



 <https://www.facebook.com/HickoryDaySchool/>

 Forward

Welcome to the first edition of Hickory Day School's alumni newsletter!

As HDS celebrates its 25th anniversary, we want to reconnect with all our former students. A strong HDS is a great asset for a town like Hickory, and alums like you help make the school itself stronger. Your stories about the school are very valuable; they help us preserve the history of a great place as we celebrate a quarter century of educational excellence. Use this newsletter as a great way to connect to a phenomenal community of fellow lifelong learners – ones who set out on their future paths from HDS. Please share this newsletter with alums who may not be on our mailing list, and be sure to connect with the school by liking us on Facebook and signing up on the school's website to receive alum notifications (hickoryday.org). Best of all, visit the campus whenever you can and see what great things are going on here. We'll be thrilled to welcome you and show you around. I promise that you'll be justifiably proud of your alma mater!



Sincerely,
Rick Seay

Head of School, Hickory Day School

Alumni news

HDS Class of 2001

Ryan Succop is placekicker for the Tennessee Titans.

HDS Class of 2002

Susan Dickie works as nanny for current HDS student, Annabella Bernhardt (class of 2020).



HDS Class of 2011

Jake Beerli is a junior at UNC Chapel Hill but has taken the semester off to complete his commercial pilot license in Florida.

Sebastian Bertrand studies computer science and math at New York University.

Amelia Mangan graduated from University Christian High School as Salutatorian in 2015. She is currently a junior at Wake Forest University majoring in Biology and minoring in Chemistry. Amelia is involved in the Wake Forest Dance Company in Ballet

Delanie Oursler is working on a geography major and environmental science minor at Emory and Henry College where she is a member of the school choir and the dressage and hunt seat equestrian team. She recently traveled to South Africa.

HDS Class of 2005

Ferah Mohammed graduated from Furman University with a bachelor of arts in communication studies. He currently works in advertising with Populus Brands in New York City.

HDS Class of 2008

Patrick Mangan graduated from Caldwell Early College High School in 2012 and graduated from Davidson College with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 2016. Patrick will be graduating from Wake Forest University School of Business with a Master of Science in Accountancy in December 2017; he will then be pursuing his CPA certification. Beginning in January 2018, he will be employed at Ernst and Young in Charlotte in the audit division.

HDS Class of 2009

Stephanie Bertrand studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

HDS Class of 2012

Zack Beerli is in his 2nd year at UNC Chapel Hill. He is studying Cognitive Science with a minor in Psychology.

Alan Pelletier is in his second year at AppState where he is enrolled in the 5-year Masters in Accounting program.

HDS Class of 2013

Anton Klingspor attended the Asheville School and is currently attending Miami Beach High School. He founded Indicina Ventures and Minted Miami, a premium streetwear clothing line.

HDS Class of 2014

Carolyn Oursler attends University Christian High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society and Glee Club and is head of the foreign-language competition. She also teaches young students dance at Sonya's Dance Academy and has performed in many shows at Hickory Community Theatre and the Green Room Theatre. Carolyn is currently playing Maggie in *Lend Me a Tenor* at HCT.

Brock Pate attends University Christian High School where he is member of the National Honor Society and glee club and is co-editor of the student newspaper. He recently participated in the foreign-language competition and plays music often at

Café Rule in Hickory.

Suha Syed attends University Christian High School where she is president of the student government, vice president of the National Honor Society, a member of the student newspaper, and Dartmouth student experiment tester. She recently participated in foreign-language competition and currently volunteers at HDS.

Jillian Whitener is top of her class at Discovery High School where she is a member of the senate, president of the National Honor Society and Beta Club, editor of the newspaper, member of the art club, and a participant in Envirothon and Science Olympiad. Jillian hopes to perform in the musical *Into the Woods* in the spring and is a semifinalist in the Levine Scholars Program at UNC Charlotte.

HDS Class of 2015

Maggie Chang attends the Asheville School where she is on the soccer team. Last summer, she taught English and Spanish to students in Nicaragua.

Colleen Whitener is top of her class at Discovery High School where she is vice president of the senate, secretary of the National Honor Society, secretary of the Beta Club, and a member of the art club. She also participates in Envirothon and Science Olympiad.



HDS Class of 2016

Jamie Harris lettered in soccer, track, and basketball at University Christian High School (pictured below). He recently won the Most Improved Soccer Player award for the men's soccer team, made honor roll, and went on mission trip to Bolivia where he helped build a house for a family of 5.

Drew Pate is a member of the glee club at University Christian High School.

Sara Syed participates in basketball, rock climbing, and journalism at Dana Hall School in Massachusetts.

HDS Class of 2017

Max Chang attends the Asheville School.

Ben Mills is a member of the wrestling team at Woodberry Forest in Virginia.

Tyler Mills is a member of the diving team at Woodberry Forest.

Lauren Whitener attends Discovery High School where she participates in the senate, Science Olympiad, art club, and Envirothon.



Middle-school students recently performed *Mulan* at the SALT Block's Drendel Auditorium.

Entering the world of ancient China with our middle-school students, their production of Disney's *Mulan, Jr.* was a tremendous success! We explored the importance of following tradition and honoring the ways of the past while acknowledging the impact of positive change, especially when motivated by compassion. The production had a beautiful multilevel set, lovely costumes, and fantastic helmets provided by Mr. Mackay and HDS art students. The students enjoyed the variety of style in the music and choreography and loved getting to throw "fireballs" across the stage! Students took on leadership roles by running the light board, spot lights, and the sound board. They are looking forward to learning more next semester and expanding their skill set in the performing arts. *Written by Leanna Bodnar, Performing Arts Teacher*

Expanded middle school program

Hickory Day School has expanded its middle school curriculum and put a substantial focus on the field of science. The subject is organized into three primary courses: life science, earth science, and physical science, which includes extensive amounts of both physics and chemistry. Students are conducting laboratory experiments, writing reports, reading challenging scientific articles, constructing models, and hosting discussions based on their constructed hypotheses. Already this year, we have constructed models of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, formed topographical maps of our school, made microscopic observations, and mixed chemicals to observe physical property changes. Students will continue to expand their content knowledge and explore various career fields associated with science. *Written by Taylor McKee, Middle School Science Teacher*



New Extracurricular Offerings

At one time, Hickory Day School offered clubs in many different disciplines. Students were actively involved in Beta Club, Science Olympiad, Math Counts, Board Game Club, and Yearbook Club. Because of student enrollment, many of these clubs were dropped because there were not enough students to hold

club meetings and to keep the clubs active. Now with a stable student body, however, students are interested in participating in school programs again!

Hickory Day School students can further explore arts and literature with Sunshine Singers, Art Club, and Book Club. They can exercise their mind in chess club or exercise their muscles with archery, running club/cross country, basketball club and soccer. In the near future, we plan to add a Computer Science Club and create our own chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society. We want Hickory Day School students to be able to explore their interests during school and during the extracurricular programs we offer.
Written by Devin Barrett, Media Center Specialist

***Our SAT/ACT prep course is now offered semiannually and is taught by HDS instructors Evelyn King and Sheran Thompson. The next session begins February 6, 2018.**

***The HDS 6th grade has moved from the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme to middle school in the 2017-18 school year.**

Schoolspotlight



SAIS Accreditation

From November 12 to 14, 2017, Hickory Day School hosted an accreditation committee of the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). SAIS is recognized throughout the world as a symbol of quality in education for students and teachers. To earn accreditation, schools must meet quality standards, be evaluated by an outside group of peer professionals, and implement a school plan focused on strategic improvement and student performance.

Plans and preparations for HDS' accreditation had been underway for over two years. Faculty, staff, parents, students, and the entire HDS community contributed to the accreditation by participating in community surveys, serving on accreditation committees, chairing focus groups about component of the school, and talking with the visiting committee.

Our school's Self Study focused on the strategic plan, school safety, extracurricular activities, athletics, and technology. The visiting committee was led by Will Kesler, head of school at Battle Ground Academy just outside of Nashville. Other committee members

included: Mr. Dan Quesnel, middle-school director at Forsyth County Day in Winston-Salem; Ms. Angela Ringley, assistant head of school at Pinewood Academy in South Carolina; and Dr. Kip Stevens, head of school at Crisp Academy in south Georgia.

The visit was a complete success, and the committee unanimously recommended that the school receive this prestigious accreditation. In the words of the committee (from the official SAIS report): "Hickory Day School is in a great position. It is delivering on its mission in a powerful and transformative manner and has re-established its sustainability as an institution moving forward. With great leadership from the board, the head, and the team in place, the school can move forward with confidence and a clear sense of self. The HDS community should celebrate its excellence in developing wonderful young people who are thoughtful learners of high character." *Written by Dr. Rick Seay, Head of School*

Faculty & Staff news



We welcomed two Lenoir-Rhyne teaching interns for the fall semester, *Christine Faircloth and Erin Illych*.

HDS brought its music and theatre program in-house by hiring *Leanna Bodnar* as the performing-arts instructor. All students have a performing-arts co-curricular class twice each week.

Faculty spotlight



Alumni often think fondly of former teachers and wonder how those teachers are years after they have graduated. **Mrs. Evelyn King** has been teaching at Hickory Day School for 18 years and is still sharing her mathematical prowess with our middle-school students. Evelyn has been a consistent advocate for her students and strives to prepare them for high school and beyond. In addition to her duties teaching 6th grade math, pre-algebra, and algebra this year, Evelyn has worked with Sheran Thompson to teach SAT/ACT prep courses after school for high-school students in the area. Next year, she will also teach a section of geometry for 8th graders who are in advanced mathematics. Evelyn has been a wonderful part of the HDS family for years, and the school community is thrilled that we now have another member of her family in ours: her granddaughter Nina, who is in first grade this year. Evelyn has impacted the lives of so many of our HDS students, and we hope that alumni who visit the area will stop in to say "hi" and visit with Mrs. King and all other former teachers who are still a part of our HDS family.

Written by Heather Galiszewski, 6th Grade Teacher

Upcoming events

Jan 20th : Annual Auction

This year, we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of HDS and revealing some exciting plans for the future of HDS!

[Tickets](#)

The spring SAT/ ACT prep class starts on February 6!

[Register](#)

It's not too late to make your year-end contribution! Give back to Hickory Day School through the PayPal Giving Fund or drop off a check to the office. All donations are tax deductible.

**Give
Back**

[Donate to HDS](#)
