

# HARVEST HAPPENINGS!

## The History of Harvest



Harvest Christian Academy was established in 1994 by Harvest Baptist Church with the goal of providing a strong Christ centered educational experience. The school initially began as a kindergarten, and grades 1st through 11th were added for the 1995-96 school year. Their first graduating class was in 1997 consisting of 12 students. The same year, the school was first accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International and has continued to maintain this status, to the present. Continuing to grow, Harvest Christian Academy, maintained operations under Harvest Baptist Church entering into the 2000's. In the year 2006, a pivotal decision was mutually reached by Harvest Baptist Church and HCA, in which Harvest Christian Academy would become its own separate entity from the Church, governed by a school board consisting of parents, still installed today. With the desire

to provide kingdom Education, HCA has, throughout the years, brought forth many achievements in service of the Lord. Harvest has gained distinction through its sports, fine arts, Destination Imagination programs and many other extracurricular activities, such as being nominated for the Betty Buckley award for Excellence in theater in 2019, and winning the football state championship in 2019. Upon the advent of 2020, Harvest established of Harvest Christian Academy Lantana, its first ever satellite campus. Harvest Christian Academy began plans for future relocation in 2017, with the Church selling the building shortly after. After a three year search, The future of Harvest was announced in 2021, with the school relocating to First Baptist Church Keller. Upon the dawn of the 2021-2022 School year, HCA began anew at FBC, continuing their service and ministry to the Lord in a new chapter of Harvest's history.



## EXTRA CURRICULARS!



HCA has quite a bit to offer in the unit of extra curriculars; each pertaining to different interests and ideas. One of the most notable is our very own fine arts department. Theatre, directed by the lovely Mrs. Oxley, has been very busy rehearsing for this year's production of Frozen Jr. With the script read-through now complete, the cast and crew has moved on to practice rehearsals as well as costume fittings. Everyone is already putting everything they've got into making this show a beautiful success. It's off to a great start for the theatre team, and we're all looking forward to seeing the final masterpiece. The Honors Academic Team-Speech group, led by our Principal Mrs. Dunning, is opening the year by handpicking their respective speeches, and they will be competing in April's TAPPS State Speech Tournament with those speeches. Students involved in Destination Imagination, conducted by Mrs. Walls, are choosing challenges based on technology; science; fine arts; engineering; and service learning. They are preparing for a competition that focuses solely on these challenges in February. National Honors Society office election wrapped up in the first week of September. Landry Kate Fowler is NHS's president, with Bekah Dunning as vice president and Analissa Devereaux as Secretary. The NHS is in good hands. HCA's yearbook team, which is managed by Heather Cox, is always looking for candid photos of HCA students, and you can send submissions to [hcox@hcasaints.org](mailto:hcox@hcasaints.org).

## ATHLETICS



Everyone is painfully aware of the COVID outbreak that swept Harvest at the beginning of the school year. It seemed to last several weeks, and many grades are still recovering from it. Some of the students it had the biggest impact on, however, were those on the volleyball and cheer teams. Monday, September 13 was the first practice the volleyball team had since the start of the school year with all thirteen players due to various quarantines. On top of this, four of the six starters are suffering injuries, three of which require eventual surgery. The cheer team has endured a similar situation, having to rearrange stunt groups and lines to make up for injured and quarantined cheerleaders. Currently, three cheerleaders are out with injuries and one is battling a recurring one. While this is an unfortunate situation, it brings light to some underclassmen who have stepped up when needed. Some examples are Faith Betts, having to move from flying to basing on short notice, and excelling at it. According to Rebekah Dunning, the captain, Anna Abshier has "increased in skill at an impressive rate."

COVID and excessive injuries have definitely posed a roadblock to cheer and volleyball's success, but the players and cheerleaders have taken the challenge in stride. Cheer has noticeably improved in skill level despite these difficulties, and volleyball players are admirably pushing through injuries, securing several wins throughout September. Keep encouraging these students by attending volleyball and football games!



You've probably seen Dr. James around. His smile always lights up the room and he is famous around campus for his witty puns. He is wise in Biblical knowledge and is a wonderful leader to all of his students. When asked about a few verses every student should read and memorize his answers were Colossians 3:17 and Colossians 3:23-24, because they remind students that even their education, their assignments, their preparation for tests and taking them should be done to honor God. He also finds it notable that Proverbs and Ecclesiastes has quite a bit of knowledge regarding education, school, and gaining wisdom. Just a few that came to his mind are Proverbs 3:13 which says, "Blessed is the man who gains understanding" along with Ecclesiastes 7:19 which reads, "Wisdom makes one wise man more powerful than ten rulers in a city." As stated previously, while Dr. James is extremely wise, his classes would simply not be the same without his sense of humor. When asked what his favorite pun is, he replied that it changes quite a bit but that he tends to prefer the ones that are very witty and almost more hidden than evident. One of his favorites at this moment is, "What does C.S Lewis keep in his wardrobe? Narnia business." Special thanks to Dr. James for inspiring us and never failing to make us laugh. Send in your questions for Dr. James by emailing



## TEACHER TALK



To kick off our first edition of Harvest Happenings, today we get to hear from the Newspaper sponsor herself, Mrs. Tysinger. While we all know Mrs. Tysinger and her love for reading and knitting, she was asked about a side we don't usually see.

In her high school years, she was a part of band, and in her upperclassman years, she was a part of choir, select choir, state honor choir, and theatre. She participated in several one-act plays, including "Tom Jones," and "Rosencranz and Guildenstern are Dead."

She loves her students and all the personality they bring to the classroom. One of the most valuable lessons she learned from her high school career is that one should never underestimate what one is capable of. Mrs. Tysinger reflects this by telling of how she once could never imagine singing in front of others, yet became a well-accomplished choral singer.

While she has learned her own valuable lessons from her high school experience, she would like to impart her own lesson to her students: "You have time for what you make time for," she stated in this interview, "don't let the life you are living be the enemy of the life God wants for you."





Senior, Justin Luong, has started this school year leaving his mark by ensuring the safety of the elementary and middle school students as a crossing guard. He arrives early every day, welcoming and assisting students as they come in. While some see this as a small good deed, Justin is building relationships and making a big impact on the younger kids. Justin loves “seeing loving parents who walk their kids across the road every morning, it reminds him of his parents abroad.”

Justin has been at HCA for 5 years. In that time, Justin has been apart of the computer science club, HCA basketball, and yearbook, which he says is a very fun class. His favorite subject is math and, currently, he is working diligently on a financing course. Justin is interested in architecture and wants to go to NYU. When Justin is not in school, you can find him serving coffee at his church, relaxing to jazz music, or kayaking.

Special thanks to Justin for being the smiling face who greets us and for selflessly serving our HCA community. Nominate someone who you think should be the next “Stand Out Student” by emailing Newspaper editor, Ashlyn Beck, at [ashlynb@hcasaints.com](mailto:ashlynb@hcasaints.com)

## *Coming Up...*

October is starting soon, and that means homecoming season! This year, the paper has decided to have some competitions surrounding homecoming. All high school students have the chance to win awards throughout homecoming week and at the dance. Go all-out on the dress up days for a chance to win best dressed, lose your voice at the football game to win most hype, and one boy and girl will win best mum and garter. Some lucky dancer will win best moves at the dance, and a freshman has the chance to win freshman first impression! If you're hoping to ask someone, now is the time! And girls, make sure you go to Ms. Gina Isbell or Mrs. Dunning for dress approval. Save the date! Homecoming week is October 11-15, including the dance on the night of the 14th, and the football game on the 15th. Happy homecoming season!

