



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

May & June 2022

High School Graduation



For the actual ceremony, the students and audience agreed that it was a blessing to get back to a more “traditional” format this year. Grads and guests were able to gather indoors – no social distancing, no required masks. The commencement was held in the Eastside Church of Christ auditorium, just to the north of Columbia’s campus. Valedictorian Connor Dukes shared a message and Salutatorian Cameron Lewis read the class scripture: Job 19:25-27. Spanish/English teacher Sam Schulz was selected as the speaker, and a band ensemble performed the Star-Spangled Banner. Special awards were presented by Principal Joel Davis including Spiritual Leadership Award (Jared Morriss), Timothy Award (Nick Brandt), Mr. CCHS (Connor Dukes), and Miss CCHS (Makena Houston). Diplomas were conferred by President Ami Vensel and Board Chairman Robert Gentry. After the turning of the tassels, the graduates and their friends and families celebrated with a reception in the Lower Johnson Center. Way to go, ’22 grads!



Important Dates:

June 27 - July 29

Elementary Summer Program

August 6

75th Anniversary Celebration

August 25

Back to School Night

August 31

First Day of School

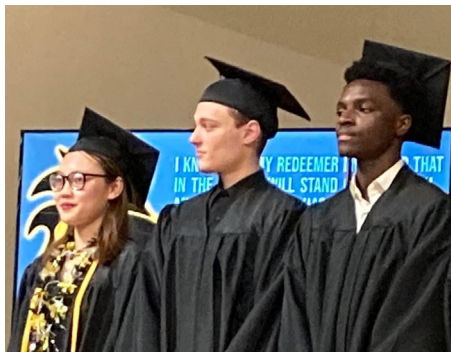
The class of 2022 comprised a small but diverse group of 13 students. Some of the graduates were part of the Columbia Christian family since preschool, while others joined through various points of elementary, middle, and even high school. Two of them completed their course requirements in just three years, rather than the typical four, to receive their diplomas early. Many of these students were competitive athletes, some of them were gifted musically, several excelled at dramatic performances, and others were talented artists. One student was from Vietnam; one was from the Congo. Among this group, post-high-school plans include pursuing careers in fields like medicine, engineering, psychology, writing, and the trades. But, despite their many differences, they all shared one common characteristic – grit. How else could they have persevered through their high school career in light of the challenges of the past couple of years?

Opportunities:

EMPLOYMENT - A few positions remain to be filled for the 2022-2023 school year. Check out the opportunities on the school website under "About".

ENROLLMENT - Some classes this fall have waiting lists, while others still have open spots. Contact the office to learn more: 503-252-8577.

High School Graduation (Cont.)



Survey Says

The results are in! Parents, students, and faculty/staff participated in the annual school satisfaction survey at Columbia this spring. Helpful feedback was provided regarding items of strength and areas for needed improvement. President Ami Vensel shared that the data was encouraging and affirming; it was clear that the school community views Columbia in a very positive light. She was especially pleased to see increased scores in areas of recent focus – Columbia's Core Values, Christian Environment, and

Biblical Principles. By and large, distinct Christian values and character development remain a strength. Other strength areas included: social/ emotional intelligence and conscientiousness, Christian character development, teachers work well with parents, challenging curriculum – high academic standards for students, and teachers up-to-date on teaching methodology. These responses validate Columbia's efforts of prioritizing the academic, spiritual, social, and emotional well-being and success of students.

What are parents saying about their Columbia experience?

"My son absolutely thrives here. The individual attention, loving teachers, quality education, and faith-based teachings are excellent."

"I feel my children are receiving a better education than public school. The staff are friendly and helpful. They have the best interest of my child in mind."

"I know the teachers are loving, Christian professionals who provide a quality, Bible-based education for my children. The environment in which they are learning is safe and caring."

"Great education and safety of the campus along with a Christian foundation."

End-Of-Year Events: Celebrating 2022!



*8th Grade
Promotion Ceremony*



Elementary Knight of Honor



Elementary Music Program



*High School
Art Showcase*



*Spring Knight Fest
8th-12th Grade Retreat*



*Matilda the Musical
Spring Drama*



*Middle School
Oaks Park Day*



*Middle & High School
Music Program*



*National Honor
Society Induction*

Night of Knights Athletic Awards

From Athletic Director Joey Chapman...

This June, the Columbia Christian Athletic Department hosted the 1st Annual Night of Knights Athletic Banquet to celebrate the accomplishments of all our Knight student-athletes. With over 200 community members in attendance, the event was a tremendous success! We recognized 34 student-athlete award winners, 1 dedicated team manager, 2 outstanding coaches, 4 incredible volunteers, and inducted our first 3 members in the Columbia Christian Knights of Honor (Athletic Hall of Fame).

As part of the Night of Knights festivities that included a DJ (shoutout to DJ Teeko Supreme), we also held a spaghetti dinner and sauce competition. After pouring a tremendous amount of blood, sweat, and tears into their sauces (figuratively, of course); Mrs. Vensel, Mrs. Barrett, and Mr. Dukes battled it out, leaving Coach Chapman's sauce in the dust. In a very exciting vote, Mr. Dukes earned the Sauce Crown and plans to defend his title next year! We also had two winners of the raffle for a free single athletic season in 2022-2023: the Rude family and the Watson family!

We are tremendously proud of all of our Columbia student-athletes and are excited to watch each of them continue to grow into strong, competitive Christian student-athletes. If you were unable to join in the fun of this year's Night of Knights Athletic Banquet, we strongly urge you to circle it on your calendar when next year's date is announced. It is an event you will not want to miss!



Student-athlete award recipients: Lisa Hartwich, Raylin Hartman, Emma Zuniga, Rionna Brown, Jovie McLeskey, Stella Ranson, Amelia Carter, Clara Poole, Dugesha Galgale, Oliver Rude, Tanner Wright, Connor Dukes, Makena Houston, Aliya Kurkinen, Eva Salmon, Christian Chapman, Bryan Burgos, Jordan Tibbets, Nick Brandt, Russell Gleason, Evan Goodin, Sophia Reed, River Zimmerman, Henry Nguyen, Mikaela Kurkinen, Caeley Saunders, Melody Yaws, Logan White, Landon Reid, Habti Lampi, Frank Adams, Noah Carver, Skylar Stewart, and Dawson Vensel. Kim Lopez received Team Manager of the Year.

Coaches of the Year: David Rude and Kevin Yaws

Volunteers of the Year: Joe Bishop, Ann Reid, The Hartman Family, and the Andersen Family

Knights of Honor Inductees: Joel Davis, Dave Astin, and Bart Valentine

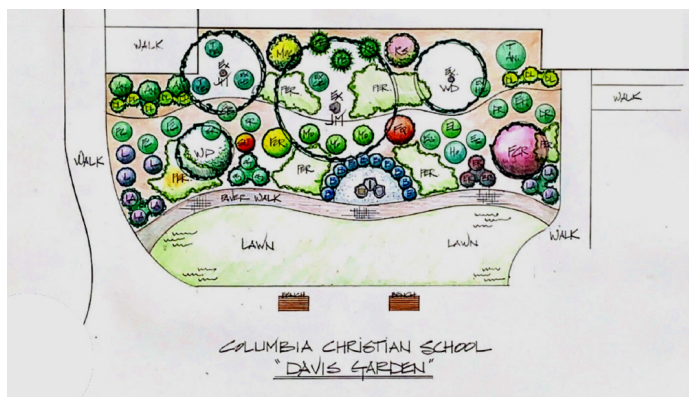
Supporter Spotlight: Joel Davis, 35 Years of Service



After more than three decades of service in Christian Education, beloved principal Joel Davis retired in June 2022. Joel was born in Pennsylvania in 1948 and moved with his missionary parents to Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Germany. He met his wife, Carol, at Harding University and they were married in 1969. They have three daughters: Cheri (Woodland, WA), April (Oklahoma City, OK), and Trudy (LaCenter, WA), who are all Columbia Christian alumni. They also have five grandchildren and one great grandchild. Mr. Davis served as Education Director in two churches and preached full-time for the church in Kodiak, Alaska, where he also worked in law enforcement. He has taught in Ganus Christian School in New Orleans, The University of Alaska, Columbia Christian College, and Columbia Christian School. His various positions at Columbia included teacher, superintendent, business manager, guidance counselor, vice principal, dean, and principal. He has been an elder for the Hazel Dell Church of Christ since 1991 and also serves as the associate minister.



Over 100 family, friends, and current/former students gathered to celebrate Mr. Davis's retirement. Though his official employment with Columbia has ended, Joel intends to continue supporting the school on a volunteer basis in alumni relations and development, so he will still be seen around campus and at events.



Davis Garden

The big announcement at Joel's celebration was the new Davis Garden on campus. Construction is already underway and volunteers are needed in late July to help with planting and spreading mulch. To learn more and get involved, visit the website (www.columbiachristian.com under "News and Announcements") or email development@columbiachristian.com.

Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

The 2021-2022 school year has come to a close and we celebrate the success of another great year! We were thrilled to begin this school year together on campus with 'minimal' COVID-19 restrictions. Welcoming students and families back to campus after a very long pandemic crisis was an answer to prayer and a rich blessing to all!

Faculty and staff worked wholeheartedly to bring normalcy to students and campus life through: music and band programs, Life Skills classes, on-campus field trips (like pumpkin patch and Portland Police), off-campus field trips (like canoeing the slough and Engineering module through OSU), 6th grade Biz-town program, dynamic theater productions, college visits, high school Career Day, the first Annual Night of Knights Athletic Awards Banquet, and the celebration of our Class of 2022 graduates – indoors and in-person. Thank you for your encouragement to students and your support to Columbia throughout the year. We could not offer such a rich education without your ongoing involvement.

For everything, there is a season (Ecclesiastes 3); this is a season of farewell as we say goodbye to Principal Joel Davis. On June 18th, friends, family, students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered on campus to honor Mr. Davis for his 35 years of service to the Columbia community. Mr. Davis has dedicated his life to serving and caring for others and we are grateful for his devotion to Columbia Christian.

As we look ahead to next year, we are excited to welcome new principal, Dr. Deborah Miller, to our community. Other upcoming highlights include: additions to our high school academic courses, the relocation of 7th and 8th grade to Sanders Hall, the formation of Academy 6, and Columbia's reaccreditation visit with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Finally, we look forward to seeing you at our 75th Anniversary Celebration on August 6th as we celebrate 75 years of Christian education on our campus.

Columbia remains steadfast in providing students with a quality Christ-centered education, teaching Truth, nurturing faith, and equipping students for life and for eternity.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23



Retired Principal Joel Davis with President Ami Vensel



GATHER together

COME CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
JOIN US ON THE CAMPUS WHERE...

Brotherly Love WAS PLANTED IN OUR HEARTS
AND WE LEARNED THAT

*The Steadfast Love of
The Lord Never Ceases!*

AUG. 6, 2022
REGISTER NOW!

EVENT LOCATION:
COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
9101 E. BURNSIDE STREET
PORTLAND, OR 97216



Newsletter Staff

Luke Moody
Ami Vensel
Carrie Rude
Mark Beekman
Joey Chapman

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