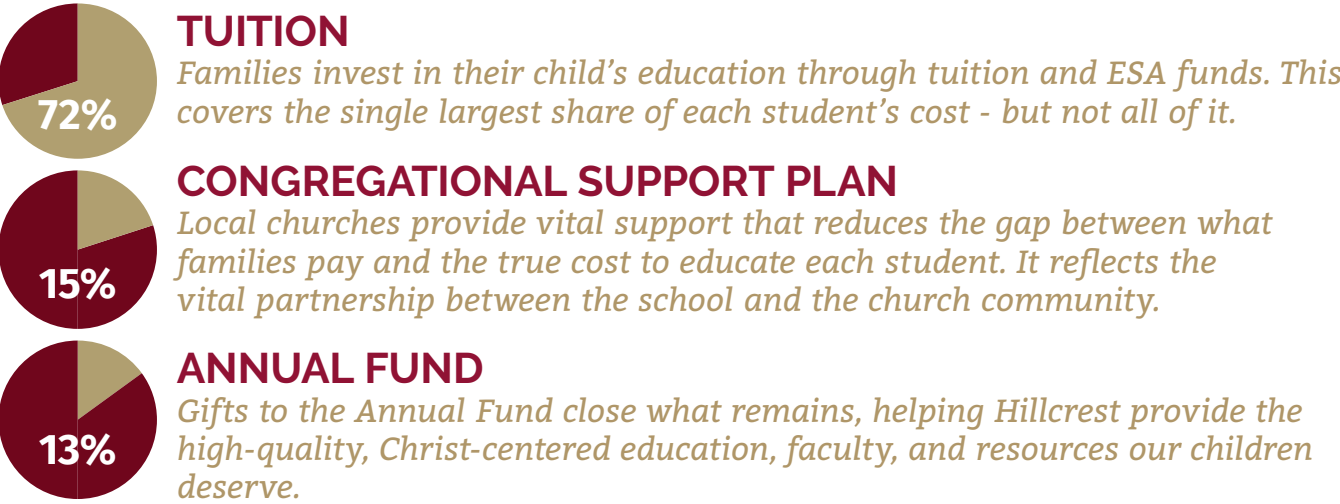


A FULL PICTURE

None of these three pieces are optional. Take any one of them away, and the model breaks. We share this to hopefully create better transparency about how Hillcrest Academy is funded and because you deserve to understand what you're part of.



WHAT IT DOESN'T FUND
It's also important to understand what these three funding sources do not cover. Together, family contributions, congregational support, and the Annual Fund are designed to get Hillcrest to the point of breaking even on day-to-day operations and keeping the school running as it should. Of that operating budget, roughly 78% goes directly to salaries and benefits for the teachers and staff who make Hillcrest what it is. This is a reflection of that first and foremost, Hillcrest is an investment in people. These three pieces are not designed to fund building renovations or additions, major non-routine maintenance and repairs, or other significant improvements to our campus and facilities. Those kinds of projects fall outside the operating budget entirely and require separate, dedicated fundraising. When you hear about a capital campaign or a special project appeal, that is why: because it's a different need, funded in a different way, on top of the operating model described here.

Every family that enrolls, every congregation that gives, and every person who contributes to the Annual Fund is actively holding up our school together. That is something worth understanding. And it is something worth being proud of.

LIFE MOMENTS

FUTURE ALUMNI

- Leo Dean to **MARISSA & AUSTIN YODER '08** | 12.1.25
- Olivia Simona to **KRISTINA & MARK GINGERICH '00** | 12.19.25
- Nora Jane to **JESSICA (BENDER '16) & BILL KNEBEL** | 1.15.26
- Stella Alessandra to **HANNAH SCHLABAUGH '06 & TONY GALLIANI** | 1.20.26
- Norah Rose to **EMILY & MITCHELL DREY F '20-'24** | 1.28.26
- Mabel Joy to **ALLISON (BONTRAGER '09) & DAVID YODER '10** | 2.24.26
- Donald Michael (Chael) to **JOYA (SCHROCK '18) & DONALD BUTI** | 3.8.26
- Abel Charles to **RACHEL & TRAVIS COBLENTZ '06** | 2.27.26
- Jensen Lowell to **MARISSA S'19-'23 & MARCUS UNRUH '07** | 3.29.26
- Clayton John to **MARY & TONY HOSTETLER '06** | 4.26.26
- Kyler Doolin to **HALEY (SLAUBAUGH '09) & RYAN BONTRAGER '08** | 4.27.26
- Bennett John to **EMMA (YUTZY '11) & GARRETT SPRINGER** | 5.9.26
- Kaya June to **JACKIE SHIGUANGO & MIKE SEVERINO-PATTERSON F '17-** | 6.21.26

YOUR LIVES ARE IMPORTANT TO US!
Please send announcements, change of address, notes, or other communications and updates. We love being in the know!
Drop us a note at contact@hillcrestravens.org.

WEDDING BELLS

- ALLISON MORELAND '18 & CHRISTIAN JUNKER** | 2.20.26
- TARYN LEICHTY '23 & LONDON SCHROCK** | 5.23.26
- JESSE SLATER '20 & OLIVIA LIEBING** | 5.23.26
- HALEY TACKABERRY S'25- & COLIN ELSBREE** | 6.5.26
- DREW BLAUVELT '20 & MADELINE SCHRADER** | 6.20.26
- HANNAH CHALUPA '23 & JOHN HUGHES '21** | 6.20.26
- LESLEE RIOS '17 & BRYANT WOODFORD** | 6.21.26

IN MEMORIAM

- RICH MILLER '68** | 12.4.25
- MARLENE (SCHROCK '61) ROPP** | 1.26.26
- MERTICE (BRENNEMAN '49) MILLER** | 2.5.26
- KARENE SWARTZ ZIMMERMAN F '68-'69** | 2.22.26
- LOWELL YODER '57** | 3.30.26
- DOROTHY LOGAN '55** | 4.14.26
- LORENA (BRENNEMAN '55) SWANTZ** | 6.9.26
- MIRIAM (SWARTZENDRUBER '51) YUTZY** | 6.30.26



HILLCREST ACADEMY
ACADEMICS that INSPIRE. FAITH that LEADS.

HILLCREST ACADEMY
1421 540TH ST SW
KALONA, IOWA 52247

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

PHONE: 319-656-2073
EMAIL: contact@hillcrestravens.org
WEBSITE: hillcrestravens.org

BRUIT | bruit: /broot/ noun 1. a report

The ALUMNI MAGAZINE of HILLCREST ACADEMY
VOLUME 57, ISSUE 02 | SUMMER 2026

PUBLISHER: Jeremy Ours | *Director of Advancement*

EDITOR: Laurie Miller '99

OPERATING BOARD: Joel Beachy '98, Terry Erb '80, Gabby Frederick, Allison Goertz '02 | *Chair*, Cassidy Hertzler '15, Troy Roth '88, Robin Schrock '88, Nick Detweiler-Stoddard '03, Marshall Swartzendruber '98, Ella Walker, Gretchen Yoder '99, Sarah Yoder

ADMINISTRATION: Nate Miller '96 | *Head of School*, Rebecca Beachy Miller '93, Tom Carey, Chris Nachtigall, Jeremy Ours, Beth Swantz '81

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The **CLASS of 2026** came to Hillcrest Academy from 13 different schools, 11 towns, and 16 churches. Regardless of whether you were here for one year or four, you've woven your unique stories into a single, remarkable class. At this unique moment of celebrating our graduating seniors while looking ahead to Hillcrest Academy's own future, the words of *Proverbs 3:5-6* and *Jeremiah 29:11* speak with relevance.

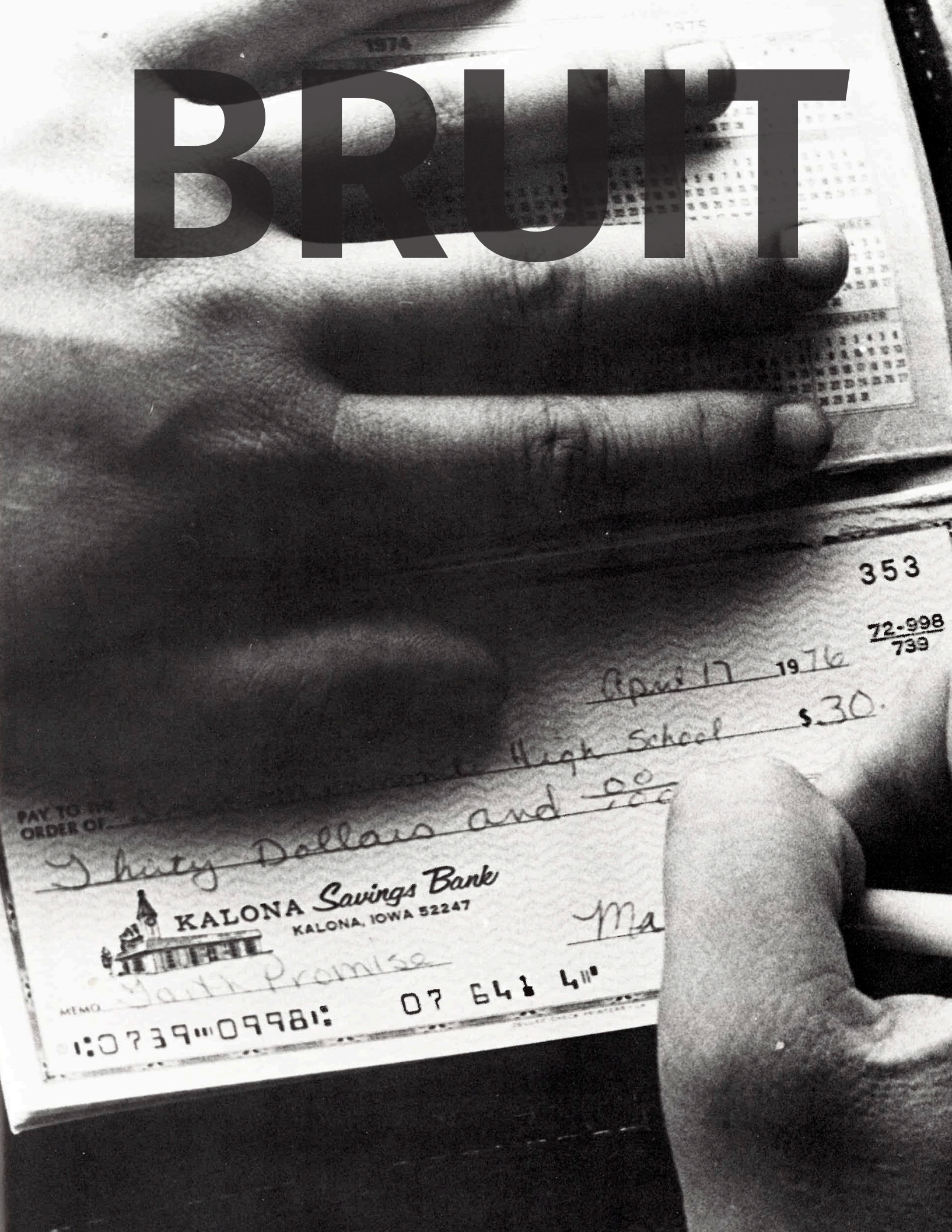
Together, these passages offer a powerful reminder to trust God's direction over your own understanding, and rest in the assurance that God's plans for you are good. For our 2026 graduates stepping into college, careers, and new communities, trust that God will light your path.

We are excited about what lies ahead for each of them as graduates, but also for us as a school. With God's guidance and the continued support of our community, we are not just maintaining what Hillcrest Academy has always been; we are working toward something even greater. The legacy of excellence we are building together will leave a lasting impact on future generations.

There is much to be thankful for.

May we all move forward together hopeful, faithful, and confident in God's goodness every step of the way.

THE COVER *"Working hands provide financial assistance for the furtherance of secondary education."* This simple line from the **1976 Reverie** captures something that hasn't changed in fifty years: community support is what makes a school like Hillcrest Academy possible. As Hillcrest looks ahead to exciting new chapters, that same spirit of hands-on support from parents, neighbors, and community members investing directly in our students, remains the thread that holds it all together.



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Understanding How Hillcrest Academy Is Funded: A Message to Our Hillcrest Community of Families, Church Partners, and Friends

Every year, families entrust Hillcrest Academy with something precious: their children, their time, and their financial support. In return, we owe you clarity and honesty. Clarity about what it actually costs to run our school, and honesty about where the money to do that comes from.

The short answer is that no single source fully funds Hillcrest. We operate through a layered model — tuition paired with Education Savings Accounts, support from our partnering local congregations, and an Annual Fund that fills the gap between what we charge and what it costs to deliver an education worth giving. Understanding how these three pieces fit together helps explain why each one matters and why the whole model depends on all three working together.

WHAT IT ACTUALLY COSTS

Before talking about where money comes from, it helps to start with where it goes.

Running a non-public school like Hillcrest Academy means paying and retaining excellent teachers, maintaining our facilities, providing the curriculum and resources our students deserve, and keeping the school financially healthy. All these pieces together carry a real per-student cost. The full cost of education is the number we work backward from when we design our budget each year. It represents what Hillcrest actually needs, per child, per year, to operate with integrity. The cost of education for a high school student at Hillcrest Academy for the 2026-27 school year is \$17,141, and for a Hillcrest middle school student, it's \$14,841. *In comparison, the cost of education for a high school student at Mid-Prairie next year will be \$18,160 per student.*

The honest reality of a non-public, Christian education is that the full cost of education almost always exceeds what families can reasonably be asked to pay in tuition alone. That gap is not a sign of financial mismanagement, but a structural feature of mission-driven education, and closing it faithfully is the work of our entire community.

EVERY PIECE MATTERS

Three Main Pieces Make Up Hillcrest Academy's Funding

PIECE ONE | TUITION WITH EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

The foundation of our funding is the direct family contribution. This comes from tuition, which is often coupled with an Education Savings Account (ESA).

Iowa's ESA program allows eligible families to direct a portion of the state per-pupil funding toward a school of their choice, including Hillcrest. For families who qualify, this is a meaningful contribution toward their tuition obligation. Families are able to take the \$8,148 and apply it directly toward their student's tuition, making their education more manageable financially. Hillcrest also offers financial assistance to those families who still need support.

One of the most meaningful things the ESA program does is lower the financial barrier to enrolling at Hillcrest in the first place. Because ESA funds are available to any eligible Iowa family, a Hillcrest education is no longer limited to families who can absorb a non-public school tuition on their own. Families across a wide range of income levels and circumstances can make Hillcrest an option for their children. That is no small thing. It means our school can be what we believe it should be: a community open to any family who shares our mission and wants to apply, regardless of their situation. The result is a student body that is more diverse than we've ever been and much different than what you typically find in other independent Christian schools. It's that diversity which makes Hillcrest a richer, truer reflection of our mission and of the broader local community we serve.

However, and this is the critical point, when a family receives ESA funds and applies that to their tuition, this typically does not reach the full cost of educating that student. There is still a gap. That gap is real, and it has to be funded somehow. Hillcrest Academy high school tuition for the 2026-27 school year is \$13,400, and for a Hillcrest middle school student, it's \$11,200.

PIECE TWO | THE ANNUAL FUND

Even with family tuition (including ESA contributions) and local congregational support combined, a gap typically remains between revenue and what it actually costs to operate Hillcrest at the level our students deserve. That gap is why the Annual Fund exists as part of our budget.

The Annual Fund is our school community's annual, collective act of generosity. It is not restricted to a specific project or a future building; instead, it goes directly toward the operating costs of the school in a particular school year. Every dollar given to the Annual Fund is put to work immediately: supporting faculty and staff salaries, enabling programs, and ensuring that the school can operate without compromising on quality.

Think of it this way: tuition covers the family's share, the Congregational Support Plan represents the church community's share, and the Annual Fund is where everyone has the opportunity to close the remaining distance between what we charge and what it costs. This includes families, alumni, grandparents, friends of the school, and community members who simply believe in the mission of Hillcrest Academy. When the Annual Fund is strong, the school can plan with confidence, retain excellent faculty and staff, keep up with maintaining our beautiful campus, and serve students without compromise.

PIECE THREE | THE CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT PLAN

From its beginning, Hillcrest Academy has existed within a community of faith. Since 1945, we, along with our supporting churches, have had a shared mission. The Congregational Support Plan is the formal expression of that partnership.

Through the Congregational Support Plan, the seven-member congregations make a committed, annual financial contribution to the school. This is a structured commitment that congregations budget for and fulfill year after year. Each participating church is essentially saying, 'We believe in what Hillcrest is doing, and we are willing to put our congregation's resources behind it.'

This support does several things at once. It reduces the financial investment for individual families, making a Hillcrest education more accessible. It keeps tuition from having to bear the full weight of the school's costs. And it connects the school to something larger, a network of congregations that have put their own resources behind the mission of Hillcrest. The CSP is not a bonus on top of a fully funded school. It is a load-bearing part of the structure.

2025 DONORS

The **HILLCREST ACADEMY community thanks** all those who donated to the **Annual Fund** in the 2025 calendar year. We are grateful to each of you and we couldn't do what we do without you!

1951

Dolores Miller
Mary Ellen (Swartzendruber) Lechner
Miriam (Swartzendruber) Yutzy
Paul Bowers
Willard Roth

1952

Lores (Brenneman) Hochstetler
Mary Ellen (Hershberger) Miller
Myrna (Kinsinger) Farraj

1953

Eunice Brenneman
Mary Lou (Smucker) Bowers

1954

Carolyn (Miller) Walter
Ermadine (Miller) Boshart
Loretta (Bender) Yoder
Marlene (Yoder) Leichty

1955

Dale Stutzman
Dorothy Logan

1956

Anna (Leichty) Lewis
Curtis Brenneman
Dorothy Yoder Nyce
Richard Brenneman

1957

Charles Rhodes
Ezra Yoder
Larry Leichty
Ronald Wyse

1958

Carroll Yoder
Doris (Schrock) Thirtle
Jim Brenneman
Karen (Hochstetler) Gingerich
Keith Brenneman

Robert D. Yoder
Sue (Schlatter) Richard

1959

Donald Rensberger
Edwin Hershberger
H. Marcus Yoder
Jim Hochstetler
Lydia Ann (Schrock) Kennel
Mary (Hochstetler) Brenneman
Nelson Gingerich
Sherry (Miller Swartzendruber) Burner

1960

Alice (Wender) Hsu
Anna (Freyenberger) Hochstetler
Charlotte (Graber) Rosenberger
James & Lois (Kieffaber) Bare
James Wenger
Ronald King
Wilbur & Mary (Beachy) Litwiller

1961

Anna Ruth (Beachy) Martin
Colleen (Rhodes) Stoltzfus
Donald Zook
Duane Miller
Karen (Beachy) Kropf
Karen (Bender) Leidig
Kenneth Yoder
Myrna (Yoder) Kaufman
Ronald Piper
Winifred (Hostetler) Yordy

1962

Evelyn Yoder Miller
Isabelle (Van der Werf) Miller
Larry Hershberger
Linda (Zook) Paine
Mary Louise (Brenneman) Grieser
Shirley (Brenneman) Hochstedler
Wilbur Yoder & Helen Yoder*
Nyle & Lauralee Kauffman*

1963

Dale & Charlene (Yoder) Rhodes
Kathleen (Yoder) Quinn
Lovina (Gingerich) Rutt
Ronald Guengerich

1964

Aliko Songolo*
Merle & Joyce (Krabill) Stutzman
Nedra (Brenneman) Berger

1965

James Hochstetler
Jon Winborn
Karen (Yoder) Harvey
Keith Dickel
Millicent (Guengerich) Hershey
Myrna (Swartzendruber) Moyer
Norm Yoder

1966

John Hostetler
Ledru Freyenberger
Marcia Yoder-Schrock
Mary (Yoder) Glick
Merle Schlabaugh
Myron & Martha (Yoder) Graber
Phil Ropp

1967

Ken Miller

1968

Dean & Becky (Guengerich) Rhodes
Dennis & Rosie (Yoder) Miller
Firman & Susan (Yoder) Gingerich
Galen Yoder
James Gingerich
Judy (Yoder) Moskalik
Kathy (Brenneman) Walter
Nancy (Bender) Gehman
Rodney Wenger
Steve Lowry
Wayne Hershberger

1969

Diane (Schlabaugh) Martin-Zane
Frank Yoder
Grace (Yoder) Weber
Rex Miller
Tim Widmer
Wanda Yoder

1970

Anna Marie (Schrock) Tillotson
Arden Miller
Curtis & Lois Yoder
Ed Gingerich
Galen Guengerich
Janice (Miller) Godshall
Ron & Lorene (Yoder) Bender*
Sheldon & Letha (Mullet) Yoder
Tim Widmer
Ronald Piper
Winifred (Hostetler) Yordy

Curtis & Lois Yoder*

1971

George Yoder
Loren Hochstedler
Lynn Ruth Ann (Wenger) Brenneman
Mary Lou (Swartzendruber) Farmer
Mike & Kris Brenneman

1972

Del & Patty (Yoder) Miller
Elvesta (Miller) Hochstedler

Jim Miller*

Jon Widmer
Lois (Bender) Gingerich

1973

Bill Hochstetler
Deb (Yoder) Miller*
Doug Stoltzfus*

1974

Barb (Yoder) Martin
Calvin Yoder
Gwen (Miller) Hurst
Julie (Erb) Meyers
Laurel (Miller) Rowland
Leonard Miller

1975

Mary Lou (Miller) Gingerich
Pam (Brenneman) Stoltzfus*
Ray Miller
Rita (Eash) Peachey

1976

Audrey (Hochstedler) Miller
Charlotte Yutzy
Dorothy Wenger
Dwight Gingerich
Marcus Miller
Sharla (Miller) Zasadny

1977

Atlee Yoder
Calvin Miller
Jane (Yoder) Widmer
Marlin & Joni (Doolin) Yoder
Paulette (Miller) Hershberger

1978

Dawn (Schlabaugh) Schrock
Mary Lou King
Sanford Miller
Steve Ropp

1979

Mitch Kinsinger*
Paquita (Sancho) Ditzler
Susan (Swartzendruber) Stoltzfus
1980
Gary & Donna Yoder*
Karen (Stout) Unruh
Rhonda (Kinsinger) Wray
Rhonda Yoder
Terry Erb

1981

Carolyn (Bachman) Yoder
Don Schwabbauer
Jodi Wyse Woline
Linda (Bender) Yutzy
Sonya (Stauffer) Kurtz

1982

Jewel Gingerich Longenecker
Karla Gingerich
Kris (Swartzendruber) Miller
Leora (Miller) Troyer

1983

Maribeth (Yoder) Schlabaugh
Ruth Brenneman
Sherri Thompson
Tony Stutzman

1984

Doug Hochstetler
Jim Schlabaugh
John Buckwalter
Larion Hostetler

Lyle & Bonnie (Hostetler) Miller*

1985

Jeremy Brenneman
Jon Beachy*
Ross Brenneman

1986

Tim Miller
Tony & Leah (Stutzman) Miller

1987

Rose Bender Cook
Thomas Brenneman

1988

Chris Rhodes
Chad Stoltzfus

1989

Corey Oswald
Todd Watson

1990

Marlow Yoder

1991

Chris Yoder
Dana (Hochstetler) Oswald
Ed Leichty
LeAnne Zook
Susanna Unternahrer Zook

1992

Greg Yoder
Marilyn & Kristen (Litwiller) Rempel

1993

Adam & Brigitte (Nisly) Ingersoll
Anita (Miller) Beachy*
Erika Miller
Sheila (Bender) Ours

1995

Theresa (Litwiller) Blossom
Amy (Swartzendruber) & Larry Drayfahl*
Stacy Ropp Miller

1996

Jodi (Hochstedler) Beyeler
Nate Miller

1997

Allison (Miller) Troyer
Beth (Hershberger) Carolan
Brian Miller
Carson Bontrager
Nate & Amy (Boller) Graber
Sylvan Schlabaugh

1998

Anita Swartzendruber
Barb Yoder
Carol Detweiler
Clara Shetler
David & Shana Boshart
Doran & Cindy Conrad
Doug & Mary Flanagan
Doyle & Janet Geyer
Ed V. & Carol Miller
Eleanor Yoder

1999

Ilona (Hochstetler) Roberts
Jill (Stoltzfus) Hemachandra
Kendra (Conrad) Bailey
Laurie (Bender) Miller*
Patrick Vigneron
Vince & Gretchen (Brenneman) Yoder

2000

Adam & Katie Yoder*
Brynn (Miller) Swartzendruber

2001

Chuck Miller*
Diego Rodriguez
Jace Bailey

2002

Tyson Miller*
Allison (Brenneman) Goertz
Caleb Yoder
Jon Miller
Nathan Miller
Will Leichty

2003

Benjamin Yoder*
Joel & Maria Blough Koerner*
Nick Stoddard & Erika Detweiler

2005

Del Borntrager
Matthew Ropp

2006

Caleb & Heidi Gingerich Detweiler

2007

Hannah Ney
Marcus & Marissa Unruh*

2008

Jill (Swartzendruber) Swartz
Todd Hooley*

2009

Corben Weaver Boshart

2011

Bill Spencer III
Marshall Schrock
Taylor Yoder

2014

Shay Durlflinger

2015

Jacob Bruns*
Renee Buckwalter Swartzendruber

2016

Jenna (Boller) Oyer

2018

Avery (Blauvelt) Schrock
Cole Ours
Mitchell Schmieder

2019

Gretta Rempel Fisher

2023

Jace Rempel

2023

Jace Rempel

2023

Jace Rempel

2023

Jace Rempel

2023

Jace Rempel

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Jace Rempel

2023

Jace Rempel

2023

Jace Rempel

2023

Jace Rempel

2023

Jace Rempel

2023

Jace Rempel

2023

Jace Rempel

FRIENDS OF HILLCREST ACADEMY

Anita Swartzendruber
Barb Yoder
Carol Detweiler
Clara Shetler
David & Shana Boshart
Doran & Cindy Conrad
Doug & Mary Flanagan
Doyle & Janet Geyer
Ed V. & Carol Miller
Eleanor Yoder

2000

Ethan Boldt
Gail Carolan
Gene & Alice Wyse

2001

Grace Rempel
Greg Wagner
Israel Acevedo
Jackie Bailey

2002

Jeff & Ellen Segar
Judy Yoder
Julie Bartel
Katie Lind

2003

Kevin & Maria Meller
Leo & Faye Gerig Rudolphi
Liz Miller
Nathan Miller
Lois Yoder
Lola Faye Erb-Yoder
Louise Troyer

2004

Lowell & Pam Gerig Unruh
Marvin & Betsy Slabaugh
Marvin & Pam Van Dyke
Mary Lynn Bogaard
Noah & Emily Hughes
Norma Brenneman
Raymond & Alta Poe
Reena Ramos

2005

Richard & Donna Swartzendruber
Richard & Susan See
Richard D. & Helen Ours
Roy & Janet Beachy
Ruth Ann Shetler
Ruth H. Ulrich
Shirley Zillmer
Stan & Kristin Jones
Tim & Tina Hill
Tony & Angela Gray
Tony & Gabby Frederick
Tony Brenneman & Mary Forney

2006

Sharon Flanagan Memorial Scholarship
Wilbur & Helen Yoder Legacy Scholarship

2007

Wilma Gingerich *Cup of Kindness* Memorial Scholarship

2008

Wilma Gingerich *Cup of Kindness* Memorial Scholarship

2009

Wilma Gingerich *Cup of Kindness* Memorial Scholarship

2010

Wilma Gingerich *Cup of Kindness* Memorial Scholarship

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2017

Wilma Gingerich *Cup of Kindness* Memorial Scholarship

2018

Wilma Gingerich *Cup of Kindness* Memorial Scholarship

2019

Wilma Gingerich *Cup of Kindness* Memorial Scholarship

2020

Wilma Gingerich *Cup of Kindness* Memorial Scholarship

2021

Wilma Gingerich *Cup of Kindness*