



November 30, 2018

Dear Friends,

**“Chapelgate is more like a family than a school.”
Jack M, 6th grade student**

Jack is right. Here at Chapelgate, we *are* a family. This is just one of the many things that sets us apart. How do we create this kind of environment? By attending to both the spiritual and intellectual formation of each student.

Another thing that sets us apart is our faculty and staff. The decision to take on the position of Head of School this year was easy, mainly because of my admiration for them—they are top notch. Not only gifted in their subject areas, faculty are genuine in their care for our students. Everyone who serves at CCA is dedicated to our mission—*to provide academic excellence in a gospel-centered environment, inspiring and equipping students in knowledge, passion, and faith.* The community we are working to build is a special one. One teacher put it this way, “I love that CCA is a community of prayer, encouragement, and support. My co-workers *and* my students encourage me to walk more closely with Jesus.” It is a privilege to walk these hallways.

Our students, faculty, and staff are *very good* reasons to donate to CCA. Donations to the Annual Fund help underwrite our ministry to them. There are many exciting things happening!

- Did you know CCA added 1st grade this year? We did so with the hope and plan to add one grade level each year until our lower school students are able to seamlessly transition to the upper school. We now have 43 students in our lower school (serving ages 2–4, Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade). Join with us in prayer for this important endeavor!
- Donations provide ongoing professional staff development that enhances skills and curricula through conferences and continuing education. For example, our AP teachers have access to summer workshops and our ESL teachers have received additional ESOL training.
- Donations advance our athletic programs by enabling us to compete on our beautiful soccer, lacrosse, softball, and baseball fields, as well as maintain our cross-country course.
- Donations provide scholarships to students who would otherwise be unable to afford a Christian education.
- Student participation in programs like the ACSI Leadership Conference, which enables our high schoolers to collaborate with other Christian students from around the country.

Our goal for this year’s Annual Fund is to raise a total of \$100,000 from people who are committed to our mission and are excited about the impact CCA is having in the lives of students. \$100,000 is a really huge goal. As a first year Head of School I’ll be honest, it seems almost impossible to achieve. But God has sustained our school for over 25 years, and I have confidence that He will continue to do so! In fact, as I prayed over the list of recipients who would receive this letter I found that if everyone responds with a gift of \$55, our goal would be met! Will you help us build toward the future? It is a bright one indeed!

Sincerely,

Melissa G. Barrett
Head of School

What people are saying about Chapelgate Christian Academy...

“Jason came to us from China with very little English and with a confused and indifferent soul. Summer also came from China, but she was a young lady ready to serve Christ. Soon they were a high school couple. In spite of good efforts on the part of faculty and friends, Jason resisted the Gospel. Fast forward Jason’s life and we find him at Ohio State, lost and confused. (He wasn’t really lost. I only say that to add to the drama of the story!) God loses no one. Our Jason sought out a Chinese Christian group and soon he became a believer. As Paul Harvey likes to say, “And now for the rest of the story.” Jason married our dear Summer and they have a beautiful child and are serving God in Shanghai, China. See? We don’t have to dig a hole to China in order to witness to the lost. God brings them to 2600 Marriottsville Road. No one is truly lost from His ever watchful eyes, and Chapelgate is proud to be part of His Majesty’s Search Party.” -**Linda Arildsen, Director of International Students**

“I had the opportunity to grow academically and spiritually while having a wonderful social and athletic experience during my years at Chapelgate. I am beyond grateful for the teachers who trained me, believed in me and equipped me for the future. When the time came to choose a school for my own children, my husband and I looked to Chapelgate because of my experience and because we loved what we saw. We strongly believe that Chapelgate is the environment where they will be nurtured and challenged, and can thrive. We have found the students to be compassionate, respectful, and fun-loving. We are grateful to partner with such an exceptional team of teachers and administration that truly want the best for our children.” - **Amie (Litt) Decker, CCA Parent and Class of 1999**

“I think my favorite thing about CCA is that the faculty approaches teaching first by focusing on students as individuals and building relationships. I think most of the students at the school have several teachers with whom they really connect. I think it's obvious to visitors that the faculty really loves the student body.” - **Stephen Apple, English teacher**

“Students get a good grounding here to prepare them for their futures; CCA students are very reflective about how God can use them in the world. It was especially exciting to see a recent graduate pair her love of art and proficiency in French to spend several months in France with the French division of Youth With A Mission’s Discipleship Training School. She went to French-speaking Senegal where she combined her talents in art and French to minister to Senegalese in street evangelism.” - **Kathy Harp, Foreign Language Instructional Team Leader**

“The smaller school environment has so many positives! Small class sizes, individualized attention, easier access to teachers and other staff members, and the opportunity to participate on sports teams (for many students who may not be able to if at a larger school) are all huge benefits.” - **Melissa Morsberger, School Nurse and CCA Parent**

“I teach here because I loved the community as a student and I wanted to be a part of it as an educator.” - **Emily Martin, Math teacher**

“I love the diversity represented at CCA. I think it's an amazing opportunity for students to be able to be of one mind under Christ, yet be able to celebrate their different backgrounds.” - **Candie McNamara, Math teacher**

“Our community needs Chapelgate because there is nothing else like it in all of Howard County! The spiritual development partnered with academic excellence is unparalleled.” - **Cindy Barr, Director of Admissions and CCA Parent**

“I think our community needs a school where the teachers love Jesus and are free to share the gospel with the students. We have excellent public schools in this area, but they are limited in the way that they can meet the spiritual needs of young people. We also have a number of students who are outside the norm, and these kids can find a home at Chapelgate. With that acceptance, they can blossom and grow. - **Lisa Bayliff, English teacher and Instructional Team Leader**

“A clear God-calling brought me to teach at Chapelgate. He closed many other doors to get my family here, and we are so very grateful He did. I love that CCA is a community of prayer and encouragement and support. I never have to search hard for someone to pray for me, and I take it seriously when someone asks me to pray for them. My co-workers AND my students encourage me to walk closer with Jesus.” - **Pam Keller, English and History teacher, Instructional Team Leader, and Parent**

“I love how CCA teaches that all of life is under the rule of God. That everything in all areas (education, sports, and relationships) are important and necessary to live life as it was meant to be lived and that God is to be the center of all of it.” - **Jeremy Alder, CCA Bible Instructional Team Leader**

“I have seen Chinese students baptized, I have seen students from broken homes find Jesus, and I have seen students from Christian families commit themselves to serving God.” - **Amy Frierson, CCA staff member and parent**

“Part of reflecting the grace of the Gospel is striving for excellence. We endeavor to fulfill this aspect of our school life by pursuing the answer to the question ‘What can we do better?’ We encourage our students to do the same.” - **Christy Leaman, English teacher**

