



## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

### A 3-FOLD ANTIDOTE

Mr. Ronald Koole, Principal

In the year of our Lord 2015, there is evidence that our nation and the world we and our children are living in are increasing in iniquity. Rulings from the highest courts of our land show clearly our nation's disregard and hatred for the laws of God. The open display of the vilest of sins are promoted by the world and even tolerated and condoned by the church and many who call themselves Reformed. Those who stand for the truth and live and testify to the steadfast righteousness of the law of God are becoming fewer and fewer. We and our children are part of that shrinking minority.

History is repeating itself in ever increasing forms of wickedness. In the days of Noah, the world rapidly increased in wickedness and the elect remnant became very few. Also in the Old Testament time of the Judges, many who were identified as Israel, forsook the ways and worship of Jehovah to do what was right in their own eyes. Fathers did not teach their children the ways of the Lord and God came in judgment. Israel's fundamental weakness and sin was her lust for fellowship with the wicked world. The issue was the antithesis. The antithesis calls God's people to spiritual separation from the idolatrous world because of their love for communion with the God of their salvation. We have learned and witnessed in our own history the breakdown of the antithesis due to the formulation of the theory of common grace by our mother church. The world has streamed into the lives of Reformed churches, schools, and families over that "bridge" of cooperation between the church and the world. God has spared us that heresy in our history, but we realize that the world we live in presses upon us and our children.

Psalm 78 prescribes the antidote to this lust for fellowship with the world and a maintenance of the antithesis. The Psalmist tells us to "give ear" to God's law and the words of the Lord. These words and God's law are addressed to parents (primarily fathers). They involve teaching and education. There are primarily three things that must be shown and taught to the generations of believers. The children must be shown "the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done" (vs. 4).

So that is the 3-fold task of the teachers at Hope school again in the school year 2015-16. We are to assist parents, and with joy and diligence carry out this commanded 3-fold task. There are so many opportunities to do this. Not only in our singing and devotions do we teach the praises of God, but also Psalm 65 and Psalter #169 make clear that "all nature praises God." God's creative Word and His providential power upholding this creation moment to moment demonstrate His strength, and His might sets fast the mountains. God's wonderful works are clearly taught in all Bible, history, and science classes. Those works are so many and varied that teachers should daily be showing these to the children.

And what does Psalm 78 say will be the result to which no dollar amount can be attached? God's promise is that when His children are shown in all things the praises, strength, and wonderful works of God, the children will "set their hope in God, and not forget the works of the Lord, but keep his commandments" (vs 7). Then we as parents and grandparents (teachers too) experience great joy seeing our children and grandchildren (students) walking in the truth. May the Lord bless the labors of all involved in the instruction at Hope School throughout the 2015-16 school year.

#### **POLICY REMINDER:**

##### Personal Electronic Devices

Students must have all personal electronic devices not specifically used for teacher approved academic work, turned off and out of use during school hours, including recess.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Dick Kuiper, Chairman  
Dan Kalsbeek, Jeff Kalsbeek, Joel Langerak

On Monday, August 31, 2015, the Lord willing, Hope School will open its doors for another year of instruction. In the increasingly evil world in which we live, we are thankful for God's goodness to us in providing another year of distinctive, Reformed education for our covenant children. May we as parents, grandparents, and supporters of Hope School never take this great gift for granted.

We welcome all of our teachers and staff to a new school year, with a special welcome to our new teachers: Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Miss Gayle Lotterman, and Mr. Nathan DeVries. We hope that after the summer break our teachers and our students return refreshed and ready to take up their work with renewed energy.

As of the beginning of this summer our Administrator, Ron Koole, has returned to "full-time" status. We are happy to see his smiling face and enjoy some of his good humor at our meetings. Although there have been many changes in Ron's life in the past year, one thing that has not changed is his love and zeal for covenant, Christian education. We are thankful for his excellent leadership here at Hope School and for his wise input to us as an Education Committee.

The Board recently made a decision to discontinue the practice of using calling lists to inform parents of school closings. Instead, parents will be informed of school closings via a mass e-mail, with the option to receive direct texts from local media sources. We believe that this will prove to be not only a more efficient way, but also a more effective way, to inform our constituents of school closings than using the current calling lists. Stay tuned for more details in upcoming issues of the *Monday Memo*.

Several items recommended by the Technology Committee and reported on in the last *Highlights* have been purchased and installed over the summer. The upgrading of our wireless internet coverage by installing additional routers should be complete by the time school starts. Mr. Dan DeVries has replaced Mr. Chris Morris as our Tech Maintenance man. We want to thank Chris for his work on behalf of our school and also want to thank Dan for his willingness to take up these labors in the coming year.

Soon we begin a new school year. A few new families. A few new teachers. Even a few new Board members. But nothing new about the instruction. Nothing new about the goal of that instruction. May God bless our labors again this year as together we bring up the covenant seed in the fear of His name.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Mike Rau, Chairman  
Rich DeMeester, Jon Hop, Jeremy Meulenberg

Summertime at school can be a very busy time from a Building Committee perspective. Many projects that wouldn't work well to do when school is in session must take place during the summer months. This year has been no exception to that. During the summer, classrooms are emptied out and rooms and carpets are cleaned. The board has a maintenance schedule for a couple of rooms to get new carpet and paint each summer. This summer the administrator's office, the Discovery room and the Reading Together room were on the list and received updating. There were also a number of classroom window glass units that were replaced due to thermal failure. The parking lot was resealed and restriped to try to prevent further cracking and deterioration for a couple more years. Looking at long ranging building needs, the parking lot is a large expenditure item that will probably need to be addressed in a couple more years.

Other improvements approved to be done yet this summer or fall include putting new coating on the floors of the middle grade bathrooms to improve clean ability and reduce staining, installing automatic door openers on the southeast entry doors of the school, erecting some improved playground equipment and building a new school sign out by Wilson Avenue. These last two items are funded by monies raised by the

School Circle. A special word of thanks to our School Circle for their diligent work in raising and offering these funds to the board so that necessary projects such as these can be done without adding further expenditures to our annual budget. A word of thanks also to all the others who give of their time or donated materials for the upkeep and benefit of the building and grounds. All of these efforts together are used by our heavenly Father for the well-being and instruction of our covenant youth.

### ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Joel Langerak, Chairman  
Aaron Cleveland, Dick Kuiper, Steve Lotterman

*“The Society of the Hope Protestant Reformed School for Christian Instruction believes that the foundation for Christian Education is God’s covenant of friendship, which He establishes, with his people chosen in Jesus Christ. Within this covenant we, as God’s friend-servants, are called to live a life of loving, serving and glorifying Jehovah our God. In this way, we by grace are fulfilling man’s chief end in both creation and redemption.”* *“The purpose of the Society of the Hope Protestant Reformed School for Christian Instruction is to provide primary education to those children whose parents share a commitment to the Reformed traditions (faith) in a school system where instruction is based upon the infallible, inspired, written Word of God, the Holy Bible.”* The previous quotes, taken from the Introduction and Article Two of the Society’s Constitution, explain the foundation and purpose of Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School. Furthermore, they define the conviction that guides the Enrollment Committee in their role and responsibility to guard the membership at our school. With this goal in mind, the Enrollment Committee interviews all the parents that desire to have their children educated at Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School.

This year the committee interviewed three couples seeking to enroll their first child into kindergarten and one family desiring to transfer three of their children from Eastside Christian School. After four enjoyable interviews the Enrollment Committee was pleased to recommend to the Board that we approve the applications of these parents to enroll their children in Hope School. Please join the Board in welcoming Matthew and Stephanie DeBoer and their son Jacob, Tom and Kristin Huizinga and their son Colton, Brad and Sara Schipper and their son Caleb, and Erin and Sara Windemuller and their children Malachi, Chloe and Simon. Become acquainted

with these new families by reading their self-written introductions and be sure to reciprocate with your own warm welcome.

The committee also reports the loss of one family. Todd and Lisa Groenendyk will be enrolling their two daughters at Heritage Christian School this year due to the close proximity of the new campus.

We are thankful to God for the precious gift of our Christian schools and for parents that share our zeal for this cause. We ask that you continue to pray that God preserve and bless the work of your schools in the Godly instruction of our covenant seed.



### **INTRODUCTIONS FROM OUR NEW FAMILIES:**

My name is Colton Huizinga. I am very excited to start Kindergarten this year. My Grandpa Koole is the principal and my Aunt Sue is the first grade teacher. I think that it will be fun to see them every day.

This summer we moved into a house on Fennessey Street. My Grandma Koole grew up in the house that is right next door to us. I think it is really neat that now I live close to both of my grandpas and grandmas and to a lot of my uncles and aunts. I am excited that I will be able to walk or ride my bike to play with my cousins.

My dad works for Bosveld Inc. and my mom enjoys staying home with us kids. I love playing baseball and learning about numbers. I can't wait to go to school and learn how to read. I have two younger sisters. Brooklyn is four. She likes riding her bike and helping my mom bake. Kenzie is one and she likes playing in our sandbox.

As a family we enjoy going on walks or bike rides, going to the park, gardening and camping in the summer time.

My name is Caleb Schipper. I turned 5 on July 22 and I am going to go to kindergarten this year. I am really excited to go to Hope School because both my dad and mom went there, my Aunt Sue teaches 1st grade there, and I get to be in the same grade as my cousin Colton.

My parents' names are Brad and Sara. My dad works for my Uncle Michael at Bosveld Inc. I have two younger sisters. Alexa is 3 and Paige is 1. We live in Jenison and we go to Hope Protestant Reformed Church.

My favorite sport is baseball and I really like watching the Detroit Tigers with my Dad. I also really like to go swimming, ride my bike, and in the summer I like to go camping with my family and all my cousins.

Hello from the Windemullers! We are very excited to join the Hope School family. We have been in the neighborhood for a couple years now, and are eagerly anticipating riding our bikes and walking to school.

Malachi will be in 7th grade, he's hoping to be in robotics and maybe even play baseball. He currently plays the cello in the PRSO (Protestant Reformed Student Orchestra). Chloe is excited to be in 6th grade. She also plays the violin in the PRSO, she loves running, and soccer. Simon will be in 1st grade this year. Simon's class last year only had 5 students! He's excited to have a big class of friends. (Our eldest two will be at Covenant). Thanks to so many of you who have already warmly welcomed us!

## FINANCE COMMITTEE ARTICLE

Mr. Steve Lotterman, Chairman  
Jeremy Meulenber, Dan Boeve, Mike Rau

Our children are now ready to start a new year of school. For the Finance Committee, the new school year started in July with enrollment. This is a time in which the committee 'wipes the slate clean' on last year's spreadsheet, and starts fresh with new tuition and bussing fees for each family. Some of our families pay their tuition all upfront, which is greatly appreciated by this committee! Most pay following the '10 month schedule. Unfortunately, some families fall behind during the course of the school year. The Finance Committee spends a significant amount of time

dealing with families that have delinquent tuition, and it is imperative for the operation of the school that tuition payments stay on schedule. One improvement that you will appreciate this year is that a tuition statement will be e mailed monthly. This will show the beginning balance, payments that were made, and the ending balance, and will serve as a reminder to maintain a regular schedule for payments. Please contact one of the committee members if you have any questions or concerns regarding your tuition statements or balance.

Included in this issue of the *Highlights* is the Financial Statement from the 2014 - 2015 school year. A quick review shows us that we ended the past fiscal year with a slight gain (\$12,503.27). This was helped by the fact that most of the income categories came in over budget. The one exception was the Gifts and Pledges category, which fell over \$22,500.00 short of our budgeted amount. Please continue to give to our drives as you are able. It is because of the drives and good management of our finances that we have been able to hold tuition costs steady for four consecutive years and have only had an increase of about \$100 since the 2007-08 school year. On the expense side, the most notable items in the over budget category were Substitute Teacher and Teacher Aide Payrolls, which both had additional costs due to Ron Koole's injury and recovery.

We would like to make a special note of the work of the School Circle in this past year. We all see the mothers busy organizing fundraisers and activities like Family Fun Night, catering weddings, having an auction, selling TRIP, and organizing volunteers for the Grand Rapids Balloon Festival. Through these fundraisers, we see them assist the school in providing for class trips and educational outings, teacher gifts and class parties, providing hot lunches, providing finances for the technology fund, teacher development, band instruments, sheet music for the band, choir and elementary music program, and the list goes on. One major fundraiser this past year involved the resale store "Smart Shop". At the time of this writing, we do not know what direction this fundraiser will take. But we do want to take a minute and thank all those that have spent countless hours helping out at this store. We would like to also give a special thanks to Dennis Kaptein for providing this opportunity to assist not just our school, but all of our West

Michigan schools. Through this and other fundraisers, the School Circle was able to assist the Board with two major gifts this past year. We received a \$70,000.00 gift that went straight toward Debt Reduction, which lowered the Principal on our Mortgage to just under \$200,000.00. This will put us on track to be debt free in less than two years, DV. The School Circle gave an additional gift of \$20,000.00 to be used at the Board's discretion. We have recently decided to use a part of these funds toward three improvements - a new sign on Wilson Ave, a redesign of the Hope School web site, and a new set of timpani drums for our band. Again, thank you School Circle for all of your work!

It is a great privilege to have this school for our covenant children. We are thankful that our Heavenly Father supplies our needs and provides the means to operate this school. We are confident each day we send our children to Hope School, that teachers who are united with us in doctrine and life, assist in rearing the precious seed of the covenant. God's blessing will continue in our generations when we show our gratitude by supporting Christian education with our gifts and prayers.

*\*\*Financial report on page 8\*\**

**POLICY REMINDER:**

Athletic Eligibility Policy

Those students who fail one or more subjects in a six week period are ineligible to participate in interscholastic sports for a period of two weeks. After this period, their grades will be recalculated to determine their eligibility. Also, those students who have multiple D's will be subject to junior high staff evaluation to determine their eligibility.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Aaron Cleveland, Chairman  
Dan Boeve, Dan Kalsbeek

Over the summer months much activity takes place behind the scenes at Hope School in preparation for the coming school year. In order for a school bus to arrive every morning to pick up your children and drop them off after a day of school, the Transportation Committee must ensure that every item on the summer checklist is checked off.

During this past summer all of the drivers took a continuing education class in order to remain licensed to drive a school bus. All three of the buses passed the annual state inspection. All of the buses were washed, inside and out, and waxed. The bus routes have been drawn up. As usual, minor adjustments will have to be made as the year progresses.

This year we anticipate having four regular drivers. They are Tom Oosterhouse (cell # 238-9026), Lynn VanOverloop (291-1392), Dan Kalsbeek (890-1029), and Philip Rainey (340-1333). The Committee encourages parents and their children who ride the bus to review the rules of behavior as they are found in the back of the school directory. Proper godly behavior is expected, especially as the conduct of one on the bus can affect the safety of all riding the bus.

This year we will be replacing the school closing "call list" with a mass e-mail. However, this does not eliminate the need for a "call list" for the bus routes. In the event of an emergency, such as a bus breakdown, accident, or delay, the bus driver will call the family of the next scheduled stop. We ask that each family notify the next in line until all are aware of the situation.

Should any questions or concerns arise please call the Transportation Supervisor, Dan Kalsbeek (791-4425 home, 890-1029 cell) or the Transportation Committee Chairman, Aaron Cleveland (724-4652 home, 550-1198 cell).

## 2015-16 Hope PRCS Bus Routes

### **No. 13 Grandville/Jenison**

Drivers: Lynn VanOverloop (453-1826 home, 291-1392 cell)

Dan Kalsbeek (791-4425 home, 890-1029 cell)

298-4941	N. Price	6:56	1631 Stonybrook Dr.
457-7183	J. Mulder	7:02	7855 Elbow Dr.
457-0197	D. DeJong	7:05	7655 Graceland Dr.
397-5934	J. Molenkamp	7:08	7420 Harmon Ln.
662-1294	M. DeKraker	7:09	Gregory & Greentree
662-6937	M. Potjer	7:18	6955 Longtail Dr.
797-4074	K. Kalsbeek	7:25	7185 48 <sup>th</sup> Ave.
819-9740	D. Kuiper	7:37	7555 Louise Ave.
301-6066	B. Duistermars	7:55	1092 White Pine Dr.
	Covenant HS	8:00	

### **No. 14 Byron Center/Wyoming**

Driver: Phillip Rainey (340-1333 cell)

896-1024	D. Jessup	7:00am	645 Quincy St.
896-1775	M. Gritters	7:05	2018 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave.
896-8575	T. Bomers	7:06	1815 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave.
896-8969	B. VanBaren	7:09	2055 Perry St.
878-1876	J. Klamer	7:15	9850 Brin Point Ct
916-0809	K. VanPutten	7:15	9850 Brin Point Ct.
818-1172	B. Klamer	7:17	100 <sup>th</sup> & Wilson
277-9994	J. Cleveland	7:22	9170 Byron Center Ave.
538-3662	K. Pastoor	7:46	1114 DenHertog St.
538-3420	T. Kalsbeek	7:48	954 Colrain
	Covenant HS	8:04	

### **No. 15 Standale/Coopersville**

Driver: Tom Oosterhouse (238-9026 cell)

291-0465	B. VanderVeen	6:52	11395 Hunters Meadow
485-1215	J. Langerak	7:02	5150 Candlewood Ct.
403-8427	M. Stoel	7:04	4997 Leonard St.
837-8453	T. Kleyn	7:10	4263 Garfield
837-4441	D. Kaptein	7:13	Sam's Joint
485-1738	T. VanDenTop	7:13	Sam's Joint
706-7606	J. Peterson	7:25	0-13145 14 <sup>th</sup> Ave.
706-8834	G. Feenstra	7:31	13887 Northpointe Dr.
791-4425	D. Kalsbeek	7:41	1607 Awixa Ave.
774-4132	S. Copple	7:50	659 Lincoln Ave.
791-1447	J. VanOostenbrugge	7:59	50 Cummings
	Covenant HS	8:03	

**HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
**INCOME STATEMENT**  
**JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015**

	JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015	PERCENT TO BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>			
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	40,588.29	1.07	38,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	227,361.50	0.91	250,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	14,200.00	1.00	14,200.00
GYM RENTAL	4,553.75	1.30	3,500.00
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	16,342.15	1.25	13,120.50
TUITION	750,309.78	1.06	707,380.00
BUS FEES	36,312.57	1.06	34,200.00
TOTAL INCOME:	1,089,668.04	1.03	1,060,400.50

<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>			
ACCOUNTING FEES	3,400.00	1.00	3,400.00
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS	19,000.00	0.95	20,000.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	13,500.00	1.00	13,500.00
ELECTRIC	19,388.52	1.18	16,500.00
ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES	1,350.00	1.00	1,350.00
FEDERATION DUES	1,179.93	1.18	1,000.00
GENERAL INSURANCE	6,692.18	0.75	8,900.00
GROUP INSURANCE	86,104.38	0.99	86,595.00
HEAT	12,984.88	1.13	11,500.00
HRA	3,999.96	1.00	4,000.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	5,898.39	1.84	3,200.00
LAWN MAINTENANCE	1,211.94	0.61	2,000.00
LIBRARY FUND	300.00	1.00	300.00
MAINTENANCE MAN	486.50	0.30	1,600.00
MISCELLANEOUS	2,822.97	1.02	2,754.82
BUILDING MORTGAGE PAYMENT	73,800.00	1.00	73,780.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,139.19	0.81	1,400.00
PAYROLL, ART TEACHER	2,100.00	1.05	2,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	7,123.34	1.00	7,150.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	4,826.68	1.01	4,800.00
PAYROLL, DISCOVERY ROOM	28,686.07	1.12	25,636.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	27,950.40	0.98	28,650.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	3,943.75	0.99	4,000.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	24,672.74	1.03	24,000.00
PAYROLL, RESOURCE ROOM	33,243.68	0.72	46,370.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	15,648.00	15.65	1,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	474,936.42	0.99	478,880.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	24,570.63	3.07	8,000.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	7,409.44	0.82	9,000.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	18,092.74	1.15	15,757.50
SNOW REMOVAL	2,750.03	1.38	2,000.00
TRASH REMOVAL	1,660.46	1.11	1,500.00
TAXES, PAYROLL	47,184.40	0.98	48,232.18
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	3,218.53	1.61	2,000.00
TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	1,668.00	0.60	2,800.00
TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TELEPHONE	1,455.98	0.97	1,500.00
WATER & SEWER	1,153.37	0.82	1,400.00
WORKER'S COMP	2,581.96	0.86	3,000.00
CONTINGENCY	1,325.00	0.27	5,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:	990,460.46	1.02	975,455.50

<b>BUS EXPENSES</b>			
BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	20,000.04	1.00	20,000.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	393.70	0.53	400.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	29,484.74	1.01	29,125.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	2,285.00	1.01	2,270.00
BUS DRIVER WORKER'S COMP	860.04	0.86	1,000.00
BUS INSURANCE	2,964.14	1.12	2,650.00
BUS REPAIR	11,416.95	1.04	11,000.00
GAS AND OIL	18,299.70	1.05	17,500.00
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TOTAL BUS EXPENSES:	86,704.31	1.02	84,945.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	1,077,164.77	1.02	1,060,400.50
<b>GAIN OR (LOSS):</b>	12,503.27	-	-

## STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS

### A YEAR OF CHANGE

Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

The kindergarten class of Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School is going through a year of great change. Mrs. Barb Jansma has successfully led many covenant children as they began their Christian education. I am excited to take over this responsibility from her. I look forward to following in the footsteps of such a great predecessor.

Some of our readers might not know much about me, so I will give a brief introduction. My husband, Steve, and I are members of Grace PRC. We have one daughter, Becca, who will be in fifth grade this year at Hope. She is excited to have Mom at school with her. Steve owns his own construction business, which keeps us busy. We enjoy camping when we can find some spare time in the summer.

This will be another year of change for me as well. Before taking on the calling of mother, I taught fifth grade at Heritage Christian School for six years. When Becca was in school full time, I taught in our Special Education program. It was during this time that I gained valuable experience developing lesson plans for different learning styles. After two years there, God led me on an unexpected path away from Heritage and into new teaching opportunities.

As I waited for a job in our schools to open, I substitute taught in several schools. While subbing, I led a variety of grade levels, once again give me great experience working with different types of learners.

As for the incoming students, they are going to undergo the greatest change this year. Leaving the comforts of home to begin their academic career will be an adjustment for all involved. I still recall the nervousness I felt my first day of kindergarten. I also remember the fun I had while learning about letters and meeting new friends. I hope the new class will develop such positive memories while they also gain knowledge. I am excited to see how much these students will learn proper school etiquette and see God's revelation in all of our lessons.

The first change that we will experience is an early dismissal for the kindergarten on the first day of school only. We will dismiss the students at **11:45 AM**. There will be a short informational meeting for the parents after the students get out so that I can explain some of the other changes that will be happening this year.

I am eager to undertake this important calling with another group of covenant youth. I covet your prayers for our children, our dedicated principal, our hardworking school board, and enthusiastic teachers as we start another school year.

### A NEW MATH CHALLENGE

Mrs. Susann Grasman, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

The calendar says August, which means that the beginning of the new school year is just around the corner and soon to begin. Summer has begun to wind down, and thoughts turn more and more toward the start of the 2015-2016 school year. A new school year that will bring new challenges and new experiences to students and teachers alike. In the lower elementary grades this year, one of our new challenges will be the fact that we will begin the year with a new math curriculum called *Math Expressions*, a series produced by Houghton Mifflin Publishers. This new curriculum takes a traditional approach to teaching math while at the same time adhering to current state standards. Hands-on and inquiry driven, *Math Expressions* teaches students not only how to find solutions to math problems, but also gives them the ability to explain their answers, an approach which also helps to develop problem-solving and reasoning skills. Although there are many advantages to adopting Math Expressions as our new math

series, student engagement and technology top the chart for the following reasons and we look forward to the new challenge of starting the year with a new math curriculum.

#### *Student Engagement*

- There are many games and activities in each lesson for student involvement.
- Each lesson takes a hands-on approach.
- Students engage in math talks with each other throughout the year.
- *Math Expressions* teaches multiple ways for students to think through and solve problems.

#### *Technology*

- Online resources are fun and engaging for students.
- Interactive whiteboard (Smartboard) activities are incorporated into each lesson which make good use of the Smartboards in our classrooms.
- iTools, which are electronic math manipulatives used on the Smartboard that correspond to the physical manipulatives used by the students, will be worthwhile tools in helping to present the math lesson each day.

## CHANGES IN 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

Miss Kelsey Ferguson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

The summer is coming to a close and we will begin another school year in a few short weeks, Lord willing. There will be many changes for the school, for our class, and for myself as well. To start off, this will be my very first time heading to school in AUGUST! I am hurrying to get the last few details in order before my students come through those doors.

Hope School's staff looks a little different this year than it has in my previous two years. I will miss those faces that had become a big part of my life at school. It was a blessing to learn from them and work with them as a new teacher on the scene. On the other hand, I look forward to working with our new staff members, and I hope that they will enjoy Hope School as much as I have these past couple years.

There are a few changes for our class as well! This will be my third year teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade at Hope and even though I have a new batch of students each year, I like to change things up a little for myself as well the students. It can get boring looking at the same classroom set up year in and year out, so I tried to move things around a little to freshen the room up for a new year. This year I hope to have a reading

corner that will go along with our monthly Author Study and give the children a place to sit and do some of their own reading in extra time.

Our subject material, besides math, will be mostly the same with a few new activities mixed in. The one big change however is our new math program. Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> will all be starting with a new math program from Houghton Mifflin with the intention of gradually adding on new grades each year. The vocabulary and methods might vary a little from what the students were used to in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, but hopefully we will be able to move through and have some success with this new program.

On top of the busy work of school, I'll have a few other items on my plate to do before the Christmas break rolls around. Lord willing my 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be calling me by a different name come January!

I am looking forward to seeing how these changes work out in the coming months, and I pray that God will bless us in this very important work as we instruct the covenant youth. Your prayers are coveted for staff and students alike as we start this new school year.

## MY "SPECIAL" EDUCATION

Miss Gayle Lotterman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

If you look up the definition of "special" online, it reads, "Better, greater, or otherwise different from what is usual." My education to get me thus far, as far as to begin my first year teaching third grade at Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School, has surely been special. Both formal and informal training have helped me to develop as a person, an educator, and a child of God.

For those of you who might not know me, I grew up in what is commonly referred to as the Hope "ghetto", attending Hope PRCS, and later Covenant Christian High School. I've also gone to Hope Church my entire life. In 2014, I graduated from Grand Valley State University with a Bachelor of Science in Art Education and a Minor in Writing.

While at Grand Valley, I student taught in an elementary art classroom, learning much about classroom management in an elementary setting. In most public elementary schools, art is referred as a "special", which means it is one of the subjects that students are only taught once a week. Students look forward to art and their other specials, and I learned during that experience how special - better, greater - teaching art can really be.

After graduating from Grand Valley, I found part time positions at both Covenant Christian High School and Heritage Christian School. At Covenant, I worked two days a week in the Academic Support classroom, assisting students in many different subject areas and helping to make sure academic accommodations were met. At Heritage, I worked three days a week in the Special Education classroom, working specifically with two students on various life skills.

My experiences at Covenant and Heritage were influential to my education not only because of the special - different from what is usual - students I had the privilege of working with, but also because of the teachers and staff from whom I was able to learn.

Going forward from my training at Grand Valley and one year of bouncing between two different and special classrooms, I feel confident that God has given me the strength, patience, and abilities to teach. I certainly covet your prayers as I begin this venture and know that this training, formal and informal, has prepared me in a very special - better, greater, different - way.

## FIVE MORE YEARS

Mr. Dan Hanko, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

In some ways this summer has been like every other summer for the past fifteen years. I kept busy painting. I worked around the house doing yard work and tried to fix those things which needed repair. I enjoyed camping for a week with the family.

However, I did something this summer that I only do every five years. I renewed my Michigan teaching certificate. In order to renew my teaching license I had to take six credits of college graduate courses in the past five years. Being the procrastinator that I am, this past year has then involved two workshops and a course online. My schooling included *Teaching Elementary Math*, *Tech Tools to Engage Students*, and *Make It- Take It Math and Language Arts Boot Camp*. All the classes gave me helpful ideas and suggestions to use in the classroom. Although I must say, one involved far too much work for its little benefit.

As I reflect on the time when I renewed my teaching certificate five years ago, I note several changes in school or on the home front. Seven of Hope's current staff did not teach with me five years ago. The ninth grade was still in Hope School. I have six years of teaching fourth graders under my belt rather than only one. Five of my children have attended Covenant Christian High School. Two additional children have been added to the family and one child is now married. The list could go on. Five years have gone by quickly when I needed to take more classes, but many changes have occurred in that same span of

time. One could only imagine the changes that will take place in the next five years.

Right now I look forward to another year of teaching fourth graders. This will be my sixteenth year of teaching at Hope School. I am

thankful for the privilege of teaching God's covenant children and the support of Godly parents. I am confident that this support of covenant instruction and the love for the truth will not change in the next five years.

## A DEFINING SUMMER

Mr. Brian Dykstra, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Definition (noun) 3: the action or process of stating the meaning of a word or word group*

For my family the Hanko reunion held near Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado highlighted this past summer. Fifty-six people, of a possible sixty-five, from Northern Ireland to Lynden, Washington, and points between, gathered to celebrate my father-in-law and mother-in-law's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Four generations met and enjoyed each other's company. We had a wonderful time. My in-laws have defined faithfulness to their marriage vows and their covenant-establishing Lord.

Other definitions, or should I say, "redefinitions," from this year have not been positive.

In the 1976 Olympics held in Montreal, Canada, an American athlete won the gold medal in the decathlon, which combines ten events in track and field into one competition for men. The winner of the decathlon is often defined as the world's greatest male athlete. This athlete has now "redefined" himself and wants to be known as "Kaitlyn." "Kaitlyn" is again being hailed as an American hero, this time as an example to be followed in the struggle for civil rights for people with "alternative" lifestyles. It appears the word "hero" has been redefined as well.

The Supreme Court of the United States, with the approval and encouragement of President Obama, redefined marriage. The President joyfully stated that when we are all a little more equal, then we are all a little more free. How two things can become "more equal" does not make any sense, but just go ahead and state what God's judgment is of such a "marriage" and we will soon see just how "free" you will be.

After the Court announced their decision, rainbow-colored flags fluttered in the breeze all across the United States. The rainbow, the sign from God that He would not again destroy the earth with a flood, has been redefined as a symbol for a perversely sinful and increasingly powerful and vocal segment of the American population. Estimates are that this segment of American society is nearly five percent, not nearly the twenty percent many Americans perceive it to be. This overestimation is fueled by the constant presentation of this "lifestyle" by Hollywood, a reason for us to stay away from their entertainment, which is never morally neutral.

President Obama claims some success in his two terms as President. However, because the economy still isn't doing all that well, here's my suggestion for the President. Let's try another redefinition, and this one is actually quite small. Let's agree that  $9 + 9 = 19$ . There are 100 combinations of adding two single-digit numbers, and this change affects only 1 percent of them, quite negligible. Also, the increase of the sum of 18 to 19 is a change of only 5.5 percent, rather marginal. Yet, this might be enough of a difference in our checking accounts and other personal finances to make enough of a difference to provide some needed help for those who struggle financially. Imagine being able to make that change each time one was faced with  $9 + 9$  in your personal finances! Every little bit helps! Americans would look and plan for opportunities to add 9 and 9 as often as possible to reap as much benefit as they could from this redefinition, a slight change, and, after all, President Obama stresses that change is good.

If society would agree that  $9 + 9 = 19$ , this would also mean that  $9 \times 2 = 19$ . This would cause 19 to lose its status as a prime number. However, I have learned that prime numbers are important,

especially in the area of computer security systems, so we can't lose a prime number. We would have to agree that 19 is still a prime number, or that  $9 \times 2$  is still 18, so as not to upset the more traditionally minded mathematicians among us.

Also, our government, which highly values fairness, could limit the proposed change in addition to those under a certain level of income. The rich don't need, or deserve, such help from redefining  $9 + 9$ . Of course, large corporations could not use the proposed redefinition of addition when calculating costs to consumers. Do I hear any support for my redefinition?

Witnessing the foolish redefinitions in our culture reminded me of something Prof. Hanko said many years ago while I was attending one of his classes in college. He said that  $1 + 1 = 2$  because *God says*  $1 + 1 = 2$ . It's not up to man. Just as man cannot change the mathematics describing the motion of objects under the influence of gravity, man cannot change the definition of marriage. To think otherwise is foolish, sinful pride.

My proposal of changing  $9 + 9$  is just as ludicrous as the other redefinitions which have occurred. Whether we are male or female is not up to us. God determines that! Does one need a hero, someone whose example should be followed? Don't take society's list of heroes. Read Hebrews 11. The Supreme Court redefines marriage? They can't. Marriage is between a man and a woman because God ordained that as part of the creation even before the fall of Adam and Eve into sin. Any other type of "marriage" will bring only the righteous judgment of God. The rainbow is a beautiful picture of God's promise not to send another world-destroying flood, not to be usurped by a perverse segment of society.

Previous generations established our schools in different locations and various decades to teach God's children the fact that God is not Lord only on Sunday or merely over the Church, but God is the Lord over every aspect of life. God's precepts are true for every age and situation. How are we to behave ourselves in our various relationships to one another; as spouses, siblings, parents, children, teachers and students? God determines that in His infallible Word. What are we to think of the various civilizations we study in history? God's law determines that. How are we to use the various advances in science and technology? God points the way to antithetical living.

We rear our children in a world which is the same as the Old Testament pictures of the Antichrist, Egypt and Babylon, where evil is good, and good is evil. May God use our schools to teach His children that God's alone is the defining power in every aspect of our lives.

## PIONEER PILGRIMS

Miss Mikal Dykshorn, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

This past summer I travelled to Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia. For those who might not know, Williamsburg is a city that has been sent back to its colonial roots. There are characters in colonial garb, battle reenactments, witch trials, Indian villages, ships, and forts for tourists to explore. While there you can catch a glimpse of what life would have been like when our nation was founded. You can walk the streets that they walked, eat colonial foods, and imagine what it might have been like for you to be one of these pilgrims discovering a new land. I think I might have liked the adventure of living when our nation was uncharted territory. I can

imagine myself living in simpler times when people at least pretended to have morals. Women wore long dresses and mobcaps and it was deemed unseemly to go out without a hat. People used their own hands to survive off the land that God had so graciously given them.

Besides visiting historical places, I enjoy reading about the past as well. I've read about the prairies that covered the land of Illinois and Indiana; the long grasses blowing in the breeze and the clear night skies. I wish that I could see it outside of my imagination. There is beauty in the cities of today as well. Being a Chicago girl myself, the skyline can be quite magnificent especially at night. However, I don't think any of it compares to God's vast creation. I read a quote by Abraham Lincoln once that said *I can*

*see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how a man could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.* Although I wish it were worded to say, when I look at the works of man, instead of upon the earth, I still like the quote. It reminds me of Psalm 8:3-4, *When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained. What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?* I love visiting monuments and historical places but they are nothing compared to God's beautiful creation and what He has promised to come.

While on my colonial vacation I was able to walk through an old fort at Jamestown. In the fort you were able to lie on lumpy straw beds, see what colonials would have eaten (nothing that looked very appetizing to me), learn about all the different uses they had for plants, and discover how they used the natural resources of our nation. I was amazed at the knowledge the early pilgrims had. They had to rely on what they could teach themselves; the colonists didn't have google to find their answers for them.

The Fort at Jamestown was built in 1607, roughly 400 years ago. Which may seem like a long time ago, but when you consider the earth is some 6000 years old, 400 years is about 1/15<sup>th</sup> of that time. When you put it that way it doesn't seem like that much, does it? Think of all the inventions that God has given man and the knowledge He has imparted in the last 400 years since Jamestown, even the past 200 years or 100 years. Technology exists today that my grandparents had never dreamed of.

If someone from colonial times came into this era what would they think? Would they be amazed at how quickly things have changed?

Would they be impressed with the things that they see in our world or disappointed by the immorality that is freely shown? Would they realize that time moves quickly and our life here, on earth, is truly fleeting? We are similar to those early settlers, like them we are but pilgrims in a strange land. It's important for us to impart this knowledge on our children. There are many times when they think, I'll be more behaved when I am older, I'll study the Word more, I'll put more effort into my prayers, stand up for my beliefs, witness... this will all come when I'm older. A day when you're in it may seem to take forever but when you look back weeks and years look more like they flew by. Don't put off things for when you are more mature or when you feel



like you are wiser because chances are you won't ever feel wiser and if you don't take the initiative now, who says you'll take it when you're older; laziness begets laziness. I look back on the history of our country and see how hard they had to work to survive off the land. I know that we don't have to work that hard to survive, but do we work that hard to stay separate from the world we live in? Do we work that hard at

our spiritual lives or are we lazy and just assume that it will come with age?

Ask any of my students and they will tell you my favorite subject is history. History has a way of putting things in perspective for me. I can just as quickly be swept into this world of entitlement as the next person and focus on myself instead of my Heavenly Father. History shows me God's perfect plan over the ages and His continual plan and caring for His own people. It also shows me that my time on earth should be time spent for the glory of my heavenly father, because when it comes down to it this time on earth is so diminutive compared to an eternity with our Father in heaven. It's not only

important for us to impart this to our children but to remember it ourselves, every day. Study history, visit it, see God's perfect plan and know that His plan for you is just as perfect. *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ, Philippians 1:6.* Try not to get caught up in the things of this world because this earth is not our home, and although at times it might not seem like it, our lives on earth are but a minute part of our existence.

## TEACHING OUR CHILDREN IN INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TIMES

Mr. Ed Bos, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

*And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. ...And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. (Matthew 24)*

*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (II Timothy 3)*

This year so far has been an interesting one, to say the least. Biblical prophecy is being rapidly carried out. We have a government that seems to be purposely endangering the lives of its citizens by allowing (and calling for more) open borders which allow violent criminals and terrorists into the country. Also the "deal" (from which we got nothing, so it's not really a deal)

with Iran is an assurance that they will be able to build a nuclear weapon and use large sums of money to support terrorist groups and threaten the peace in the whole world (what peace is left anyway).

Morally, the world has gone far down the slippery slope also. Even the Roman Catholic Church, with which we obviously greatly disagree on theological matters but on moral issues we have seen agreement, has a pope who has recently greatly softened his stance on divorce and remarriage and on homosexuality. Here in America, there is a growing acceptance of those "without natural affection"; in fact, our Supreme Court has officially turned our country into Sodom with its ruling on homosexual "marriage" (which is not marriage at all, for it defies the very nature and definition of marriage). Even at least one Republican "conservative" candidate said at the debate that although he "thinks it is wrong", he does not want to limit the "rights" of others. And it is not enough for the liberals to make this the "law of the land" – everyone MUST accept, respect, and love this ruling or they are seen as "intolerant" and guilty of hate speech. There is a general breakdown of all law and order.

I am sure you could think of many other examples in the world in which we live. When you read the passages above, there really is nothing that has not been fulfilled. Only the "man of sin", the anti-christ, has not yet been revealed and we in this country have not yet experienced overt persecution, but that seems to be not far off. When President Reagan said we could lose our freedoms in a single generation, I thought at the time that was alarmism. But in a generation, we can now see how the government could easily take away our freedom of worship and to say in the preaching what God requires. The mayor of Dallas, Texas, recently required certain ministers opposing her to submit their sermons in order to possibly prosecute them for "hate speech". This order was suspended by the courts, but the fact that this happened is a warning.

So how are we to bring up our children in this "wicked and perverse generation"? We

must certainly, with even more vigor, teach them the way of God's Word and Law. "And thou shalt teach [the Commandments] *diligently* unto thy children..." (Deut. 6:7). Also we must teach them to be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:9), to rely on God alone (Psalm 27:13-14), and to always be ready to give an answer (I Peter 3:15). Above all, we must show them that since the prophecies are coming true, this shows us more and more that our Sovereign God is in control of ALL things, and that although the nations may rage and the people imagine vain things, "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion." (Psalm 2:6 – Notice the present tense; it is so sure, that it is spoken as though it has already happened, and it has.) I will close with the words of Psalm 46, words we must remember as we begin another school year, teaching our children in these wicked days: *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah. ...Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*

## INTRODUCTION

Mr. Nate DeVries, 8th Grade

I was born in Loveland, Colorado and lived there until I was twelve years old. Since then I have lived in the Grand Rapids area and currently reside in Marne (yes it is a real place). My wife Dawn and I have four children; Alec-14 (now happily graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade), Callie-10, Raquel-6, and Chase-4.

I attended and graduated from both Hope School and CCHS. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology, with a wildlife emphasis, from Grand Valley State University in 2000. Last fall I completed a Master of Arts degree in Science Teaching.

My chief hobby is hunting, although I also enjoy hunting and various forms of outdoor activities, mostly hunting. Accordingly, my favorite season of the year is fall. I also operate a taxidermy business that involves creating artistic end products based on scientific knowledge and processes.

I am looking forward to an enjoyable and rewarding year at Hope School and am excited to be joining Hope School's staff.

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Mrs. Deb Kuiper, Discovery Room

This year we held a new event at Hope, a program to help our students keep reading over the summer. This program was open to those who had received some sort of help with reading at Hope during the past year, whether it was in the Discovery room or the Reading Together program. We had 38 students attend. This program was held on six Tuesday mornings from 9:00 until 10:30 from June 16 through July 21. We chose a theme and a book to read to the students for each week. By hunting through garage sales, second hand stores and used book sales, we were able to find over 500 books for students to check out and read at home.

A big thanks goes to the volunteers who made this program possible. Mrs. Linda Kalsbeek, who volunteers with the Reading Together program during the year, was our "library lady" who started all of our meetings by reading a story to the entire group. She and I had talked about a program like this before, but without her push and encouragement, I would probably still be thinking that a summer reading program would be a good idea, but would not have done anything about getting it started. Mrs. Jill Reitsma who works closely with me in the Discovery program told me that she was also

willing to help. Both of these ladies also helped read through the books we acquired before we put them on the tables for the children to check out. Jessica Klamer, Joanna Koerner, Amanda Verbeek, and Elisabeth VanderWall (college students, most of whom are interested in teaching) also kept the program running. They were part of the planning process for summer reading and they each took a group of students to work with each week. The wonderful thing about working with these ladies is that they took ownership of this program. Each of them made their own plans for what to do each week using ideas they had learned in college or things they thought of to go along with the theme of the week. I did not have to tell them exactly what to do or how to do it, they just “took the ball and ran with it”. I look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future. Another perhaps unnoticed, but essential job was performed by Becca Boeve (high school volunteer) and Mrs. Julianne Rau (nice mom who stuck around to help). They checked the books back in each week and got them back on the tables only to turn around and help the students check them out again for the next week. With the main goal of the program being to have the students read at home each day, this was a very important job. Thanks, too, to Mrs. Connie Meyer and Miss Miki Dykshorn. Mrs. Meyer led an art project to go along with the book Owl Moon. The students enjoyed doing this project, and it was nice to have someone else take charge. Miss Dykshorn helped plan the Treasure Hunt for our final fun event.

If you walked down Hope’s halls this summer, you would have seen our reading rockets on the walls. For every book the children read, they were able to put a puff of smoke behind the rocket they had decorated. For me, this was the best part of the program. To know that the students continued to read over the summer and to see their enthusiasm in recording it was great. Thanks to all the parents who encouraged their children to read each week and who brought them to Hope for our program. I know that especially for those who only had one child in the program, it would have been easier

to just keep them home, but I believe the children benefitted from being part of our group, and that it will make teaching at Hope next year easier because the children kept reading over the summer. I look forward to listening to them read as we begin a new year of school.

## WHY IS LEGO ROBOTICS GOOD FOR HOPE SCHOOL?

Mr. Matt Elzinga, Robotics

Last year, Hope School held its inaugural season in the FIRST LEGO League. Our LEGO Robotics team, the Hopebots, had an enjoyable and successful season, placing third in our regional tournament and competing in the state tournament in Flint! The students worked very hard to accomplish this, and we are looking forward to another fun season this year.

Besides the fact that LEGO Robotics is fun for students (and coaches), there are several other reasons that this is a good program to have at Hope School. Students learn valuable skills that reach far beyond building and programming robots.

LEGO Robotics teaches kids teamwork. A team is made up of many diverse members, each with their own areas of strength and weakness. Over the season, the students discover each other’s strengths and learn to use them to achieve a common goal.

The scientific method is at the core of LEGO Robotics. The team must form a hypothesis, conduct an experiment, evaluate the results, and repeat. Tests must be conducted carefully and repeatedly to make sure the robot’s performance is consistent. It is also important to only make one change to the robot between tests.

Programming the robot teaches technical skills and logic. It also teaches the value of good communication. The programmers and the rest of the team have to be able to understand each other and what they are trying to accomplish.

LEGO Robotics teaches perseverance. When we face obstacles in our lives that seem difficult or impossible, it can be tempting to take

the easy way out. At the beginning of the season, the students were given challenges that looked impossible at the time, but they worked through them, together, to come up with a solution.

The research project encourages the team to use their imagination to try to solve problems in the real world. The students also learn how to give a persuasive group presentation as they try to “sell” their idea to the judges at competitions.

At the competitions, students learn how to adapt to unexpected changes. For example, the robot may perform differently on a new playing field, or the referees might interpret the rules another way than we expected. The team learns how to deal with circumstances beyond their control, and how to lose (or win!) graciously.

Most importantly, the competitions provide our students with excellent opportunities to witness to the judges and the

other teams. They show, by their words and actions, that their talents and abilities are gifts from their heavenly Father, and that all glory belongs to Him alone!

*On Tuesday, August 25, at 7:00 PM, we will have an informational meeting at Hope School regarding the upcoming LEGO Robotics season. All students interested in joining the LEGO Robotics team(s), with their parents, are invited to attend this meeting. This year’s challenge will also be revealed at that time. We hope that you will join us!*

## **2015-16 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

• August 31	• First Day of School
• September 4-7	• Labor Day Break
• September 8	• Vision Screening (1,3,5)
• September 9	• Hearing Screening (K,2,4)
• September 18	• School Pictures
• October 8	• PTA
• October 15-16	• Teachers’ Convention (at Hope)
• October 22-23	• Parent/Teacher Conferences
• November 20	• All-School Program
• November 26-27	• Thanksgiving Break
• Dec. 24-Jan. 1	• Christmas Break
• February 11	• PTA
• March 3-4	• Parent/Teacher Conferences
• April 4-8	• Spring Vacation
• May 13	• Elementary Music Program
• May 21	• Hope Classic Races
• May 30	• Memorial Day – No School
• June 2	• Graduation

## **CUPCAKE & SNACK SALE CARD!**

**\$9.00/per year/per student**

- The School Circle will once again be selling cupcakes every other Wednesday.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take turns selling snacks on the alternating Wednesdays.
- Look for the sign-up sheet coming home with your child the first week of school.



## SCHOOL OFFICE NEWS

### NEWS FOR YOU. . .

1. **Parents of Kindergarten students, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and new students:** Immunizations are required for all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade and all new students. If your child's shots are not up to date, please have them completed by Monday, August 31.
2. If you have any questions regarding the bus transportation schedules, please contact the transportation supervisor, Dan Kalsbeek, at 791-4425.
3. The "School Supply Store" has many school supplies for sale including flash drives at low prices throughout the year. The "store" (located in the office) is open before school begins in the morning and during first recess.
4. If you would like to receive the **Monday Memo** via email, please send your request to [hopeschool@hopeprcschool.org](mailto:hopeschool@hopeprcschool.org) or call 453-9717. If you received the memo last year, you are already on the list and do not have to email or call.
5. **VISION TESTING** will be held on Tuesday, September 8 for grades 1, 3, & 5  
**HEARING TESTING** will be held on Wednesday, September 9 for grades K, 2, & 4  
**SCHOOL PICTURES!** - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18  
*(PLEASE try to avoid making appointments during school hours for your children on the above dates.)*



Our Paper Gator bin is located on the south side of school between the garage and the school (next to the trash bin).

We welcome your newspapers, phone books, magazines, & catalogues.

Thank you for your support!

# SUPPLY LISTS

## Kindergarten

Backpack	Pillow (labeled)
Folder w/ pockets	Gym shoes - velcro style (labeled)
Scissors	Glue stick (large – Elmer’s)
Crayons (8)	Eraser
Pencil box/holder	Colored Pencils (optional)
Paint shirt (labeled)	
Markers (optional)	*We provide “fat” Tri-Write pencils



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

KJV Bible	Pencils/Eraser
Crayons	Scissors
Ruler	Notebook paper
Pencil sharpener	3-ring binder
Gym Shoes	
Glue stick or rubber cement	
Binder dividers with 5 tabs	

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

KJV Bible (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester)	Scissors
Pencil box	Folder (2 pocket)
4 pencils	Paint shirt
1 large eraser	Gym shoes (labeled)
Washable markers	Colored Pencils
16-24 crayons	2 solid glue sticks

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

KJV Bible	Homework folder with 2 pockets
Pencil box	Gym shoes (labeled)
12 Pencils (#2)	Paint shirt (labeled with name)
2 large erasers	2 solid glue sticks
16-24 crayons	Scissors
Colored pencils	Red Pen
Washable markers	2 plastic folders with 2 pockets
2 Spiral notebooks	



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

KJV Bible	3 ring binder w/ 6 folders
Psalter	Assignment Book
Notebook paper	#2 pencils
Gym shoes (labeled)	Scissors (good)
Eraser	Colored pencils
Blue/Black Pens	Ruler
Highlighter	Felt tip pen



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

KJV Bible	Pencil box
12 Pencils	1 blue or black pen
Glue stick	Scissors
Large eraser	Wide-ruled paper
Colored pencils	(4) 2-pocket folders
Crayons (24 or less)	Gym shoes
Elmer’s glue	1 spiral notebook ( <u>NO</u> binders)
Ruler with inches & cm	2 (100 ct) packages of sticky notes
1 sock (no holes)	1 red pen

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

KJV Bible	Wide-ruled notebook paper
Pencils/Eraser	Scissors
Gym shoes (labeled)	3-ring binder
3 Red pens	Binder dividers with 5 tabs
Colored pencils	Glue Stick or Elmer’s Glue
Ruler w/ inches & cm.	



## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

KJV Bible w/ references, concordance, and maps
Blue/black pens
Several red pens
Colored pencils
Pencils
Scissors
Something in which to carry above items
Notebook paper
Binder w/ folders
Assignment book
5 subject notebook
Math supplies: protractor, ruler, & compass (optional)
Scientific calculator - TI-30XIIS (available at school for \$14)
Flash drive
Gym clothes – labeled
Gym Shoes

**PARENTS!**  
Please mark your child’s items with his/her name, especially clothing items.