News of Hope

LIVING OUT A COMMITMENT TO CHRIST

FALL 2026

TRANSFORMATION, NOT MERELY INFORMATION

"The end then of learning is to repair the ruins of our first parents by regaining to know God aright, and out of that knowledge to love Him, to imitate Him, to be like Him." — John Milton, Of Education

In a world crowded with information and competing claims about what is true, good, and beautiful, Hope Christian Academy exists for something deeper than academic completion. Its aim is not merely to provide information, but rather to transform and cultivate students in Christ to think carefully, discern truth biblically, love what is good, and live with wisdom under Christ's lordship.

Classical Christian education is a time-tested approach rooted in God's unchanging Word. Scripture provides the lens through which students understand every subject, while they are trained in virtue, reason, and the great works of history, literature, and thought; to become the kind of people who can evaluate ideas honestly, communicate with clarity and charity, and pursue truth, goodness, and beauty for the glory of God and the good of their neighbor.

This vision is also deeply family-partnered. We believe the home leads, the school partners, and Christ forms. Parents remain their children's primary disciplers, while teachers and staff come alongside families to reinforce, equip, and extend that discipleship through a distinctly biblical and classical education. Together, we seek a shared life of worship, service, friendship, learning, and faithful obedience.

Each student's path is personal, so planning is personal too. Through conversations with families, we consider where a student is, where God may be leading, and how school and home can work together year by year toward maturity and kingdom readiness.

Upper school is where readiness becomes more than a checklist. Students are prepared for college, career, the workforce, military service, family, church, and community life through durable habits of learning, discernment, responsibility, and worshipful service. Our desire is to cultivate kingdom-ready graduates: young men and women who recognize all of life under Christ, use their gifts and take their next steps as faithful servants of God's kingdom.

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."
—Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics



MR. SHANE BRADLEY
HCA HEAD OF SCHOOL

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Meet Our New Staff



Brianna Baker felt a prompt from the Lord to pursue a mission field at HCA. So, she joined our HCA team as our lower school physical education teacher to actively invest in the lives of our students.

“HCA students and staff have been so warm and welcoming! I have felt such joy and peace from the start. That’s how I know this is God’s story,” said Brianna. “I adore the students and their excitement for physical education, and am so grateful for such a prayerful and supportive staff team!”

Brianna and her husband, Nakoa, have three children, Quest, Oaklynn, and Memphis. All three of their children attend HCA. She also teaches fitness classes at the West River Community Center and is an active member of her church.

Her favorite bible verse is Romans 15:13, which says, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."



Nyc Hayden spent 14 years in the United States Army as a linguist. When HCA was in need of a Latin and French teacher, Nyc knew he had a unique opportunity to serve the Lord by teaching and using a very specific skillset.

“At Hope, a teacher gets the opportunity to impart the most valuable knowledge any human can ever learn, and that is knowledge about God, and how to best serve and obey,” said Nyc.

Nyc and his wife, Abby, have three children, Adeline, Ethan, and Ezra. All three of their children are students at HCA. They enjoy keeping life simple by spending time together and participating in activites within their church family. Nyc also loves to build things and work with his hands.

His favorite bible verse is I Timothy 3:16-17, which states, “All scripture is inspired by God, profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

“The best part about HCA is the people,” said Nyc. “Everyday is a blessing.”



Alecia Hebertson joined our HCA staff this fall as the head of the enrichment program. She enjoys working with children in the early childhood years and has had prior experience running her own daycare. “When the position opened up, I prayed about it and felt that this was where the Lord was calling me,” said Alecia. “I am so thankful I am also able to see my own children here on a daily basis.”

Alecia, and her husband, Joe, have two children, Jeremiah and Evelyn. Both of their children attend HCA. They also have two dogs, Snoopy and Sally, and a cat named Rosie. In her spare time, Alecia enjoys camping and the outdoors, crafting, painting, going for walks, and spending time with her family and friends. She has run a half marathon in the Sierra Nevada mountains, has been to South Africa on a missions trip with her husband, and loves horses.

“This all has been a wonderful experience,” said Alecia. “I am enjoying getting to know all of the staff, students, and families.”

Her favorite bible verse is Isaiah 41:10, which states, “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Meet our new staff



Kat Schwan decided to fill in last year for someone who was sick as kitchen help. During a conversation, our previous food service director, Tori Irwin, asked if she liked to cook.Kat said she was looking for something to do outside of the home, and was praying and looking for an opportunity to make that a doable reality. When the position to run food services for HCA opened up, she knew it would be the perfect fit.

Originally a native of southern California, Kat and her husband, Kyle, have lived in North Dakota since 2012. They have four children, Maci, Lincoln, Eleanor, and Alice. All four children attend HCA. In her spare time, Kat likes to read, travel, spend time with her family, and listen to music.

"We have been a part of HCA since 2020, when our oldest, Maci started attending," said Kat. "It feels like one big family. The staff have always been so kind and helpful whenever we needed anything, and now being around for 6 years, I can say that is still my favorite part. I love that I can trust my kids are getting an amazing education, while also being safe and truly cared for."

One of her favorite bible verses is Joshua 1:9, which states, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



BULLY FOR BIRTHDAYS!



HCA fifth grade student, Elliot Feland having a conversation with a Theodore Roosevelt impersonator.

The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library invited our HCA fourth and fifth grade students on October 27 for what would have been Teddy's 168th birthday.

We joined fourth and fifth grade students from different schools in southwestern North Dakota for the celebration. According to one of the representatives from the library, this was the first group of students of this size to tour the library since its opening on July, 4, 2026. The library hopes to make this celebration an annual tradition for students to learn about the life and legacy of President Roosevelt.

Park rangers from Theodore Roosevelt National Park and other friends of the library were also in attendance to help our students learn about Medora. Even Theodore Roosevelt himself was there for his special day!

He often said if it wasn't for the time he spent in North Dakota, he would not have been president of the United States. Theodore Roosevelt spent three years of his life in Medora after his wife, Alice, and mother, Martha, died within hours of each other on the same day.

The library features different exhibits throughout the time of his birth, up until the time of his death. Born a sickly child, his father encouraged him to find a way to persevere through his illness and to make his own path. Many paths were forged during his presidency including facilitating the construction of the Panama Canal, improving labor relations, and the conservation of national park lands.

Our students participated in an activity provided by the park rangers in which they had to identify different pelts and skulls of animals native to Medora. They completed a worksheet regarding their findings and the importance of these creatures to the land.

One of the employees allowed students visit a special access area to view exhibit items that are not yet out for display. She explained the importance of special temperature and humidity controlled display cases, and how they preserve the one-of-a-kind artifacts the library displays for its patrons. Each individual item in the library had to be mounted and displayed carefully by trained professionals.

Students also learned about the way the library recycles its resources. The library has a water treatment system exclusive only to the library. Its solar panels can bank and store power for long periods of time, even without active sunlight. Additionally, 400,000 plugs of native grass were planted by hand before the library opened in July.

A favorite activity was the AI model of Theodore Roosevelt. Each student was able to ask a question, ranging to the experience of the San Juan Hill battle to what his favorite food was. Another favorite library exhibit was the replica of the museum and play area of the Roosevelt childhood family home.

In true birthday fashion, students each were given a cupcake decorated with different frosting flowers all native to Medora.

We are so thankful this treasured library is only a quick 30-mile car ride away for us. What an incredible opportunity and day of learning this was for our students!



One of our students asking the AI model of Theodore Roosevelt about his battle experience at San Juan Hill.



A member of the library staff showing students the capability of library's one-of-a-kind water treatment system.



HCA students working together with students from Marmoth, ND on the pelt and skull activity.



Students enjoying an exhibit listening to cowboy stories around the campfire.

WISDOM & VIRTUE SCHOLARSHIP / TCP

Wisdom & Virtue: Your Generosity. Their Growth in Wisdom.



At Hope Christian Academy, we are deeply grateful for the families, business partners, and friends who help our students grow in faith, wisdom, and character. Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity make this community a blessing. Through the Wisdom & Virtue Scholarship, we invite you to help bring an education rooted in God's Word within reach of every family.

Now in its second year, this annual merit-based scholarship is funded by private gifts from business partners, current families, and friends of Hope. It is not need based, and families are encouraged to apply each year to help reduce tuition costs.



Our goal is to raise $70,000 to support $500 tuition reductions for families who apply. With additional gifts, larger scholarships may be possible. Scholarship amounts depend on funds raised. Every financial gift helps move this opportunity forward. Will you prayerfully consider a gift to the Wisdom and Virtue Scholarship? Visit hcadickinson.org/giving, or call Debbie Dazell, Development Director, at the school to explore a meaningful partnership.

If you are a current HCA family, we would be glad to help you learn more about applying for the Wisdom and Virtue scholarship. Please call the school office at 701.225.3919 for information.

Please join us by applying, giving, or sharing this opportunity with someone who loves Hope's mission. Every gift brings us closer to our scholarship goal and helps ease tuition costs for families. Thank you for being part of a community that makes this possible. Together, we can help more students grow in wisdom, virtue, and hope.

Tuition Credit Program (TCP)



Colossians 3:23 states, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." Since the beginning, prayer, hard work, and community have been solidified into the building blocks of our school. In an effort to keep our values and foster community, the Tuition Credit Program was launched this year.

This optional program allows families to participate in fundraising events by volunteering for credit points, which in turn lowers the cost of tuition. This program is especially beneficial to our families with more than one student attending HCA.

Each family receives a $900 tuition credit per student for students in grades 1-12, and a $450 tuition credit for students in preschool and kindergarten. Families must complete a minimum of 15 volunteer credits for their first child, and another 3 credits per each additional child enrolled. Credits can be completed by either parents, guardians, grandparents, or other approved family members and are combined toward the family's final total. Credits must be completed in full. All of our volunteers are background checked and approved for service. Families are also responsible for completing their credits before May 15 of the current school year.

With three of our four major fundraisers completed for the year, we have had positive feedback regarding the program. Many of our families have expressed gratitude for being able to get to know new families, as well as our staff and students better. We are grateful to be able to afford these opportunities to our families, and are thankful for the fruit being produced from the tuition credit program.

Because of Jesus Christ, our students, and our families, we continually seek to offer beneficial and kingdom-motivated avenues to keep our tuition affordable.

Thank You to Our Legacy Leaders

Jared & Erika Hoerner

Larry & Judi Schnell

Sea Foam Sales Company

A LEGACY OF LOVE....AND LUNCHES

In 1984, Glen and Ruth Hudson decided to move from Beach, N.D. to Dickinson with their three young children, Tori, Traci, and Grant. Like all newcomers to a community, the couple set out to look for places and for people in which they shared commonalities. Word was spreading about a relatively new Christian school called Hope Christian Academy, housed within the walls of Evangelical Bible Church. And so, this is where the legacy begins.



Glenn & Ruth Hudson pictured with their three children Tori, Traci, and Grant shortly after their move to Dickinson.

Ruth immediately became involved with the day-to-day at HCA working as office help. If there was a job to be done, such as selling consessions or helping organize school picnics, she was ready and willing to serve. Word got out about her culinary skills as well as her prior experience managing a diner, so moving more toward the kitchen seemed like a natural fit.

With the growth of HCA, new and creative ways were needed to bring in revenue. With three children in the school, Ruth, along with a handful of other ladies, thought baking seasonal treats and selling them would serve as a great fundraiser and a way to get the word out about HCA. Thus, Bake Day was born, and originally consisted of baking and selling seasonal treats once a month. At Christmastime, a special two-day Bake Day produced dozens of different Christmas cookies. At times, parents and the bake day chairman would even work through the night baking, cooling, and packaging Christmas cookie trays.



Christmas cookie trays,
which were always a two-day bake day event.

The tradition of Bake Day continued for decades. Many different parents served as bake day chairman over the years. Ruth's oldest daughter, Tori, took over as bake day chairman in 2004, when her boys started attending HCA. Two years later, her sister, Traci joined as co-chairman. They continue to serve in these roles together. Over time, Bake Day was reduced to twice a year with the school only baking their famous sour cream twists. Now, the decades old recipes are used once a year to make pumpkin rolls in the fall and sour cream twists in the spring.



Always a "measure with your heart" kind of gal.

Another need presented itself, which was to provide relief for families having to pack lunches five days a week. A monthly hot lunch day was spearheaded by Ruth, allowing families to have a day off from packing lunch. All of these meals were made from scratch and with lots of love.

Hope Christian Academy added a high school in 2011 and therefore created a need for more classes. One class offered would teach students home economic skills while helping the head cook prepare hot lunch meals. Tori and Ruth went to work teaching students on Wednesdays and Thursdays, allowing for two weekly hot lunch days. Her consistent presence at the school, along with her personally getting to know each student gained her the title of "Grandma Ruth."

As the school grew, more help was needed in the kitchen during hot lunch prep and clean up. Ruth's niece, Becky Hammond, joined her in 2016 to help learn the treasued recipies and kitchen rules. Ruth affectionally referred to Becky as her "sous chef." Becky's three sons all currently attend HCA and have since kindergarten.

The sound of country gospel hymns and laughter announced to everyone the kitchen was open for business. When the work was done, Ruth and Becky could be found having a cup of coffee with a piece of leftover dessert and thumbing through the newspapers for the most recent grocery circular.



Becky Hammond and Tori (Hudson) Irwin working with former HCA students Emma (Dazell) Miller and Gabe Sackman during an HCA bake day.

...AND LUNCHES

Glenn and Grant were no strangers to the kitchen either. Glenn would often stop by the kitchen for a bite to eat, and to help serve. Glenn's presence in the building was usually known by his whistling and wit. If the kitchen staff was short and Grant had time, he would also stop by to help fill in the gaps. There was never a shortage of food or conversation when the Hudson crew was around.

In 2019, the Lord called Ruth Home. All things happen according to God's perfect plan and timing, but the school was not ready to lose her so unexpectedly. The loss of Ruth was felt deeply by students and staff. Without hesitation, Becky took the reins of head cook and was committed to keeping the kitchen going just the way Ruth would have wanted. Tori returned to the kitchen to help Becky both teach and prepare meals. The two of them continued working in the kitchen until the spring of 2026.

Last month, Glenn made his way Home to join his Savior and his beloved Ruth. The absence of them both is missed, but the memories of their dedication to HCA will continue to live on for years to come.

Legacy is defined as "the long-lasting impact of particular events or actions that took place in the past or a person's life." Glenn and Ruth Hudson were committed to putting their three children in a school which taught biblical truths, and were willing to work and sacrifice to make that a reality. Their faith in the Lord and a new Christian school drove them to become involved, stay committed, and to spread the word about what God is doing in Dickinson, North Dakota.

As a result of their dedication to the Lord and to their family, seven of their grandchildren attended or currently attend HCA. Four of those grandchildren are HCA graduates. Numerous great nieces and great nephews have also attended or attend HCA.

III John 1:4 states, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." At Hope Christian Academy, we continue to offer education from a biblical worldview from a legacy which started over 40 years ago. Each student and family is a gift from God. We rejoice in His promises and provisions to our school, and we look forward to the future because we know Who goes before us.



Members of the Hudson family. Front Row: Reese Roller, Trent Irwin, Audrey Oe, Jasmine Pavlicek. Back Row: Alex Roller, Traci Roller, Seth Pavlicek, Tod Irwin, Tyler Irwin, Grant Hudson, Tori Irwin, Tom Irwin, TJ Irwin, Ruth Hudson, and Glenn Hudson.



Traci (Hudson) Roller working in HCA's old kitchen during a sour cream twist bake day.



Tori Irwin, Becky Hamond, and Carma Daley pictured serving in the kitchen on a hot lunch day.



Ruth and Glenn's grandchildren, Jasmine and Seth Pavlicek, can be seen working at a bake day. Grandma Ruth can be spotted working in the background in the red dress.



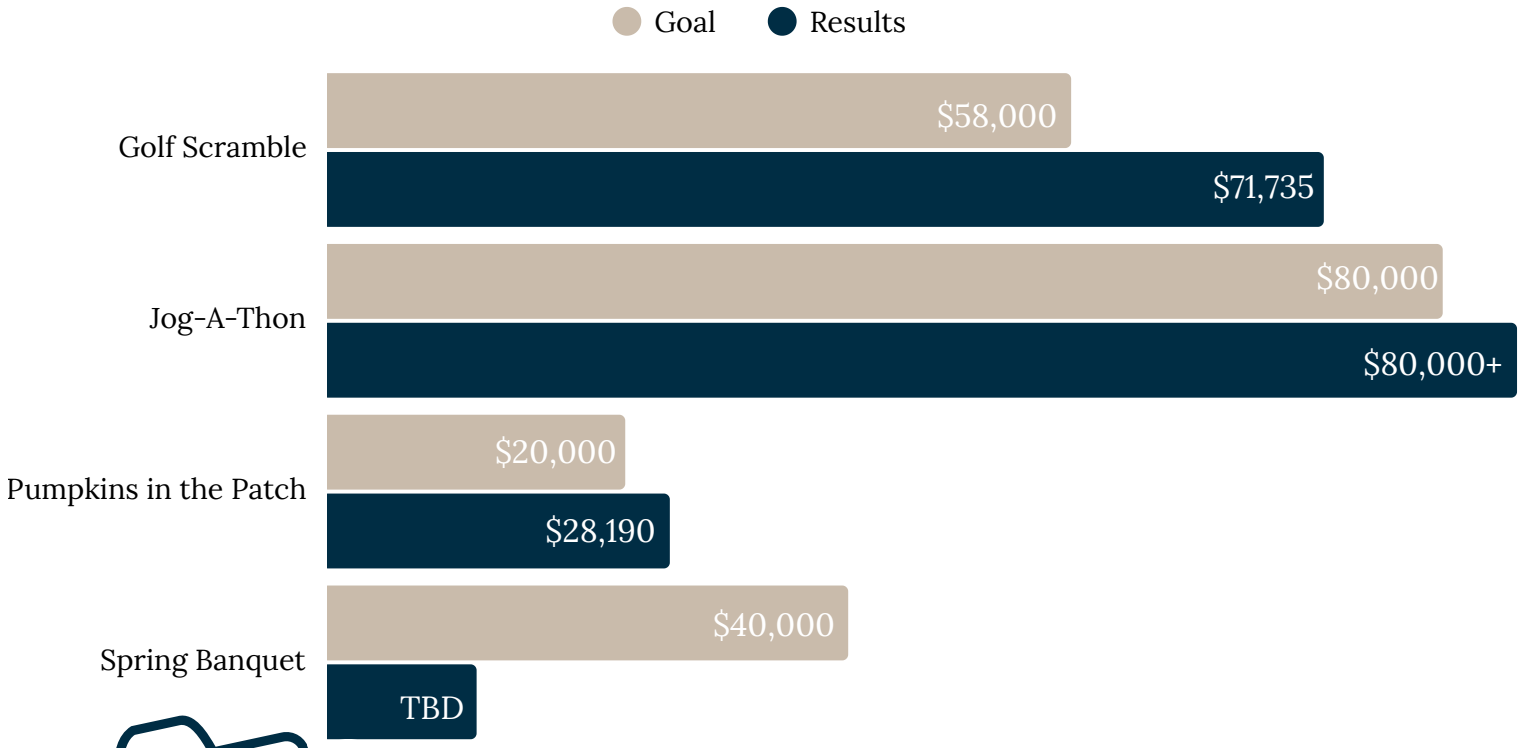
Glenn Hudson wrapping sour cream twists

Fundraising - see that the lord is good

Fall 2026 Fundraising

For 46 years, the Lord has faithfully provided for Hope Christian Academy. He continues to show His faithfulness year after year with the success of each of our fall fundraisers. These events could not be made possible without His providence, and the help of our staff, families, students, and community.

The Hope Fore Tomorrow Golf Scramble held at Bully Pulpit, and the HCA Pumpkins in the Patch held here at the school, both celebrated their thirteenth years with great successes. Despite the rain, our students performed well at our annual Jog-A-Thon! We praise God for His continued provision to our school!



ROYALS



Second graders watch a member of the Dickinson Fire Department use the Jaws of Life during Fire Prevention Week.



Our first grade class engaging in singing during our weekly Wednesday convocation exercises.







The Lord provided the most beautiful evening for our Back to School BBQ and Open House. Members of the HCA school board helped serve the meal.

SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD & UPCOMING EVENTS



Hope Christian Academy staff and students pictured at the Biesiot Activities Center before the start of our annual Jog-A-Thon fundraiser.



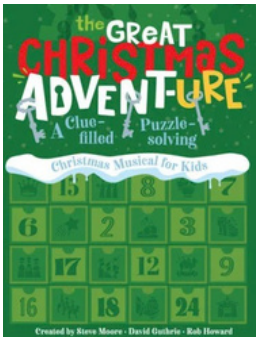
Pictured is the winning *Hope Fore Tomorrow* team, "The Fore Horsemen," comprised of golfers Brady Boese, Pat Grosulak, Todd Thurman, and Nathan Malkowski.



Pumpkins in the Patch committee members Reshell Freeman, Lindsay Becker, Debbie Dazell, Heather Ingman, Sarah Gelsinger, and Erika Hoerner.



Our annual "Reformation Week" group glow chapel.



HCA Students to perform musical, "The Great Christmas ADVENT-ure"

A big Christmas snowstorm has a group on the lookout for shelter. One group finds an abandoned escape room. It may be dry and safe, but they find themselves trapped! Clues from an Advent calendar left behind begin to reveal a way to escape. In the group's efforts to escape, they realize the true meaning of Advent and the importance of our Savior's birth!

Come out and support our HCA students as they perform "The Great Christmas ADVENT-ure" on Thursday, December 17 at 7 p.m. MST in the HCA chapel. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Graduation 2027

Mark your calendars! We welcome you to come celebrate with the tenth graduating class of Hope Christian Academy on Sunday, May 23, 2027 at 2 p.m. MST.

Our next issue of News of Hope will feature senior spotlights on our graduating seniors, as well as more details regarding the upcoming ceremony.

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Dickinson, ND 58601

701-225-3919
hope@hcadickinson.org

I would like to contribute to Hope Christian Academy in the following areas:

- ◯ **General Support** – funds are used where most needed.
- ◯ **Tuition Aid** – provides assistance to families who cannot afford full tuition.
- ◯ **Technology** – funds to purchase smart boards and computers for our classrooms.
- ◯ **Endowment Fund** — ND taxpayers or business owners may make a gift to this fund to secure the future of HCA.
- ◯ **Estate Planning** - contact us about how to include HCA in your estate planning.
- ◯ **Wisdom & Virtue Scholarship** – a financial partnership to provide scholarships for every student.

HCA is dependent on financial gifts in order to fulfill our vision of an education that equips youth for a life of Christian service and leadership as they live out a commitment to Christ.
*Donations to HCA are tax deductible.
*HCA is a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Donation Amount: _____

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Send to:
Hope Christian Academy
2891 Fifth Avenue West
Dickinson, ND 58601

Hope Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or scholarship.