



DEER CREEK

# PRIDE

Fall / Winter 2018

## Mission

Deer Creek Christian School partners with families to help children grow in **Academics, Faith, and Character** for Kingdom service.

Will you help us as we learn?  
[www.deercreek.org/giving](http://www.deercreek.org/giving)



## DEER CREEK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Preschool–8th grade  
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## PRINCIPAL'S POST

# HOPE FOR NOW AND LATER

*by Brian Verwolf, Head of School*

Hope. A simple word that's often misused as a word to express wishful thinking. As in, "I don't know what's going to happen, but I hope it happens." Deer Creek's theme for the year is "We Have Hope," but it's not a wishful hope. In fact, it's a hope that breeds confident expectation that God will bring good—now and later.

Friends, God has promised that something is going to happen, and we put our trust in that promise. We have

confidence that something will come to pass because God has promised it will come to pass. We don't have to waste ink describing darkness in the world—it's all around us. Yet, "on Him we have set our hope" (2 Corinthians 1:10b).

At Deer Creek we celebrate the real, abiding, transformative hope that we have in the gospel. And when we say "We Have Hope," we are proclaiming with confidence that: Christ died for me and rose again for me, and therefore all the promises of God are YES in Him. 



# HOPE FOR PRE-SCHOOL

by LaTrece Thomas,  
Pre-K Director

# WE HAVE

In a 2014 article in Time magazine, Fareed Zakaria notes that early childhood education improves children's cognitive abilities, helps create a foundation for lifelong learning, makes learning outcomes more equitable, reduces poverty, and improves social mobility from generation to generation.

The hope for the Pre-school Program here at Deer Creek is that we can give children all that and more in an environment infused with positive energy. The culture and climate educators create in their classrooms are two of the most important aspects of their work.

Our hope is that we can create a place where children learn and grow at their own pace—a loving comfortable environment where children can be themselves, not miniature adults.

Our hope is that we can focus on educating the whole child and not



force children to meet artificial academic goals.

Curriculums are great guides for teachers to help preschoolers regulate emotions, develop self-control, expand language, learn mathematics,

and express themselves creatively.

Deer Creek teachers use differentiated instructional strategies and practices in the classroom. This is the hope of the Deer Creek's Pre-School Program! ♥

## HOPE AND THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM by Chloe Harrison, 3rd Grade Teacher

Every day at 12:30, nine 8-year-olds walk in from recess and make their way to a black-and-white checkered carpet in the classroom. They eagerly wait for the pages of a novel to be opened and read aloud. They know from experience with stories that something "bad" is going to happen to the main character, yet they always expect, or hope, something good to happen in the end. Is that child-ish, or child-like?



Daily, my students are realizing, waiting, and hoping for the Kingdom to come. As we read, write,

and dive deeper into characters and situations that hit close to home, those nine 8-year-olds are able to

experience the excitement of waiting for the coming King. We are able to stop, enter into the story, and ask the question, "What does this person lack?"

Hope. My third-graders know what it means to hope, knowing that the One we have set our hope on will not fail us.

And I have learned that the childlike posture they have is the same one we should have as we wait for the unfolding pages of the Greatest Story Ever Told. ♥

# HOPE

## HOPE AND SUPPORT

by Amber Trethewey:  
Support Services Director

“We’re not alone, Our God is with us. We can approach the throne with confidence because He made a way. When trouble comes, He’ll be our fortress. We know that those who place their hope in Him will not be ashamed.” These are lyrics to an Ellie Holcomb song that remind us through trials and storms we can be confident that our Heavenly Father is in our corner.

One unique way the faculty and staff get to walk with students in this hope is through Deer Creek’s Support Service program. Students who may be facing a challenging learning situation are supported through creative, flexible, or alternative learning approaches. Faculty and staff are constantly pouring love, expanding their knowledge base, adjusting teaching approaches, and giving more time—in an



effort to provide hope to students and families. The students are growing in confidence, knowledge, and perseverance through the program.

Hebrews 11:1 states, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Hope is our bridge to the confidence in our faith. The Deer Creek community is a family where hope fills the halls every day, through the students, faculty, staff and families. ♥

## HOPE AND A FUTURE *Alumni spotlight: Lucas Hommes*

Lucas Hommes is a 2009 graduate of Deer Creek, and his life path has taken him across the country and around the world. Enlisting in the United States Marine Corps

gave him a chance to travel overseas and experience different cultures. Returning home gave him a chance to travel America with his father and spend time in Virginia with his brother.

“My time spent at Deer Creek feels like a lifetime

ago,” says Lucas. “I will always cherish my time there and the happy memories I have there.” The solid education he received gave him a foundation to keep building

on. He’s enrolling in classes at Governors State University while also working with his father in the family business.

“I will always be eternally grateful to my classmates and teachers at Deer Creek who helped make me into the person I am today,” says Lucas. ♥



On a road trip with his father, from California to Nebraska, Lucas Hommes hiked the largest mountain in Colorado, Mt. Elbert.



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## GIVING HOPE *by Steve Blom, Director of Development*

I hope that next week my kids will keep their rooms completely clean. I hope our politicians will speak with love and work together for the benefit of all. I hope every sock will have a match coming out of the laundry.

Why set myself up for such disappointment? The data does not support these hopes. Past experience, when quantified, is what determines a reasonable hope versus a fleeting hope.

So it is with hope born out of faith. We can look to the future filled with hope because of the faithfulness of God in what has already been done.

At Deer Creek there is plenty of data to justify

our hope for the future. One of those key indicators is you, the community of people who have chosen time and again to surround us with your prayers and generosity. These allow

us to move forward boldly in the mission God has called us to, the mission you have read about here, the mission of challenging students to grow into people of hope in this world in

need. You give hope.

As we close out 2018, we thank you for being these ambassadors of hope for us and we ask that you will give with joy to Deer Creek Christian School!

If you would like to give online or become a Sustaining Partner through monthly giving at any level, head over to [www.deercreek.org/giving](http://www.deercreek.org/giving). ♥

