# TOUGHSTONE

The CHS Alumni Newsletter
AUGUST 2023 / VOLUME 4



#### **Congratulations, Graduates!**

We welcome the newest members of our CHS Alumni Family!

### Honoring Our Seniors

Meet the members of the class of 2023 receiving special awards at senior chapel!

#### We're Back!

A look at our first day of school celebration!

#### Search for a New Name

We're asking for your help as we work to refine our school's identity.

# YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S INSIDE

**AUGUST 2023** 

Our Search for a New Name

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Are you ready for some football? More details on the upcoming Eagles Football schedule can be found on page 12!





## From the Head of School

As an outsider / foreigner (or as the US Government affectionately calls me, a Resident Alien) it has taken a while to adapt to the particulars of the St Louis area. Some of these intricacies are good - hello free zoo and museums. Others leave a little to be desired - I'm looking at you Provel. Perhaps the quirkiest of St Louis quirks is the question that most frequently gets asked upon meeting someone new. You know what it is, "Where did you go to high school?" According to those in the know, the answer supposedly says something specific about our religious and political affiliations, wealth, and even intelligence.

For faculty and students at our school, past and present, answering this question isn't as straight forward as it should be. I imagine that if I asked 10 of you where you went to school, I'd get at least 4 different answers. I'm not sure that's the best way to build unity among constituents and identity in the community. As you will read in this edition of Touchstone, we're taking some measures as a school to try and put this right. Our hope is to preserve our past and ensure our name in the community is clear and compelling as we move forward. I look forward to hearing your feedback and taking your suggestions as we shape our future together.

Best,

Jake Ibbetson
Head of School

# A Look At Our School's Storied Past

1980

1995

2000

2000

2019

Living Word Christian School

launches

Opening of Christian High School

New \$3.2M
campus
opens on
Tom
Ginnever
Avenue

Living Word Elementary School Opens

Living
Word
Becomes
Christian
School
District

# What's In A Name?

CHRISTIAN embarks on a mission to improve our school's identity by finding a new school name and refreshing our brand and website.

They say first impressions everything. For CHRISTIAN, our first impression often leads to confusion. Many times, those not associated school left with with our are questions like, "which Christian School is it again?" or "Is your name Christian School District or Christian School?". Whatever question, clarification was always needed.

#### **A New Strategy**

In 2021, the school developed its strategic plan, or as we like to call it, the Eagle Flight Plan. It outlined key areas where improvements were needed, including in the pillar of school identity. We want our name and our brand to be a clear and concise representation of who we are and what we stand for.

That's why we've partnered with top marketing firm to start the process of changing our name. We are confident these changes will help continue the rapid growth of our school.

#### Where Do We Begin?

Right now, we're in the early stages of this name change process, and we need your help! It's important that our new name best encapsulates who we are and what we want to be known for. You'll find a QR code on the following page that will take you to a six question survey regarding what names you would like to see us consider or what traits you hope our new name will include We ask that you prayerfully consider sharing your feedback -- it's important to us! The survey will close September 1, so make sure to take the survey today!



#### **What Comes Next?**

Once the survey closes, the CHRISTIAN name change team will be working hand-in-hand with the marketing firm to find the best fit name for our school. Once we have chosen a name, our team's focus shifts to making changes to our brand.

#### What is the Timeline?

We will be ready to share our new name and brand with you before the end of the 2023-24 school year.

#### Who is CHRISTIAN Working With?

Our name change team has partnered with North Star Marketing for this project.

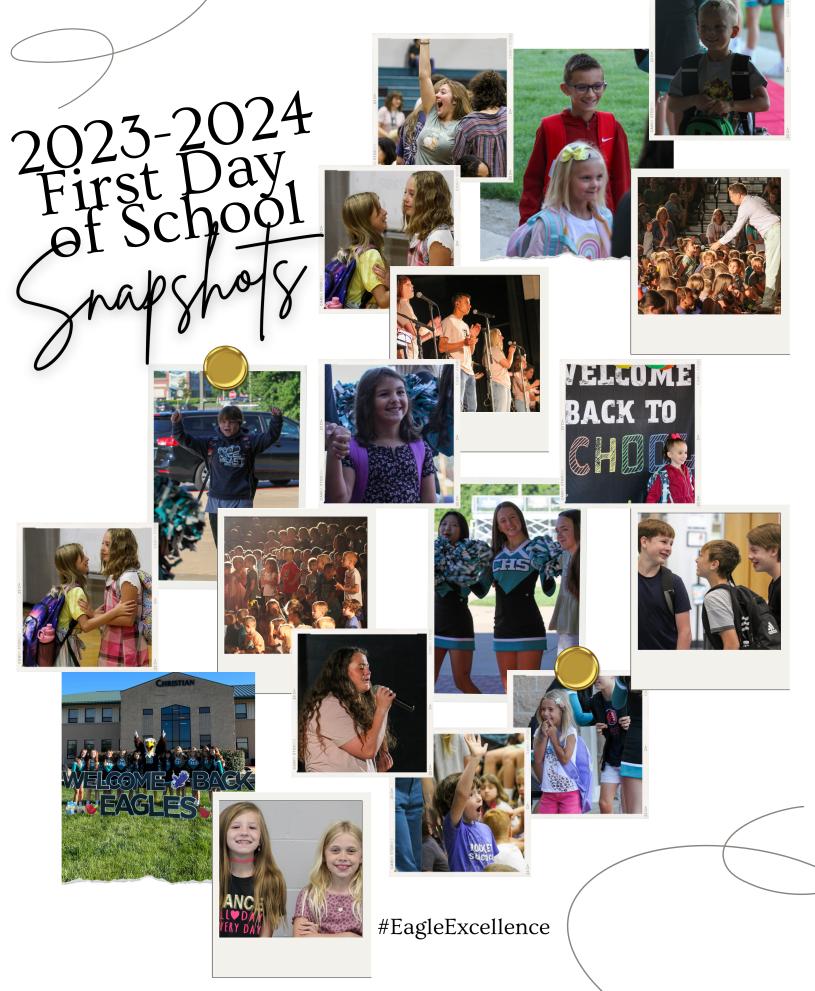
North Star was founded in 2000 and exclusively focuses helping on faith-based independent and schools with branding, website development, and online marketing. Their team will be helping us with the name change, brand refresh and support us as we develop a brand new website, which should debut next summer. You can learn more about our marketing partner at www.northstarmarketing.com.

#### Will Any of CHRISTIAN Remain?

Being "CHRISTIAN" is at the core of who we are and drives what we do, which is why we are committed to keeping "CHRISTIAN" in our name. We will also still be the Eagles and our primary colors will be teal, black and white. However, with a new brand, you should expect a refreshed look and feel, which could mean new accent colors to go alongside our traditional trio.

#### **A Bright Future!**

As we continue to pursue our mission, we know that this step will be a positive one for our entire school community. Christian School District has served us well, particularly during our season of transition, but we're looking forward to seeing what God has next for our school on the inside and out!



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Monday, August 28
PERSIMMON WOODS
GOLF CLUB

\$225 per golfer / \$800 foursome

Registration: 11:00 am Shotgun Start: 12:00 pm

Registration includes lunch on the course, multiple hole-in-one contests with a <u>chance to win \$10,000</u>, and **dinner banquet.** 



#### **EAGLES**

Christian High School

# congratulations, CLASS OF 2023!













Hundreds of people joined us as we celebrated the Class of 2023! 48 seniors walked across the stage, receiving diplomas from our school's leadership team.



A special thank you to this year's commencement speaker, local pastor and CHRISTIAN Cross Country and Track and Field Coach Randy Wilhelm.



We also took time during the ceremony to worship! Members of the worship team lead us in singing "Gratitude" by Brandon Lake.

## 2023 GRADUATION STUDENT SPEAKERS

EACH GRADUATE SPOKE ON A FOUNDATIONAL PILLAR OF OUR SCHOOL

"As you go where God leads you, I encourage you to take time to admire the beauty of God's artistry that is all around us. His awe-inspiring creations should never be overlooked, and that includes perhaps his most beautiful work of art - you. Sophie Wright

## Arts



"We have been excellently prepared educationally by our teachers; furthermore, we have been prepared spiritually by their Christ-like examples. Thank you administrators for having the vision for this school, and thank you teachers who carry it out so well and sharing your wisdom so generously." Josie Villard, 2023 Valedictorian

## -Academics-













"Outside this room lies a world that will give you your identity based on your achievement and your worth based on your success. I anticipate a lot of bright futures, but success is fragile and fleeting. Our hope and foundation must rest in something, someone rather, much bigger and so much better."

Austin Shaw

# Biblical Foundation

"People are around you for a reason. God has put them there to uplift you, to push you to be better, and even teach lessons. Not to use them would be a waste, so make use of the best resources you have ever been given and lean into those around you."

Ronan Hardwicke

# -Athletics-



"Our community that we built was strengthened as we served together. CSD provided many different service opportunities like tutoring, being a teacher's aide and now having the chance to travel internationally.... The memories will stay with us forever; we will always have our family."

Cody Heath

# Relationships





### 2023 SENIOR AWARD WINNERS

4 SENIORS WERE HONORED FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHS.

# Valedictorian -

\_\_\_\_Josie Villard

The Valedictorian is the highest ranking member of the class.



# Salutatorian

**Isaac Rosson** 

The Salutatorian is the second highest ranking member of the class.



# Lower Rower Award ——Chloe Wagner

The Lower Rower Award is chosen by the class. This award is presented to that senior who has shown this humble, quiet, steady, behind the scenes leadership to the school and to the community.



# Joshua Award

-Cody Heath

This award recognizes exemplary Christian leadership characterized by doing everything "heartily as unto the Lord." In a sense, the Joshua Award is the blending of the honors and awards and is the highest honor a CHS student can earn.

## **SCENES FROM SENIOR CHAPEL 2023**











# 

# **Sports**

# **Boys' Soccer**

8/29: @ Borgia

8/31: vs STL United

9/6: @ Winfield

9/8: vs. St. Charles

9/12: @ Duchesne

9/14: @ Lutheran St. Charles



# **Cross Country**

8/29: Feet Fleet Classic

**Kickoff** 

9/1: FZN Invitational

9/9: Forest Park Festival

9/15: Paul Enke

**Invitational** 

# **Boys' Swim &** Dive\*

9/30: FZN Invitational

10/13: @ Borgia







## **Football**

9/5: vs St. Charles

9/18: @ Orchard Farm

9/25: vs. Lutheran South

10/7: vs. Bishop DuBourg

10/16 vs. Wright City

10/23: @ Warrenton

# Volleyball

8/29 vs. STL Panthers

8/31: @ Duchesne

9/6: vs. Visitation

9/7: vs. Bowling Green

9/11: vs. Lutheran St.

**Charles** 

## Softball\*

9/1: @ Wright City

9/6: @ Clopton

9/7: vs St. Francis Borgia

9/18: vs. Ft. Zumwalt N

9/20: vs. Father Tolton

\*Partnership with Lutheran St. Charles



WHO	ALL CHRISTIAN STUDENTS & STAFF
WHAT	RAISING MONEY FOR THE SCHOOL AND HAVING FUN BY RUNNING THROUGH COLOR!
WHEN	FUNDRAISING BEGINS SEPTEMBER 5 THE COLOR RUN: SEPTEMBER 22
WHERE	INSIDE CHRISTIAN STADIUM
WHY	FUNDRAISING FOR ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES AND TO HAVE FUN!





# HONORING OUR MSHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS 2018 GIRLS' SOCCER AND 2020 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Friday, December 15, 2023 as part of Alumni Weekend More Details Coming Soon!

# ATILLETICS

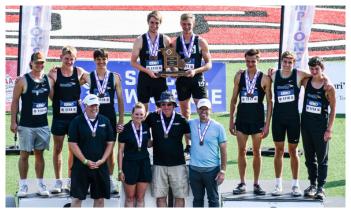
# CONGRATULATIONS



## CHS Senior Wins State Title in Two Track Events!



Austin Ball poses with his state championship medal after winning the title in the 300m hurdle event at the state championship in Jefferson City, MO.



The CHRISTIAN boys track & field team following their 3rd place finish at state.

Congratulations to Austin Ball (23') on his two state tiles. Austin finished first in the 110m and 300m hurdles! We are also celebrating our entire boys track and field team, who together, finished in 3rd place! We are grateful to all of our team members for dedication and hard work. Thank you to our great coaching staff led by Randy Wilhelm for your ongoing commitment to CHRISTIAN!

# NOW OPEN

# CHEER FOR THE EAGLES

IN STYLE



A brand new spirit wear store for fans, families, and alumni of *CHRISTIAN*!

Customizable spirit wear options with sizing from infants to adults!

CLICK OR SCAN
THE QR CODE TO
LEARN MORE AND
SHOP TODAY!





SIDELINE S T O R E

# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

# Support CHRISTIAN and Promote Your Business!

There are a variety of ways you and your business can support our school! From event-specific opportunities to year-long sponsorships during our athletic events, we hope you'll prayerfully consider partnering with our school!



Scan or click the QR
Code to read our
2023-2024
Sponsorship Booklet!

#### Contact

Name Becky Turner, Community Engagement Coordinator

Email <u>bturner@csdpk12.com</u>
Phone 636.978.1680 x1004

Website christianschooldistrict.com/sponsors



## **CHRISTIAN** Missions

# AND SO HE GOES

THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONS TEAM CROSSES INTERNATIONAL



#### BIG, BRAVE AND BEYOND OUR BORDERS

10 days. More than 4,000 miles traveled. Serving more than 100 children at VBS camps. It was a first-of-its-kind journey for our *CHRISTIAN* community, and one this team hopes will make a difference, even here at home. "This paved the way for a revolution in missions for CHS and our entire district," said Missions Team Leader Amanda Shaheen. This team of more than a dozen students and two adults arrived in Mexico prepared to make a difference. They helped facilitate a graduation ceremony at a Mexican university and then led multiple VBS camps for local children. "I have so much love for this team and their endurance to embrace differences of culture," Shaheen said. It was that determination that helped this team successfully serve the global church for God's glory.



#### EMBRACING A NEW CULTURE



The trip began with team exploration!
Together, they journeyed around Queretaro and learned to overcome the language barriers to communicate.

#### CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Our team's first big task: helping a local university celebrate 28 graduates who were being released around Mexico for ministry! More than 200 people attended this graduation ceremony and our team served each and every one of them!



# BEFORE US...

BORDERS TO IMPACT THE WORLD FOR GOD'S GLORY.



#### EMBRACING DIFFERENCES



The next part of our team's journey took them to northern Mexico, where they hosted several days of VBS camps for local children. Upon arrival, the team learned this remote village did not have running water for toilets or hand washing, but they adapted, learning from their UCM teammates, and focusing on preparing camp for dozens of children.

"I sat and simply watched for a few minutes with tears in my eyes," Shaheen said. "Watching each one of them smile with joy in what they are doing. God has shown up throughout this trip, providing opportunities for the talents of each person to be used." These camps were held in 4 different villages. No matter the attendance, they were filled with fun, play and lots of joy!





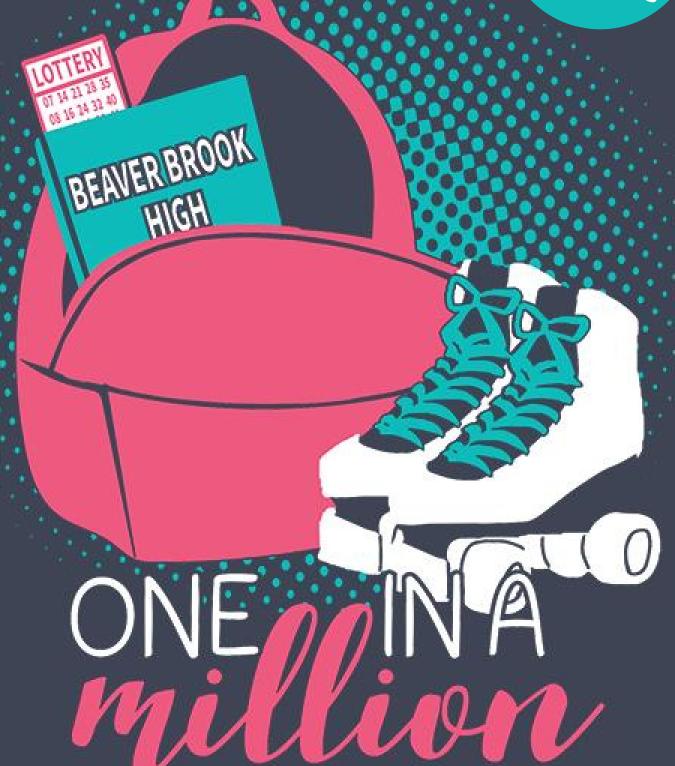
#### EAGLES TAKING FLIGHT

Learn much more about this trip and see incredible photos and videos by following "CSD Missions" on Facebook! Scan the QR to find the page, and follow us today!





Free Entry With your Alumni Tag!



September 28, 29, and 30, 2023

# ALUMNI NEWS

**CLASS NOTES** 



A special congratulations to CHS graduates Alicia and Andrew who are now engaged to be married! The couple will be tying the knot next month. We wish you both all the best as you become Mr. and Mrs. Ayres!

# CLASS OF 2016 & 2018

ALICIA SCHWEPKER & ANDREW AYRES



CLASS OF 2013

KATIE WHANGER (BROCAILLE)

Katie and her husband Kyle married in 2018. She worked as a speech language pathologist assistant at a Callaway County School for 3 years, but recently left that position to start working for the local electric co-op, which Katie says she loves! Katie and her husband welcomed their second child earlier this year! Together, they live on her husband's family's farm.

We want to feature you in the next edition of *Touchstone*!

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





# Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle

1145 Tom Ginnever Avenue O'Fallon, MO 63366



