

The General Times

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter

# Record-breaking Enrollment Opens 2021-22 School Year

It hasn't been that long since we celebrated the milestone of reaching 300 enrolled students at Georgia Christian School. The 2021-22 school year promises to crush that milestone, as we open to record enrollment. With numbers hovering between 340 and 345 throughout the end of July and beginning of August, there is no doubt that God has blessed us and challenged us to serve His children in mighty ways this year.



Our theme for this year is "Perhaps you were created for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14), a fitting backdrop for bringing our schools, classes, and students together while also allowing students to consider their own individual contributions.



This school year brings exciting changes everywhere. In Pre-K, Melissa Bundrick joins Pre-K3 as a para-pro. In Elementary, our K5 is split into two class, with Mrs. Hope Sprayberry taking on one of them. A full-time Librarian has also been added, Mrs. Sarah Musgrove. In Middle School, Mrs. Morgan Sykes ('15) has joined us to teach Math. Mr. Drew Copeland ('03) has moved up to High School to teach Math and Mrs. Sylvana Boyette has joined us part-

time to teach Spanish. Austin Plyler ('07) and Drew Suttles have also come on board to teach Middle School Bible.

The Class of 2022 includes nineteen seniors, several of whom have attended since early grades, and several who are multi-generational students. All of them are special, and all of them were created for such a time as this.



## We Are Living in Unprecedented Times!



How many times have we heard that phrase in the last eighteen months? And yes, these are unprecedented times that we are living in. However, consider this fact in a different but equally true context. According to an online article from the *Wall Street Journal* (July 2, 2021), “the greatest transfer of wealth in modern history has begun.” The article also says that Americans age 70 and over have a net worth of nearly \$35 trillion. That is more than the current National Debt (almost \$29 trillion). Talk about unprecedented times!

It is often said that one never sees a U-Haul in a funeral procession. This illustrates the obvious that we cannot take our possessions with us. So what will happen with the nearly \$35 trillion? It will be up to those who have stored it up to determine. Those that have a plan will pass on

their wealth to their family, friends, charities and/or projects. Others who do not have a plan will leave it in the hands of a surviving spouse, adult child or other court appointed representative to carry out what they believe to be their wishes. Unfortunately, most fall in the latter category. A recent statistic says that nearly 70% of Americans do not have an up-to-date will. Having a will has several advantages, including:

- Nominating your executor
- Nominating guardians for your minor children
- Nominating caretakers for your pets
- Instructions for debts and taxes
- Distributing specific assets and property
- Establishing your legacy by giving to nonprofit organizations

Deciding what to do with our possessions after we are gone is usually uncomfortable at best. However, planning ahead of time saves time and stress for our loved ones. If you are in the 70% that do not have an up-to-date will, consider making that a priority.

Georgia Christian School has been blessed recently with Alumni who have included GCS in their planned giving. Some have left gifts for named scholarships (housed in the Betty Louis Draughon Scholarship Endowment) and some to the Misty Hardin Annual Fund Endowment. Others have included restricted gifts towards a certain program or project. Still others have included unrestricted gifts that can be used in a variety of ways to fulfill the mission of Georgia Christian School.

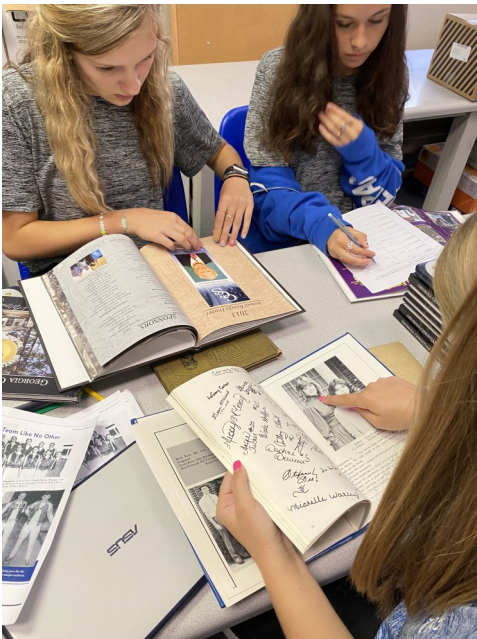
If you have included GCS in your planned giving, thank you! These gifts will ensure that the mission of providing a Christian foundation can continue in the long term. If you have thought about including GCS in your estate planning but have questions, feel free to reach out to our Chief Financial Officer and Certified Public Accountant, Michelle Iturralde or to Brad Lawson, GCS President. Having a will and taking care of your family (even four-footed members) is important. It is our hope and prayer that you will consider making Georgia Christian School a part of your planned giving as well.



## Alumni Association Members: Did you attend GCS? Join or renew today!

- |                                     |                                |                                |                             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| *Cecil H. Phelps '47                | *Elaine Graham Stacy '65       | *Cleta Colson Eyre '80         | *Leanne Jenkins Hood '03    |
| *Geraldine McLeod Thompson '47      | *Lynda Wilkins Lawlor '66      | *Bonnie Barrett Guthrie '80    | *Kristin Copeland Dykes '04 |
| *Sarah Copeland '48                 | Brenda Darwin Johnson '67      | *Philip Guthrie '80            | *Nicole Renfro Olbricht '05 |
| *Patricia Dicks Lester '49          | Frankie Johnson '67            | *Joey Redshaw '81              | Morgan Plyler Guthrie '05   |
| William J. Long '51                 | Cynthia Jean Watts '65         | *Elsa Copeland Barnes '82      | *Katie Colson Plyler '06    |
| *Pat Avants Bishop '53              | *Ellen Conway Williams '67     | *Dottie Eckberg Redish '82     | *Nathan Renfro '06          |
| Jo Williamson Guest '53             | *Tommy Williams '67            | *Connie Colson Guthrie '83     | *Austin Plyler '07          |
| Ron McCurry '53                     | *Ron Copeland '68              | *Lori Copeland Alley '84       | Adam Guthrie '08            |
| *Dr. Sondra E. Wilcox '54           | *Andrew Sykes '68              | *Denise Wright Hammitt '84     | *Sarah Copeland Lynch '09   |
| Paul E. Harris '55                  | *Joan Andrews Winn '68         | *Daphne DeWeese Warren '84     | *Pamela Brown Kimbrell '10  |
| Martha Harris '55                   | Ben Vick '70                   | *Donald Dawkins '88            | *Georgia Thomson '11        |
| *Wally Colson '55                   | *Jamie Copeland '71            | *Christy DeWeese Kilcrease '88 | *Augusta Guthrie '12        |
| *Donna Harvey McLeod '55            | *Gayle Sterling Lightsey '72   | *Jason Chesser '89             | *Keaton Bentley '15         |
| *M.C. McLeod '55                    | *Lisa Force Lang '74           | *Lori Dawkins McGuire '90      | *Morgan Sykes '15           |
| *Barbara Wisenbaker Colson '56      | Ginger Copeland Knowles '76    | *Jon Sykes '90                 | *Erin Copeland Swilley '16  |
| *Jimmy Hightower '57                | Russell Knowles '76            | *Alison Sykes Cartee '93       | *Lauryn Russell '17         |
| *Mary Jean Wisenbaker Armstrong '58 | *Cathy Guthrie Lee '76         | *Michelle Bass Copeland '94    | *Lindsey Sykes '17          |
| Julian (Jubie) Copeland '58         | *Cindy Guthrie Horne '77       | *Audrey Strange Dawkins '96    | *Emmy Copeland '18          |
| James (JC) McMullen '58             | *Mike Horne '77                | *Melissa Lee England '98       | *Brad Lawson President      |
| *William Udell '59                  | *Linda Carol Johnson Brown '78 | *Nikki Copeland Warren '98     | *James Lee Faculty          |
| *Harold W. Graham '60               | *Greg Brown '79                | *Rebecca Thornhill Garbutt '00 | Carol J. McLeod Faculty     |
| *Charlie Copeland '62               | *Kent Copeland '79             | *Terri Lee Orrell '00          | Julie Dykes Faculty         |
| *Charles (Termite) Phillips '63     | *Tammie Davis Bobbit '79       | *Kristin Horne Blount '01      | *Michelle Iturralde Faculty |
| Judy Jensen McMullen '65            | *Deland Guthrie '79            | *Vince Hamm '01                |                             |

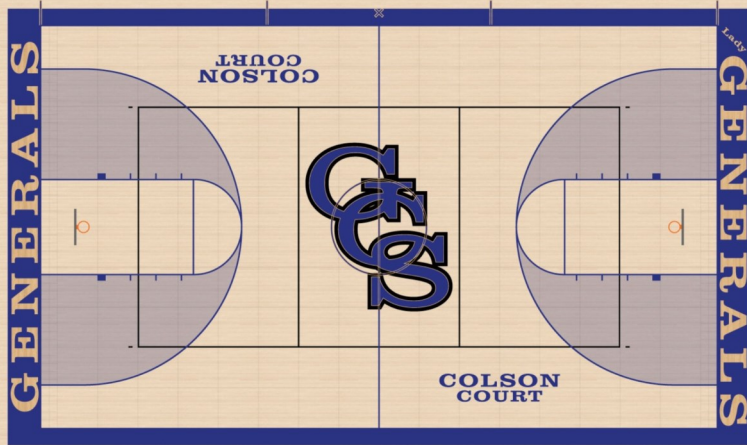
## Unit on Dasher History Teaches Yearbook Class About GCS Traditions



This year, the first few weeks of school have focused on local history in Yearbook class. The students have used the Georgia Christian School *Centennial Memory Book*, Pine Embers Yearbooks, online resources, as well as touring on-site areas of interest and the Dasher Museum. All of this has been in response to an interest expressed by students in previous Yearbook classes to learn more about the history of the school and the area, as well as a desire to keep the history of the school alive in the current student body.



## Alumni Stepping Up!



Thank you to our Alumni who helped last year with the gym roof repair. In case you missed it, we used the dues from the Alumni Association as well as several specific donations (all from Alumni) to make an \$8,000 repair on the gym roof. Now that the project is completed, we can focus on the stripping/repainting of the gym floor! As with last year, we will use the Alumni Association dues and individual donors to help make this project happen before basketball season tips off this year. At the time of print, we have half of the \$15,000 project committed. If you are interested in helping beyond your dues, you can send a check with "Gym Floor" in the memo line or go to our website and find a "Donate" button on the Giving page. Thank you to those who have already helped with this project! Go Generals!



### Dana Perino



#### 2021 Benefit Dinner Speaker

Georgia Christian School is proud to present Former White House Press Secretary, Political Commentator, New York Times No. 1 Best-Selling Author, and Co-Ancor of Fox's *America's Newsroom* as this year's speaker on Saturday, November 13!



For more information about this year's Benefit Dinner, please see our Benefit Dinner page on our website ([www.georgiachristian.org/benefit/sponsorshipinformation](http://www.georgiachristian.org/benefit/sponsorshipinformation)) or call us at the school at 229-559-5131.

*The mission of the Georgia Christian School Alumni Association*

*is to provide a forum for communication among graduates of Georgia Christian School*

*(Dasher Bible School/Georgia Christian Institute) to promote more involvement with the school.*



### Forever a General...

Check out the GCS Spirit Store at [www.gcsmerchandise.com](http://www.gcsmerchandise.com), where you will find lots of Generals attire and more. Support Georgia Christian and all your Generals teams!

Georgia Christian School  
4359 Dasher Road  
Valdosta, GA 31601