

GRACE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

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Let us consider...

Congratulations to the Senior Class of 2018!

Our final newsletter is a celebration of the seniors of 2018. We interviewed each one, asking for their thoughts, memories, and advice. Enjoy!

Eden Barnhouse

Eden joined GCA in Kindergarten, 13 years ago, and intends to enroll at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, TX. Concerning this decision, she says, "I plan on following the Lord and listening carefully for (and to) Him. Right now, He is leading me to Abilene, Texas, for my freshman year at Abilene Christian University, but I pray that I would be flexible and follow Him when he calls me."



When asked about advice she would offer to future GCA students, Eden encouraged students to involve themselves at every opportunity: "Be involved in everything that you have a passion for. Whether it is in school, church, theater, dance, math, science, friendships, or anything in between, find outlets for all of those things and run wild and crazy with them. Explore the things you love with the people you love and figure out new parts of who you are. You won't have it all figured out by the time you graduate, so enjoy the journey rather than rushing to find out if you've won any prizes."

Eden, you are an incredible student. May God prosper you at ACU!

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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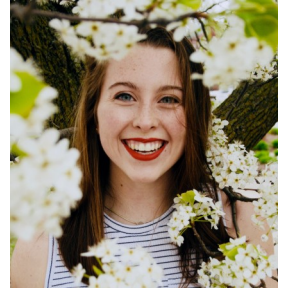
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continued from pg. 1

Emma Barnhouse

Emma began her GCA journey in Kindergarten with Mrs. Flores. Her journey has brought her both fantastic memories and friends. One of her stories best exemplifies this. "A favorite memory of mine is from February of junior year. A couple of days before Valentine's Day, the girls in the class decided that we wanted to celebrate Galentine's day. If you don't know what this holiday is, it is when you gather a group of girlfriends to celebrate your love for each other on the day before Valentine's day.



However cliché it may sound, we were determined to make an event of it. We decided that, because Galentine's would fall on a Monday that year, we had better play it safe and celebrate on the day of...at five o'clock in the morning. Surprisingly, everyone showed up on time, and the breakfast festivities began. The one condition of the pre-daylight party was that no one was expected to come in anything other than their PJs. It was also decided that when we go to school that morning, we would tell Kylie we would *all* wear our PJs under our skirts. We were not. So, clad in fleece pajama pants and a khaki skirt, Kylie shamefully walked past the watchful eye of the teachers as she explained that she would take them off as soon as she got inside. Kylie, being the good sport she is, gave us a thoroughly hard time for making her do such an embarrassing thing, then laughed at the videos from the ordeal right along with the rest of us. I remember being so appreciative that my classmates would sacrifice their time and sleep to honor each other in such a way, and that such a humorous memory arose from it all."

Emma will be attending Abilene Christian University in the fall of 2018, but she also has some advice for the next wave of GCA students. "Having a bad day is okay. It's all right not to have everything together or be this perfectly presentable human at all times. Everyone has weaknesses. Maybe math or science isn't your thing, or you have to write another paper that isn't going to score as high as some of your peers' work. Be humbled by that. Allow people to see that you aren't always put together, punctual, or prepared for the day. Bad days sneak up on you, and sometimes you have bad weeks. Remember where your identity lies and, as Mr. Bradley often reminds our class, 'Know who you are.' Seasons of weakness come and go, but never forget that you are more than the bad day you are having. At some point in time, you will be the strength of someone else when they have none left. Keep yourself and your classmates accountable to each other, and you will understand the power of grace."

Emma, thank you for investing yourself in GCA. May you continue to grow in grace and truth!

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prizes."

Eden

Barnhouse

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Please e-mail comments and suggestions to yearbook@graceclassical.org

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continued from pg. 2

Shelby Cron



Shelby began at GCA in 1st Grade. She has been accepted into Evangel University and plans to study psychology. She says, “They have an excellent psychology department with professors who genuinely care about their students and what they are teaching, much like our GCA staff and faculty.”

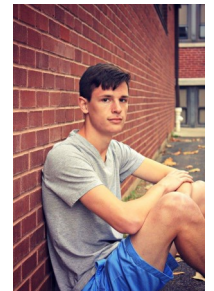
With the idea of “genuinely caring,” Shelby’s favorite GCA memories revolve around the care she has felt from her GCA family. “To be completely honest, the first things that came to my mind about my favorite memories were times when we all simply prayed for each other and cried together. It really emphasized that familial aspect of GCA and the desire to connect with one another. Also, I am most thankful for the small class sizes where I literally could not go a day without seeing everyone in my grade. We have all become very close and more vulnerable with each other, deepening our relationships year by year.”

We asked Shelby what advice she would give her 7th grade self if she could travel through time. She has some of the best advice for any 7th grader: “You’re not cool. Stop trying to be.”

Shelby, it has been a joy to have you in class. May God bless you and keep you.

Caleb Cullins

Caleb joined GCA in 2nd grade, and plans to attend OTC in the fall. One of his favorite memories is from Mr. Moss and the discipleship class. “One time in discipleship class, Mr. Moss said that he would attempt a front flip. So the next class period was spent outside with people trying to do front flips in the grass. It ended with Mr. Moss slamming onto the ground unsuccessfully.”



Caleb’s advice to future high school students is brief but valuable. “If I were coming to this school again as a high schooler, I would say just get your work done when it is assigned. Also, make sure to get in some fun while you are in school. You won’t ever get this time back.”

Caleb, thanks for your time at GCA. May you continue to grow in your walk with God!

Kristi Draschil



Kristi began attending GCA in the 5th grade. She has been accepted into College of the Ozarks and intends to study music and childhood education.

Kristi has been greatly impacted by Mr. Hyde’s classes while at GCA. She says, “Mr. Hyde has really impacted who I am in the Lord and what my spiritual walk should look like. He is so incredibly patient with everyone and shows his love for Christ just by showing others kindness and love. An example of this was from my junior year. I had been wrestling with the Lord and had turned my back on Him during a trial in my own life. Although I thought I could walk through the toughest time of my life alone, God had different plans. He used Mr. Hyde, as well as my classmates, to tell me that I am not alone in this fight against the devil and I shouldn’t be running from Him, but instead I should be running for Him. The Holy Spirit’s presence filled the room and it brought me to tears. I knew right then that I should be walking with God through the trial.”

Kristi also has helpful advice for future GCA students. “I would tell them to be who they are in the Lord. Remember that your classmates and teachers are human too. They make mistakes just like you. Your job is to not get fired up and start drama but be patient with them and show the kindness and respect you would want. Jesus showed you that same courtesy. Why wouldn’t you?”

Kristi, it has been a joy to watch you grow and mature. May you continue to serve the Lord and use your gifts for His kingdom!

Brooke Edney

Brooke has been at GCA since Pre-K. She will attend Missouri State University in the fall and hopes to transfer to Texas Tech to pursue nursing. When she thinks about her life in the next ten years, she hopes “to be a registered nurse at a major children's hospital. I would be 29 years old and most likely a wife and mother to two or three kids. Imagining my life in ten years is exciting and a little bit scary. My choice of college and profession will determine where I will be in ten years. As of right now, I rest in the knowledge that my God is in control.”



One aspect of GCA that Brooke is grateful for is her teachers. “The amount of time that they dedicate to their students will always stick with me. They genuinely care about each and every student in their classes. Teachers like Mr. Hyde, Mr. Shawhan, and Mr. Bradley have always pushed me to do everything to the best of my ability and for the glory of my Creator. They have integrated Christ into every subject they teach and I am so thankful for that foundation I can now grow upon.”

Brooke, the halls will not be the same without your smile. May you continue to walk with the Savior and push yourself to grow in holiness!

Cayce Edney



Cayce began at GCA in Pre-K. Upon graduation, Cayce plans, “to pursue a degree in elementary education and become a teacher. I absolutely love being involved with kids’ lives, and my desire is to teach kids who are from unstable and ungodly homes. I want to give at-risk kids a solid, stable, and Christian foundation in order to help them in the present and the future. As of now, I am very likely to attend OTC for one or two years, and then finish my degree at either Evangel or Missouri State.”

Cayce has spent a significant amount of time investing in the elementary children of GCA. He says, “Some of my fondest memories that I will carry with me are all of the days that I went out and pushed the younger kids on the swings. It was so enjoyable to put a smile on their faces and just have fun interacting with them. Playing with the younger kids may be what I’ll miss the most.”

Cayce, the playground kids will miss you, too! It has been fantastic to see you use your gifts, and may you continue to do so to advance His kingdom!

Ryan Edney

Ryan also began at GCA in Pre-K. He plans to attend MSU to study business and entrepreneurship. In regards

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to Ryan's favorite GCA memories, he says, "some of my best memories at GCA are hymn sings in Mrs. Pratt's 2nd grade class, Mrs. Loyd's bug collection assignments in 5th grade, Mrs. Winkler's 7th grade science class and geography reports, Mrs. Tolbert's incredibly fun physics class, and Mr. Cymbaluk's push-up challenge."

Ryan has some important advice for the next set of GCA students. "To the new wave of students I would say, this education is what you make it. Work hard, take opportunities, be proactive, and enjoy it. This education is incredibly valuable if you take advantage of it. Don't simply coast through."

Ryan, buy and sell to the glory of God! I am excited to see what you are up to ten years from now.

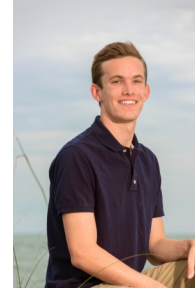
Julianna (Joonie) Frazier



Joonie has attended GCA since first grade. She plans to enroll at MSU in the fall but is undecided for a major. She says, "I'm interested in journalism, professional writing, art and design, and I may look into dental hygiene."

Joonie is full of GCA stories, and it is a treat to read them. "Many of the things that are most memorable to me are the things that happened on ordinary school days. Mrs. Mostert (1st grade teacher) would always call us her 'little angels.' I think I ran so much at recess that year that I have permanently damaged my legs."

Mrs. Garfield (2nd grade) would turn out the lights and read *Leepike Ridge* to us; one of the characters always ate sardines, so one day Mrs. Garfield introduced us to a can of these tiny fish—along with the horrific stench! When her husband would come in for lunch, he would always wear a superman shirt under his dress shirt and do the moonwalk for us—we thought it was magic. No one could ever forget the sound of Mr. Pearlstein (3rd grade teacher) saying 'Shoulders!' every time we had to get in line. I will never forget the time in 4th grade (with Mrs. Morris) when we were assigned to write our *most* detailed instructions of 'How to Make a Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich.' Whenever she made us each a sandwich according to our own instructions, we quickly realized how lacking in detail we were. 'Oh no,' I thought, as I watched her stick her hand in the peanut butter jar, 'I forgot to write that you use a knife and spoon.' Some of my fellow, un-detailed classmates and I enjoyed a hand-smeared PB&J that afternoon. In 5th grade, we had many, many four-square and kickball games with Mrs. Loyd. I am so, so thankful for Mrs. Burrell (6th grade teacher) who helped us memorize the book of James in song. To this day, every time someone reads a passage of James in class, we end up singing it! At the end of every recess, Mr. Browne (assistant teacher) and I would race to 'the yellow line' (now, the white line by the awning); regardless if he would slow down to let me win, I'd still like to say I'm pretty sure I won most of the time. With 7th grade came Mrs. Winkler's science experiments and—yes—Minions! Once, in geography class, I was assigned to do a powerpoint on Belgium and I got to make Belgian waffles for the class! Eighth grade was the joyous year when several of us went from glasses to contacts and metal-mouthed to brace-free! In 9th grade, Mr. Cymbaluk would challenge our class with difficult, ethical questions



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Kristi Draschil

... Κατανόμην ...

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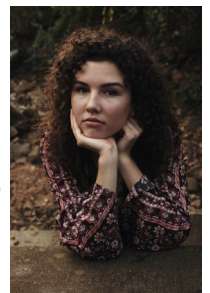
which caused me to begin thinking very seriously about what I believed. 10th grade was a scary year, the year of rhetoric and geometry! As it turns out, I learned to love writing speeches, and even though I was bad at it, I (for the most part) enjoyed geometry! Also, one afternoon, Mr. Shawhan missed school because he was at the Royals World Series parade. My class and I (the Cardinals fans) retaliated by putting sticky notes on all sides of his desk and the entirety of his two whiteboards. Then came 11th grade, the terrifying year of dreaded debate! Mr. Hyde was so fun to have for that class; he would keep us laughing and was always ready to help if we were having trouble prepping for a debate. And then, of course, senior year! I have had the privilege of meeting with two girls one day a week during lunch. It was spiritually encouraging, and even when we didn't have a ‘deep’ conversation, it was fun just to spend time with someone that wasn’t in my class! Senior year is the year that everyone talks and dreams about. For me, the beginning of this school year was not a very happy one—I enjoy school and had gotten so close to my friends that I wasn't ready for a big change. But Mr. Bradley's classes have taught and encouraged me to ‘go out unto the nations.’ There are many steps in life, and finishing high school is just another one! As Christ's sons and daughters we have a very important calling in life, and it can't be fulfilled if we never move! Even though I never would've thought I would contract it, senioritis did come. And I am thankful it came because now I understand that change must happen for growth!”

Joonie’s advice for the next group of GCA students resonates with truth. “Don't hold yourself back. If you have a question, ask it; otherwise, you'll only wish that you had! Also, get to know everybody. Yes, everybody! Class time is so much more enjoyable when you truly know the people that you are with every day! Branching out and spending (even short amounts of) time with people that aren't in your class is one of the best decisions I made! It makes school so much more enjoyable. The sooner you start, the better! It is not something you'll ever regret.”

Joonie, you have been a blessing to this school in more ways than you can know. Enjoy where God takes you!

Kylie Gillen

Kylie joined the GCA family for her junior and senior years. She explains: “Regrettably, I was a late comer to Grace Classical Academy, joining at the beginning of my junior year. My two years at Grace have been fruitful and memorable. I highly recommend the school to anyone who will listen to me. My next step after Grace Classical Academy is unknown. In the fall I will be attending OTC to complete all of my prerequisites, but beyond that, the future is a blank page. I have contemplated degrees in the medical field, accounting, business, administration, and teaching, but I have yet to find my niche. I will attend OTC with full assurance that God will provide the next step.”



If Kylie had time-traveling abilities, she has four bits of wisdom she would share with 7th grade Kylie:

1. Find my identity in Christ and not my grades, friends, things, or public image. Middle school is a turbulent time when we all try to discover who we

are and what we find important; looking to the God of the universe for these answers is the most fruitful, I can assure you.

2. Focus on priorities that are long term. To elaborate on this, pour your time and effort into things that will benefit you spiritually, relationally, and educationally (in that order). When I was in 7th grade, all of my priorities were skewed. I showed up to high school having spent time on things that were of no importance! (e.g. Binge-watching *My Little Pony* and stressing about my frizzy hair.)

3. Don't stress as much. Life will always have its fair share of stressful things it throws at you, but you can do one of two things: stress and worry or rely on Christ and tackle each obstacle calmly and enthusiastically. Too often I have stressed about something, done it, and then realized it was one of the best decisions, change, or experience in my life. Stress and new things go hand-in-hand for me personally, so if you're like that, I encourage you to go with the flow and say yes to crazy, last-minute things more often.

4. Final tip: it's never too early to start researching college, scholarships, and your future plans. Don't wait until the last minute for everything! It really puts a damper on senior year. Dedicate a little time throughout all of high school to plan ahead, so when the time comes you aren't wishing you would have started the process sooner.

Kylie, you have brought an incredible amount of life and energy to our school. We are glad you spent your last two years of high school with us. May God bless you!

Hannah Herzog



Hannah joined GCA in 6th grade. She plans to take advantage of the A+ program and “attend Ozark Technical Community College starting in the fall. I will finish my general education classes there, and hopefully, join the Women's Choir. After the first two years, I will most likely transfer to Missouri State University where I will study something related to education, psychology, or graphic design.”

Hannah is full of GCA stories, so I will just let her speak: “Wow, where do I even begin? GCA is to me what cheese is to a mouse: life. I have so many riveting tales from my time here. One stands out in particular: The new slow-motion feature had just been added to the iPhone 6, and it was the best thing that had ever hit freshman year Hannah! Unfortunately, I did not possess this life-altering piece of equipment. However, there was one who did...Eden Barnhouse. I was filled with slow-mo greed.

One day, it just so happened to snow while we were at school, and if you don't know, snow is super beautiful when filmed in slow motion. So, I had a brilliant idea. I grabbed Paige Steelman, and the two of us ran to Eden during one of the five minute breaks in between classes and pleaded with her to let us take her phone outside so we could take some epic slow-mo videos that she wouldn't regret having on her phone (even if we would take up about half of her phone's storage). At this point, I'm sure Eden was a little done with the two of us asking for her phone continually, but being the kind soul that she is, she let us take it.

We ran as fast as our legs could take us to the downstairs doors that lead to the pickup line. However, since we were (and still are) good, respecting students, we didn't want to break the rules and go outside without a

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teacher. We hurriedly scanned the downstairs area when we saw our saving grace. In the downstairs cafeteria, Alex Deren was prepping lunch, and at that moment I knew he was the one who would make my greatest dream come true! Sure enough, he was kind enough to take us outside. We took probably 20 videos, and 100 pictures in the span of three minutes (most of which were blurry or just a plain mess). Nonetheless, I was filled with all-encompassing joy, and still, have some of those videos on my computer to this day.

Some small things that would make the day-to-day more enjoyable were when Mr. Bradley would yell out, 'Next!' to the clicker to switch slides on his notorious powerpoints. Also, our class would discuss predestination vs free will year after year, even though everyone still holds to their original opinions. Finally, we would run outside to the swings to beat everyone else to the one that fit our height just perfectly. If you had a swing, you basically monopolized the playground. Then if you could get just a few people to play chicken (usually Josiah, Caleb, or Ryan), then the day was pretty much made."

Hannah's advice for the 7th grade version of herself is also spectacular. "I would place my hands on my shoulders and look me straight in the eyes. Then I would say, 'I know it feels like you are going to be in school forever, and I know that is frustrating. Especially, when you see the seniors getting to leave school early, drink their coffee, and it seems like they are never in class. Yes, they are so close to being done...and you still haven't even started high school. However, count that as a blessing. This place you are in is life-enriching, and will truly help you thrive as a functioning Christian in the real world. Once you are at the end of your high school career, it is easy to look back and think, 'Wow...I wish I had enjoyed that moment more for what it was. It was simple, quite ordinary actually, but it was really wonderful.' However, at the moment, I didn't appreciate it, because it was the norm, and I was dreaming for the weekend. Don't wish away the present by longing for the future. Time genuinely goes faster the older you get, which makes it easy for things to become a blur. Take time to enjoy the small moments, and be intentional with the steps you take in every aspect of your life."

Hannah, you have been a blessing to the school. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us!

Flexner Masadao

Flex joined GCA during his 10th grade year. I will let him speak from here:

"I came to Grace Classical Academy in my sophomore year of 2015. Ever since I came to the school, I have never regretted my decision. In fact, it was one of the best choices I have made, for both myself and for my walk with God. The class of 2018 and I have experienced many adventures, travesties, and oddities throughout the past three years. I've made friends, developed strong brotherly bonds, and enjoyed whatever the Lord provided me.



As a student, I never thought I would've learned so much, not only from my teachers, but from my peers. Students who were years my senior, or my junior, taught me lessons that I will never forget. Also, my teachers instilled in me a reason to not only learn, but to apply and use the information given to me.

Education and wisdom weren't the only things I have obtained, but also memorable and hilarious experiences. The most surreal, but amazingly outlandish, experience I have ever had at GCA was in the winter of 2017. Before discipleship class, we carried Mr. Moss, our headmaster, up three flights of stairs. In our march to the

"If it weren't for God, I don't think I would have ever enjoyed moments such as the 'Ascension of Emperor Moss.'" Flex Masadao

top, the boys all chanted, ‘GCA! GCA! GCA!’ It felt like the Lord of the Rings when Gandalf the Grey came back to life as Gandalf the White Wizard. Instead of the Fellowship of the Ring, Mr. Moss ascended to the third floor in the name of the Boys’ Discipleship Class. If it weren’t for God, I don’t think I would have ever enjoyed moments such as the ‘Ascension of Emperor Moss.’

However, all things must come to an end. Everyone must move on with their lives, and so do the students and teachers of GCA. Similar to birds who leave the nest, students must leave behind GCA to face the world around them. I would seek to do the same, and I will grow through the means of history and knowledge. Someday, I hope to become a history teacher, an archivist, and/or a writer.

Do I seek fame? Do I seek wealth? Do I seek a life of adventure? From the flesh, I would like to answer yes. However, in my mind and my soul, I must answer no. I seek whatever God plans for me. If I don’t become a history teacher, then I accept what I am given. All I truly want for myself is a life true in God’s eyes, not mine.”

Flex, you have been an incredible addition to this class. May you go on to teach history to the glory of God!

Gretchen Ruffa



Gretchen began at GCA in 6th grade. She plans to take a semester off and then enroll at Drury University in the spring to study hospitality management. Some of her best GCA memories are “most definitely in drama class. Drama class was a huge de-stresser for me. I didn’t have to worry about what ten-page assignment was due the coming week, because it was just a time to relax and have fun.”

Gretchen has a word of advice for future high schoolers: relax. She says, “the best advice I think I can give to the next wave of students would be to relax. The world will not end if you bomb a test or if you miss a due date for a paper. Most of the time, if you ask nicely, teachers will give you some opportunities for extra credit. And, don’t be afraid to ask for an explanation of something you don’t understand. The main thing to remember is to relax.”

Gretchen, you have been an asset to the school and fundamental in its fine arts productions. May you walk with God and grow in His love forever.

Paige Steelman

Paige has walked the halls of GCA since Kindergarten. Upon graduation, she will enroll at College of the Ozarks. She says, “I will be pursuing writing and cinematography. But, I’ve been learning to take one step at a time and not try to outrun God’s plan for my life. By relying on Him, I seem to have less of a plan for my own life—which is a step in the right direction.”



GCA memories abound for Paige. She has a few to share. “Year by year, memories

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are stored within the expansive archives of our minds. I am here to pull out a few of these files and relay to you some of the greatest memories of my years at GCA. In one of the most ancient files, the kindergarten file, I remember learning to count to 100 with Mrs. Flores. From Pow Wow’s to piñatas, kindergarten was the year of making friends and growing 2 1/4 inches. 1st grade holds memories of stomping grapes, painting our own renditions of ‘Bridge over a Pond of Water Lilies’ by Monet, and learning cursive. 2nd through 4th grade consisted of recess on the old tire swing and learning how to classify and diagram sentences.

By the time 5th grade rolled around, I had grown to really love my classmates, teachers, and school in general. My love for Greek mythology and writing began to be overwhelmingly obvious as well. Mrs. Loyd had given my class an assignment: write a Greek myth. All of us had invented a character to represent ourselves within our stories. My character was Teelthema, goddess of music. Soon after, Mrs. Loyd said that our stories had no maximum page count; she must’ve regretted it. For I, Paige Steelman, took up the task of writing the best (and longest) story my small, 10-year-old fingers could handle. The due date arrived, and as my fellow classmates turned in their 1-2 page stories, I proudly turned in a 44 page book. Since that day, for some strange reason unbeknownst to me, I’ve heard that Mrs. Loyd has imposed a page *maximum* on that assignment. (Mrs. Loyd has called this the ‘Paige’ limit.)

After 5th grade, the year of James began. At first, it was a daunting task: memorize and recite the entire book of James. But, by the end of the year, it was a rewarding object to take with us into future years. Even in high school PE, we would sing James to distract ourselves from the pain of wall-sits. If you ask (almost) any of the current seniors, we will still gladly sing you James 1-5. After 6th grade, we entered into 7th and 8th grade, the years of change. We had multiple teachers and we moved from room to room. Because of our trek from one side of the school to the other, we took it upon ourselves to race to Bible Survey every day—or at least beat Josiah. Also within junior high, we did geography reports and, thanks to Mrs. Winkler, we memorized that science is, “a branch of study dedicated to the accumulation and classification of observable facts in order to formulate general laws about the natural world.” This one definition is engrained in all of our memories.

Then high school began. 9th grade was the year to think for ourselves. We read 20 chapters of the Bible weekly and read through *The Best Things in Life*—a book incorporating the socratic method on modern day issues. This helped our class flourish and think independently. The next year, the play, *The Orphan Trains*, by Mrs. Harrison, was performed. That was a fun and rewarding experience for all those involved. 11th grade brought about Outdoor Education, which was one of my favorite classes. Some of the activities in this class included, but were not limited to: archery tag, croquet, bocce ball, soccer, and ultimate frisbee. The field trips with the Outdoor Education class were always memorable. The overnight camping trip held many stories—including running from snakes, playing games, and swimming in the creek. On another field trip, we went to a giant waterslide. This was no ordinary waterslide, however. If the entire class connected to create a chain, we would launch from each bend in the slide. With water up our noses and laughter in our bellies, we would emerge at the end of the slide with already forming bruises. Although it may sound painful, I promise it was some of the most fun we’ve had on a field trip.

As my time at GCA ends, I even look to the off-white walls and tiled floors of the high school with a fond familiarity. The multi-purpose room will forever be the room

I would eagerly arrive early at school to play dodgeball in. The chapel holds memories of performing Julius Caesar's poem, playing the bells in kindergarten, playing the piano during a free period senior year, and crying when we were told the news about Mrs. Vandiver's passing. The playground holds memories young and old. These include pretending to be wild adventurers in search of wild berries to eat for dinner, playing tag while climbing the fort, contra-dancing spontaneously in the field, Josiah jumping from the monkey bars and almost breaking his nose, reading *Moby Dick* on the swings, and watching the sunrise right before Algebra II started. Even the tree at the picnic tables is a reminder of how much I love GCA. I call that tree the 'Tree of Grace.' One, because it is, in fact, a tree on Grace Classical Academy property. And two, because of what it symbolizes. Christ sacrificed himself upon a tree in atonement of my sin. This is the ultimate embodiment of grace. The tree on the playground can even be a reminder of that."

Paige's advice for future students is too important to miss. "Opening up is not as scary as our brains make it out to be. Trust me, people will respect and appreciate you more for being genuine than being hyper-focused on everything you could say or do wrong. Being fully-known and promptly unloved is one of humankind's greatest fears. But, to be unknown and loved is living a lie and to be unknown and unloved is no way to live. The true test of boldness is if you can leave the confines of your comfort zone without a mask on.

Also, there is a lot of peace that comes with putting things in perspective. When God is your focus, everything else is just an avenue for His glory. Three of the greatest lessons I've learned are these: First, glorify God on your kneecaps. Second, ask yourself the question daily: 'Where am I pointing? Am I giving myself the glory or God?' The third lesson is elevating character over intelligence. Mr. Bradley once said, 'Intelligence is an overrated commodity; character is a far greater thing.'

Finally, I could give the standard advice: take good notes in chemistry, try not to procrastinate writing your essays, and actually mismatch on Mismatch Day instead of just looking cute (otherwise people like me will make passive aggressive comments at your expense). These are all helpful pieces of advice, but they don't hold the weight of eternity or God's glory. Instead, I'd advise the next wave of GCA students, or anyone for that matter, to seek first the kingdom—everything else is secondary."

Paige, you will be missed. Thank you for investing your talents at GCA.

Josiah Williams



Josiah has been at GCA since Pre-K. His next steps include "joining Matthew Vandiver, Lincoln Amstutz, and Ryan Edney on a long road-trip in two, 90s-model Mazda Miatas west of Missouri. Then, come August, I will be attending William Jewell and majoring in business."

Josiah has a favorite memory that is a classic in the lore of the class of 2018. "In 7th grade, I had a bad cough, but it wasn't bad enough to miss school. In order to muffle the sound, I had a tissue that I held over my mouth. After a few hours of coughing up a lung, I presented Ryan Edney a dare: lick my tissue. Being one to never back down from a challenge, Ryan accepted my gross and ridiculous request. Without surprise, a few days later he became sick... and so did his siblings."

One of Josiah's fondest experiences in GCA is science fair. "I love the challenge and excitement that comes with competition. I especially appreciate Mrs. Winkler, Mrs. Tolbert, and Dr. Sellers for allowing me such a memorable time competing beside other classmates."

Josiah, it has been a joy to have you as a student. I am glad that we can now be peers.



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Return Service Requested

June 2018

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| 1 | Tuition Due
Office Closed |
| 4 | Office opens for
summer hours
Monday-Thursday
9 am—3pm
Fridays
Closed |
| 16 | Mrs. Morris' Birthday |

July 2018

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Tuition Due |
| 4 | Independence Day
Office Closed |
| 5 | Mrs. Wilson's Birthday |

August 2018

- | | |
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| 1 | Tuition Due |
| 1-7 | Teacher Training and
Work Days |
| 6 | Orientation, 6 pm
First Day of School |
| 16 | Evening Prayer for GCA
7 pm |
| 31 | Camo Day |