



# FINISHING-EXCELSTILLMORE

AN ENDURING LEGACY

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY





**President:**Jason Spodnik '88

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

**Director of Development:** John Harabedian

Coordinator of Alumni Engagement: Amy Mucha '05

**Designer:** Anna (Jones) Lile '84

Photography: CVCA Yearbook Staff Maggie Maust Kristin Nichols Visualizations Photography Megan Warner

#### **CVCA Board of Trustees:**

Paul Eck, Chairman Eric Bosshard '88 Brad Deetscreek Cyndi Holmes Rich Millisor Debra Owens Dave Petno '84 Don Richards Dr. Juli Slattery Tom Sullivan Mark Van Drunen Wayne Walker

**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** Grandparents Day
- **6** Middle School Connections
- 7 New House System
- **8** Homecoming
- 10 Schools of Distinction
- **12** Coordinator of Multicultural Belonging National Honor Society
- **13** Student Ministries
- **14** The Royal Theatre Fall Play
- **16** Athletics
- **19** Echoes Alumni News

#### **Special Insert:**

Introducing Finishing Excel Still More



# President's Message...

"I have no greater **joy** than to hear that my children are walking in the **Truth**."

3 John 1:4



I don't know about you, but I admittingly fall prey to expected successes and a "what's-next" mentality as I sprint too quickly through this journey with a pace that sometimes misses the chance to celebrate God's faithfulness. Can we increase our moments of pause in thanksgiving to respond to God's unmistakable hand moving through His people to accomplish Gospel-driven goals – goals that make a Kingdom Impact in our lives?

The answer has to be "yes!"

With that in mind (and heart), I am incredibly excited to celebrate and honor our great friend John Rasnick. While we are excited to recognize the immense contribution that John had on the CVCA community, we are even more excited to **celebrate** with our community the powerful example of what God can do when you passionately follow Him and lead by loving and serving others as John did so consistently.

To honor John and celebrate what the Lord has done through his life of service, CVCA has chosen to name our new two-story glass atrium and Welcome Center the **John F. Rasnick Center**. Construction of this beautiful facility (and renovation of the Anne Tell Chapel) is set to begin in the first quarter of 2022. (See insert for more details.)

May this Center serve as a physical reminder that we are all called to lives of selflessness, action, love, care, and intentionality toward making a Gospel-impact like our friend John Rasnick. We can't wait to tell his life story to all who ask...as this building provides tribute to how God can powerfully use redeemed (but imperfect) people like us to carry the Good News forward in our world.

Just as John was welcoming and a friend to all, we believe this new space will reflect that same welcoming and loving spirit that was uniquely him. John's impact was profound, and it is fitting that we dedicate this space to a man whom many of us knew and loved. John will be greatly missed, but his influence and loving service will echo for generations in the countless lives he has touched.

John Rasnick's life inspires, not past tense. We all stand on the shoulders of those champions of faith that have gone before us. Let us celebrate what the Lord has done as we memorialize a life committed to following Him...and let us celebrate what God will do for His Kingdom in this new space at CVCA.

May we all answer the call.

All to Him I owe,





# Giving the CVCA Experience to More Students

"...More than **\$250,000** was given by the school community, making this the biggest CVCA giving day in history!"

More students walking the hallways, sitting in Chapel, playing on fields, performing plays, building robots, and sharing innovative thoughts in class will be just a few of the visible impacts of #(thanks)GivingTuesday at CVCA.

CVCA celebrated #(thanks)GivingTuesday for the whole month of November when our entire community was invited to joyfully give – enabling more students to have the CVCA experience through tuition assistance. This is the CVCA version of #GivingTuesday, which inspires people to give generously each year to their favorite non-profits after the Black Friday and Cyber Monday retail spending frenzies.

The (thanks) in #(thanks)GivingTuesday refers to the opportunity givers had to submit "thank you" messages with their gift in order to appreciate CVCA faculty, staff, and coaches. Numerous notes of appreciation were sent to those who serve our students.

With an amazing \$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge from faithful, generous friends of CVCA, **more than \$250,000** 

was given by the school community – making this the biggest CVCA giving day in its history! What an outpouring of heartfelt giving! We are thankful for each and every gift.

#(thanks)
GI WING
TUESDAY

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

Did you miss sending in your gift? It's not too late.

Make a gift online at **cvcaroyals.org/giving** and type a note of appreciation to a current or former CVCA teacher, coach, or staff member in the comment section of your online gift. Your comments will be shared and your gift will directly impact students.

If you would like to send a check, just send it to CVCA, Development Office, 4687 Wyoga Lake Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44224 and write "#(thanks)GivingTuesday" on the memo line. Feel free to write a note of thanks for a teacher, staff member, or coach to include with your check. Thank you!



# CVCA Values its Grandparents

"The Grandparents Club offers an open-hearted, **welcoming** invitation to learn and connect with the past, present and future of CVCA..."



Knowing the insight, input, and love that grandparents pour into their grandchildren, CVCA values its grandparents and their role in our students' lives.

On September 17th, CVCA celebrated and appreciated our students' grandparents through an exciting virtual **Grandparents Day** complete with exclusive, tailor-made video content and messages for grandparents. Over 400 grandparents visited the website, participating through viewing videos, reading student messages, taking a Grandparents Quiz, and hearing about special grandparent opportunities through CVCA.

One of those unique opportunities offered through CVCA is a **Grandparents Club**. Through a gift of any amount, grandparents can come alongside CVCA in a very practical way in making the mission of *Educating and Cultivating Servants for Christ* real in their grandchildren's lives. Grandparents Club members receive seasonal email newsletters, special CVCA swag, and even CVCA Spring Musical tickets for a designated level of giving. It's a great way for grandparents to invest in their grandchildren's education and make their grandchildren's experience at CVCA even better.



# A couple of our current Grandparent Club members shared their thoughts with us:



"I chose to join the CVCA Grandparents Club as an opportunity to stay informed with the exceptional programs that CVCA has to offer. There isn't a better way for me to support my grandson's educational

and spiritual journey – which for me as a grandparent is so very important – than to be part of the Grandparents Club. I personally encourage all the amazing grandparents to join. It is so easy to do, and it will bring a smile to your face and love into your heart. There is nothing more wonderful than the love and guidance a grandparent can give to his or her grandchild. Your grandchild will thank you!"

– Eileen Funk, grandmother to Jack Raub



"When I think of CVCA, gratitude fills my heart. One of the things we really like about CVCA is not that the school is untouched by the wickedness in our society, but what CVCA does about

it. The way the administrators and staff ask the Lord for His wisdom and guidance, seek answers and direction from the Word, and act with integrity and kindness toward all people and situations sets CVCA apart and makes the difference. The academics, athletics, and many opportunities at CVCA are extraordinary, and our four grandchildren at the school are involved and thriving. The Grandparents Club offers an open-hearted, welcoming invitation to learn and connect with the past, present, and future of CVCA, and see a little bit of school life. I just want to help out any way I can and am so grateful that I live close enough to see our children at games, concerts, plays, debates... with four children the list is extensive! We thank God for CVCA!

– Merilee Marshall, proud grandparent of Calvin, Christian, Camden, and Jeremiah

# Creating Purposeful Community

Middle school and high school students have different needs when it comes to finding a place to belong, working with mentors, and learning how to become leaders.

Connections and Houses are those places for our students.

## **Middle School Connections**

by Scott lannetta '93

Everyone knows that middle school is all about figuring out who you are and where you fit in. As middle schoolers wrestle with those questions, they often seek answers from those around them or those they are "connected" to.

At CVCA, we are committed to helping students find healthy "connections" that will help shape and define who they are in the future. Not only do we want to surround students with encouraging and supporting adults they can trust, we also want



to help them navigate healthy peer relationships that will last a lifetime.

Some of the ways we do this is with awesome teachers, coaches, club leaders, directors, etc. who are here to guide and support their students no matter what it is they decide to get involved in

at school. Another way students can find a spot to belong is through Middle School Connections.

Connections are small groups that meet once a week with about ten students in the same grade and of the same gender. They are led by a faculty or staff member through Bible study, life discussions, prayer, games, and lots of other fun activities that help students connect to each other, their leader, and ultimately Jesus Christ. Middle schoolers are a social bunch, and relationships are very important to them. This is why at CVCA we want to be involved in helping students develop relationships in ways that are positive, offer them support and encouragement, and above all, honor God.



Our middle school students love their Connections groups for so many reasons. Here are just a few...

"I love being able to laugh, cry, and share anything with my friends and teachers." – Ava (7th Grade)

"I love being able to talk about God with my leader and my friends." – Wyatt (7th Grade)

"I always look forward to having snacks and hanging out with my friends and talking about Chapel." – Josie (6th Grade)

"I love being able to openly discuss Chapel and whatever is going on in my life." – Audrey (7th Grade)

"I love learning about other people that I might not normally get to know or talk to." – Hayleigh (8th Grade)



# The New House System

This year, CVCA began an exciting new program for our high schoolers. The CVCA **House System** is specifically designed to help students find a place of belonging, offer mentoring and leadership opportunities, and create school spirit. High school students are divided into four different houses and are part of the same house for the duration of their high school years:

**DOUGLASS HOUSE** –Named after abolitionist Frederick Douglass. The virtues of the Douglass House are Justice, Hope, and Truth.

**ELLIOT HOUSE** – Named after Elisabeth Elliot, who exemplified devotion to God through her ministry of speaking, writing, and academics. The virtues of Elliot House are Sacrifice, Courage, and Trust.



**LEWIS HOUSE** – Named after C.S. Lewis, one of the 20th century's most influential Christian thinkers and authors. The three virtues of the Lewis House are Wonder, Beauty, and Wisdom.

**TOZER HOUSE** – Named after A.W. Tozer, a luminary theologian who pointed believers to examine God's holiness and follow Him with zeal. The virtues of the Tozer House are Passion, Knowledge, and Devotion.

Houses are also divided into smaller groups (or floors) that are gender specific. Houses or floors convene on a weekly basis, host events, and participate in competitions. Each of the Houses have different traditions and compete throughout the course of the year for the coveted Royal Cup.

To learn more about CVCA's new House System, check out cvcaroyals.org/house-system.







Homecoming Queen and King Lauren Reding and Andrew Hendrickx

by Lauren Reding '22

It was amazing to again hear the roar of fans in Royals Stadium for the Friday night football game and to greet the Homecoming Court as they walked down the track with their families before the announcement of king and queen. The night was warm, the sky clear, and the white-out game went down to the wire! Students, families, and alumni thoroughly enjoyed the festivities.

Best of all, on Saturday, October 2 we all got dressed up and headed to CVCA where Home-coming had never before been held. The red carpet welcomed hundreds of us to a beautiful Hollywood-themed event. Mrs. McMullen did her usual amazing job transforming the gym into a space that was hardly recognizable! Black, gold, and red decorations were the perfect accent to help bring Hollywood to life right here at CVCA. The tent outside sparkled with hundreds of lights and made the night extra special.

There were so many highlights – from fire pits, to fabulous prizes, and delicious desserts – all topped off with Mr. and Mrs. Glenn and Mrs. Putnum singing the song "My Girl" wearing matching quartet outfits and Officer Bill dancing a TikTok dance!

Homecoming 2021 was a night all of us will long remember. Thank you, Mrs. McMullen, and all of the parents and faculty who contributed to making the weekend perfect.



























# Experiential Learning

How the School of Medical Professionals is providing valuable medical experiences for students during a time of COVID restrictions.

by Rick Lyons, SOMP Chair

COVID-19 has been a challenge the past two years for education in general, but particularly for educational programs that rely on experiential learning and shadow experiences – and are even further restricted due to HIPAA laws. This has been the case for our School of Medical Professions (SOMP). However, because CVCA has been able to meet in person for the past year and half, students have still been able to participate in medical experiences in ways that the program has been designed to do.

#### **JUNIOR YEAR SOMP**

For instance, during the SOMP students' junior year they have the opportunity to take a College Credit Plus (CCP) class through Malone University and earn dual credit (a college level course at CVCA and four hours per semester through Malone). Students have been able to use their Anatomy coloring books for creative anatomical learning; participate in labs that feature human models for anatomical identification; and dissect animal model organs as they go through the body's systems, physiological experiments, and case studies that underscore the importance of correct functioning body systems for individual health. During the Fall semester Dr. Emily Scott came to CVCA and talked to students about Allied Health professions.

#### **SENIOR YEAR SOMP**

During their senior year, SOMP students have been able to pursue research and presentations in the Medical Senior Seminar course. Because students at the undergraduate level are doing more novel research, it pays off to have them look into how to do it appropriately before graduation. We work through a book together called *How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper*. This allows us to discuss and do stepwise planning for some research papers and presentations. SOMP seniors also work through Medical Terminology, do further case studies, have additional speakers from various medical professions, and tackle numerous topics relating to wellness and pathology.

#### **MENTORSHIPS**

Students from both class years have continued their monthly meetings with mentors. This involvement – which almost exclusively is covered by mentors who have an association with CVCA – has been an undeniable blessing to all of our students. Our Community Liaison, Mrs. Kelly Cook, connects each student to a mentor. She also organizes our Jterm/Mterm experience, which is scheduled for juniors and includes additional opportunities to hear from medical professionals.



An Audiologist's Presentation for SOMP Seniors



SOMP students visiting Malone College's Animal Care Facility



SOMP Juniors Anatomy and Physiology Lab



#### **Striving for Christ-honoring Unity** with our new Coordinator of

# Multicultural **Belonging**

by Dr. Matt Koons

Unity and diversity are very near to the heart of God. We are confident that at the culmination of all things, God promises to include individuals from every tribe, language, people, and nation in His great purpose and plan, to the praise of His glory (Rev. 5:9-10). In a broken and fallen world, the Gospel is our hope of reconciliation to God through Christ, and to one another.

We celebrate what it means that students are created in the image of God and have intrinsic dignity, worth, and value. As such, we strive towards a deeper sense of Christlike belonging for every member of the CVCA community. Therefore, we are excited to announce the appointment of Mr. James Talbert to the position of Coordinator of Multicultural Belonging. Mr. Talbert is a gifted and beloved member of the CVCA Bible Department and one of the founding pastors of Citizens Akron Church. He is an alumnus of Malone University and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. It is a privilege to have Him serve in this role at CVCA.

We asked Mr. Talbert to tell us a little bit more about himself and his time at CVCA:



#### Why did you want to be a part of Multicultural Belonging?

When I was in college, my mentor invited me to a Multicultural Student Union meeting that changed my life. At that meeting I heard a vision of Kingdom diversity and how it was a deep desire of Jesus. I hope to cast that vision for students at CVCA.

What do you hope to bring to CVCA in this role? I hope to be a safe and relatable figure for students to process issues around diversity and belonging. I know how difficult it can be to be a minority in a predominantly majority culture institution. I can be a voice for minority students and a voice of unity for all students.

What makes CVCA's community unique when it comes to diversity? At CVCA we have global diversity. Our diversity is bigger than black and white. We have international students, first generation Americans, and families from all over the world.

What did you do before coming to CVCA and what have you been up to while here? I am a proud Bible teacher here at CVCA, Go Royals! Before that I was a youth pastor at the North Canton Chapel for five years. Now, alongside teaching, I'm a pastor at Citizens Akron Church, a multi-ethnic church in the Middlebury neighborhood of Akron.

**Ethan Brewer** 



# **Honoring Academic Excellence**

CVCA recently inducted new members into the James Elliot Chapter of the National Honor Society. Congratulations to these students for their hard work.

Curent Members: Rachel Petschke **Drennan Akins** Elizabeth Albrecht Benjamin Andexler Sarah Avery Logan Campbell Brennan Darr Cameron DeCarlo Courtney DeCarlo Julia Dolan Aidan Eck Peter Falcone Lauren Frank **Nathaniel Haver** Irene Jayapandian **Carter Lessing** Calvin Marshall Allison McClintick Katrine Melika Jonathan Meybaum Jena Neumeyer Rebecca Nguyen **Carter Parmenter** Maxwell Pastoria

Benjamin Perelka

Sam Pixler Lauren Reding Blaise Robinson **Caroline Rusinoff Brant Simmons Ethan Stradtman** Jackson Sullivan Sarah Thelander David Van Hala Allison Wesley Tyler Wise Medora Wychanko

**New Inductees: Emily Adkins** Isabelle Aiken Dylan Aldridge Paige Armstrong **Andrew Barnhart** Kylie Bettinger **Courtney Bland** Naomi Boque Bree Bolinski Colin Brewer

Olivia Brummert Jay Bucciarelli Elizabeth Camera **Ethan Crecco** Cailyn Croyts **Anthony Curcio** Cerena Dawson Olivia Dunphy **Emily Duraj Ariel Durham** Sam Dworning Mudiaga Erho Jonathan Fridline Caroline Gage Elise Gorsuch Mary Green Sara Ha **Emily Hallsten** Katelyn Harabedian Tyler Hawes **Devan Heiner** Ryan Henry

Olivia Holbrook

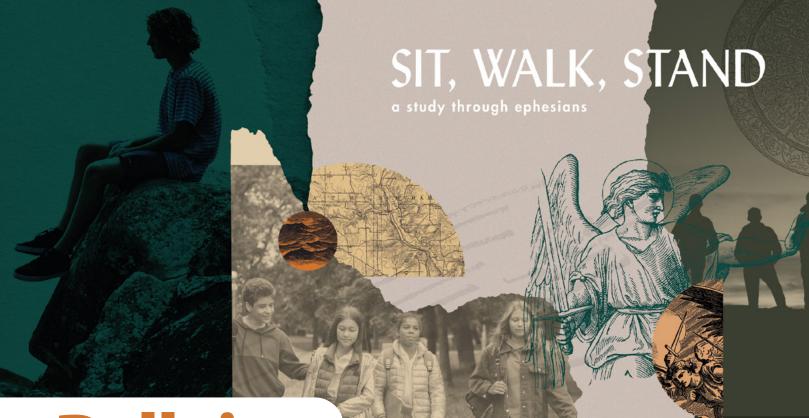
Monday Htoo

**Zachary Hutt** Morgan Jones **Gavin Kastner** Anna Khalil Marissa Khalil Wiriya Khem **Andrew Kieta Hannah Koons** Kaden Kroslak Carter Lee Gabriella Lurtz Hannah Lux Owen McSparran **Matthew Pander** Luke Perrotta Maryann Pinney Nathan Polidoro Abigail Pollock Madeline Pollock Aidan Porter Cassandra Reid Jonathan Reid Carson Reske Liza Ritha

Ellie Ritterbusch

Zachary Roush Mary Sboray Evan Schmikla Sara Schofield Aneya Schvartz **Wyatt Scott** Kayla Seymour Isaac Simpson Leo Smith Rebecca Stahl Kaitlyn Stuver Stephanie Testa **Predrag Tolmachev** Hannah Van Drunen Trevor Vojtkofsky Casey Warren Katelyn Wedding Nicholas Wesley Annabelle Wilford **Maximillian Winslow Brooklyn Wirebaugh** Stephanie Wodrich Michael Wood

Keira Ritzman



# Rallying under our Banner

Every year we choose a book of the Bible to study in Chapel, and that becomes our **Chapel Banner** for the year. The imagery of a banner is one we see in the Old Testament – it was something to rally people under. At CVCA, even though students and faculty attend over 200 different churches, live in different cities, and come from a variety of different backgrounds, the Banner that we rally under is Jesus Christ. We follow Jesus; we lift Him high; we celebrate His life, death, and resurrection; and are linked together because of Him.

One very specific way we honor Jesus is by valuing his Word, so this year we are studying the book of Ephesians. We've entitled our Banner: **SIT, WALK, STAND**. Posture communicates a lot. Think about how much a person can say through their posture, whether it is standing at a wedding or giving a standing ovation at a concert. We find in the book of Ephesians three distinct positions that communicate a progression in our lives as believers.

The first is **SIT**. This posture describes the position of the Christian in relation to God through Christ. The Christian life starts not with a big "do" but a big "done." He has invited us into a relationship, and in Him we sit and rest. Ephesians 2:6 says, "he raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Paul goes on to paint a picture of who we are if we are seated in Christ. We are chosen, adopted, forgiven, and have obtained an inheritance (just to name a few!)

The second word in our banner is **WALK**. The Christian life doesn't end with sitting but continues with the working out of our salvation. Not only are we saved *from* something (sin/death), but we are saved *for* something (good works) and have been called to walk with the Lord. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 5:1-2 continues this image of walking when it says, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." A natural response to the grace we've been given is to live a life for God – to walk with Him.

The final word of our banner is **STAND**. As believers we need to remember that we fight not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12). We are called to stand firm – not passively but rather standing our ground for the sake of the Gospel. In a culture that is ever shifting away from Biblical moorings, believers are to stand their ground. Our response is to stand firm. Ephesians 6:13 says, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."

The Chapel Banner imagery (above) has a progression of three movements (left to right): SIT...WALK... STAND.

SIT: Rest and know who we are in Christ.

**WALK:** Live out our faith in our relationships with God and others.

**STAND:** Firmly follow our orders to stand together knowing that we are a part of a spiritual battle.



This year's fall play was *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare adapted for CVCA by our directors. It is the very first time in the history of The Royal Theatre that a play by Shakespeare has been attempted and performed. It was a fun and laugh-filled experience for everyone involved.

At first, it was difficult for all of us because we weren't used to speaking in the Shakespearean language. We all had to step out of our comfort zones and get used to the language, the pacing, and the humor. In the beginning, we stumbled, got mixed up, misinterpreted, and struggled to memorize our lines. Thankfully, as we rehearsed and grew together, we learned to speak the lines with confidence, conquered memorizing huge monologues, embraced the emotions, communicated the humor, and understood the story. The challenge was worth every second.

We LOVED performing our first Shakespearean play, but we are not the only ones to be praised for the show. Mrs. Craft, our costumer, made our beautiful and fun costumes. The Glam Squad, Mrs. Taylor Lombardi '04, and Mrs. Millie Talley '10, made the characters come to life through hair design and beautiful face paint. Also appreciated are both the Tech Crew and the Set Crew. Without them, our stage would not have looked as great as it did. All of these people are just as important to the Royal Theatre as the actors.

And last, but most certainly not least, I thank God for all He has given us. He has given us these amazing talents with which we can glorify Him. I thank God every time I step on the stage and give Him all the glory for our success.

Photos by Maggie Maust



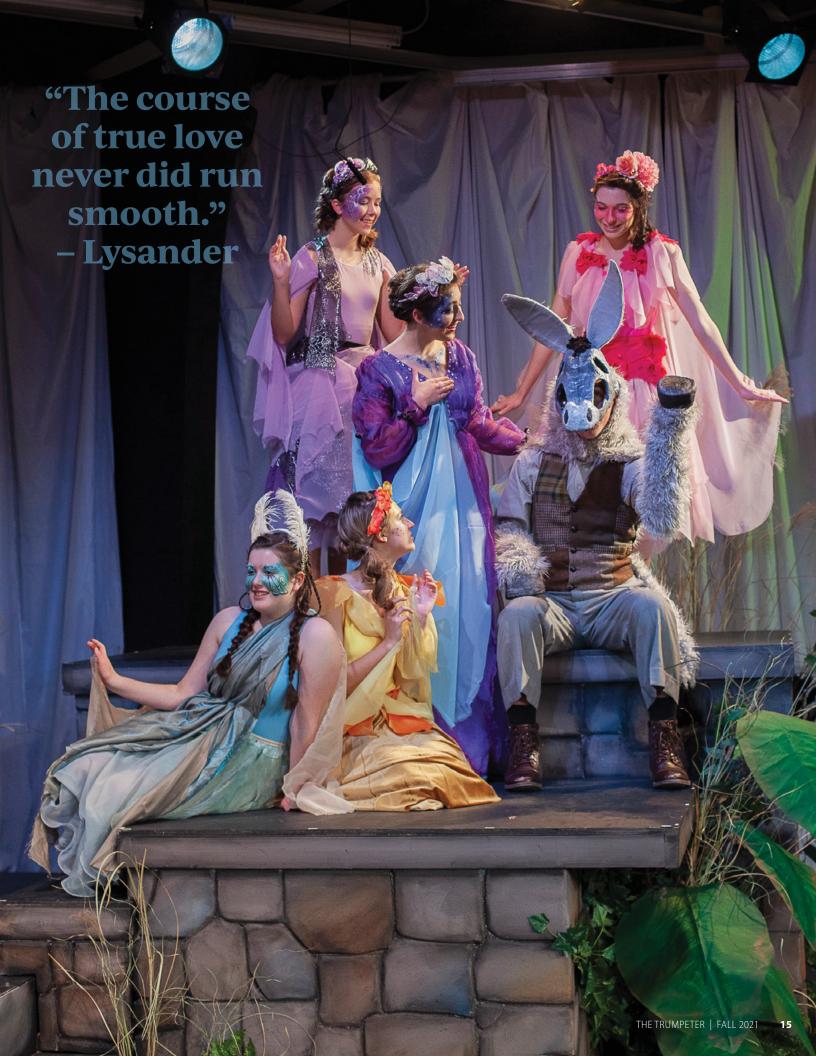
:h Crew Stage Managers



Hair/Makeup/Costume Crew



Set Crew





## **CVCA Soccer Alum Joins Athletic Staff**

Nick Thompson '07, returned to CVCA this year as our Boys Varsity Head Coach. We

asked Nick what it's like to be back as a coach for his alma mater.

#### Why did you want to return to CVCA?

If you have spent any time around CVCA or the people here, you understand how unique and special this place really is. Going to CVCA as a student was one of the most impactful experiences of my life, and that is largely due to the relationships I made and the life lessons I was taught while here. A major reason I wanted to come back was the chance to help influence and help students grow and mature in all areas of their lives.

I haven't lived near my family for most of the last decade. I have moved around the country playing and coaching soccer. The idea of working at a place I care so much about, and the ability to live near my family again was really important to me in deciding to come back to Ohio. What are your primary responsibilities outside of coaching soccer? Outside of leading the soccer program, I also work in the Athletic Office. My main responsibilities are managing the Royals Fieldhouse and coordinating outside groups that use our space when CVCA teams aren't. I also work with our coaches to help bolster and improve our sports camps and clinics that run throughout the year. Camps are a great opportunity for new families to get a feel for CVCA and a sense for what our student-athletes and coaches are all about.

# How have you seen CVCA change since your time here as a student?

The biggest changes are in the facilities. It feels like a completely different school from when I went here, which was almost 15 years ago! It is incredible to see how the school is growing and the ways students are impacted because of it.

What gets you excited about the future of CVCA? We are always looking to improve and be better at CVCA. Not a lot of schools or organizations have that mindset, but it is the truth here. As a school, when we grow and improve it's energizing. I know there are people here trying to be better every day, and it shows

in how CVCA has grown – and will continue to grow. We want to be the best place in the country to attend school, and that can be our barometer of where we are. To be part of that is exciting.

Why do you love coaching? Coaching allows me the opportunity to impact and influence young people's lives. I learned so much, and a large part of who I am today is because of the coaches I had in high school at CVCA and in college. The opportunity to help kids grow in all areas of life – personally, athletically, and spiritually – is why I love doing what I do. It's what drives me to continue to improve and get better myself.

What has it been like coaching with your brother? Coaching with Jack has been great. We are both fierce competitors and have a strong love for CVCA. We are very close and are driven to build a successful program. We are also both very relational and care deeply for the guys we coach. Jack has been a great partner since the day I accepted the job. We were both a part of state championship soccer teams when we were here, and we are both focused on bringing another state championship to CVCA with this program.

## **Royals Fall Season Review**

➤ The CVCA Girls Cross Country team continued to get better throughout the 2021 season.

They earned an impressive PAC-7 Championship with many newcomers in the fold. It was the girls' 21st consecutive team title. Coach George Hallis was named Coach of the Year.

➤ Cross Country State Qualifiers

Jayna Cooley (freshman) and Kayla Ritzman
(sophomore) both earned personal
best times at the state meet.









- The CVCA Boys Cross Country team
  put together a great season and capped it
  off with a PAC-7 Championship. It was the
  first team title for the boys since 2013. Coach
  Rick Lyons was named Coach of the Year.
- Lucas Mitchell (Sophomore) and Drennan Akins (Senior) were Cross Country State Qualifiers. Akins was also the PAC-7 2021 Runner of the Year.

# ROYALS

▶ In their first season under head coach Nick Cook, the Royals **Football** team qualified for the playoffs and finished with a 5-6 record. In their five wins, CVCA outscored their opponents 163-22.





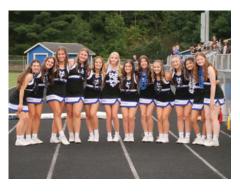


- ✓ With many new faces in the mix, the Girls Golf team was determined to consistently improve throughout the season. They were able to hit this goal as eight Royals earned first year varsity letters.
- Returning just one player from last year's state
  qualifying team, the Boys Golf team amassed a strong
  10-5 match play record and finished 2nd in conference
  play. Junior Aiden Cannone was the top individual
  from a non-qualifying team at the Sectional Tournament and advanced to the District Tournament.

- Senior Aidan Eck was named 1st Team All-State by the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association.
- Boys Soccer combined an impressive season under first year head coach Nick Thompson. The season featured a District Runner-up finish, 11 shutouts, and an 11 game winning streak.









- ◄ After a year of limited crowds, the Royals'
  faithful were ready to cheer on their team once
  again. The Cheer Team did an outstanding job
  coordinating themes, leading cheer, filling the
  student section, and promoting a fun, spirit-filled
  environment on Friday nights.
- The Royals Volleyball team tallied a record of 15-9 and played some of their best matches down the home stretch. They played exceptionally ly well at home this season going 11-2 at CVCA.

- ➤ A young **Girls Soccer** team finished the year at 8-8-1. They finished 2nd in the PAC-7 going 7-3 and showed the ability to protect home field with a 5-1-1 record at Royals Stadium.
- ➤ Girls Tennis compiled a 15-4 match record thanks in large part to a 9-match winning streak during the second half. Freshman Amy Grace Beebe earned a trip to the District Tournament with her 3rd place singles finish at the Sectional.







#### **SENIOR ATHLETES**

#### Cheer:

Lauren Frank Stephanie Testa

#### **Boys Cross Country:**

Drennan Akins Ethan Brewer Gavin Kastner Nathan Polidoro

# **FALL 2021 CELEBRATED ROYALS**

#### **Girls Cross Country:**

Wiriya Khem Hannah Van Drunen Casey Warren

#### Football:

Ben Andexler
JJ Boone
Ay'Shawn Canty
Brennan Darr
Eli Diakandru
Peter Falcone
Joey Johnson
Jackson Kipp
Dylan Kowalski
Jordan Lewis
Carter Parmenter
Sam Pixler
Matt Reitinger
Brandon Riley

**Brant Simmons** 

#### **Boys Golf:**

Gabe Butler
Girls Golf:
Sarah Avery
Katie Downing

#### **Boys Soccer:**

Hannah Lux

Dylan Aldridge
Jonathan Byerly
Ethan Crecco
Jonathan DeLucia
Aidan Eck
Nathan Haver
Kaden Kroslak
Ben Perelka
Jake Roberts
Evan Schmikla
Jackson Sullivan
David Van Hala
Carson Young

#### **Girls Soccer:**

Hadley Began Rachel Petschke Sheila Zimmerer

#### **Girls Tennis:**

Lizzy Camera Courtney DeCarlo Julia Dolan Becca Nguyen Sarah Thelander Medora Wychanko

#### **Volleyball:**

Emily Adkins
Olivia Brummert
Bella Costa
Maddie Custer
Ariel Durham
Caroline Rusinoff
Becca Stahl
Brooklyn Wirebaugh
Stephanie Wodrich

#### **HONORED ATHLETES**

#### **State Qualifiers**

Drennan Akins – Cross Country Lucas Mitchell – Cross Country Kayla Ritzman – Cross Country Jayna Cooley – Cross Country

#### All-State 1st Team

Aidan Eck - Soccer

#### **Regional Qualifiers**

Boys Cross Country – Drennan Akins, Ethan Brewer, Lucas Mitchell, Carter Lee, Leo Smith, Nathan Polidoro, Luke Coblentz, Josh Petschke

Girls Cross Country – Jayna Cooley, Kayla Ritzman, Casey Warren, Hannah Van Drunen, Josey Blackburn, Hannah Hyatt, Shahn Knight

#### **District Qualifiers**

Amy Grace Beebe – Tennis Aiden Cannone – Golf

#### **All-District 1st Team**

Aidan Eck – Soccer Matt Schumacher – Soccer Cara Raymer – Soccer Bella Costa – Volleyball Kyle Snider – Football

#### **All-District 2nd Team**

Aiden Cannone – Golf Carson Reske – Soccer Carson Young – Soccer Claire Pheneger – Soccer Hannah Koons – Soccer Joey Lehner – Football

#### **All-District Honorable Mention**

Kyle Spodnik – Soccer Jake Roberts – Soccer Jackson Sullivan – Soccer Sheila Zimmerer – Soccer Maya Najjar – Soccer Caroline Rusinoff – Volleyball Stephanie Wodrich – Volleyball Brennan Darr – Football

#### All-Conference – Principals' Athletic Conference

**Runner of the Year** – Drennan Akins, Cross Country

**Coach of the Year** – George Hallis, Cross Country

**Coach of the Year** – Rick Lyons, Cross Country

#### **All-Conference 1st Team**

Joey Lehner – Football Kyle Snider – Football Aiden Cannone – Golf
Josh Williams – Golf
Claire Pheneger – Soccer
Cara Raymer – Soccer
Zach Hutt – Soccer
Aidan Porter – Soccer
Zach Roush – Soccer
Kayla Ritzman – Cross Country
Jayna Cooley – Cross Country
Hannah Hyatt – Cross Country
Drennan Akins – Cross Country
Ethan Brewer – Cross Country
Lucas Mitchell – Cross Country

Bella Costa – Volleyball

#### All-Conference Honorable Mention

Ben Andexler – Football
Brennan Darr – Football
Caroline Rusinoff – Volleyball
Gabe Butler – Golf
Hannah Koons – Soccer
Sheila Zimmerer – Soccer
Seth DeRoo – Soccer
Anthony Ezzone – Soccer
Hannah Van Drunen – Cross Country
Casey Warren – Cross Country
Shahn Knight – Cross Country
Jack Curtis – Cross Country
Carter Lee – Cross Country
Leo Smith – Cross Country

# **Alumni Echoes**

# **CLASS NOTES:**

1983



Scott
Distler '83
writes:
"I am Pastor of the
Evangelical Free
Church

with campuses in Gaylord and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan as well as a thriving online campus and radio and television ministry that covers 53 counties in Michigan. I recently published my first book, *The Cave: When Ministry Becomes Misery*. Though this book is directed toward pastors suffering hurt in ministry, its principles are applicable to anyone who has been hurt or betrayed"

#### 1984

The **Class of 1986 Reunion** was held on July 16 at Fairlawn Country Club with an indoor family picnic at CVCA

the next day. Submitted by Wendy (Vogel) Rybka '86 and Kay (Sawders) Belser '86

1986



Wendy Rybka '86 with her whole family of CVCA graduates! Larry Rybka '80, Wendy (Vogel) Rybka '86, Laura Rybka '13, Caroline (Rybka) Wedding '14, Lance '18 and William '21.

#### 1989

James Carmack '89 with wife Tracy and four kids Trevor, Sydney, Shelby, and Jada writes: "After returning from the mission field in El Salvador, we are in Pensacola to help care for family members. I'm on staff at our church working with com-





munity partnerships and First Impressions, and my wife owns a plant shop. To serve as full-time missionaries was an incredible blessing, and we look forward to continuing the relationship with those still on the field. We boldly pray for CVCA and the lives you are impacting. God bless you!"

#### 1998

Lois Bradford started the CVCA tennis program in



1993 when her daughter Alyssa (Bradford) Moore '98 was a freshman. After a few years of using other schools' courts, the CVCA courts were finished by Alyssa's senior year. Fast forward a generation, and now Alyssa's freshman daughter Kyla Moore is playing tennis on CVCA's brand new courts with coach David Ramey '10, who was also coached by Lois Bradford.

#### Sarah (Nitz) Fleshman '01 writes:

"I have been a hairstylist since 2002 and a cutting coach for over half of my career, with the majority of my career spent working at top 200 salons in the U.S. Six years ago, I transitioned to an Independent Contractor run-



ning my own business. I recently joined a team of independent stylists at Salon Legacy in Brecksville. I have always worked with eco-friendly, naturally based products of the utmost quality. I love creating multi-dimensional hair color and customizing haircuts for each client. I have a passion for helping people feel good about themselves and truly enjoy getting to connect with them on an individual basis. "

SALON SU LEGACY



**IN MEMORIAM:** Mrs. Carol (Keach) Heasley, loving wife of CVCA President Emeritus, Dick Heasley, went home to be with her Lord on Friday November 5, 2021. As was beautifully shared by her adult children at their mother's celebration of life service, Carol combined elegance and grace with a deep love for Christ and an intense passion to make Him known to others. This led to a legacy of Christ followers in her family and beyond. CVCA is grateful for Carol's lifetime of unwavering support for Christian education, which was particularly marked during the years 1988-1999 when her husband, Dick Heasley, served as the school's fifth president. Carol is survived by her husband of 65 years, Dick, and children **Karen** (Heasley) Coffey '78, Rick Heasley '79 and Susan Tomich.

#### 2004



**Dr. Kristen (Karasek) Gerhardt '04** married Ben Gerhardt on March 6, 2021. Kristen serves students as the Director of Bridge Programs at Tri-County Technical College, and Ben is a Manager with FedEx. They reside in the Greenville, SC area with their dog, Simba.

Katherine Schweitzer '04 writes from Nevada with her husband Cassidy Herbert: "Two years ago, I pivoted from working in higher education to working in health-



care tech as a Senior Business Intelligence Analyst at Renown Health. Please pray that I use my influence for good in my new work and that I uplift my team members and help make their working conditions better. Additionally, last year two dear friends shared their desire to become parents. They needed a genetic contribution to make the miracle of life happen, and I was able to donate what they needed. Please pray as they prepare to be new parents, and for those of us ready to love and support this child."



Holly (Potesta) Diakandru '04 writes: "I didn't understand the true impact of CVCA until I became a parent. Don't get me wrong, my husband (Jimmy Diakandru '04)

and I both had truly exceptional experiences during our own time there. We learned, laughed, and grew up together in those halls. We've always been thankful for our time at CVCA. What we didn't realize at the time was what went on beneath the surface. It wasn't until we had a child walking those halls that we were given a clearer lens to see just exactly what had happened there.

Of course, our education itself was unparalleled; but what we couldn't see was that we had teachers who not only showed up to do the classwork, but showed up to do the heart work. They challenged us, prayed for us, and pointed us back to Christ time and time again. We didn't know it then, but they were pouring into the foundation of our faith brick by brick. Some of those teachers and faculty are still there, and while their hair might be a little grayer, they are still going above the call by speaking truth and love into generation after generation. It's hard to quantify the impact of something like that.

When it came time to pick a school for our oldest son, it was an easy decision to make. His journey has been one with a lot of twists and turns, with heartbreak and loss, and we could think of no better place for him to be than surrounded by people who are dedicated to pointing him to the arms of Jesus – and for that, I will be forever grateful.

#### **CVCA ALUMNI BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

We are starting a CVCA Alumni Business Directory so you can easily find CVCA alumni-owned businesses. Here is who we have so far. Email mucha@cvcaroyals.org to add your business!

Ana Maria Photography Art of Sucre Artisan Coffee Daisy Cakes Dante Darby's on 59 Deliberato's Bakery Each+Every
Fount
Fringe Hair Salon
Landes Eye
SD Myers
Sweet Frog
Tallmadge Collision



Heath Pawlak '04. Recreational Services Administrator at Camp Echoing Hills writes: "My ministry is always looking for ways to minister to youth and present summer employment opportunities to those interested in growing in their walk with Christ. Currently, we are praying to be considered a mission trip destination for churches and ministries. Our goal is to create a steady flow of donations so the camp grounds can be kept up and those with disabilities might be able to attend camp without paying from their pocket.



Sarah (Dietzel) Levkulich

**'05** married Nathan Levkulich on October 11, 2019. They live in Dayton where Nate is a research scientist at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Sarah is a pediat-



ric registered nurse at Dayton Children's Hospital.

2011



Hollie (Robb) Beakley '11:

"We just purchased our first home in Arizona and are excited to put roots down. Jason is a Commercial Real Estate Appraiser who works hard so I can be a stay-athome mom. We have Jane Anna (9/11/19), Bruce Beowulf (11/5/20), and are expecting Ruth Oletta in January.

20**12** 

Nina (Finelli) Guastella '12 writes: "Daniel and I met at Parkside Church and were





Peter Keating '09 recently ran the 2021 Boston Marathon and placed third in the first-ever Para-athlete Division with an impressive time of 3:25. He writes, "Just making it to the start line injury free was a challenge. But I made it, gave my best, and I will be back!"

After graduation from CVCA and serving six years in the Marine Corps, Peter continued his education and is currently pursuing his second master's degree at Kent State University in Health Education. Peter continues to set the example of physical fitness despite adversities. "After losing my leg in 2018 while rendering aid to another Marine, I became furious at God. How can HE let something so devastating happen to a good person who was trying to help another? Becoming an amputee means people look people stare. I can no longer walk into a grocery store and not have people notice me. The gift of invisibility is gone; I can no longer "blend in" to a crowd. As time passed, I realized God's purpose for me. The unwanted attention, the constant questions I receive, the multitude of pleas for help and advice is my opportunity to share my story. Not only to lift up others experiencing similar life events, but to whisper God's message to them. And though they may not realize theirs in that specific circumstance, God has a plan."

married on January 30, 2021. As our covenant was sealed before the Lord, our family and friends rejoiced alongside us." Alumni in the wedding party were: Angelo '03, Anthony '07, Nicholas '10 and Gino'16 Finelli. Bridesmaids were: Andrea Nykamp'10, Alexandra (Nykamp) Evans '12, Shelby Taylor '10, Simina (Teodosiu) Ohman '10, Antonia Costa '17, and Mary Prentis '13. Nina is in her fifth year teaching Junior Kindergarten at Heritage Classical Academy and coaches for Solon Middle School. Daniel is a National Account Executive at Rocket Companies.

#### 2014

Lauren (Fishel) '14 married Joseph Swanson on November 20, 2021. Pastor Jeff Schofield '91, married them at Hope Community



Church in Hudson. Alumni in the wedding party included James Fishel '13, Jessica (Wise) Johnson '13, Christopher Wise '16, and Maddie Haskell '14. They reside in Munroe Falls. Lauren works for Mobility Works as a financial analyst.

#### 2016



Michael (Ray) Lehman '16 and his wife Samantha recently moved to Michigan.

Mike is a paramedic and radio communicator.

#### 2017



Darcie (Bush) '17 and Luke Leonard '17 were married on August 14, 2021. Darcie works as a dental hygienist at Van Hala Dental in Hudson.



Lydia (Carroscia) '17 and Brooks Montgomery '17 write: "We got married on June 5, 2021. It was an incredible day to celebrate God's gift of marriage in the presence of our friends and families."



This marriage gave the Montgomery family a triple Royal Merger – all three of their children are married to other CVCA graduates! Pictured left to right are Nate Flaker '04 and Megan (Montgomery) '04; Mackenzie (Montgomery) '07 and Ben Miller '07; Lydia (Carroscia) '17 and Brooks Montgomery '17.

#### 2019



Justin Folger '19 is part of the improv group "Scriptless in Seattle" which is composed of mostly CVCA alumni. In addition to himself, members include: James Trombka '16, Joel Sparr '18, Claudia Insalaco '19, Jesse Oyster '19, Eli Popik '19, Simon Meyer '20, and CVCA faculty member Matt Riordan. The group puts on shows in a variety of venues – coffee houses, churches, large theaters - so they can fill any space. All sketches are based on audience suggestion, so essentially, the script is the audience! Oftentimes they get to perform with another CVCA grad, Paul Gunsalus '16, as an opening magician act, "Paul in One." Got a venue or event that could use an improv group? Wanna join the mailing list for upcoming events? Email ScriptlessInSeattleComedy@gmail.com

The Kolb family is full of CVCA graduates, and posed for a picture while on family vacation in North Carolina. Left to right Eric Kolb '90, Jason Kolb '92, Leslie Kolb '17, Daniel Kolb '21, Curtis Kolb '19.



# **CVCA Legacy Families**

We recently spoke with a few of our Legacy Families – alumni who have children attending CVCA. It's a blessing to have these families involved at the school and fun to see our alumni now as parents. We asked them about being back at CVCA:

- 1) Does your student have any of the same teachers you did?
- 2) What is your favorite thing about your child attending the same school you did?
- 3) What are you envious of that your child gets to experience at CVCA that you did not?
- 4) Do you have any fun tidbits/stories of your or your child's CVCA experience?

# Michele (Wilcox) Lux '85 with her senior daughter Hannah

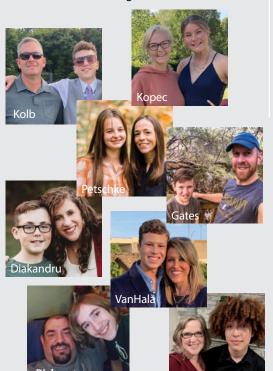
- 1) Nancy Miller
- 2) Watching them make great friendships that will last throughout eternity and have loving teachers pour into them 3) EVERYTHING! Better uniforms, A/C, food, facilities...

# Wendy Grable '86 and her 9th grade son Chayce Jeffries

- No, but Chayce does have Scott Isaacs '86 for band, and we graduated together. Dr Taylor is still there as well.
   Christian education and values shared. Chayce encounters many people that are my fellow alumni or were teaching or in admin when I attended.
- 3) So many new programs and facilities

## Julie (Vogel) Petschke '89 with senior Rachel and 10th grader Joshua

 Not this year. Rachel once had Mr. Bechtel. I had him for Band and Bible
 They get to see my class picture on the wall and laugh at it!



3) Rachel plays soccer. They didn't have girls soccer when I attended. I would have loved to play soccer in high school!

#### Eric Kolb '90 with 10th grader Evan

- 1) No, because I am too old and because Evan is our caboose baby. But he does have Mrs. Meredith (King) Riordan '90 who I graduated with.
- 2) He gets to see my picture on the wall
- 3) A/C in the rooms
- 4) A lot of the teachers and faculty were my friends when I was a student. It's cool to see them want to give back to CVCA.

## Jon Richeson '92 and his 8th grade son Evan

- 1) I don't think so
- 2) The Christ-centered education he is receiving and having history and personal knowledge of the people running the school
- 3) How long do you have? Wood floor in the gym, a Fieldhouse, non-cinder track, pretty much all the new/newer facilities. 4) It's a little odd seeing people who graduated after me in leadership positions. And shorts and tennis shoes!

#### Christina (Sutton) Tanner '92 with 10th grader Andrew

- 1) Not now
- 2) The CVCA community and the influence of Christian teachers and staff!
- 3) Friday night football games

# Scott lannetta '93 and his 9th grade son Joshua

- 1) No
- Opportunities to be mentored by great teachers and build friendships that can last a lifetime.
- 3) House Model
- 4) He is the youngest of my four children to attend CVCA

# Stacey (Vardas) Kopec '93 with her 10th grade daughter Grace

- 1) No
- 2) The confidence that I have in knowing how much the teachers care about

#### 110

CVCA alumni have sent their children to CVCA

#### 296

Total CVCA Legacy Family Members (parents and students/graduates)

#### 89

Current CVCA students with alumni parents

my daughter and are praying for her.

- 3) Football games!
- 4) I graduated from CVCA in 1993 with Kristen Deblander and Tiffany Petry and today two of my daughter's best friends are their daughters, Morgan Joy and Avery Helwig! God has been faithful in surrounding my daughter with incredible teachers and friends at CVCA!

#### Kelly (DeBlander) Anderson '95 with 10th grader Cody, 9th grader Samantha, and 7th grader Zachary

- 1) Mr. Carroscia, Mr. Kamp, Mrs. (Maupen) Abramson '70
- 2) I love that my kids are being taught the same core values of Christ's love that I was. I love that they are surrounded by many of the same families, faculty, and friends, that I was at CVCA.
- 3) There are so many new opportunities...Jterm/Mterm, Schools of Distinction, Connections Groups, the Learning Commons, football games, new art classes...the list could go on and on!

#### Amy (Gillespie) Van Hala '95 and senior David, 9th grader Jonathan, and 7th grader Andrew

- 1) Mr. Kamp, Mr. Carroscia, Mrs. (Maupen) Abramson '70, and Mr. Tomich '84
  2) It is difficult to summarize briefly the blessing that CVCA is to my family! To be at a school where Christ is glorified and eternity is paramount, the way in which instruction and athletics are grounded in God's Word makes all the difference.
- 3) A stronger community I'm not jealous! I'm thrilled for my kids!
- 4) CVCA just gets better!

## Sam Strausser '95 with his 10th grade son Eli

- 1) Not currently
- 2) I think it's neat that he gets to walk the same halls I did so many years ago.
- 3) The Learning Commons. I love that Eli is able to have more autonomy in his free/unstructured time than we did back in the 20th century.
- 4) It's wild that many of the "kids" I was

with at CVCA are now in leadership there. I feel young when I'm on campus until I see Matt (Dr. Koons), or Scott (Mr. lannetta), or Tim (Mr. Schofield). But wait, Mr. Schofield was there when I attended – and Mrs. Schofield in the Office (and she's still there!). It's wonderful to see people like Mr. Putnam, Coach Tomich (my JV Soccer coach), and Mr. Kamp still there. These men helped make me who I am today, and I LOVE that Eli gets to be influenced by them as well.

#### Ryan Gates '97 and 8th grader Lincoln

- 1) No
- 2) Developing a shared experience,

though the building and <gasp> dress code have changed so much.

3) More than one: Shorts and logo polos, late start times, and football Fridays.

# Jordan Fairfax '04 with his 6th grade daughter Bentley

- 1) No
- 2) I know how much I grew because of CVCA and am excited for her to get some of the same experiences. Bonus: I get to teach in the school she attends.
- 3) A House system, sweet sports complex, Robotics, Media room with equipment, beefed up class offerings, Learning Commons...so many things.

#### Holly (Potesta) Diakandru '04 and her 6th grade son Cameron

- 1) Not yet! But I can't wait for him to have Mr. and Mrs. Kamp, Mr. McSparran, or Mrs. DiPaolo.
- 2) I know the hearts of the staff members and that their goals far exceed the expected academic ones.
- 3) The Fieldhouse. The facilities have gotten a major face lift since I was there!
- 4) One year I had a different lunch period than my friends. I begged Mr. Tomich '84 to change it, citing I had low blood sugar and had to eat earlier. He knew I was full of it, but graciously changed it. I owe my social status to him!





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.



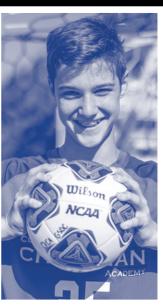


# FORMATION...NOT JUST INFORMATION CVCA IS SO MUCH MORE











LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT **CVCAROYALS.ORG** 

GET A CLOSER LOOK AT WHO WE ARE

**OPEN HOUSE 1.28.22**