

RELATIONSHIPS

Spring 2023

Graduation —The Unifying Class of 2023

The Unifying Class of 2023 graduated on Saturday, May 20, 2023, in The Patriot Center. The ceremony began with an opening prayer, and by saying the morning pledges to the American Flag, the Christian Flag, and the Bible.

Pastor James Perry, Creekside Bible Church, delivered the commencement address.

Alexis McDonald was awarded the American Citizenship Award. The award is presented to a student who exemplifies outstanding leadership, school spirit, respectful behavior toward others, and volunteer work in the school and community. This award is presented on behalf of the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Savannah Stout was awarded the Bernie Saggau Award. This award is presented to a senior who best exemplifies a patriotic spirit, with strong religious and moral convictions, living and professing the qualities of honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship.

Sophia Boelter was awarded the Iowa Governor's Scholar Award. The Governor's Office, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and its title sponsor, the Iowa Farm Bureau, present this award to 424 seniors statewide. The award is an honor given to the highest academic achiever in the school.

Savannah Stout was awarded the Iowa Girl Award. This award honors gradating female athletes who have distinguished themselves through their high school careers in the areas of academic achievement, athletics excellence, service and leadership. The award requires the student to have earned a varsity letter in a sanctioned sport, and meet GPA requirements.



Titus Bennett
Bethel University
Major: Education



Sophia Boelter
Cornell College
Major: Behavioral Neuroscience



Alexis McDonald
Grand Canyon University
Major: Biochemistry



Ruth Santel
Cedarville University
Major: Environmental Science



Ryan Premkumar
Moody Bible Institute
Major: Biblical Studies/Music



Savannah Stout
Mt. Mercy University
Major: Nursing

Ryan Premkumar became a citizen of the United States this year. Ryan immigrated to the United States with his family from India when Ryan was just 10 months old. By the time the Premkumar family completed the 18-year long process, Ryan had turned 18 years old, and needed to complete the process as an adult on his own. On March 17, 2023, Ryan was sworn in as a citizen of the United States at the Linn County District Court.

Savannah Stout was awarded the Christlike Character Award. The Christlike Character Award is given to the student who consistently displays the loving kindness and moral integrity of Jesus Christ. This award is considered to be the highest honor at Isaac Newton Christian Academy, as it is the foundation of our mission statement, and indeed the highest call of humanity.

Our graduates have collectively earned **180+ college credits** while enrolled in high school through the school's dual credit program.

100% of our graduates completed over 80 hours of service, receiving a Silver Service Cord.

***Congratulations to our 2023 Seniors!**
Keep living the life you have been called to live. Keep doing the good work that you have been doing.
We are so proud of you.*

Have a Wonderful Summer!



Our 2022/2023 school year ended with a half day of school, Pre-K inflatables, bubble machines, KONA Ice, a family picnic on our campus, hugs, a few tears, and well wishes for a great summer.



First day of 2023/2024
School Year
August 23—Early Dismissal



Cornwell/Johnston Meritorious Volunteer Award

Our volunteer award is named after Dick and Doris Cornwell and Roger and Anita Johnston, who faithfully volunteered countless hours to Isaac Newton Christian Academy.



Mr. Ken Starks—2023 Cornwell/Johnston

This year the award was presented to Ken Starks at our Annual Meeting. Ken and Norma's children attended Isaac Newton in the 1990s. About 9 years ago, Mr. Starks approached Mrs. Curry, our 4th grade teacher, and asked if she could use a volunteer in the classroom to listen to students recite Bible verses. Mr. Starks has been volunteering in the fourth grade class ever since. He takes the time to make connections with each student, and when they recite their verses, Mr. Starks follows up with questions about the verse, giving them time to individually talk to him about what the verse is saying to them.

In January, Mr. Starks had surgery on his shoulder and told the students he wasn't sure when or if he'd be able to drive to come back this school year. The students prayed for him every day for weeks, and a few weeks ago, he started coming on Fridays again. Thank you, Ken, for volunteering and pouring into the lives of our students.

Score!

Our students were busy talking about goals and scores last month at Isaac Newton Christian Academy. Super Bowl? World Cup? Rider's Cup? World Series? Olympic scores? Not this time! The students were excited to set goals for themselves for the Iowa Assessments, which were administered in late March.



Congratulations Graduates!

Iowa Assessments are a series of tests in core areas of Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science. Isaac Newton Christian Academy administers the Iowa Assessments in the spring to students in grades three through eleven. The tests include: vocabulary, word analysis, listening, language, mathematics, computation, reading, social studies and science. Results are provided for the complete battery as well as the core battery of vocabulary, word analysis, reading, listening, language, math and computation. These tests are useful in tracking growth and proficiency from year to year for the individual students and the grade level from year to year. They can provide evidence of effective instruction and can highlight teaching practices that should be replicated. The results can also pinpoint gaps that need to be addressed.



Our students set goals for their Iowa Assessment tests

To prepare for the excitement of the tests, students who had taken the tests in 2022 at Isaac Newton were presented with a copy of the results to refresh their knowledge of the individual results. National Percentile Ranks and National Standard Scores were shown, explained, and discussed. Many students were surprised at the results. Some were very pleased and other students felt they could have performed better than what was shown. Therefore, each student set a personal goal in one area. For example, one student set a goal to increase her National Standard Score in Reading by 15 points. Students who attained their goals were presented with an Isaac Newton Christian Academy keychain and have their names displayed in the entryway.

Well done, Patriots! We are proud of you!

**Isaac Newton
Christian Academy**

**2023
Kindergarten Graduation**

Senior Class of 2035

"Equipping" Annual Fundraising Banquet

Thank you for supporting Christian education at our Annual Banquet with speaker Dr. Sean McDowell, Associate Professor in the Christian Apologetics program at Biola University. The DoubleTree Ballroom was filled with 270 guests and over \$144,000 was donated and pledged to Isaac Newton Christian Academy. We enjoyed seeing you and being together to celebrate God's school.



Students First Act & ESAs

On January 24, 2023, Governor Kim Reynolds signed the Students First Act into law. This law creates Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) for eligible K-12 students attending an accredited non-public school. Isaac Newton Christian Academy is accredited and these funds are for our students!

In the first four days after the bill passed, our school was contacted by families representing 107 students. We are hearing from these families that the passing of this bill is making it possible for them to choose a Christian education for the first time. Families are telling us that a Christian education is what they always wanted to provide for their children, but couldn't otherwise afford it. This is exciting! The result is that we are offering additional sections of grades to receive as many students as we can, in a controlled way. We are planning to shift our spaces around to make the best use of the space God has given us to educate the students God is sending us.

In October, long before we had any idea that the Students First Act would pass, we hired a site engineering and architect firm to look at our property and help us understand what we can fully do with the space for future growth. We didn't know then how providential this step was. The result is an exciting campus plan that allows for considerable growth. We intend to take things slowly as we discover this new landscape we find ourselves in. We want to be wise and strategic in our growth. However, it is time to begin planning again for more space to bring our mission to more students.

Would you please pray for our school and its leadership? In the face of unprecedented growth, we must be very careful stewards of the opportunity that God has given us. We desire to lead the school in the midst of this growth in a way that does not compromise our mission, our admissions standards, or the important work that we do each day.

The state will be taking applications from May 31, 2023 through June 30, 2023, for the 2023-2024 school year. You can find more information on the front page of our website > ESA Info.

*We will tell the next generation the
praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power,
and the wonders He has done.
Psalm 78:4*

Isaac Newton Christian Academy

Amy McDonald, Board President
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