



COASTAL HOMESCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY

Class of 2023

3 June, 2023 | 2:00 PM

Compassion Christian Church
55 Al Henderson Blvd.
Savannah, Georgia
31419

CLASS OF 2023

Celeste Baladi	Eve Huffman	Noah Richardson
Ryker Brackett	Ally Keene	Amelia Claire Rowe
Camden Brower	Jacob Lanham	Grace Sapp
Rebekah Butler	Bradley Lariscy	Thomas Saunders
Hannah Dawson	Aidyn Lovicz	Ansley Schnaible
Kahlan DeGrazio	Emma Macatee	Rhiannon Smith
Lily Ellis	Connor Martinez	Melea Spielberger
Caitlyn Evans	Daniel Maulden	Emily Thurmon
Will Fussell	Jacob McKay	Sophia Vanek
Adeline Galo	Lauren Natalie	Kady White
Jeshua Levi Grach	Halsten Poppell	Hannah Wilson
	Cooper Redding	
	Alexandra Rennert	

CONGRATULATIONS

2023 Commencement Ceremony

Processional March*

Pomp and Circumstance- Elgar

Pledge of Allegiance*

Welcome

Ryan Berg

Invocation

Tommy Duke

Guest Speaker

Ben McKay

Senior Speeches

Presentation of Diplomas

Parents

Recessional March*

Brighton Beach- Latham

Reception to follow in the lobby.

Coastal Homeschool Athletic Association

Board of Directors

President

Ryan Berg

Athletic Director

Ben McKay

Treasurer

Meredith Wood

Secretary

Angela Theiss

Richard Collins

Tommy Duke

Lucas Kavlie

Patrick O'Tuel

Jason Rockwell

Patti Todd

Coastal Homeschool Athletic Association Booster Club

Emma Ahouse
Emma Jenkins
Brooklyn Lariscy
Chloe McNew
Harper McNew
Caroline Newton
Marissa Scomo
Madeline Thompson
Victoria Todd
Griffin Weikert

Advisors



Amy Mascunana
Lisa McNew

Celeste Baladi

Celeste was born in the summer of 2005. She has always been a vibrant but pensive girl. She exhibited many creative talents through her childhood, such as sewing, the arts, photography, and music. She played the oboe and percussions for several years in band, and taught herself the ukulele. She also demonstrated an affinity for sports, being involved in gymnastics initially and then gravitating to soccer. Her summers were spent doing swim team. After professing faith in Jesus Christ, she was baptized in 2015. A lifelong homeschooler, she pursued dual enrollment at Point and Georgia Southern University during her junior and senior years. She academically excelled in those classes and thoroughly enjoyed Pre-Calculus and Calculus I. She has held several part-time jobs: Barista, camp counselor, and lifeguard are some of the more notable ones. Celeste plans to study Kinesiology and pursue playing soccer at university next year.

Ryker Brackett

Ryker Barras Brackett, the son of Skip and Amy Brackett, has shown exceptional academic achievements while being homeschooled since 2018. With a passion for science and history, he excels in his studies and delves deep into understanding the intricacies of these subjects. As a four-year varsity football letterman, he has demonstrated his skills and abilities on the field while learning and growing alongside his teammates. After completing his studies, Ryker plans to enter the workforce, utilizing his diverse knowledge and skills. He also aspires to give back to the community by coaching high school football for the Coastal Hurricanes. In his free time, Ryker indulges in his love for video games and enjoys spending quality moments with his friends. He sincerely acknowledges and appreciates the unwavering support of his parents, family, friends, and coaches, who have been instrumental in shaping his journey. Go Canes!!

Camden Brower

Camden has always been able to light up a room with his smile and sense of humor. His laugh is contagious to those around him. His family has always been close to him, and he is particularly close with his older sister Jaiden. Cam showed interest in sports from a young age. He started playing soccer when he was around four. Soon after, he started taking karate and worked his way to a second degree black belt before turning his interests to other sports. Heading to Charleston Southern University in the fall, Camden will pursue a degree as a physician assistant in orthopedic medicine. There is no doubt, due to his persistent nature, that Cam will accomplish his goals.

Rebekah Butler

Rebekah Christine Butler, known to family and friends as Beka, began her homeschool journey in the 3rd grade. She participated in Classical Conversations then transitioned to Kingdom Builder's Co-op with dual enrollment at Point University until graduation. She thanks her parents and teachers for their years of dedication and patience. She enjoys the beach, friend time, game nights at home, and any opportunity to attend a good concert. The Lord gifted Beka with a passion to sing and celebrate his goodness by leading worship for her youth group since middle school. She enjoyed CHAA participation by playing Basketball her junior year and participated in the booster club. She will attend Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA, and major in marketing with a minor in applied music. She is thankful to the Lord, for "I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it well." Psalm 139:14

Hannah Dawson

Hannah Rose Mauric'e Dawson is graduating from the Galena IDEA Homeschool program. During her high school years, Hannah has lettered in varsity cheer and varsity track, played clarinet with the Pep Band, and competed in gymnastics on teams in both Alaska and Georgia. After high school, Hannah hopes to continue her education in Equine Science.

Kahlan DeGrazio

Kahlan DeGrazio, comes from Fort Stewart and is graduating from Vikings Academy. During her time homeschooling, her favorite subject to study was anything associated with arts. She enjoys playing instruments such as the ukulele, the guitar, and the piano. Anything crafty, she's on it. As the eldest sister, she's a natural leader and strives to lead in anything she does. After graduation, she intends to enlist in the air force and pursue a career in healthcare.

Lily Ellis

Lily Kate Ellis has been homeschooled since 8th grade. Lily loves working with children and has enjoyed volunteering her time working in the church nursery and kids' summer camps. In the future, Lily desires to follow the Lord's path for her life and plans to work with children by being a child life specialist. She would like to thank her family and friends for encouraging her and helping her get to this milestone. Lily hopes to inspire all with the following Bible verse, Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Caitlyn Evans

Caitlyn Nicole Evans is the second of five children. She's participated in art club, International exhibit, showcased art at the Averitt Center for the Arts, and participated in swimming, soccer, and 4H. Her favorite teacher was Mrs. Estella Newkirt from 5th grade because she never gave up on her. Caitlyn began homeschooling in the tenth grade and has participated in Georgia Southern University's Art Extravaganza, Archery program, and chess club. She's an active member of the Rocky Ford Baptist Church of Millen, GA, and has been a member of the praise dance team, usher board, youth choir, and member of Bible study. Caitlyn's favorite subject is art because she gets to freely express herself. She plans to attend Coastal Carolina University with a major in fine arts. I want to thank my family, friends, and community that supported me along this journey and continue to do so.

Will Fussell

Will Fussell, son of Bruce and Suzanne Fussell, has been homeschooled since kindergarten. He's been part of CHAA since the sixth grade, playing baseball, basketball, and football. While homeschooled, he attended Jill Dixons Eclectic Academy of Learning, Locklear Math Academy, Kingdom Builders, and dual enrolled at Savannah Tech. Will enjoys being involved with his church and youth group, outdoor activities, and spending time with my friends. He's grateful for his heavenly Father for giving him his family. Will is thankful for his dad for always being there to coach him through life and baseball and for teaching him how to be a man of God. He would also like to thank his mom for being the best example of a woman of God. Will also thanks his siblings, Zack and Eden, for always being there for him. After high-school will plans to get his real-estate license.

Adeline Galo

Adeline is the oldest daughter of Mark and Ashley Galo. She has been homeschooled her whole life and wouldn't trade it for anything. After graduation, Adeline plans to attend Ogeechee Technical College in the fall and pursue a degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Her dream is to work in women's health and volunteer at a crisis pregnancy resource center. She has a passion for defending the unborn and can't wait to see how the Lord uses that in her life. She would like to thank her mom and brother for believing in her and always standing by her side. She would also like to thank her incredible friends for supporting and loving her. She is ready for this next chapter in her life and can't wait to see where God guides her.

Jeshua Levi Grach

Jeshua Levi Grach has spent the last four years growing relationships, his faith, and his skills alongside his classmates and friends across multiple schools. His hobbies are surfing, music, and procrastinating on schoolwork with endless projects. He enjoys being active and has engaged in various sports, including wrestling and shotgun club. Levi is also an active member of Compassion Christian Church, serving as a small group leader in elementary and middle school ministries. He has also been on several mission trips and attended high school camps in which he has grown closer to God. Jeshua Levi Grach is currently at Savannah Technical College for welding and joining technologies and will obtain his welding degree in the Spring of 2024. After graduating, Levi plans to enlist in the army with the hopes of being an Airborne Ranger.

"If this works, it'll keep us from getting caught. If it doesn't, it'll keep us from getting old," - MacGyver

Eve Huffman

Eve Marie Huffman is the daughter of John and Teresa Huffman. Eve is the youngest of five children. Eve was enrolled in Classical Conversations for five years. She is currently a Dual Enrollment Student at Coastal Pines Technical College with a 4.0 GPA. She has completed her Paralegal Certificate and will continue her education there next year. Eve is a student of the violin and is an avid reader. She loves to rescue kittens and works part-time.

Ally Kenne

Ally is the daughter of John and DeAnna Keene. Her favorite pastimes include writing and drinking coffee. This fall, she plans to expand her small business of candle making, continue studying marketing and education, and travel wherever the Lord leads her!

Bible verse: "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps." - Proverbs 16:9

Jacob Lanham

Jacob Lanham is the youngest son of Steve and Angie Lanham. He spends most of his time working or volunteering for his church as a small group leader for elementary and middle school. This summer Jacob is participating in a mission trip to Zakosciel, Poland in an effort to spread the word of god. Jacob has spent the last two years dual enrolling at Georgia Southern and is now enrolled in the surgical technologist program at Savannah Tech starting in the fall.

Bradley Lariscy

To know him is to love him. Bradley has always been a kind soul, offering his friendship to anyone who is near him. His compassionate heart gives him the ability to look for the good in anyone. Bradley's wit is unmatched! His sense of humor will leave anyone around him laughing, which is what he absolutely lives for! His loving side shines so bright! Bradley never shy's away from giving out hugs and an "I love you" to his parents, grandparents, and siblings, no matter who's around! And last, Bradley shows respect to anyone he meets. These characteristics have served him well and will continue to as he enters the next stage of life. We are all so proud of the things he has accomplished thus far in life, and we know we will be equally proud as he makes his way into the future.

Aidyn Lovicz

Aidyn Lovicz has been involved in many activities and clubs during her eighteen years of life. During primary and middle school, Aidyn participated in both dance and gymnastics. She also began violin in middle school and has continued throughout her senior year. Aidyn enjoys playing violin at her church, where she participates in the youth choir and helps in the children's ministry as well. During the course of high school, she was also involved in the yearbook committee and the mock trial club, both of which were excellent opportunities. Aidyn spent her Junior and Senior years dual enrolled, achieving thirty-two college-level credit hours and completing high school with a 3.9 GPA. She is planning to attend SCAD University or Georgia Southern University, where she will be studying Fashion Marketing and Management.

Emma Macatee

Emma Elisabeth Macatee is the daughter of Branson and Amy Macatee, as well as the sister of Alaina, Garrison, and Camryn. She has spent the most of her time serving with children at Compassion Christian Church, where she has been a member her entire life. For the past 4 years, she has been playing volleyball competitively. She enjoys drawing along with developing characters and bringing them to life through her sketches. In the fall, Emma will participate in the Vox School of Discipleship. She will then return to Savannah to finish her business degree with a theology minor with Point University after the nine-month program is over. She enjoys spending time with her friends and family and reading a good book. One day, Emma aspires to travel the globe.

Connor Martinez

Connor Martinez is the son of Armando and Stacy Martinez, brother to Reagan and Kennedy. Homeschooling has provided him with a life of traveling and sleeping in late every morning. He spends his free time leading kids from the community in various organizations. He is a 4H leader, Compassion Christian Church Small Group and Summer Camp Leader, and a founding Beta Club Chapter Member. He played soccer with CHAA in middle and high school. Connor works as a Film Production Assistant with Wacker Productions on various films and commercials around Savannah. Connor will attend Georgia Southern University starting Fall 2023.

Daniel Maulden

I am Daniel Maulden, and I am graduating from Jill Dixon's Eclectic Academy of Learning and Maulden Academy. I have enjoyed playing baseball for the CHAA Hurricanes and making many new friends and memories through this experience. When not in school, I enjoy participating in activities with my church youth group and helping in Children's ministry. High school has provided many good blessings such as the friends I've made and the teachers and faculty I've worked with. It has also provided great memories, such as my recent final baseball game. I attribute much of my progress to my friends and family who have always been helpful and supportive. My tip to any future students is to stay focused on your work and not to let any other less important things distract you. I am currently enrolled in the Automotive Technology program at Ogeechee Technical College and plan to start in Fall 2023.

Jacob McKay

Jacob McKay is the son of Ben and Trish McKay. He has two older brothers, Baker and Noah, and one younger sister, Kate. Jacob was homeschooled for his entire education, taking classes at Kingdom Builders Co-op and eventually Dual Enrollment classes at Point University. Jacob played basketball for CHAA in Middle School and one year of football in Ninth Grade, but his favorite extracurricular activity was Theatre. Jacob starred in many musicals and plays throughout Middle and High School at the Savannah Children's Theatre. A highlight of his High School career was his eight-week internship at Proem Ministries in Poland. Jacob plans to take a gap year and explore career opportunities.

Lauren Natalie

Lauren Belle Natalie is the oldest child of Shelley Bedford and Lee Natalie and the older sister of Jonah Natalie. Over the years, she has been blessed with many amazing opportunities, like participating in All-State Chorus, helping lead the middle school ministry at her church, going on mission trips to spread the love of Jesus, and dual enrolling at Point University. She is musically gifted and has always made an effort to use her talents to glorify the Lord. High school has taught Lauren many things that have prepared her to set new goals and encounter new opportunities. After the summer, she plans to attend Georgia Southern University and major in Communication Sciences and Disorders so she can pursue a career as a Speech Language Pathologist. She is very excited about this new season and thankful for the people who made high school such an important part of her life.

Halsten Poppell

Halsten Poppell is the daughter of Len and Sandy Poppell and sister to Jace Poppell. She is a member of Compassion Christian Church and devoted herself to Christ at the age of 9. Since the beginning and throughout her life she has been self-motivated, energetic, empowering to others and someone who always strives to do their best. She knows there is nothing she cannot achieve through Christ. Since her 7th grade year and throughout High School she has played soccer for the Hurricanes, played golf 1 year and basketball for 2 years. In her 11th grade year she joined the Hurricanes girls basketball team (even though she had never played basketball) to be the 5th player so they could have a team in the league. For the last 5 years, she has volunteered numerous hours at P.A.C.K., which is a non-profit organization that feeds children in the local community. She maintained Honor roll her entire High School years and as a Jr and Sr, she dual enrolled at Point University and Georgia Southern and achieved a 4.0 with 31 credit hours. Halsten's future plans consist of attending Georgia Southern in the Fall and majoring in Business Management.

Cooper Montana Redding

Cooper is the son to Kevin and Kim Redding. He is one of three boys in his family. Cooper has been homeschooled throughout his education. He has played sports since he was three years old. Cooper has been an active member and volunteer at his church since he was a small child. He works at Texas Roadhouse and will be on the management team after graduation. Cooper also plans to attend Georgia Southern University in the Management Program.

Alexandra Rennert

Alexandra Rennert is a student at Georgia Southern University and plans to complete her degree in marketing. Her goal is to pursue a real estate career once she has her license. Today she will be graduating high school with 47 college credits behind her as she moves forward in her college endeavors. Throughout high school, she expressed her athletic capabilities through track and cross country, both of which she captained; earning track MVP for her senior season through Veritas Academy. Sophomore and Junior years she lead in student council as a social events coordinator. She serves in student ministries as a middle school small group leader and will be departing in three weeks on a mission trip to Israel.

Noah Richardson

Noah joined our family in July of 2005 while stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Noah is the third oldest of 6 and has been homeschooled from the start. He enjoys riding his motorcycle and going to the beach. Noah has been working part-time as a Sous Chef at Marker 107 in Richmond Hill for the past 2 years. He has been dual-enrolled at Point University, earning 31 credit hours. He is planning to attend Savannah Tech in the fall and study Aviation Maintenance. We are very proud of his academic success and his kind, gentle spirit. He's going to do great things!

Amelia Claire Rowe

Amelia Claire Rowe is the daughter of Joseph and Chelsea Rowe and sister to Seth, Ethan, and Emma Rowe. She has competed in the sport of volleyball since 8th grade and archery since 11th grade. Claire plans to attend Georgia Southern in the fall, where she has been accepted in the Honors College, to pursue a degree in Construction Management. She is an active member of Community Bible Church. She enjoys going to the beach and hanging out with her friends. She hopes to travel the world and grow her library.

Grace Sapp

Grace Sapp has been a resident of Effingham County her whole life. She attended public school until 10th grade.; and finished her education at Penn Foster with a 3.8 GPA. Grace excelled in home school and graduated a year early. She loves animals and has never turned her back on a pet in need. She recently moved into her own apartment in Statesboro and plans to attend school for nursing in the fall.

Thomas Saunders

Thomas Fite Saunders was born on March 23, 2005. He is the fourth child and second son in our family. Even though his little brother was adopted thirteen years after his birth, he was never the baby of our family. He has been a fantastically caring big brother to more than fifty foster children. He shined in that role! He's always loved baseball. He played on many rec teams, travel teams, and considers many of his Coastal Athletic Association Hurricane's teammates family. He learned a lot about life out on the field! Tom's even temper and quiet confidence will serve him well in life. He has excelled in math and chemistry in high school, and he plans to study engineering in college this fall. We look forward to seeing where God leads him in the years to come.

Ansley Schnaible

Ansley Lauren Schnaible has played the piano for 12 years. She is an accomplished pianist and is a member of the National Piano Guild. She was a member of Compassion Church High School Worship team and is currently part of Sanctuary Church Worship Team. She served on multiple Abilities Ministry Mission Trips. She was a member of GCAT swim team. She attended Savannah Technical College Culinary Arts while dual enrolled and plans to return in the fall. Two of her favorite piano pieces are River Flows in You and The Entertainer.

Rhiannon Smith

Rhiannon Smith, daughter of JoAnn and Danny Smith. Rhiannon attended Georgetown k-8, Windsor Forest High School, Point University, and Kingdom Builders. She also attended Beverly Locklear's for her four years of math as well. In her free time she loves to spend time with her family and she loves volunteering at her church. After highschool Rhiannon plans on attending Rhema Bible college in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and She hopes to one day become a youth pastor. Rhiannon would like to thank her parents for always praying over her and loving her through everything. She would like to thank her family for always being there for her and for making her laugh when times got stressful. Most importantly she would like to thank her spiritual mentors for always lifting her up in prayer and for never giving up on her. Rhiannon is very excited to go wherever God tells her and excited to start a new chapter in her life.

Melia Spielberger

Melea Grace Spielberger is a lifelong homeschooler. She has been active in Classical Conversations, FEFC, American Heritage Girls, Veritas Academy, and CHAA. Her high school years included JV and Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Archery, Varsity Soccer, Mock Trial, and Yearbook Editor. Her accolades have included Honors Award in the National Latin Exam, passing the AP Latin Test, NHSS, and successful completion of 32 college credits through dual enrollment at Point University and Georgia Southern University. She graduates high school magna cum laude.

Most importantly, Melea has had opportunities to share her faith and practice teachings in Christian Apologetics. This has led to the ultimate decision to become baptized and publicly profess her wholehearted faith in Jesus Christ, the greatest accomplishment anyone may obtain. Her parents, John and Erin, her siblings Joah, Aili, and Lucas, extended family, and friends all share in the joy of celebrating these milestones with Melea.

Emily Thurmon

Emily Anne Thurmon is the daughter of Shaun Thurmon (Marilyn) and Lauren Shrader (Seth). She is the proud big sister to Garrett and Piper. She is kind, compassionate, and has a heart for adults with special needs. She attends Pooler Bible Church and has been blessed to grow spiritually in the youth there for the last four years. Emily studied and competed in Classical Ballet for 8 years. She accepted numerous full tuition and housing scholarships at the Sarasota Professional Ballet School and traveled and danced in NYC and Miami. She had the wonderful opportunity to study piano under the instruction of her great-grandmother, and she swam competitively for two years.

Emily had plans to attend Georgia Southern University- Armstrong Campus in the fall, where she has been accepted into the Honors College. It is her desire to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in Criminal and Forensic Psychology and work in the field of behavioral analysis. She is excited to step into the new adventures that await her. God has blessed Emily immensely, and her entire family is proud of the young woman she has grown into.

Sophia Vanek

Sophia Marie Vanek is the daughter of Adam and Nicole Vanek. She loves running and being active, baking, cooking, and spending time with her closest friends. She spent one year on the Veritas co-ed cross country team. Sophia received the Founder's merit-based scholarship and the Denmark competitive scholarship from Anderson University in South Carolina. She plans to attend Anderson University in the fall where she hopes to major in English literature and/or Clinical Psychology. Sophia has many intense passions and dreams, which make it hard for her

to choose a career path. Although Sophia is unsure of what kind of career she wants to have, she knows God will guide her path. She loves psychology and hopes to be able to channel her love and interest of people and psychology into her future career.

Kady White

Kady is a kind and compassionate Christian young lady. She cares deeply for animals and children. She is a pet parent to two rescue cats and loves babysitting her 10-month-old nephew. Kady also volunteers every Sunday morning in the nursery at Compassion Christian Church. When she's not working with children, one of her most favorite things to do is bake a strawberry pie with her Great Grandmother. Kady is a country girl at heart. She is happiest when fishing or bundled up in camouflage deer hunting with her uncle and stepdad. She also enjoys riding horses any chance she gets. Kady wants to become a professional photographer, focusing on children and animals. She has a gift for capturing the very best candid shots of frisky animals and playful children. God has truly blessed Kady, and her family is proud of the young woman she is becoming.

Hannah Wilson

Hannah Wilson graduated from Northgate Academy High School. She and her family have served as missionaries in Guatemala at Buena Vista Sports Academy since 2020. She participated in the BVSA's girls' soccer team. She enjoys reading God's word, spending time with family, serving in the ministry, playing sports, singing, hunting, and being outdoors. Her favorite subjects were Science and Spanish. Hannah will attend Cedarville University to pursue a major in Nursing and minor in Bible, with the ultimate goal of returning to the mission field. She thanks her parents, grandparents, and close friends for encouraging her to persevere and keep her eyes on Christ, the author, and perfecter of her faith.

Favorite quotes:

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” - Jim Elliot

“Wherever you are - be all there.” - Jim Elliot



Thank you for attending today's commencement ceremony and celebrating with our graduates and their families.

We would also like to thank
Compassion Christian Church for hosting our
2023 Coastal Homeschool Graduation.

