

# CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The John Rasnick Center and Anne Tell Chapel Renovations Reach Completion!

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 1/ EDUCATING AND CULTIVATING SERVANTS FOR CHRIST





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**The Trumpeter** is published twice 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.

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

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## President's Message



On December 10, we had the distinct privilege of dedicating the cornerstone project of the *Finishing Excel Still More Campaign* as community members gathered to celebrate God's unmistakable faithfulness in the life of John Rasnick and now the space of the John Rasnick Center.

When looking around the school property, one might notice that the campus is not filled with items that carry someone's name. We rightfully focus on a gracious and faithful God who is the

giver of all things in our lives and in our school. We are humbled that He would choose us (you and me) to steward and shepherd His provisions in a way that has the greatest Kingdom Impact on the lives of our young people and their families.

So why the name of the John Rasnick Center? Why the beautiful outdoor Founders Plaza recognizing the families that launched and grew the school over 53 years ago? You are asking good questions.

Yes. These incredible spaces will allow for greater in-reach and outreach opportunities for our students and families, but they are more than just "new additions" in the strategic improvement of the school and its mission deliverables. **They are reminders of what God can do with an obedient heart willing to follow Him.** While we celebrate the life and Gospel-centered influence of John Rasnick on the lives of generations within the CVCA Community and beyond, we do not point to the man or his name. We tell the story of a faithful God, a talented and humble servant of Christ, and what can happen within that beautiful relationship when we are willing to say "yes" to His calling on our life. God used the 19 families named in our Founders Plaza to launch His school. Now, 53 years later, thousands of alumni and hundreds of thousands of families worldwide have been impacted through the obedience of these Founders and God's remarkable faithfulness.

When you visit Founders Plaza (just outside the Rasnick Center), you will find not only the names that we honor but a plaque to help us all remember where we stand when we are here on the campus of CVCA. It reads:

As Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy began in the late 1960s, 19 families were foundational in the school's inception as they responded "yes" to the call of the Lord to build the school. With little experience and fewer resources, they stepped out in faith to build CVCA. This entire campus is a monument to their courageous obedience and God's remarkable faithfulness.



May we always bring courageous obedience to God's call on our lives as we continue to *Educate and Cultivate Servants for Christ!* May we always say "yes" when we hear His voice.

To God be the glory of what He has done (and is doing) in and through us as a CVCA Community.

All to Him I Owe,

ason Spodnik '88

"We are humbled that He would choose us (you and me) to steward and shepherd His provisions in a way that has the greatest Kingdom Impact on the lives of our young people and their families."

# FINISHING EXCELSTILLMORE

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



We are incredibly excited to celebrate the completion of the *Finishing Excel Still More* building projects: **The John F. Rasnick Center** and the **Anne Tell Chapel Renovations**. These multi-use spaces will make a significant internal impact to meet our growing need for space and an external impact as we share them with our local community. May they be a constant reminder of God's continued faithfulness to His school and a tool to reach for people for His Kingdom.









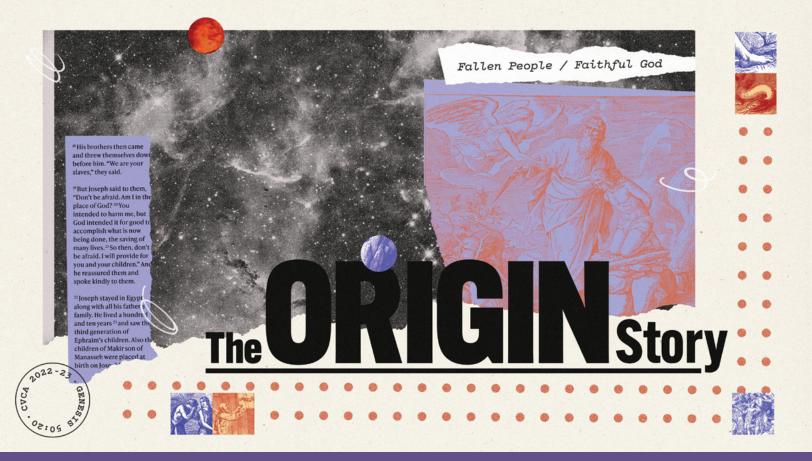




#### THESE NEW AREAS CREATE:

- Additional multi-use space with a 300-seat expanded capacity for lunches, study areas, and events
- A more welcoming entrance that connects the Anne Tell Chapel with the Tim Beyerle Memorial Gymnasium
- Space for student breakout sessions and House gatherings
- ► New Student Ministries Offices
- Alumni Mezzanine
- New Concessions Stand
- Founders Plaza a dedicated area memorializing God's faithfulness through our Founding Fathers
- Chapel Updates and Renovations
  - 100 additional seats
  - Updated stage and house lighting
  - New flooring and seating
  - Larger stage area

We hope you will attend a CVCA event or game soon and check out these wonderful new additions to our campus. We can't wait to share them with you!



# Chapel Banner 2022-2023

Every year we choose a book of the Bible to study in our weekly Chapel services. That book becomes our "banner" for the school year. The imagery of a banner is found in the Old Testament, where it was something to rally people under. So even though our CVCA community attends over 150 different churches, lives all over Northeast Ohio, and comes from various backgrounds, the one banner we rally under is Jesus Christ. And one specific way we honor Jesus is by valuing His Word.

This year we are studying the book of Genesis with the banner: The Origin Story - Fallen People/Faithful God. One of the biggest questions people ask is, "Where did I come from?" Origin stories have fascinated humanity throughout time, for we all have a deep desire to know our backstory. Whether it's Romulus and Remus or Ancestory.com, people have gone to great lengths to answer the question, "Who are we?" Our origin story not only recounts our past but even helps us understand why we are the way we are. In many ways, our backstory shapes who we are, and the more we know about the backstory, the better we know ourselves.

Genesis means "origin or beginning," so as followers of Jesus, we look to His Word to answer the question, "Where did we come from?" But our origin is not just about "where," it's about "who." We find in Genesis that humanity's origin begins with a faithful God who created people in His image and placed them in a beautiful world in which they were encouraged to thrive. Yet we chose to break that relationship, choosing our way instead of God's. The storyline of Genesis (and the rest of the Bible) is that of a fallen

### Learning that we are a Fallen People Relentlessly Pursued by the Faithful God

people relentlessly pursued by the faithful God. This year as we study Genesis, we will learn more about ourselves and more about our faithful God. Genesis is OUR ORIGIN STORY: a fallen people and a faithful God.



# GI VING TUESDAY

### THANK YOU for the BIG impact you have made for student tuition assistance!

Not only did our CVCA community meet the challenge of the \$100,000 matching gift given by faithful friends of CVCA, but you surpassed the match by hitting over \$225,000 in total giving! Your impact is extra meaningful because 100% of your gifts directly funds student tuition assistance. Your giving means that more students will have the help they need to enjoy Christ-centered academics, athletics, extra learning opportunities and more.

#GivingTuesday is the kick-off to our end-of-year giving season. If you would like to give students the CVCA experience, please go to cvcaroyals.org/giving or send a check to: CVCA, Giving Tuesday, 4687 Wyoga Lake Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223. 100% of your gift will directly benefit CVCA students! If you have questions about giving, contact John Harabedian at jharabedian@cvcaroyals.org. Thank you for partnering with us!

#### "Providing an excellent Christ-centered education was always a dream we had for our children but never thought it could be a reality. We are so very grateful that CVCA makes this possible by having a dedicated tuition assistance program. It has been amazing to watch the transformation of our girls as they grow in their faith, their confidence, and their academic skills. #GivingTuesday is a great opportunity for us to be able to help open doors for other families who desire an academically excellent and Christ-centered education."

**GRANDPARENTS DAY** 

There are never more smiles on the CVCA

campus than on Grandparents Day. CVCA

loves to host grandparents as they are a

special part of the school community,

tion and faith journeys. We invite our grandparents to spend some time with

cheering on their grandchildren's educa-

their grandchildren to get an inside peek at

their school and see how CVCA is helping

them own their faith in a Christ-honoring,

We look forward to hosting Grandparents

Day on Friday morning, April 14, 2023.

due to construction at CVCA, this event

promises to be extra special with tours of

the new John Rasnick Center and Chapel

expansion. CVCA also intends to offer an

online Grandparents Day with personal-

Moved from the typical autumn event

nurturing environment.

- Robin Mutchie Current CVCA Parent

ized video content, photos, and more for those grandparents who cannot attend in person due to distance or circumstances. Grandparents will receive a mailing at their homes with details of both the in-person and online events.

### THE IMPACT OF CVCA'S GRANDPARENTS CLUB

Grandparents have a unique perspective within the CVCA community. Understanding that the middle and high school years are formative in their grandchildren's faith journey, CVCA grandparents are invited to make an impact now and for the future through Grandparents Club. Club members enjoy great benefits, including a seasonal grandparent newsletter and specialty CVCA items and perks. Gifts given through Grandparents Club directly impact your grandchildren's experience. For more information, contact Jennifer Meybaum at 330-929-0575, ext. 207.

### A LEGACY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Leaving a legacy of Christian education for

the next generation is never more important than now in our culture. CVCA grandparents can personally influence the future through planned giving options. Contact your financial advisor or accountant to discuss your giving goals in the new year, and feel free to reach out to Dr. Roger Taylor at 330-929-0575, ext. 202, to learn more.

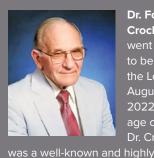
### END-OF-YEAR MATCH!

For every \$1 you donate through the end of the year, CVCA will receive \$2! (up to \$25,000)

It's not too late to benefit families who value a Christian education – and double your impact! cvcaroyals.org/giving



### Longtime Friend of CVCA Goes Home to His Heavenly Father





randparents

Dr. Forrest

regarded pediatrician who served the Akron area for over 45 years. He was devoted to serving the Lord in his church and in the community. Dr. Crocker served as a volunteer and Board member for many years at both the Haven of Rest and Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy. Although Dr. Crocker's formal tenure on the CVCA Board spanned the years 1972 to 1983, he (and his late wife Dorothy) were strong supporters of CVCA throughout their lifetimes. CVCA is grateful for Dr. Crocker's service and legacy, and extends condolences to his children Alene '74, Valerie '76, and Norm '79, and his grandchildren.

6 | THE TRUMPETER

# Meet our Advancement Team

The Advancement Office focuses on advancing CVCA's mission through Admissions, Communications, and Development. We are passionate about seeking God's will for His school while serving the families He has brought here.



Jessica Cooley '97, Director of Enrollment and Communications: I am constantly amazed at how God continues to use CVCA in my

life as an alum, a current CVCA parent, in my role here, and through the stories of countless families who call CVCA home. I have the best job in the world! I have the privilege of watching God at work daily in the lives of students and families.



#### John Harabedean, Director of Development: The mission of CVCA is evident as our faculty and staff engage daily in educating and nurturing students in

the Gospel. We pray that every student would leave here fully equipped and ready for college or the workplace, academically and spiritually. It is encouraging to engage with families dedicated to education grounded in a biblical worldview. They affirm our mission through their service, prayers, and financial support.



Christine Hippli '13, Marketing Specialist: It has been a blessing to work at a place that poured into me while I was a student. I love that I have the oppor-

tunity to make an impact on students and help guide them in their relationship with Christ. The CVCA administration pours deeply into their faculty and staff so they can pour deeply into the students.



Elissa Hyatt, Admissions Coordinator: After years of seeing the impact CVCA has had on my kids, it's a joy to be part of our community in a new

way. I love that I can authentically share that our mission of *Educating and Cultivating Servants for Christ* is not meaningless words but a reality that I see played out daily in my kids' relationships with their teachers and coaches. It's a privilege to be at the "front door," welcoming students and their families to join our community!



MaryAnn McMullen, Student Activities Coordinator: I work with the most lovely mission-minded colleagues and talented, generous parents!

Together we plan and host amazing events that honor the Lord, deepen community, and create memories with lots of fun! My heart bursts with appreciation, affection, and love for the families of CVCA. There is no greater joy than seeing a teenager learn to trust Jesus and follow and serve Him.



Jennifer Meybaum, Development Outreach Coordinator: As a CVCA parent of a current student and a recent grad, I am amazed at how the

Lord uses the faculty and staff here to help students own their faith and multiply their talents. In my role, I walk alongside parents to connect them to CVCA in meaningful ways through mentoring, volunteering, and giving. As I build relationships with parents, I can help them find their own way to support the mission of CVCA.



Kristin Nichols, Development Event Coordinator: My boys have been at CVCA since 7th grade, and I have seen the school make a huge impact on as a CVCA volunteer

their lives. I started as a CVCA volunteer helping with the Royal Evening. When the opportunity presented itself, I applied for the job of running the event because I am so thankful for the experience my kids have had here. I want to ensure that the same opportunity exists for other students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

#### Kelly Porter, Admissions Relations

**Coordinator:** The Lord is good, and His love endures forever. My CVCA journey began in 2014 when the Lord made it clear



to our family to move back to Ohio and send our boys to CVCA. Christian education has always been a priority in our family, and the Lord always

provides a way. After years of teaching P.E. and Health, the Lord unexpectedly opened a door for me to work here in Admissions! I am humbled to be a part of this team and to help navigate families considering CVCA for their child's educational journey.



Roger Taylor, Major Giving Officer: After serving for many years in other roles at CVCA, it's a privilege for me (with my Advancement Team

colleagues) to encourage friends within the greater CVCA community to consider how they might join us in the Kingdom work of our school.



Nick Thompson '07, Advancement Officer: CVCA is a place that pushes growth and development in all facets of life. It is a place where you are

encouraged and challenged to be better than you were yesterday, with the focus always on Christ and how we impact the world through Him. As an alum, I can speak firsthand about how CVCA greatly impacted me as a student and how this place continues to play a significant role in my life. I came back here hoping to play a small part in the lives of others in hopes that they can have an experience that truly changes their lives.



Patti Zaubi, Development Database Administrator: For two decades, I have had the privilege of serving at CVCA, a place where God has

shown His favor and where faithful faculty and staff are committed to serving Him and the students entrusted to us. Some of my greatest joys are getting to know our families and helping them connect to CVCA in a way that matches their passions. Every day I am continuously moved by the overwhelming generosity reflected within the CVCA community.

# Middle School

## Growing in Numbers and Commitment

Record numbers of sixth, seventh, and

eighth-grade students enrolled in CVCA's Middle School this fall, and applications for the 2023-2024 school year continue at a record pace. It is easy to understand why interest is high. Many families today are looking for a middle school where Christ is honored in all things and students can flourish academically and spiritually. At CVCA, matters of faith are not limited to Bible class but woven into the entire curriculum and community. Faculty is outstanding in their commitment to Educating and Cultivating Students for Christ, and students understand that their teachers genuinely care about them as individuals. One expression of this is the connection-building class trips that happen



by Scott Iannetta, Middle School Principal

before school begins for our sixth and seventh graders and mid-year for all three grades. Faculty and staff are engaged in these highly anticipated retreats where students connect with Christ, their teachers, and one another, and our middle school community deepens and grows.

Consistent with CVCA's commitment to educate the whole person, the Middle School has supported rising student enrollment with exciting growth in the Middle School Office.

In September, we welcomed **Mr. Dwayne Reed** to our team. Dwayne joins Louisa Neumann as part of the CVCA Middle School SMO (Student Ministry Office). A 2017 alum, Dwayne has a degree in Biblical Studies from Grace College and came to us from Grace Church where he was serving in Student Ministries. His passion for students to succeed both in Bible class and socially/emotionally shows in his teaching and one-on-one mentoring.

Louisa and Dwayne bring the fun by organizing Middle School events and intentionally spending time with students to help them process life and point them to Jesus.



We appreciate the SMO staff's abilities to meet with students and journey through the highs and lows of Middle School life with a Christward perspective.

CVCA's Office of School and College Counseling welcomed Mrs. Beth Marosi this year as the Middle School Academic Advisor. This is her fifth year on staff at CVCA, having previously served in the main Guidance Office and with the School of Arts and Humanities (SOAH). Beth welcomes and acclimates new students and families to the Middle School, advises students as they plan their courses, creates student schedules, and meets with students individually to support their academic endeavors. She enjoys seeing students realize their God-given talents and gifts during these critical years.

As the CVCA Middle School numbers grow in student enrollment and staff members, our commitment to keeping Christ first as we educate and cultivate servants for Him remains unwavering.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

CVCA Middle School Sports were in full swing this fall with 146 6th through 8th grade Royals participating in six sports across 11 teams. We had 14 wonderful coaches leading the charge on our athletics mission statement: *Building Christ-like Character as Ambassadors for Christ through Competitive Excellence*. The were many highlights this fall, but a few stood tall. The **7th and 8th-grade Girls Soccer Team** finished the season undefeated with a record of 11-0. The **7th and 8th-grade Girls Cross Country Team** took first place at the Principals' Athletic



cipals' Athletic Conference Championship Meet. Logan Romanini (7th) was the individual



PAC-7 champion and third place overall runner at the OHSAA 7th & 8th grade State Championship. **Middle School Boys Golf** returned with 21 boys participating in the developmental program. We are thankful for the time and commitment all our middle school athletes, coaches, and families put in to make it a great fall!



7th and 8th Boys Cross Country

### **Opportunities for Fun and Growth through Extra-Curriculars**

CVCA's extra-curricular activities play a significant role in helping students find a place of community within our larger student body. With a wide range of opportunities – social, academic, scientific, creative, and athletic – students often find new interests that also help shape them academically and socially for college and beyond.

The **Talking Royals** is CVCA's Speech and Debate team. This extra-curricular program allows students to hone their public speaking skills and strengthen their confidence while also having fun. Students specialize in a single speech or debate category, from acting to public address to debate, and compete against students from schools all around Northeast Ohio. Last year, our team grew from 4 to 12 competitors, all of whom were new to competitive speech

and debate and sent two students to the State Tournament. The team has continued to grow this year with a roster of about 30 competitors. Brittney Ulatoski, a CVCA junior, shared her experience on the Talking Royals: "Speech and debate can be seen as the scariest thing in the world, but it's not. People assume all you do is go up on stage in front of people and debate them; however, there's more than that. Speech and debate are separate categories where speeches are either written by the student performing them or a script that a student memorizes and performs. For debate, there are one-on-one or two-on-two debates, as well as congressional debate. Tournaments run every Saturday from November to February. At tournaments, you meet so many different people and make lasting memories. Even though we compete against each other, we also help each other, give tips, and tell each other how to improve. It's a fun and encouraging experience being on the Talking Royals team. There is never a dull moment when competing at a speech and debate tournament!"

#### CVCA's Exrtra Curricular Programs and Activities:

The Talking Royals Academic Challenge National Honor Society History Club Greek Club **Diakonos Service Club** Short-term Exchange Programs **Chapel Worship Team** Student Leadership Council Tea Club Urban Agriculture Club Art Club Yearbook The Royal Fools Improv The Royal Theatre **Robotics Team Embrace Diversity** Ping Pong Club Nail Polish Club **Bible Journaling** Music Groups Ski Club Spike Ball Club **Ultimate Frisbee Ornithology Club** 

# Student Life

### HOMECOMING 2022 A Weekend to Remember

by Naomi Bogue

Homecoming weekend was a celebration for all who attended and the finale of a Spirit Week full of fun. The festivities began on Friday, October 7, with an exciting football game and this year's Homecoming Court presentation. At halftime, the 18 students elected by their peers for the Court were recognized, and seniors **Paige Armstrong** and **Kyle Snider** were crowned Homecoming Queen and King.



The following evening was the students' Homecoming event. Many got together with friends to take pictures and go out for dinner before gathering in the CVCA gymnasium for this year's Big Top-themed Homecoming dance. The evening included fun games, a strolling juggler and magician, amazing desserts and beverages, prizes, and a lot of dancing and fun. The students made the night their own and left with smiling faces.







# THE IMPACT OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

CVCA started its Schools of Distinction (SOD) program nearly 15 years ago with two schools. Since then, it has grown to include five schools and over 180 students. SODs provide invaluable opportunities through advanced electives, mentor relationships, and internships, giving many students a clearer view of their college fields of study and possible career options. We asked our SOD directors and a few students about their experiences.







#### SCHOOL OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

Director Mr. McSparran:

Why are you passionate about SOAH? Unlike the tight focus of other SODs, SOAH is built to fit a wide range of students who might be interested in fine arts, music, writing, teaching, communications, social sciences, law, or criminal justice. We exist to know and love students as they discover and grow into the whole person God has made them to be.

#### What do you hope SOAH students take

with them when they graduate? We hope they all know that they are created uniquely in the image of God also to create. We hope students will take with them confidence in their genius, flexibility, graciousness, problem-solving, and a better knowledge of how they might honor God with their passions and talents.

#### What are some unique SOAH opportu-

**nities?** Sometimes school can feel like Sea World, and not in a good way. You have majestic creatures swimming endlessly in a tank that feels a bit too small, who are asked to jump through hoops – and if you do it correctly, someone will jam fish down your throat so you don't starve. We aim to break that cycle and enliven the spirit through a highly customized program that empowers students to learn and grow in ways they're interested in while being a part of a loving, spirit-filled community.

#### SOAH Student:

What do you love most about SOAH? I love the encouragment I receive to explore creative college and career possibilities beyond traditional academics.

How would you encourage sophomores considering SOAH? SOAH gives you so many opportunities to find our what your interests are. It's a great opportunity.

# SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Director Mrs. Chamberlain: Why are you passionate about SOBE? It thrills me to see students step out of their comfort zones, grow as leaders, work in teams, and become amazing problem solvers! Regardless of their career path choices, students develop critical skills for any field that help them grow into strong, confident leaders with a missional mindset.

What do you hope students that go through your program take with them when they graduate? Confidence, leadership, teamwork skills, experience running businesses, and an understanding of how they can further God's Kingdom through their career choices.

What are some of the unique opportunities SOBE provides? Business Pitch Night, Marketing Event Night, running three different businesses (with executive positions available for seniors), and working with actual companies.

#### SOBE Student:

What do you love most about SOBE? I love the freedom to be as creative as possible in a business environment.

What advice would you give sophomores considering SOBE? SOBE will give you a comfort and confidence in yourself that you may not receive in other classes.

#### SCHOOL OF **ENGINEERING** *Director Mr. Fairchild:*

Why are you passionate about leading SOE? The most satisfying thing about teaching engineering is seeing students discover their passions and gaining the skills necessary to pursue them.

What do you hope students that go through your program take with them when they graduate? I would love for our students to be excited about tackling challenging problems and use their creativity and skills to solve them in unique ways.

What unique opportunities does SOE provide students? Students collaborate and creatively solve problems in various areas representing mechanical, civil, aeronautical, and electrical engineering while learning how to design in a computer-aided design environment. The SOE experience culminates in a Capstone project of their choosing where they design, build, and test in an area they are passionate about. They learn teamwork and how to bring their knowledge and creativity to any problem.

#### SOE Student:

What do you love most about being a member of SOE? It's project-oriented and requires students to fuse their knowledge from school with their creative potential.

What encouragement would you give sophomores considering SOE? I would tell them how enriching these classes have been. I have seen how intricate engineering is in everything around us. Building projects and working through issues has been a fun way to see how real engineers conduct their jobs. You get to use real applications and processes that engineers use, and you learn ideas that will stay with you and be resourceful regardless of your future career.

### SCHOOL OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONS

#### Director Mr. Lyons:

Why are you passionate about SOMP? This school encourages and celebrates something God made that He's pleased with: our bodies and the ability to solve problems with and for people with the respect and love that Jesus would show. What do you hope students that go through your program take with them when they graduate? I hope they are convinced that they are on the path God has for them to better care for the needs of the people around them.

### What unique opportunities does SOMP

**provide?** Case study learning, often used in medical school, is employed in much of our teaching. Students learn practical, hard skills like measuring blood pressure and pulse, drawing blood, and high-level microscope work. Students have exclusive opportunities to hear from a variety of medical professionals.

#### SOMP Student:

What do you love the most about being a member of SOMP? I love that the school takes you on a path toward possible careers without being too specific.

#### What is your favorite activity from your time in SOMP? In CL Anatomy and Physiology, we did many labs. I found them to be very engaging supplements to our lessons.

### SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

#### Director Mr. Eernisse:

Why are you passionate about SOM? Glorifying God is the chief end of man. I get to help students understand how they can glorify God wherever they go.

#### What do you hope students that go through SOM take with them when they graduate? I hope they have a humble confidence in how to integrate their relationship with Christ wherever they work.

What unique opportunities does SOM provide for students? Students benefit from mentorship opportunities, hearing testimonials from people in ministry, and memorable Jterm/Mterm trips.

#### SOM Student:

What do you love most about being a member of SOM? I like learning about God and how to serve Him every day.

What advice would you give sophomores considering SOM? Even if you don't know if you want to go into full-time ministry, SOM is a fantastic opportunity to learn how to do ministry, no matter your vocation.

## EXPERIENCE CVCA SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION

Every student is uniquely gifted and on their own journey in understanding God's calling on their life and how a career choice might be part of that call. While every School of Distinction has incredible core classes and projects, value-added opportunities, or "Experience" opportunities, elevate the student experience and maximize the impact of their SOD participation. Students choose from a variety of "Experience Classifications" based on their changing interests and goals:

• Exploratory Classification – Designed to help students discern if a career in their SOD might be right for them.



- College Classification Designed to help students discern potential college majors and/or get a head start on college prep coursework and required skills.
- Career Classification Designed to help students get an in-depth understanding of a career cluster through real world experiences in the field.

In order to graduate with distinction in a CVCA SOD, students must complete three units worth of Experiences. Examples of Experiences include: Career Window Speakers, Community Hack Problem Solving Challenges, College Field Trips,





Leadership Courses, Industry Field Trips, Job Shadowing, Volunteer Work, and more.

This Fall, some of the Experience opportunities included a visit to The University of Akron with breakout sessions for four of the SODs; a day with the Summit MetroParks Career Explorations program; and tours of the new John Rasnick Center at CVCA with discussions about architecture, engineering, and interior design.





There are many ways you can be involved with this important event. Learn more at cvcaroyals.org/royal-evening or scan the code below.

# VOLUNTEER SPONSOR DONATE ATTEND

Celebrating God's Faitufulness to Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy



### Finding Their Best Fit Helping Students Navigate their College Search

In the past year, CVCA's College Counseling office has grown to accommodate the needs of our current families to access quality resources, personalized college counseling, and general assistance with applying to the "best fit" colleges for each student.



(L to R) Mrs. Emily Knapp and Mrs. Sara Fridline

As a first step, CVCA's College Placement Advisor, Mrs. Emily Knapp, schedules appointments with juniors (with an invitation to their parents) to walk through important college application deadlines and key decision points involved in each student's unique college decision journey. During a student's senior year, Mrs. Sara Fridline, our Director of College Counseling, assists students with completing their college applications, refining their college

resumes, and collecting strong recommendation letters to enhance their chances of admissions success at their colleges of choice.

As an additional resource, we are pleased to announce the release of CVCA's College Counseling Handbook, a comprehensive guide for ninth to twelfth-grade students packed with helpful resources and information about how to guide your CVCA student toward a "bestfit" decision regarding college selection and application. Hard copies are available in our Office of School and College Counseling for family meetings with our college counselors. Copies will also be available at our college planning expo for students and parents in January.

#### **SPRING COLLEGE "EXPO"**

In January, CVCA's Office of School and College Counseling will sponsor a "college expo" to highlight ways each family can maximize their opportunities at CVCA to secure admission to the "best fit" college for their children over the course of high school at CVCA. Questions about college recruitment, CCP and AP coursework, financial aid pathways, and other highly pertinent information will be covered. Several local colleges will also provide admissions representatives to answer university-specific inquiries that evening. We aim to kickstart students' success at gaining admission to a great college and coach parents through the ins and outs of taking positive next steps in their children's education after CVCA.



### **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. Camryn Berdysz, 12 Gia Casalinova, 12 John Curtis, 12 Killian Deetscreek, 12 Seth DeRoo, 12 David Glover, 12 Braden Hahlen, 12 Nicholas Humphrey, 12 Alan Jayapandian, 12 Gracie Johnson, 12 Clever Kossick, 12 Joel Krasznai, 12 Ava Marosi, 12 Flynn McCubbin, 12 Mark Mosher, 12 Zachary Nichols, 12 Claire Pheneger, 12 Caleb Prambil, 12 Cara Raymer, 12 Christian Saikaly, 12 Matthew Schumacher, 12 Nate Sharp, 12 Paw Ku Shee, 12 Mary Shreve, 12 Kaileigh Smith, 12 Tanner Smith, 12

Lillian Zevallos, 12 Korin Ballard, 11 Emmitt Barnes, 11 Morgan Beatty, 11 Kori Bettinger, 11 JoAnna Boston, 11 Ty Bova, 11 Donovan Brown, 11 Malcom Brown, 11 Bria Bucciarelli, 11 Mikah Buckner, 11 Ethan Campbell, 11 William Cook, 11 Lily Drybola, 11 Anthony Ezzone, 11 Alexandra Frazier, 11 Selah Gray, 11 Sarah Harner, 11 Abigail Hayes, 11 Avery Helwig, 11 Molly Hillyard, 11 Hannah Hyatt, 11 Isabel Januszewski, 11 Harrison Kaselak, 11 Callie Lessing, 11 Grace Lurtz, 11

Xavier Maianu, 11 Christian Marshall, 11 Benjamin Meybaum, 11 Lucas Mitchell, 11 Marissa O'Keefe, 11 Camille Perkins, 11 Matthew Porter, 11 Gavin Puhala, 11 Kayla Ritzman, 11 Deanna Robb, 11 Lillian Santuomo, 11 James Schofield, 11 Lvdia Sevmour, 11 Kya Shelford, 11 Sydnee Sherman, 11 Reagan Sines, 11 Kyle Spodnik, 11 Gabrielle Suffolk, 11 Jeffrey Summers, 11 Andrew Tanner, 11 Brittney Ulatoski, 11 Lucas Wiggers, 11 Isabella Wilcox, 11 Samantha Williams, 11 Elizabeth Wright, 11







# Thankful for All the Little Blessings by Ella Lurtz '23

### The Royal Theatre Shares the Powerful Story of "Our Town"

It has been such an amazing opportunity and a blessing to be a part of **OUR TOWN** this Fall! We did have some challenges on our journey. One of the most difficult things was rehearsing in the band room and not getting on stage until the last minute due to construction in the Chapel. In addition to the odd rehearsal location, the play presents many unique challenges. With invisible props, minimal scenery, and a whole lot of lines to memorize, we had to use our imaginations to create Grover's Corners in a real and beautiful way that our audience could enjoy.



This play has been a wonderful growing experience for everyone involved. No matter how big or small their part, each person made all of the awkward

rehearsals in the band room, all of the late nights, and all of the ups and downs worth it. I am so proud of how every member of the Royal Theatre cast, crew, and staff stretched themselves, pursued excellence, and came together to make something beautiful for God's glory.

Our Town is such a powerful piece, and I am so thankful to have been a part of it. It teaches us to enjoy the little things in life that don't seem important but are precious and beautiful gifts from God. I am so thankful for all the little blessings God has given us in this production and every production He has blessed us with. May the Lord continue to bless this theatre program and everyone involved. May He help us all see the little, beautiful gifts he has given us, not just in this production but in our lives.



# 2022 FALL SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



▲ Jayna Cooley (sophomore) and Kayla Ritzman (junior) made it two-for-two by again qualifying for the OHSAA Division II State Championship. Jayna placed 43rd, and Kayla placed 50th.



▲ Senior Jack Curtis earned All-Ohio honors in Cross Country. He placed 29th overall at the Division II State Meet with a time of 16:38.7.

▼ The **Boys Cross Country Team** put together a very impressive season from start to finish. They won the PAC-7 Championship, finished as District Runner-up, and placed 5th in the OHSAA Division II State Championship.



▼ Our **Cheer** program continues to set the standard for school spirit. Each Friday night featured a theme, and the girls created run-through banners to match. Their enthusiasm for the Royals is unmatched.





▲ The **Boys Cross Country Team** (L to R: Coach Craig Rupe, Xavier Maianu, Micah Colbert, Jack Curtis, Carter Lee, Leo Smith, Lucas Mitchell, Luke Coblentz, Jay Bucciarelli, Coach Rick Lyons) placed 5th at the OHSAA Division II State Championship. That is tied for the second highest finish in program history!



▲ The **Girls Cross Country Team** won their 22nd consecutive PAC-7 Championship. They tallied just 26 points on their way to the Conference title. They also qualified for the Regional Tournament, where they finished 10th.

▼ The **Volleyball Team** battled to a record of 16-9 this season. Highlights of the year include a big home win over Triway, a seven-match winning streak, and a Sectional Championship.





2022 was another outstanding year for the CVCA Boys Soccer Program. They added another District Championship to their tally and finished as Regional Runners-up. The Royals ended the year with a 17-3 record.

▼ The **Girls Tennis Team** started 2022 off fast and won each of their first six matches of the season. The Royals sent three girls (Amy Grace Beebe in singles and Skylar Wood and Joy Saffles in doubles) to the District Tournament for the first time since 2004.





✓ Senior Aiden Cannone (pictured with Coach Bucciarelli) returned to the OHSAA State Tournament this fall. He placed 25th overall in Division II with a two-day score of 167.



▼ For just the second time in program history, **CVCA Football** captured a Conference Championship and qualified for the OHSAA State Playoffs in the same season. CVCA finished the year 7-4 after earning a share of the PAC-7 title and securing a home Division III playoff game.





▼ The **Girls Soccer Team** went 11-5-2 this season and recorded 11 shutouts. The girls also had a strong impact off the field through their relationships with their opponents.



◀ The **Boys Golf Team** went 13-2 in matches this season, finished as Conference runners-up, and advanced to the District Tournament.

▼ The Girls Golf Team competed hard and continued to improve throughout the fall. With six letter winners slated to return next year, the Royals will build on this season moving forward.



## Inside CVCA Athletics by Tracy Eck '89, Athletic Office Coordinator



This Fall, I joined the CVCA Athletic Department staff. While I have been in and around CVCA for years, I now have a new perspective and appreciation for all things Athletics. The

staff in this department work hard, are conscientious, purposeful, diligent, and at the core, love sports. They love to know, study, and encourage our coaches and athletes. Let me introduce some familiar names and the perhaps not-so-familiar roles they each play:

Ben Miller '07, Sports Information Director: Ben has many roles. I would describe him as the one who has to know everything about everything and then tell everyone.

Jason Herblet, Assistant Athletic Director: In addition to being a middle school health teacher, Jason schedules practices, games, and referees, meets bi-weekly with the middle school coaches, and is the Varsity Baseball Coach.

Jon Young, Athletic Director: Jon wears all the hats. He has to think like a parent, an athlete, a coach, an administrator, a referee, and field questions on the spot.

The Language we Speak... We speak the language of athletics with coaches, athletes, parents, referees, and fans. This requires patience, curiosity, empathy, and, often, tough love. Not everyone from every school may speak the same athletic language, but CVCA's Athletic Department strives to be well-equipped to lead the school's most outward-facing department.

I am learning that one of the qualities that makes Ben, Jason, and Jon the backbone of our school's Athletic Program is that they care deeply about our mission statement: "Developing Christlike Character through Competitive Excellence." Our studentathletes are also learning this. From competition to practice, the coaches are clear that they desire to know Christ and to make Him known. An organized department that works well with coaches is a big part of this. The Athletic Department strives to equip our community to communicate in the language God would use – with love and compassion – and to examine our goals and priorities in light of God's perspective.

There are many ways this department works to create an atmosphere where athletes and coaches thrive, and parents and fans witness Jesus. I have seen and heard the heartbeat that makes this Athletic Department team different. These guys know Jesus, their hearts are for families, coaches, and our athletes to know Jesus. Speaking the language of Jesus through athletics is the goal.

# CELEBRATED ATHLETES – FALL 2022 SEASON

SENIOR ATHLETES Cheerleading: Mudiaga Erho Sara Ha Ryan Henry

Boys Cross Country: Jay Bucciarelli Luke Coblentz Jack Curtis Carter Lee Leo Smith

**Girls Cross Country:** Anna Khalil

Football: Dillon Byars Tony Collins David Glover Derek Higgins Nich Humphrey Ethan Junko Seth Nerone Max Smith Kyle Snider

**Boys Golf:** Drew Barnhart Aiden Cannone

**Girls Golf:** Elise Gorsuch Mary Sboray

Boys Soccer: Griffin Bosshard Seth DeRoo Zach Hutt Aidan Porter Jonathan Reid Carson Reske Zach Roush Christian Saikaly Matt Schumacher Luke Slabaugh

Girls Soccer: Bree Bolinksi Sophia Georgekopoulos Marissa Khalil Hannah Koons Claire Pheneger Cara Raymer Keira Ritzman

Girls Tennis: Paige Armstrong Cailyn Croyts Cerena Dawson Chloe Horn Monay Livingston Lillie Zevallos

Volleyball: Camryn Berdysz Courtney Bland Sam Durant Gabby Larison Grace Watterson

#### ATHLETE AWARDS

State Qualifiers Cross Country Team: Jack Curtis, Carter Lee, Lucas Mitchell, Micah Colbert, Xavier Maianu, Luke Coblentz, Leo Smith

Cross Country: Jayna Cooley Keira Ritzman

Golf: Aiden Cannone

All-State: Cross Country: Jack Curtis

All-State 1st Team Soccer: Carson Reske

<u>All-State 2nd Team</u> Soccer: Hannah Koons

#### Regional Qualifiers Boys Cross Country: Jack Curtis, Carter Lee, Lucas Mitchell, Micah Colbert, Xavier Maianu, Luke Coblentz, Jay Bucciarelli

Girls Cross Country: Kayla Ritzman, Jayna Cooley, Josey Blackburn, Joelle Cherry, Maddie Currall, Bella Wilcox, Gabby Walkley, Anna Khalil

District Qualifiers Tennis: Amy Grace Beebe Skylar Wood Joy Sa<u>ffles</u>

<u>All-District</u> Boys Soccer Private Parochial Coach of the Year: Nick Thompson

All-District 1st Team Soccer: Hannah Koons Cara Raymer Carson Reske Matt Schumacher

Golf: Aiden Cannone

All-District 2nd Team Soccer : Keira Ritzman Claire Phenger Maya Najjar Kyle Spodnik Luke Slabaugh Griffin Bosshard

All-District <u>Honorable Mention</u> Soccer: Sam Anderson Bree Bolinski Zach Hutt Jack Green Jonathan Van Hala

<u>All-Conference</u> PAC Football Player of the Year: Kyle Snider

Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year: Jack Curtis

Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year: Rick Lyons

Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year: George Hallis

All-Conference 1st Team Football: Kyle Snider Joey Kopec Ricky Levak David Glover Seth Nerone Charley Levak

Volleyball: Hallie Hendrickx

Soccer: Cara Raymer Hannah Koons Aidan Porter Josh Sumodi Emerson Hutt

Golf: Aiden Cannone

Cross Country: Kayla Ritzman Jayna Cooley Josey Blackburn Jack Curtis Lucas Mitchell Leo Smith Carter Lee

All-Conference Honorable Mention Football: Ty Bova Tony Collins

Volleyball: Reese Donahoe

Soccer: Claire Pheneger Keira Ritzman Connor Lieser Alexander Ott

Golf: Andrew Tanner

Cross Country: Anna Khalil Joelle Cherry Xavier Maianu Micah Colbert Quinn Robinson Luke Coblentz Jay Bucciarelli

# THE ECHOES

ALUMNI NEWS OF CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

# **Class Notes**

#### 1972 REUNION UPDATE:

Cindi (Condon) Payne '72 sent this update: The Class of 1972 celebrated its 50-year reunion on September 3, 2022. We had a delightful time together and thoroughly enjoyed a campus tour that included CVCA's amazing history.



(Left to Right) Top: Marvin Darrow and Loretta (Truthan) Fultz; Middle: Judy (Lint) Wilson; Bottom: Cindy (Condon) Payne and Dan Fleming

#### 1973

**Cindy (Grable) Smuts '73** shared: I am celebrating that my grandson Brody Hoffman is attending CVCA this year as a sixth grader and third generation Royal. I am SO grateful for God's goodness and proud to be part of a school that stands firm in Jesus. We have all received an exceptional education at CVCA as well as a deeper understanding of the Bible and a relationship with our Savior. I am so happy that my children and now my grandchildren (there are more coming in a few years) can attend a school that God has so richly blessed.

#### 1975



Craig Keslar '75 shared: I attended Homecoming this year with my daughter Katie (Keslar) Clark '07, her husband Justin, and my two granddaughters. We ate tacos, played all the kids games, saw a lot of friends, and went to the football game. It was a great time. I even had the chance to buy some great dark roast coffee from SOBE and a few CVCA golf hats. The Fieldhouse was a great venue!

#### 1987

Rene (Warner) Perez '87 is a school-based Mental Health Program Manager



#### **1997 REUNION UPDATE**

The Class of 1997 celebrated its 25th Class Reunion at Town Hall in Ohio City on October 22.



for CommQuest. She live in Canton with her husband Tony and has four children: David (30), Aria (17), Anthony (15), and Alivia (13).

#### 1999

Jen (Sackett) Hoffman '99 shared: We are honored to be among the families celebrating third generation Royals! My grandparents sacrificed to make it work, including my grandma driving the bus. My mom, Cindy (Grable) Smuts '73, was in CVCA's fourth graduating class. She spends her days gardening and actively volunteers at her church. She has more energy than all of us combined and loves playing with her grandkids. I am back to work as a professional counselor after staying home to raise kiddos and develop as an artist. My son, Brody Hoffman '29 is enjoying his first year as a Royal! He is passionate about art and hopes to play hockey in high school. Our family has been blessed to know Christ and have the influence of faculty and friends that have enriched our lives. Our prayer is that this legacy will contribute to our testimonies and glorify God!

### FIELDHOUSE



# **Alumni Return for Homecoming**

On October 7, alumni and their families (over 340 guests) attended this year's Homecoming event. The evening included food trucks, friends, fellowship, and fun followed by an exciting Royals football game. Younger guests enjoyed a carnival hosted by the Junior Royals with fun games, face painting, and sign making. It was a wonderful gathering of our CVCA family and a chance to reminisce with many CVCA alumni.

Special thanks to our 2022 Alumni Homecoming sponsors. Their generosity provided desserts for all attendees and helped reduce the cost of the food truck tickets. We are so grateful for your love and commitment to our CVCA family.

Wade and Jen ('99) Hoffman





Allison Landes '99 Dr. Robert Mosteller '76



#### **2002 REUNION UPDATE**

**Stephanie (Yettke) Ostkar '02** shared: The Class of 2002 celebrated its 20-year reunion on August 6, 2022 at Walther's Twin Tavern. This year's reunion had the biggest turnout thus far! We all enjoyed catching up and recalled so many special memories while looking through old yearbooks!

#### 2002



Andrew Wiseman '02 serves as an Evaluator Loadmaster/Resource Manager for the United States Air Force. Andrew, his wife Keiko, and their daughters Sophia, Hana, Selena, and, (soon to be born) Avyanna live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. "We thank God for consistently blessing our family. We are very happy and healthy!"

2003



Jessica (Roberts) Bull '03 shared: I am a family physician and Medical Director of a community health center in Denver, Colorado. My husband's name is Tyler and we have three girls.

### We are excited to have four third-generation CVCA students on campus this year!



COLIN CROCKER '29, a current sixth grader is the son of **Kyle** (Nadine) Crocker '02 and grandson of Royal Merger alumni Norm '79 and Bonnie (Worley) '78 Crocker.

Sixth grade twins EVERETT '29 and KAELYN RAYL '29 are son and daughter of **Nathan '02 and Kelci (Carr) '01 Rayl** and grandchildren of **Dan '74 and Alene (Crocker) '74 Rayl**. Both couples are Royal Merger alumni!



Seventh grader BRODY HOFFMAN '28 is the son of Wade and Jennifer (Sackett) Hoffman '99 and the grandson of Cindy (Grable) Smuts '73.



The Deblander Family: Kristen Joy '93, Kelly Anderson '95, Erin Olson '97, and mom Cathy Wolf

CVCA has been a special place for our family for a long time. The three of us had a great six years here, creating life-long memories with great friends and impactful experiences. To now see those memories being made by our kids is such a blessing. Not only are memories being made with the eight cousins, but with "Nana" is there throughout their day (in the Cafeteria) providing even more love and support! This family legacy at CVCA is priceless.

#### 2009



Daniel Richards '09: Daniel's wife and former student Heidi (MacMillan) Richards writes: These are our boys! Dean Henry is two-years-old and Gavin James is the newborn. We currently live in Cuyahoga Falls. Daniel is about to mark his tenth anniversary in finance at the Goodyear Headquarters in Akron and is in the middle of receiving his MBA from The Ohio State University. After teaching for four years, I'm thankful to have the opportunity to stay home with Dean and Gavin. We are so thankful for the lifelong friendships that CVCA has given us!

#### 2010



**Beth (Emerson) Nussen '10** writes: We are doubly celebrating this fall with the birth

of our third child (and first girl!) and with Nick beginning his job at CVCA as a high school English teacher.

#### 2011



Alexandra (Dickson) Yoder '11 and her husband David have two daughters: Mia Diane (3) and Halle Kate (1). They live in Mansfield, Ohio.

#### 2013



**Casey Claflin '13** married Maegan Astorri on June 12, 2021 in Huntington, West Virginia. They reside in Forest City, Iowa where Casey is an assistant baseball coach at Waldorf College and Maegan is a District Manager with Sun City Tanning.

#### Faculty Fellows Program



Aaron Chizmar '14 is part of CVCA's Faculty Fellows Program. The program provides college graduates an opportunity to experience Christian education both inside and outside the classroom in order to discern a passion and a call to Christian education. Fellows gain educational and classroom skills throughout the year-long immersion experience.



Hannah (Robinson) Truax '13 writes: Our daughter, Camber Anneva was born on October 26. Life as a family of three has been a huge blessing!

#### 2015

**Dominic Massa '15** married Mikayla Bayer on October 2, 2022 at Big Oak Meadows

### Royal Heritage Alumni

We sincerely apologize that two of our 2022 graduates and their alumni parents were left out of the last issue of the Trumpeter. All of our alumni, no matter what year they graduated, mean so much to us!



Nathaniel with Chuck Haver '94



Caroline with Ted Rusinoff '91

Jack Hyatt '20 will graduate

from The Ohio State University

Business: Operations Manage-

in May 2023 with a degree in

ment and a minor in Architec-

ture. He has been hired as

2020



in Burghill, Ohio. Mikayla is completing her residency to become a Doctor of Audiology and Dom is the Student Ministries Pastor at Silver Creek Church in Aurora, Ohio. CVCA alumni in the wedding were **Ethan Durfee '15** and **John Zhang '14**.

2017



Allie (Eybers) Mentzer '17 writes: After meeting during

college at Cedarville University, Stephen and I were married surrounded by friends and family at Christ Community Chapel in Hudson on June 25, 2022. CVCA alumni in the bridal party: **Haley Isaacs '15**, **Hannah Karayan '17**, Maid of honor **Amy Eybers '18**, **Mikaela Fridline '19**, and **Luke Eybers '19**.

#### 2018



Alaina (Olson) Day '18 shared: Trevor and I got married on June 12, 2022. We met during the first week of our freshman year at Kent State University and spent four years leading YoungLife together. We are excited to continue pursuing the Lord through our marriage.

# an Operation Supervisor for DHL, the global leader in the logistics industry.



Josh Wodrich '20 is a Cadet 2nd Class at the United States Air Force Academy. Also at the USAFA are **Ray Benson '18**, Cadet 1st Class (pictured) and **Andrew Schaeffer '20**, Cadet 2nd Class (not pictured).

On **SATURDAY, MARCH 11**, we will celebrate God's continued faithfulness to CVCA with the 2023 Royal Evening. Join us at 5:00 p.m. for a delightful evening of food, friends, fun, and fabulous auction items – and most importantly, for the opportunity to **SUPPORT TUITION ASSISTANCE** at CVCA. Watch for your invitation in the mail with more details!

#### **ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES**

We love to see our alumni well represented at this event. There are a few ways to get involved:

- HOST fellow alumni at a table (receive a free ticket for yourself as a thank you)
- Become a Royal Evening SPONSOR
- **DONATE** an item or experience to the auction





For more information on any of these opportunities, please scan the code at right or email Kristin Nichols at knichols@cvcaroyals.org.



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