

# GRACE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

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Let us consider...

## Congratulations to the Senior Class of 2021!

Our final newsletter of the year is a celebration of the seniors of 2021. We interviewed each one, asking for their thoughts, memories, and advice. Enjoy!

### Bethany Abulon

Our first profile is of Bethany Abulon. Bethany joined us in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade from the state of California. Her future plans include, “studying theology for the purpose of deepening my knowledge of God, as well as pursuing writing.” Her ability to write and tell stories is evident from one of her favorite memories of GCA:



“It was freshman year and the day we had been waiting for all of fourth quarter: The Greek Feast. It was the day where all the history lessons Mr. Hyde had been diligently teaching would come together over a glass of grape juice and lamb meatballs. But more importantly—it meant no school. Food was prepared and tables were set up. Mr. Hyde was busy fixing up his two whole roasted chickens—which he proudly spent far too much time on—and asked aloud if someone could place the salad in the cafeteria refrigerator downstairs while they finished setting up. Maggie and I both volunteered and waited as he sorted through his keys. He handed us the key and gently told us, ‘Remember to prop open the door because it locks from the outside and you won’t be able to open it.’ We nodded. Simple enough. We headed downstairs, salad in tow, and unlocked the door. We came to the second set of doors which led to the kitchen, and being the good students we were, made sure to prop it open. With the salad safely

The mission of Grace Classical Academy is to provide an education designed to help our children know the love, grace, truth, and holiness of our glorious God and, from this understanding, strive for excellence in knowledge, wisdom, and service.

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### Inside Katanomen:



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“Serve  
others with  
love and a  
heart that  
seeks to  
honor  
God...make  
the most of  
every chance  
God places in  
front of you!”  
Bethany  
Abulon

inside, we closed the kitchen door and started out. Only, we didn't. The door leading out to the cafeteria was locked. We had propped open the wrong door and were now stuck in the stairwell! We tried the key and formulated various plans of escape, only for it all to fail. Nothing was working and we were stuck. So we waited. Surely someone would notice that we had been gone for an uncomfortable amount of time and would come looking for us. That lasted about ten minutes until we resolved to our fate, and it was clear what we had to do: we would have to do the rescuing all by ourselves. Foot traffic in the cafeteria is rather low while classes are in session, and so with every individual we saw (few that there were) we banged on the little window in the door and yelled for help—only to be gravely disappointed when they couldn't hear us from fifty feet away. Minutes turned to hours and tally marks were etched onto the walls to mark each moment of our captivity. We were delusional and with each person who turned to walk away, a little bit of hope shriveled up. We sat on the floor with our backs against the door and sang hymns like Paul and Silas in prison. A look-out system was then adopted. One would take a break while one would watch for any oncoming people. After a few rotations, the most blessed sight appeared: Mrs. Beeson. We banged on that window and yelled like we never had before, and for the first time, someone started walking towards us instead of away. She opened the door, and we breathed our first breath of freedom. After explaining what happened and thanking her profusely, we headed upstairs to confront our incompetent class. We walked in and there was no welcome home party, no 'where were you's?' In fact, No one had even noted our absence. We explained what had happened and after some good-natured laughter, finished setting up for our feast. As it happened, our eternal sentence in the stairwell had only turned out to be twenty minutes. We forgave the boys for not coming after us and life went on as usual. And you better believe it that when the time came to begin eating and Mr. Hyde asked someone to get an item from downstairs, Maggie and I were the first to volunteer—only this time remembering to prop open the right door.”

Bethany also has some wonderful advice for incoming students. “Change your perspective. I know days run together and summer break sounds too far away, but know these years are filled with so many opportunities just waiting to be uncovered. I know the days can be long—but think about what you can do in that time! Serve your classmates, write letters to your teachers, push those kids on the swings (they'll love you forever for it), start a Bible study, and encourage those around you. School isn't simply the place you will spend the next few years—it's an opportunity. It's an opportunity to learn what many others will never learn, to serve so many individuals around you, to grow. Don't waste this time! Be curious and fall in love with learning about God's incredible creation. Serve others with love and a heart that seeks to honor God. Place your relationship with Christ at the forefront of your goals and grow in the grace and the knowledge of Him. These years are so special, so make the most of every opportunity God places in front of you!

Also, enjoy each moment. I know you've sat in this same chair five times this week and you're wondering when you'll ever use geometry (I'm still searching!), but I promise that you will blink and *you* will be the one writing this segment in your very own graduation newsletter. I didn't think it would ever be me, and yet here I am.

This newsletter is a publication of Grace Classical Academy  
Editor: Luke Shawhan

Please e-mail comments and suggestions to [lshawhan@graceclassical.org](mailto:lshawhan@graceclassical.org)

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Enjoy each day. Even if it's full of double-blocks and mile runs, find the joy within the details and radiate that joy for all those around you. Take lots of pictures and videos (you're going to look back at those and laugh at how small you all were or wonder how in the world anyone let you get that haircut) and write down stories and quotes from the day (these are hilarious to read years later). Enjoy each moment because the graduation robe comes to you far faster than any one of us are comfortable with acknowledging. You only get to do high school once. Make it worthwhile."

Bethany, we are so thrilled that you joined us for your high school experience. Enjoy your next steps!

### Maggie Burch



Our next profile is of Maggie Burch. Maggie joined the GCA family in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She will continue her education at New Saint Andrews College in Moscow, Idaho, in order to strengthen her knowledge of the classical disciplines.

We asked Maggie what she would repeat from her high school experience. She said, "If I could repeat any part of my high school experience, it would be my high school experience. From all three etiquette banquettes, to every choir performance (even that whistle solo), to *Fiddler on the Roof*, the St. Louis trips, and the ski trips—including the time I cried on the side of a mountain because it took me a total of 17 minutes to get down one slope. Dare I say, I would repeat Zoom classes, running the mile in PE, and late nights working on Rube Goldberg machines, anything to give me more time with the people I love. It was all worth it (except for maybe that eye contact presentation in rhetoric). But overall, I wish I had savored every moment, even the ones I hated while I was in them, because if it wasn't fun or beautiful or heartwarming, it was character building. As cheesy as it sounds, it is true; if I could do it all over again, I would."

Maggie has some wonderful advice for the next generation of students. She writes, "It has been a pattern of mine to hate change. For example, I have done all I can to avoid the largest change of my life to date, hurtling towards me at an unnerving speed: graduation. My advice to the next wave of GCA students, advice I am still trying to teach myself, is learn to love change. Expect the unexpected and savor God's seemingly wacky plan. Remind yourself every day that your imagination (though it is an incredible gift from God) will never compare to His own. His design has hairpin turns, deep valleys, and the highest of highs we never knew could exist. When change slaps us in the face, turn and give it the other cheek. It is Gods change, so none of it can come as a surprise to Him; it is all in motion so that through His ultimate glorification we might experience the goodness of His sovereign will."

Maggie, thanks for exercising your gifts at GCA. May God bless you in your studies at New St. Andrews!

### Cameron Frazier

Cameron Frazier is part of a long line of Fraziers at GCA. He became a GCAer in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. He has not decided what he wants to do next school year, but says in 10 years he "would love to still be riding bikes, taking pictures, and even more, pursuing a career (of which I do not know yet) in order to provide for a family."



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Maggie  
Burch

Mr. Hyde and Mr. Edney have both made a significant impact on Cameron. Both have taken time to invest in him and teach him how to be a light for Christ. One of Cameron's favorite classes at school was Ethics with Mr. Hyde. He explains, "It is a class that I could really engage in and that I really cared about, not that I did not in other classes, but especially in Ethics. Many Christians settle by believing that topics in ethics are really just about our own personal convictions, but that is not even close to the case. Our duty as Christians is to see what God says about these issues; He has spoken and has given us all we need to live a life of godliness. I love ethics because it has taught me how to better live a life of godliness."

Cam, it has been a privilege to have you for a student. May you, as your favorite quote from St. Augustine says, "Love God and do as you please!"

### Turner Fehrenbach



Turner became a GCA student in 7th grade. In the fall, he will be attending Missouri Southern State University as a part of their accelerated medical school program. For the future, Turner explains, "10 years from now, I hope that I will be practicing as a Doctor of Osteopathic medicine in some part for the world. There are so many experiences that I will have that will influence the specifics, and of course, nothing we plan is set in stone. Above all, I hope to be following God's will for my life, whether it be practicing in Springfield, practicing in another part of the US, serving on medical mission abroad, or taking a completely different career path. Although I have a general idea of what I want to do with my life, I am excited to see what God has in store for me."

One of Turner's best stories comes from his 9th grade year with Mr. Hyde. He said, "One day, all the girls took a discipleship field trip for the afternoon, leaving the boys with Mr. Hyde for the rest of the day. Fourth quarter had set in with full force, and many of us had already completed all of our work for the entire year. Therefore, using our rhetorical prowess, we convinced Mr. Hyde to go outside. We chose to play football, and after several points it was Mr. Hyde's team's turn to kick off the ball. Caleb promptly offered to do so, as we all knew that Mr. Hyde had recently undergone a bionic knee replacement. However, to our surprise, Mr. Hyde not only kicked the ball off, but blasted the elliptical hunk of leather into the stratosphere with a mighty bionic boot. It was truly a sight to behold."

On a more serious note, Turner is thankful for the relationships he made at GCA. "Everything that happens at GCA is centered around relationships. Whether I'm talking to classmates, teachers, or other students, I have always felt that I was a part of what was going on around school. I've never felt like I was lost or unnoticed, as people genuinely seek to include you and get to know you. Although GCA has given me numerous opportunities to learn and grow both academically and spiritually, the relationships and experiences that sprung from the school is what I am most grateful for looking back."

We asked Turner what advice he would give himself if he could travel back to 7th grade: "Besides telling 7th grade Turner to get rid of his Captain America watch and to invest in Bitcoin, I would tell him to intentionally reach out and connect with others. Especially moving into high school, it gets easy to get into a 'groove' and move from class to class without really interacting with the people around you. Instead of looking forward to the next fun thing, take time to meet people where they're at and invest time in your peers, because that is what really makes GCA a great place."

Turner, thanks for the work you put in as a GCA student. May you continue to grow at Missouri Southern!

### Caleb Morris

Caleb Morris has been at GCA since his first day of Kindergarten. In the fall, he will be taking online classes at Berklee College of Music. Caleb is especially grateful for the teachers he has had at GCA. He said, "I have received so much

**"...take time to meet people where they're at and invest time in your peers, because that is what really makes GCA a great place." Turner Fehrenbach**

good advice from the teachers here. They all genuinely care about their students, and I feel blessed to have been surrounded by such wise people. Mr. Moss's Discipleship class, Mr. Hyde's Ethics class, and Mrs. Tolbert's Theology class have all taught me so much."

One of Caleb's favorite memories exemplifies his fun-loving personality. "In 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, our class started singing something (I can't remember what) but Mr. Hyde began to dance along to it. Nothing crazy, just some shoulder movements. When we asked him for more, he said not yet. He told us he would 'lay down a groove on us that we would never forget.' But before this could happen, the groove had to 'marinate.' So, we let it marinate. For what seemed like eternities, we waited. We began to periodically ask if the groove had finished marinating, and it never had. The whole year we waited with bated breath as the groove marinated. During the last week of school, we endlessly pestered him about it; after all, if he didn't lay it on us now, when would he? The answer was never. Mr. Hyde never laid the groove down on us. I still feel betrayed."



If Caleb could travel through the quantum realm to speak to his 7<sup>th</sup> grade self, he would say, "Start investing in God's Word sooner. It is completely sufficient, the sooner you invest, the sooner you get on track. I've learned that every time I open His word, there is always something He wants to teach me."

Caleb, few students bring laughter to the classroom like you do. May God bless you in your future steps.

### Esther Roos



Esther joined the GCA family during her 4<sup>th</sup> grade year. She plans to attend OTC in the fall and pursue an associate's degree in English and run her own business, Essie Rose Crochet, where she sells handmade clothing and accessories.

One of Esther's best stories is about this class' legacy: their History Day plays. "One of my greatest high school memories was History Day of sophomore year. That was the first year each high school grade would create their own presentation. We sat together at lunch and tried to come up with an idea. I don't remember how, but the idea to make history-themed parodies of old songs surfaced. We worked hard writing clever alternatives to the catchy lyrics that we were sure everyone would recognize. We choreographed dances and wrote little skits to go in between each one of the songs and give them a little background. One of my (and the crowd's) favorites was *September* by Earth, Wind & Fire. We used it for Martin Luther's nailing of the ninety-five theses, which happened not on the twenty-first of September, but on the thirty-first of October. Turner played Martin Luther, hammering an invisible door to the beginning beats of the song. Meanwhile, Caleb and I were on the sides as background dancers. The song was so upbeat and catchy and Nina choreographed the song so well that the crowd went wild. Another one of the songs that was pretty clever was our use of *Staying Alive* by the Bee Gees for the black plague. Between the synchronized hype dance on the 'ah, ah, ah, ah' and Turner falling 'dead' on the ground to be dragged through the aisle by Cameron, who was dressed as an angel, the song was a humorous yet educational experience for both actor and audience. I can probably speak for the whole graduating class when I say that History Day was one of the best times we had together, and I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Esther is also really thankful for many aspects of GCA life. She explains, "There are a couple of these. First would be all the classes I have loved throughout my time at GCA that have strengthened my critical thinking and language skills. These would be grammar,

"[God's Word] is completely sufficient, the sooner you invest, the sooner you get on track. I've learned that every time I open His Word, there is always something He wants to teach me."  
Caleb Morris

“If we are to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, let us always remember that we are His children, bearing His image, and carry ourselves in such a way that reflects Him to the world around us.”

Sheridan  
Sellers

spelling, Latin, literature, theology, logic, rhetoric, debate, hermeneutics, apologetics, ethics, and college preparatory writing. All of these required truth-seeking through humility. This is severely lacking in the public school system, where cancel culture and subjective truth reign supreme.

Another one of my favorite experiences at GCA is the Etiquette Banquet. This is unlike regular proms in that the focus is love, respect, and community. Even though the assigned escorts can be awkward at first, I have found that you can end up having wonderful conversations with people you have never even talked to, and putting aside shyness or preconceived notions of other students is a great act of love. Though some may feel it is old-fashioned, I love how the tables are set nicely, the gentlemen pull out the ladies’ chairs, and everyone waits until all have been served to eat. It is very respectful, and I have a thing for ‘old-fashioned.’

Social dances have gone quite out of style, but they still occur in more rural areas. Social dances, however, were very important to get to know other people prior to the twentieth century. I am always reminded of *Pride and Prejudice*. All the guests knew the dances of the day and thus didn’t need to be taught. A lady would have her dance card on her wrist, which a man could write his name on if she promised him a dance. I love the idea of this sort of gathering, and although we do not have all the aspects of a Victorian ball at our Etiquette Banquet, the community aspect is still there.”

Esther, you have been an elegant and wonderful student. May you continue to walk with God all your days!

#### Sheridan Sellers

Sheridan joined GCA in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and plans to attend Drury University to study Exercise Physiology in order to become a physical therapist.

Sheridan has one piece of advice for incoming students: “If I had any advice to give or things to remember, it would be to invest in your relationship with Christ always. He is the Truth we are to follow with full assurance of faith each day of our lives. Serve others, fellowship with them, and be generous. Keep an eternal perspective while being present in each moment. Cling to Christ. Rejoice in the moments that are seemingly mundane because they are as much a gift as those of excitement. Four years go by in the blink of an eye and the rest of our lives follow in suit—it is your decision whether you waste the time or invest yourself into the life that the Creator has breathed within you. Seek Him continually, pray without ceasing. Encourage your peers, and receive reproof with grace. Press into the challenges that you face, as moments that bring us difficulty will build our faith. Respect those around you, extend grace to those who need it. If we are ‘to glorify God and enjoy Him forever,’ let us always remember that we are His children, bearing His image, and carry ourselves in such a way that reflects Him to the world around us. We can be lazy and discontent, or we can be reverent and grateful—full of joy. Remember that all of our moments are offered to our Father as worship: so may we worship well.”

Sheridan, God has gifted you in incredible ways. May you continually invest in God and serve others.

#### Ivan Toeneboehn

Ivan became a GCA student in the middle of his freshman year. He will attend Evangel University in the fall and pursue a degree in music. In ten years, he hopes to have graduated college, live as a missionary in a foreign land, and have a family of his own.





One person who has significantly impacted Ivan was Mrs. Tolbert. He says, “She has taught me so much academically and spiritually. I will always be grateful for the wisdom I have gained from her, and I am blessed to have had the opportunity to learn from her.”

One of Ivan’s funniest moments came during online school. “As we all know, the Covid-19 pandemic taught the whole world about this new video chatting app that allowed us to be able to see each other through a screen. It was a blessing, but also our worst nightmare a lot of the time. We all have flashbacks to those dark, lonely days. I have one in particular. It was another day of Zoom classes. I had logged into my chemistry class and decided that I wanted to play the piano (it was conveniently located in my desk where my laptop was sitting). Dr. Sellers was giving the lesson, but I was playing *River Flows in You* by Yiruma in D major. Obviously, I muted my audio so no one could hear me. Suddenly, I noticed everybody had this shocked look on their face. Apparently, Dr. Sellers had asked a question, but nobody was answering. So, she hit the all-powerful ‘unmute all’ button to make us participate. I was still playing my piano. Realizing what she heard, she asked who was playing the music. Moral of the story is I am glad things went back to normal and hopefully something will never happen where we have to go back to using Zoom.”

Ivan is also grateful for the opportunity to be involved with the Pregnancy Care Center. “The Walk for Life was such a blessing to be a part of and the play that the school performed on the sanctity of human life was so impactful for our community.”

Ivan, you have been an incredibly diligent student (minus some piano playing...). May you continue to trust God, love people, and live a life of service!

### Nina Worley

Nina joined the GCA family her freshman year. She has not decided what her next steps will be. Nina is especially grateful for her time at GCA because of Mr. Hyde. She says, “He has been a constant source of encouragement and has challenged me and the rest of his students to seek Christ in everything we do. I will never forget the example, teacher, and friend he has been to me.”



Nina, thanks for being a student at GCA. As Mr. Hyde says, may you always “go low.”



**“Mr. Hyde never laid down the groove on us. I still feel betrayed.” Caleb Morris**



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### *June 2021*

Summer Office Hours:  
Tuesday-Thursday 9 am—3pm

### *July 2021*

1 Tuition Due  
4 Independence Day

### *August 2021*

1 Tuition Due  
2-6 Teacher Training and  
Work Days  
9 Orientation  
6 pm  
11 First Day of School  
19 Evening Prayer for GCA  
6 pm  
27 Special Dress Day