

# The CCS Herald

Christmas 2025

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## Do You See What I See?

### Our students and staff welcomed new faculty this school year!

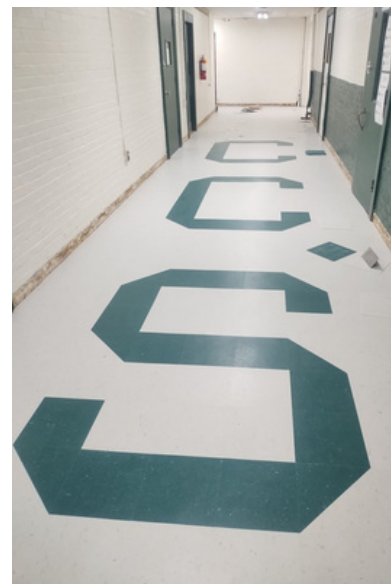
In elementary, Ms. Mikayla Craig is teaching our kindergarteners, Ms. Samantha Michalek is with our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and Mrs. Renee McNeeley joined our tutoring team, along with Mrs. Amelia Duffy, who started with us late last school year.

Mr. Josh Schultz and Mr. Nate Botke (CCS alum), are teaching in our upper school. Mrs. Michaela Pshock is our new school guidance counselor! We've also partnered with Sprout, a company that provides speech assessment and therapy onsite at CCS. Aaron's Hope has extended their counseling services and offers group sessions to our upper school students.

Internally, some of our existing staff have stepped into new roles. Mr. Michael Hoehn is now our Head of School, with Mrs. Holly Young as our Lower School Principal and Mr. Brian Smith as our Upper School Principal. Mrs. Rachel Lehman is in a new role for CCS as well, Curriculum Director.

The changes and additions are allowing CCS to thoughtfully pursue and further our mission. We're creating a more impactful learning environment, cultivating leadership in both staff and students, and offering diverse learning methods to benefit our students. There is even greater opportunity for identifying and meeting learning needs, community outreach, ministry, and discipleship, and our team is up for the challenge!

**Have you stepped inside the school or Legacy Gym recently?** You might have noticed some BIG changes! Our theater department had a beautiful new stage curtain installed, our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor was remodeled to allow for more office space, and our 1<sup>st</sup> floor has new tile in the hallway and kitchen! In the Legacy Gym, four new basketball hoops were installed. With basketball season underway, coaches are better able to utilize the Legacy Gym for multi-team practices.





## *A Letter from our Head of School*

As we enter this Christmas season, I want to thank you for your faithful support of Christian education. We don't have to look far to see how chaotic our world can be, and each year I am reminded just how unique CCS truly is. Our intentionally small community allows us to partner closely with families who are committed to raising young men and women who love Jesus and carry the gospel wherever God leads them. That is our prayer for every student, from preschool to twelfth grade to the alumni who now line our hallway. Every time I connect with our graduates, it is affirmation that the Lord is sending His people from CCS into every field of work.

For 32 years, God has sustained our mission, kept us debt-free on 14 acres, and continued to provide in remarkable ways. Last year we finalized our Strategic Plan, seeking the Lord's direction for the next five years. Already, we have seen incredible progress across our four focus areas: Academic Strength, Qualified Staff, Community Engagement, and Upgraded Facilities. From new teachers and support staff to improved programs, security updates, and ongoing campus planning, the Lord has been faithful.

Merry Christmas, and thank you for being a vital part of the CCS family.

**"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." — Luke 2:11.**

## *Updates from Across the Pond*

What a joy to be able to include a brief message to the CCS community in this letter! Some reading this update may not know that a year ago, I made the biggest transition of my life in getting married and moving to the UK, having wound down a 6-year season of being principal at CCS. I'm still adjusting but very happy to report that it's been a wonderful year in West Kirby, England, with my husband Andy and new family. In a way that only He can, the Lord has used the various seasons of my life- teaching at CCS, ministry in Scotland, and principal at CCS- to prepare me for this new season of being a wife and stepmother "across the pond."

I've been able to make some visits to Ohio this year, and of course that includes visiting CCS! I am amazed (but not surprised) at how the CCS leadership is advancing the mission of the school and continuing to dream about the next season. The Lord is doing big things through our small school. Thank you for your support of His work at CCS, which remains very dear to my heart!

With love,

Rachel (Willis) Smith



## *Modeling Christ-Like Character*

Our core values at CCS are: Academic Excellence, Biblical Integration, and Christ-like Character. During this school year, our students are focusing on Romans 12 as they explore and encounter a truer understanding of what it means to be image-bearers of Christ. Romans 12 calls out specific actions for us to emulate, and students are being challenged to consider how they reflect those actions in their walk.

**"... offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God..."** Students at upper school retreat meditated on this, considering how their current lifestyle reflects this, and what practical things they could implement if this is an area of struggle for them.

**"... do not think of yourself more highly than you ought... We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us."** Across all grade levels, students are encouraged to celebrate the successes of their peers, not being jealous or begrudging of each other. They are given opportunities to explore their own gifts through activities like Speech Meet, drama, music, Chapel Worship, athletics, and art. Project-driven curriculum such as National History Day encourages students to explore creative mediums while honing their research and critical thinking skills. God has truly blessed CCS with an incredibly talented student body!

**"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."** Student-led Bible studies, Care Groups, all-school Chapel, concerts, art shows, mixers, and large events have immersed our students in an environment that seeks to exemplify Christ-like behavior. From the classroom to the playground, students encounter peers and staff who love the Lord, pray for each other, serve each other, speak truth in love, and desire to bless those around them day in and day out.



# Student Life

Elementary Grandparents Day



Preschool Playtime

## Annual Fall Fundraiser



## Annual Upper School Retreat at Stony Glen





# *Repeat the Sounding Joy*



We have once again been blessed with donors providing a generous match, allowing us to match your end of year gift to our school up to \$45,000.

**End of year gifts are vital to our school's budget, a substantial portion of which relies on benevolence and faith that the Lord will meet our needs.**

CCS partners with many area churches but is not affiliated or supported by any particular church. Our accreditation and chartering status has allowed our families to receive tuition support. The blessing of this support and Ohio's favorable school-choice climate means Christian Community School is more accessible than ever to families looking for a small, private school that is biblically integrated across all sections.

Donations allow us to provide biblically integrated curriculum, building and infrastructure needs, K-12 classroom teachers and administration, aides, security equipment, and more.

We hope you will consider a year-end donation that will continue to allow us to provide services and support to our students, as well as qualified staff to provide an academically excellent education. Your gift helps provide personnel, resources, technology, curriculum, security, and tangible goods. It helps us continue to build up servant leaders that Donations allow us will go out and impact their world for Christ.

*Give  
your  
gift  
online!*

## *Have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*



from the CCS Development Team  
Michael Hoehn, Jackie Hronek, & Rick Willis



[www.christiancommunityschool.org](http://www.christiancommunityschool.org)