



The Academy ADVANTAGE

Fall/Winter 2018
Volume 19, Issue 1

Official Newsletter for Alumni, Parents & Friends of Christian Central Academy

CHRISTIAN
CENTRAL
ACADEMY
K-12

FOUNDATIONS

From the Head of School's Desk

Transitional ≠ Stationary



"So, I encourage each one of us to unite around the vision of building on God's foundations at CCA even as we plunge into new territory seeking to follow Him and to equip the children He has placed under our collective charge for the all-too-few years we have with them prior to launch."

Warm greetings in Christ! Permit me to share some of my heart with you.

Change and the pace thereof are uncomfortable at best. I get it. One possible approach to an interim transition period would be simply to maintain course, steady the ship, continue the status quo. Mere "don't upset the apple cart" in an era of a breathtaking pace of ongoing change, however, is not necessarily the kind of leadership that God desires for CCA. "We've never done it that way before" are the famous last words of a dying institution, whether it be a church, organization, or even a Christian school like ours.

Yes, it would be easier to toil away at fine-tuning and optimizing some already-well-defined and well-established process. But, is it that to which God has called us? Our comfort zone is and should be on the altar. So, I encourage each one of us to unite around the vision of building on God's foundations at CCA even as we plunge into new territory seeking to follow Him and to equip the children He has placed under our collective charge for the all-too-few years we have with them prior to launch.

Even while we praise God for our re-accreditation by MSA-CESS for another seven years, we are actively seeking to position ourselves to improve further. Our faith truly calls us to excellence attuned to the irrevocable calling God has placed upon each student. Conversations with parents spanning our entire K-12 constituency confirm that the reality here actualizes that slogan. Excellence, however, requires continuous improvement, which in turn mandates change. Some of that change you will read about in these pages. As CCA transitions to its next chapter while closing in on its 70th anniversary (1949-2019), let us hold onto and continue to build upon CCA's foundations as on Christ the solid Rock we stand.

CCA has been, is now, and continues to be a very special place and community. I humbly implore you to take it upon yourself to spread the good word about CCA within your spheres of influence to enlarge CCA's borders and spread its tent stakes (Isaiah 54:2-3) to serve a broader constituency than it does today. Let us move forward together as a unified community of faith and academic excellence to nurture the whole person and to prepare our students for the unprecedented challenges they will face as they enter the workforce of the 3rd and 4th decades of the 21st century.

May God pour out His blessings on you and yours to be a blessing to others.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart S. Chen".

Stuart S. Chen, Ph.D., P.E.
Interim Head of School



The Academy ADVANTAGE

Official Newsletter for Alumni, Parents & Friends of Christian Central Academy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 2 | From the Head of School | 8 | Career Development |
| 4 | New Faculty & Staff | 9 | Athletic Feature |
| 5 | Service Feature | 10 | Campus Life |
| 6-7 | Parent/Faculty Thoughts | 11 | Upcoming Events |

FOLLOW US
on social media



facebook.com/christiancentralacademy
facebook.com/CCAalum



twitter.com/cca_wny
twitter.com/CCAHSAthletics



instagram.com/christian_central_academy



youtube.com/CCAinWilliamsvilleNY

The Academy Advantage and archives of past newsletters may be viewed online at:
<https://www.christianca.com/academy-advantage>

Stewardship and Development at CCA

Everything we call "ours" in this world really belongs to God. After supporting your local church, we ask you to prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to share some of the resources with which you have been blessed with Christian Central Academy. Helping to equip tomorrow's leaders with academic excellence from a biblical worldview is a gift that honors our Creator and has eternal implications.

All financial contributions are greatly appreciated and will have a direct impact on the lives of children.

Christian Central Academy is a 501c3 organization. Our federal tax ID number is available upon request to our donors. Find all the ways to support CCA by calling the Development Office at 634-4821 ext 402 or visit us online at:

christianca.com/giving



Fall/Winter 2018
Volume 19, Issue 1

Interim Head of School
Dr. Stuart Chen

Executive Assistant to Head of School
Lori Williams

Editor/Designer/Public Relations
Denise Jentz

Photographers
Denise Jentz
Laura Lewis
Noelle Rennolds
InterState Studios

CCA's Board of Directors
David Stewart, President
Lauren Gidley, Vice President
John Hunter, Secretary
Lucian Visone, Treasurer
Jeff Fancher, Member
Gregg Ruhl, Member

The Academy Advantage is the official newsletter of Christian Central Academy produced for all alumni, parents, and friends of Christian Central Academy. *The Academy Advantage* is published by Christian Central Academy two times a year.

Mission Statement

Christian Central Academy will provide an environment where faculty, staff and students will grow "in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men." Luke 2:52

Christian Central Academy is an independent, Christian, college preparatory school for students in grades K-12. CCA exists to challenge young men and women to know Jesus Christ as Lord; to love others as themselves; to grow in knowledge and in skill in order to serve the world through their character and leadership. Founded in 1949, CCA is chartered by and registered with the NYS Regents with full authority to award regents diplomas. CCA is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and is accredited by the Middle States Association (MSA). CCA admits students without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, and is non-discriminatory in the administration of all its programs and policies.

Alumni:

Contact us with news of what has happened in your life since you left school. Alumni are defined as anyone who attended Christian Central Academy, predecessors of CCA (Alden Mennonite School, Alden Christian School, or Faith Christian School) even if he or she did not graduate from the respective school.

Send Address Changes to:
Christian Central Academy
Alumni Association
39 Academy Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Phone: 716-634-4821 **Fax:** 716-634-5851

Email: cca@christianca.com

Website: www.ChristianCA.com

Printing: In-house at Christian Central Academy

New

Faculty & Staff

Christian Central Academy welcomes 10 new faculty/staff members over the past 12 months. Each of them brings a fresh perspective and new expertise in the necessary fields of Biblical application, science, technology, literary studies, and maintenance to our campus.

This is an exciting time for CCA as we continue to build a STEM/STREAMM program as well as prepare our students for higher education. We are honored to have each of these talented individuals as part of the CCA community.

Faculty



MRS. TAMMY BALDWIN

Bible 11 & 12 Teacher
Bible Department Chair
MA - Liberty University
Proverbs 3:5-6



MRS. KATHLEEN GRANT

Earth Science and Chemistry Teacher
MS Ed - Buffalo State College
MS Ed S - Liberty University
Romans 12:1-2



MR. STEVE NAPOLI

High School English Teacher
MS Ed - Regent University
Proverbs 4:13



MRS. STEFANIE WAY

CAD Teacher
BS in Mechanical Engineering - Buffalo State College
2 Corinthians 5:7



MRS. JESSICA WOODWARD

2nd Grade Teacher
Masters in Curriculum and Instruction - Buffalo State College
Isaiah 6:8

Staff

MR. BILL AUSTIN

Maintenance Staff
Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy
OSHA 30-Hour Certification
Psalms 5:3



MISS SONJA HAAKONSEN

Food Service Staff
BA in International Studies - Thomas Edison University
Psalms 71



MRS. TAMMY KELLY

Food Service Staff
Certified Endoscopy Technician
Romans 8:28



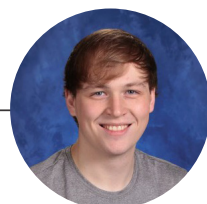
MISS EMILY KLEE

Food Service Staff
Former Assistant Cook - Circle C Ranch
Colossians 3:23



MR. GREG SYMON

PM Maintenance Staff
Word of Life Bible Institute
2 Timothy 2:15



DeLet Abdul, History Department Chair and Teacher

Love The Church

To love the Church like Jesus, we sacrificially share our lives, our resources, and our gifts.

At Christian Central Academy we endeavor to be the hands and feet of Jesus, in our service to others. We understand that giving of our time and our gifts requires a greater commitment than simply sharing or donating our resources.

In Matthew 25:40 Jesus says 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

"Our goal is to actualize the teaching in 1 John 3:18 'Dear children, let us not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions'."

With this in mind, we created service opportunities for students and staff alike. There was a great stirring of hearts throughout our CCA community as we partnered with several agencies and organizations to help and assist those in need. We collected and sent supplies to Houston and Puerto Rico through the National Guard, following their hurricane season. Twenty CCA families delivered Thanksgiving meals throughout the city of Buffalo through the Buffalo City Mission's Turkey Express! Program. We partnered with the Kevin Guest House to prepare meals throughout



Eliana Furmanek ('19) and Mrs. Abdul sort through donations to aid families affected by Hurricane Harvey.

the year for families receiving critical care at area hospitals. A handful of students ice-skated with disabled children for 6 months in preparation for a Celebration on Ice show with SABAH, Inc. Our students have made blankets for children entering the foster care system, scarves for the homeless, cookies and cupcakes for a women's shelter, cleaning and organizing at a donation center, and spent time visiting the elderly in the city of Buffalo.

Hands-on participation fosters a love for God's people. We make

connections with people, see our common humanity, and share the love of Christ with those who know Him - and more importantly, with those who don't. As our program grows, we will engage more students and create more opportunities to shed this love abroad, as we've been commanded to do. ■

Follow our hashtag on [Instagram](#)
#CCAMeetingTheNeed
or visit www.christianca.com/community-outreach

Laura Lewis ('88), English Department Chair and CCA Parent

The Community We Give Our Children



This gathering of students and faculty is just a small representation of the community at Christian Central Academy.

Community is a gift.

We are so grateful for the teachers and students who have impacted our children for the last four years. Are they perfect people? No. I think all of them pictured here would laugh if I said that they were perfect. These intelligent, creative, self-sacrificing, unique, fun-loving, adventurous, wonderful people are the community of Christian Central Academy. God brought us here together that we, with our children, might grow “in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). Perfection was never our intention when we chose Christian Central Academy for our children’s education.

Christian community was the hope and the reason that we made drastic changes in our two children’s educational trajectory. We longed for God’s direction, and with one

verse, that led our way from cradle until 2015, we followed Him to this people, this place.

“From the time our children were born, my husband prayed Luke 2:52 by their bedside. He prayed that God would lead them like his own Son, that our two children would grow “in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” and that we, as their parents, would do nothing to hinder His teaching, but that we would serve Him and honor Him in that journey.”

The day I came to visit Christian Central Academy, the very first thing that I saw above the building entrance was that verse. Luke 2:52 was God’s word and confirmation to welcome our family into the community of Christian

educators and families seeking God’s direction and blessing in this world, just like us. We have been at CCA for almost four years now. Our son is a sophomore. Our daughter is a senior, and she will graduate this June. She loves her school and is thrilled to have had the opportunity to learn with good friends, caring teachers, an incredible volleyball coach, and an inspiring art teacher. Throughout her high school experience she has been motivated and encouraged to embrace leadership opportunities. She has been challenged to employ her gifts, talents, and creative ideas. She has been led to consider how she could positively impact her school and community.

Throughout these four brief high school years she has learned, in small and tangible ways, what it feels like to set goals, to research, to be on a team, on a committee, to agree, to disagree, to respect others, to plan, to face disappointment, to apply prayer, to study, to fail, succeed, to write, revise, persist, and continue to work for her own good and for the good of others. If you asked her, she would tell you that this school has made the greatest impact on her heart and life for Christ. She came to Christian Central Academy in 2015 so broken, but because of great love and strong intention that only God could administer through His people, she is leaving mended, molded, and confident to move forward as God leads her into art education. Has her high school journey been without

trials? Without doubt? Without tears? No. It's a complete education; it's a faith journey. Conflict is inevitable, right?

Thank God for His Word that grounds us in truth and holds us to His side immovable as we, in community, learn and grow and hold to faith with others who long for Him (Romans 5: 1-4). "Every student, every teacher, every faculty member, every lesson, every field trip, every sporting event, every rule - I kid you not - has played a significant role in drawing the four of us closer to God and to one another. We have learned truth - eternal truth - through the people and biblical principles that shape this community."

In a recent weekend trip to New York City, our children were given a glimpse of life that we could never have given them without this godly

community. The community that we choose is a gift. We, as their parents, are only one piece of that very large, world-sized, community puzzle.

Teachers and friends, the people in our school community, are so critical to who they are becoming apart from us.

Our children will do, one day, exactly what we have done. They will choose a place to live and a people with whom they will experience life. Our prayer is that they will hold to the same gracious and merciful Guide that has blessed our lives as a family. God is so faithful. His Word, His illuminating, unfailing Word, is "a lamp to our feet and a light to our path" (Psalm 119:105). May this lesson lead their journey. To God be the glory in His people.

You are welcome and wanted here at Christian Central Academy. Come grow with us. Come join our

community. A wonderful gift awaits. "My heart overflows with a good theme...My tongue is the pen of a ready writer." Psalm 45:1. ■



Kaden ('21) and Kamryn Lewis ('19) enjoying a sibling moment while in NYC.

PARENT TESTIMONIALS



Jennifer (Wade) Van Schoonhoven ('04)



CCA is an amazing school with a wonderful Christian Character. I attended there in high school as did my husband. We now send our own child there and are blessed by the compassion and care that they have given him. We are pleased to see how they have stayed strong in their faith and encourage their students to grow in the love of God. The Head of School, Dr. Chen is amazing and compassionate and has such a heart for the Lord.



Diane Bores, mother of Kelli Bores ('14)



I thank God for leading us to CCA because the years spent in high school for Kelli really helped her to graduate from Buffalo State's Honors Program last December. CCA was instrumental to Kelli doing so well. She took AP classes at CCA, so she graduated from Buff State with top honors after 3 and a half years instead of 4! Kelli is working in her career job in the IT department at Muellers Inc. and was just promoted to a manager's job in her department and she hasn't even been working there for a year! Thank you to everyone who works at CCA. You positively gave Kelli an advantage in college and on her job.



Dr. Stuart Chen, Interim Head of School

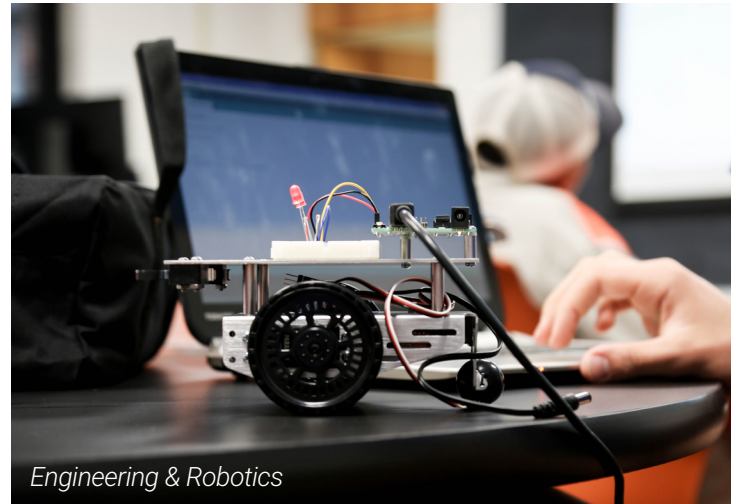
Expanded Career Development Pathways

CCA is pleased to announce that it will be opening its doors to BOCES/Harkness CTE programs for the 2019-20 school year to provide CCA High School students with expanded career development pathways.

These pathways constitute additional options for electives that were not previously available to its students: such as animal science, aviation technology, criminal justice, cybersecurity and networking, digital media, early childhood education, electronics and computer technology, and health fields to name a few.

These programs complement CCA's traditional college-preparatory focus while simultaneously providing career preparation pathways in high-demand fields. The numerous partnerships that are in place enable college credits to be earned through some of the programs which complement CCA's expanding Dual-Enrollment and AP courses. Thus, CCA students have an expanded compilation of options for getting a head start on either their college and university experience or their post-graduate technical training.

As a result, CCA can better tailor the educational experiences and development of its community to the individual interests, calling, and passions of each student to fulfill its mission to provide an environment where its students will grow "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." ■



Engineering & Robotics

BOCES/HARKNESS
CURRENTLY HAVE 3
COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAMS

- Criminal Justice
- Early Childhood
- Fashion Design

For more offerings visit
Erie 1 BOCES'
Career and Technical Education
website at
www.e1b.org/cte



Digital Media



Aviation Technology

"I attended and highly valued my education both at CCA as well as Erie 1 BOCES/Harkness Center." - Steven Richardson ('00)

Dave Schopf, Athletic Director

Developing a Culture of Character

The Christian Central Academy Athletic program initiated a character education-based curriculum with all of our sports teams in September 2017. The program, created by Cross Training Athletics under the leadership of Mike Masters, will help our teams build a character culture within each team and our school as a whole.

As the famous UCLA basketball coach John Wooden once said, "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are." We seek to glorify

God by having student athletes who are of high character and a light in our community. This program assists us in producing the type of student athlete we desire to represent CCA.

Character is the key to your success and it lies in the heart of a complete athlete. Cross Training's credo is "Training the Heart of a Champion from the Inside Out." Our weekly character talks by Mike and his staff are helping our student athletes to develop their character by building positive relationships with other teammates, coaches and our community. This year's theme is Press

Upward! Each letter stands for a character word that is introduced to our teams and explained in detail as to how it relates to sports. At the end of the week, our coaches nominate athletes who displayed this character word in practice, games or school and, they are given an award for being selected as the Character Athlete of the Week! ■



From left to right: Tom Ford, CCA's Boys PE Teacher, Mike Masters of Cross Training Athletics, and Dave Schopf, CCA's Athletic Director.

CROSS TRAINING athletics

CHARACTER ATHLETES OF THE WEEK FOR FALL SPORTS

WEEK 1

Kaden Lewis '21 - Golf
Wendy Rose Moyer '21 - Soccer

WEEK 2

Bethany Norcutt '20 - Volleyball
Perry Martey '20 - Soccer

WEEK 3

Lauren Zwolenkiewicz '20 - Soccer
Matthew Samuel '21 - Football

WEEK 4

Luke Debernay '19 - Soccer
Chloe Cange '21 - Soccer

WEEK 5

Tyler Craven '19 - Soccer
Hannah Holley '19 - Soccer

WEEK 6

Eric Miller '19 - Soccer
Sally Li '20 - Soccer

WEEK 7

Eliana Furmanek '19 - Volleyball
Andrew McFarland '21 - Golf

WEEK 8

Leela Fernando '19 - Soccer
Dalton Kelly '20 - Soccer

Visit www.christianca.com/ccathletic-news
for updated Crusader Athletics news.

Highlights of Life on Campus

SEPTEMBER

Mrs. Nurline Lawrence, CCA's Head of School from 1998-2015 visited the school during Homecoming weekend. In recognition of seventeen years of service to Christian education at CCA, Mrs. Lawrence was named Head of School Emeritus, a designation of honor after her retirement.

"I want you to know, those seventeen years spent here, I can take no credit for anything. God's hand has been on this school for all these years and He was my Lord and my God and He helped us through our many, many challenges...those challenges, the solution of them, I take no credit for. I could not have done them without God, without many Boards of Directors, faculty and staff, parents, donors, students, the community...that has been the story of our school. We were a team." - Nurline A. Lawrence



OCTOBER

Mrs. Basinski's Kindergarten class practiced songs and memorized scripture verses before heading over to Blocher Homes, an Assisted Living and Senior Living Home. Visiting the "grandmas and grandpas" at Blocher Homes has been an annual trip for our younger students for many years.



DECEMBER

Grades K-5 students put on a Christmas Concert focusing on traditional and contemporary Christmas carols. The songs were accompanied by a variety of instruments the students had been using in their class.

NOVEMBER



On Friday, November 2, 2018, 37 students in grades 10-12 traveled to New York City on a three day field trip! While there, students toured the *Metropolitan Museum of Art*, *Ellis Island* and the *Statue of Liberty*. In addition, students visited *Rockefeller Center*, the *9/11 Memorial* and attended church at *St. Paul's Chapel* (close to where the Twin Towers once stood). That Saturday night, CCA students boarded the *Spirit of New York* for a scenic dinner cruise and were able to view the city skyline (with all its lights) at night.

This trip was an opportunity for students to "broaden their horizons" while creating lifelong memories with their CCA friends. They were exposed to art, to history and a "world" much bigger than the one they know, in an effort to help them grow intellectually and emotionally. It was a wonderful experience, full of fun, and we were all very thankful to God for His traveling mercies and provision.

Don't Miss these Upcoming Events



**CHRISTIAN
CENTRAL
ACADEMY**
K-12 College Preparatory
*Our Faith Calls
Us To Excellence*

39 Academy St. - Williamsville, NY 14221
(New Main and Events in the Village of Williamsville)

OPEN HOUSE

Monday, January 28

6:30PM (K-8 Program) • 7:30PM (9-12 Program)

SAVE THE DATE

CHRISTIAN
CENTRAL ACADEMY
PRESENTS
THE 24TH ANNUAL GALA

CIRQUE DU CCA

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019

SAMUEL'S GRANDE MANOR

DRESS TO IMPRESS
VINTAGE GLAM
ENCOURAGED!

Rejoice Always!

I THESSALONIANS 5:16

JANUARY

- TUESDAY 8** Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Course starts 7:00 pm - CCA Cafeteria
- SATURDAY 19** "POWER HOUR" radio program presented by the Senior Communication Class 3:00 pm - WDCX FM 99.5

FEBRUARY

- FRIDAY 8** Father/Daughter Dance for K-12 girls and fathers/fatherly figures. 6:30 pm - Emmanuel Gym
- SATURDAY 9** Middle School Science Fair & Junior Class Dinner Fundraiser 11:00 am - CCA
- MONDAY 25** State of the School Address & Reception hosted by CCA's Board of Directors 6:00 pm - Auditorium

MARCH

- FRIDAY 1** Taste of CCA Senior Class Mission Trip Fundraiser 4:00 pm - CCA Cafeteria
- FRIDAY 8&9** "Is He Dead?" by Mark Twain presented by the CCA Drama Department 7:00 pm - Auditorium
- SATURDAY 23** CCA's Annual Gala Auction: *Cirque du CCA* 5:30 pm - Samuel's Grande Manor

APRIL

- FRIDAY 5** Mother/Son Game Night hosted by the CCA PTO 6:30 pm - Emmanuel Gym

MAY

- FRIDAY 3&4** Prospective Kindergarten Screening All day - Admissions Office
- FRIDAY 31** Middle/High School Spring Concert 7:00 pm - Auditorium

JUNE

- TUESDAY 4** Grace Race 5k run/2k walk 7:00 pm - CCA Campus
- FRIDAY 7** Grades 4 & 5 Spring Instrumental Concert 6:00 pm - Auditorium

- SUNDAY 9** Baccalaureate Service and Tea 3:00 pm - Auditorium

- SATURDAY 29** Senior Class Graduation 10:30 am - Auditorium

JULY

- MONDAY 15** CCA Golf Tournament 11:00 am - East Aurora Country Club

Dates and times
are subject to change.

Stay up to date on what's happening at Christian Central Academy.
Visit www.christianca.com/events

CHRISTIAN CENTRAL ACADEMY

K-12 College Preparatory School

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 3448
BUFFALO, NY

39 Academy Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Featuring in the next issue: **Alumni News**

Contact us with news of what has happened in your life since you left school. Alumni are defined as anyone who attended Christian Central Academy, predecessors of CCA (Alden Mennonite School, Alden Christian School, or Faith Christian School) even if he or she did not graduate from the respective school. Submit news using the online form at <https://www.christianca.com/alumni>



**HAVE YOU
VISITED OUR
WEBSITE?**

www.christianca.com