

The 24th Commencement of

Cypress
Christian School

Class of 2021

Friday, the twenty first of May

Two thousand twenty-one

Seven o'clock

The MET Church

Senior Class Acknowledgement

We are blessed with this opportunity to gather today and celebrate the years that have led to this moment. As we prepare to walk across that stage, we struggle to articulate the richness of our high school experiences. Looking back across the years, we see the support and love that remained constant amidst the chaos of a broken world and find joy in every new day.

As we anticipate the next part of our lives, it is these moments of joy that we will hold close to our hearts: painting our parking spots, musicals, off-campus lunch and state titles. Despite the change of the past year, there were hundreds of small gifts, and fear was conquered in the end. We are grateful for the coaches, teachers and parents who helped safeguard our success and happiness during these four years, and we acknowledge the love and time you dedicated to us. You became our leaders during every trial that was thrown our way, and due to your help, we were able to accomplish our goals and fulfill our plans.

We would also like to thank the school for creating the environment to grow in our love for Christ, as each of us has been changed by the opportunities provided by CCS. The rigorous curriculum, both academic and spiritual, has given us ample room to cultivate our strengths and recognize our weaknesses. We have learned about ourselves and each other. We have confidence to step down this new path and are grateful for the bittersweet nostalgia as we go our separate ways.

Finally, we would not graduate with a clear conscience without thanking our parents. You raised us well and loved us even better. Your daily support paved the way for our completion of high school and our departure into the real world. If God “will make a way in the wilderness,” then you have been his instruments for this work (*English Standard Version*, Isaiah 43:19). Leaving home will only serve to remind us of your love and the things you do that we take for granted. Your love and support will not waver as we move to college, and we are forever grateful. It is truths like these that will guide us into our future and form us into strong sons and daughters of Christ.

Senior Class of 2021

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Prelude Academic Festival Overture, Opus 80

Processional of Seniors

Welcome Dr. Jeffrey D. Potts
Executive Director

Invocation D. Lyle Williams, Jr.
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Pledges Meredith Byers
Director of College & Academic Advising

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I pledge allegiance to the flag
Of the United States of America,
And to the Republic for which it stands,
One nation under God, indivisible,
With liberty and justice for all.

PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG

Honor the Texas flag:
I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas,
One state under God, one and indivisible.

PLEDGE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG

I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag
And to the Savior
For Whose kingdom it stands,
One Savior, crucified, buried, risen and coming again
With life and liberty for all who believe.

PLEDGE TO THE BIBLE

I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word.
I will make it a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
I will hide its words in my heart
That I might not sin against God.

Salutatorian & Valedictorian

Dr. Ryan Berens
High School Principal

Worship

Matt Roberson
Lead Pastor
The MET Church

Memory Speakers

Dr. Ryan Berens
High School Principal

Commencement Address

Dr. Jeffrey D. Potts
Executive Director

Presentation of Diplomas

Dr. Christopher Witschonke
Dean of Instructional Development

Parent Recognition

Graduates

Benediction & Closing Remarks

Dr. Ryan Berens
High School Principal

Recessional of Graduates

2021 SENIORS

Casey Barbisch
Dillon Bienko
Austin Cheek
Cooper Comeaux
Andrew Crawford
Jackson Fraser
Allie Fronck
Connor Fulbright
Abby Gilreath
Walker Girard
Abby Hotchkiss
Brittany Hough
Paige Jackson
Katelyn Jedlicka
Chris Keith
Camden Khuong
Mara Kirchhoff
Carson Lacaze
Nathan Luper
John Macune
Libby Mitton

Koedi Nealy
Lauren Nicholson
Noah Parker
Ethan Poncho
David Quarles
Elizabeth Richardson
Liz Romero
Magnus Rowan
Rachel Smith
Josh Storey
Blake Stovall
Jaden Tran
Caroline Usry
Natalia Velandia
Riann Watterson
Sydney Wax
Gavin West
Kelsey Wimsatt
Preston Witschonke
Abby Young

HONOR CORDS AND STOLE

Gold Cord – All A's Each Semester Grades 9-12

Green Cord – Volunteer Service Award

Rainbow Cord – National Art Honor Society Member

Blue & Gold Cord – Thespian Society Member

NHS Stole – National Honor Society Member

ALMA MATER

(To the tune *Abide with Me*)

Cypress, dear Cypress, hail the blue and white.

Warriors forever standing for what's right.

Knowledge and wisdom we have learned from you.

Faithful CCS, forever true.

Trained hearts and minds preparing us to be

Servants of Christ in our society.

Lifting high your banner, loyal through and through.

Faithful CCS, forever true.

Cypress Christian School Class of 2021

Casey Renee Barbisch, daughter of Tammy and Brett Barbisch, has attended CCS kindergarten-12th grade. Her life verse is Micah 6:8 - *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.* Casey plans to attend Auburn University.

Dillon Caleb Bienko, son of Sandra and Bryce Bienko, has attended CCS five years. His life verse is Philippians 4:13 - *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.* Dillon plans to attend Texas A&M University - Galveston.

Austin Thomas Cheek, son of Westy McClelland and Ricky Cheek, has attended CCS ten years. His life verse is Psalm 138:3 - *On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul.* At the time of printing, Austin had not decided which college/university he would attend.

Cooper Allen Comeaux, son of Tressa and Scott Comeaux, has attended CCS eight years. His life verse is Jeremiah 29:11 - *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.* Cooper plans to attend Baylor University.

Andrew Steven Crawford, son of Tyann and Matt Crawford, has attended CCS seven years. His life verse is Psalm 119:11 - *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* Andrew plans to attend Texas A&M University.

Jackson Christopher Fraser, son of Kristen and Jason Fraser, has attended CCS two years. His life verse is Matthew 28:19-20 - *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* Jackson plans to attend Texas A&M University.

Allison Brooke Fronek, daughter of Carrie and Steve Fronek, has attended CCS seven years. Her life verse is Joshua 1:9 - *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.* Allie plans to attend The University of Texas at Arlington.

Connor Wesley Fulbright, son of Jennifer and Jay Fulbright, has attended CCS one year. His life verse is James 1:12 - *Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.* Connor plans to attend the United States Coast Guard Academy.

Abigail Grace Gilreath, daughter of Christy and Troy Gilreath, has attended CCS six years. Her life verse is 1 John 4:18 - *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.* Abby plans to attend Hillsdale College.

Walker Thomas Girard, son of Stephanie and Scott Girard, has attended CCS kindergarten-12th grade. His life verse is Ephesians 6:11-12 - *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present.* Walker plans to attend Blinn College.

Abigail Claire Hotchkiss, daughter of Molly and Ken Hotchkiss, has attended CCS eight years. Her life verse is Psalm 86:11 - *Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.* Abby plans to attend Texas A&M University.

Brittany Marie Hough, daughter of Claudia and Jonathan Hough, has attended CCS seven years. Her life verse is Hebrews 13:1-2 - *Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.* Brittany plans to attend Lone Star College.

Paige Ane Jackson, daughter of Kristie and Cory Jackson, has attended CCS eleven years. Her life verse is Ephesians 4:2-3 - *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make*

every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Paige plans to attend Texas A & M University.

Katelyn Marie Jedlicka, daughter of Melanie and Chuck Jedlicka, has attended CCS three years. Her life verse is Psalm 46:5 - *God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.* Katelyn plans to attend The University of Texas at Dallas.

Christopher William Keith, son of Martina and Carl Keith, has attended CCS one year. His life verse is Isaiah 58:11 - *The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.* Chris plans to attend Texas State University.

Camden Thai Khuong, son of Nancy and David Khuong, has attended CCS seven years. His life verse is Genesis 1:20-21 - *Then God said, Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens. And God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind; and God saw that it was good.* Camden plans to attend Eckerd College.

Mara Faith Kirchhoff, daughter of Aimee and Charlie Kirchhoff, has attended CCS four years. Her life verse is Jeremiah 29:11 - *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.* Mara plans to attend The University of Texas at Tyler.

Carson David Lacaze, son of Kristi and Lex Lacaze, has attended CCS seven years. His life verse is Ephesians 6:10-11 - *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.* Carson plans to attend Texas A&M University.

Nathanael Robert Luper, son of Belen and Bryan Luper, has attended CCS four years. His life verse is John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.* Nathan plans to attend the University of Arkansas.

John William Macune, son of Melissa and Chuck Macune, has attended CCS eight years. His life verse is John 6:68-69 - *Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that You are the Holy One of God.* John plans to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Elizabeth Kate Mitton, daughter of Amy and Jon Mitton, has attended CCS nine years. Her life verse is Isaiah 41:10 - *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* Libby plans to attend Texas Tech University.

Koedi Grace Nealy, daughter of Kristi and Levi Nealy, has attended CCS kindergarten-12th grade. Her life verse is Ephesians 2:8 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.* Koedi plans to attend Southern Methodist University.

Lauren Paige Nicholson, daughter of Kara and Trey Nicholson, has attended CCS nine years. Her life verse is I Corinthians 16:14 - *Let all that you do be done in love.* Lauren plans to attend Baylor University.

Noah Quinn Parker, son of Diana and Lance Parker, has attended CCS six years. His life verse is Joshua 1:9 - *This is My command--be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.* Noah plans to attend Auburn University.

Ethan Carter Poncho, son of Judith and Travis Poncho, has attended CCS twelve years. His life verse is Jeremiah 29:11 - *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.* Ethan plans to attend Baylor University.

David Alexander Quarles, son of Tai and Cory Quarles, has attended CCS three years. His life verse is Acts 20:24 - *But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.* David plans to attend Duke University.

Elizabeth Grace Richardson, daughter of Jennifer and George Richardson, has attended CCS seven years. Her life verse is Isaiah 41:10 - *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.* Elizabeth plans to attend Baylor University.

Elizabeth Noelle Romero, daughter of Ana and Fredy Romero, has attended CCS seven years. Her life verse is Isaiah 41:10 - *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.* Liz plans to attend Houston Baptist University.

Magnus David Rowan, son of Daphne and Jonathan Rowan, has attended CCS two years. His life verse is Psalm 118:14 - *The Lord is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation.* Magnus plans to attend Wildlands Firefighter Training.

Rachel Lorraine Smith, daughter of Lisa and Andrew Smith, has attended CCS nine years. Her life verse is John 16:33 - *These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.* Rachel plans to attend Baylor University.

Joshua Daniel Storey, son of Julie and Daniel Storey, has attended CCS kindergarten-12th grade. His life verse is Psalms 108:13 - *With God we will gain the victory, and He will trample down our enemies.* Josh plans to attend Texas A&M University.

Blake Porter Stovall, son of Janet and Jeremy Stovall, has attended CCS nine years. His life verse is Romans 1:16 - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.* Blake plans to attend Texas A&M University.

Jaden Timothy Tran, son of Marivic and Tim Tran, has attended CCS four years. His life verse is Romans 11:36 - *For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.* Jaden plans to attend Texas A&M University.

Caroline Grace Usry, daughter of Sherri and Greg Usry, has attended CCS nine years. Her life verse is Galatians 2:20 - *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* Caroline plans to attend the University of Oklahoma.

Natalia Del Pilar Velandia, daughter of Adriana Velandia and Reinaldo Bohorquez, has attended CCS two years. Her life verse is Romans 15:13 - *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.* Natalia plans to attend Baylor University.

Riann Christine Watterson, daughter of Renee and James Swinney and Cindy and Jonathan Watterson, has attended CCS six years. Her life verse is Isaiah 43:2 - *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.* Riann plans to attend Texas State University.

Sydney Leigh Wax, daughter of Brandi and Brandon Wax, has attended CCS nine years. Her life verse is Philippians 3:13-14 - *But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.* Sydney plans to attend Texas A&M University.

Gavin Roberts West, son of Linda and Greg West, has attended CCS three years. His life verse is Philippians 4:13 - *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.* Gavin plans to attend Texas A&M University.

Kelsey Kendall Wimsatt, daughter of Kristi and David Wimsatt, has attended CCS eight years. Her life verse is 1 Peter 1:8 - *Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.* Kelsey plans to attend Samford University.

Preston Carl Witschonke, son of Shawna and Chris Witschonke, has attended CCS eight years. His life verse is Philippians 4:6-7 - *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Preston plans to attend Baylor University.

Abigail Kathleen Young, daughter of Caroline and Stephen Young, has attended CCS kindergarten-12th grade. Her life verse is Philippians 4:6-7 - *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Abby plans to attend the University of Arkansas.

Board of Directors

D. Lyle Williams, Jr., Chairman of the Board
Brandon Wax, Vice Chairman of the Board
Bobby Grimes
Ken Hotchkiss
Chuck Macune
Louis “Trey” Nicholson
Rich Petru
Mike Slabic

Secondary Administration

Berens, Ryan (2020)	High School Principal
Ed.D., University of Georgia	
M.Ed., Kennesaw State University	
B.A., Rhodes College	
Byers, Meredith (2020)	Director of College & Academic Advising
B.S., Auburn University	
Cleveland, Craig (2003)	Dean of Students
B.A., Houston Baptist University	
B.S., University of Texas	
Hogan, Kris (2020)	Athletic Director/Head Football Coach
B.S., Texas A&M University - Commerce	
Martin, Marsha (1996)	Athletic Campus Coordinator
B.S., Lamar University	
Mayes-Alsobrooks, Susan (2015)	Learning Center Director
M.Ed., P.C.E.T. Texas A&M University	
B.S., Texas A&M University	

Potts, Jeffrey D. (2019)	Executive Director
Ed.D., Liberty University	
M.Ed., Columbia International University	
M.A., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	
B.A., Baylor University	
Rhea, Iva Nell (2003)	Middle School Principal
M.R.E., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	
M.S., Prairie View A&M University	
B.S., Carson-Newman College	
Witschonke, Christopher (2013)	Dean of Instructional Development
Ed.D., University of Houston	
M.Ed., University of Houston	
B.A., University of Michigan	

Faculty

Albers, Will (2013)	Bible
B.A., Texas A&M University	
Andrews, Tanya (2014)	Math
B.S., University of Central Oklahoma	
Begnoche, Justin (2020)	Math
M.S.Ed., Baylor University	
B.A., Oral Roberts University	
Bretz, Greg (2007)	Bible
B.S., Oral Roberts University	
Brubaker, Beth (2013)	Art
B.S., Baylor University	
Dubon, Helmuth (2018)	Spanish
M.A., Texas State University	
B.A., University of El Salvador	
Galbreath, Kelly (2005)	Spanish/Journalism
B.A., University of Texas	
Harris, Kiley (2018)	Drama
B.A., Baylor University	
Janz, Jody (2019)	English
B.A., Ouachita Baptist University	
Keim, Kami (2015)	Physics
B.S., University of Texas	

Lambert, Donna (2012)	English
M.L.A., Houston Baptist University	
B.S., Texas A&M University	
Lechman, Rachael (2010)	Bible/Photography
B.S., College of Biblical Studies	
Leonard, Patrick (2012)	English
M.F.A., The School of the Art Institute of Chicago	
B.A., Augustana College	
Longridge, Lisa (2007)	Chemistry
Ph.D., Texas A&M University	
B.A., Texas A&M University	
Morales, Antonio (2018)	Bible/History
Ed. D., Liberty University	
M.A., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	
B.B.A., University of Houston	
Nugent, Tom (2011)	Bible
M.Ed., Houston Baptist University	
B.S., University of Houston	
Teague, Lori (2011)	Biology
B.S., Lamar University	
Wierzbicki, Melissa (2020)	Math/Chemistry
M.Ed., Texas A&M University	
B.S., Texas A&M University	
Williams, Bruce (2019)	History
B.S., Sam Houston State University	
Witherspoon, Brittany (2017)	Math
B.S., Texas Tech University	
Yaw, Jessica (2019)	Math/Engineering
B.S., Texas A&M University	
Young, Trisha (2019)	History
B.A., Baylor University	

 Parenthesis denotes year joining CCS secondary staff.

**Many thanks to the families and individuals
who have provided funding for:**

**Andrew Gladney Heart of Gold Memorial Scholarship
Awarded to David Quarles**

**Linwood Brown Memorial Scholarship
Awarded to Cooper Comeaux**

**Spirit of Paul Scholarship
Awarded to Paige Jackson**

**Will Rhodes Athletic Scholarship
Awarded to Paige Jackson and Blake Stovall**

**Fine Arts Scholarship
Awarded to Brittany Hough and Sydney Wax**

**Valiant Warrior
Awarded to Caroline Usry and Josh Storey**

Previously awarded on May 20, 2021 at the Academic & Athletic Awards Night.

Mission Statement

The mission of Cypress Christian School is to honor the Lord Jesus Christ by providing students an education based upon academic excellence and biblical values.