



It is incredible to look back and see how fast the year has gone. My first year as Administrator has been filled with spiritual growth, excitement, and new challenges. Almost daily I pray for God's wisdom and presence to fulfill our spiritual and educational responsibility.

I have two important business items for you to know. First, as a school we have reached another major milestone recently by completing IRS recognition as a 501(c)3 organization. This culminates many months of work by many including: Mr. Briles, Sandra Albertson, and Mr. Bill Williams, Mrs. Rachel Dickens, and Mr. McLaughlin from Hayworth Wesleyan Church. As a non-profit, the school will be able to seek additional avenues of revenue as well as allow corporations financial participation that previously was not available. Secondly, the Edline roll out is continuing. Parents of students in grades six through twelve should have received their activation information. If you have not activated your code, please link through our web site and set up your account. Your student in those grades have already activated at school. The site has been a very effective tool for both students and parents. We will continue to place important information on Edline for you. Please contact me if you have any questions or need help with activation.

Words cannot adequately express to you my deep appreciation to the many supportive parents involved at HCS. The many gifts over the holidays, spoken words of encouragement, and written cards and notes are greatly appreciated. You are a very special humble group of givers – thank you. I shared a story at open house about the man, after a severe storm at the beach, who watched a young boy walking down the beach picking up a starfish and throwing it back into the ocean. Since thousands of starfish were washed up on the beach, the sheer number of them caused the man to wonder why the boy was even trying to throw some back. He walked over to the boy and told him that there was no way he would be able to save them all, so why was he even trying. The boy looked up at the man, picked up another starfish, held it up and said, "because it matters to this one", and threw it back in the ocean. Then he picked up another, threw it in and said again, "because it matters to this one." This story is a strong reminder to me daily that although we desire to change many, we must be diligent and obedient to our mission and calling, because to God it always "matters to this one."

As I reflect back to August when we started this journey, I remember the many chapel services where we listened to challenging messages, sang, and even shed some tears together. If we have been open, God has offered us many opportunities to grow in our faith. We have experienced answers to prayer. Several situations united our faculty, staff and students in prayer for one another. Because of the unfortunate events in the spring, Spiritual Emphasis was critically important. I agonized over the decision of who to bring in to lead us because of its great importance. It needed to be someone effective and challenging. As we reached the end of the week prior, Mrs. Kennedy put me in touch with Rev. Kenny Greenway and his wife, who three days in advance of our services, graciously accepted an invitation to speak to the students for all three days. His messages were timely and inspiring for all of us. I am also grateful to Mrs. Lumston for accepting the responsibility of working with the praise band for chapel services. As parents, you should be as proud as I am of all the students who have given their time and effort in preparation for chapel.

As you can see from the web site, your students have participated in the math Olympics, ACSI Choir competition, and Science Olympics. Many of our students placed individually and others won recognition as a group. It is important to note in nearly all cases we are competing against much larger schools, in some instances even large public schools. In many aspects, HCS seems to be David against Goliath because of our school size. However in many cases, like the competitions listed above, HCS continues to compete on a high level.

This year academically we have strengthened some of our courses and desire to continue that trend. We continually look for ways to provide a challenging quality education. Your Parent Teacher Fellowship plays a very important role with providing state-of-the-art equipment to enhance the learning experience. The science lab was the project several years ago for Jog-a-Thon proceeds which has allowed us to significantly transform the program to hands-on learning experience. If you do not know what the science buddy program is, please ask your student. The computer lab added at the beginning of the year, is one of only two in the state of North Carolina. It is cutting edge learning by using a dual boot core system. Using the iMac, HCS is teaching Microsoft 2007 applications and can also boot to the Apple side and teach those applications as well. PTF also purchased media carts for the classroom which provides the instructor with a document reader, laptop, and projector to use in the classroom. Many of our teachers use the carts to enhance learning. This year PTF purchased a few more media carts, a sound system for chapel, and art equipment, including drying racks, tables and chairs, and several other accessories. Every Jog-a-Thon letter you sent helped make a difference. I could spend hours describing how you, along with PTF, make a difference for your student!

One of the best compliments that can be paid to an organization is by referring others. At HCS we do not actively advertise for students. Being a discipleship based school, we depend on our students and families to refer others to us. Your continued support in this area is greatly appreciated. I am personally very excited about the coming year. We will miss our recently graduated seniors, but I know there is a group of students anxiously waiting to take their place.

It is imperative, in closing, for you to know how important your student is to God and HCS. HCS exists for families willing to make a financial sacrifice to send their student to Christian school. It is my desire for each student to return and grow spiritually, academically, and individually. I have been reminded many times recently that God uses ordinary people for extraordinary things. We must be willing, grounded scripturally, and prepared to accept His calling. I am committed, with God's help, to responsibly offer a solid Christian academic experience. Although we can only provide the tools, we will remain steadfast in that commitment providing the basis for students to be a light for God and make correct choices.

Ed Kingdon, Administrator
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