

LIFE MOMENTS

FUTURE ALUMNI

CAMILA JUNE to MERIDYTH (BATES) '11 & NATE ARAGON | JUNE 24, 2022
HAYES MIKAH to KYLE '12 & MACKENZIE BRINNING | JUNE 26, 2022
EVELYN LOUISE to STACY (DEHOGUES) '06 & KYLE JONES | JULY 13, 2022
CALVIN JAMES to JACEY (DEHOGUES) '12 & KENNETH HOWARD | JULY 15, 2022
BRIGGS RANDALL to BREANA (STOUT) '15 & COLE YODER '17 | JULY 27, 2022
DAWSYN HALEY to HALEY (SLAUBAUGH) '09 & RYAN BONTRAGER '08 | JULY 26, 2022
OWEN KENT WALKER to SETH '05 & ASHLEY UNRUH | AUGUST 1, 2022
MILA VERLEE to JILL (WIDMER) '00 & JOSH LUNDBERG | AUGUST 14, 2022
DALEY MABEL to CHRISTOPHER '12 & LEXI PEREZ | AUGUST 16, 2022
COLLINS JADE & HAYES JON to REGGIE '14 & PAYTON HOSTETTLER | AUGUST, 19, 2022
JAXON LAMONT to AMANDA (BATES) '08 & SHAWN ECHOLS | AUGUST 20, 2022
THEODORE JAMES to TAYLOR (FULTON) '11 & DAVID YODER | AUGUST 27, 2022
IMANI SOLEIL to KELSEY YODER '08 | AUGUST 31, 2022
ROSEMARY SUE to ZACH '12 & MARY WEISS | OCTOBER 5, 2022
LYLE THOMAS to KAYCEE (MILLER) '15 & WILL SPURR | OCTOBER 11, 2022
ROBY KENNETH to KARA (ROPP) '10 & JOSH YODER '10 | OCTOBER 20, 2022
AMELIA LOUISE to JOE '08 & ERIKA HOCHSTETLER | NOVEMBER 22, 2022
KAIDEN CLIFFORD DOUGLAS to LAURA (STOLTZFUS) '06 & AARION JONES | DECEMBER 13, 2022
MAE ANN to CARLY (UNRUH) '11 & ADAM VOTH UNRUH | DECEMBER 15, 2022
KAI ALEJANDRO to JUSTIN '05 & GLADIS HOCHSTETLER | DEC 24, 2022
GIA GRACE to EMMA (YUTZY) '11 & GARRETT SPRINGER | JANUARY 6, 2023

WEDDING BELLS

TANNER LEYDEN '14 & AVERY ROHRS | JUNE 11, 2022
KERRI (HOSTETTLER) '10 & DYLAN MARTIN | JULY 9, 2022
SHELBY (STUTZMAN) '01 & MERRELL MIDDLETON | JULY 9, 2022
CALLI (SHAW) '17 & KYLE SCHIERNBECK | JULY 30, 2022
MATT LIBBY '12 & ASHLEY DEPPE | SEPTEMBER 10, 2022
TAYLOR (SWANTZ) '09 & TAVON BAGLEY | OCTOBER 2, 2022
KATIE (ROWLAND) '08 & JAY SCHERBRING | OCTOBER 28, 2022
KAYLIN (BROKAW) '15 & CHRISTIAN OETKEN | NOVEMBER 12, 2022
NICHOLAS YODER '13 & MAUA KWAMBOKA OSORO | DECEMBER 17, 2022
DALE STUTZMAN '02 & SARAH CLARAHAN | JANUARY 7, 2023

IN MEMORIAM

LEONARD SLAGLE '67 | FEBRUARY 9, 2022
RUSSELL MILLER '49 | JULY 7, 2022
SUSAN BRENNEMAN '60 | JULY 24, 2022
CLAYTON WENGER '56 | JULY 27, 2022
CARLEY (EASH) '53 BRUBAKER | AUGUST 8, 2022
CURTIS ROTH '62 | AUGUST 30, 2022
JOHN A. MILLER '02 | SEPTEMBER 5, 2022
BETTY (POWELL) '68 BEACHY | NOVEMBER 7, 2022

YOUR LIVES ARE IMPORTANT TO US!

Please send announcements, change of address, or other communications and updates to us. Drop us a note at contact@hillcresttravens.org.



HILLCREST ACADEMY
ACADEMICS that INSPIRE. FAITH that LEADS.

HILLCREST ACADEMY
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THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF HILLCREST ACADEMY

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PUBLISHER: Jeremy Ours
EDITOR: Laurie Miller '99

OPERATING BOARD: Joel Beachy '98, Heather Bender '02, Connie Ebersole, Gregg Fox, Allison Goertz '02, Josh Lundberg, Troy Roth '88, Sid Rowland, Beth Swantz '81 | Chair, Sarah Yoder

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WE ARE EXCITED about the opening of our Middle School and with great joy will offer a 6th grade class in the fall of 2023! This historic decision came after a process of exploration beginning in December 2020. Since then, the community expressed great interest and support of the response to this need. We ask for your prayers for guidance as we contiue the planning phase of this project in preparation for welcoming the first 6th grade class this fall.

ARE YOU A TEACHER who has a passion for working with mid- dle school aged children and through critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity can create a joyful learning environment where all students feel known, loved, and respected? Maybe this is you? Or maybe this is a teacher you know? Either way, we are excited for you to check out the full job de- scription at hillcresttravens.org/joinourteam.

While you're there, check out our other openings for Music and Family Con- sumer Science.



THE COVER

[B] The 2007 1A State Baseball Championship banner. Levi Ney '08 scored the winning run to beat Remsen St. Mary's 10-0. [R] The Ravens logo painted on the gym floor. During the rebranding process these logos were painted on the floor to match the new black color scheme. [U] The 1991 1A State Basketball Runner-up trophy. Jason Hershberger '92 mentioned, "Our goal was to make it to State and win one game. We won two, so we made our goal, dude!" [I] In the word Hillcrest on the celebration Hall doors. This entrance will be the new middle school entrance, giving those students better access to their classroom spaces. [T] The Exceptional Endeavor Campaign plaque. This large wooden memorial hangs in the atrium outside Celebration Hall and serves as a daily reminder of all the generous people in our community who support our school. [1] The student mailboxes. With the internet and email communication between teachers and students, these aren't used as frequently as they once were. [2] The number of the mini school bus. This bus is critical to our transportation fleet and is used to bring students from the Iowa teacher, Grace (Wysse) LaFoon, F' 61-66 and was accompanied by the tagline "Holding Forth the Word." This was the school's logo until 1986 and the school's tagline until 1995. [6/7] The student lockers. Number 67 is one of the original lockers. [8] The softball scoreboard. The girls and boys of summer. Iowa is still the only state in the US that plays softball and baseball in the summer. [A] Again as in 1945, only this number is part of the current Hillcrest Academy academic seal. In October of 2020, a new sign was installed on campus to welcome the community to Hillcrest Academy.



WE LOVE WHEN OUR ALUMNI GET TOGETHER FOR CLASS REUNIONS to reminisce and remember the time they had in high school together. **This year the classes scheduled to have a reunion are the classes with graduation years ending in 3 and 8.** If alumni have questions about Homecoming on October 13 & 14 or they need information for their reunion, please contact the Office of Advancement at jours@hillcrestravens.org.



Front left: Kate (Kinsinger) Brenneman, Lores (Marner) Miller, Orpha (Hartzler) Yoder, Judy (Miller) Gingerich, Joy (Yoder) Hess
Back Left: Merle Miller, Ezra Yoder, Elaine (Kennel) Yoder, Wilford Yoder, Ron Wyse, Francis Litwiller, Chuck Rhodes

1962 | Twenty eight members of the Class of 1962 gathered at Crooked Creek Christian Campground November 2-4 for a reunion marking the 60th year of our graduation from IMS. The turnout was excellent considering there were 52 members of the class upon graduation, and 10 have passed in the intervening years. Reunion planners Nyle Kauffman, Wally Gingerich, Marlan Logan, and Lorna (Bender) Miller did good work in putting together a three-day program conducive to getting reacquainted, visiting, and informal interaction.

On Wednesday evening following supper, Wally led an open-ended round table conversation where everyone shared what was going on in their lives 60 years post-IMS. Thursday was left free for folks to pursue personal interests such as shopping at Stringtown Grocery, visiting the Iowa Mennonite Museum and Archives, or Hillcrest Academy, having lunch at the Kalona Sale Barn or at Tuscan Moon.

On Thursday afternoon classmate, Evie Yoder Miller engaged the group with selected readings from one of the books in her recently completed Civil War trilogy, *Scruples on the Line*. Evie was followed by Dwight Gingerich and Jeremy Ours, who brought us up to date on Hillcrest Academy happenings. In particular, they reviewed the school's plans to add a middle school, with 6th grade beginning next year, then adding 7th grade in year two, and 8th grade the following year. Certainly major changes are in store in the 78 year history of the school. Dwight and Jeremy also acknowledged their gratitude for the student support provided by our Class Scholarship which was established following our reunion in 2017. After supper, Marlan moderated a wide-ranging discussion with the theme of "change(s) in our lives." Individuals mentioned particular values or life events that have affected or influenced them over the past six decades. *submitted by Larry Hershberger, photo by John Yoder*



Back left: Nyle Kauffman, Larry Oswald, Esther (Hershberger) Gingerich, Shirley (Wyse) Oswald, Isabelle (Van der Werf) Miller, Audrey (Yoder) Hartzler, Joann (Bontrager) Boley, June (Alliman) Yoder, Evelyn (Yoder) Miller, Elaine (Grabner) Gingerich, Shirley (Brenneman) Hochstetler, Lorna (Bender) Miller, Judy (Schweitzer) Beachy, Norma (Bender) Miller, Kenneth Frey, Larry Hershberger, Wilbur Yoder Front left: Kenneth Slagle, Don Miller, John David Miller, Warren Gingerich, Marlan Logan, Wallace Gingerich, Larry Rediger, Calvin Miller, Dwight Schumann Not pictured: Lee Gingerich and Wanda Hershberger Gerlits

1964 | On September 21-22, 19 members of the Class of 1964 (which numbered 56) convened at Die Heimat Country Inn, a bed and breakfast, in Homestead, Iowa, for what we still like to call an "IMS reunion." We noted that it has been 58 years since we walked the hallowed halls of IMS. At the Colorado 2019 gathering it was decided to meet again in three years, instead of five, since already then the gathered classmates knew we were not spring chickens anymore. Health issues, travel challenges, surgeries, strokes and heart attacks led them to decide that we would do our "reunioning" sooner rather than later.

Kathy (Yoder) Leichty, Ladella (Oswald) Hershberger, and Julie (Vander Werf) Gingerich organized this very informal but enjoyable reunion, which included two buffet style evening meals and lots of visiting time. Those who stayed at Die Heimat had scrumptious breakfasts there. Lunch was on everyone's own and we were encouraged to go on walks with each other, wander around in Amana, shop, or sit and visit with each other either at the next-door Event Center or at any of the coffee shops or other outside eateries that suited our fancy.

A special feature at this reunion was a memory table commemorating the nine classmates who have died: Alice (Bender) Golden, Merlyn Hochstetler, David Letts, Frances (Gingerich) Nafziger, Helen (Martin) Bontrager, Kathy (Rensberger) Meck Stewart, Gordon Yoder, Fred Yoder, and Gene Yoder. Wednesday evening we had a wonderful evening meal at the Ronneburg Restaurant in Amana. After seeing the tables that had been reserved for us in our own, private room, several classmates rearranged the tables into a big rectangle so we were facing each other. Noticing the advantage of this configuration, my husband Ed came up with lead questions that Loran Yoder asked each classmate to answer in turn, and that verbal exchange proved to be a good icebreaker—though Iowans are not, by reputation, people who need icebreakers to start visiting with each other! Thursday evening's dinner, another delicious buffet extravaganza, was held in the Event Center. Table centerpieces were small fabric pumpkins, each with several photos of individual classmates attached (to the pumpkin) by long pins spiking out from the tops. Thursday afternoon we sat in a big circle and took turns updating each other about what we've been involved in since 1964. As we used to write, when finishing a report for whatever paper we IMSers published back in the day, "a good time was had by all!", it was true this time as well. *submitted by Twila Gingerich Miller*



Back left: Ernie Conrad, Milford Yoder, Wilmer Yoder, Gary Nafziger, Bob Brenneman, Merle Stutzman, Calvin Litwiller, Loran Yoder Middle left: Kathy (Yoder) Leichty, Bonnie (Beckler) Yoder, Elaine Brenneman, Nedra (Brenneman) Berger, Esther (Wenger) Leichty, Twila (Gingerich) Miller Front left: Kay (Freyenberger) Frunzi, Joyce (Kraybill) Stutzman, Ladella (Oswald) Hershberger, Lucy (Allebach) Oliver, Julie (Vander Werf) Gingerich



Back Row: Ken Garber, Muriel (Miller) Nisly, Dale Marner, Don Hartzler, Jim Gingerich Front Row: Maxine (Troyer) Mast, Nadine (Nafziger) Arriago, Donna (Hershberger) Litchfield, Donna (Steckley) Chupp



Later in the year a mini 55 year class reunion for the local women who graduated from IMS in 1967 took place at The Encounter Cafe in Iowa City. Everyone had such a good time. *submitted by Ruth (Bontrager) Hershberger*

Left: Donna (White) Jones, Ruth (Bontrager) Hershberger, Lois (Wenger) Klopfenstein, Diane (Miller) Hess, Ardith (Ropp) Hartzler

1972 | The Class of '72 met the weekend of October 14-15. Friday evening we shared a meal at Miller Homestead Cooking and then attended The Steel Wheels concert at Hillcrest. Saturday, Donna (Marner) Roth invited us to her home in rural Wayland. We enjoyed the evening with a bonfire, catching up and pizza from Stone Brick Pizza. It was a great weekend spending time with classmates and reconnecting after 50 years. *submitted by Patty (Yoder) Miller*



Seated left: Karol Brenneman, Esther (Unternahrer) Amstutz, George Miller, Sherrill Yoder, Jon Widmer, Ledru Hochstetler, Dale Hostetler Standing left: Herschel Yoder, Karla (Yoder) Mabarak, Don Miller, Lois (Bender) Gingerich, James Miller, Elvesta (Miller) Hochstetler, Jay Detweiler, Patty (Yoder) Miller, Del Miller, Donna (Marner) Roth, Randy Troyer, Evie (Miller) Yoder, Joyce Swartzendruber, Melody (Mullet) Miller, Nelson Hershberger

1982 | The Iowa Mennonite School Class of 1982 celebrated forty years in Sarasota, Florida the weekend of November 11-13. On Friday evening Morris and Kris (Swartzendruber) Miller hosted a seafood boil at their home. Joining the group on Friday night were several additional IMS grads living in the Sarasota community. With the smell of a campfire, Hawkeye cornhole boards, IMS



trivia, storytelling, and group photos in the warm Florida night air, the evening was nearly magical. There was a sense of camaraderie that seemed to evaporate the forty years. On Saturday morning we enjoyed a traditional Mennonite breakfast buffet including orange slush and fried mush. Jon and Brenda Gould hosted dinner in their home on Saturday evening. An Iowa football game on the television and more conversation created a second meaningful evening together. A brief contest with "one of a kind" prizes revealed: Gary Swartzendruber traveled the furthest to attend the reunion, Lisa (Miller) Yoder has the most grandchildren, and with a full head of black hair, John King looks the most like he did forty years ago. *submitted by Ken Bontrager*

Back left: Janelle (King) Houge, Marla (Ropp) Hess, Lisa (Miller) Yoder, Melanie (Yoder) Schweitzer, Kris (Swartzendruber) Miller Front left: Ken Bontrager, Jon Gould, JT Roetlin, John King, Gary Swartzendruber

1992 | Keeping its tradition of somewhat belated reunions, 11 members of the Class of 1992 and a few wives gathered on short notice at Iowa City's Big Grove Brewery on 1/6/23, the 10th anniversary of classmate Brett Hamrick's passing. Coming farthest was Jodi, from Des Moines, and we ended at 11:00, giving Ben time for his 3:00 AM flight to Costa Rica. Mysteries pondered included why the brewery's heat lamps overhead were so strong and how Steve kept receiving free drinks. Unfortunately, all photos blocked the face of our most legendary member. Sorry, MDM; as Rolland Smith once put it, "mud happens!" *submitted by Matt Bricker*



Left: Greg Yoder, Ismael Huerta, Jodi Beachy, Matt D. Miller, Renae (Bender) Miller, Matt J. Miller, Matt Bricker, Kristen (Litwiller) Rempel, Ben Miller, Steve Johnson, Randy Rempel

2002 | The Class of 2002 gathered over Homecoming Weekend, October 14-15, to catch up on what classmates have been doing the past twenty years and reminisce about high school memories. They kicked off the weekend with a reception on Friday night in the new wing of Hillcrest Academy before attending The Steel Wheels concert. Saturday morning they gathered for the Joetown Classic followed by a tour of the school, including the new additions since their graduation. The weekend wrapped up by enjoying the Pork Supper together with their families on Saturday night. Only a small group was able to gather, including impressively two classmates who traveled in from Colorado. A good time was had by all! *submitted by Allison (Brenneman) Goertz*



Left: Jesse Smith, Sarah (Schneider) Showalter, Natasha Wilson and daughter, Heidi (Bender) Willems, Allison (Brenneman) Goertz, Ashleigh (Miller) Nelson, Shawn Gealow, Austin Miller