

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

Summer 2022



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From the Administrator

Hello, Heritage Family and Friends!

We are very excited to launch our new bi-annual publication, Heritage Happenings! This is something we have wanted to do for a long time. Since this is our first issue, this one might be a little longer than subsequent issues.

This fall marks the beginning of our 40th school year. We are so thankful that God has preserved our school through the years. We are experiencing God's blessing in terms of increased enrollment, staffing, facility improvements, and program additions. We will share more about these items in future editions!

Thank you for your interest in Cadillac Heritage Christian School. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of service to you in any way. We value your friendship!

Serving Him at CHCS,
Carol Renkiewicz, Administrator

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21



Carol Renkiewicz,
Administrator

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of 2022!

CHCS Student Achieves Top ACT Score!

Junior Peyton Michael Shaffer, son of Andrew and Jillianne Shaffer, earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36. Fewer than half of 1 percent of the students who take the ACT earn a top score. In the U.S. high school graduating class of 2021, only 4,055 out of 1.29 million students who took the ACT earned a top composite score of 36.



The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading, and science, each scored on a scale of 1-36. A student's composite score is the average of the four test scores. The score for ACT's optional writing test is reported separately and is not included within the ACT composite score.

"Earning a top score on the ACT is a remarkable achievement," said ACT CEO Janet Godwin. "A student's exceptional score of 36 will provide any college or university with ample evidence of their readiness for the academic rigors that lie ahead."

The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement exam that measures what students have learned in school. Students who earn a 36 composite score have likely mastered all of the skills and knowledge they will need to succeed in first-year college courses in the core subject areas.

ACT scores are accepted by all major four-year colleges and universities across the U.S.

"The Cadillac Heritage Christian School family is thrilled with Peyton's achievement. He is a model student who not only excels academically, but he is also a young man of integrity. Peyton has a bright future, and we are excited to see where God takes him," said Carol Renkiewicz, Administrator at CHCS.



(Left) Board President Jason Nichols presenting Valedictorian Mackenzie Vrieze with her diploma.



Seniors posing in front of their class verse.
(L-R): Mackenzie Vrieze, Isaac Nichols, Isaac Taylor, Malachi Butler, Connor Farmer





Alumni Highlight

Bryan Denslow
Class of 2009



(L-R): Jennifer, Aliyah, Isiah, Bryan Denslow

In this issue of Heritage Happenings, we would like to highlight one alumnus that is truly part of a Heritage tradition.

Bryan Denslow attended Cadillac Heritage Christian School from 2000 (3rd grade) through 2009. After graduating, he attended Northern Michigan University and earned a Bachelor's of Computer Science degree. Upon graduation, Bryan worked for 4 years in the IT department at Spectrum Health Big Rapids Hospital. In 2016 Bryan began working at Munson Healthcare where he currently holds the title of Senior Systems Engineer. Bryan also volunteers his time and resources to oversee the IT infrastructure at CHCS. "God has really blessed my career and clearly directed my path through the excellent education I received at Cadillac Heritage Christian School."

Bryan's wife, Jennifer, began working at CHCS in 2011 as the kindergarten teacher and preschool aide. Known as Miss Swanson when she started at CHCS, Jennifer worked alongside Preschool Director Sharon Denslow, who happens to be Bryan's mother. After being introduced to each other by Sharon, Bryan and Jennifer began dating and were married in 2013. Bryan and Jennifer have two wonderful children. Aliyah is five years old and will be starting kindergarten in

the fall. Her little brother, Isiah, is three years old and anxious to start school soon. "I would not have the wonderful family I have today if it was not for Heritage and the sacrifice my parents made that allowed me to attend," said Bryan.

"Heritage taught me many valuable lessons that made a huge impact on my life. Throughout college I had a "head-start" in light of my work ethic, and self-discipline.

"The spiritual training I received at Heritage helped me to mature and trust God even through difficult times. The academic rigor taught me to work hard and encouraged me to independently learn about new topics that were of interest to me. These life skills are what makes Heritage unique.

"Jennifer and I are blessed to have the opportunity to send our kids to Cadillac Heritage Christian School. Heritage is a family. The staff is caring, loving, and self-sacrificing. Teaching for them is a ministry, not just a job. They invest in students' lives to help them grow in their faith and develop a Christ-centered life. We are thankful that our school partners with us as we work to lay that strong foundation. There is nowhere else we would rather have our children. I look forward to being part of what God has in store for Heritage now and in the future."

Junior-Senior Mission Trip

In March the juniors and seniors travelled with chaperones to Love Packages in Butler, Illinois. The team packed boxes of Christian materials that churches and school families gathered to donate to Love Packages. The group worked from Monday to Wednesday sorting, boxing, and packing Christian material that would be sent to missionaries and Christian workers across the globe. Our students and chaperones loaded a semitrailer full of boxed materials to be sent to Ghana. In April the group received word that container they packed made it to Ghana! Thank you to everyone who supported the mission trip. Be in prayer that people's lives will be changed by God's message in the materials received in Ghana!



Back row (L-R): Andy Shaffer, Connor Farmer, Peyton Shaffer, Isaac Nichols, Madison Salisbury, Desirae Vrieze, Kendall Meekhof, Bill Bartosz, Alice Silvers, Yolanda Romatz, Joe Romatz
Front row (L-R): Mary Taylor, Isaac Taylor, Malachi Butler, Riley Husted, Mackenzie Vrieze, Brenna Silvers

The container the CHCS team packed arriving in Ghana!





Natalie Vandenberg cheerfully cleaning at Independent Bible Church!



Madison Salisbury, Seth Salisbury, Seth Nichols cleaning up at Lifehouse Assembly of God



Second-graders William Meekhof and Waylon Landes helping Chris Crawley, Executive Director of New Hope Center, load canned foods they helped collect for the homeless center.

world for Christ

Serving The Community

Heritage students of all ages truly gave of themselves this year in an effort to fulfill the school mission to “positively impact their world for Christ.” Second-graders did everything from collecting canned food for the local New Hope Center homeless shelter, to visiting residents at Sunnyside Assisted Living center for an afternoon of games and fellowship. Secondary students had the opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer when they went caroling at local living centers, businesses, and assisted living centers. They also spent an afternoon doing a variety of service projects for a few local churches and the school. What a wonderful thing to see our young people joyfully giving back to their community and school!



Second-graders playing BINGO with residents at Sunnyside Assisted Living Center.

GIRLS SOCCER 2022



Back row (L o R): Coach Tom Stagg, Juno Lyons, Regan Farmer, Natalie Vandenberg, Kendall Meekhof, Lovina Smith, Madison Salisbury, Assistant Nathaniel Leftwich
Front row (L to R): Annalise Koutz, Sidney King, Brenna Silvers, Mackenzie Vrieze, Malia Husted
Not pictured: Dallace Conner

Girls Soccer Resumes Competition After Two Season Hiatus

The Lady Patriots were buzzing with excitement as they took the field the first week of practice. After COVID cancelled their seasons in 2020 and 2021, the girls were eager to get their cleats on and go to work! Though they were unable to have competitions last season, Coach and Heritage alumnus Tom Stagg (1989) held a skills-building season to help the girls stay on top of their game for this season, as well as encourage new players to try soccer for the first time. Though small in number and short on experience, the Lady Patriots played well together and had an enjoyable season. Nathaniel Leftwich, also a Heritage alumnus (2012) offered his athletic training skills to help push the girls to their physical best. The Lady Patriots ended their season with a 1-4-1 record, but that does not reflect the amount of improvement that was seen over the course of the season. Coach Stagg was very pleased with the girls’ efforts and he and the players look forward to great things in the next season!

CHCS Senior Brings Home The Gold!

Senior Mackenzie Vrieze has a love for creative baking, and it shows. For the past several years, she has operated her own baking business, Kenzie's Kreationz, out of her home. She has delighted many a customer with her delicious, and creatively designed, cupcakes, wedding cakes, birthday cakes, and cookies.

In her junior and senior years, Mackenzie was enrolled in the Hospitality, Retailing, and Entrepreneurship program at the Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center in Cadillac. It was here that Mackenzie had the opportunity to enter the SkillsUSA Commercial Baking Competition. On February 4, Mackenzie traveled to the Culinary Institute of Michigan in Muskegon to compete against eight other bakers. Mackenzie's efforts earned her a gold medal in the regional competition! Mackenzie advanced to the state competition where she placed 3rd in the State of Michigan for the SkillsUSA Commercial Baking Competition. Congratulations, Mackenzie!



Heritage Students Make Dean's List

Heritage has a Running Start Agreement with Baker College of Cadillac. Students in the 10th-11th-12th grades can enter Baker's concurrent-enrollment path, earning tuition free college credit as they complete their high school course of study. We are pleased to announce that *all* six Heritage students who were enrolled in the Baker Running Start Program made the dean's list. Congratulations to them all!

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|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Malia Husted (10th) | Kendall Meekhof (11th) | Brenna Silvers (11th) |
| Riley Husted (11th) | Peyton Shaffer (11th) | Natalie Vandenberg (10th) |



Robotics Club Hits The Ground Running!

The students were excited to work on the next steps of the robot that they began last year. Leader Mrs. Pat Freet was excited to see some new faces on the team. The robotics team was able to complete their robot and enter competitions with FIRST Robotics. At their "co-opetitions" the students were able to learn new skills, get pointers and insight from other teams, and fellowship with students from around the state. Many thanks to Bob Taylor, Matt Taylor, and Jeremy Bell for sharing their time and skills with the robotics team.



Above: Mrs. Freet instructing students in the building process



Madison Salisbury & Annabelle Nichols work on the robot!



(L-R): Mrs. Freet, Brendan Glupker, Mr. Jeremy Bell, Brayden Bell, Evan Glupker, Isaac Taylor, Mr. Matt Taylor

Musical Arts

After a year off, it was a joy to be able to bring back choir and beginning band this year! The students made a joyful noise at both their Christmas and Spring concerts. The secondary choir looked especially sharp donning their new choir uniforms that were generously donated to the school.



Drama Class

The secondary drama class definitely put their creativity to work this year. They practiced vocal variety by performing with original puppets. They also added a new element to chapel times as they used their talents to share Gospel messages through skits they performed.





Top: Austin Hadrich; Below (L-R): Peyton Shaffer, Natalie Vandenberg, Katie Shaffer, Riley Husted, Malia Husted, Kendall Meekhof show off their puppets!

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