

FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY PRESENTS

THE LION'S CIRCLE

A PLACE FOR STORIES, UPDATES, AND SUPPORT



ISSUE 07

faith.
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

This month, we are pleased to highlight our school Chaplain, Kristi Carrington, who previously served as our Middle School Principal. After faithfully serving in administration, she stepped into a new calling as Chaplain and Bible teacher, continuing to pour into our students and school community in meaningful ways.

Kristi holds a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies from North Central University. She spent seven years teaching and five years serving as a principal. As a pastor's wife, she brings both professional experience and deep compassion to her role.

How would you describe your role as Chaplain, and how do you serve our school community through it?

My role as Chaplain is truly a privilege. I have the opportunity to bring comfort to those experiencing difficult times and to pray for and with them. I also get to celebrate joyful moments with our community and preach to our younger students during Elementary Chapel. This position has been one of the most rewarding roles I have ever served in.

In what ways do you provide spiritual care and support to students, faculty, and families?

I very much enjoy providing support and spiritual care to the students by sitting with them in chapel, praying for them in class, at the altar, and after hours, visiting people in the hospital, giving them lion plushies, sharing my stickers, playing with them in P.E., meeting with them one on one for heart to heart discussions, eating lunch with them, and going to their games when possible. Beyond these acts of support, I always try to just be a good listener.

At FCA, it is important to ensure that staff feel loved and supported, especially during health or family challenges. While they pour into students daily, there are times when they also need care and encouragement. I enjoy supporting families by checking in, sending notes or emails, and coming alongside them with encouragement and reassurance when concerns arise.

How does your work as Chaplain shape the spiritual culture of our school?

I genuinely hope that I am contributing to a culture of care and support. By praying with and for people during their most difficult times, and celebrating with them in their most joyous ones, it reinforces an atmosphere of encouragement.

What has been most meaningful to you about walking alongside students in their faith journey?

Students of all ages experience moments where having someone listen and understand can strengthen their faith, reduce stress, and shift their mindset. It is an absolute privilege to walk alongside them in that way.

Favorite Bible Passage:

The book of Colossians really resonates with me. I am deeply grateful that Gentiles are given the opportunity to spend eternity with Jesus and with loved ones who have gone before us.



Mrs. Kristi Carrington

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

January marked a positive start to the semester as we settled back into the rhythm of campus life. The month featured Admission Preview Days, Spiritual Emphasis Week, and a meaningful baptism celebration as several students chose to take this important step in their faith. We also celebrated Literacy Week with our Adventure Awaits Book Fair, the 100th Day of School, a special Orlando Magic pre-game performance by our dance team, and gatherings for our homeschool families.



Seniors reading to Kindergartners



Book Adventure Awaits: Annual Book Fair



Baptism



Integrity Dance Team at Orlando Magic Game



100th Day celebration

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

This month, we had the pleasure of hosting a student group from Brazil. The visit was a great opportunity to showcase our campus, classrooms, and student experience while strengthening our global relationships. Moments like these reflect our commitment to international engagement and cultural exchange.



Special Thanks to our sponsor Mecatos Bakery for sponsoring snacks and drinks



ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS



ROBIAN RAMOS
12TH GRADE

Robian Ramos completes 4-year varsity career with 502 yards passing, 6 passing TDs, 450 yards rushing with 8 rushing TDs, 978 yards receiving, and 11 receiving TDs, while also totaling 124 tackles. 1 fumble recovery and 4 interceptions.



GIA GRIFFITH
10TH GRADE

Gia Griffith continues her in-season streak, undefeated in girls' weights over the last 12 regular-season meets. Currently, she is the number one 139 lb weightlifter in the region.



NATHAN SMOCK
11TH GRADE

Nathan Smock starts the weightlifting season with a first-place win in the heavier weight class. Nathan moved up a weight class and secured an Olympic victory, helping FCA win its first meet of the season.



SOPHIA LEOPOLDINO
8TH GRADE

Sophia Leopoldino continues an outstanding basketball season, reaching an impressive total of 487 points so far this year.

FEATURE SPOTLIGHT



Our Student Support Services team
Pictured left to right: Mrs. Judith Hyre, Mrs. Monica Torres, and Mrs. Yanira Alicea.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Student Support Services (SSS) Department is grounded in the belief that every child has unique strengths, abilities, and purpose. Our mission is to support students in learning and growing in ways that honor who they are, helping them build confidence and succeed academically while feeling supported, understood, and valued.

We serve students with documented educational and medical diagnoses as well as students transferring from public schools with existing 504 Plans or Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The process of enrolling in Student Support Services begins with meeting with families to thoughtfully determine whether our school can adequately support the student's individual learning needs.

Once enrolled, we develop a personalized accommodation plan designed to support the student throughout the school day. This plan helps to accommodate the students' academic, social, and emotional well-being.

We offer **three tiers of support** based on needs. This ensures students have the tools they need to learn with confidence and dignity. These supports may include classroom accommodations, access to a separate testing environment, and one-on-one test facilitation for younger students. Our department works closely with teachers and parents to ensure accommodations are implemented consistently and effectively. We partner with families to advocate for student needs in the classroom and help older students develop self-advocacy skills, an important step toward independence and lifelong success. Our goal is to help students grow in independence while learning to use their strengths responsibly.

The SSS Department also provides professional development for teachers, equipping them with strategies to support diverse learners with compassion, patience, and understanding. Additionally, we serve as a vital link between home and school, strengthening the communication and collaboration students need to thrive.

Through classroom and out-of-class observations, we identify specific areas that may require additional support. We also maintain a strong partnership with OCPS Non-Public Services, allowing us to collaborate with our local Orange County school district while continuing to meet the needs of our students.

Why This Matters

These services help students fully participate in learning and address challenges early. Support leads to stronger academic performance, better attendance, increased confidence, and improved social skills. Above all, we focus on the **whole child**, creating a safe and encouraging environment where every student feels supported and ready to grow.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

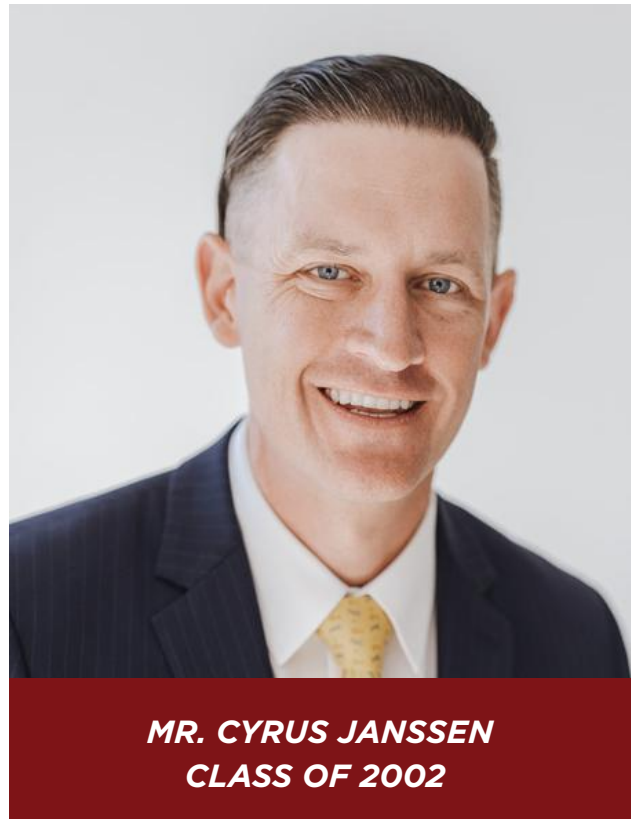
FCA alumnus Cyrus Janssen was born and raised in Orlando and developed an early interest in international travel and languages, influenced by his German heritage. After graduating from Florida State University, he moved to Shanghai to begin a career as a golf professional and later served as Head Golf Professional at Sheshan International Golf Club. His global journey continued in Hong Kong and Canada, where he transitioned into international business and founded a marketing and consulting firm connecting North America and Asia. Today, Cyrus is known as a speaker, content creator, and global analyst who shares insights on culture, business, and world affairs — all shaped by the strong foundation he built during his time at Faith Christian Academy.

What was your experience like as an FCA student, and how did it help shape who you are today?

My time at FCA was one of the most important seasons of my life. It gave me lifelong friendships that I still have today, but more importantly, it gave me a strong foundation in Christ. The world is full of temptation, and I've seen many friends and even family members lose their way and make poor decisions. Because of the solid foundation of faith and values I learned at FCA, I developed a strong moral compass that has helped me stay focused and grounded.

You lived abroad for many years & traveled to over 60 countries. How did those experiences change the way you see the world?

If I can give young students one piece of advice, it would be to get a passport and go see the world. Once you leave the U.S., you gain a much clearer understanding of the world, and you even understand your home country better because you see it from the outside looking in. I've been blessed to travel to over 60 countries, and it taught me that



MR. CYRUS JANSSEN
CLASS OF 2002

people everywhere are far more similar than different. No matter where you go, core values are the same: treat others with respect, be kind, care for family, and be a good member of society. Travel showed me just how much good there is in the world.

“PEOPLE EVERYWHERE ARE FAR MORE SIMILAR THAN DIFFERENT TRAVEL SHOWED ME JUST HOW MUCH GOOD THERE IS IN THE WORLD.”

If you were explaining your job to a student, what does a geopolitical analyst do, and why is it interesting or important?

My job is super fun! I make YouTube videos every week, travel the world, give speeches and lectures, and get to meet a lot of very interesting people! My job is important because we live in a global community and by studying how countries are working together we can predict what will happen next. Unfortunately wars still exist in the world, but if we can spend more time learning about other people and other cultures, we can avoid conflict and all live peacefully together.

Golf is one of your passions. What has playing golf taught you that applies to life?

Golf is the most challenging sport you can play, and that's why it has so many parallels to life. You're going to hit bad shots—sometimes a lot of them, but success comes down to how you respond and recover. Golf has taught me patience, discipline, humility, and resilience. Your attitude after a mistake matters far more than the mistake itself, and that lesson applies directly to school, business, and life.

YOUR ATTITUDE AFTER A MISTAKE MATTERS FAR MORE THAN THE MISTAKE ITSELF - THAT LESSON APPLIES TO SCHOOL, BUSINESS, AND LIFE.

You have a large media following. What advice would you give students about using social media wisely and positively?

My biggest advice is simple: be yourself. I've built my platform by sharing real experiences, not by trying to be popular, cool, or like someone else. People are drawn to authenticity. When you're genuine, others can relate to you. Ironically, the more real and honest you are online, the more meaningful your impact will be.



Giving a keynote speech in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Teaching a golf clinic for China's largest bank in Sanya

As the CEO of a marketing and consulting company, what skills or habits do you believe students should start developing now?

The two most important skills students can develop are prioritization and time management. Not every task is equally important, and learning how to identify what truly matters is critical. Time is our most valuable asset; we all have the same 24 hours each day. If you learn how to prioritize wisely and manage your time effectively, you can accomplish incredible things.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse, and how has it encouraged you during important seasons of your life?

My favorite Bible verse is Acts 17:26. It was a verse I memorized in my history class at Faith Christian Academy during 5th grade, and it has stayed with me ever since. The verse reminds us that all people are created by God and share a common humanity. No matter where I travel in the world or whom I meet, I'm reminded that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, and that perspective has deeply shaped how I see others.

BIBLE CORNER

FATHER'S LOVE LETTER

MY CHILD,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. *Psalm 139:1* I know when you sit down and when you rise up. *Psalm 139:2* I am familiar with all your ways. *Psalm 139:3* Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. *Matthew 10:29-31* For you were made in my image. *Genesis 1:27* In me you live and move and have your being. *Acts 17:28* For you are my offspring. *Acts 17:28* I knew you even before you were conceived. *Jeremiah 1:4-5* I chose you when I planned creation. *Ephesians 1:11-12* You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. *Psalm 139:15-16* I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. *Acts 17:26* You are fearfully and wonderfully made. *Psalm 139:14* I knit you together in your mother's womb. *Psalm 139:13* And brought you forth on the day you were born. *Psalm 71:6* I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. *John 8:41-44* I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. *1 John 4:16* And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. *1 John 3:1*

Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. *1 John 3:1* I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. *Matthew 7:11* For I am the perfect father. *Matthew 5:48* Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. *James 1:17* For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. *Matthew 6:31-33* My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. *Jeremiah 29:11* Because I love you with an everlasting love. *Jeremiah 31:3* My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. *Psalm 139:17-18* And I rejoice over you with singing. *Zephaniah 3:17* I will never stop doing good to you. *Jeremiah 32:40* For you are my treasured possession. *Exodus 19:5* I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. *Jeremiah 32:41* And I want to show you great and marvelous things. *Jeremiah 33:3* If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. *Deuteronomy 4:29* Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. *Psalm 37:4* For it is I who gave you those desires. *Philippians 2:13* I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. *Ephesians 3:20* For I am your greatest encourager. *2 Thessalonians 2:16-17* I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. *Psalm 34:18* As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. *Isaiah 40:11* One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. *Revelation 21:3-4* And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. *Revelation 21:3-4* I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. *John 17:23* For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. *John 17:26* He is the exact representation of my being. *Hebrews 1:3* He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. *Romans 8:31* And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. *2 Corinthians 5:18-19* Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. *2 Corinthians 5:18-19* His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. *1 John 4:10* I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. *Romans 8:31-32* If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. *1 John 2:23* And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. *Romans 8:38-39* Come home, and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. *Luke 15:7* I have always been Father, and will always be Father. *Ephesians 3:14-15* My question is... Will you be my child? *John 1:12-13*

I am waiting for you. *Luke 15:11-32*

Love, Your Dad Almighty God



2026 - 2027 ADMISSIONS

RE-ENROLLMENT

We are excited to see all that God has in store for our FCA families in 2026 as we continue seeking Him together.

Re-enrollment for our current FCA on-campus families has been extended through **February 9**. Families may complete their child's re-enrollment packet during this time.

[Click here to view the re-enrollment parent letter.](#)

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

February 1st
Re-enrollment close

May 31st
Tuition Assistance
Applications closes

June 15th
New Student
Applications close

CLICKABLE RESOURCES

- [Tuition & Scholarship Information](#)
- [School Calendar](#)
- [Important Key Dates](#)
- [FAQ's](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEB

1

2026

STEP UP OPENS

FEB

10

2026

**FOOTBALL
RECRUITING FAIR**

FEB

11-20

2026

**ELEMENTARY SPIRITUAL
EMPHASIS WEEK**

FEB

13

2026

**Q & U WEDDING &
STUCO WINTER OLYMPICS**

FEB

14-16

2026

JUNIOR RETREAT

FEB

16

2026

**NO SCHOOL -
PRESIDENTS' DAY**

FEB

17

2026

**OPEN ENROLLMENT
FOR THE PUBLIC**

FEB

23

2026

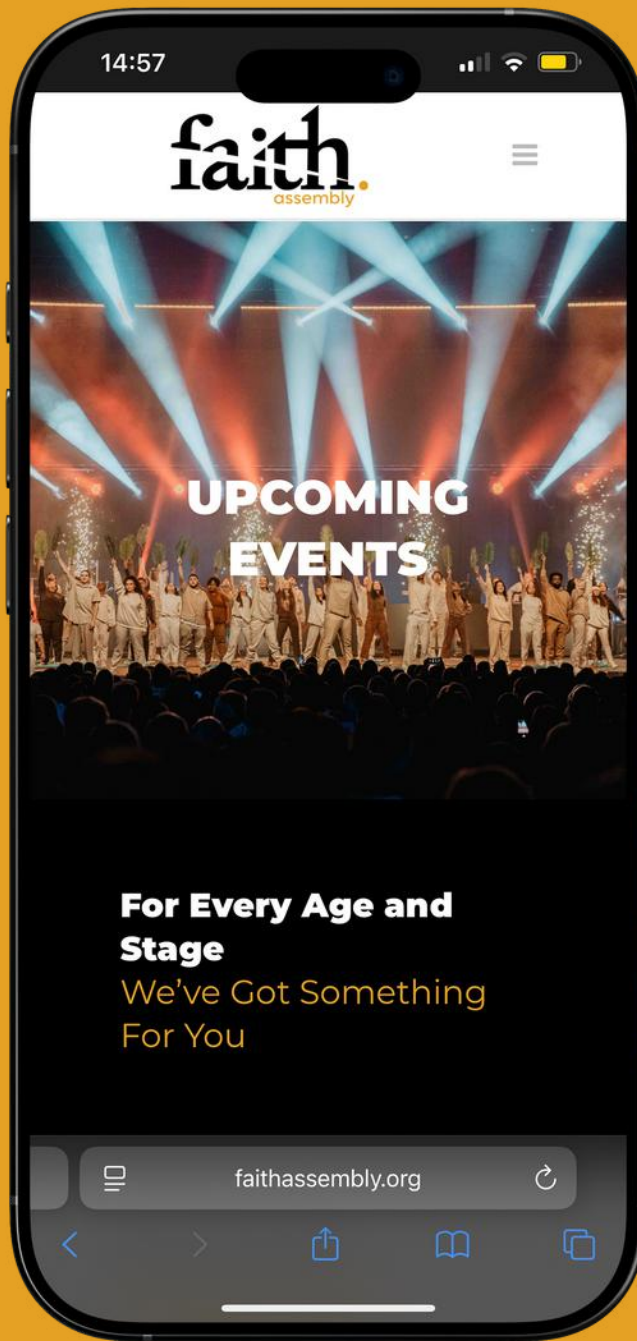
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE FAIR

FEB

28 - 1

2026

**MUSICAL THEATER
PRODUCTION**



CHURCH COMMUNITY

Upcoming Events at Faith

- February 07 | Car Care
- February 08 | Super Sunday
- February 15 | Better Marriage Conference
- February 22 | SEU at Faith Open House
- February 25 | Night of Prayer

Learn more about our church by scanning the QR Code!