# LIFE **MOMENTS**

## FUTURE **ALUMNI**

PEARSON GLENN to MICAELA & JEREMY BROKAW '05 | 12.28.22 OPAL ELIZABETH to HANNAH (ALTMAIER) '12 & ERIC LANG | 1.3.23 AMARAH ROSE to KAYLA & HARLAN GINGERICH '10 | 1.12.23 NORAH DAWN to KATIE (NISLY) '11 & RYAN HARRIS | 1.12.23 LENNON ELIZABETH to MICHELLE & AARON ERB '10 | 1.16.23 LUCY JANE to LAUREN & BEN LIBBY '11 | 1.31.23 HANNAH MARYBELLE tO ANGELA & JEFF MILLER '00 | 2.3.23 DELANEY VI to JENNIFER & BRANDI OCKENFELS '98 | adoption day, 2.10.23 NOLAN ROY to HANNAH & TRUMAN SHETLER '10 | 2.27.23 OAKLYNN LEA to MIDORI (BEACHY) '05 & AARON GINGERICH '05 | 3.5.23 STELLA KAY to SARAH & CALEB YODER '17 | 3.13.23 STETSON BOONE to KOURTNEY & GARRETT YODER '05 | 3.20.23 LYRA JANE to COURTNEY & DIRK MILLER '05 | 3.21.23 JAMES JOSEPH to NAOMI (MILLER) '13 & BRANDON GINGERICH | 3.23.23 LILY GENE to COURTNEY & CODY MILLER '13 | 3.24.23 RUTH MARIE to LEAH & KURT BEACHY '01 | 4.24.23 OLIVER LYNN to ASHLEY & MATT LIBBY '12 5.18.23 EUDORA JANE to SARAH (MILLER) '06 & JOSH WENGER | 5.28.23 JAYLA JO to DEMI (BREZINA) '15 & KIRBY SHETLER '15 | 5.29.23

## WEDDING BELLS

**ERICA HOSTETLER '04** to FRANK SLABAUGH | 3.25.23 DANAE MCGAFFEY '20 to GRAHAM COBLENTZ | 6.3.23 BLAKE BONTRAGER '19 to SIMEON SCHULT | 6.24.23 LEVI NEY '08 to GABRIELLE KAISER | 7.9.23

## IN MEMORIAM

LAURA (YODER) '59 RHODES | 12.27.22 DON MILLER '63 | 2.8.23 **CLETUS MILLER '49** | 2.11.23 **CLAIR BRENNEMAN '55** | 2.25.23 LUKE DRESCHER F '57-59 | 3.4.23 MATHILDE "TILLIE" KENNEL '54 | 3.29.23 DALE SWARTZENDRUBER '51 | 4.17.23 LYNN TROYER '56 | 5.3.23 **JERRY KAUFFMAN '71** | 5.6.23 SHARON (WYSE) '61 MILLER | 5.16.23



Learn more about MIDDLE SCHOOL AT HILLCREST ACADEMY

Like parents, we understand how important it is for students to be at a place where they feel known and loved, while forming their identity and learning to embrace their unique talents and interests. We are excited about the opportunity to accommodate younger students through the mission of our school.

The MIDDLE SCHOOL of HILLCREST ACADEMY will seek to share the love of Jesus in a collaborative, joyful learning environment where all students are known and loved. Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, through a variety of rigorous learning experiences, our two teachers BETH SWANTZ '81 and MEGAN WALSH, will lead 24 6th grade students to grow their self-confidence, express themselves and experience a deep sense of belonging. Learn more at *hillcrestravens.org/middle-school*.

As we prepare to welcome these students onto our campus next year, we continue to do the necessary things needed to make their experience what it should be. We have two Amazon Wish Lists set up, which you can use to help support our middle school. You can make your purchase and everything will get delivered to the school. It's that easy! Find the lists at hillcrestravens.org/ amazonwishlist.

### VOLUME 54, ISSUE 02 | SUMMER 2023

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EDITOR: Laurie Miller '99

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

ADMINISTRATION: Dwight Gingerich '76 | Principal, Rebecca Beachy Miller '93, Leanne Bender, Theresa Blossom '95, Chris Nachtigall, Jeremy Ours





## HILLCREST ACADEMY

1421 540TH ST SW KALONA. IOWA 52247

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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## ABOUT THE COVER

Wilbur Yoder through the years. Clockwise: Wilbur's senior photo from 1962. His class had 52 members and tuition was \$200. In 1973, Wilbur returned to his alma mater as a teacher and guidance counselor. Along with those roles, Wilbur also coached cross country for nine years. Here he is with his 1981 team with the school's first State Champion, Marty Gingerich '81. In 1989, Wilbur became the school's ninth principal. Wilbur in 2007, addressing the students in his last year as principal.

# A LIVING LEGACY

WILBUR YODER grew up on a farm west of the Iowa Mennonite School, now Hillcrest Academy. After four years at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, Virginia, he worked in Cleveland's inner city, before returning to Iowa. A 1962 graduate of IMS, Wilbur returned to his alma mater in the fall of 1973.

At IMS, Wilbur taught courses in Christian Family Living, served as guidance counselor, and took charge of boarding students, many of whom came to Iowa through High Aim, the program he had been a part of while in Cleveland. He was also an instructor in Math, Bible, Photography, and Psychology, along with coaching cross country for nine years. In 1989, Wilbur became the ninth principal in the school's 44 year history.

According to Frank Yoder's book Opening A Window to the World, it was this experience and his familiarity with both the local community and inner city settings that made his time at IMS so instrumental in bridging the gap between students from all backgrounds and worldviews. His counseling experience also gave him a unique perspective on high school students and the problems they encounter. It was this understanding of community and his commitment to interpersonal relationships that seasoned his administrative approach. His opinion was to "develop disciples and teach young people to follow Jesus Christ. That is not limited to just one group."

Wilbur led IMS through numerous milestones and events, including the school's 50th anniversary in 1995 and the school's most ambitious building project, The Exceptional Endeavour Campaign. The \$6M project included a new auditorium, Celebration Hall, classroom additions, the installation of an elevator, and various other improvements.

Wilbur retired as principal in 2007 after 33 years of employment at IMS. Add that to the four years he was a student, he has impacted the lives of over 1,650 students and 215 faculty/staff. That doesn't even take into account the numbers of parents, grandparents, and community members also involved. Wilbur and his wife, Helen, have four children: Chad '89, Melanie '90, Anthony '93, Annette **'98**, and many grandchildren.

To recognize and honor Wilbur and Helen's years of dedicated, exemplary service to IMS/Hillcrest, the atrium between Celebration Hall and Hillcrest Union will be named the WILBUR & HELEN YODER ATRIUM. The official naming will take place on August 17, 2023, as part of an open house for the new Middle School. Further details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized, but the public is invited to attend and celebrate Wilbur and Helen along with their classmates, family, and friends.



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## 2022 **DONORS**

The HILLCREST ACADEMY community thanks all those who donated to the Annual Fund in the 2022 calendar year. We are grateful to each of you and we couldn't do what we do without you!

#### 1949

Lois Gugel Ruby Lehman 1950 Dorothy (Hershberger) Miller Paul & Mary Lou Bowers Barbara Longoria Dolores Miller Willard & Alice Roth Miriam Yutzy 1952 Myrna Farraj Lores Hochstetler Mary Ellen Miller Edwin D. & Mary Jane Miller 1954 Loretta (Bender) & Jerry Yoder 1955 Dorothy Logan Kav Marner William Shettler Dale & Joanne Stutzman 1956 Curtis Brenneman Keith & Elaine Hochstedler Norma (Hershberger) Hostetler Anna Lewis Lynn & Barbara Troyer Dorothy & John Yoder Nyce 1957 Iov & Owen Hess Charles Rhodes Howard Schrock Ronald & Barbara Wyse Wilford & Elaine (Kennel) Yoder Ezra Yoder 1958 Jim & Eunice Brenneman Keith Brenneman Erma (Yoder) & Del Coppinger Edwards Karen (Hochstetler) Gingerich Ed & Jane Miller Doris (Schrock) Thirtle Carroll & Nancy Yoder Robert D. Yoder & Lola Faye Erb-Yoder Nelson & Margaret Gingerich Edwin & Marjorie Hershberger Iim Hochstetler Lydia Ann (Schrock)Kennel H. Marcus & Vonna Yoder

Anna (Freyenberger) Hochstetler Alice Hsu Ronald King Jane (Marner) & Walter Kopsa Wilbur & Mary (Beachy) Litwiller

Myrna (Yoder) & John Kaufman Karen (Beachy) & Richard Kropf Anna Ruth (Beachy) & Daniel Martin Linda (Miller) Rowold Brown Colleen (Rhodes) Stoltzfus Phil & Judy (Miller) Yoder Kenneth Yoder Winifred (Hostetler) & John Yordy Donald & Verna Zook

Mary Louise (Brenneman) & Merlin Grieser Larry Hershberger Audrey (Yoder) & Frank Hartzler \*Nvle & Lauralee Kauffman Wilbur & Helen Yoder 1963 Iav Brenneman Ronald & Ruth Guengerich

Marlin Hershberger Kathleen (Yoder) Quinn Dale & Charlene (Yoder) Rhodes 1964

#### Elaine Brenneman Kay (Freyenberger) & Gerald Frunzi Orval & Cleta (Roth) Gingerich

\*Aliko Songolo Ardell & Donna Swartzendruber 1965

Ken & Noreen Gingerich Karen (Yoder) & Bruce Harvey Millicent (Guengerich) Hershey James Hochstetler Marlin & June Miller Myrna (Swartzendruber) & David Moyer Margaret (Miller) & Lynn Williams 1966

Ledru & Connie Frevenberger Mary (Yoder) & Ervie Glick Myron & Martha (Yoder) Graber Phil & Joyce Ropp Bonnie (Slaubaugh) & Tom Stuckey Marcia & John Yoder-Schrock Merle & Karen Schlabaugh 1967

#### Kenton & Barb (Kinsinger) Miller Ken & Christine Miller James A. Yoder

Nancy (Bender) & Glen Gehman Firman & Susan (Yoder) Gingerich James Gingerich Larry & Marilyn Hershberger Wayne & Elaine Hershberger Steve & Glenna Lowry Dennis & Rosie (Yoder) Miller Dean & Becky (Guengerich) Rhodes Kathy (Brenneman) Walter

Roberta (Yoder) & Ernest Kandel Diane (Schlabaugh) Martin-Zane Rex Miller Virginia (Bender) & Ken Rew Grace (Yoder) & Nelson Weber Tim Widmer Frank & Jane Widmer Yoder Wanda Yoder 1970

## \*Ron & Lorene (Yoder) Bender

Janice (Miller) Godshall Arden & Pat Miller Wendell Miller & Cheryl Martin Miller Gay & Gloria (Bender) Widmer Sheldon & Letha (Mullet) Yoder \*Curtis & Lois Yoder

Mike & Kris Brennemar Mary Lou (Swartzendruber) & Roger Farmer Loren Hochstedler Marla (Hochstetler) & Randy Longenecker George & Deb Yoder 1972 Lois (Bender) Gingerich Elvesta (Miller) Hochstedler Del & Patty (Yoder) Miller \*Iim Miller Jon & Becky Widmer 1973 John Blosser Yoder Anna Marie Guengerich Jim & Linda Histand Bill & Rosie Hochstetler Leon & Fran Hochstetler \*Deb (Yoder) Miller Merlin & Monica Miller Harold Miller \*Doug Stoltzfus 1974 Celeste (Gingerich) Miller \*Pam (Brenneman) Stoltzfus Gwen (Miller) & Michael Hurst Barb (Yoder) & Keith Martin Julie (Erb) & Tom Meyers June (Miller) & Marc Hershberger Leonard & Laura Miller

Ray & Virginia Miller Hope Nisly 1975

Cindy (Yoder) Widmer Stan Marner Brenda Nissley

#### 1976

Dwight & Mo Gingerich Joann (Roth) Marner Audrey (Hochstedler) & Dale Miller Marcus & Beth Miller Cindy (Swartzendruber) & Dan Steiner James Yoder Darrell & Sylvia Yoder Sharla (Miller) & Tom Zasadny 1977 Paulette (Miller) & Marv Hershberger Calvin Miller

Rose (Miller) & Leonard Shetler Melissa (Yoder) & Ron Thomas Marlin & Joni (Doolin) Yoder Jane (Yoder) & Kent Widmer 1978

Crandall & Carla Miller Sanford Miller Steve & Kathy Ropp 1979

\*Mitch Kinsinger Ken & Bey Miller Susan (Swartzendruber) & Grant Stoltzfus 1980 Terry & Deb Erb Rod Swantz

Karen (Stout) Unruh \*Garv & Donna Yoder Rhonda Yoder & Danny Graber

#### 1981

Holly Blosser Yoder Beth (Litwiller) Swantz Joe Eichelberger Sonya (Stauffer) & Roger Kurtz Julie (Kelso) & Lon Marshall Carol (Brenneman) & Phil Miller Don Schwabbauer Linda (Bender) & John Yutzy 1982

Karla Gingerich Jewel Gingerich & Fred Longenecker Marla (Ropp) & Perry Hess Leora (Miller) & Robert Trover 1983

Ruth Brenneman & Galen Graber Forrest & Nora Miller Tony & Angela Stutzman Maribeth (Yoder) Schlabaugh Karleen (Kauffman) Uitermark 1984 Cynthia (Yoder) & Gordon Bontrager

John Buckwalter Doug & Heidi Hochstetler Lyle & Bonnie (Hostetler) Miller Nancy Kelso Jim Schlabaugh 1985

\*Jon Beachy Ross & Cindy Brennemar Tim Litwiller Karol Miller 1986

Jill (Schweitzer) Herold Tony & Leah Miller Sheryl (Hostetler) Morland 1987

Rose Bender Cook \*Thomas Brennema Cindy (Miller) & John Grabow 1988

Lia & Charles Brenneman-Orr Chris & Sandi Rhodes Chad & Eliza Stoltzfus Warren & Emily Yoder 1020

Todd & Kate Watson 1990

Clair & April Miller Marlow & Jenny Yoder 1991 Susanna Unternahrer Zool

Chris Yoder LeAnne Zook 1992 Matt J. & Renae (Bender) Miller Randy & Kristen (Litwiller) Rempel

Greg & Sarah Yoder

1993 \*Anita (Miller) Beachy Denise (Hochstedler) Litwiller

Heidi (Trover) Baldwin Rebecca Beachy Miller & Tom Miller Adam & Brigette (Nisly) Ingersoll Erika (Payne) Miller Sheila (Bender) & Jeremy Ours 1994 Lori (Boller) & Nolan Gerber 1995 Theresa (Litwiller) & Kent Blossom \*Amy (Swartzendruber) & Larry Drayfahl Stacy Ropp Miller 1996 Jodi (Hochstedler) & Ben Beyeler Nate Miller 1997 Nate & Amy (Boller) Graber Allison (Miller) & Kyle Trover

Jacob Huber \*Rachel Swartzendruber Miller Sarah (Smith) & Omar Baber \*Kevin Zook 1999 Jill (Stoltzfus) & Thushan Hemachandra Kendra (Conrad) Bailey \*Laurie (Bender) Miller 2000 Iace Bailey \*Chuck Miller \*Tyson Miller Erin & Matt Miller Milanese Nathan & Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler \*Adam & Katie Yoder

2001 Erika Yoder Rodriguez 2002 Heather Bender Allison (Brenneman) & Isaiah Goertz Will & Katie Yoder Nathan Miller Caleb & Beth Yoder Jonathan Zasadny 2003 \*Joel & Maria Blough Koerner Erin (Schrock) & Ben Yoder \*Benjamin Yoder 2004 Tyler & Rosanna Coblentz . Luke Yoder 2005 Del & Sarah Borntrager Matthew & Rachel Ropp Jason Widmer Amy (Yoder) & Dan Landes 2006 Lindsav (Erb) Widmer Thomas Davis Caleb Detweiler & Heidi Gingerich Detweiler Laura (Stoltzfus) Jones Micah Miller Kaleb Wyse 2007 Hannah Ney Michael & Laurel Swartzendruber \*Marcus & Marissa Unruh Rachel Yoder 2008 Ethan Gingerich Todd Hooley 2011 Taylor (Fulton) & David Yoder 2015 Iacob Bruns 2016 Eli Gingerich Natalie Graber Jenna (Boller) & Jared Oyer 2018 Cole Ours 2019 Gretta Rempel 2021 Eli Ours 2022 Evelyn Gerber 2023 Iace Rempel 2025 Seth Ours

## Joel Beachy & Christine Maust Beachy

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#### THE CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT PLAN

The CSP was implemented in 1995 to provide an equitable way in which area churches were able to assist with tuition costs for students within their respective congregations. Hillcrest Academy is considered by many as a local ministry and an extension of the work of the church. The CSP provides a way for supporting church members of all ages to participate in the life of the school in a material way.

East Union Mennonite Church First Mennonite Church Kalona Mennonite Church Lower Deer Creek Mennonite Church Washington Mennonite Church Wellman Mennonite Church West Union Mennonite Church

# SCHOLARSHIPS

We are very thankful to the individuals, families, and classmates who have made these scholarships available to our students. Not only are you making an education at Hillcrest Academy more accessible, you are helping to bless the lives of individual students.

Dale Roth Memorial Scholarship Dale & Lois Yoder Memorial Scholarship Dellis Schrock Memorial Scholarship Don L. Miller Jr. Memorial Scholarship Clarence M. & Helen Yoder Memorial Scholarship Class of 1962 Legacy Scholarship Class of 1970 Legacy Scholarship Gingerich-Shetler Memorial Scholarship Hillcrest Academy Alumni Association Scholarship Jeff D. Kauffman Memorial Scholarship Kalona/Wellman Rotary Scholarship Mary Brenneman Memorial Scholarship Ray V. Hochstetler Memorial Scholarship Roland Smith Memorial Scholarship Sarah Bricker Memorial Scholarship Sharon Flanagan Memorial Scholarship Wilbur & Helen Yoder Legacy Scholarship Wilma Gingerich 'Cup of Kindness' Memorial Scholarship



Our 2023 boys golf team after they won the 1A State Championship at Ames Golf & Country Club.

### **GIVING DAY 2023**

Throughout the last few years we've seen how important our community is, and our recent Giving Day fundraising campaigns have been examples of how we can come together as a community to support one another. Although we didn't reach our goal this year, we are incredibly grateful for the support we've been shown. We couldn't do what we do without you all.

### A FEW WORDS ... THANK YOU

Now through my seventh school year, countless times, I have been a first-hand witness to the generosity of those of you who cherish Hillcrest Academy and want it to continue for many more generations. Many, many of our alumni and friends were faithful investors in our school this past year and for that I am truly grateful. We are extremely excited about the future that lavs ahead of us. We promise to embrace the opportunities given to us and with God's leading and your collective dedication to our mission, we will move Hillcrest Academy forward even stronger.

We truly appreciate the significant level of support we receive year after year from our generous community. You continue to show us that your heart for Hillcrest Academy remains full. This generosity also comes in many forms besides a monetary investment. It's the stories, the relationships, and the words of encouragement that I have experienced over the years, that I hang onto the most. I believe it is all those things brought together by our community that will carry us into a bright future.

#### JEREMY OURS, Director of Advancement

#### \*Partner

The Partner Program is made up of individuals, families, and businesses who pledge to make ongoing contributions to the Hillcrest Annual Fund creating a better sustainability in day-to-day operations.

Check out hillcrestravens.org/partnerprogram for more info or contact Jeremy Ours (jours@hillcrestravens.org).