Greetings from the Hope Family!

Hope continues to shine the light of Christ in what has been a dark stretch in Chicago. Small, but powerful, we are doing more than our part in year seventeen. While many of our families are unable to pay the $16,500 it costs to fund each student's experience, we are determined to provide an incredible and affordable education. With 33% of Chicago Public School students unaccounted for last school year, the academic achievement gaps widened for our city. Meanwhile, Hope had a 100% head count.

The greatest thing about teaching is that it matters. The toughest thing about teaching is that it matters every day. Our administration and teachers humbly and relentlessly put our students and families first. We are teaching kindness in daily Discipleship Groups, extending parent-teacher conferences until 8PM to ensure no question goes unanswered, praying over students after a tragic loss in the family, and praying over students’ futures with diligence and hopefulness. Our staff members love our students courageously. Bell to bell. Every day.

The return to in-person classes has been unexpectedly enlightening and truly life-giving for everyone in the Hope family. We are good to each other because we know that there is strength in goodness. We stand shoulder to shoulder as we look to God for wisdom and direction as we continue to love families, empower students, and create opportunities. As we look to the Thanksgiving holiday, we give thanks to you, our generous donors and partners.

Keep fighting the good fight.
1 Timothy 6:12.

Ike Muzikowski

Ike Muzikowski
I moved to Chicago to study theology at Moody Bible Institute in hopes of becoming a pastor. In my time at MBI I fell in love with the study of theology and imparting it to teenagers. Teaching at Hope has been an experience unlike any other. I am excited each day to come to Hope because I work with amazing co-workers and the students are respectful, energetic, and ready to learn. It is such a joy to build relationships with my students, and even though teaching is a draining job with many ups and downs, teaching at Hope has been life-giving. I look forward to waking up each day and getting back into the classroom with my students and coworkers.

This year, I am teaching a course at Hope called Doctrine, Worldview, and Apologetics to the seniors. We have spent this semester discussing the various doctrines of Christianity such as Christology, Pneumatology, Ecclesiology, and Soteriology. This will lay the foundation for our worldview and apologetic studies in the spring semester when we examine exactly how each of these doctrines impacts and changes the way that we interact with the world as Christians.
In 2016, a fair share of naysayers were telling John that the Ivy League was not for him. He was a first-generation college student and the pressure to earn scholarships was weighing heavy after his mom lost her job. John's parents had no clue on how the application process worked. Ike Muzikowski was in his first year as a College Counselor and earnestly supported John's aspirations for an elite college acceptance.

John's academic day began at 7AM in an AP Calculus independent study while he pushed to maintain a perfect GPA in his six other courses. Captaining the football, wrestling, and rugby teams meant that collegiate advising sessions would often end at 7PM, but John’s parents believed in Hope as they waited patiently in their red Chevy Sonic parked on the Hope Plaza. John's talent and energy earned him his success, but he gives credit to his teachers and mentors.

"Chicago Hope Academy prepared me for the responsibility and grit needed to thrive at Princeton University and in life. My experiences have been accompanied by many challenges and hurdles, but Hope teachers and the environment pushed me to take control of my education and break through barriers placed in front of me. With the confidence and focus I learned from Hope, I feel prepared to persevere no matter what potential hurdles lie in front of me."

John joined Hope athletes for 6AM morning lifts this past school year and is now a member of the Hope Alumni Board. The future is bright for John, and Hope students and graduates will be blessed by his guidance and mentorship in the decades to come.
The criteria for selecting the Hope Student of The Week includes generosity, humility, thoughtfulness, and selflessness. Choosing one student for recognition at our weekly chapel service is not easy for Dean Landrum because acts of kindness are not uncommon at Hope.

Our Students of the Week understand that Matthew chapter 5 calls us not to be peacekeepers, but peacemakers.

We see Kai, Christian, Chris, and Latrayveon speaking up and confronting a man who is stealing Amazon packages from the stoops of nearby houses. That is Hope loving our neighbor. We see Camila sacrificing her 3rd period study hall to prepare the cafeteria for lunch sessions when Ms. Irma is short staffed. That is Hope putting others' needs before our own. We see Mykai finding a cash-filled wallet and returning it to a staff member. That is Hope integrity. We see Aniah finishing her college application essays and immediately editing those of her classmates while spurring them forward with encouragement. That is Hope thoughtfulness.

The future of our young men and women at Chicago Hope Academy is not right around the corner. It is today. With our eternal purpose in mind, we will love one another now, put others first, and give glory to God. We will pray for you. Please pray for us.