OUR MISSION IN ACTION
THE JOURNAL OF CROSSINGS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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THE MISSION OF CROSSINGS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IS TO PARTNER WITH PARENTS AND CHURCH TO DEVELOP STUDENTS INTO CHRIST-CENTERED SERVANT LEADERS WHO ARE ACADEMICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY PREPARED FOR COLLEGE AND FOR LIFE.
CCS family,

I am so delighted to share with you this third issue of the Crossings journal, Missio. The pages that follow provide a sketch of the wonderful things that are happening at CCS, as we have just completed our 19th year as a school, and anticipate celebrating our 20th anniversary in the coming year.

As you will see, God has brought our school so far in such a short time. As a grandfather with two grandchildren in our Lower School, I am thrilled at the tremendous opportunities for co-curricular learning and brain development through arts, physical activity, and other disciplines they are provided. As students advance through the grades, S.T.E.M. learning in the middle and upper grades provides the requisite exposure to prepare our students to compete in the 21st century global economy. You will see evidence of the remarkable academic accomplishments of our students, including participating in 19 AP courses and a 27.4 average ACT for the class of 2019.

Shining not only in academics, CCS students have demonstrated prowess in the arts and athletics as well. In drama productions, musical performances, art exhibits, debate tournaments, and myriad other places, our students have shown that diligence pays dividends. Our student athletes, many of whom also excel in the aforementioned academic and artistic endeavors, have given Crossings the increasing reputation as a fierce competitor in our wide variety of sports offerings.

Lastly, and certainly most importantly, you will get a glimpse of what distinguishes our school from many other schools, our commitment to spiritual formation. CCS not only cares where students are 10 years from now, but also one thousand years from now. Chapels, small groups, Bible classes and other discipleship opportunities provide the backdrop for developing Christ-centered servant leaders. I hope you will be as thrilled and encouraged as I was as you read about our outstanding alums and their academic and career successes, as well as spiritual endeavors they continue to exhibit.

Proud to be a Knight,

Mr. Mac
In today’s digital society, CCS focuses on teaching the fundamentals of digital learning to each student. Students begin attending computer class at the tender of age of 3, utilizing appropriately sized “mouses” and age appropriate software to reinforce fine motor skills and curriculum from the classroom. As students grow in age, so does their use of computers. The lower school computer lab offers 25 Mac computers in a digitally safe environment. Through assistance, students develop their typing and technology skills through practical applications. Third and fourth grade utilize the lab to create custom materials for classroom work in preparation for their time in middle school.

As Christians, we are called to understand and appreciate the beauty of God’s creations. CCS art class allows students of all ages the opportunity to glorify God through their creativity. Students are also taught the history of art, key artists, and how their work inspires us today. Using the Elements and Principles of Art, these budding artists create a variety of art projects. Students explore their creative side through pastel drawings, water color paintings, printmaking projects, fun with photography, sculptures, class collages, and clay creations that are glazed and fired in the kiln. Art is a special time for students to begin using their God-given creative gifts while learning about their Creator God in the process.
Beginning in third grade, CCS students attend Latin class two times each week exploring the Latin roots and their meanings. Knowing that God communicates with us through His written word, students work diligently to learn the Latin vocabulary and grammar to better understand our own English language. Students participate in games and activities that help teach the pronunciation, spelling, and translation of Latin. Students also learn to recognize and understand the derivatives of Latin and memorize Latin prayers and songs.

library
A favorite room in the lower school building is the library. With its whimsically painted walls and thousands of stories on its shelves, students are eager to attend their weekly library times. Library classes are a special time for students to dive deeper into various types of literature including poetry, biographies, and fiction to name a few. Young students focus on pre-reading skills and character development while participating in reading responsive activities. Older students are also provided opportunities to set Accelerated Reader goals focusing on cognitive retention and incremental reading skills. Students of all ages are encouraged to check out books to enhance their reading skills in the classroom, for use with book reports, or for reading enjoyment at home.

music
1 Chronicles reminds us that we are created and called to “Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day...” Students learn to express themselves through a multitude of age-appropriate opportunities in music class. Preschool and kindergarten students practice songs alongside rhythm instruments and hand motions. First through fourth grade students sing together in worship and through performances. Students also try their hand through a variety of different instruments throughout the year including xylophones, bongos, recorders, and rhythmic instruments! CCS music provides every student the opportunity to make a joyful noise to the Lord!

physical education
Physical education is a tool to develop attitudes toward a personal commitment to health, physical activity, and lifetime of fitness that glorifies and honors God. Preschool students rehearse movement and music activities, enjoy obstacle courses, practice ball skills, and tumbling activities to develop gross motor skills, balance and coordination. First through fourth grade students explore a diverse range of physical opportunities including soccer, basketball, tennis, 9 square, omnikin, and more, all while integrating monthly Bible virtues and verses and praise and worship songs.
5th Grade | Fifth graders focus on STEM through activities relating to electricity, force and motion, and early engineering skills. A class favorite is the ‘Roller Coaster’ experience. Using foam tubes, students design and construct a marble roller coaster model and use the method of trial and error to create a product that performs well in theory and in design. The ‘Marshmallow Challenge’ provides students the opportunity to design and build a free-standing structure using dry spaghetti, string, and marshmallows. Students compete to build the tallest and strongest structures. According to teacher Allison Haymaker, STEM is a “powerful teacher because it allows students to be naturally engaged, providing relevance to what they’re learning.” Additionally, Haymaker enjoys the fact that “students are the ones asking questions and solving problems; they are in the driver’s seat and can see how what they’re learning applies to the world around them.”

6th Grade | In sixth grade, students participate in daily science class as well as a special 9 weeks course, Discovery. Students have the opportunity to engage in high interest projects to stimulate problem solving and critical thinking skills within the fields of science and engineering. Using hands on activities, like engineering blocks and snap circuits, students begin with the basics of electricity and engineering. Students then build upon their knowledge to create and race sail cars and design miniature chairs using unique materials while maintaining stability. The unit culminates with a student invention convention! Sixth graders not only flex their STEM skills, but are also given the opportunity to present their inventions to classmates and dream big about how they can impact the future!

7th Grade | Seventh grade students participate in a 9 week long focused STEM course. Students are challenged to think critically while exploring topics in astronomy. Some of the highlights of the class include gravity exploration labs, creating scale models, and exploring properties in our universe. Middle school student, Jackson S., enjoyed making ‘solar system sports cards’ using 3D printers and other technology. Jackson enjoyed the scientific and technological aspects of the class, but his biggest takeaway “was how powerful God really is to be able to create something so magnificent.”

8th Grade | Another favorite STEM activity in the middle school is the 8th grade science fluid mechanics unit. Throughout this unit of study, students focus on the science of flight, aerodynamics, and terminal velocity. The highlight of the course is a hands-on STEM lab and flying experience at iFly for their very own indoor skydiving experience. STEM is not only preparing students for their future in a digital world, but middle school science teacher, Mallory Clark, “appreciates that it sparks curiosity and interest for each of her students.”

The interdisciplinary approach to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math has become a necessary concept in education within our digital society. The value of real world lessons through the application of these integrated disciplines is valued at CCS, which is why STEM begins at a young age for CCS students. The concepts of STEM are practiced throughout the preschool and lower school division through special activities like digital day as well as through daily classroom assignments.
Ninth through twelfth grade students participate in STEM in a variety of courses and extra-curricular activity clubs. Many of these high level science and STEM classes focus on students developing problem-solving skills, data collection, and analysis. These skills are necessary to best prepare CCS students for the types of labs and analytical thought processes they must develop to succeed in university science classes. Helen Denman, STEM Department Chair and Physics teacher believes that “the most exciting part of teaching STEM at CCS is the opportunity to observe students solving problems they never thought they could solve.” Mrs. Denman uses her 19 years of teaching experience to create a fun and unique learning environment in Physics, AP Physics C Mechanics, AP Chemistry, Chemistry, and Pre-AP Chemistry. She notes that “Anytime we initially start a project, students are overwhelmed and intimidated by the seeming impossible task ahead of them. However, as they start working together, they find ways to overcome whatever obstacles they encounter.” She is “continually amazed and delighted with the innovative and creative ideas that CCS students implement.”

It’s easy to see how students could feel daunted by these types of courses, but one step into the lab with Mrs. Denman and they are immediately put at ease with her fun and ‘out-of-the-box’ teaching styles. Denman notes that they perform a large number of labs in each of her STEM classes, performing 22 hands-on investigations and 4 scientific projects in Physics alone. Students learn to design and build devices in order to solve problems through projects such as the water balloon launcher and egg drop. A student and teacher favorite is the Rube Goldberg Project. This crowning, year-end project requires students to include physics concepts from throughout the year to design a complicated device that can achieve a simple goal.

AP Physics takes the learning a step further, implementing college level labs with little to no help from the instructor. Experiments teach students how to collect and use data using high level probe ware. This specialized technology communicates with various probes including motion detectors, photogates, and force sensors to send data to student iPads to be graphically analyzed. Students not only enjoy utilizing the highly technological software, but find humor in finding the tangential speed of a conical pendulum by suspending a stuffed pig from the ceiling.

In Chemistry and Pre-AP Chemistry, students enjoy fun activities like making s’mores while learning the theory of limiting reagents and ice cream while studying freezing point depression. According to Denman, upper school students always enjoy labs that involve fire or combustion reactions.

Creative Technology is another favorite course for CCS US students looking to practice STEM and promote an ‘outside of the box’ style of thinking and creativity. Working with a vast selection of technological devices, students are given the freedom and tools to be creative without hesitation. Students learn to work with CAD software, drone cameras, Arduino boards, Raspberry Pi boards, LEGO Mindstorm kits, and coding software. A favorite for many students in the course is the ability to solve a problem or design and market an item using 3D printers and laser cutters. Recent designs included scaled model recreations of the city, landscapes, prototypes, wearable tech, artwork, and household items.

Additional STEM based classroom courses include Introduction to Web Design, Digital Media Production, and Graphic Design. These courses each represent significant components in the digital world and also allow for cross-curricular learning opportunities. Integrating programs including Adobe Design products, programming languages like HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, and video editing tools students are able to bring projects to life. Student projects are almost endless, but all provide opportunities to think in new ways and using new tools. For example, students learn to think like an entrepreneur, by designing and creating a new product using software and 3D printers, before ultimately marketing the product on their personally designed and coded webpage.

The CCS Robotics team is an extra-curricular club for upper school students interested in honing their engineering skills. The team meets twice weekly throughout the year in preparation for the “First Tech Challenge.” Students are tasked with the goal of designing and building a small scale robot that can be controlled autonomously as well as manually in a series of timed challenges. Students traveled throughout the state of Oklahoma competing and after winning their regional competition, the young team qualified for the State level competition. This year’s robot was designed to move blocks from one point to another autonomously and also had the ability to lift itself up, introducing students to a wide variety of engineering skills. Incoming sophomore Nicholas N. ’22 states he “was excited to join the team to cultivate the skills he will need to one day become an automotive or industrial engineer.”
Seventh and eighth grade students have the opportunity to serve as a class representative. Each grade level chooses 3 representatives to help lead annual student activities and service projects. Student activities are designed to promote school spirit and social experiences for every student and include the annual Back to School Bash, a fall social event, special themed weeks, and a spring social event. Eighth grade representative Cooper S.’s favorite social event was the recent spring get together. Cooper enjoyed having time to hang out with friends, play volleyball, and have snow cones. Avery R, also an eighth grade representative, loved planning and participating in ‘Fun Fridays in February.’ These special dates included planned special dress up themes like intergalactic or athletic days and class representatives passed out coordinating snacks during lunch.

Service projects provide specific opportunities for all students to practice Christ-centered servant leadership while supporting those in need within the OKC community. This past year, students donated items including laundry detergent, socks, hats and gloves, and other necessities to Thelma Parks Elementary and Restore OKC. Another special way that class representatives practiced leadership was through their leadership retreat and annual service projects at the Rescue Mission and packaging food at the Oklahoma Food Bank. Mallory Clark, MS STUCO Advisor, often reminds her students of the importance of leading by example, and it seems that students are catching on. Avery R, stated, “STUCO is probably the greatest example of learning as you go. I’ve learned so many lessons on how you lead as a class or group and not just as a person... One of the main lessons I learned was that you are representing a class, and not just yourself. You have to make decisions based on what the class wants, not you personally.”

“I learned that being a leader isn’t necessarily standing out and being recognized... sometimes it is just stepping back and helping with the ‘behind the scenes’ work.”

- COOPER S. ’23
Upper school students can participate as class officers, or serve in one of twelve distinct positions on Student Council. Dean of Students and Activities Advisor, Tammy Jensen, works daily with the student body and their STUCO representatives. For Mrs. Jensen, STUCO is more than just talk, it is an opportunity for students to become ‘hands on’ leaders. Mrs. Jensen enjoys watching as each student’s individual gifts and talents is revealed through their service and she is intentional in allowing students to have a say in every aspect of the planning process.

Student leaders meet weekly outside of school in planning and preparation for a host of annual events. These events include fall and winter homecoming, pep assemblies, teacher appreciation, back to school bash, and birthday celebrations - to name a few. In addition to social activities, STUCO leads their fellow students in service opportunities throughout the year.

Knights In the Service of the Spirit Week, or KISS Week, is an annual service event focused on supporting the Oklahoma City community. In March of 2019, STUCO partnered with 22 different community organizations and logged over 1000 hours of service. Service opportunities included planting a garden at Restore OKC, serving food at the Ronald McDonald House, and sorting donations at various locations. Students also painted and cleaned at the Make Promises Happen campground and Oklahoma Baptist Children’s Home. Students of all ages wrote letters to military men and women serving overseas and visited children at the Children’s Center.

Delaney B. ’20, incoming Senior, has served on STUCO for 3 years and will serve as treasurer for the 2019-2020 school year. According to Delaney, “Leadership opportunities at CCS are unparalleled. You get to be involved in everything the school has to offer and plan events that spark your own interest. They help you so much in the future because you gain experience with organization, responsibility, leadership, and teamwork.” Mrs. Jensen agrees and adds that student leadership provides young adults increased opportunities to learn budgeting, planning, goal setting, communication, and public speaking skills.

The efforts of this group are already proving its merits. The most promising evidence is in its students. For Delaney, “STUCO has sparked a love for leadership and finding different opportunities around the state.” She recently hosted a TED talk event for teenagers in Oklahoma, participated in Youth Leadership in Oklahoma and is also serving as a CCS and Oklahoma STUCO representative at National Convention this summer. While her experiences look impressive, Delaney is quick to note that “Many people join student council because it looks good on a resume, and of course it does, but it goes much further than getting you into college. Through state events I have met some lifelong friends. I have met people who will likely be the politicians we vote for one day, STUCO also taught me the values of teamwork, service, advocacy, and respect that I will carry with me forever.”
CCS is proud to be one of only 1,800 schools worldwide to implement the AP Capstone Diploma program beginning in August 2019. This innovative program allows students the opportunity to develop necessary skills for college success including research, collaboration, and communication through two consecutive courses, AP Seminar and AP Research.

Typically taken in 10th or 11th grade, students in AP Seminar choose and evaluate complex topics through multiple lenses, identify credibility and bias in sources, and develop arguments in support of a recommendation. AP Seminar is a project-based learning course. Official AP Seminar assessments include research reports, written arguments, and presentations completed during the academic year.

In the subsequent AP Research course, students design, execute, present, and defend a yearlong research-based investigation on a topic of individual interest. They build on the skills developed in AP Seminar by learning how to understand research methodology, employ ethical research practices, and collect, analyze, and synthesize information to contribute to academic research. Like AP Seminar, AP Research is a project-based course. Each student’s official AP Research score is based on their academic paper, presentation, and oral defense.

Jonetta Jonte’, CCS AP English teacher and AP Capstone Lead Teacher, welcomes the opportunity to lead the new AP Capstone program. Jonte’ is confident that this implementation “will provide the final step up for CCS students who seek admittance into prestigious universities.” Additionally, Jonte’ knows that students’ research in their individual topic of their chosen field in “this interdisciplinary program connects the knowledge learned in multiple AP classrooms and provides a gateway for community mentors in students’ chosen career fields.”
Advanced Placement Courses at Crossings

The College Board’s Advanced Placement, or AP, Program was implemented in the CCS US in 2012, enabling students to pursue college-level studies with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both while still in high school. During the 2018-2019 school year, 106 CCS Upper School students took 221 AP exams in 20 different subjects. Scores are scheduled to be released this fall.

AP ART STUDIO ART: 2D
AP ART STUDIO ART: 3D
AP ART: DRAWING
AP BIOLOGY
AP CALCULUS AB
AP CHEMISTRY
AP ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE COMPOSITION
AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
AP MACROECONOMICS
AP MICROECONOMICS
AP PHYSICS I
AP PHYSICS C: MECHANICS
AP PSYCHOLOGY
AP SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE
AP STATISTICS
AP UNITED STATES HISTORY
AP WORLD HISTORY

From teaching technology to preschoolers to serving as the US Academic Dean, Ron Titus has held numerous positions during his 13-year tenure at Crossings Christian School. Mr. Titus came to CCS in 2006 to serve as the Curriculum and Technology Director, which, in those days, included teaching technology to 3 year olds through sixth grade students. Rumor has it that Ron even learned how to remove a preschooler’s head after being stuck in a chair during his first year. After his previous jobs of teaching high school and adult students, working with preschoolers was an obvious change of direction. Yet Ron knew God had brought him to Crossings and he welcomed the new experiences, ultimately serving CCS in a variety of different areas.

As the school grew in size and programmatically, Ron was always willing to lend a hand. Throughout his time on staff he served in the classroom, athletics, academic counseling, technology, curriculum development, and most recently as the Upper School Academic Dean. His mark in the upper school is evidenced through its continued academic and spiritual growth. Among Ron’s work at CCS, he was integral in the implementation of a research based academically rigorous daily schedule with intentional cognitive breaks, the Advanced Placement program, and Dual Credit courses, among other things. Another project near to Ron’s heart is the CCS Maker Space project, an introductory robotic program, with a unique opportunity that “teaches kids to be creative and re-capture a sense of awe and wonder.”

As notable as his work is in the academic growth of CCS, his love for the students and staff is unmistakable. Students and alumni often stopped by Ron’s office to catch up, hear about his latest pranks on the US office staff, and usually ended in a conversation about their spiritual walk or prayer. One of Ron’s favorite memories at CCS was taking his baseball team to an opposing team’s small community one Sunday morning to share the Gospel. The students led their counterparts in worship and shared their hearts, resulting in many students accepting the Lord that morning.

Ron’s faith runs deep, as evidenced by the strength he and his son Eli showed over the last six years supporting his wife, Susan and her multi-year battle with cancer. It was also during this time that Ron helped to implement weekly small groups for upper school students, knowing firsthand the importance of relationships, support, and prayer. Ron’s unshakable faith was seen often during his time at CCS. In his words, “My observation of God’s faithfulness wasn’t so much in any big accomplishment. It was more of an incredibly reliable and unshakable force, or momentum, that has propelled and sustained the school. He works while we sleep...and His plans are obviously bigger than anything we can fathom.” The students, staff, families, and friends of CCS have been truly blessed by Ron’s service and are thankful for his time and gifts to CCS over the years.
Crossings Christian School strives for students to develop their God-given potential, through rigorous and intentional academics; but even more importantly, by focusing on Christ’s word at our very core. Christian education is distinctively different, allowing for the education of the whole child intellectually, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

In order to accomplish this, Bible curriculum and scriptures are integrated into each level and discipline, creating a strong biblical foundation. Chapel, small groups, and Bible studies provide specific environments for students to then respond to Christ within their own lives. The ultimate goal of a distinctively Christian education is for every student to take these biblical principles and apply them to their lives as children, young adults, and into adulthood.

**PRESCHOOL CHAPEL**

Preschool and kindergarten students attend chapel weekly. Students take turns leading the salute to the American flag and to the Bible followed by praise and worship songs led by CCS Chaplain, Connie Graves. Each week students participate in Bible story time focusing on stories throughout the Old and New Testament. First through fourth grade students often participate in Bible drama lessons wearing costumes and using props that bring the bible to life! Students enjoy learning through various stories throughout the Old and New Testament like Creation, David and Goliath, Gideon, the Miracles of Jesus, the Parables of Jesus, and the Christmas story. Preschool and kindergarten chapel also recognizes students and their individuality by celebrating birthdays and half birthdays. Teachers share special virtues and traits of their students followed by a prayer for each child. For Connie, some of her favorite chapel experiences are when older students also take time to share their testimonies, letting 3, 4, and 5 year olds know that “Jesus works in everyone’s lives, no matter how young or old.”

**LOWER SCHOOL CHAPEL**

First through fourth graders attend chapel each week led by Tracie Hughes, Lower School Principal. Mrs. Hughes notes that the goal is for “students to begin basing their young lives on strong biblical truths that will stay and grow with them throughout their lifetime.” Each chapel begins with a time of praise and worship led by fourth grade student leaders known as the ‘chapel crew.’ The crew often works behind the scenes as well, serving on the chapel tech team and planning weekly Bible lessons, all opportunities for students to learn the importance of being a Christ-centered servant leader.

Chapel lessons consist of Bible stories while focusing on the monthly virtue. Monthly virtues are represented through specific scriptures that are integrated in chapel and practiced in the classroom and throughout the building each day. Mrs. Hughes notes that these practices reinforce CCS’ belief that “**hiding God’s word in their hearts is essential to building a strong Christian foundation.**” Recent virtues ranged from love, loyalty, cooperation, reverence, obedience, and flexibility for the sake of others. Students then set these virtues in motion through activities like writing letters to service men and women, showing love and loyalty, and writing notes on how to share God’s love with others and posting them throughout the walls of the school. One of Mrs. Hughes’ favorite lessons focused on the Sermon on the Mount and how to cope when hearts are heavy. Using an egg as a visual aide, students dropped the egg into a bowl of water, and noted how “heavy hearts” sink to the bottom. However, after adding salt the egg rose to the top of the bowl, exemplifying how Jesus in our lives lifts our heavy hearts.

Another special time at weekly chapel is “offering” or “change for a dollar.” Students are given the opportunity to bring loose change from their savings or from earned chores to support individuals or organizations in need. Last year, students supported Imane Milele, a student choir from an African orphanage and the local Foster Wishes program.
MIDDLE SCHOOL & UPPER SCHOOL CHAPEL

Wednesdays are unique for CCS middle and upper school students. Students participate in abbreviated schedules that allow extra time for chapel. The middle and upper school weekly chapel services often share common themes, but convene separately in order to meet the students’ needs at an age appropriate level. Both services often include student led praise and worship time followed by a different speaker each week. This past year topics included “What is Unity?,” how to handle the consequences of past decisions, dealing with insecurities, and missions in action to name a few. Students also spent time revisiting the “Basics of Christianity” during Spiritual Formation week and focused on many of its principles throughout the year. Incoming CCS Senior, Hunter J. ’20 values the opportunity to hear other students’ testimonies in chapel stating; “…for me it was always a great time to get to hear other peoples’ stories and see the world through different eyes.”

UPPER SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

Four years ago, upper school students began meeting weekly as small groups immediately following chapel to further discuss the weekly chapel topic. Each group is made up of 8-12 students, all of the same gender, but students’ grades range from 9th through 12th grades. Each group is led by an upper school teacher or staff member who personally knows each student. Groups are intended to emulate a family for every students’ high school career; providing a safe place to engage in face to face relationships to help students become more like Christ through personal accountability, prayer, and spiritual connection. Spiritual Formation Director for Girls, Franci MacDonald, has led a small group each year and understands the value firsthand, stating “Our goal for small groups is for every student to have a safe place to share life, connect with others, receive encouragement, not be judged, be prayed for and to be held accountable.”

Students also agree with the weekly practice. Emerson R. ’20, said “Small group is one of my favorite parts of the week. I love being surrounded by a group of girls that are pushing me to follow God. I love having a place that I can talk about anything and hear from other girls. Small group is a place I can get rid of stress and talk with my group-I’m really glad we have it at Crossings.”

In addition to weekly discussion and prayer, groups took time to practice Christ-centered servant leadership with one another. Groups served at the Britvil Food Pantry, Children’s Center Hospital, Pepper’s Ranch, Restore OKC, Edmond Hope Center, Ronald McDonald House, and Skyline Urban Ministry. Additional service times and opportunities for small groups will be added for the 2019-2020 school year. The groups celebrated the end of the year together by practicing unity, the school theme in 2018-2019. Groups worked together to solve riddles about CCS, its teachers and staff, and the many blessings God’s provided the school over the years in a campus-wide scavenger hunt.

From discussion and prayer to serving others, CCS US small groups allow our students the opportunity to live John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

“Small group was my personal favorite because you get to build great relationships with people you otherwise may not see very often in school.”

- HUNTER J. ’20
CCS students have the unique opportunity to explore their own musical abilities through band, orchestra, or vocal music beginning in fifth grade and throughout their middle and upper school years. These programs allow students to learn life skills that will benefit them in college and beyond as they serve their local churches and communities through their individual crafts. As with all programs at CCS, the arts strive to perform and compete at the highest levels while partnering with other schools and programs throughout the state.

Over the past 8 years, the arts have grown in size and in skill level. According to Michael Brown, CCS Band Director and Fine Arts Dean, “these musical groups are pushing the boundaries of what kind of music a small school can perform.” Additionally, Brown notes that “Since these students are young and still establishing themselves, there is no perceived ceiling for the difficulty of the music they can perform.” Alongside this “new generation” of students entering the upper school, is a new level of excitement and inspiration as they work to exceed past accomplishments and soar to new heights. Luke Loper, incoming sophomore, has been playing the oboe for 4 years and notes that his “favorite thing about band is getting to hear the new music” and “recommends that younger students should also join band because it has been such a great experience.”

CCS fine arts students are not only growing in their talent, but they are also growing as a group and as individuals. This past year, the CCS Band and Vocals programs chose to forgo their annual state competitions, after qualifying at the top of their districts, to perform and travel as a group in Chicago. This trip included special performances, but most importantly, provided opportunities to build relationships and a strengthened team mentality. Incoming Sophomore, Hallie H. has been involved in the CCS vocal music department, show choir, and two school musicals. Hallie “loves making friends that all share the same love for music….and have so much fun together.” Not only has Hallie enjoyed her time in the arts, but notes that she has “learned how amazing the voice is and how to take care of it and use it to the best of her ability.”

Other special opportunities this year included partnerships and shared performances with the Colorado Christian University Band, OBU Jazz Band, UCO Jazz Combo, and UCO Faculty String Quartet. The groups also welcomed their first guest artist to the CCS stage, YouTube star, Christopher Bill, who has over 200,000 subscribers and 35 million views on the app.

“The best is still to come as our programs fully mature in the coming years.” Michael Brown, CCS Band Director and Dean of Fine Arts.

**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!**

Ephesians 5:19

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**OSSAA CLASS 3A ACADEMIC BOWL**

**state champs**

After an undefeated season, the team earned their second consecutive state championship, their fourth in just 7 years of competition! Congratulations, Knights!
musical arts soar to new heights of success

### orchestra
**Established in 2010**

Since 2016, MS and US Orchestra has received multiple excellent and superior awards for Stage and Sight Reading at OSSAA at the district and state level.

The growing orchestra program has served as a “full pit orchestra” beginning in 2017 for *Bye Bye Birdie*, in 2018 for *Cinderella*, and again in 2019 for *The Music Man*.

In 2019 alone, CCS students earned more than 30+ superior ratings, including five superior ratings for large ensemble.

### band
**Established in 2013**

In 2015, CCS Jazz Band claimed the OSSAA Class 2A State Championship.

MS and US band students have received superior and excellent ratings at OSSAA district and state contests consistently since 2014.

The US Band received superior ratings in 2018 and 2019 at the ACSI Music Festival.

CCS Pep Band and Drum Line are taking school spirit to a new level at football and basketball games.

### vocals
**Established in 2011**

CCS Vocals have earned high marks in solo and ensemble OSSAA performances since 2013.

Show Choir was created in 2015 and recently finished in the Top 10 at the Santa Fe Contest. They were also awarded best choreography.

Congratulations to Jacob M., Hallie H., Taylor B., and Abbey S. for qualifying for the state solo contest and earning superior ratings!

### debate update

**OSSAA Class 5A Cross Examination Debate**

1ST PLACE | Olivia S. ’20 and Elizabeth C. ’20
2ND PLACE | Alex N. ’22 and Garrett B. ’22
3RD PLACE | Jackson R. ’22 and Blake Q. ’22

CONGRATS TO THE ENTIRE TEAM FOR TAKING 4TH PLACE IN THE 5A SWEEPSTAKES!

### Upper School Performs
**The Music Man**
**By Meredith Willson**

In their 10th musical production, Percival’s Players wowed the audience with their portrayal of Harold Hill and the good people of River City, Iowa. The cast included 38 students from 5th - 12th grade and two spunky 3rd graders. The performance opened with “Rock Island,” a complicated, multi-varying tempo song performed acapella by the men’s choir. The full pit orchestra chimed in for the remainder of the musical for the fourth consecutive year. Director Angela Lux commented on its “unique opportunity that allows the fine arts teachers and students across all three schools to work, play, and perform together throughout most of the spring semester.”

“I have loved watching our students and the fine arts teachers pour into one another and create life changing relationships with one another.”

Angela Lux, CCS Musical Director
**BASEBALL**

The Knights Baseball team hit it out of the park with a stellar season this spring. The team earned the title of 2A District Champions for the second time and made their first appearance at the regional level. Not a surprise knowing that the Knights stole 249 bases this season, earning CCS the 9th place spot in the OK Baseball Record.

While the stats and the scoreboard were cause for celebration, Head Coach Jeremy Kliwer knew that this team had accomplished something even more important. Kliwer stated, “This was a special team. The way our guys represented Christ and our school was unmatched.”

**Team Highlight |** Beating a longtime rival for the first time in school history  
**Stats |** CCS Record - Winning 21 Games in a Season  
**Athlete Award |** Cole M. ’19, 2A All-Star by Class

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**CHRISTIAN COMPETITION**

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**BOYS BASKETBALL**

The Knights Basketball team finished another successful season with 17 wins and only 8 losses; an especially strong showing considering it was their first year in Class 3A. The team took home the title of runner up in three competitive tournaments in Cashion, CHA, and Hinton. The highlight of the year, however, was earning the title 3A District Champions after winning the hard fought game against Riverside in overtime. The team went on to participate in Regionals and Daniel K. ’20 and Reid L. ’22 were both named All-State Honorable Mention. Even outside of the gym, the boys enjoyed spending time together at team dinners and during their team lock-in. Their team motto “Hard Smart Together” was exemplified throughout the season both on and off the court.

**Team Highlight |** Winning 3A District Championship  
**Athlete Awards |** Greater Metro Athletic Conference Awards: Newcomer of the Year - Reid L. ’22, First Team All-Conference - Daniel K. ’20, Second Team All-Conference - Cooper G. ’21, Honorable Mention - Cort T. ’19 and Jacob C. ’20

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**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

The Lady Knights completed an exciting season, with the largest varsity team to date. Not only did the team increase in size, they increased their success on the court. The team started each tournament in the winners bracket and placed 3rd in the Hinton Tournament, a first for the Lady Knights. Additionally, the team won a record setting 11 season games.

Coach John Redwine attributes much of their success to the team’s camaraderie. The girls had fun spending an entire night in the gym following a home football game as well as spending time together around the table during weekly team dinners. Each Wednesday, the Knights would begin practice with a special devotional led by an outside speaker.

**Team Highlight |** Team lock-in at the CCS Gym  
**Team Award |** 3rd Place Hinton Tournament  
**Athlete Awards |** Greater Metro Athletic Conference Awards: First Team All-Conference - Ashlyn D. ‘20, Honorable Mention - Kailey S. ’19
GIRLS GOLF

The CCS Girls Varsity Golf Team was small, but mighty! Rick Harris, Head Coach, noted that due to the team’s small size, the Knights competition was fierce. However, despite the challenges, and competing with a team of two freshmen and two juniors, the ladies still placed 3rd at the tournament level.

Junior Sara A. finished in the top ten of every tournament she entered this season. Included in her success was a 2nd place finish at Kingfisher, 5th place finish at the PCN Invitational, and 3rd place finish at the OSSAA West Regionals. Kylie S., also a junior, played her personal best at Regionals, qualifying for State alongside Sara. Both girls showed well at State with Sara securing 6th place at the 2A State Championship.

Team Highlight | Placing 3rd at the Kingfisher Tournament
Athlete Award | Sara A. ’20, 6th Place 2A Girls Golf Championship

BOYS GOLF

The Boys Golf Team began the season by securing first place at the Mohawk Park Tournament in Tulsa. In their first year as members of Class 3A, the team maintained a strong season culminating with their third trip to the State Tournament at the Tulsa Country Club. The boys placed 6th in the state against arguably the best competition in any class. While the team boasted their largest roster to date, four of the five varsity members were underclassman, proving that next year will be another exciting season for the Knights Boys Golf Team.

Coach Nathaniel Estrada believes “the best is yet to come” and the team seems to agree as their chosen verse is Philippians 3:13-14. “I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Team Highlight | Placing 1st at the Mohawk Park Tournament, Placing 6th in the OSSAA Class 3A State Championship
Athlete Award | Craig S. ’20, 5th Place 3A Boys Golf Championship

“"For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” - 1 TIMOTHY 4:8

GIRLS SOCCER

The CCS Lady Knights wrapped up a stellar season, competing into the second round of the Regional playoffs. The team included several freshman and sophomore students making it one of the youngest teams in Class 4A. But according to Coach Eric Morrison, the girls were never scared, intimidated or nervous. Instead, they came “each day with a passion and family mentality to do whatever it took to win, not only for their teammates, but for their school.” The team’s hard work didn’t go unnoticed as they finished the season with a winning record of 10-4, placing 3rd in the District and progressing to Regionals for the second time.

Team Highlight | After repeated losses to the same opponent, the Lady Knights played the match of the season, beating them 4-0 and securing their best finish in district in CCS program history!
Team Award | OSSAA 4A Distinguished Academic Award
Athlete Awards | Kailey S. ’19 and Olivia B. ’19 All-State Soccer
BOYS SOCCER

In only their second season, the boys’ soccer program is already making a name for themselves. 7th-9th grade boys led this young team in its final year of preparation before their inaugural CCS Varsity soccer season in the spring of 2020. The team hosted their first CCS Soccer Festival, winning the event and, more importantly, building a foundation as a team. With an overall record of 7 wins, 1 loss, and 1 tie, the team is off to a strong start.

Additionally, the team hosted a weekly soccer training camp for CCS lower school students throughout the months of January and February. This camp allowed younger students to learn the fundamentals of the game while providing an opportunity for Christ-centered student leadership for the older students.

According to Coach Gavin Crocker, “Soccer is a tremendous platform to teach young men life lessons through the athletic experience and help them grow in faith.”

Team Highlight | Hosting and winning the first ever CCS Soccer Festival

TENNIS

The CCS Tennis program continues to grow in participation and their level of success! A record number of 91 athletes, ranging from the 7th through 12th grade, participated in the spring tennis season. Both the boys and girls’ teams experienced a successful season collectively winning 168 matches. Students earned more than 50 medals and 30 first place finishes in tournament play. The girls’ varsity team secured 2nd place in 5A regionals and placed 5th overall at state. The boys finished first at 4A regionals for the second consecutive year and finished 2nd overall at state!

It’s easy to see the team’s success on the court, but according to Coach Jamie Wheat, “It’s the relationships built, the way we care for and serve one another, and the memories we make together that define who we are as a program. My hope and vision for our program is that we continue to value things that are eternal first and foremost.”

Team Highlight | Weekly dinners and spending team together as a team

Athlete Awards | Daniel H. ’22 (1S) 4A State Tennis Champion for the second consecutive year, Hunter D. ’22 (2S) 4A State Tennis Champion
TRACK & FIELD

Coach Franci MacDonald led more than 90 track athletes this spring. According to Coach Mac, “This year’s team bonded like a true family. We were plagued with several injuries and schedule conflicts but because of this, many stepped out of their comfort zone for the team’s sake.” It was because of these selfless sacrifices that the team qualified for every boys and girls relay and 9 individual events at the state meet. Ultimately, the Knights earned their way to the medal stand 7 times with the boys’ team placing 4th overall.

The Knights track team worked together and served together throughout the season. The team hosted a practice meet for the Special Olympic athletes and participated alongside them in events to help them prepare for their big event. Additionally, upper school track athletes served as coaches and mentors for the 6th grade team. These students served as positive role models while exemplifying Christ-centered servant leadership to their teams, fans, and other young athletes across the state.

Coach Mac summed up the season by saying, “God’s faithfulness was abundantly evident to our team this year, and our athletes recognized that our success was only because of His doing.”

Athlete Award | Hunter J. ‘20, OSSAA Class 2A Track State Champion in 100m hurdles and 300m hurdles.

WRESTLING

The CCS Knights Wrestling team competed well as a team and as individuals. A favorite event of the season were the middle and upper school home duals. The teams enjoyed great competition while being cheered on by friends and family on their home court. In addition to competing, the wrestlers also led over 25 lower school students through the Little Knights Wrestling program. These little athletes enjoyed learning from their older student mentors and even had a chance to show off their new skills in live matches refereed by CCS US wrestlers. Assistant Coaches, and CCS Alums, Logan Daggs and Vance Ganter both agreed that the “boys learned some great lessons about perseverance and grit” throughout the season.

Athlete Highlight | Jesse M. ‘19 signed with Baker University to wrestle for the Wildcats.
Jake Snider ’12 married Alissa Maggard at Will Rogers Gardens in Oklahoma City on May 28, 2017. In 2018, he graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a bachelor’s degree in human resources management and works for the Chickasaw Nation as a Human Resources Generalist.

Brennen Mayfield ’14 will graduate in December 2019 from Mid-America Christian University with a degree in music business. Brennen continues to play guitar for the contemporary service in the Venue at Crossings Community Church. He is also the Music Director for The Gathering at Crossings Church. His ultimate goal is to become a music producer in Nashville.

Taylor Prince ’13 completed her bachelor’s degree in advertising in 2017 from the University of Oklahoma. She then received her Masters of Human Relations at OU while working as a graduate assistant. In May 2019, she moved to Chicago to work at the advertising agency “We Are Unlimited” as an Associate Manager of Talent Acquisition and Outreach.

Bradley Weast ’14 is working towards her masters in higher education at Abilene Christian University and accepted a full-time job at ACU working as a Resident Director in Residence Life.

Ethan Blagg ’15 started HUUB Creative, a brand development agency located in Oklahoma City, in May 2017 and is the current CEO. The agency helps brands gain quality exposure, create memorable experiences, and build meaningful relationships.

Maddy Mazerole ’15 graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in marketing and is a member of Gamma Phi Beta. She has accepted a job in Oklahoma City with the Oklahoma State Fair working in PR and Marketing. She will begin graduate school in January at OSU for her MBA.

Mary Alice Case ’15 received her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Southern Nazarene University and is working at Community North, a semi-acute care facility.

Abby Lamprecht ’15 graduated from Oklahoma State University in May with a degree in child and family services. She was on the President’s or Dean’s Honor Roll for the last three semesters. She was accepted into both Oklahoma City University School of Law and University of Tulsa College of Law with scholarships. She will attend the University of Tulsa College of Law and hopes to study malpractice or corporate law.

Ashley Prince ’15 graduated from the University of Oklahoma in May 2019 with a bachelor’s in interior design and a minor in architectural studies. She is currently interviewing for jobs in Nashville, Chicago, Dallas, and Austin with several top firms in commercial interior design. She plans to specialize in corporate or hospitality design and is preparing to take the NCIDQ exam.

Baylor Redwine ’15 graduated from Southern Nazarene University with a degree in culture and communications. She will be attending Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles in the fall and working towards an M.F.A. in Film and Television Production.
Kaylin Moore graduated from CCS in 2013 in what was the largest graduating class at the time, a class of 6. Kaylin and her family were a part of the “CCS Pioneer Days.” When Kaylin started school at CCS in 2005, the school was still located on our original campus in Belle Isle. Her class was one of the first to move to the new facilities in January of 2007 and, in turn, experienced many firsts while a student during those early years.

During Kaylin’s senior year of high school, their small but mighty track team competed for the first time in the OSSAA conference. As a new high school, the young team encountered obvious challenges; training in empty fields was only the first. Kaylin recalls that “the practices were difficult but Coach Gadd and Coach Franci knew what they were doing. We did not have a track so we practiced in the grass and they measured out the different distances for the races in empty fields.” In spite of the challenges, this small team of five fought through the adversity to bring home Crossings’ first state title as the OSSAA Class A Girls Track Champions.

The hard work Kaylin put in as a Knight helped pave the way for her college years and beyond as she attended Oral Roberts University where she was a hurdler on the track and field team and participated in the Sports Management Club. In 2017, Kaylin received her Sports Management degree with a concentration in Broadcasting and a minor in Business from ORU. Kaylin married her college sweetheart, and fellow track and field teammate on March 18, 2018 in the Grand Canyon. A true sports fan, Kaylin has recently worked with the Arizona Diamondbacks and now is a Group Account Executive with the Los Angeles Angels.

When reflecting on her time at CCS and how it has impacted her future, Kaylin remembers the friendships formed at CCS, their two week Mediterranean Senior trip cruise, and God’s promise of faithfulness. Kaylin is quick to remind today’s students that “they do not need to have their life planned out right now” and the Lord will be with you every step of every day. As said in Isaiah 49:16, “I will not forget you! See I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.”
Weston Weast ’16 is starting his senior year this fall at Abilene Christian University. He will be serving as an RA for freshman boys. He is also a member of the ACU Acapella Choir, Gamma Sigma Phi Social Club, and a member of the worship team at Radiant Life Church. In his spare time, he enjoys performing locally with his band “Weston and the Evergreen.”

Avery Wharton ’16 just finished her nursing school prerequisites last fall at OSU. She is currently working at Mercy Hospital in the ICU as a nurse technician. She will be attending nursing school at OU Tulsa this fall.

Connor Cookson ’17 is majoring in chemical engineering at the University of Oklahoma. He was a member of the 57th President’s Leadership Class and is a member of Beta Upsilon Chi fraternity. He is also an officer for the OU community service organization known as Engineers Serving Others.

Will Fairlie ’17 attended the University of Oklahoma for his first two year of college and will be transferring to the University of Central Oklahoma in the fall of 2019. He is pursuing a degree in Kinesiology and is a member of Brothers Under Christ fraternity.

2017

Triston Graves ’17 is a junior at SNU and pursuing a degree in graphic design. He just finished his second year playing on the SNU Varsity Baseball Team as a relief pitcher.

Payton Jensen ’17 is currently at Oklahoma State University majoring in aerospace administration and operation. He is training to become a professional pilot and recently flew his first flight with passengers.

Karson Kosanske ’17 completed one year at the University of Oklahoma studying industrial and systems engineering. He then took a job as a raft guide in Colorado and went on to work at Keystone Resort in Colorado. This summer, he will be a raft guide and then return to Keystone Resort to work as an EMT with the ski patrol.

Alli Crampton ’18 is at the University of Oklahoma majoring in professional writing with a minor in general business. She is involved in the OU Baptist Collegiate Ministry and OU Academic Integrity Council. This summer she will be going on a mission trip to Guatemala and working as an intern for the FBC Waterloo Youth Group.

2018

Logan Daggs ’18 just finished his freshman year at the University of Central Oklahoma where he is studying applied mathematics with a double minor in military science and Spanish. He is currently a contracted Cadet for the US Army through the ROTC Department and will film an independent movie this summer as a supporting lead. He recently came back to Crossings to help with the Little Knights Wrestling program.

Jared DeMunbrun ’18 recently won first place at the ADA JV National Debate Tournament with his debate partner, Maverick Edwards. He will start his second year at Liberty University with another debate scholarship. He is majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology and a minor in philosophy.

Grace Johnson ’18 is a student at the University of Oklahoma majoring in health and exercise science. She was named to the President’s Honor Roll and is completing courses through the OU Scholars program. She currently holds multiple leadership positions including OU’s Green Week Executive Committee, Campus Activities Council Homecoming Executive Committee, and Director of Academics and Soonerthon team for Alpha Phi.
Delanie Mayfield ’18 just completed her first year at the University of Central Oklahoma and is pursuing a degree in Business Marketing. She has a passion for design and is currently a personal assistant for a local interior designer.

Brittany Rubin ’18 is attending Oklahoma State University and is involved in Sigma Phi Lambda, Sister’s for the Lord. She is on the Philanthropy Team for Phi Lamb, OSU Theatre Council, and she writes for the Oklahoma State Odyssey Team.

Grayson Weast ’18 just finished her first year at Abilene Christian University where she is studying child and family services. She is a member of the LYNAY Leadership Team and is a Student Ambassador for the University. She will be a RA for freshman girls next year and is looking forward to rush in the fall. She loves running into her siblings, Bradley ’14 and Weston ’16, on campus.

ALUMNI EVENTS:

FALL HOMECOMING: SEPTEMBER 27, 2019
ALUMNI BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL DECEMBER 19, 2019
WINTER HOMECOMING JANUARY 31, 2020

JONETTE GADD
Jonette was a beloved 2nd grade teacher at CCS for 15 years. Using her background in Elementary Education as well as her Masters in Reading, Mrs. Gadd had the unique ability to support students through challenging seasons as well as academic successes. Jonette’s kindness and love for Jesus are always on display, exemplified by her time as a mentor and prayer partner for many. A favorite memory of her students was her knack to integrate the Bible into history and any other topic at hand. During her retirement she plans to travel with her husband, Ben, and spend time with family and friends. Her smile and gentle spirit in the classroom and throughout the halls of CCS will be greatly missed.

ELIZABETH SOUTHWORTH
Elizabeth began her work at CCS in 2001 as a preschool teacher assistant. Her administrative gifts were evident immediately and she became the administrative assistant to the Early Childhood Director and the Admissions Director until she retired in 2019. Throughout her time in that role, she toured and helped welcome countless new families to CCS. Her selflessness in serving others is her greatest gift, and she is loved by the staff, students and families. She looks forward to spending more time with her family, and we look forward to her stopping by for a visit and a hug…with her famous cinnamon rolls!

MELINDA WILKINSON
Melinda joined the CCS staff in 2003 utilizing her CPA skills in the accounting office for ten years. Melinda then served in the US Media Center and played an instrumental role in the formation of several extracurricular programs. She founded the CCS Archery Club, helping students qualify for Nationals in just three years, and helped implement academic bowl and scholastic teams in the MS and US. Melinda served as the coach for the OSSAA Academic Bowl Team, leading them to four State Championships. Each of Melinda’s three children were CCS “lifers” and attended highly selective universities upon graduation. Upon retirement, Melinda looks forward to spending more time at the family farm and traveling as much as possible.

“...WELL DONE GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANT...”
SAVE THE DATE

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL  AUGUST 14
20 YEAR CELEBRATION  SEPTEMBER 13
FALL PLAY  SEPTEMBER 20 & 21
FALL HOMECOMING  SEPTEMBER 27
KNIGHTWALK  OCTOBER 25
GRANDPARENTS DAY  NOVEMBER 8