

Annual Newsletter



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CONNECTION. COMMUNITY. ENGAGEMENT.

Welcome to the very first edition of the Valley Christian School Alumni Newsletter! In 2021, we moved forward with the exciting (and humbling) task of building our VCS Alumni database—no small feat after **50 years of incredible alumni**. What began with launching our first annual Alumni Court Classic 3-on-3 basketball tournament and reconnecting with alumni families for our 50th celebration has grown into a full program designed to celebrate and unite the hundreds of individuals who make up our VCS family.

Going to school at VCS is a special and unique experience. Your friends become like family, your teachers invest deeply in who you are, and the community you grow up in is something many find hard to leave behind after graduation. But who says it has to end there?

The heart behind launching the VCS Alumni Program is simple: we want to create a way for you to **stay connected long after life takes you in different directions**. This is a space to continue the relationships that shaped you, to reconnect if you've been away for a while, and to re-engage with a community that will always welcome you home.

Many alumni are already choosing to continue the VCS legacy—this year, we are blessed to have **over 35 alumni families represented at VCS!** As we grow and strengthen this program, we hope to welcome even more alumni back into the fold. **Whether you're hoping to reconnect, get involved, or simply stay updated, this program is here for you!**

We'd love to keep in touch with you!

Clickable Link Below

[Alumni Registration Link](#)

We invite you to share class photos, memories, updates, or reunion plans to help us highlight your stories in future newsletters. (Send to Kalah Dehn - kdehn@vcsc.org)

Celebrating 50 Years of

This past year marked an incredible milestone – **50 years** of Valley Christian School! VCS was founded in the fall of **1975** as part of the vision of Pastor Tom Starr. With a dedicated staff of five, the school began with **35 students** in grades 2–11, using the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) individualized curriculum.

In **2007**, VCS moved to the old University High School building, initially **renting one wing** to accommodate its K–12 student body. Over the years, the school continued to grow in both size and programs, reaching a major milestone in **2017** when VCS purchased the **156,000 sq ft building** on a sprawling **23.7-acre** campus.

Today, Valley Christian School's thriving campus is home to over **600 students** and **80+ dedicated staff** members, reflecting **God's faithfulness** through every season!

God's Faithfulness

From Humble Beginnings... to a Thriving Community



VCS 1976 – Enrollment: 67



VCS 2025 – Enrollment: 640

*A Special
Thank You*

With deep gratitude, we recognize these incredible staff members who have faithfully served Valley Christian School for more than **25 years!** Their commitment, leadership and love for this community have shaped generations and continue to leave a lasting impact!



L to R: Cathy Hopson (1989), Julie Hicks (1994), Derick Tabish (1994), Sue Olson (1992), Michael Goering (1998), Terry Neve (1999), Joni Croft (1988), Debbie Heden (1987), Rae Johnson (1999)

Milestone REUNIONS



1986



1996



2006



2016

Alumni Spotlight

MATT PELLETIER

Class of '06



Meet VCS Alum, Matt Pelletier! Matt came to VCS his 8th grade year (2001). He was hesitant at first – especially having to follow a new dress code, but he had close family to help make the transition smooth & he quickly began making friends. Looking back, he said he is incredibly thankful he made the move to VCS and for the lifelong friendships he built that he still treasures to this day.

One of Matt's most unexpected and memorable experiences was joining the cheer squad. His cousin (*Kelly Wright*) talked him into trying out for the school mascot, and after a few practices, coaches Pope & Baldwin saw leadership and natural ability in him & encouraged him to step into stunting & throwing. His cheer career took him to nationals in Florida three times with the VCS squad, 2 years as team captain & being recruited for a local competitive cheer squad. Matt also remembers the support of teachers like Mrs. Hopson, Miss Hicks, Mr. Dodds & Mr. Orr, who encouraged him academically, creatively, and spiritually during moments when he needed it most.

After graduating from VCS in 2006, Matt continued to grow in his faith—being baptized at 21 and later leading a young adult's group. He married his wonderful wife, Marlena in 2015 and together they have two beautiful daughters, Ellie (*a current VCS Pre-K student*) & 3 yr old Ava.

About a decade ago, a friend introduced him to barbering and after 6.5 years in a local shop, he decided to open his own and in 2022 he launched Red Oak Barbershop in Liberty Lake. He says he enjoys seeing many clients from the VCS community and is grateful for this season of growth in both his business and family.

Matt's advice to current students/ recent grads: "*Cherish your time at VCS. Take advantage of the opportunities, like retreats, to open up, connect, and deepen your relationships with one another.*" And when it comes to the future, he encourages students to pursue passion over paycheck: "*Don't chase the money—you'll find more joy doing what you love.*"

Stay Connected

ALUMNI RESOURCES & EVENTS

LET'S GET CONNECTED



Alumni Registration

- Be the first to hear about reunions and alumni events
- Find opportunities to stay connected with the VCS community
- Provide feedback to help guide future alumni events
- Keep your contact information up to date

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Alumni Facebook Group

- Connect with fellow alumni
- See event photos & updates
- Share stories, memories & milestones
- Stay up to date on exciting things happening at VCS

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE FB GROUP](#)

Alumni Webpage

- Read additional alumni spotlights
- Find event details & registration information
- Learn more about the alumni program
- Explore ways to get involved and stay connected
- **Reunion Perks:** Campus access & tours, plus a \$200 reunion expenses gift card

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE WEBPAGE](#)

Questions? Contact VCS Alumni Coordinator, Kalah Dehn kdehn@vcsc.org



VCS ALUMNI
COURT CLASSIC

MAY 8 - 9, 2026

3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Launched in 2024, the **VCS Alumni Court Classic** is an **annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament** created to bring **50 years of VCS alumni** together over a weekend of friendly competition and fellowship. In its first two years, the tournament has welcomed over **60 alumni players** (aged 18-62), forming 10-12 teams across recreational and competitive brackets, with players traveling from as far as Arizona, Texas, and Oregon.

The Court Classic has quickly become an anticipated annual tradition for both players and spectators, building community on and off the court. So come join us for the **3rd annual Court Classic on May 8-9, 2026**, in the **VCS gym**. Whether you're ready to hit the court or come for the nostalgia & reunion, let's pack the gym with alumni and continue to build this awesome event! **Registration opens February 1st** - Spread the word and check out the VCS webpage for more tournament details!



"We all had a blast! Fun teams! Good atmosphere! delicious food! Great fellowship! Let's do it again" **-Sosh Fomenko**



"I look forward to the VCS Court Classic every year- not only for the basketball, but even more for the fellowship with fellow believers I grew up with. God has done so much in our lives through this tournament, and we always leave feeling uplifted and spiritually refreshed through the Christ-centered conversations that naturally take place. It's always well worth the trip from Arizona." **-Brad Dickinson**



Join us for a tropical-themed evening at the 8th Annual **VCS Auction** on **Saturday, April 18!** Games, dessert, and, authentic Hawaiian catering. Tickets on sale Feb. 24 on the VCS website!