

# TOUCHSTONE

The CHS Alumni Newsletter  
DECEMBER 2022 / VOLUME 2



## Right Now: Our Campus Expansion!

Work is happening on the newest building on our campus.

### Alumni Awards

Meet this year's winners of the Eagle Pride and Spirit of CHS Awards.

### One School, One Campus

A look at how our CHS, CMS, and CES students are building community together.

### Alumni Notes

See what your fellow Eagles are up to these days!





## From the Head of School

It has begun. Drive past our campus and you will see where there was once grass there is now dirt. Big pieces of steel and other building supplies continue to show up on a regular basis. And there are now lots of big burly men making a mess on campus... just like many of you used to do when you were here.

Phase 2 is officially under way! This is the first major building project on our campus for nearly 20 years. Some of you may remember the excitement of the original building opening in 2000, or the addition of the gym wing in 2005. For our more recent alum, you may remember the first time you got to play on the new turf field in 2016 (and subsequently emptied your shoes of those small pieces of black rubber).

Whatever the project, each one is a testament to God's faithfulness to use *CHRISTIAN* to invest in the next generation. We look forward to some time in 2023 when our students share in the excitement of opening the newest building at *CHRISTIAN*. We truly are so thankful for this innovative partnership that will allow us to keep growing as a school and covet your prayers as construction gets under way.

*Jake*

**Jake Ibbetson**  
*Head of School*

**Click the pic to view an update on this project!**



# YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S INSIDE

DECEMBER 2022

**4** Alumni  
Awards

**7** 3v3 Alumni  
Basketball Tournament

**8** Eagles  
Athletics

**12** Murder by  
the Book

**15** Spiritual Emphasis  
Week

**16** One School  
One Campus

**18** Alumni  
News

## Faith Formation Survey

This year our school is participating in a pilot study for the Flourishing Faith Index, a new tool being developed to help us gain reliable insight into how faith formation is unfolding at *CHRISTIAN*. We long to be more effective in supporting the spiritual development of our students, past and present. Your anonymous feedback is welcomed! Click or scan the QR code to access the survey.







# EAGLE PRIDE ALUMNI AWARD

RECIPIENT

Elijah Murrell

GRAD YEAR

2005

CURRENTLY

CEO, Select Specialty Hospital

After graduating from CHS, Elijah joined the Army Reserves in 2007 and served two combat tours before retiring this past October and moving into his new role with Select Specialty Hospital. Elijah is married to Lauren (Clark) ('06). Together they have 3 children Titus, Addie and Logan who all attend *CHRISTIAN*. They are blessed to also have their nephew Jesiah living with them. "Family is my number 1 priority outside of my relationship with Christ," Elijah says. "I am tremendously blessed to have Lauren as my best friend, wife and partner through all the craziness life has to offer!"



Elijah and his family at this year's Veterans Chapel.





# SPIRIT OF CHS ALUMNI AWARD

RECIPIENT

Micah Bartig

GRAD YEAR

2019

CURRENTLY

Pastor, NorthRoad St. Charles

Right now, Micah is serving as the Youth Pastor at NorthRoad Community Church. while also participating in a 5 year program at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Upon graduation, Micah will receive his bachelors degree in biblical studies and a masters of divinity degree.

Micah and his wife Jenna welcomed their first child, Zoe Ann, in November of 2021. "We love spending time together as a family and doing ministry in our church and community, " Micah said. "I also love getting to still be a part of the Eagle family!"





# Join Us for Visit Days!

**Freshmen**

January 11

**Kindergarten**

January 21

**Middle School**

January 25

**Preschool**

February 4



**REGISTER  
TODAY AND  
LEARN MORE**

[ChristianSchoolDistrict.com](https://ChristianSchoolDistrict.com)

**Did you know?**

**Alumni parents  
receive a discount  
on their child's  
enrollment fee  
and tuition.**







**Thank you to all of those who attended our 2nd annual 3v3 tournament! Congratulations to our winning team Carlson & Friends: Caleb Carlson ('13), Garrett Carlson ('06), Alex Jefferson, and Stephen Talbert.**



***Once An Eagle, Always An Eagle!***



# CONGRATULATIONS EAGLES!

## CHS Seniors Medal at State Cross County Meet



Josie Villard and Ronan Hardwicke on the winners podium after medaling at the state cross country meet in Columbia, MO.

We are so proud of CHS Seniors Josie Villard and Ronan Hardwicke who were top finishers at the 2022 MSHSAA Class 1 state Cross Country meet! Josie finished the race in second place and Ronan finished fourth! What a way for these two seniors to finish out their careers at *CHRISTIAN*! Thank you for you hard work and dedication this season!



# ATHLETICS

## CHS Fall Sports



### Volleyball

The varsity girls' volleyball team was led this season by its only two seniors, Summer Hollmann and Josie Villard. Both Hollmann and Villard finished the year with All-District honors. The team finished with big wins against Duchesne, Lutheran North, and a big win on senior night against KIPP St. Louis.

### Cross Country

What an incredible year for the CHS Cross Country team! Led by seniors Josie Villard and Ronan Hardwicke, the teams notched 6 top 20 finishes this season, and several runners set PRs and course records during the course of the year! The season was capped off by top finishes at the state meet. The CHS girls' team finished in 9th!



### Boys Soccer

In his first season as head coach, David Watts and the Eagles notched several big wins against Cardinal Ritter, Winfield, and St. Charles West. Watts is building a great foundation for the future. Way to go, Eagles!



### Boys Swimming & Diving

What a great year for the combined CHRISTIAN and Lutheran St. Charles swim team! The "Cougles" sent several members to the state meet. Throughout the season, several swimmers also broke school records. We look forward to continuing our great partnership with Lutheran St. Charles for our swim program!



### All-Conference Honors

**Volleyball**  
Summer Hollmann  
**Cross Country**

Ronan Hardwicke

Josie Villard

**Boys Soccer**

James Bloss

Ronan Hardwicke

Cody Heath

Judah Schroer

Congratulations to all of our athletes on an incredible fall sports season! We're so proud of your dedication and hard work to your teams.  
Go Eagles!

# ATHLETICS

## CHS Winter Sports



### Upcoming Schedules

#### Girls Basketball

#### Boys Basketball

1/5: @ Borgia  
1/9: vs. Bishop DuBourg  
1/12: @ Father Tolton  
1/18: @ Elsberry



#### Girls Swim & Dive

12/29: @ Fort Zumwalt  
West Invitational  
1/9: @ Westminster  
Academy  
1/14: @ MICDS  
Invitational

1/6: @ Borgia High School  
1/10: vs. Bishop DuBourg  
1/13: @ Father Tolton  
1/17: @ Fort Zumwalt East  
1/20: vs. St. Dominic

[Click here to find the full athletic schedule.](#)  
We can't wait to see you supporting our Eagles soon!



Your Alumni card gets you free entry into all regularly scheduled home athletic games and our annual Main Stage Productions. Don't have yours?

Contact Mrs. Hartnell at  
[shartnell@cspd12.com](mailto:shartnell@cspd12.com)





FROM ALL US AT CSD  
WE WISH YOU A

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

— AND —  
HAPPY NEW YEAR





# Fall Mainstage Production

## Murder By The Book



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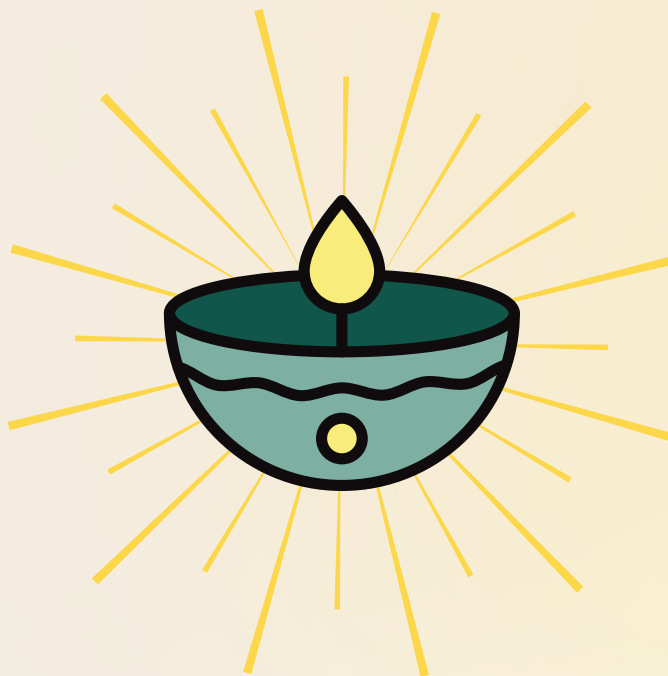
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Bravo to the CHS theater for a fantastic Fall Mainstage Production! The mystery of "Murder By The Book" kept our audiences on the edge of their seats while also providing a few laughs along the way. We hope you'll join us this spring as the department delivers One Act plays! More details to come in the next edition of Touchstone.





YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET, A LIGHT TO MY PATH.

PSALM 119:105

This is how God is working at Christian School District. He lights our way, not revealing the entire journey, but showing us only the next step.

Over the last year, as we followed God's leading to be one school on one campus, it became evident we would need additional space to fit our growing student body. God orchestrated an innovative partnership with The Crossings Church to help us expand our campus. Construction has already begun on what we are calling Phase 2 of our *Moving CHRISTIAN* plan. We eagerly anticipate its opening in 2023.

With the facility secured, we are hoping to raise funds to further support Phase 2, primarily by fitting out each classroom and common space to meet the needs of our students. Generous supporters of the school have pledged to match your gift dollar for dollar up to \$125,000, doubling the impact of your donation by December 31, 2022.

We invite you to help light our way to Phase 2 with a financial gift to *CHRISTIAN*.

**Donate online:** Make a one-time gift at  
[ChristianSchoolDistrict.com/Give](https://ChristianSchoolDistrict.com/Give)

**Mail Checks to:** PO Box 1385, O'Fallon,  
MO 63366



Scan to give now!



# Spiritual Emphasis Week

One week filled with tremendous impact! Pastor Marc Sikma joined us for his 21st year as the leader of Spiritual Emphasis Week.

Students learned about different types of worship and several gave their lives to Christ. All glory to Him for impacting lives!





# One School. One Campus.

When our elementary students moved to our campus on Tom Ginnever Ave this year, it created new opportunities for our older and younger students to connect.

This Fall, we held a combined pep rally during the week of Homecoming! Our elementary students had the chance to root on the older classes as we celebrated the successes of our CHS sports teams. We also wanted our preschool students to be able to take part in this fun, despite being on our Summit campus. Several cheerleaders and even Ace the Eagle visited our CPS students during Spirit Week! It was great for our youngest Eagles to share in our school spirit!



## WE ARE CHRISTIAN



***"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."***

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**







## Senior Class Impact

Our CHS senior class has been instrumental in creating connections with our CES students. For the first time ever, the class of 2023 sponsored a 'trunk or treat' at the annual CPS/CES fall festival. Our youngest students loved having a chance to meet and connect with the high schoolers, while, of course, also getting candy! Our high school students are also involved in the STEM Mentors program. Once a month, a team of high school students work alongside some of our elementary kids to teach them different STEM related activities. The high schoolers follow the Lego WeDo build program. The younger students work with each other and their STEM mentor to create different projects. The most recent STEM workshop involved the creation of a space rover. The students then learned about the purpose of rovers and basic programming concepts.

*Our work towards one school, one campus is not yet complete, but we're on the way! We're grateful for God's provision during this time in our school's history!*



## Combined Classes

But it's not just scheduled events where our students are embracing fellowship. During certain days our middle school boys have a joint PE class with our Kindergartners! It's a special time for these students to connect and just have fun playing together. We're grateful for the way both classes have adapted to make this a success!





# ALUMNI NEWS

## CLASS NOTES



### CLASS OF 2013

**MIRANDA  
HANRAHAN  
(MONROE)**

Miranda, her husband Brendan, and their 2-year-old daughter Adaline live in East Alton, IL. She is the Manager of Financial Controlling for a metals manufacturer, Wieland.

### CLASS OF 2004

**SHANE  
SMITH**

Shane is currently a Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force stationed at Joint Base Andrews in Washington, D.C.

### CLASS OF 2005

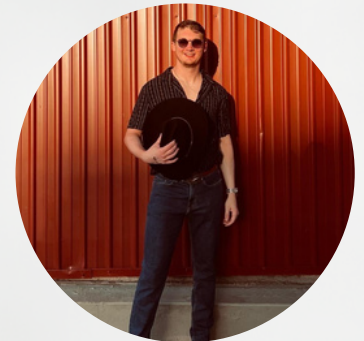
**ERIC  
BARRY**

Eric and his wife have 3 children. Right now, he works for the U.S. Department of Defense. *"Thanks to the spiritual base I got from CHS, I am closer to God than I have ever been and am able to lead my family in His ways!"*

Brendan recently finished a six year career as a Combat Engineer in the Army. He now works at Graybar Electric in Maryland Heights as a Quotations Specialist.

### CLASS OF 2016

**BRENDAN  
ALVORD**



### CLASS OF 2019

**GAIL**

We are keeping her full name private and omitting photos as a result of the sensitive nature of her work.

Right now, Gail is working with a humanitarian organization to share hope and truth with people who may not otherwise have a chance to hear the gospel. The past summer, she spent several months in Europe delivering aid and comfort to Ukrainian refugees. Her team helped deliver food, hygiene products and medical aid to nearly 300 people near the frontlines of war. Gail's team also shared the gospel with more than 400 people during this mission. Join us in praying for safety and protection as she and her team continue to share God's word and provide supplies and hope to those in need!



# ALUMNI NEWS

## CLASS NOTES

Steve and his wife Taylor married in 2021. He has also held a variety of jobs since graduating at CHS, but earlier this summer, he began his dream job as a flight instructor and pilot for the St. Charles Flying Service. *"5 years and so many setbacks and disappointments and I finally made it! Keep dreaming and make sure you give God all the glory along the way!"*

### CLASS OF 2015

STEVE  
ROGERS



### CLASS OF 2009

LAURA  
WILLIAMS

After her time at CHS, Laura graduated from Maryville University with a Music Therapy degree in 2013. She and her husband Ben married in 2018, and they welcomed their first child, Ezra Ren in 2020. Laura works at Cosmos Corporation in St. Peters as an Inside Sales Account Manager.

Michael spent seven years in the Air Force following graduation from CHS. After a medical discharge, he began studying pastoral ministry at Moody Bible Institute and then worked as an Associate Pastor. In 2015, he moved back to the St. Louis area. Now, he's studying counseling at Covenant Theology Seminary. Michael is also married and has four children.

### CLASS OF 2003

JEN  
STANLEY  
(STITCH)

Jen and her husband are now proud owners of two restaurants in St. Peters. They opened Mascots Sports Bar and Grill in November 2016, and just this past summer, they hosted the grand opening of Presto Wine Bar on Main Street.

### CLASS OF 2003

MICHAEL  
DURSO

Want to be featured  
in an upcoming  
newsletter?

Click or scan the QR code  
to submit your alumni  
update.





# ALUMNI NEWS

## CHS ALUMNI PUBLISHES NEW NOVEL

Although just 4 years removed from high school, Ryan Williams is celebrating the publication of his first novel, *Come Send Thy Chariot*. The book is set in central Missouri in the 1970's following the Vietnam War. The story follows a family, the Laithes, and three brothers who are perpetually faced with the horrors of correcting the legacy of their name, which was tarnished by their father. "It is a journey of depravity, encountering the Lord, and finding higher meaning than ourselves," Ryan says.



*Come Send Thy Chariot*  
is available right now on Amazon.

CLASS  
OF  
2018  
RYAN  
WILLIAMS



“  
**This novel is a charted map of my journey back to the fold of grace that I initially encountered through the many great mentors and Christian leaders at CHS.**  
”

Ryan's faith is at the center of this novel. It's entangled in every theme, trope, and character. He decided to begin writing after a tough season in 2020 during worldwide Coronavirus quarantines. "I was finding too much of my identity in a relationship at the time," Ryan says. "Thankfully, I had many of the building blocks I needed to find my way back to a strong faith in God. That is what the novel means to me, ultimately."



# ALUMNI NEWS

## FROM GUITAR REPAIR TO A NATIONAL TOUR!

### CHS Alum is on the road with Jeremy Camp

WRITTEN BY WILL CONGER (CLASS OF 2017)

For the last several years, I have dived into guitar building and repair. I've worked for a vintage guitar shop, repaired hundreds of guitars, starting my own custom guitar building company, and now go on tour as the guitar tech for Jeremy Camp and his band!

Going on tour really came about in a crazy way. I have a friend who has been on tour with Jeremy for the last couple years as his photographer. I had always jokingly said that if they ever needed a guitar tech to throw my name out there. Well, out of the blue one day, he sent me a text asking if I could fill in for their tech for 10 days. I was blown away as I had never thought anything to come of my occasional joke. I accepted the offer and drove down to Nashville for the start of this previous fall tour. The experience was nothing short of incredible. I had no clue what to expect but was greeted by a team of people who love what they do, and love Christ more than anything.

We played 4 shows and at the end of that week I was offered to finish out the rest of the tour with them! I had about 6 hours to make a decision and get back to them. I really battled this decision as my wife is currently in EMT school and we have a one year old daughter. I was battling if it's okay or not for a husband and dad to just up and leave for work's sake. I was committing two months of my life with only a handful of times seeing them both. Two months may not seem like a lot, but it feels like it when you come home to a walking and talking baby girl. After some hard conversations in a very short time, we decided to take the opportunity. The things I was anxious about, Mal had peace. The things she was anxious about, I had peace. We knew that God wouldn't open this door not to have every other little thing covered and planned.

Touring was incredible, and it's not over for us. I was offered to become Jeremy's permanent guitar tech at the end of this fall tour. I am thoroughly enjoying my little over two months home with my girls until the winter jam tour in January.



I didn't expect to gain an entirely new family doing this. Touring is a very tight knit life. I couldn't do this if Jeremy and the band weren't genuine people. One of my first conversations with Jeremy was on how he has been doing this for over 20 years now and if a single show isn't for Christ and the desire to bring others to Him, he's done. We put on a phenomenal show and it is a ton of fun. Every bit of it is to worship Christ and to show others his redemptive love. This life will be a little different than normal for a little while but I am thrilled to be sent onto the American mission field every time that I get on that bus. I have story after story of gospel interactions with new faces across this country already. I'm so ready to keep going.

Be in constant prayer over my family and I as we are still learning this adjustment. Our desire is to be open handed to the Lord in everything.





**Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle**

1145 Tom Ginnever Avenue  
O'Fallon, MO 63366



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