your generosity, and for being the hands and feet of a community built for such a time as this. We are truly more than a school. We are a biblical community that creates a discipleship environment where talents are multiplied for our good and His glory.

Thank you for stepping into your role as an impactful community member at **His** school!

All to Him I owe,


Jason Spodnik '88

A Lesson in Eternal Victory

Paul Muklewicz Named 2026 Roger Taylor Educator of the Year

It is a deeply rooted CVCA tradition to give the annual *Dr. Roger Taylor – Educator of the Year Award* to a faculty member who exemplifies the school's mission. The intent is to honor an educational leader who serves with humility and grace, one who is a pedagogical master of their curriculum, and who relationally invests in the discipleship ministry of pacing with students. Nominated and selected entirely by a faculty vote, the award recognizes those who truly embody the heart of CVCA.

In past years, several deserving educators have been nominated for this honor. However, this year there was an overwhelming, singular response from the faculty: the award could go to only one recipient, Mr. Paul Muklewicz.

As many in the community know, this has been a year of great difficulty. The school year began with Paul informing the faculty that he had been diagnosed with incurable cancer. In true Paul fashion, he used that exact moment not to highlight the earthly hardship he was facing, but to point directly to Christ. He encouraged his peers with words that became a rallying cry for the department: **"Heaven is the goal; let's take as many people with us as we can."**

It should be no surprise that Paul lived his final days on earth encouraging and inspiring others to taste and see that the Lord is good. Anyone who met Paul knew he was driven by an infectious passion to use Math class, sports, and any other tool available to him for one purpose: to point students to Christ. Every step along the way, he demonstrated a courage, love, and peace that was "not of this world" – a peace only possible for someone who deeply knew and trusted His Lord.

Paul was an exceptional educator who had been nominated for this very award in previous years. Yet it was in his final days, through his steadfast trust in the Lord's promises and his singular, courageous desire to make much of Him, that Paul taught his greatest and most impactful lesson.



"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

In Their Own Words: Faculty Tributes to a Faithful Servant

Following the award announcement, Paul's colleagues and friends shared moving reflections on the profound impact he left on the hallways, classrooms, and athletic fields of CVCA:

His Mission: "Paul set the bar high for what it means to serve at CVCA. Even in the midst of his battle with cancer, he made intentional efforts to connect with students and use his platform as both a teacher and coach to point them to the Gospel."

His Witness: "Paul's example throughout his battle with cancer exemplifies everything that we stand for as a school and try to model as faculty members. His inspirational faith is everything that this award stands for. I cannot think of another teacher this school year who had as great an impact as Paul. In the face of incredible hardship, Paul let his light shine before men and was always prepared with an answer for the joy within."

Living Out Scripture: "ALL CVCA students learned how to live as a faithful follower of Christ – even in the valley – by watching Paul walk the road set before him... Paul was a true testament to when the Bible says, *'to live is Christ and to die is gain.'*"

Christ-Centered Excellence: "Paul embodied everything we hope for in an educator at CVCA. He chose to teach at CVCA to be a disciple maker, and that is what he did, whether in the classroom, on the field, in the teacher's lounge, in parent-teacher conferences, or on trips. He did it all heartily, with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength to the very end... Paul showed us all how it's done – cultivating relationships and making disciples until he was called home."

Balancing Content and Faith: "Paul was an amazing man of God who taught with compassion and kindness. His desire for students was that each

one would know the Lord. Yet he had a love for math that was evident in how he delivered concepts in the classroom and challenged each student to grow in their mathematical knowledge. There will never be a teacher like him."

His Lasting Legacy: "At CVCA, we're blessed to explore the art of teaching under the guidance of the Light of the world... And once in a lifetime, we witness someone like Paul Muklewicz making a path through the shadows to shine a light for Christ so brightly that his life so faithfully lived still points us towards eternal victory, long after the math problems are figured out, and the last play has been called. Once a year, we get to honor someone like that. We get to say, 'I walked alongside someone who changed me in such a way that my life won't ever be the same.' Praise God for teachers, mentors, and friends like Paul Muklewicz."

August 2025



PAINTING SENIOR PARKING SPOTS

For the third year running, seniors personalized their assigned parking spots before the first day of school. With paint supplies and creative designs in hand, they transformed the lot into a showcase of mini masterpieces.



MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREATS

Each year, CVCA middle schoolers kick off the school year with retreats at Camp Carl. These trips are the perfect opportunity for students to bond with teachers, make new friends, and build excitement for the year ahead. Sixth graders experience Ignition, seventh graders head off for JumpStart, and eighth graders reunite at Launch Point.



FALL FEST

High schoolers welcomed the 2025-2026 school year with Fall Fest! Packed with wild games and friendly House competitions, it was the perfect day for students and teachers to reconnect after the summer and welcome new faces to the CVCA community.

September 2025



NEW FAMILY TAILGATE

This annual event rolls out the red carpet for new families joining the CVCA community. Featuring food trucks, kids' activities, and a special end-zone tent for the Royals football game, the 2025 Tailgate brought together over 137 families.



BANNER CHAPEL

Each fall, CVCA selects a book from the Bible to study during weekly Chapels, and to serve as our theme for the year. The 2025-2026 Banner tagline, "Upside-Down Kingdom," focused on Jesus's Sermon on the Mount.



HOMECOMING WEEK

As always, Spirit Week was packed with energy and friendly class competition. Colorful dress-up themes like Decade/ Era Day, Dress Like a Teacher Day, and Twins Day kept school spirit high all week. The festivities culminated at the Homecoming football game with the introduction of the court, the crowning of King Joseph Kopec III and Queen Eva Morales, and a thrilling victory over Garfield High School.



HOMECOMING DANCE

This year's Luau-themed Homecoming Dance was a massive hit! High school students celebrated in a beautifully transformed gymnasium, enjoying a fantastic night of dancing, games, and delicious food.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The 2025-2026 school year brought international students from four different countries to CVCA. They became fast friends and integrated quickly into the CVCA community. In September, the short-term international students and their hosts spent a day at Cedar Point.



October 2025

SPRINT THE SPREE

Each fall, CVCA faculty and staff gear up for "Sprint the Spree." While a dedicated pack of runners tackles the entire Summit Metro Parks Fall Hiking Spree in a single day, others take a more casual approach, enjoying a selection of scenic trails. Afterward, everyone gathers back at CVCA for the highly anticipated Chili Cook-off lunch.

SNAPSHOTS OF 2025-2026

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

In November, 91 juniors and seniors were inducted into the Jim Elliot Chapter of the National Honor Society, having met CVCA's highest standards of academics, service, character, and leadership.



the CVCA community together. While faculty and staff enjoyed a well-deserved date night or Christmas shopping, their children were treated to a night of crafts, games, a bounce house, and plenty of one-on-one attention from student volunteers.

January 2026



JTERM

As one of the most anticipated programs of the year, Jterm allows CVCA students to engage in domestic and international travel, local excursions, or unique on-campus courses. This year's travels spanned the globe, with Rwanda marking the furthest destination reached by our students.



JUNIOR ROYALS HOCKEY NIGHT

The Varsity Hockey team hosted the Junior Royals for a special night on the rink. After cheering on the high school squad during the game, the Junior Royals and their families hit the ice alongside the varsity athletes for an unforgettable post-game skate.



SOBE BUSINESS PITCH NIGHT

On January 22, CVCA hosted the SOBE Senior Business Pitch Night to



7TH GRADE SERVICE PROJECT

During their fall service project, CVCA seventh graders partnered with Pre-K and kindergarten students from Summit Christian School. The students spent the day bonding over books, working on crafts, and teaming up for a fun scavenger hunt.

November 2025



LIP SYNC BATTLE

A favorite House Games tradition, the CVCA Lip Sync Battle concluded with senior Dontae Gibson walking away with the coveted 2025 trophy.

December 2025 CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Our music ensembles always put on a spectacular show, but nothing beats the Christmas concerts! These festive performances are the perfect way to



celebrate the season and get the whole CVCA community into the holiday spirit.



SILENT NIGHT BASKETBALL GAME

Adopted from Taylor University, CVCA's Silent Night tradition challenges fans to remain perfectly silent until the Royals score their tenth point, at which the crowd erupts in massive celebration.



STAFF BABYSITTING NIGHT

A beloved annual tradition, Staff Babysitting Night once again brought

resounding success. In the Business category, the team of Emerson Hutt, Noah Kolb, Tymofiy Logosh, and Jacob Schellenberg took first place with their concept, “NextStepTutoring.” Lauren Joyce claimed the top spot in the Startup category with her innovative business, “Little Lights.”

February 2026



WINTER SOCIAL

On February 7, high school students in grades 9-12 spent the evening dancing, playing games, enjoying treats, and just having fun at the Annual Winter Social held at Todaro’s Party Center.

March 2026



DIAKONOS SERVICE PROJECT

Over spring break, CVCA students and staff put their faith into action during Diakonos Service Week, volunteering

at various nonprofit organizations in Akron. Living together in community at the school, the group bonded over shared meals, worship, scripture discussions, and late-night fun. Derived from the biblical Greek word for “servants,” Diakonos beautifully captured the spirit of the trip and the hearts of everyone involved.



ILAB STUDENTS VISIT MOBILITY WORLDWIDE

CVCA Innovation Lab students visited Mobility Worldwide—Ohio to learn how the ministry pairs volunteers and donors to provide mobility carts to individuals in developing countries who are unable to walk. During the visit, students assembled a new cart prototype and heard powerful, real-world examples of the innovation, servanthood, and answered prayers that have driven the ministry for over 30 years.

April 2026

MARKETING PITCH NIGHT

On April 8, CVCA’s School of Business and Entrepreneurship hosted its 11th annual Marketing Pitch Night. This year’s competition was fiercer than ever, featuring a record eleven student groups pitching their concepts to a



panel of professional judges. While every team delivered an incredible presentation, first place and the \$1,000 grand prize went to team Washè, comprised of Kaci Cherry, Kyle Cochran, Gaven Mathlage, and Olivia Rice.

May 2026



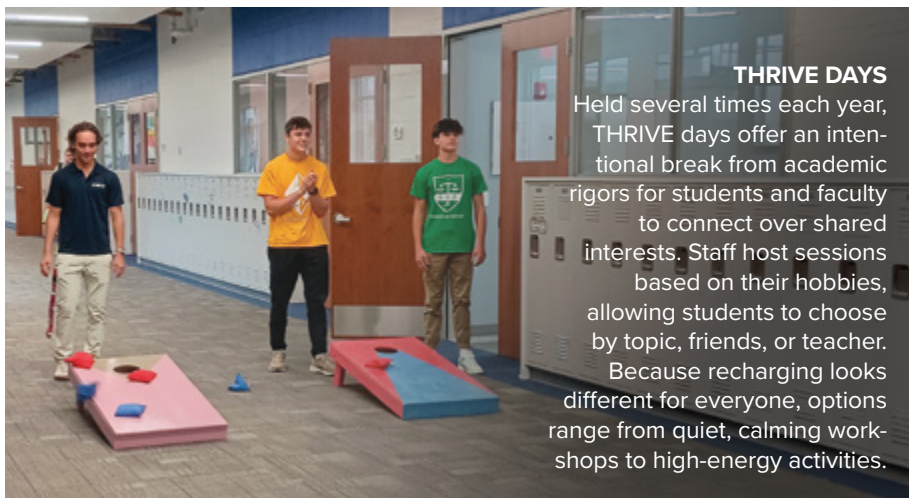
PROM

To celebrate the end of the school year and the upcoming graduation, juniors and seniors gathered at the Quaker Station ballroom for a Masquerade-themed Prom. The unforgettable evening featured dinner, dancing, karaoke, a caricature artist, senior gifts, an ice cream food truck, and more.



FINE ARTS SHOWCASE

The annual Fine Arts Showcase stands as an impressive celebration of CVCA’s creative talent. Guests filed through the hallways and the Rasnick Center, appreciating a diverse collection of works from our 2D Art, 3D Art, Graphic Design, and Photography students.



THRIVE DAYS

Held several times each year, THRIVE days offer an intentional break from academic rigors for students and faculty to connect over shared interests. Staff host sessions based on their hobbies, allowing students to choose by topic, friends, or teacher. Because recharging looks different for everyone, options range from quiet, calming workshops to high-energy activities.

THE CLASS OF 2026

163
Graduates



90% Attending College

55 Colleges & Universities 26% Christian Colleges
65% Ohio Colleges 47% Private Colleges

3 National Merit Finalists

Nathan Cook Owen Lee Anna Muklewicz
Valedictorian Salutatorian



56 Royal Scholars

4.0 or higher GPA entire
high school career



8 Summa Cum Laude Highest Distinction – Top 5%

Jude Armstrong, Nathan Cook, Caroline Dressel,
Noah Kolb, Owen Lee, Tymofiy Logosh,
Ian McSparran, Anna Muklewicz

8 Magna Cum Laude Great Distinction – Top 6-10%

Lily Campbell, Rachael Clark, Nathan Mitchell,
Faith Nguyen, Miles Pastoria, Katherine Siff,
Addilyn Simpson, Aurora Woodruff

10 Magna Laude With Distinction – Top 11-15%

Hudson Bazemore, Jay Danhauer, Michael Fazio, Hannah
Finnegan, Clive Horn, Madeline Johnston, Connor McGough,
Avery Olson, Laney Romanini, Brayden Thompson



\$18,797,488

Awarded in College Scholarships

Royal Servant Awards

Nathan Cook
Alyssa Pheneger

9 AP Capstone Diplomas

Recipients: Jude Armstrong, Joshua Dudich,
Madeline Johnston, Ian McSparran, Katherine Siff

Candidates: Nathan Cook, Clive Horn, Samuel
Linhart, Paulina Zhu

23 Committed to College Athletics

Akron Beacon Journal Star Student Nominees

Nathan Cook Owen Lee

Most popular majors pursued:

Business, Business Management, Education,
Exercise Science, Finance, Mechanical Engineering,
Nursing, Pre-Med, Psychology, Trades





Congratulations to the Class of 2026

The 57th Graduating Class of Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy

Averie Abate
Robert Akins
Ethan Altieri
Hayleigh Armstrong
Jude Armstrong
Layla Bader
Hudson Bazemore
Clara Bergevin
Kirstin Berkes
Riley Besso
Levi Best
DonGino Bickley
Uriah Bishop
Timothy Borshch
Aiden Brassow
Eli Brown
Polina Budestean
Lily Campbell
Jane Campitelli
Bailey Carroll
Mae Casebere
Joelle Cherry
Rachael Clark
Micah Colbert
Anthony Collins
Nathan Cook
Bianca Czarnecki
Rocco Czarnecki
Jay Danhauer
Kaylee Darr
Olivia Demastus
Allyson Denges
Caroline Dressel
Joshua Dudich
Adriana Duraj
Evangelina Durant

Judah DuRoss
Kyle Einloth
Hailey Ertel
Olivia Fairfax
Michael Fazio
Ky'Ron Fikes
Hannah Finnegan
Luke Flaker
Olivia Fordham
Giana Frye
Nicholas Gage
Lincoln Gates
Dirk Geiger
Miriam George
Dontea Gibson
Elijah Gilbreath
Leah Goebel
Brock Gray
Connor Gray
Michael Gruver
Addyson Hager
Brayden Harris
Clive Horn
Emerson Hutt
Tyler Hysolli
Mia Januszewski
Joshua Jeffries
Sophia Johnson
Madeline Johnston
Lauren Joyce
Gabriel Kautzman
Ezekiel Keating
Wesley Keeler
Ava Keil
Alexander Khalil
Annabelle Khalil

Logan Kish
Noah Kolb
Nathan Komar
Joseph Kopec III
Chloe Krosiak
Aniella Kubis
Bogdan Kushnirchuk
Jacob Lancy
Owen Lee
Tepor Leng
Charles Levak
Keegan LeVan
Samuel Linhart
Tymofiy Logosh
Kiera Loos
Elianah MacArthur
Claire Marosi
Brady Martin
Samuel Mathena
Alexander McClain
Olivia McCoy
Sophia McGhee
Connor McGough
Joshua McIlroy
Ian McSparran
Nathan Mitchell
Eva Morales
Logan Mugford
Anna Muklewicz
Treasure Mull
Allison Mutchie
Nickolas Myers
Naomi Nerone
Julia Neumeyer
Faith Nguyen
Caydence Novak

Morayo Oguntoyinbo
Avery Olson
Alexander Ott
Daniel Parker
Miles Pastoria
Donald Paulk
Sanai Petit-Frere
Brayden Pfeil
Alyssa Pheneger
Kennedy Platek
Evan Richeson
Alexandra Rinella
Kendall Ritzman
Gavin Rocker
Laney Romanini
Della Rose Salyers
Joy Saffles
Elias Saliba
Jacob Schellenberg
Nicholas Schober
Christian Schuller
Faye Schuller
Hannah Shanor
Kyle Shaw
Kaya Sherman
Katherine Siff
Addilyn Simpson
Mia Sims

Scott Sims
Brayden Smith
Jake Stenger
James Swiger
Ryan Tajgiszer
Ella Tate
Jacob Testa
Brayden Thompson
Benjamin Truax
Caleb Van Drunen
Jaden Varney
Sienna Vitt
Jason Voytovych
Daniel Walker
Logan Weaver
Clara Weber
Deacon Weihrauch
Evan Wensel
James Wiggers
Taylor Willison
Lucy Winkelmann
Annabelle Woodall
Aurora Woodruff
Ella Workman
Kylee Zamecnik
Raela Zapsic
Paulina Zhu

Scan to view a
video of the 2026
graduation ceremony.



CVCA’s Top Two Graduates Achieve Full Rides

We are thrilled to celebrate Valedictorian Owen Lee and Salutatorian Nathan Cook, who have both secured full-cost-of-attendance scholarships for their exceptional academic and extracurricular achievements.



Owen Lee

Owen Lee | Valedictorian

- **The Award:** Received The Ohio State University’s President’s Ohio Scholarship (awarded for a perfect 36 ACT/1600 SAT), covering full cost of attendance plus a \$5,000 educational stipend
- **Academics:** National Merit Finalist
- **Leadership:** Varsity Captain of the state-qualifying Academic Challenge Team
- **Speech & Debate:** National Qualifier in U.S. Extemporaneous Speaking
- **Athletics & Arts:** District Qualifier in Boys’ Tennis; Royal Theatre performer
- **The Future:** Majoring in Chemistry and Mathematics to pursue a career as a researcher/professor



Nathan Cook

Nathan Cook | Salutatorian

- **The Award:** Received Grove City College’s Trustee Fellow Scholarship, a full ride covering tuition, room, and board, plus entry into an exclusive faculty mentoring program
- **Academics:** National Merit Finalist
- **Leadership:** President of CVCA’s National Honor Society chapter
- **Speech & Debate:** First place in Ohio and sixth in the Nation for U.S. Extemporaneous Speaking – making CVCA history as our first national finalist
- **Athletics:** Varsity football player during the Royals’ historic state-semifinal run

Honoring Christ Through Academic Excellence

Preparing for college includes taking the ACT and SAT college entrance exams. Most colleges and universities require a score from at least one of these as part of the application process. We are proud of our students’ efforts on these tests and see their scores as evidence of their hard work.

AVERAGE ACT RESULTS	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
Class of 2026 Top 25%*	28.1	27.4	30.4	26.7	28.4
Class of 2026	21.8	22.9	24	22	22.9
National Average**	18.4	18.9	20	19.6	19.4

AVERAGE SAT RESULTS	EBRW	Math	Composite
Class of 2026 Top 25%*	688	636	1347
Class of 2026	630	613	1248
National Average**	521	508	1029

* As determined by cumulative high school CVCA GPA. ** National averages represent prior year data.



Talking Royals Make History: Top Six Finish and National Honors for CVCA

In June, **Nathan Cook '26** captured a remarkable sixth-place finish at the National Speech and Debate Association’s 2026 National Tournament in Richmond, Virginia. This historic achievement serves as the perfect capstone to an exceptional career with the Talking Royals Speech and Debate Team.

Out of more than 1,200 competing schools at the tournament, CVCA was distinguished as a **“Speech School of Honor.”** This prestigious designation signifies that our program placed among the top 40 speech schools in the entire nation this year, an impressive accomplishment for the team.



State Tournament Success: CVCA Academic Challenge Places Tenth

Three of our top Academic Challenge players – **Owen Lee '26, Will Helin '27, and Wyatt Barnes '27** – recently represented CVCA at the highly competitive NAQT (National Academic Quiz Tournaments) State Tournament. Making their debut appearance in this prestigious competition, the trio delivered an outstanding performance against some of the finest minds in Ohio. They finished an impressive tenth in the state out of 64 competing teams, marking a stellar milestone for the program.

A Legacy of Faithfulness

Celebrating Dr. Roger Taylor's Decades of Leadership

by Dr. Matt Koons '94, CVCA Headmaster

Dr. Roger Taylor earned his Doctor of Philosophy in History from Kent State University, focusing his research on the European Reformation. While he initially planned to spend his career teaching at the university level, God had other plans. Unexpectedly, while finishing his dissertation, he accepted a teaching position at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy. He served as a faculty member for five and a half years until January 1990, when he transitioned into the role of Headmaster. In May 2001, he became the Academy's seventh President, a position he held until 2016. As the longest-serving senior administrator in CVCA's history, Dr. Taylor has spent the past ten years as a central part of the Development Team, helping oversee several mission-critical campaigns. Now, as he officially embarks on a well-deserved retirement, we look back with immense gratitude on a legacy that has forever changed our school.

Dr. Taylor readily admits that he did not anticipate this career path, nor did he actively seek the leadership roles he has held over the years. Yet, he was always willing to step forward – even though, as he has often

noted, leadership exacts a cost. His long-standing leadership has embodied servanthood and stalwart integrity, marked by an unwavering commitment to the mission of CVCA. He has humbly guided the school through years of record enrollment, significant programmatic growth, and numerous successful capital campaigns.

CVCA has been deeply shaped by individuals marked by a lifetime of faithfulness to the gospel. It is a profound honor to write this tribute to one of my mentors, Dr. Taylor, who has lived a life of incredible, steadfast faithfulness that so many of us desire to emulate. We truly stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, and CVCA is the institution it is today because of his example.

Certain people leave an indelible imprint on our lives, and Dr. Taylor is undoubtedly one of them. It is not uncommon to hear alumni say he was their favorite teacher. In the classroom, he inspired students to understand the discipline of history from a biblical perspective. He remains a remarkable educator, an exceptional leader, and a deeply dedicated follower of Jesus.



MENTOR, TEACHER, LEADER, SERVANT

I am personally grateful that he took a chance and hired me 26 years ago. I am also incredibly thankful for the countless hours he has spent mentoring, teaching, leading, and serving. Most of all, however, I am grateful that he answered God's call to dedicate his life to Christian education. CVCA would not be the place it is today without the massive influence of Dr. Roger Taylor.

Dr. Taylor, as you step into this next chapter of retirement, thank you for your extraordinary life of ministry, and thank you for teaching us all what it means to follow Christ.

CVCA Hosts Third Annual Educators Conference

In February, CVCA hosted its third annual **Pathways Educator Conference**. Originally an internal event, the one-day conference expanded this year to include regional Christian schools. We were blown away to welcome nearly 400 educators representing 12 different schools!

Centered on the theme *"Reviving the Sacred Work of Teaching,"* the event featured 30 breakout sessions and two inspiring keynotes. Dr. Kevin Jones (Dean of Cedarville University's School of Education) and Dr. Wayne Lewis (President of Houghton University) challenged teachers to respond to God's sacred call to form disciples. The day was highlighted by dynamic worship, prayer, content-specific collaborative lunches, and community building.

We are already looking forward to the 2027 conference, which will feature keynote Dr. Kelly Kapic, author of *You're Only Human*, alongside a special performance and Q&A with Christian singer-songwriter Jon Guerra.



"Absolutely top-notch conference! I left feeling refreshed, energized, and ready to continue the work God has called me to do! Outstanding job to the entire team!" – Conference Attendee

Celebrating the Impact of the CVCA Community

At CVCA, community is a vibrant, multi-generational partnership rooted in faith and shared purpose. From welcoming home decades of alumni to celebrating the vital role grandparents play, recent gatherings have beautifully reminded us of God's continued faithfulness to His school. Through the incredible generosity of our community during our giving events, we ensure that CVCA's mission continues to flourish for generations to come.



HOMEcoming

What an incredible turnout for Homecoming 2025! **Over 775 alumni and guests** returned to campus for a spectacular day of reconnection, laughter, and school pride. Congratulations to the Class of 1975 on their landmark

50th Reunion, and to the Class of 2015, which saw over 45 classmates return. Attendees enjoyed local food trucks and gathered in the VIP End-zone tent to reminisce. Thank you to everyone who made this day unforgettable – your spirit is what makes our community so special. ***Don't miss Alumni Homecoming 2026 on September 18.***



GRANDPARENTS DAYS

CVCA welcomed nearly **800 grandparents** and their students for our 2025 Grandparents Days, filled with endless smiles and joyful memories. Grandchildren proudly guided their grandparents through the hallways to visit classrooms, meet teachers, and share a glimpse of daily student life. Both days were capped off by a historic milestone: our first-ever joint Chapel worship service, where generations lifted their voices together in praise. ***Our next Grandparents Days will be held on April 7 and 8, 2027.***

OCTOBER GIVING MONTH

Each October, the CVCA community steps up wholeheartedly for our annual

Giving Month to support the Annual Fund. Representing a true outpouring of love and resources, this campaign directly impacts our shared mission, and **raised over \$300,000** in 2025. We look forward to another successful Giving Month this October.

Watch your mailbox for details. Questions? Contact Jennifer Meybaum at jmeybaum@cvcaroyals.org or give online at cvcaroyals.org/give-now (note "October Giving" in the comment box).



THE ROYAL EVENING

The 2026 Royal Evening brought over 400 friends in the CVCA community together for a night of connection, joy, and shared purpose. Driven by the collaborative teamwork of dedicated volunteers, staff, and enthusiastic student helpers, the event beautifully highlighted the school's heart for fellowship and ministry. Through the generous support of our sponsors, the evening **raised more than \$400,000** for student tuition assistance and scholarships. ***Be sure to save March 13, 2027 for the next Royal Evening!***

The Tribute of Endowed Scholarships

Scholarships keep a CVCA education accessible. Thanks to faithful, generous supporters, we offer 43 endowed scholarships – many with multiple recipients. These funds are created to honor the legacy of loved ones, reward student character and leadership, and help mentor the next generation for Christ.

If you would like to learn how you can establish an endowed scholarship at CVCA, please contact John Harabedian at jharabedian@cvcaroyals.org.

Adams Memorial Scholarship
Ambassador for Christ Scholarship
Apostle Paul Scholarship
Audrey J. Bloom R.N., B.S.N. Medical Professions Scholarship
Beyerle Memorial Scholarship
Blair Family Ministry Scholarship
Brenda Burnham Unruh Memorial Scholarship
C.H. and Betty Tipton Memorial Scholarship
Carlene King Memorial Scholarship
Creative Writing Scholarship/Levigne
David and Lynette Flick Scholarship
Debbie Arnold Memorial Scholarship
Don Bechtel Scholarship
Dr. Kyle Harris Memorial Scholarship
Excellence in Christ Scholarship
Excellence in Fine Arts Scholarship

Forrest & Dorothy Crocker Founders Scholarship
Forrest Stein Memorial Scholarship
Glenn Meadows Scholarship
Gregory Gerycz – 2 Chronicles 7:14 Memorial Scholarship
Hershman Family Scholarship
Jay Jones Memorial Scholarship
John Rasnick Memorial Scholarship
Leonard W. Lindh Memorial Scholarship
Mark Kirk Memorial Scholarship
Michael Senyek Memorial Scholarship
Michelson Foundation Scholarship
Mindy Ormond Memorial Scholarship
Monteith Family Founders Scholarship
Natalie Pausch Memorial Scholarship
Otto Bosshard Memorial Scholarship

Paz Chu Memorial Scholarship
Perry Carroscia Memorial CVCA Scholarship
Pete & Billee Keslar Founders Scholarship
Psalm 118:23 Founders' Testimony Scholarship
Psalm 121 Scholarship
Richard & Carol Heasley Lifetime Service Scholarship
Richard L. Shellenberger Social Studies Excellence Scholarship
Richard P. DeBlander Memorial Scholarship
Ron & Judy Moncrief Founders Scholarship
Staker Memorial Scholarship
Steve & Sherryl Owen Family Scholarship
Tammi Stewart Memorial Scholarship

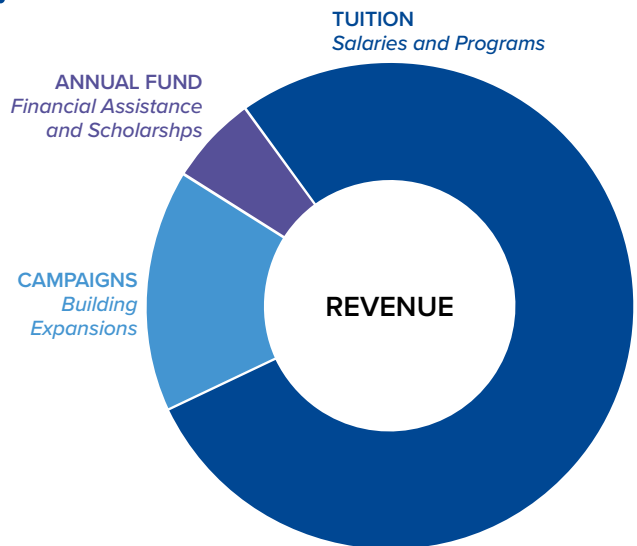
How Does CVCA Fund Its Mission?

CVCA Generates Revenue From Three Primary Sources

THE ANNUAL FUND: To keep CVCA accessible while maintaining excellence, tuition is intentionally set below the actual cost of education. The Annual Fund bridges this gap, directly supporting student financial assistance and vital campus programs. These gifts also fund technology upgrades, enrich library and lab resources, and sustain innovative academic offerings like our Schools of Distinction, School of Classics, and Jterm.

TUITION: Tuition revenue is carefully managed to sustain our daily operations, with the largest portion dedicated to supporting the competitive salaries and benefits of our exceptional faculty and staff.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS: To accommodate campus growth and enhance our facilities, CVCA periodically launches Capital Campaigns for specific building projects. Funding for these long-term enhancements is raised independently through the generosity of targeted donors; it is never drawn from tuition or The Annual Fund.



The Kingdom Impact

Thanks to your faithful generosity, we are blessed to share key milestones from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. These figures represent far more than metrics –they reflect lives transformed and students equipped for a lifetime of Gospel impact.

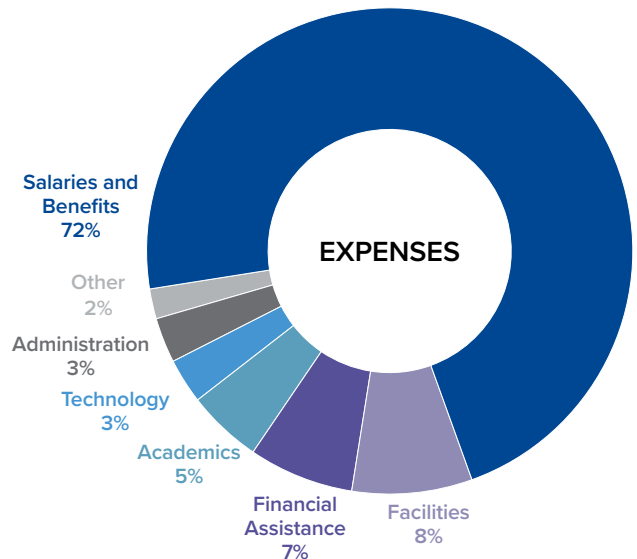
\$1.023 Million Raised through Donor Generosity This includes The Royal Evening, The Annual Fund, and designated gifts and represents a 29% increase over last year.

25% Family Participation The percentage of current families that give to the school is steadily increasing with the growing culture of generosity that permeates the CVCA community.

37% New Donors Of all our donors this year, over a third of them were new givers to CVCA.

\$299,600 Raised It has been exciting to see donations grow through our Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO).

\$1.4 million Awarded in Need-Based Tuition Assistance The generosity of our donors has kept CVCA accessible, giving more families access to a Christ-centered education.



SUPPORT CVCA TODAY!
Scan to view giving opportunities and to donate online.



THANK YOU!

Your joyful giving and selfless service impact every aspect of the CVCA experience. We are grateful that God continues to faithfully provide for His school through your generous giving.

Supporting the Mission: Opportunities to Give

Generosity at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy is a lasting investment in the next generation of Christ-centered leaders. We offer a variety of meaningful ways to support CVCA – whether you are a grandparent building a family legacy, a supporter utilizing tax-wise giving strategies, or a friend dedicated to the mission of Christian education. There are giving opportunities designed to align with your personal financial goals while making an eternal impact on our students.

To explore how you can support our mission of *Educating and Cultivating Servants for Christ*, please contact CVCA's Development Office at advancement@cvcaroyals.org.

SGO Tax Credit

When you donate to CVCA via the Ohio Christian Education Network Scholarship Granting Organization (OCEN SGO), the state of Ohio gives you a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your next return, up to \$750 for single taxpayers or \$1,500 for married couples filing jointly. These impactful gifts directly provide vital tuition assistance for students in need, allowing them the opportunity to attend CVCA. Any Ohio taxpayer can participate, so please share this unique giving opportunity with your family and friends.

Gifting Appreciated Stock

Donating publicly traded securities (held for at least one year) often has a greater impact than giving cash. By transferring stock directly to CVCA, you avoid capital gains taxes and receive a charitable deduction for its full market value.

Royal Legacy Society

Connect your faith, legacy, and finances through intentional stewardship. By including CVCA in your will, or naming the school as a beneficiary of your life insurance or investment accounts, your generosity will impact Christian education for generations. Contact your legal advisor or accountant to get started, or reach out to CVCA's Development Office to learn more.

Memorial Gifts

Honor the memory of a beloved alumnus, teacher, family member, or friend with a gift that continues to give. Mail gifts to: CVCA, Attn: Development Office, 4687 Wyoga Lake Road, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44224.

The Annual Fund

Tuition does not cover all of CVCA's annual operational expenses. The Annual Fund bridges the gap, providing vital resources needed for *Educating and Cultivating Servants for Christ* each year. Key events supporting this fund include October Giving, the Charity Golf Outing, and The Royal Evening. Give online at cvcaroyals.org/give-now.

Recurring Giving: The Royal Circle

Life gets busy, and good intentions can easily fall by the wayside. Automating your donation through monthly

withdrawals ensures a consistent, hassle-free source of funding for CVCA's Christ-centered academics and programming. To set it up, visit cvcaroyals.org/give-now or call the Development Office at 330-929-0575, ext. 331.

Cash & Check Gifts

Outright gifts by check or cash are immediately available to support daily programs, resources, and campus initiatives. All donations are tax-deductible.

Gifts In-Kind

In-kind donations enhance the resources of CVCA's clubs, sports, and activities, and are a fantastic way to provide unique auction items for special events like The Royal Evening.

Matching Gifts

Double or triple the impact of your gift! Many employers offer corporate matching gift programs. Check with your company's human resources department or email jmeybaum@cvcaroyals.org for assistance.

Endowed Scholarships

We are committed to providing financial assistance so families have access to the CVCA experience. A one-time gift of \$20,000 establishes a permanent scholarship endowment, enabling CVCA to award \$1,000 annually to a teacher-nominated student with financial need. This is truly a gift that keeps on giving.

To talk to someone about these options and more, contact us at advancement@cvcaroyals.org.



Serving Together in Community

At CVCA, faith, learning, and community thrive together, and our volunteers are the heart of that mission! Whether you're helping at events, supporting our faculty, or serving behind the scenes, your time and dedication make a profound impact on our students. Volunteering is a wonderful opportunity to connect with the Royal community, encourage our campus, and serve with a purpose. No specialized skills are required – just a willing heart! To join our volunteer team, simply scan this QR code and we will get you connected. It's that easy!



The Next Chapter of Our Middle School Story

In the spring of 2026, Sarah Telepak stepped into her new role as Middle School Principal. We are thrilled to partner with her during this season of astounding growth. Reflecting on this transformation, Sarah shared her insights:



We are thrilled to partner with her during this season of astounding growth. Reflecting on this transformation, Sarah shared her insights:

“For most administrators, summer is eerily quiet. But at CVCA this year, the hustle and bustle never left – at one point, I even saw a small bulldozer passing by my office door! Jackhammering and sawing have become the new sounds of our middle school.

Change brings a distinct newness. As middle schoolers rapidly transition from childhood to adolescence, establishing their identity, I find immense joy pointing them to Christ every day.

To support this growth, CVCA is adding new middle space to the campus. With awe and humility, we are entering unprecedented territory: expanding programming, adding faculty, and welcoming our largest middle school student body to date.

This new season is full of excitement! Ultimately, through the partnership of the Holy Spirit, parents, and the church, our middle schoolers will grow into who God has called them to be (Philippians 1:6). As we embark on this year together, we promise to “seek first his kingdom” each day (Matthew 6:33), knowing that each of you, in whatever capacity, is here “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).

Thank you for being part of our middle school story, for His glory!”

488 2025-26 Middle School Students

131 Sixth Grade	170 Seventh Grade	187 Eighth Grade
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15 Middle School Jterm Experience Options

10 Middle School Club Opportunities

291 Middle School Athletes (includes Club Sports)

244 Middle Schoolers in High School Courses

89 Algebra	43 Spanish
68 Physical Science	41 ASL
33 Art 1	9 Latin
	4 Greek



Our **SIXTH GRADERS** made their mark this year through active participation in Service Day, Ignition, Spirit Week, and Jterm, while raising the bar for creativity (especially with their impressive Social Studies projects.



The annual **GRADE GAMES** saw all middle school classes compete fiercely for the coveted trophy through service projects, donations, and spirit competitions – with congratulations going to the seventh-grade class for taking home this year’s win!



A beloved CVCA tradition, **JUMPSTART** allowed 7th graders to grow deeper

with one another and the Lord, made possible by the incredible high school mentors who dedicated their week to investing in these younger students.



Our **CONNECTIONS** weekly small groups, led by faculty and staff members, provided a vital space for middle school students to gather, build lasting relationships, and share vulnerably about life and faith, bringing immense joy and depth to our campus this year.



The 2026 revamped **MIDDLE SCHOOL JTERM** model offered students greater choice with a flexible mix of on-campus activities, local outings, service projects, and domestic trips that beautifully accommodated our growing student body and fostered deeper engagement.

With growth comes exciting opportunities for middle schoolers. The 2025-2026 school year was no exception!

Shining our Light in Nashville – Alivia Miller '28

Going to Nashville to serve the Lord was such a blessing. Even when tasks seemed small and could've been easily overlooked, each day was full of God-sightings. During this trip, I was able to build stronger relationships with my classmates and gain new friendships through Christ. While the work sometimes felt difficult, in the end it was so rewarding to see how we were able to shine our light for our Savior. Given the chance, I would gladly go again. This is such a wonderful opportunity for CVCA sophomores.

“Even when tasks seemed small and could've been easily overlooked, each day was full of God-sightings.”



Experiencing God's Presence in the DR – Layla Wiseman '27

On this trip to the Dominican Republic, our team experienced God in truly phenomenal ways. We saw Him as a personal God because of how He used this trip to pierce and speak into our hearts, reminding us of His truth and love for us. We experienced the universality and grandeur of God and saw firsthand how He is present with all people, in all places, at all times. This was especially evident to me when our team and members of the churches in the DR would sing and worship together. Pausing to serve, as well as reflect on who God is, brought us true joy and unity as a class and, more importantly, as the Body of Christ.

“We saw firsthand how God is present with all people, in all places, at all times.”





CVCA Welcomes New Athletic Director

We are thrilled to welcome **RICO BELL** to the CVCA community as our new Athletic Director. A proven leader with deep experience, Rico views the field, court, and locker room as vital labs for spiritual formation. His passion for equipping coaches as mentors and transforming student-athletes into disciples aligns perfectly with our mission to build champions for Christ who will impact the culture for generations to come. Rico has played professional football in the CFL and AFL and most recently served with Fellowship of Christian Athletes as their Hall of Fame Area Director.

On joining the Royals, Rico shared: "We are blessed to be part of the CVCA community, and I am humbled to lead as the new Athletic Director. I am deeply passionate about advancing Christ's kingdom through sports as we continue to *develop Christ-like character through competitive excellence*. I look forward to building upon this storied legacy, galvanizing our community, and spurring our coaches and student-athletes into a deeper relationship with Christ. Go Royals!"

CVCA Athletics Hosts First Starry Night Event

On April 11, 2026, the CVCA Athletic Department hosted its inaugural A Starry Night prom, a special-needs celebration created in partnership with the national All-Stars Club. For one unforgettable evening, Royal "King" and "Queen" guests walked the red carpet, enjoyed dinner, danced, and were crowned. Backed by a dedicated community of sponsors and volunteers, the event existed for one clear purpose: to ensure every guest felt seen, valued, and deeply loved.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE NIGHT...

"Our heart was to create a night where every guest felt celebrated, and watching our student-athletes step into that role as buddies was deeply moving. They gave their time, energy, and hearts to ensure each king and queen experienced the joy and dignity they deserve." — *Jon Young, Former Athletic Director*

"The energy was palpable from the minute you entered. CVCA students came with so much excitement, even volunteering to buddy with guests who needed extra behavioral or physical assistance. I have done many events, and CVCA's students and volunteers are some of the best I have ever worked with." — *Nicole, All-Star Club Liaison*

"I loved serving at Starry Night! It was such a beautiful example of what service truly is, with the student volunteers completely focused on loving the All-Stars. I will absolutely serve again." — *Madison Leisinger, CVCA Student-Athlete*



ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS



ROYALS FOOTBALL



COACH MUK



BOYS SOCCER



BOYS CROSS COUNTRY



GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY



CROSS COUNTRY
STATE-BOUND



GIRLS TRACK & FIELD



BOYS TRACK & FIELD



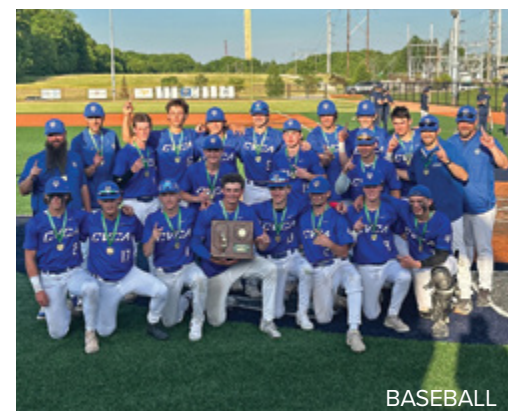
BOYS BASKETBALL



WRESTLING



FLAG FOOTBALL



BASEBALL

FOOTBALL: A Historic Gridiron Run

The 2025 CVCA football season was truly special. The Royals finished a perfect 9-0 in the regular season to claim the North Coast Conference Championship, then carried that momentum into a historic postseason. After dominant playoff wins over Geneva (42-7) and East (30-0), they captured their first-ever Regional Championship by defeating Villa Angela-St. Joseph (42-7), earning the program's **first State Semifinal berth**. The team finished 12-1 with 12 consecutive wins, outscoring opponents 512-108. Beyond the remarkable stats, the season was defined by unity. Rallied around a common goal of playing for Christ and supporting beloved coach Paul Muklewicz, the team used their growing platform to proudly share their faith and love for one another.

On October 11, 2025, CVCA rallied around teacher and football coach, Paul Muklewicz with a **4MUK Night**. The entire CVCA community wore **Isaiah 41:10** shirts in support of Coach Muk and his family. Coach Muk was diagnosed with cancer in August 2025 and went to his heavenly home in March 2026. Throughout his health battle, he remained faithful to his Lord and an inspiration and example on the field and in the classroom.

BOYS SOCCER: Return to the Final Four

The Boys Soccer Team put together an unforgettable post-season run. Finishing the season with an impressive 17-3-2 record, the Royals went 17 consecutive games without a defeat. The thrilling tournament march began with an exciting double-overtime victory over Padua to secure the program's **21st District Championship**. CVCA kept the momentum alive with tense, one-goal wins over Howland in the Regional Semifinal and Marlinton in the Regional Final. This stretch earned the Royals their **11th Regional Championship** and returned the program to the State Final Four for the first time since 2014.

RUNNING ROYALS: Continuing the Legacy

CVCA continued its elite distance tradition in 2025-26. In the fall, **both cross country teams swept the NCC Championships** – the boys capturing their fifth straight title and the girls extending an incredible **25-year streak**. The boys went on to finish 3rd in Division II at State, matching a program best, while the girls placed 20th.

In the spring, **both track and field teams captured NCC crowns**. The girls won the District Tournament, qualifying 17 Royals for State across eight events, while the boys shined with state runner-up honors in the 4x800m relay and a 3rd-place finish in the 4x400m.

BOYS BASKETBALL: Dominating the District

The 2025-26 Boys Basketball season was one to remember, drawing massive crowds all with an exciting, fast-paced style of play. The Royals completely dominated regular-season action,

capturing their 5th straight conference championship with an 11-1 record in the NCC on their way to a stellar 21-5 overall finish. The definitive highlight of the year came in the postseason, where CVCA rolled past a highly ranked St. Vincent-St. Mary squad to **claim the District Championship**. The victory marked the program's 8th district title overall and its first since 2013.

WRESTLING: Extending the State Streak

For the **33rd consecutive year**, the CVCA wrestling program was represented at the State Championship Meet, extending a legendary streak. Three Royals qualified for this year's tournament – sophomore Paul Tepley, senior Rocco Czarnecki, and senior Ky'Ron Fikes – bringing the historic program total to 118 all-time state qualifiers. The Royals made plenty of noise on the state mats this season. Tepley led the way with a stellar State Runner-up finish at 190 lbs, while Czarnecki capped off a tremendous career by placing 4th at 132 lbs in his third career trip to the state tournament.

GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL: A New Era

The spring of 2026 marked an exciting milestone for CVCA Athletics with the **launch of a Girls Flag Football program**. Comprised of 19 trailblazing athletes, the first-ever roster in school history took the field alongside several other pioneering area schools. Under the direction of Coach Jeff Ladner, the Royals put together an outstanding debut season, finishing with an impressive 8-2 record. Adding to the excitement, the OHSAA recently announced the official adoption of Girls Flag Football as its 29th sponsored sport for 2026-27, providing a foundational legacy for the program to build upon.

BASEBALL: Royals Make History

The 2026 CVCA Baseball Team reached unprecedented heights, finishing a remarkable season with a 23-10 record. The team's dominant postseason run saw the Royals outscore their tournament opponents by a staggering 41-11 margin. The championship magic began with a thrilling, 10-inning victory over Lake's Blue Streaks to capture their third consecutive District Championship in Division III. Just two games later, CVCA knocked off Archbishop Hoban in dramatic fashion to secure the **first Regional Championship in program history**. A tense 3-2 walk-off win punched the Royals' ticket to their first-ever State Final Four appearance.

2025-2026 HONORED ATHLETES

Royal Servant: Alyssa Pheneger and Nathan Mitchell

High School Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award:
Joy Saffles and Nathan Mitchell

Middle School Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award:
Leah Samsonas and Gavin Grove

OHSAA Scholar Athlete Award: Rachael Clark and Connor McGough

OHSAA Courageous Student: Charley Levak

NFHS Award of Excellence: Kaylee Darr and Nick Gage

Mighty Royal Award: Zac Anderson, Brayden Harris, Tommy Kopec, Chloe Krosiak, Wyatt Mitchell, and Ainsley Spillan



Scan to see all of CVCA's 2025-2026 State and Conference Honored Athletes and the 2026 Senior Athletes



Middle School Musicians Selected for Honors Band

In February, Middle School Band students Landon Amundsen, Duke Boone, Elise Campbell, Emma Cooley, Matthew Cork, Maelie Fahl, and Griffin Radecky were selected to participate in an area-wide Honors Band hosted by Malone University.

During the two-day event on Malone's campus, the student ensemble worked directly with university faculty and students before presenting a final public concert. CVCA was proud to be one of just eight schools selected to participate in the event.

Commercial Design Students Featured at Sustainability Expo

In April, four Commercial Design students showcased artwork at the annual Cuyahoga Falls Spring Sustainability Expo. Seniors Ella Tate and Annabelle Woodall, alongside juniors Keira El-Hayek and Teresa Berton, created posters highlighting local wildlife and conservation

efforts. Keira's poster, depicting a phoenix flying out of the burning Cuyahoga River, won first place overall. Following the successful exhibition, the students' posters are now proudly displayed in City Hall.



Handbell Choir Performs on Cleveland News Show

The Royal Ringers were once again invited to perform live on Fox 8 TV on December 24. This marks our 18th performance on Fox.



Finding the Real Meaning of Christmas on Stage



In November, The Royal Theatre put on the middle school production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. This beloved Christmas classic has been a tradition for many families for years, bringing to light the hilarity of our best intentions during the season, while maintaining a deep sensitivity to the real meaning of Christmas. As the Herdmans become more and more aware of the Gospel, the reverence, awe, and emotion of the truth that transforms hearts is both felt and seen. From the opening line about the "worst kids in the whole world" to the final reminder that "unto you a child is born," the show beautifully emulates the truth of our sinful state juxtaposed against the humility of Christ – born as a baby to be our Savior, and the ultimate example of His wondrous love.

God Bless Us, Every One! – Claire Marosi '26

The Royal Theatre has always been about more than just putting on a show; it's a place where we grow together, form lasting friendships, and learn to perform for the Lord alone. The long rehearsals and shared joy of bringing *A Christmas Carol* to life turned classmates into close friends, making the theatre feel like a second home filled with support, trust, and some of my favorite memories.

Having participated in every show since sixth grade, I have experienced firsthand how meaningful this community is. Theatre has taught me leadership, coordination, and teamwork. Working backstage on *A Christmas Carol* was one of my most intense yet rewarding experiences. It was constantly chaotic, with countless moving pieces – from coordinating scene

changes, to flying coffins, moving door frames, and ensuring every transition ran smoothly. It was overwhelming at times, but incredibly exciting. The experience showed me just how much teamwork and trust go into every Royal Theatre production.

The Royal Theatre Fall Play *A Christmas Carol*



I am so grateful for the directors, producers, and fellow students who made this experience so memorable. *A Christmas Carol* not only brought us closer to each other and to the Lord, but it also reminded us how beautiful it is to create something as a community.

The Royal Theatre Spring Musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*



Go, Go, Go Joseph! – Madeline Johnston '26

None of us expected to be in The Royal Theatre's first sung-through musical – complete with every color imaginable, an Apple Pay servant sale, an Elvis-style Pharaoh, and a live goldfish. But somehow, we wound up “way, way back many centuries ago” in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat!* – a show that depends on

creative willingness. I've never seen a cast so at ease and invigorated through the final bow.

We didn't realize how much we needed some rainbow confetti and a reimagined Sunday school story this year, but God faithfully provided joy and levity. Joseph's story doesn't shy away from brokenness, drawing parallels to our own sin and suffering. Ultimately, it became a favorite to perform for its

beautiful depiction of what it means to be a faithful, growing believer.

To the amazing cast, crew, and staff: thank you for diving into this complex production, creating deep bonds, and investing in our lives. Thank you also, to our wonderful audiences, whose laughter fueled our joy. Finally, the Lord is good. Through His grace, we perform, and our only response is total praise – giving every gift right back to Him.

THE ECHOES

ALUMNI NEWS OF CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

CLASS OF 1984

Anne (Obendorf) Robinson '84 writes: "I was widowed on July 10, 2025 after 34 years of marriage. My husband Mike fought an uncomplaining battle with colon cancer for 11 months. God was so faithful during that extremely hard season and continues to be my refuge and strength in my new journey of widowhood. I am blessed to have a strong support system of family and friends, including son **Josiah '16** (wife Madison), daughter **Hannah (Robinson) Truax '13** (husband Andrew), and granddaughters Camber and Alaine."

CLASS OF 1998

Aaron Brown '98 received a BS in Marketing and an MS in Logistics Administration from Texas A&M University. He currently serves on active duty as a Colonel in the U.S. Army.

CLASS OF 2000

Rachel (Sandel) Morse '00 shared: "In 2025, I started acting again in a play called *Always a Bridesmaid* after a 20-year hiatus – during which I got married, earned a Harvard Law degree, practiced law for 16 years, and had three daughters. We recently moved to Florida to join the vacation rental management business founded by my mom, Karen Sandel, who did makeup for The Royal Theatre

in the late 90s. Last year marked my first musical performance since the spring of 2000, when I portrayed Elsa Schraeder in The Royal Theatre's *The Sound of Music* and Miss Hannigan in *Annie*."

CLASS OF 2001

Lt. Colonel Jonathan Davis '01 writes: "I am currently the Air Force Reserve Chief of Wing Safety at Macdill AFB in Tampa, Florida. I plan to retire at the end of 2027 and will then fly for Southwest Airlines. My wife, Janice, is busy homeschooling our girls and keeping our home on track. The Lord has blessed and protected our family in so many ways."

CLASS OF 2003



Captain Tim Dill '03, a former Army Green Beret, was recently appointed Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs at the Pentagon. In this influential civilian leadership role, he serves as the principal advisor on military and civilian personnel policies, reserve integration, and family readiness. He also oversees the defense education and commissary agencies. Tim's remarkable transition from elite special operations to the Pentagon was featured on Cleveland.com in December 2025.

Scott McKendrick '03 shared: "My wife Jennifer and I married in 2021, and we welcomed our wonderful son Neil in 2023. We are currently



loving life in Richmond, BC. On the professional side, I've been in the supported living field for 13 years and have spent the last few as the scheduling manager at Access Living."

CLASS OF 2008

Fiona (Haggerty) '08 and **Tom '08 Paisley** welcomed their new son, Jude, on June 3, 2026. He joins four older brothers.



Anne (Obendorf) Robinson '84



Aaron Brown '98



Rachel (Sandel) Morse '00



Lt. Colonel Jonathan Davis '01



Fiona (Haggerty) '08 and Tom '08 Paisley



Class of 1976: 50 Years

Saturday, September 5, 2026

- For details, contact Marylee Carey at carey.marylee@gmail.com

Class of 1981: 45 Years

October 10, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.

- Papa Joe's in the Valley at 1561 Akron Peninsula Rd., Akron 44313
- \$55 per person
- RSVP to Lonnie (Lee) Zofchak at LonnieZ1234@gmail.com

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT | Yvonne (Gurley) '96 & Brad Lingo '96

We recently caught up with 1996 alumni Brad and Yvonne Lingo. This year, Brad was inaugurated as the new president of Grove City College in Pennsylvania. We asked them how the change has been for their family and how both CVCA and Grove City have shaped their lives.

Tell us about this new adventure for your family. What are you up to?

This past year has been an incredible adventure for our family. In the summer of 2025, God called us back to Brad's alma mater, Grove City College, where he now serves as president. Coming back has truly felt like coming home.

Brad has the privilege of leading the College, and I love opening our home to students, alumni, parents, and guests. There is always something happening, and we have loved joining the daily rhythm of campus life. Our daughters have embraced it too—they love football games, concerts, musicals, and being surrounded by such an energetic community. If you ask them, though, the best part is probably having Chick-fil-A just a short walk from our front door!



What do you like about this new chapter? How are you seeing God work and use you?

One of the greatest joys has been watching students discover who God created them to be. College is such

a formative season, and it is a privilege to walk alongside young men and women as they grow intellectually, spiritually, and personally. Brad often says Grove City College exists to equip students to pursue their unique callings through a Christ-centered, academically excellent, and affordable education. He also loves to say our goal is for Grove City to become the best four-year discipleship program on the planet. I love that vision because it reflects what we see every day.

For me, some of the sweetest moments have come through opening our home, leading Bible studies, sharing meals, and having long conversations over coffee with students.

How did your time at CVCA impact you and prepare you for this?

CVCA shaped our lives in more ways than we can count. Brad and I met there, went to prom together, served on the Dominican Republic mission trip, and both of our mothers taught English at CVCA for many years.

More importantly, CVCA gave us a foundation that has stayed with us ever since. We were academically challenged, grounded in Scripture, and surrounded by teachers who cared about us—not just as students but as young people growing in faith. Our years at CVCA shaped our worldview, laid the foundation for our marriage, and gave us a lifelong appreciation for Christian education.

Today, our prayer is that Grove City College can have that same lasting



impact on the next generation. Like CVCA, we hope students leave Grove City not only well-educated but also deeply rooted in Christ and prepared to serve Him wherever He calls them.

What would you like CVCA families who are considering GCC to know?

When we walk across Grove City College's campus, we are reminded of so many qualities that we first experienced at CVCA: an academic program grounded in biblical truth and committed to academic excellence, a friendly and supportive Christ-centered community, and a dedication to developing young men and women who will serve Christ with wisdom, courage, and conviction.

One thing that makes Grove City especially distinctive is its longstanding decision not to accept federal funding. That independence has enabled the College to remain faithful to its Christian mission and convictions for generations.

We are always excited to meet CVCA students and families on campus. If you're planning a visit, please let us know—we would love to say hello! We're incredibly thankful for CVCA's impact on our lives.

We would love to hear from you!

Alumni news and updates for *The Echoes* may be sent to advancement@cvcaroyals.org or submitted through the Alumni News form at cvcaroyals.org/alumni. Please include graduation year(s) and maiden names. Photos should be the highest resolution possible. CVCA reserves the right to edit alumni news for clarity, appropriateness, and space limitations.



SCAN ME



Sarah (MacIntosh) Gencarella '12



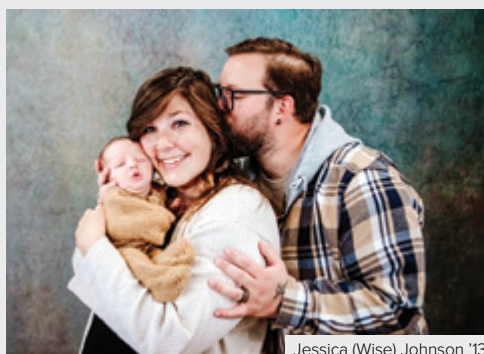
Matthew Greenwood '16



Sarah (Tomich) Bell '17



Ashten (Yoder) Carey '18



Jessica (Wise) Johnson '13



Matt Broadus '16

CLASS OF 2010

Elizabeth (Emerson) Nussen '10 and her



husband Nicholas welcomed their fourth child last year. Charles Ambrose was born at the end of the school year. The Nussens enjoyed lots of family time

last summer before Nicholas returned to teach English at CVCA, and Elizabeth returned to teach Philosophy at The University of Akron.

CLASS OF 2012

Sarah (MacIntosh) Gencarella '12 serves as VP of Marketing for Olympus Property in Fort Worth, Texas. Sara and her husband, Jon welcomed a new daughter, Hannah Marie Gencarella, on January 7, 2025.



Sam Hill '12 Sam shared: "Our family welcomed our daughter (our second child) on May 22, 2026. Lucy was born just before midnight and entered the world with a TON

of hair, ready to make an impact on the lives around her. We thank God for the

birth of this little girl and look forward to bringing her up in His ways throughout her life." Sam and his family live in Colorado.

CLASS OF 2013

Jessica (Wise) Johnson '13 and Andy Johnson welcomed their son Jesse Allan Johnson on August 21, 2025. Jesse is a testament to God's faithfulness and the power of prayer.

CLASS OF 2016

Matthew Broadus '16 shared: "I am working at Covenant Day School, a Christian K-12 School in Charlotte, North Carolina, teaching 8th Grade Ancient World History. Over the past couple of years, I have taken on a few new roles as well, including serving as Chapel Committee Chair and the 8th Grade Team Leader. Outside of work, I serve as a Deacon at my congregation, Carmel Baptist Church. I am also pursuing my Master of Divinity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. I still love Christian education, serving the Church, and keeping a busy schedule!" *(Photo: Matthew with his wife Rachelle and Mr. Mischeff and his daughter.)*

Matthew Greenwood '16 and his wife, Trudy, were married on August 23, 2025. Matthew is currently VP of Sales at Blue Skies Direct LLC and recently joined a start-up.



Chad Rowe '16 currently serves as a police officer for the Fairfield Police Department in Fairfield, Ohio.

CLASS OF 2017

Sarah (Tomich) Bell '17 shared: "Sam and I welcomed Tommy David Bell on June 15, 2026. He is a gift from the Lord and we are overflowing with thankfulness! God is so good!" The Bells live in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Proud grandparents are **Randy Tomich '84** and Susan (Heasley) Tomich.

CLASS OF 2018

Ashten (Yoder) Carey '18 shared: "I married Joshua Carey on July 5, 2025. **Catie (Stanley) Paisley '18** was my matron of honor, and her daughters Josie and Amelia were our flower girls. Our wedding day was a beautiful representation of God's grace and love, and an outpouring of love from our friends and family, for which we are so thankful! I am approaching the one-year mark of working as a Physician Assistant at Akron Children's Hospital in the Cancer and Blood Disorders unit, and



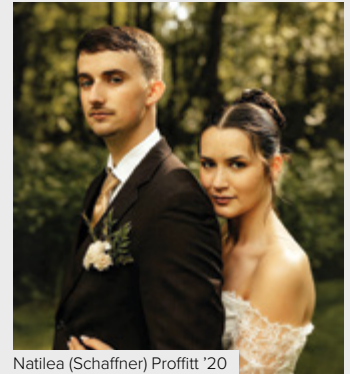
Gabby (Berkes) Kehoe '18



Becca (Kowalski) Kollar '18



Isabelle (Sparr) Collings '20



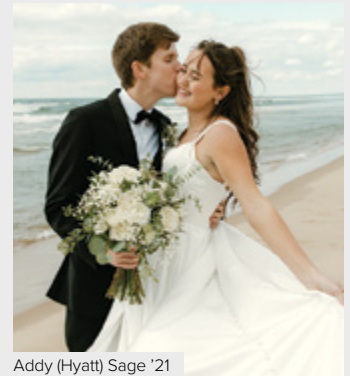
Natilea (Schaffner) Proffitt '20



Andrew Schaeffer '20



Andrew Fridline '21



Addy (Hyatt) Sage '21

Joshua works for Effective Leadership Academy, an education nonprofit based in Cleveland."

Gabby (Berkes) Kehoe '18 married Jake Kehoe on October 25, 2025. The wedding party included CVCA alum **Becca (Kowalski) Kollar '18**.

Becca (Kowalski) Kollar '18 writes: "My husband, Trent, and I married five years ago, and welcomed our first child, Alice, in July of 2025. Trent recently celebrated one year as a police officer for the City of Hudson. I worked in the corporate beauty industry as a brand manager and decided to take a break from work and travel to care for Alice. We are planning to move closer to Hudson, then I hope to return to work in some capacity, but I am currently enjoying my time with Alice. I am excited for a future class reunion as I miss my class!"

CLASS OF 2019

Michael Williams '19 graduated cum laude from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2023 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant Infantry Officer. In July 2024, he graduated from



the U.S. Army Ranger school and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He has earned the Expert Infantryman's Badge and Air Assault badge. He is currently an anti-tank platoon leader.

CLASS OF 2020

Isabelle (Sparr) Collings '20 earned her Bachelor's in Secondary Social Studies Education from Geneva College. She married her husband, Peter, in January 2026 and is currently a high school History teacher at Eden Christian Academy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

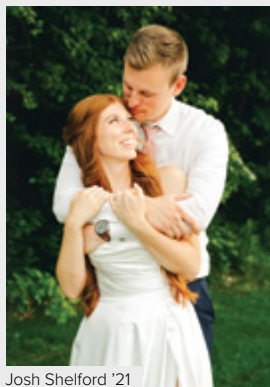
Natilea (Schaffner) Proffitt '20 shared: I graduated from Kent State University in 2025 with a bachelor's of science in Zoology. I met my husband Matt while attending a Christian fellowship group called Re-Kent affiliated with Christ Community Chapel, and we married on June 12, 2026. I am forever grateful for the Christian foundation and education I received from CVCA.

Andrew Schaeffer '20 and Allie were married on April 12, 2026. Andrew graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 2024 and received his master's from North Carolina State University in 2025. He was commissioned as a USAF 2nd Lieutenant and currently serves at Langley Air Force Base as a warfare analyst.

CLASS OF 2021

Andrew Fridline '21 married Rachel Raymond on August 1, 2025. They are both currently pursuing master's degrees from The University of Akron and reside in Cuyahoga Falls.

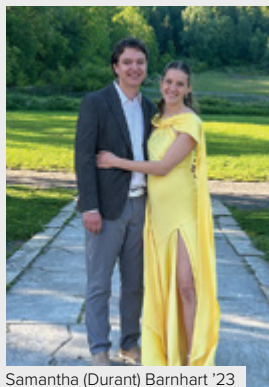
Addy (Hyatt) Sage '21 married Peter Sage on September 6, 2025. Addy shared: "Peter and I were introduced in 8th grade through his extended family, **Kira DiPaolo '21** and Lesa DiPaolo (CVCA faculty). Our bridal party included several CVCA alumni: **Jack Hyatt '20, Hannah Hyatt '24, Will Hyatt '27, Kira DiPaolo '21, Audrey Cannone '21, and Marina Ntragatakis '21**. 2025 was a big year for us! Aside from our wedding, I graduated from Wheaton College with a degree in Business and Communication, Peter graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and we moved to the Cleveland area. We were thrilled to have so many CVCA alumni and staff at our wedding! Alumni: **Lauren Nyguen '21, Taylor Helwig '21, Olivia Bogardy '21, Brianna (Roy) David '21, Andrianna Georgrkopoulos '21, Gabe Dearden '21, Jacob Fisher '23, Rachel (Criswell) Emerson '13, Jon Emerson '06, Beth (Emerson) Nussen '10, and Hilary Redman '11**. CVCA Staff: **Elissa Hyatt, Gabby Hutt, Lesa DiPaolo, Deb Emerson, Nick Nussen, Emily Jones**.



Josh Shelford '21



Lauren (Frank) Schilling '22



Samantha (Durant) Barnhart '23



Caroline Gage '23



Benjamin Meybaum '24, Hannah Hyatt '21, and Kya Shelford '25

Josh Shelford '21 shared: "I married Margaret Hilliker on June 13, 2026. CVCA graduates in the wedding were: Best Man **Jacob Wodrich '21**, Groomsmen: **Mason Henry '21**, and **Josh Watson '19**. Bridesmaids: **Stephanie Wodrich '22** and **Kya Shelford '24**."

Josh graduated in May from The University of Akron where he earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering.

CLASS OF 2022

Lauren (Frank) Schilling '22 and her husband, Nate, were married on February 14, 2026.

CLASS OF 2023

Samantha (Durant) Barnhart '23 and her husband, Andrew, are expecting a baby in September 2026!

Caroline Gage '23 is currently attending the U.S. Naval Academy and was chosen to be one of the captains of the Navy women's lacrosse team for the 2026-2027 season.

CLASS OF 2024

Benjamin Meybaum '24 is currently attending Bowling Green State University and spent January through July 2026 studying abroad at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. In March 2026, he traveled by bus from the Netherlands to Spain to meet up with **Hannah Hyatt '21** (attending Wheaton College) and **Kya Shelford '25** (attending Grand Canyon University), who were visiting Barcelona, Spain. They enjoyed the international reunion and touring Barcelona together.

In Memoriam

The following alumni went home to their heavenly father this year:

Robert (Bobby) Davies Jr. '78
May 25, 2026

Scott David Myers '78
June 13, 2026

Emily Long '82
March 27, 2026

Mary "Kathy" (Patton) Gedney '88
December 4, 2025

Elizabeth (Berry) Smith '89
January 27, 2026

Lyn (Barnhouse) Risk '06
March 4, 2026

Samuel Hodous '07
May 14, 2026

2026 Royal Heritage Alumni

Fourteen graduates from the Class of 2026 have a parent who also graduated from CVCA. This special group of two-generation alumni now totals 357!



1. Andy Flaker '00 with son, Luke
2. Jon Richeson '92 with son, Evan
3. Ryan Gates '97 with son, Lincoln
4. Stacey (Vardas) Kopec '93 with son, Joseph
5. Amber (Yannatone) Martin '98 with son, Brady
6. Derek DuRoss '91 with son, Judah
7. Margaret (Baird) Campbell '91 with daughter Lily
8. Erin (DeBlander) Olson '97 with daughter, Avery
9. Brittany (Williams) Armstrong '05 with daughter, Hayleigh
10. Chrissy Myers-Johnston '99 with daughter, Madeline
11. Shelley (Vardas) Colbert '96 with son, Micah
12. Renee (Bisheimer) Bergevin '95 with daughter, Clara

Not Pictured: Sam Hager '03 with daughter, Addyson and Jason Kolb '92 with son, Noah



2026 CVCA ALUMNI HOME COMING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | ROYALS STADIUM

Enjoy an evening of CVCA memories,
family fun, and Royals football!

5:00 Food Trucks

5:30 Campus Tours Begin

7:00 Kick-off – Royals vs. Boardman

Food Trucks

VIP Endzone Area for Alumni

Snacks, Desserts, and Shya Coffee

Building Tours

Cool Swag Giveaways

INVITE YOUR CLASSMATES TO JOIN YOU!



Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy
4687 Wyoga Lake Road
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44224
330-929-0575
cvcaroyals.org



cvcaroyals.org