

# TERRA FIRMA

A Student Magazine

Vol. I 2021-2022



## CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS



PAGES 10-11

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A look back at God's provision over the 25-year history of Providence Classical Christian School



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**PROVIDENCE**  
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Terra Firma*, solid ground, represents a metaphor for the vision and mission of Providence. We seek to teach and train young men and women to reach their highest potential in truth and character, to cultivate minds “well-made” not simply “well-filled.” From this solid foundation, rooted in Scripture, students prepare to go forth in service to God and man.

# Twenty-Five Years and Just Beginning

## A LETTER FROM THE HEADMASTER

In 1997, three families with a vision for a discipleship-based education started Providence Classical Christian School. The goals included a robust academic standard in the classical tradition, an uncompromising approach to enculturation of a biblical worldview, and intentional partnering with Christian parents. Twenty-five years later, the vision continues with over 160 families and the same mission.

As Nancy Pearcy wrote in *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*, “We should expect the process of developing a Christian worldview to be a difficult and painful struggle – first inwardly, as we uproot the idols in our own thought life, and then outwardly, as we face the hostility of a fallen and unbelieving world.”

We see this theme throughout Scripture. Parents are to train up their children in the way they should go so when they are old they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6). Paul encouraged Christians to take every thought captive to Christ (1 Corinthians 10:5). Jesus said that a student, when fully trained, will be like his teacher (Luke 6:40).

In 1963, Harry Blamires lamented the condition of Christian thinking. “As a thinking being, the modern Christian has succumbed to secularization.” In his book, *The Christian Mind*, he wrote, “To think christianly is to accept all things with the mind as related, directly or indirectly, to man’s eternal destiny as the redeemed and chosen child of God.”

If this was a wake-up call to Christians in 1963, how much more important is this message in 2022?

We have evidence to be grateful. Recently, a family new to the Providence community moved to Idaho. Upon departure they wrote, “You all are doing the most amazing job and I pray that we find another school half as close to what

Providence is. What a blessing to know the children of Seattle are being fully equipped to head into a raging world. It’s really the most amazing thing to know that a school like Providence exists. What a blessing.”

Be encouraged. Students in classical, Christian schools are indeed thinking not with a framework of secularization, but with a voice enlightened by Scriptural truth. Recently one of our Providence graduates, currently in college, wrote in a blogpost: “We are adopted into sonship of Christ, and so we also will bear fruit as He did. When we come before the Lord, we are made clean, but we are not empty-handed. Our arms are filled with the fruit that glorifies Him, and we do this because of the cross.”

Twenty-five years is just the start. The fruit of a school partnership is God fulfilling his covenantal promises. He blesses us beyond what we can imagine, and though the journey is fraught with trials and hardships, He is faithful to produce fruit by the grace and mercy promised in Christ. Here’s to twenty-five more years.

**Mr. Ryan Evans**





# Secondary Fall Retreat

Elizabeth Godavarthi

This year, we got the opportunity to return to one of our favorite events of the year, which is Fall Retreat. Fall Retreat is a 4-day getaway to Lakeside Bible Camp on Whidbey Island. It provides a chance to connect with the new students and the incoming 7th graders that just joined secondary.

The week starts off with a lot of energy and momentum. As soon as we get to the camp, we jump straight into House competitions. Retreat is a huge opportunity for houses to gain points. The first day consists of soccer and volleyball with corresponding sister houses. In addition, there are opportunities for 3-v-3 basketball, 2-v-2 volleyball, 1-v-1 pickleball, and 1-v-1 carpetball tournaments.

The retreat is known as a week full of traditions. For example, there are nightly activities like Name that Tune, Game Night, Movie Night, Trivia Night, and a Senior game which was designed and hosted by the class of 2022. In addition to games, Retreat includes an amazing menu. Some nights have traditional dinners like “Taco Tuesday” and “Italian Night” on Wednesday night. Mr. and Mrs. Baron were the chefs for this year, and they cooked up delicious meals for over 100 students each day.

Retreat this year was a great time to reconnect with each other after the last couple of years that struggled due to COVID. We are glad to have it back and will remember the memories we made for a long, long time.



Seniors Rose Brokaw, Keith Larkin, and Jeffrey Evans fight to bring the innertube back to their side in the senior-led game on the first night of retreat.



Freshmen Lebanos Abraham, Blake Tibbetts, and Aaron Langub strategize to win a round of slip-and-slide steal-the-bacon.



7th grade students Sarah Knudsen and Lucy Sykes smile for the camera while watching classmates play volleyball.





Seniors Sydney Bredenberg and Paige Johnson carry junior Elizabeth Godavarthi in the house relay competition.



8th grade students Drayden Fitzgerald, Von Sandeno, and Gilead Bouckennooghe at the gaga ball pit.



7th grade student Kate Bredenberg prepares a serve on the volleyball court.



Juniors Cody Tibbetts, Matthew Reeve, and Jayden Lohman smile for the camera during the soccer competition.



Ella Walsh (10th), Aerabella Fitzgerald (10th), Odessa Kaufman (9th), Geneva Kowalick (9th) and Kylea Small (10th) pose for a photo.



7th grader Eli Parsons prepares to serve in the pickleball tournament, in which he took second place.



The Providence secondary students gathered for a group photo on the last day of retreat.





Mrs. Thompson's first grade class posing for a photo in their costumes.



Jackson Baron, as Martin Luther, faces off against Jeffrey Evans, playing Pope Leo X in the skit for the grammar school.



Kindergarten student Olivia Mann raises her hand to participate in the House Council skit.



# Reformation Day 2021

Austin Pierce

On October 31st, the entire school celebrated an annual favorite event - Reformation Day.

From a costume parade, to stained-glass window crafts, to medieval dancing in the grammar school, and the literary pumpkins and themed writing contests in the secondary school, this year's Reformation Day was a great event.

One traditional element that made its return this year is the Golden Spoon, awarded to the best overall dessert in the dessert competition. This year, the winner was 8th grade student Drew French.

A new element that was added this year was an interactive skit put on by the secondary house council for the grammar students. The skit told the story of Martin Luther's conversion and the beginning of the Reformation.

As usual, Reformation Day was a highlight of the fall trimester!



Above: 5th grade student Kamden Russell works by candlelight on a stained-glass window craft.

Left: Sophomore Luke Marshall helps to lead medieval dancing for Mrs. Letsche's 6th grade class.



# Fall Athletics 2021

Sofia Ness



The boys soccer team at the state championship game.

This year, Providence made a full return to athletics after a year off due to COVID restrictions. For the fall season, Providence had boys middle school and high school soccer teams, as well as middle school girls and high school girls volleyball teams. The big story of this season was the high school boys soccer team going all the way to the state championship and taking second place under the coaching of Mr. Matthew Morris.

The varsity girls volleyball team also had a winning record of 9-7 under the leadership of coach Madi Marshall and five senior girls; Rebecca Arneson, Sydney Bredenberg, Rose Brokaw, Paige Johnson, and Jessica Olson.



Senior volleyball girls at their Senior Night.



Middle school volleyball girls in action.



Freshman volleyball girls cheer on their team.



Middle school soccer player Von Sandeno.

# STUDENT CORNER

Getting to know Providence students.

Sofia Ness

## RJ Owens



This is RJ Owens' second year at Providence and learning thought-provoking facts about past events during history class is one of RJ's favorite parts of 4th grade thus far.

Recently, the 4th graders

started learning about the East-West Schism, a topic RJ finds particularly interesting, especially considering that, "the two churches just recently reconciled." RJ also loves Mrs. Bouckennooghe's science class, where the 4th grade class learns cool facts about our body systems. As well as thoroughly enjoying his 4th grade learning experience, RJ is a percussionist for the middle school band, where he enthusiastically plays both the snare drums and bells. Along with these talents, RJ is quite the athlete, with both swim experience at the Snohomish Piranhas and plans to play baseball in September for the third year. RJ's favorite day of this year so far was read-in-day, which is a part of the read-a-thon. He read a total of six books, including Revelation, which was the book he enjoyed the most of those he read this year.

## Bella Wier



Bella Wier, a new addition to the 5th grade class, is enjoying her first year in the Providence community. She especially likes her writing class, where she gets to rewrite source

texts in more creative and imaginative ways. "I also enjoy writing outside of class," Bella says, "I've written a couple stories so far and I hope to write many more." Before Providence, Bella was homeschooled and though she certainly is grateful for the extra time spent with family, she also loves the Providence school life and the friendships she has formed. Piano is another of Bella's many hobbies, which she has faithfully practiced for the past 4 years. During the Christmas season, Bella worked on some classy Christmas tunes, which she loved blessing her family with. In all Bella has been a great new friendly face in the 5th grade and her classmates love having her there.

## Aubree Pierce



According to 6th grader Aubree Pierce, "Providence is really fun because the teachers ask lots of interesting questions and they are enjoyable to listen to."

In literature class the

6th graders read *Do Hard Things* which Aubree particularly loved as it "teaches great life lessons." Reading in general is one of Aubree's favorite hobbies, with *Roof Toppers* as her all-time favorite read. Before Covid, Aubree also took gymnastics classes, but she still spends time at home working on complicated tricks. As well as gymnastics, Aubree plans to join the Providence girls' basketball team when the season rolls around, where she will be a much-appreciated addition. Overall Aubree is a wonderful addition to both her class and the Providence community.



# Teacher Spotlight

Introducing two new teachers to the Providence community.

Blake Tibbetts



**Mrs. Reyna Morris**  
1st Grade

Mrs. Reyna Morris teaches 1st Grade here at Providence. She graduated from Seattle Pacific University with a major in integrated studies in the spring of 2021. Mrs. Morris was very eager to apply to work at Providence because she enjoyed her years here from 10th to 12th grade. She enjoys long walks by Lake Tapps with her husband. Mrs. Morris has a strong work ethic, as she needs to drive an hour each way to come to school on a daily basis. Although the 1st graders can be a handful, Mrs. Morris enjoys their enthusiasm and hopes for countless more adventures with the little rascals.



**Mrs. Kyla Hatcher**  
Secondary

Mrs. Hatcher is a new secondary teacher. Before becoming a full time teacher here, Mrs. Hatcher worked as a substitute teacher. Mrs. Hatcher graduated from New St. Andrews with a degree in Liberal Arts and Culture. Mrs. Hatcher loves reading - she read all of John Steinbeck's novels in only one summer. Mrs. Hatcher had quite a rowdy childhood because she grew up with nine siblings. Some of Mrs. Hatcher's favorite subjects to learn about are Hebrew and Economics and once she is settled into her teaching role, she plans to continue studying those topics again. Mrs. Hatcher enjoys teaching at Providence because she went to a classical Christian school herself when her mother was a teacher and school always felt like a home to her. No matter how crazy the secondary students are, Mrs. Hatcher strives to teach them virtue and confidence.

# CELEBRATING

Twenty-five years into its existence, Providence has two slogans - one formal, and one informal. The formal slogan can be seen around school on student uniforms, on letterhead, on the sign in front of the building. That slogan is, "Soli Deo Gloria" - To the Glory of God Alone. It is a constant reminder that what we do here, from secondary house lunches to grammar spelling

that would last - and that would bring blessing to countless generations. And here, after experiencing twenty-five years of God's providential support, we are beginning to see the fruit of that aspiration.

In the photo below, we see the senior class of 2009 with the class of 2022. In the back row, Tyler Hatcher holds Jeffrey Evans on his



The class of 2009 with the class of 2022.

bees, is done with one ultimate purpose in mind; the glory of God. It is no wonder this slogan became the formal one - there is no higher call in all creation than to bring glory to the Creator God.

But in addition to this formal slogan, there is another. One that goes all the way back to the roots of Providence and expresses the founding desire of the school - "To a Thousand Generations." From the very beginning, the deep desire has been to create something

shoulders. This year, Tyler Hatcher teaches Jeffrey in twelfth grade apologetics, and Tyler's oldest children, Cyrus and Judah are in second grade and kindergarten respectively. Headmaster Ryan Evans notes with joy that it is particularly exciting to see previous students returning and teaching, or enrolling their own children as students. He says, "What an amazing experience to see our soccer team this year coached by Matthew Morris, a graduate of Providence who now teaches math and science



# 25 YEARS

in the secondary. Other graduates, including Mattie Worley, Tyler Hatcher, Reyna Morris, Kathryn Lacalli, and Wesley Su also returned to help teach in some capacity, and alumnus Carter Butaud serves on the Providence Board. We're excited to see that pattern continue."

One mark of successful discipleship is that the learner goes on to be a teacher - and we are

to flourish in the midst of a culture opposed to His word, like Joseph in Egypt or Daniel in Babylon. His providential hand has never left us, and His faithfulness is perfect. When we look at the photo below, and reflect on God's kindness so far, all we can do is ask; if He has brought us so far, what will He do next? If nine pre-kindergarteners can become twenty-four,



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The class of 2022 with the class of 2035.

grateful for God's merciful work of turning the boys and girls of the Providence community into young men and women who value truth, goodness, and beauty, and desire to pass that on to others, including their own children.

So - as we look to the future, we turn to the photo above - and we praise God for the growth he has wrought in our community, from nine pre-kindergarten students and six seniors in 2009 to twenty-four pre-kindergarten students and twelve seniors in 2022. God has allowed us

what can twenty-four become?

So, with joyful and grateful hearts, we continue to say, as we always have, *Soli Deo Gloria*, to a thousand generations.

# Introducing the Class of 2022

Kalinn Hilt



Rebecca Arneson has been attending Providence for fourteen years now, and some of her favorite memories with her classmates are of Starbucks runs with Mrs. Wu and Christmas tree hunting with Dr. Mould. Her advice to others is that the teachers know what they are doing and really want to help, so do not be afraid to ask questions. Becca plans on attending New Saint Andrews next fall in pursuit of fictional writing, art, and music.

Jackson Baron has spent the last thirteen years at Providence, enjoying his time at the secondary fall retreats and last spring's Protocol event in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He is thankful for the community at the school, and reminds everyone of the importance of diligence and working hard to do the right thing, even if it is not always the easiest. He will be attending Bob Jones University, hoping to study graphic design or sports marketing.



Sydney Bredenberg joined Providence five years ago after being homeschooled. Since then, she has been able to appreciate the value of a Christian education and community, which is grounded in the Bible and intentional about including God in every subject. She has fond memories of their eighth grade Pacific Northwest history field trip, and is interested in studying mechanical engineering, computer science, and education.

Rose Brokaw has attended Providence for seven years total, and she is thankful for all of the friends and connections she has made over the years. She says that no matter how daunting a task seems at the time, putting in your best effort will always make it easier. Rose remembers decorating Dr. Mould's classroom for Christmas, and wants to pursue engineering after high school.



Marc Dumaoal has been going to Providence for twelve years. One of his favorite memories is carrying a Christmas tree through the hall with his classmates while singing made up songs. He says that time at school goes by fast, so "do your best to really make this a time that you're proud of." He wants to attend the University of Washington to study communications and is interested in becoming a pastor or personal trainer.

Aidan Ely has been here for the last five years, and he says that Providence has taught him a lesson in perseverance, and that procrastinating is not a wise idea. He remembers the late night conversations with friends at retreat and hopes to study finance and economics in Boston next year.







Jeffrey Evans has attended Providence for 14 years, and he has enjoyed singing a former Spring Concert song, "Great God Almighty," around school with friends. He is thankful that he can leave his backpack in the hallways without fear of it getting stolen, and for the values of hard work and critical thinking. He tells students to be involved in the school and participate in extracurriculars as much as possible. Jeffrey is interested in studying engineering and marketing.

Paige Johnson has spent fourteen years at Providence. She is thankful for the integration of Scripture into every class, and how each subject is centered around Christ. She advises students to be diligent and work hard because it will be worth it in the end. Paige is planning on attending Bob Jones University next fall to study interior design.



Keith Larkin came to Providence four years ago, and his favorite memory is going on island trips for soccer games. He says to keep pushing even when school gets hard, because "there's always a Friday coming," and he is thankful that the teachers invest in their students. He plans to spend four years at the US Naval Academy after high school, and then six more years in military service.

Jessica Olson has been here at Providence for seven years. She says to always work hard and pay attention during class, and that simply taking good notes in class goes a long way. Jessica is thankful for all of the opportunities that she has been given here, and she plans on studying marine biology at Grand Canyon University.



JD Olson joined seven years ago, and he is thankful for the welcoming, kind, and supportive teachers. He reminds students to cherish all of the memories they make, and to put thought and time into friendships. One of his favorite memories is when Dr. Mould forgot he had a class with them and was busy in a meeting across the hall. JD hopes to study business or sports management at Grand Canyon University.

Ethan Smith is in his twelfth year at Providence, and he tells other students that trying harder sooner and not slacking off will be worth the work. His favorite memory is of listening to Aidan Ely snoring at retreat and having to switch rooms in the middle of the night, and he is interested in civil engineering.



# AROUND CAMPUS

ELIZABETH GODAVARTHI

A quick look at some exciting things happening around campus, from facility updates to student activities.



This year, both secondary and grammar school have a large variety of clubs throughout each month. Secondary has clubs about math, trivia, tea, and more. Above, some of the secondary club leaders smile for a photo by the clubs bulletin board.

Meeting in the Providence north building during the elective period twice a week is our robotics class. Pictured here is the team led by instructor Mr. Worley. The robotics class works together to build robots for competition.







Though the photo to the left may appear to be somewhat mundane, it is actually quite exciting! The walls pictured here were built during the summer of 2021 so that the north building could be divided into four classrooms. For the last couple of years, the Providence North building has had classrooms divided by portable room dividers. Now, they have newly built walls, complete with windows.

Freshman Blake Tibbetts and sophomore Austin Pierce work on the school yearbook on the new laptops purchased this year for the secondary computer lab. These computers are used primarily for the 7th grade typing class to help prepare students for writing papers in future years.



Throughout the last school year, we were unable to conduct our practice of Matins due to COVID restrictions. However, this year we brought it back and it is better than ever!



# Grammar Happenings

Blake Tibbetts

In the grammar school, students get to participate in various themed days, field trips, and special activities. Let's explore a few of the unique experiences our grammar students have had so far this year.

## 1800's County Fair Day

1800's County Fair Day is a themed day for sixth grade dedicated to life in America during the 1800s. This day is a harrowing adventure in search of gold in wild California. The sixth graders dress in western costumes and navigate through the school, learning facts with various activities. This fun experience is a reward for finishing the book *Tom Sawyer*, a tale of a young boy growing up in America during these times.



The sixth grade class in their 1800's-style finery, with their teacher, Mrs. Letsche.



Emma Badillo plucks a lollipop from the hay bale under the smiling oversight of senior Becca Arneson.



Under the watchful supervision of senior Jeffrey Evans, Isabella Biggerstaff casts her line to catch some fish in the river.





Third graders look down into the creek hoping to spot salmon.



A hatchery staff person shows students the progress of salmon from eggs to fry (infant salmon).

## Salmon Hatchery Field Trip

In October, the 3rd grade class went to Issaquah to see the salmon hatchery and to learn about the environment of the Pacific Northwest. Some students saw salmon for the very first time and all enjoyed a day outside studying God's creation.



Students come face-to-face with a large salmon in the hatchery tank.

## Recess Clubs

This year, grammar students have the opportunity to participate in recess clubs - groups that meet during recess time to practice various hobbies and activities. There are clubs ranging from crafts to knitting to LEGOs.



Above: Sixth grade student Emily Belle copies Scripture while working on a craft during her club.

Left: Fourth grade student Olivia Kading works on a Christmas card for a family member during recess club.



# Secondary House Council

Sofia Hilt

## THE 2021-2022 HOUSE COUNCIL



Not Pictured: Becca Arneson, Rose Brokaw, Jeffrey Evans, Andrew Letsche

House Council is a great opportunity for students to gain leadership skills and to put those skills to practice in our community. House council plans all of our flings and B.A.S.I.C.s and the various committees run different things.

This year we have the biggest house council in the history of Providence, consisting of nineteen students. Due to the large number of students involved, the key to a successful team is to delegate effectively. The committee heads do most of the planning for their specific group while the president works with faculty and is more of a facilitator for house council. The dynamic of the group, because of the size, can be easy to get off track, but in the end, they get their work done.



7th grade students Micah Wilson and Ben Smith laugh over a game of BINGO.

Recently, the House Council helped to facilitate the Christmas Breakfast on the last day of school before Christmas break. House Council helped by brainstorming the event and planning games for the rest of the student body to play.



8th grade student Calvin Moore shoots for the prize at Christmas Breakfast.



8th grade student Cecelia Owen hoists her winnings triumphantly.

# New and Upcoming



## HIGHLANDER HIGHLIGHTS

## The Highlander Highlights Podcast

Tune in each Monday morning to hear about what is going on around the Providence community. In each five-minute episode, you'll hear

recaps of recent events, updates on forthcoming events, and interviews with various people from around the school. Find the podcast on any podcast application by searching for Highlander Highlights and looking for the Providence logo.

## Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction

On March 19th, join the Providence community for a night of good fun, laughs, and generosity. You won't want to miss hearing about all the great things God is doing in our community, and you will be given the opportunity to help support the mission of our school - "To teach students to love what is lovely, to think and act biblically, and to pursue academic excellence in joyful submission to the Lord Jesus Christ." Request an invitation by emailing [corymarshall@pccs.org](mailto:corymarshall@pccs.org).





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## PROVIDENCE DRAMA PRESENTS



### THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

©Disney

MUSIC BY	LYRICS BY	BOOK BY
Alan Menken	Howard Ashman & Tim Rice	Linda Woolverton
ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY	ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY	
Robert Jess Roth	Disney Theatrical Productions	

The enchantment begins...  
**March 31st - April 2nd**