



HUNTING PARK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

SEPTEMBER 2022



RISE: Respond. Ignite. Serve. Excel.



by Kevin Deane,
Head of School

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. - John 1:4-5

How good is our God? Go ahead and think about it.

In mid-August, a former student of mine walked into the HPCA office. He was a student in the very first class I taught in 2002, and I had him for all three of his middle school years. I have stories - so many! - that I do not have time to share here. We have kept in touch over the past twenty years, and my heart is blessed *every* time I see him. At this particular meeting in August, he came to the school in order to enroll his son into HPCA. I believe I yelled ("whooped"?) loudly and hugged him. What great news: to be blessed to lead and educate the son of one of our former students; to know that the Lord's light, which we get to shine, is impacting human hearts for life.

Happily, this story is not a totally unique occurrence. At HPCA, God has been so good to us. **This year, we have a total of seven children of HPCA alumni. Seven!** When our students choose to place their own children back into the same school where they were raised, how it fills our hearts. And to have had three alumni come back to teach at HPCA (See Randy Caro's article on the back of this newsletter)? It honestly feels like we get to witness God's gifts and blessings folding upon each other.

At HPCA, we teach, love, and share the gospel - the light that shines in the darkness. It is great to know that our students have been impacted by their time here. Scripture is clear. Paul says that we do the work (another blessing - to be a part of God's Kingdom work!), but God Himself gives the increase. Paul plants, Apollos waters, but God gives the increase. Our Father is a God of light and life, and He invites us to be a part of His work.

I count myself privileged to be a part of this specific part of God's work in North Philadelphia. **How about you? Do you want to help us as we work to reflect the light of the Lord and affect change in hearts and minds in Hunting Park?** There are plenty of ways to get involved. Pray for God's protection and guidance. Use your talents to bless our committed teachers and staff. Give a financial gift, or participate in the PA tax credit program. You can see our contribution need to the right. It's our highest ever. **We are improving and increasing our budget, but, just like the past few years, there has been no increase in the amount we ask parents to pay.**

HPCA will continue to shine the Lord's light as long as He allows. Whooped? Maybe it was a, "Yeah, baby!" **How good is our God?**



Mr. Deane at the 8th-grade graduation of Mrs. Rodriguez, our current kindergarten teacher (above); Mr. Deane with his 2006 class (below)



DID YOU KNOW?

- The tuition at HPCA is \$6,100 per year, but no parent pays that amount! 100% of our students receive a grant-in-aid that lowers their payments to \$2,400 for the first child, \$1,600 for the second child, and \$1,100 for every other child in the family.
- Parent payments only cover 26% of HPCA's total operating costs!
- In addition to affordable tuition scholarship, and sibling discounts, we also offer income-based scholarship to help our lower-income families.
- To make sure HPCA is affordable for everyone, we also offer hardship scholarships to families who need extra help.
- This year, we need to raise \$743,000 in total contributions to keep HPCA affordable. Also, individuals and businesses in PA can receive a 90% tax credit by donating scholarship funds. Email jen@hpcaphilly.org to find out how!

Scan here to donate



Mission Statement: Hunting Park Christian Academy's mission is to provide an affordable, quality, Christian education that celebrates a diverse community and leads children to know and serve the Lord.

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INTRODUCING RANDY CARO, DEAN OF STUDENTS



2007

My name is Randy Caro, and I would like to formally introduce myself as the new Dean of Students. I am a proud alumnus of HPCA who graduated in 2010 after completing all ten years of school offered here. I was born and raised in Hunting Park and many of my greatest memories, as well as the foundation for my Christian faith, I attribute to HPCA.

When I started school, my family was not Christian, but I was getting a biblical foundation at HPCA that led me to faith in Jesus. I remember a service where my class was bawling because of the words a local minister shared. It was the first time I experienced the Holy Spirit ministering to me. I remember how the faculty expressed God's love during a time of deep family loss. They supported me and my grandma emotionally, and even financially, when we were alone. And of course, in 1st grade, I met my best friend, Kayla, who introduced me to my church home and eventually became my wife. All these experiences helped my faith develop and grow.



2022

Because of my life's story, I feel God has given me a special ability to connect with students. I know what it is like to grow up as a racial minority in a single-parent/grandparent-led household in a neighborhood like Hunting Park. Society and statistics stated that it would be less likely for me to pursue an undergraduate degree as a Latino male from North Philadelphia, and that I could have easily been part of the 10.7% of Latino dropouts in 2014. However, God's favor has been over me, and I have pursued further education from La Salle University and Missio Seminary. This also means I know what it looks like to minister the love of God to our students in a real way that speaks to their circumstances.

Mr. Caro as an HPCA middle-school student in 2007 doing a science experiment in the same classroom in which he is now teaching 15 years later. God is good!

For all these reasons, it is my honor, not only as Dean of Students, but as a Latino Christian male - a minority - to utilize my experience and education to serve the underdeveloped communities of Philadelphia, motivating and setting an example for our children that God has greater and more prosperous things for them. I am eager to embark on this new journey with our students, investing in them as I have been invested in, and encouraging them to be great leaders that transform their communities.



OUR 2022-2023 HPCA STAFF

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Our theme this year is "A Light Shines in the Darkness." We asked our students how they can shine the light of Christ to others.



"We can help our sisters and friends. We can tell people God protects us, and we can give out money to people, like if someone doesn't have a house or car. When one of my friends was crying during play time, I helped him by talking to him."



"I try to be Jesus' light at my house by washing dishes, cleaning, or watching the baby. I also help my classmates catch up on work when they miss. We can be a light in our world by helping people and trying to stop all the killing in the world right now."



"We can be Jesus' light by praying for others and sharing with them who Jesus is. You can tell them, 'Jesus loves you and knows who you are. You might feel like others do not care, but Jesus does because He made you.'"



"We can respect other people's boundaries, accept people, and not push them away. We can also do acts of service, help others out, and communicate with people if they are going through tough things. Through our acts of kindness, people can learn about Jesus each day."

CONGRATULATIONS



JESIAH

The Andrew Heyer Scholarship is given to the top-performing 7th-grade math student. This year's recipient, Jesiah, enjoys how complex math is and how there are many ways to get to the correct answer. He likes that math allows us to help other people,

especially with money or other ways of making life easier. He appreciates the teachers at HPCA and how he is able to get to know them closely, like friends. He aspires to be a veterinarian or work in a hospital so he can help animals and other people.