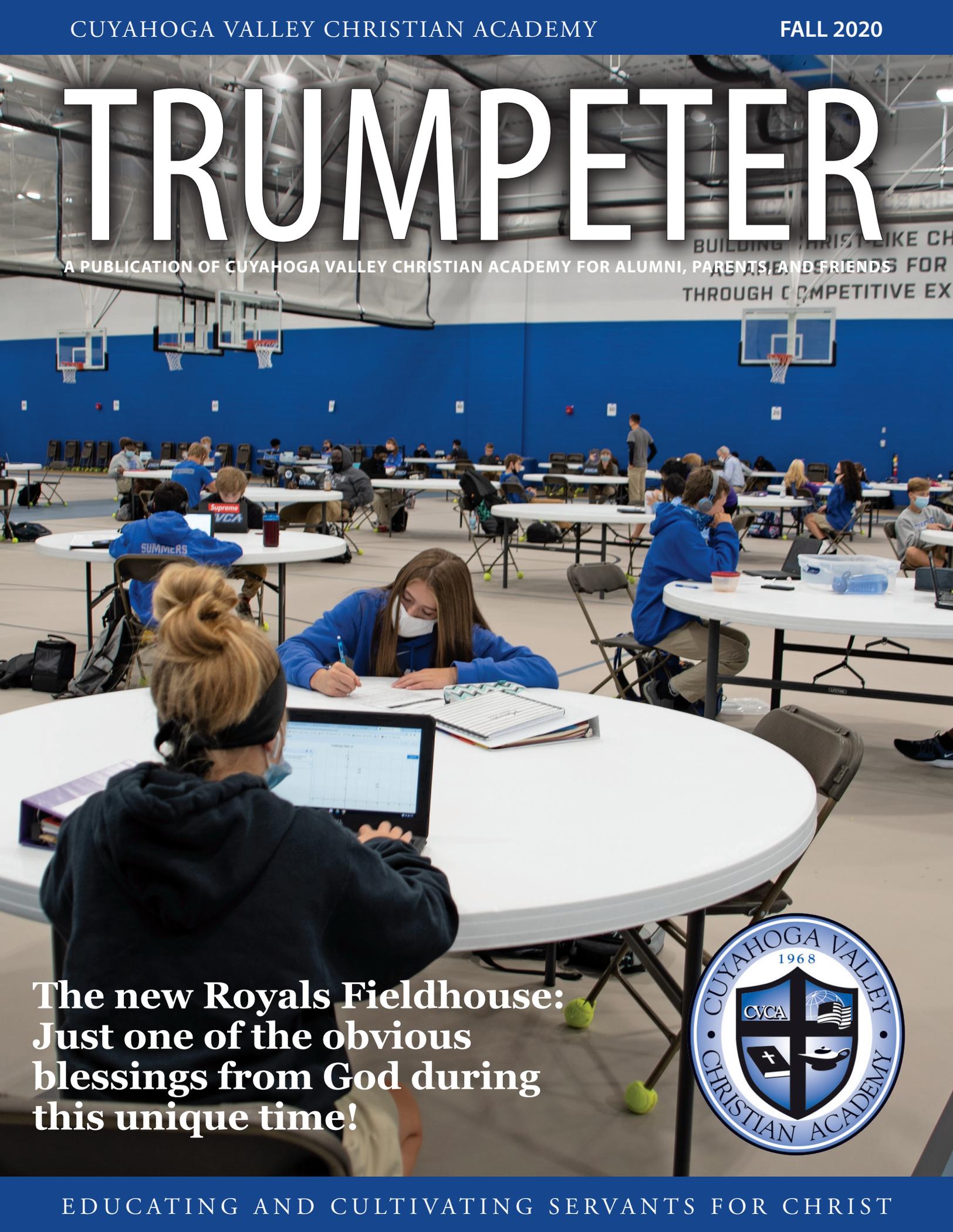


TRUMPETER

A PUBLICATION OF CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS

BUILDING CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTERS FOR THE WORLD THROUGH COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE



**The new Royals Fieldhouse:
Just one of the obvious
blessings from God during
this unique time!**





CVCA
TRUMPETER
FALL 2020

President:
Jason Spodnik '88

Director of Communications
and Marketing:
Jessica (Muehleisen) Cooley '97

Director of Development:
Matthew Fleagle '99

Designer:
Anna (Jones) Lile '84

Photography:
Dan DiBlasi
Maggie Maust
Visualizations Photography
Megan Warner
Yearbook Staff

CVCA Board of Trustees:
Paul Eck, President
Eric Bosshard '88
Brad Deetscreek
Cyndi Holmes
Rich Millisor
Dave Petno '84
Don Richards
Tom Sullivan
Wayne Walker
David Wright

The **Trumpeter** is published three times a year for friends of CVCA. If you would like your name removed from the mailing list, please phone 330-929-0575, ext. 331, or e-mail pzaubi@cvcaroyals.org.

Contact alumni@cvcaroyals.org with alumni news and suggestions for **The Echoes**. Please include graduation year(s) and maiden names. Photos should be the highest resolution possible and submitted as email attachments or mailed as hard copies. CVCA reserves the right to edit alumni news for clarity, appropriateness, and space limitations.

In This Issue:

- 3 President's Message
- 4 #(thanks)GivingTuesday
- 5 Virtual Grandparents Day
- 6 Middle School
- 7 Hack Competition
- 8 High School Luau
- 9 Royal Theatre Fall Play
- 10 Athletics
- 13 Echoes

Christmas at CVCA



TINSEL & TIDINGS

CVCA had the pleasure of participating in a new Christmas event at Christ Community Chapel this Christmas season. "Tinsel & Tidings" was planned for families to walk through an outside wonderland of decorated trees, hear beautiful Christmas music, and enjoy hot chocolate, cider, and snacks. Church families and community friends gathered over the weekend event to enjoy fellowship and turn their hearts towards the birth of Christ.

Each Christmas tree had a theme, and each one was beautiful and creative. CVCA's tree theme was "True Story." An array of royal blue and white bulbs, ribbons, handmade rustic ornaments, and small chalkboards hand-scripted by a recent CVCA graduate highlighted the nativity.



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Although the CVCA music ensembles were not able to perform live Christmas concerts this year, the choirs created a virtual choir concert by video recording their end-of-semester classes. All six choirs did a fabulous job and had a lot of fun. Choir students were then able to share a link to the concert with family and friends.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Stories. We all have a story to tell. What story will we tell of 2020? Two years from now? Five years from now? Ten years from now?

The decisions we have made and will make during this unprecedented time will be the story we tell. And while this might be a personal story or maybe a CVCA story, by now I hope we've figured out that we are not the lead character in this story.

What God has done during this time of chaos is so remarkable! It is a story I will tell for years to come! His unmistakable faithfulness that has marked our journey as a school community since this began in March of 2020 can only be missed when I allow my head to drop and be distracted by the next "daily adjustment" that may rob our plans or cause some disappointments. While these momentary head drops

are real, they are literally only sentences in a magnificent novel of God's provision through His people within the CVCA community this past year.

Can you picture the chapters of this remarkable story?

- The **mission-focused pivot to CVCA Online** last spring that continued to challenge and care for students and families when none of us had experienced a pandemic. The deep love that was shown throughout our community during that time was a wonderful reflection of God's love.
- The beautiful times of joy as He gave us **new ways to honor our seniors** and worship together as we closed out the 2019-2020 school year.
- The provision of the Lord as we finished the **Royals Fieldhouse and Fine Arts rooms** just in time to be able to spread out our students and allow for "social distancing" when that was a phrase none of us had ever heard. We thought we were building much-needed space... but we had no idea how much we would need it in 2020-2021. Without these spaces, there is no way we could have offered in-person instruction five days a week beginning August 12.
- The clear wisdom and protection from God as we prayerfully stepped out to **begin in-person instruction** on August 12 while other schools kept delaying their start or moved to completely remote. The unbelievable gift of allowing us to complete 18 weeks (a full semester) of face-to-face instruction and impact while mitigating the risks that surrounded us is, frankly, miraculous to me.
- The **strength and perseverance** He has given to our world-class faculty and staff can only be described as an answer to the prayers of a community that believes the Lord can do great things. To see what they do on a daily basis is truly inspiring, and I praise the Lord for what He is doing through His humble and talented servants. How they create, deliver, and love in this new world of block scheduling with some students online... as they make sure we follow COVID protocols while finding new ways to impact within those limitations... I am stunned by their efforts, and in awe of His power through us.
- The **abundance of grace and love** within the CVCA community has clearly shown that God is using all of us during this time: Families helping other families that can't afford to stay... Students sacrificing their time to help other students... Parents reaching out to love those in need... Coaches and advisors giving their talents in new ways... Gifts given to the school to allow us to finish Phase 2 of *Excel Still More*, to give more financial aid than ever before, and to purchase all the necessities to offer in-person schooling in a COVID world... There are countless examples of God working through His people as we have leaned on Him.

We are still writing this story every minute of every day with our actions and attitudes as we continue to navigate what's in front of us for the remainder of the year. May our story be worthy of Him who puts the pen in our hands!

Can you see this beautiful story? This is His Story. May He increase and we decrease as we continue to tell the story of what He has done through us. Please enjoy the stories you find on the following pages.

“There are countless examples of God working through His people as we have leaned on Him.”

All to Him I Owe,

Jason Spodnik '88



**RECORD
AMOUNT
RAISED!**

Thank YOU for #(thanks)GivingTuesday

What does a caring community do when some of its members have needs? It circles the wagons and comes alongside to help and care in whatever way is needed. A clear example of Christian community was shown through #GivingTuesday this year. So many members of the CVCA community, past and present, came around a number of current students that have needed extra help for tuition and current teachers and staff who have needed encouragement.

This year the international giving day of #GivingTuesday (December 1st) was renamed #(thanks)GivingTuesday at CVCA and was celebrated throughout November. The campaign encouraged giving thanks for the CVCA faculty, staff, and coaches who have been going above and beyond their duties to keep our students safe and meeting in-person every day. Financial gifts given online in honor of those special CVCA staff will

directly assist students who need help to attend CVCA.

The #(thanks)GivingTuesday month-long celebration was further spurred on by a historic matching gift amount. Knowing the need was greater this year during the pandemic, a group of faithful, generous friends of CVCA came together to encourage giving and giving thanks with a \$100,000 matching gift challenge. Not only did the CVCA community at large rise up to meet the challenge, but they surpassed it. As of this writing, the total amount given, including the match, is over \$240,000, and gifts are still coming in!

The outpouring of generous financial gifts has been matched with a flood of online thank you notes from the community as well. Thankfulness for current efforts, personal ministry interactions, and memories of past teachers' impact have encouraged faculty, staff,

and coaches in a truly meaningful way. Students also joined the effort by hand-writing thank you notes during the school day to their favorite teachers and coaches.

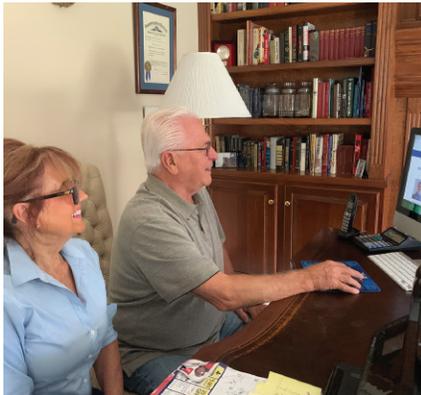
From the heart of CVCA, we say, "THANK YOU!" Your outpouring of generosity and thankfulness has been a picture of a caring community doing what God intended at a time unlike any other in our lifetimes.

If you missed our #(thanks) GIVINGTUESDAY effort, you still have an opportunity. You can easily give online anytime at cvcaroyals.org/giving.

Feel free to write a thank you tribute in the comment line on this giving page, and the CVCA Development team will be sure to pass on your sentiments.

#(thanks)GIVINGTUESDAY

Thankful for CVCA. Giving so more students can have the same experience.



This proud CVCA grandfather joined us from El Salvador!

CVCA Holds First-Ever Virtual Grandparents Day

Grandparents are an important part of the CVCA community. As cheerleaders and mentors to their grandchildren in their faith journeys and in navigating life, grandparents come alongside our school in a special way. When the pandemic canceled CVCA's traditional in-person Grandparents Day on campus, CVCA wanted to do something safe and special for them.

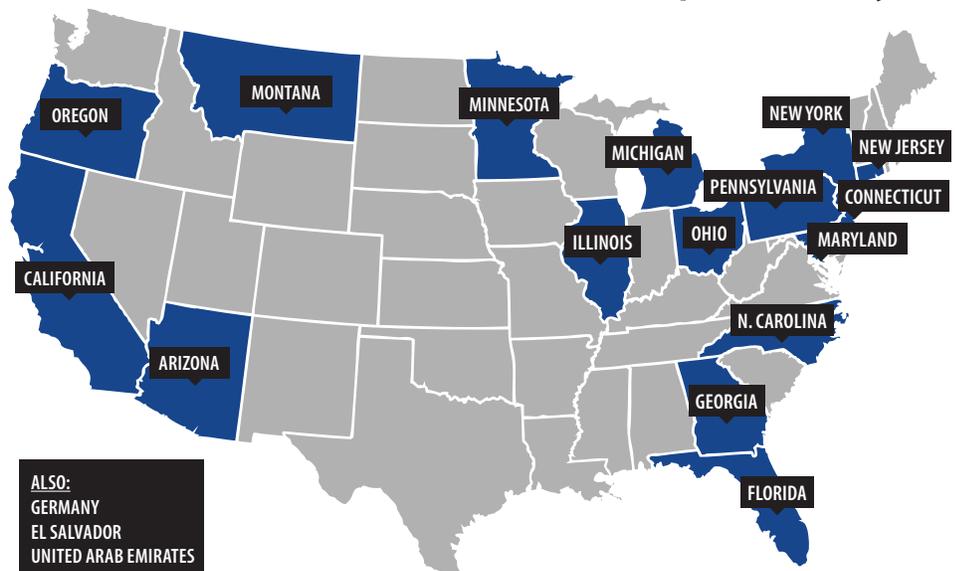
Out of our love for grandparents, we orchestrated our first ever Virtual Grandparents Day on October 2nd. Grandparents were provided videos and content specifically created and tailored just for them throughout the day. While online, CVCA grandparents were able to learn about the history of CVCA, hear from a CVCA alumna who is also a current grandparent of a 7th grader, watch a personal tour of some of the new construction, hear a special message from President Jason Spodnik, and view a video with students sharing some of their favorite characteristics of grandparents. An interactive online quiz with prizes for grandparents also added some fun to the experience.

The response was truly remarkable with over 400 grandparents viewing Virtual Grandparents Day from around the United States – and around the world. In fact, the true blessing was that the virtual option allowed grandparents who live too far away to ever attend an in-person event to participate this year, including from Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. CVCA is so thankful that we could embrace the circumstances to bring something truly meaningful to our grandparents.

*“We learned so much more about the school, its history, current happenings, and plans for the future. Our hearts were warmed to meet staff members, hear their stories, see their passion for their work with the students, and so much more! Just sending our **biggest thanks ever** for creating this virtual visit. It meant so much to us!”*

*– Gary and Joyce Spears,
Grandparents of Class of 2024*

Where did CVCA grandparents view Virtual Grandparents Day?





Making Memories

by Scott Iannetta
Middle School Principal

What stories will our middle school students have to tell after this school year? Remember the year we had to wear masks to school every day? Remember when we couldn't sit in our normal groups at lunch, and we had to stay spread out? Surely there will be a lot of memories of how things are different, but we continue to focus on the tremendous blessings and awesome memories that are also being created this year. Remember when all our neighbors were staying home in August, and we got to go back to school in person? Remember our wildly successful middle school fall sports seasons, including strong seasons in football, cross-country, and boys soccer, and an undefeated girls soccer team? Remember when the whole middle school was able to enjoy Chapel together in the new Fieldhouse? Remember the lifelong friendships that I made and the relationships that were built by being in school every day? While our middle school students will certainly remember how this year was different, I hope they will also remember how this year was the same and the stories of how we continued to *Educate and Cultivate Servants for Christ* happened no matter what the circumstances!

We recently asked our 7th graders a few questions about how this school year has been going for them...

Have you achieved or accomplished something cool this year that people might not know about?

"Our girls middle school soccer team was undefeated, and it was a really great feeling because some of the teams we played were really good and we got to share the Word of God with them after the game... We were so blessed this year to even be able to play soccer with the conditions we are in right now."
– Sophia McGhee

Have you found any new ways to serve or impact people around you despite the challenges of COVID-19?

"I have started to be more social and so I go around saying "hello" to people and squinting at them so they know I am smiling behind my mask."
– Allison Mutchie

"I try to be as friendly as I can to anyone and everyone because I feel like since COVID, people have been so depressed and sad so I try to lift their spirits!"
– Lilli Sines

How do you feel that you have grown, and what advice would you give someone about how to thrive through seasons like this?

"I have been able to see how grateful I should be for how privileged I was to just even be able to go and sit down inside a restaurant!" – Quinn Kert

"Pray because you never know what life somebody else is having and what they have to go through that you don't."
– Jacob Israel Lopez Del Rio

"Just don't stop believing that things will get better, because they will."
– Adriana Duraj

"I think that I have grown in my faith and realized that all that we are able to do this year is a blessing, because I would have not thought at the beginning of this that we would have been able to go to school and have sports and after-school activities." – Sophia McGhee

"I think the pandemic has opened my eyes to see God and how He is working in my life and the lives of those around me." – Eva Morales

How do you feel God has been at work in your life this year?

"CVCA is the first school that actually makes me excited to go to school and get good grades. Usually, I would complain all day about how school is boring and

not fun. But since I came to CVCA, it makes me feel happy. So I think that God has worked His way in my life through this school." – Dontae Gibson

I feel like every time I walk into my Bible Class and Mr. Churchill talks or plays a video, it's always just what I need to hear. Even if I think there is no answer to my question, God seems to answer it through what we are talking about in Bible class." – Maggi Toner

"When I started at CVCA at the beginning of the year, I was really nervous and didn't really know what a private school was like. After the first couple of days here I realized that everyone was like a family. People were so welcoming, and the teachers were always open to any question I was wondering about. Here I feel like I can really have a personal relationship with my teachers. I knew that God was here, and that this school didn't just say they were a Christian school, they acted like it." – Alexa Daulton

"I am more connected with God since COVID hit. I have turned to Him to help keep me safe and to help me keep going through the school year. He has helped me a lot and I will continue praising Him, even on the bad days."
– Annabelle Woodall



CVCA Hack Team Wins NE Ohio Competition!

by Eric Ling

The **Hack '20 Competition** is an event involving top high school juniors and seniors in Northeast Ohio who are challenged to solve a real problem and present it to the very people that have the power to implement their changes.

In mid-November, ten of CVCA's best problem solvers spent eight hours tackling the growing challenge of preparing students for careers in the 21st century. The problem was framed by the incredible keynote speaker, Jefferson Burnett, who is a thought-leader in the future of schools. As the students worked, they were visited by three experts in the areas of educational technology, online and blended learning, and curriculum development. They finalized their ideas, built their presentations, and presented to the heads of five Northeast Ohio schools. It was an **incredible** challenge and our students performed with excellence, representing CVCA and Christ in the best ways!

CVCA's two teams of five competed against teams from Western Reserve

Academy, Archbishop Hoban, Hudson High School, and Akron Early College. Out of the ten competing teams and 50 of the top problem-solvers in Northeast Ohio, **CVCA placed first and third!**

Congratulations to our Third Place Finishers:

- Ethan Smith
- Jackie Budrevich
- Madelyn Gaba
- Daniel Kolb
- David Van Hala

And congratulations to this year's Hack '20 Champions!

- Natalie Majcher
- Marina Ntragatakis
- Sarah Beth Lentz
- Blaise Robinson
- Zack Balogh

In addition, our Hack '20 Championship team was given the award for best presentation skills!



High School Luau Brings Some Sunshine to the School Year



How do you plan and execute a Luau during this very unusual school year? With creativity, health department guidelines, and lots of helping hands! But we did it! On Saturday, November 7, our amazing new Royals Fieldhouse was transformed into a tropical paradise. We left the menu up to the experts and hired Totally Cooked Catering to grill up burgers with lots of toppings, chicken for a wild taco bar spread, homemade mac and cheese, and

lots of kettle chips! Sweet Frog yogurt provided the perfect dessert ending to this great meal!

With music by Akron Mobile DJs and our own in-house band of choice, The Flealands, we socially-distanced-line-danced the night away. Adding to the evening's entertainment, Mr. Newland and Mr. Fleagle sang a few original songs inspired by the pandemic! That and the many prizes given away



kept everyone happy and laughing all night long.

A big shout out to the many Student Council members that stayed after school to paint and create all the decorations. The friendships and conversations enjoyed those nights made everything seem almost normal!





The Royal Theatre Finds Joy Among the Challenges

by Denita King, Director

We are so proud of what our Royal Theatre students accomplished this fall. They rose to every challenge and went way beyond what we could have ever asked for. They dove deep into the emotional content of *Radium Girls* and created huge hysterical characters in *Pirates!* They encouraged one another and prayed for each other as the challenges of life sometimes seemed overwhelming. We are so very blessed to be back performing, and thankful to our Lord for walking with us every step of this journey called life.



Royal Theatre senior, Emily Folger shared: “This Fall Play was full of joys and challenges. After *Beauty and the Beast* was canceled last year, my fellow cast mates and I were concerned whether or not we would be able to perform at all this year. Over the past nine months, I have learned that God has the ability to give and take away, and that whatever He chooses is good. I believe God is using this time to teach my peers and me not to take for granted all that He has given us. God has blessed us abundantly by allowing us to perform. This show was a blast, and I’m so thankful for this incredible opportunity!”

This fall, The Royal Theatre delighted audiences and challenged themselves with two one-act plays: *Radium Girls*, a serious historical drama, and *Pirates*, a hilarious comedy based on the classic musical, *Pirates of Penzance*.



A Season of “Pandemic Athletics” by Athletic Director Jon Young



“I am so proud of our coaches, Athletic Office staff, parents, and athletes...”

What a year 2020 has been! Who could have imagined how much has changed in our world in the last several months? We see this change in many forms, but our vocabulary may provide the most evidence. Words like social distancing, pivot, antibodies, PPE, “flattening the curve,” and other phrases have become common vernacular. Yet through all of the changes, God has remained constantly faithful.

Several families have asked me what “pandemic athletics” has been like. While I’m not quite sure I have the exact words to describe it, the best analogy I have heard was from another athletic administrator who said, “It’s like threading a needle while juggling chainsaws.” That word picture is surprisingly accurate. In spite of it all, I am so proud of our coaches, Athletic Office staff, parents, and athletes who have all rallied together over these past several months to make athletics happen. Our community has adjusted to mask-wearing, no locker rooms, constant changes to the schedules, no power meals, quarantines, contact tracing, assigned seats on buses – the list goes on and on. Yet they have approached every obstacle with patience, grace, and a commitment to excellence. While many wondered if we would get through it, I’m thrilled to report that every fall team finished their season, honored seniors at senior night, and competed in the postseason.

What lessons did we learn through pandemic athletics? The answer I keep coming back to is this: “It was worth it!” All of the sacrifices, all of the adjustments, all of the safety protocols were all worth it for CVCA coaches and athletes to have the opportunity to go through a season together. To experience the struggles, to rejoice in the victories, to learn together, to grow together, to sharpen one another – all worth it! Every step of the way, we have seen God continue to prove Himself faithful in allowing us to fulfill our mission to **Build Christ-like Character as Ambassadors for Christ through Competitive Excellence**. I’m proud of our athletes, I’m proud of our community, and I’ve never been more proud to say, “Go Royals!”

► Twenty in a row! The **Girls Cross Country** team secured their 20th straight Conference Championship with an impressive performance at the PAC-7 Championship.

►► State Qualifiers **Anna Ripple** and **Drennan Akins** were Cross Country PAC-7 Champions this season. Akins placed 2nd overall at the State Championship as well.

▼ **Boys Cross Country** advanced to the Regional Meet for the first time since 2016 and placed 2nd at the PAC-7 Championship.



◀ This fall the CVCA **Cheer** program continued to show a commitment to their craft and enthusiasm for their school that is worthy to be celebrated.

► It was a special season for the CVCA varsity **Football** team. Led by a record-setting offense, the Royals went 8-3 on the year including 2 OHSAA postseason wins.

▼ Senior **Caden Scarbrough** was named PAC-7 Golfer of the Year for the third consecutive season. He finished tied for 7th at the State Tournament.



◀ 2020 was one of, if not the, best seasons in **Boys Golf** history at CVCA. The team won PAC-7, Sectional, and District Championships and placed 4th overall at the State Tournament.



◀ Under new leadership this year, the CVCA **Girls Soccer** team continued their tradition of competing for Christ with great love for each other.

► The CVCA **Girls Tennis** team navigated a difficult season very well. They went 11-6 in matches and had the most wins in their NEOTA division.



► The CVCA **Volleyball** program fought through adversity throughout their 2020 season. The team never backed down and competed from start to finish.



▼ The District Championship is a familiar place for CVCA **Boys Soccer**. They battled through a tough schedule to once again reach the title game and finished the year as District Runners-up.



◀ For just the third time in program history, the CVCA **Girls Golf** team qualified for the District Tournament. In addition, the girls put together a 9-2 record in matches this season.

ROYALS



FALL 2020 CELEBRATED ROYALS

SENIOR ATHLETES

Cheer:

Kamarie Black
Andrianna Georgekopoulos
Olivia Haberfield
Sarah Beth Lentz
Samaria Murphy
Emma O'Connor

Boys Cross Country:

Niko Andamasaris

Girls Cross Country:

Kira DiPaolo

Natalie Majcher
Marina Ntragatakis
Caitlynn Patton

Football:

Michael Bevington
Jack Bova
Aaron Broadous
Joey Camera
Clay Farley
Aurus Fox
Ty Kamp
Bryce Kightlinger
David Lewis
JT Nichols
TJ Sarkiewicz
James Tassiello
Jaden White

Boys Golf:

Blake Bolinski
Gabe Emery
Mason Henry

Caden Scarbrough

Girls Golf:

Isabella Beckett
Khloe Gill
Coryn Hegele
Sidney Marshall
Lauren Nguyen
Sydnie Pearce

Boys Soccer:

Joshua Brookbank
Sully Deetscreek
Vinny Fisher
Luke Petno
Shahriar Ronami
Will Rybka
Hae Thaw
Zach Zemanski

Girls Soccer:

Olivia Bogardy
Payton Fraley

Rahel Krasznai
Courtney Mauck
Isabella McClendon
Erin Venus
Alyssa Williams

Girls Tennis:

Callie Conner
Hannah Jacob
Mikaela Knapp
Courtney Morris

Volleyball:

Liv Adkins
Hannah Coleman
Taylor Collins
Maleah Gibbons
Taylor Helwig
Addy Hyatt

HONORED ATHLETES

State Qualifiers:

Drennan Akins, State Runner-up
Division II – Cross Country

Boys Golf – Caden Scarbrough,
Aiden Cannone, Gabe Emery, Andrew
Hendrickx, Mason Henry – 4th Place
Division II

Anna Ripple, 97th Division II –
Cross Country

All-State:

Drennan Akins, Cross Country
Caden Scarbrough, Boys Golf
Aidan Eck, Boys Soccer
Matt Schumacher, Boys Soccer

All-District 1st Team

Caden Scarbrough, Boys Golf
Aiden Cannone, Boys Golf
Mason Henry, Boys Golf
Nina Shaffer, Girls Golf
Aidan Eck, Boys Soccer
Matt Schumacher, Boys Soccer
Carson Young, Boys Soccer
Payton Fraley, Girls Soccer

All-District 2nd Team:

Zach Zemanski, Boys Soccer
Keira Ritzman, Girls Soccer
Sheila Zimmerer, Girls Soccer

All-District Honorable Mention:

Gabe Emery, Boys Golf
Andrew Hendrickx, Boys Golf
Luke Petno, Boys Soccer
Kaden Krosiak, Boys Soccer
Will Rybka, Boys Soccer
Erin Venus, Girls Soccer
Kayla Ritzman, Girls Soccer
Maleah Gibbons, Volleyball

Principals' Athletic Conference

Player of the Year:

Caden Scarbrough, Boys Golf
Drennan Akins, Boys Cross Country
Anna Ripple, Girls Cross Country

Principals' Athletic Conference

1st Team:

Drennan Akins, Boys Cross Country
Niko Andamasaris, Boys Cross Country
Anna Ripple, Girls Cross Country
Julia Reed, Girls Cross Country
Casey Warren, Girls Cross Country

Michael Bevington, Football
Jack Bova, Football
Joe Johnson, Football
JT Nichols, Football
Kyle Snider, Football
Caden Scarbrough, Boys Golf
Mason Henry, Boys Golf
Aiden Cannone, Boys Golf
Gabe Emery, Boys Golf
Sully Deetscreek, Boys Soccer
Zach Roush, Boys Soccer
Payton Fraley, Girls Soccer
Keira Ritzman, Girls Soccer
Erin Venus, Girls Soccer
Maleah Gibbons, Volleyball

Principals' Athletic Conference

Honorable Mention:

Lucas Mitchell, Boys Cross Country
Hadley Began, Girls Cross Country
Brennan Darr, Football
Bryce Kightlinger, Football
Andrew Hendrickx, Boys Golf
Zach Hutt, Boys Soccer
JP Vasko, Boys Soccer
Kayla Ritzman, Girls Soccer
Sheila Zimmerer, Girls Soccer
Bella Costa, Volleyball

ECHOES ALUMNI NEWS

1997

Laura (Weaver) '97 and **Brian Chadima '97**: “We



were blessed with a little boy, Caleb Joseph, in March 2020. He had a tough start, but God’s faithfulness has been apparent through it all, and we are very grateful he’s doing so well now. Our sweet girls, Addison 10 and Bailey 7, are great big sisters!”

2003

Bryna and **Seth Taylor '03**, of Riverside, California, wel-



comed a beautiful baby girl, Rheya Lynn, into their family on November 8, 2020.

IN MEMORIAM:

Jaelyn Dawn Fairhurst '96 passed away from complications of Huntington’s Disease. During her time at CVCA, Jaelyn enjoyed participating in Royal Theatre, missions trips, and cheerleading. Please pray for her daughter Kennedy, as well as parents Barbara and Stephen Fairhurst (residing in North Carolina) and sister, Tracy '94. Gifts in her honor can be made to the HD Reach organization in North Carolina, per the family’s request.

2005

Amanda Goodwin-Shenker '05: “We welcomed our son



Wesley James in December 2019 after years of infertility. He is truly our rainbow, and we thank God for blessing us with our sweet boy.”

2006

Jon Emerson '06 and **Rachel (Criswell) '13** were mar-



ried on May 15, 2020 at the Criswell’s home in Chagrin Falls. Jon and Rachel live in downtown Cleveland as she completes her law degree at Case Western Reserve University, and Jon works as a Financial Analyst for The Lubrizol Corporation.



Alumni in the Emerson-Criswell Wedding Party

(left to right): 1. David Criswell '17; 2. Daniel Criswell '12; 5. Dr. Andrew Emerson '08; 8. Molly (King) Paisley '15; 11. Jackie Stofsick '13; 12. Beth (Emerson) Nussen '10

2010

Ellyn (Dalton) '10 and **Danny Dannemiller '10**



were married on July 1, 2016 by CVCA President Emeritus Roger Taylor. This past June, they welcomed their first child, William Benjamin.



Danny is a corporate attorney for Dwellworks, LLC in Cleveland, and Ellyn works at Valmark Financial Group leading the Licensing and Registration team.

2013

Grace (Bolinger) '13 and **Josiah Rios '14** welcomed Jedidiah David on September



25, 2020. He and his sister Liliana are inseparable, and Josiah and Grace are overwhelmed by the Lord’s blessings through their children.

Rachel (Criswell) '13 married **Jon Emerson '06**. See *Class of 2006 notes*.

Mikaela (Monteith) '13 married Jeff Stein on May 22,



2020. Jeff is an ICU nurse at the Cleveland Clinic and Mikaela is an underwriter at National Interstate Insurance. They are thankful they were still able to celebrate their marriage amidst a crazy summer due to COVID!

Maggie (Risma) '13 married Alex Monteiro on May 30,



2020. After altering their original wedding plans due to COVID, they tied the knot in an intimate ceremony with immediate family and close friends in Rockport, Massachusetts. They met at Gordon College and now live in Boston, Massachusetts where Maggie works in digital advertising at MullenLowe and Alex works in software sales.

2014

Anna (Yukari) '14 and **Nate Lyons '14**: “God burdened



our hearts for the lost and paved the way for us to teach and disciple at Okinawa Christian School International (OCSI) in Okinawa, Japan. We moved to Okinawa in August of 2018 and have been teaching there since. Nate teaches middle school English and Bible, and

Anna teaches second grade. With great joy, we share the news that we are expecting our first child, a baby girl, due on February 5, 2021!”

Josiah Rios '14 and **Grace (Bolinger) '13** welcomed a new baby. See *Class of 2013 notes*.

Far from Home, Alumni Share Thanksgiving

(Left to right) **Josh Wodrich '20**, **Andrew Schaeffer '20**, **Ray Benson '18**, and **Rick Peterson '17** (taking the photo)

are cadets at the The Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Due to COVID, they were not able to travel home for Thanksgiving.



But their holiday was made special by fellow CVCA alum, **Matt Misja '93** and his wife, Heather, who “smuggled” a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal to the friends.

Sharing His Passion for Church History



Given CVCA's talented faculty, it's no wonder CVCA alumni carry with them a lasting love for scholarship in traditional subjects like history. But not every CVCA student goes on to author an important study of a famous historical figure. This past October, InterVarsity Press published **Thomas Breimaier's '02**

carefully researched look at the life and ministry of Charles H. Spurgeon, a 19th century religious thinker familiar to many in the evangelical world.

Tom credits former CVCA history teacher Holly Amacher for kindling his passion to understand and appreciate history – particularly church history. Tom graduated from CVCA in 2002 and studied at Moody Bible Institute. After several years in a corporate role, he felt the itch to revisit his love for scholarship. Upon completing post-graduate work in Scotland, he focused his attention on teaching and writing. Tom's love for church history grew into a passion to share the remarkable story of Charles Spurgeon to a broader audience.

“During grad school,” Tom explains, “I wanted to get a sense of what working class men and women preferred with regard to biblical interpretation. That path led almost directly to Spurgeon who was the most widely-known preacher of the century despite never completing a university degree himself.” In his book, Tom touches on Spurgeon's struggle to remain loyal to a Biblical vision of theology and ministry

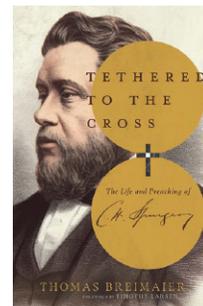
at a time when social inequities created tension in England and complications for pastoral leadership.

Asked how modern Christians could benefit from a deeper look at Spurgeon's life and ministry, Tom says, “History matters. Human history is a story of ideas and how those ideas shaped the respective societies around them. For Christians, studying folks like Spurgeon gives us a helpful window into our story.”

Acclimating to life in Britain took some time for Tom, who now teaches at Spurgeon's College in London. “It's definitely intimidating to buy a one-way ticket and hop on a plane, knowing that all you'll have with you in life is the contents of two suitcases and a backpack.” But he (and his wife Hannah, whom he met in Edinburgh) love serving and worshipping in what has now become their mutual home.

To other CVCA alumni and current students, Tom offers this advice: “Never stop learning. Hold fast to Christ, but read outside your theological tradition, and your political tradition too. Try to see where people are coming from and be open to new ideas. Most of all, learn to listen well.”

Tethered to the Cross: The Life and Preaching of Charles H. Spurgeon, is available on Amazon.com and from other major booksellers.



Inspiring Others in the Fight to Defend God-given Human Dignity



We recently spoke with **Joell (Maisano) Denison '09**, Director of Programs and Training, Richmond Justice Initiative (RJI):

My work in a nutshell:

I work at Richmond Justice Initiative (RJI), a nonprofit that equips communities across the U.S. to prevent

human trafficking. My role entails directing our human trafficking prevention curriculum, the Prevention Project, in schools; training school personnel and other youth service providers on how to recognize and intervene in situations of human trafficking; and mobilizing churches and volunteers to make a difference.

What specific events in your life led you to this career?

Human trafficking is also known as modern-day slavery. When I first learned that slavery still existed in our country, that people were being sold and exploited for another person's profit, I was perplexed and frankly, indignant. At that time I was in college, and I realized how much of a luxury it was for me to pursue higher education and dream of my future when others didn't even have the freedom to decide what their next day would look like. I felt compelled to take a stand against human trafficking – first as an intern with RJI in Richmond, Virginia, then as a yearlong intern in Zambia with International Justice Mission, and now in a five-years-running career with RJI.

What most inspires you about the work you are doing?

I'm inspired by Exodus 3 where God shows deep compassion for His people who were enslaved in Egypt, His fury over the slave-drivers who mistreated them, and His divine decision to make humans part of His plan to deliver justice and freedom. Throughout scripture God is clear in His decrees to defend the vulnerable and to fight on behalf of those otherwise defenseless. In my work, I get to be part of answering this call. By educating others about human trafficking, we are exposing the common lures and deceptions that are often used to recruit victims. Prevention work is quite literally foiling the plans of abusers and protecting freedoms of the innocent.

What is the most rewarding part of your current role?

It is rewarding to not only work for a mission I care about, but to inspire others in the fight to defend God-given human dignity. At speaking engagements, I get to see

“Throughout scripture God is clear in His decrees to defend the vulnerable and to fight on behalf of those otherwise defenseless. In my work, I get to be part of answering this call.”

the light bulb moments when attendees realize how big trafficking is, understand that they have a part to play, and commit to taking actions that help us push back this scourge of modern-day slavery. In reaching students through the Prevention Project, I get to witness the changing of minds and even the changing of entire life trajectories – youth who know how to recognize unhealthy relationships, who are committed to treating others with respect and not like objects, who are emboldened to share education so that others, too, can be safe from trafficking. It is a profound privilege to watch people receive conviction and then make decisions that honor and protect themselves and others (and to know that I was able to have a part in that!)

What is the most challenging part of your current role?

Human trafficking is such a huge issue, and it is growing at an alarming rate. This can feel intimidating and defeating, so it remains a challenge to stay hopeful in prayer and encouraged in my role. This also means there is much work to be done. The anti-trafficking field, like many other nonprofits, experiences a large amount of staff burnout and turnover from exhaustion, so it is a constant priority to incorporate healthy practices of self-care and rest so that I can stay energized throughout the week.

In what way did CVCA set you up to thrive in this current role?

I am grateful to CVCA's academics that sharpened my knowledge of the world around me, but even more so for the CVCA faculty that championed particular skills that are now being used in my career. My teachers and coaches instilled confidence in me, especially in areas of critical thinking, ethical leadership, and public speaking (thanks Speech & Debate!) More importantly, they invested in my life beyond academics and helped nurture my spiritual well-being, pointing me to Christ and the hope that could be found through a relationship with Him. CVCA helped lay the foundation for my faith – like training wheels that kept me on the path until the day I graduated and was out on my own – deciding what I would believe, who I would become, and what or whom I would serve. I am proud to be a CVCA alumna – to have called this place not only my training grounds, but my home.



Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy

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

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
DATABASE
MARKETING, INC.

Come See the CVCA Difference



Right now students are being educated during some truly unique circumstances. At CVCA, our mission is *Educating and Cultivating Servants for Christ*, and we are committed to maintaining that mission during these uncertain times.

No time was wasted in the transition from asynchronous online learning last spring to today, on campus five days a week for in-person learning for grades 6-12. CVCA is redeeming this time, not missing any opportunity to connect with students academically, personally, and spiritually, and working to combat isolation and academic standstill. CVCA students are pressing forward with the support of Christ-loving teachers, coaches, and staff.

We invite you to explore how CVCA is pursuing Christ-honoring excellence during these unprecedented times. This time is too valuable to waste.

CUYAHOGA VALLEY
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

OPEN HOUSE | January 28 and February 2, 2021
Learn More and **REGISTER** at cvcaroyals.org