



# HIGHLIGHTS

**Graduation Issue**

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**May 2016**

*“But they that wait upon the Lord  
shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up  
with wings as eagles;  
they shall run, and not be weary;  
and they shall walk, and not faint.*

*—Isaiah 40:31*



## STAFF MEETINGS

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

Over the years I have had several parents ask me questions about staff meetings held at Hope School. These parents were interested to know how often staff meetings were held and what generally comprised the content of the agenda. What follows is a little insight into the answer to these questions.

At Hope School, staff meetings are held pretty religiously on the first Wednesday of each month at 3 pm. It falls on the shoulder of the “undersigned” to prepare the agenda and lead these meetings. Having full knowledge that teachers have just completed a full day of teaching, are a bit weary, and realizing that though the teaching is completed for the day, there are papers yet to grade and plans to be made and reviewed for the next day’s lessons; it is important not to draw these meetings out for too lengthy a time period. How long then should these meetings last and what should be on the agenda?

The length of the meetings is, of course, determined somewhat by the time of year and the busyness of events which involve the whole student body. These events may include things such as upcoming programs, project nights, and teachers’ conventions. Generally, our staff meetings last approximately 45 minutes to an hour.

Our meetings always begin and end with devotions. The items on the agenda obviously vary from month to month, but there are certain essential details that are on every agenda. One of these is a review of the calendar events for the upcoming month. When are chapels, field trips, report card dates, programs and the like? Another agenda item is the committee reports. Staff members are assigned to various committees each year on a rotation

basis and the activities of these committees are reported on and discussed. Some of these committees include: Program Committee, Chapel Committee, Parent or Grandparent Committee, PTA Committee, Flower Committee, and a few others as needed.

Following these reports are always several items that apply to the school year progress and policies that apply to the staff. One other item on the agenda is always “other business”. This item gives teachers the opportunity to bring up matters or issues that they would like to discuss or bring to the attention of all the teachers. Topics may come up concerning matters such as playground issues, curriculum needs, etc.

All of the above involve the details of school life and planning details necessary to keep the school year running smoothly. But should this be the extent of a staff meeting? I think my answer to that question is “no”. Staff meetings should also be a time for discussions that involve sharpening and encouraging teaching from a distinctly Reformed (Protestant Reformed) perspective. So for the last three years our staff meetings have included a short block of time for such discussions. Two years ago the staff read and discussed the book *The Reformed Worldview: The Word of God for Our Generations* written by Prof D. Engelsma and Prof. H Hanks. These were originally lectures given at the British Reformed Fellowship Conference in 2010. Each chapter (lecture) provided plenty of ideas and material for a healthy discussion, providing mutual growth for all of us. Last year the staff studied the book *Reformed Education* by Prof D. Engelsma. Lively discussions were held on this “must read” (and continued study) for every Protestant Reformed teacher (and I may add, aspiring

teachers). This year the staff examined the syllabus entitled, *Principles of Education of Hope PRCS*. This syllabus was written by Prof. (then Rev.) H. Hanko back in 1963 after presentations given to and with the teaching staff at Hope at that time. The syllabus examines the various subjects in the curriculum as they must be “based upon, incorporated into, permeated with, and explained in light of the truth of God in Holy Writ”. These discussions have proved valuable and given opportunities for each of the staff members to profit from the reading as well as the insights and comments of their colleagues.

By the time you read this *Highlights*, we will have only one staff meeting remaining this year. Final details for this year will be wrapped up and necessary plans for the start of school in August will be made. In all this reflection and planning we thank the Lord for His provision through another school year and put our hope in Him for the school year to come.



In this *Highlights* we recognize and congratulate our eighth grade graduates. We pray for the Lord’s continued blessing on their continued studies at CCHS next year. We also want to recognize those parents whose youngest child graduates from Hope School this year: Dan & Angie DeVries, Dave & Vonda Jessup, Nathan & Jill Kamps, Joel & Jory Mulder, and Joel & Barb Vink. We thank them for having their children educated at Hope School and pray for their continued support of our school.

A special thanks to the School Board, School Circle and all those who have volunteered, given of their time, and used their gifts in the support of Protestant Reformed education this past school year. This cause is a precious gift and worthy of our best efforts. We thank the Lord for the evidence of His blessing on the labors.

Enjoy your reading of this year-end edition of the *Highlights*. Note the supply list as well as the abbreviated school calendar. Remember school will begin on Monday, August 29 next fall.

**2016-17 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

August 29	First Day of School
September 2-5	Labor Day Break
October 13-14	Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 20-21	Teachers’ Convention
November 24-25	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23 - Jan. 2	Christmas Vacation
April 3-7	Spring Break
May 29	Memorial Day
June 1	Last Day of School

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR PICTURE DAY!**



**September 23, 2016**

We ask that you avoid making appointments in the morning & early afternoon for the students on this day.



**PAPER GATOR**

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!**

FOUNDATION REPORT

Mr. Rich DeMeester, Chairman

The Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School Foundation is pleased to report to the readers of the *Highlights* another successful year. We say successful not because the Foundation's investments have seen great returns, but because we were able to contribute to the school budget for the year. In fact, our investments have seen a small loss this past year. Despite this loss, our contributors gave generously and participation at events has been encouraging, allowing us to contribute \$18,000 to Hope School.

This past fiscal year we have held three events so far - a bass fishing tournament, a pinewood derby, and a travelogue held in conjunction with the Hope Church Young People's Soup Supper. By the time this *Highlights* is printed, we will have had our final and largest event for the year, the fourth annual sporting clay tournament. These events are made possible by the generous giving by many businesses and individuals within our circles and we are thankful for their generosity. We also thank you for your participation in these events. Through this continual giving and support of our constituents, the Foundation is able to hold true to its purpose, that is, to defray the cost of tuition. We hope that participation in the months ahead will help us to continue to give sizable gifts to Hope School.

The Foundation plans to host three events this coming year. On August 6 we hope to have the annual bass fishing tournament again in Muskegon. We are planning on keeping the sporting clay tournament and the travelogue in the plans, however, we have decided to take a break this year from the pinewood derby. This coming year will bring changes to the Foundation Board's members. Tom DeVries, a retiring school board member, will be replaced by another board member and Jeremy Langerak will be replaced by John DeVries. We thank these men for their time and effort these past three years, and welcome John to the Foundation Board.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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

*"...showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done." Psalm 78:4b*

As another school year rapidly comes to a close, we express our gratitude to our heavenly Father for His goodness to us here at Hope School, as we carry out the work of instructing our covenant children in the fear of His name through our dedicated administrator and teaching staff.

We want to take this opportunity to once again express our thanks to Mrs. Kelsey DeBoer for her excellent work in teaching our second graders for the past three years. We wish her the Lord's blessing as she takes up the high calling of motherhood in the near future, the Lord willing.

We are happy to report that our opening for a new second grade teacher has been filled. Miss Stephanie Looyenga has recently signed a contract to teach for us next year. Stephanie is the daughter of Doug and Melissa Looyenga and a member of our Southwest Protestant Reformed Church. She recently graduated from Grand Valley State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. Stephanie and Brandon Daling are planning a June wedding, so she will be known to her students as Mrs. Daling. We welcome Stephanie to our staff and

to the important work of instructing our covenant children.

At our May Board meeting the following men were appointed to the Education Committee for the coming year: Dick Kuiper (chair), Aaron Cleveland, Jeff Kalsbeek, and Joel Langerak. We extend our thanks to the outgoing member of our committee, Dan Kalsbeek, for his good work not only on the Education Committee but also serving as the secretary of the Board. Remember us in your prayers as, together with our administrator Ron Koole, we labor on behalf of our parents and Society.

And as we close out another school year we want to thank our administrator, teachers, and other staff members for their faithful labors this year. What a blessing it is that our children are instructed from day to day in the light of God's Word by teachers who are one with us in doctrine and life. May God continue to bless our labors as parents and teachers in the rearing of our covenant children, and may each one of us continue to support the cause of covenant, Christian education with our gifts and prayers. And in all of this may His name receive all the praise, honor, and glory.

## **ANNUAL SECRETARY'S REPORT 2016**

Mr. Dan Kalsbeek, Board Secretary

*Jehovah sits enthroned in majesty most bright,  
appareled in omnipotence, and girded round with might.*

The school year 2015-2016 is progressing well. Three of our teachers retired after the 2014-2015 school year, and we as a Board and administrator have witnessed three new teachers step in to take up the work. Mr. Nathan DeVries replaced Mr. Doug Dykstra in Junior High, Ms. Gayle Lotterman replaced Mrs. Mary Brummel in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Mrs. Deb Hoeksema replaced Mrs. Barb Jansma in the Kindergarten classroom. Our administrator reports that these three teachers are fitting in well with the rest of the staff and have been a positive addition to Hope School.

Recently, the Board was informed by our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. DeBoer, that she and her husband, Matt, are expecting their first child in late September. Mrs. DeBoer was hired in 2013 for the 2013-2014 school year and has taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade capably for the past three years. As Mrs. DeBoer prepares for another great calling, we thank her for her time and energy spent here at Hope School. May the Lord bless her labors as a mother in Zion.

After interviewing several applicants for this 2<sup>nd</sup> grade position, the Board has hired Miss Stephanie Looyenga. Stephanie is a member of Southwest PR Church. She is engaged to be married to Brandon Daling and plans to marry in early June, so her students will know her as Mrs. Daling next fall, D.V. All the current teachers in the remaining grades have all signed contracts to return again next year. In addition to the work of the teachers, we recognize the faithful service of our support staff and many volunteers: the Motor Movement ladies, the Reading Together volunteers, the library assistants, the assistants in music and art, the School Circle and their assistance with hot lunch, many fundraisers and an extensive list of other contributions, the teacher aides, the bus drivers, the room mothers, the grounds keeper and the school handyman, the list goes on. The Board thanks all of you for your dedication to the on-going work here at Hope School.

The Building Committee has been busy with the upkeep and the maintenance of the school facility. The property to the north of school has been cleaned up, the middle grades bathrooms have had the floors re-sealed, eleven windows on the south side of school have been replaced due to thermal failure, the sign out-front has been updated, new playground

equipment has been purchased and installed, the concrete steps and walkway on the west side of school have been replaced with a concrete ramp, automatic doors have been installed on the south doors, and new lights have been installed in the gym. The committee is also in the process of implementing a recently approved recommendation to the Board. This work involves a master key system on all exterior doors, auto-locking mechanisms on the second set of doors in the vestibule and associated locking procedures.

This year the Board is recommending a budget of \$1,094,730.00 which is an increase of \$25,502.80 or 2.39% from this past year's budget. The board is also recommending a modest 1.5% pay increase for the teaching staff. The Finance Committee's proposed budget has the cost of tuition remaining the same as last year. The Finance Committee is pleased to inform the Hope School Society that the mortgage debt is scheduled to be retired during the 2016-2017 school year. We thank our heavenly Father for His daily provision for Hope School.

The Circle Contact Committee of the Board met with the School Circle officers in January to review the monetary yearly commitments of the Circle. The committee recommended that nine of the thirteen items, totaling \$14,500.00, be incorporated into our yearly budget beginning in the 2016-2017 budget year and that four of the items (Athletic Fund, Piano Tuning Fund, Gift Fund, and Miscellaneous) totaling \$7,850 remain in the School Circle's "yearly commitment". This change is reflected in the proposed budget.

The Transportation Committee has proposed to the Board and the Board has agreed to a nine year bus replacement schedule, one every three years. The current replacement schedule has the buses being replaced every twelve years, one every four years. This change is reflected in the increase in the bus depreciation fund line item on the budget from \$20,000.00 to \$26,700.00.

The Education Committee of the Board has been in correspondence with the Michigan State Police regarding the School Safety Regulation. This involves finger-printing the teachers and staff and the performance of back-ground checks. The committee is drafting an Information Security Policy for Hope School that is in compliance with the standard set by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

From a recent Supreme Court decision: "The right to marry is a fundamental right inherent in the liberty of the person, and under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment couples of the same-sex may not be deprived of that right and that liberty. Same-sex couples may exercise the fundamental right to marry." June 26, 2015 OBERGEFELL v. HODGES. This recent Supreme Court ruling has far reaching implications. Recently, the Teacher Education Development Committee was approached by a member school interested in knowing how they can better guard themselves from the attacks that are happening to other Christian schools today by the (LGBT) coalition. The Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies has been in contact with the associated schools and Boards in regards to this recent legislation. The Federation recently provided documents for "incorporating language into your Bylaws and Constitution, Mission Statement, Code of Conduct, Admissions Policies, Handbooks, and Statements of Faith." A lawyer has also been consulted by the Federation regarding this very issue. The Board at Hope School is actively involved with the Federation and is addressing this issue.

We thank God for His faithfulness these many years in providing our covenant children with the instruction received here at Hope School. He is sovereignly in control, we rest assured. *The world established stands on its foundation broad; His throne is fixed, he reigns supreme the everlasting God - Psalter # 252. The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. Psalm 93:4.*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Lotterman, Chairman  
Jeremy Meulenberg, Dan Boeve, Mike Rau

The Finance Committee continues to work regularly every month in the collecting and recording of the school's revenue. We are thankful to those that have contributed to the annual drive and church collections, and as well appreciate the timely payments that we receive from our tuition paying families. Please take a minute to review the latest Financial Income Statement. April is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 12 months in our fiscal year, so our 'benchmark' is 83%. Ideally, our income should be above this mark (currently at 92%), and our expenses should be below (currently at 82%). In preparing for this article, I was suffering from a severe case of writer's block, so I thought it would be helpful to look at a few previous *May Highlights* articles. In May of 2006, I found reported *"The last two fiscal years, the school posted a net loss of approximately \$36,000. As the finance committee looks at the trends for the current year, we have determined that we are in danger of incurring another operating loss."* In May 2008 I found *"The April financial statement indicated that our bottom line for the year is NOT favorable. We have taken in \$12,000 less than we have spent. The main reason for the loss is that we have not received the Budgeted Gifts and Pledges amount for the school year"*. And, in May 2010, I found *"The last fiscal year, the school posted a net loss of \$5,000."* And later, in the same article, *"The costs of operating the school continue to rise steadily, while the economy remains fairly flat"*. My initial reaction to these statements was that it was not a helpful exercise at all. Then again, I realized how improper that initial reaction was. It was very helpful to look back during the 'lean' recession years, and acknowledge God's providential working and preservation of our school during these times. As well, we can with greater joy consider our financial position this year, and again be reminded to acknowledge Gods mighty preserving hand. Lamentations 3: 22-23: *"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness"*.



### SCHOOL CIRCLE NEWS



#### SCHOOL CIRCLE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Rebecca Overway, Secretary

At the end of another year of covenant instruction, we reflect with thankfulness on the rich heritage with which we have been blessed here at Hope School. God has again provided us with an important means to fulfill our baptism vows to raise our children in His fear. The many labors of the School Board and our administrator are very much appreciated. And we are thankful for the godly teachers, aides, and support staff, who care for our children and faithfully teach them every day.

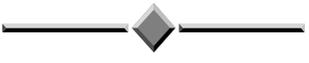
As a School Circle, we are thankful for the opportunities we have been given to support the important work that is done at Hope. This year's fundraising began last summer, when we provided workers to assist with the running of Re/Max's Balloon Festival. Several weddings and events were also catered by our catering committee. Many of our mothers were kept busy volunteering at SmartShop until it was discontinued in October. Our regular fundraisers, Pig-in-the-Blankets, Magazine sale, Key Cards,

Family Fun Night, CDs, etc., have again proved to be profitable. We thank our many supporters who contribute to making our many fundraisers both valuable and enjoyable.

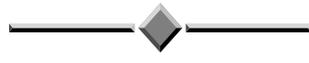
In past years, the School Circle had committed to contribute approximately \$22,350 yearly toward the running of the school. These funds were distributed to provide for various needs, such as choir music, band instruments and music, class trips, technology, textbooks, piano tuning, athletics, teachers' incidentals, physical education uniforms, gifts, and miscellaneous. This year the Board reevaluated and significantly reduced the amount of monetary support given yearly by the School Circle. The Circle's new yearly commitment, beginning next school year, is \$7,850, divided between athletics, piano tuning, gifts, and miscellaneous. We are thankful to be able to provide assistance in these areas, and continue to look for other ways to help and support our school.

In addition to meeting our yearly commitments this year, we were able to purchase a new playground structure for the children to enjoy. We also purchased new band shirts, which the band students were able to wear for the first time at their spring concert. The board informed us that \$20,000 of the funds the Circle gifted them late last year was used to purchase a new school sign, a wheelchair ramp, and tympani, as well as to fund a new website project, and the robotics program.

Our work on behalf of Hope School has been rewarded this year, not only financially. The fellowship and friendships enjoyed as we work together have been a blessing to us as well. Please pray for us as we continue to work together - both to assist our school financially, and to build each other up in our love for one another and our school.



## STAFF & STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS



### LIVING IN A VISUAL SOCIETY

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

When I was a child, most screens were to keep bugs out of the house when the weather was warm. The only electronic screen was the television which not only was black and white, but which could receive broadcast signals from a total of four, yes, count them, four, television broadcasting networks.

How times have changed. Screens are now on phones, computers, tablets, in automobiles and at sports stadiums. Adults, and even children, constantly have a screen within reach. I recall a road trip with my family several years ago. We were driving through the unbelievably wondrous landscape of southern Utah. The unusual landscape appeared to be something from another planet as it rolled by mile after amazing mile. I can still hear the groan of dismay emanating from my children as we were passed by a minivan. The groan's origin was not that old dad was being passed, again, by yet another vehicle with less horsepower than we possessed. No. They had spotted youngsters in the back of a van watching a movie on small screens. "What!" They exclaimed. "You have a chance to see this wonderful creation and you're sitting there watching a movie?"

In yesteryear's classroom, a filmstrip was a visual treat. Filmstrips have not been used for about twenty-five years now, so the current generation of students, and even their parents, no longer know what a filmstrip was. A filmstrip was a roll of pictures on a transparent plastic roll which was run through a small projector. They would cover certain academic topics with words beneath the picture or, if more words were necessary, on a separate slide. We students would take turns reading the slides and the teacher would rotate a knob to advance to the next frame. How exciting! Now smartboards and ceiling mounted projectors can be found in nearly all of our classrooms. Teaching has become increasingly visual.

What is the effect of all this visual, and nearly constant, stimulation on our children? There are several matters which concern me. However, I will limit my concern here to one matter because of the constraint of space. Should anyone be interested to read more, let me know and I will continue the topic in future *Highlights*.

First, we'd benefit from a brief refresher on our creation and the origin of sin. One aspect of man's creation is the body. Our five physical senses are as portals to our souls. Our souls, which have no physical substance, are linked to the creation by our senses. What enters these portals influences our spiritual lives. What we taste, touch, smell, and especially what we see and hear, affects our souls.

God often makes us listen as He uses the portal of the ear to reach our hearts. We hear His word preached. We hear an inner voice as we read scripture. God spoke to Adam and Eve. He told them to eat of the tree of life and not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told them the consequences of disobedience. And that was it. God could have come to Adam and Eve in a vision and shown to them the dreadful results of sin. After all, God gave Daniel and John very powerful and striking visuals in their visions. As for just the physical toll of sin, not considering the spiritual aspect of sin here, He could have revealed in a vision to Adam and Eve the ravages of aging or the maiming of sickness. God could have shown them the horrors of a body returning to dust in the grave. He did not. He merely told them they would die. They were to listen to Him.

Now, what of the origin of sin? Satan presented the forbidden fruit as desirable. Yes, Satan spoke to Eve for a time, but he did not engage in a long dialog with her to present to her in logical sequence why what God said was false and should not be believed. Satan especially directed Eve to look at the fruit. Whatever the fruit was, it was not disgusting, nor did it have worms. Eve looked at the fruit and saw that it was desirable. What Eve saw overrode what she had heard God say would be the consequence of disobedience. The fruit looked good. What we see can often overwhelm what we hear.

My greatest concern about our visual society is what will happen to our children as they hear the preaching of the gospel. Whether your pastor is crowned with the gray hairs of the wisdom of years, or whether he is young, whether you think your pastor is attractive or whether you think he is not, when we listen to our pastors deliver a sermon, there is not much visual stimulation. Reformed worship services are not visual, and that is deliberate because it is biblical.

Now, we require our children to be attentive during church. Yet, actively listening that long is hard. Notice once, the visual pace of images on our screens. One hardly

ever has an opportunity to focus for long. The image is constantly changing, every five seconds at least. If this image does not grab you, let's quickly move on to the next one. You don't like this? Well, just wait a few seconds and perhaps you will find the next one more to your liking. One wonders whether or not our pastors even have a chance to hold our children's attention when children are growing up in such a visual society.

Also, we develop skills by practice. Your youngster cannot kick a ball yet? Take him or her into the backyard and kick a ball around together. While the youngster might not ever reach the level of excellence, he or she will improve. What will happen to our listening skills as society requires us to use them less and less? Much is said today about the development of neural pathways in the brains of children. Modern researchers say the brain prunes away connections which are no longer used so pathways which are used can become stronger. If seeing dominates how we learn, how well will we be able to learn by hearing?

What are we to do in this era of the flickering, mega-pixeled high-def screen? Let's turn them off and put them away for a while each day. Slow down and read a book for yourself or to your children. Develop some artistic skill, no matter how rudimentary. Mealtime can be hectic, and sometimes we parents just want to hurry up and finish eating so we can clean up the mess and move on to the next household chore. However, try to invest some time to engage in dinner conversation with your children and ask questions to see whether or not the children heard what you or their siblings had to say. Are they learning to listen?

It's easy, too easy, to turn on a screen and let the eye be dazzled. Let's make sure the portal of the ear is open, actively engaged and well connected to our souls and the souls of our children.



*In the last Highlights the school board introduced Hope's new logo. They suggested teachers have students write about the new logo. Since the three men on the committee have sons in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we had to take up the challenge.*

Hope as a Christian, means that someday we hope to be in heaven with God, and that our sins will be forgiven. We know this will happen someday, but we have to be patient and watch what is happening around the world.

Protestant- Christians were protesting against common grace because they knew believing God would save and love everybody would be wrong. We were kicked out of the CRC church because of this belief.

Reformed- Being reformed includes the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession as well as the Canons of Dort. TULIP comes from the Canons of Dort.

Christian means that we might act as one. For example, if a visitor would come here, he or she would know that we are Christians by how we act.

School- This is a place where we learn. It is not a party. Our parents send us here to be taught as a Christian by godly teachers. They are in place of our parents. Our parents send us here so we grow up in the fear of God's name.

~ Madison Rau

Hope is the name of our school. Our hope is for Christ to come. A hope is something you know is coming, but hasn't come yet. We hope for Christ to come. He will come, but hasn't yet.

Protestant: We were the protesting CRC. Protestant means to protest. Now we are the Protestant RC.

Reformed means the Three Forms of Unity, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dort. TULIP is total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace and preservation of saints.

Christian: We are not Roman Catholic or any other religion. Christian means we are followers of Christ.

School is a place where you learn things. A public school doesn't let kids learn about the Bible. This is when PR schools come in. We tell the kids about the true word.

~ Anthony Griess

We are using the word "hope" a different way than how the world uses it. When we hope for Christ to come, we know it will happen. We just have to wait.

Protestant comes from the word protesting. We were protesting against the Christian Reformed Church because they believe in common grace.

Reformed stands for the Three Forms of Unity, the Confession of Faith, the Canons of Dort and the Heidelberg Catechism.

Christian means we are followers of Christ. To follow Christ means to obey His word.

We have school on our logo because this is a school where we can learn God's word. We learn how to work in a Christian way.

~ Michelle Langerak

The five words that spell out our school teach us a few things.

The word "hope" refers to the hope that we have that we *will* go to heaven and live with our Savior. We will have to wait for the day when the Lord will come, but we know. We have hope.

Protestant started off as protesting against the Christian Reformed Church. They taught and believed in common grace, which is accepting Christ into our hearts. They kicked us out for not believing their theory and we started up the Protestant Reformed Christian Churches all across America.

Reformed refers to the Three Forms of Unity: Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dort, which lead to TULIP.

Christian means that if someone walked in our school they would know that we were children of God, and not Buddhists or something like that.

Last, but not least, the word "school" makes plain that this is a place to learn. This is not some sort of amusement park. We learn here so someday we can have a job. The deacons are not going to feel sorry for you when you tell them that you are out of money because you don't work! We must learn the fear of God here.

~ Eleanor Duistermars

## THE SUBTLE SERPENT

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

There are all sorts of marketing gimmicks companies use and catch phrases that kids use. With the prominence of texting these days, I can't believe how much short hand filters into our vocabulary, even my own. I adore vocabulary and learning new and obscure words for everyday things and yet I find myself shortening words like adorable, to "adorbs" or totally to "totes". Every time I hear those words leave my lips I cringe inside. But they're words I hear every day; from the mouths of my students, from articles, ads, and products in the store. They find their way into my brain and chip away until I am using the very things I used to say I never would. Although "totes" and "adorbs" seem like harmless colloquialisms for this generation, they stand as good examples of how the devil uses the world around us to pick at our beliefs and morals, so subtly that we don't even notice. I believe II Corinthians 11:3 states that plainly for us. "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

As I was shopping with my niece near the end of the summer, I saw one of these phrases that shows how the devil uses these colloquialisms to influence the youth, phrases that seemingly seem innocent but in actuality are not. I first saw it emblazoned on a shirt and later splattered on a sign for a doll in the toy section. It was two simple words....*Be You*. In and of themselves those two words seem harmless. In fact you could twist them to go along with Christian beliefs as well. *Be You*, God is the potter and you are the clay, be who He has created you to be (Isaiah 64:8). You are fearfully and wonderfully made by God's hands, be content in that (Psalm 139:14). "Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments", Ps 119:73. I could go on...and there is nothing wrong with these verses. They are God's infallible word. In fact I would find nothing wrong with *Be You*, if they inserted a few more words. *Be who your Heavenly Father has created you to be*. It might seem a little long for a t-shirt though. I might not even have a problem with *Be You*, if those words were meant to portray the Bible verses I mentioned above. However, that is not the case.

The world uses these two simple words in a much different way. To them *Be You* means be whoever YOU want to be. Whether you want to live your life immorally, whether you are a homosexual, or somehow believe you were born into the wrong gender. Just be who you want to be. Who cares what the rest of the world thinks, who cares what your Creator says, as long as YOU make YOURSELF happy. This mantra is emblazoned all over toys and clothing for kids and teens. Please yourself. Make yourself happy, all of this disguised in trendy clothing and cute dolls. It might as well say, *be selfish* or *only think about yourself*, but then that's not as catchy and even liberals might find a problem with plainly stating those words.

The devil uses the media to whittle away at the discernment of the youth. The more they see something, the less threatening it becomes. Two words like *Be You* don't seem that threatening but we read in Gen 3:1 that the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. Trendy and new things pull in children. It's the cool new thing, or everybody is saying it. Sadly, they can pull in adults

as well. We must be aware of how easily things that seem harmless are still the work of the devil subtly getting us to sin against our Heavenly Father, hoping he can make God's elect turn against Him. We can see that almost all of our media outlets are from the liberal left, making those things that are against God seem like they are all the rage. We must watch not only that we do not fall to the temptations of subtle anti-Christian marketing, but that we are also warning our children about it. I'm sure my niece found nothing wrong in a cute sparkly t-shirt that said *Be You*. In fact, I'm sure she thought I would love it in all its purple splendor. But even though she had no idea what it meant or why it might be wrong, it's important to teach our children about the tactics of the devil through the world, so that they might be able to one day recognize the subtlety of the devil themselves. Just because it's everywhere and everybody has it, or everybody is saying it, even if they say all their friends are saying it, it doesn't make it good or okay. The devil doesn't blatantly tell us, I am putting this out there so you sin against your Heavenly Father. He slowly and subtly picks away at our speech, our clothing, how we act, until you can see no difference between us and the world in which we live.



6<sup>th</sup> Grade Writings

I Have Three Brothers

I have three brothers, short and tall  
Through they're different I love them all.  
Moody, kind, and pesky too  
They make sure I know who is who.

Brother one so likes to eat  
Pizza is his favorite treat.  
But if his food is not OK,  
You'll find him on his way to Subway.

Brother two has stuff to do.  
Basketball and running too.  
Origami and magic tricks,  
He even likes to whittle sticks.

Brother three is quite unique,  
He likes to flap his arms and squeaks.  
Sugar is his favorite food,  
It can even adjust his mood.

Without these brothers, who'd I be?  
I know that I would not be me.  
They make me who I am today,  
I'd really have it no other way.  
~ Jedd Kalsbeek

There was an old bird that would chirp  
And when he would drink he would slurp.  
Along came some goats,  
Who were sick of their oats,  
And decided to eat him and burp.  
~ Evan Engelsma

Don't know what to do  
I cannot write a Haiku  
Hey! Look I just did!  
~ Brendan Langerak

Ode to Soccer

If someone asked me to play, I would.  
I would be so happy to play soccer with you.  
The ball is spinning like a wheel  
The ball is as round as the earth  
The ball has many spots like the universe  
has many planets  
Oh, what fun it is to play  
I'm running for the ball as fast as I can  
Their eyes are on me, like magnets on a fridge.  
I love this sport so much.  
BANG! I make a goal.  
Everyone cheers for me.  
Soccer is my favorite sport!  
~ Chloe Windemuller

### Ode to America

The country that gives me freedom  
Free to worship, speak, and vote  
I proudly place my hand over my heart  
As we sing our nation's anthem  
Our glorious flag with its stripes and stars  
Flying high in the sky  
Grandly waving showing its pride  
Your rolling hills and rushing streams  
Lavish meadows and towering mountains  
O, America, in your beauty we salute you  
We are all proud to say  
I am an American

~ Lydia Meulenberg

### My Hunk of Junk

I've glasses and brace,  
broken shoelaces,  
pennies and dimes,  
ten thousand limes,  
a ring of keys,  
some Christmas trees,  
a platypus,

and a little toy bus.

I've few basketballs,  
a pen that scrawls,  
two wind-up birds,  
some old cheese curds,  
a little sail boat,  
that cannot float,  
a Yankee's hat,  
and a baseball bat.

I've old flannel shirts,  
with matching skirts,  
a play telephone,  
an old dog bone,  
a tire swing,  
one chicken wing,  
now that's a lot  
but I forgot...

I need a place to put it.

~ Chloe Kaptein

## PRAYER FOR OUR LAND

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

Earlier this year, we were studying the Constitution in history class. Along with the regular lessons we talked our relationship, as Christians, to our government. This is particularly pertinent to today's world in that we have an increasingly wicked, lawless government headed by a President who, seemingly without consequence, violates that Constitution. Yet we are taught by God's Word to honor and submit to this authority, even if it is evil (Romans 13; 1 Peter 2: 13-18). Around the same time that we were doing this in class, we celebrated Prayer Day. This short article addresses these two ideas combined.

For what are we to pray? The elements of the Lord's Prayer is a good place to start: the glory of God and His Name, the doing of His will, His kingdom and its coming, our daily needs, forgiveness of sins, etc. At this time of year it is customary to pray for the planting of crops, which intersects nicely with our daily needs and God's will being done. The scriptures also tell us to "watch and pray" (Mark 13:33) for the coming of Christ.

But there is also a responsibility as to what we are to pray for in regards to the land in which we live. Not only are we to respect authority. This in itself presents problems for us; we live in a land of "free speech", but how far are we Christians allowed to take this? We often feel we have the right to speak about our leaders as we wish, even just using their last names – "Obama did this" or "Obama said that". I try to reinforce that he is *President* Obama, though I myself find it difficult to abide by my own rules. It is important for us to model respectful speech in dealing with authority.

We must also pray for that authority. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour." First, we do not know if God has his people among them. But also, we pray this for the good of the Church and its work: "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty".

There is yet another interesting passage that tells us of our relationship to the land in which we live. In Jeremiah 29:4-7, we read, "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. *And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, **and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace***" (emphasis mine).

So we are to live in this land as good citizens – this land which is doing its best to build the antichristian kingdom of which Babylon was a picture. We are to live as normally as we can while obeying the law of God, raising our children as we ought to, and increasing as God gives the ability. And we are even to pray for this land. Notice, though, that this is not for the land in itself, but this land as the place where the church dwells. Maybe we ought also to pray for all lands where the church dwells. Again, as with praying for authority, this is so that the Church may have peace and do its work as God has called her to.

Ultimately, though, this all does come back to the Lord's Prayer again, doesn't it. It comes back to praying for God's will, His kingdom (and therefore His glory), our daily needs, and all the rest. This prayer as a model for us to follow then leads us into the particulars of bringing particular needs to God, which include prayer for the proper attitudes toward authority and toward the land in which we live. So knowing what is in our Constitution helps us to be good citizens – good prayerful citizens – in this land God has given us.



*I have two different types of writing from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We have had a couple times where everyone did a book review. I have one example of this here. Also the students are required to write out their noon time devotions (for which they take turns during the year). Here are a few examples of these also.*

*Rush Revere and the American Revolution*

Rush Limbaugh

Review by: Jorden Moelker

The main characters in this story are: Rush Revere (the History teacher), Liberty (the time travelling horse), Cameron (Cam), Freedom, Tommy, and Little Liberty who is just a normal horse. This story takes place in Manchester Middle School and various parts of the American Revolution. In this story, Rush Revere decided to start a summer history class to cheer up Cam, whose father went to war in Afghanistan, and to teach him why his dad went to war. In doing this, he took Cam and his friends, Tommy and Freedom, back in time to the different battles and moments in the American Revolution. To go back in time, they would get on Liberty and tell him when, and where they wanted to go, and then he would say, "Rush, Rush, Rushing

to History". Then, a time portal would open and they would walk through it. Once they went through, they would be at the place where they wanted to be.

There were three main conflicts in this story. The first conflict was that Cam was sad that his father left him to go off to war in Afghanistan. This conflict ran throughout the story. It was resolved when Rush showed Cam the men who fought in the Revolution and how they fought with such great spirit to make a free and safe country for them and their families to live in. When Rush showed Cam this, Cam realized that this was why his dad had to go off to war.

The second conflict was that a bully named Billy was picking on Cam, and Cam challenged him to a dodge ball game. Cam compared his dodge ball team to the American "team" in the Revolution. This made Billy's team the British "team". In the first game, Billy had more people on his team, and his people were bigger and stronger than the people on Cam's team, just like in the Revolution. Billy's team won the first game. In the second game, Cam learned from one of the battles that Rush showed him, the Battle of Concord, so he came prepared. He got more people, brought Billy's big team into a smaller place so it was harder to dodge the balls, planned a better strategy, and had people cheer for his team to boost their spirit. He did this because he had seen the American "team" do some of these things at Concord. This is how the second conflict was resolved.

The third main conflict was the conflict between the actual British and Americans. In the actual war between the British and the Americans, the British beat the Americans in the first few battles. The Americans, however, were able to turn the war around a little at the battle at the Old North Bridge. In this battle, the Americans were on Punkatasset Hill on one side of the bridge, and the British were on the other. The British had far more soldiers than the Americans. They started coming across the bridge and the Americans fired at them while they were on it. This made them an easy target. The Americans were able to drive off the British. This was the battle that inspired Cam to make a better plan for his second dodge ball game.

I liked this book because Rush taught his students about the American Revolution by bringing them back in time and letting them experience it themselves. In studying the American Revolution, the Christian can learn how God directed the people in the Revolution in such a way that He would make a country where His people could worship freely. Rush also taught his students life lessons about perseverance, and why people have to fight, when he took them back in time. I think it would be awesome to be able to go back in time and visit any person, place, or event. You could learn so much with that ability.

I also liked this book because there was a horse named Liberty who could talk, time travel, and become invisible. I liked how Liberty was always hungry and he told lots of jokes. Also, I liked the part in the book when it talked about the Battle of Lexington Green. In this battle, the British marched up and fought the Americans on Lexington green. Tommy got way to close to the gunfire because he saw Little Liberty stuck in a burning stable and went and got him and the rest of the horses out. Tommy and Little Liberty made it out without getting hurt.

Overall, this is a very good book. I would have liked it better if it spent a little more time on the details of the battles, but other than that it was great. This book teaches Christians how God directed all the men and women of the Revolution in just a way that He provided a safe place for His people to go to and worship in times of trouble. Also, we as Christians can learn through Cam about perseverance. The wicked will always persecute us and try to harm us and hate us as Billy did to Cam, but we must be as Cam and push through. The only difference between us and Cam is that we know God will bring us through. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn about the American Revolution or just for some entertainment. I think the author of this book has a great way of mixing history in with the plot of the story.

*Devotions by: Elena Overway*

*Scripture: II Corinthians 9:8-15, Text: II  
Corinthians 9:15*

Christ, Christ, our redeemer is this unspeakable gift. In Rev. Vos' devotional called *The Unspeakable Gift*, he suggests rather strongly that "unspeakable" in this passage means "declared". I believe that that is a very good interpretation of "unspeakable"...what else would it mean? Then, the end of the passage would go this way – "The gift of God is not fully declared." Christ, the unspeakable gift, is no ordinary gift. You could compare him to the church, even the world if you please, but God says in His Word, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." We do not have to look in the Bible to know that Christ is an unspeakable gift, we can look in our hearts. Our dirty rotten old man that is prone to hate, will definitely show us how unspeakable a gift Christ is. This is why we must give Christ all the honor, praise and glory. Let us do this in prayer.

*Devotions by: Jacob VanUffelen*

*Scripture: Luke 18:9-14*

I picked this passage because I want to bring attention to the way we pray. In this parable the Pharisee prays to God, not from the heart, but to impress others and make himself feel good and holy. Today let us ask ourselves, "Do we pray like this Pharisee?" We must be conscious of this during our personal devotions and our school devotions.

*Devotions by: Stephanie Langerak*

*Scripture: Isaiah 11: 1-5*

This passage is talking about Christ's birth and how He was born perfect and not part

of this wicked world. We are not born perfect, but that doesn't mean that we can just be as the world around us and sin all the time. We must try to be as Christ and have wisdom and understanding to trust in God.

*Devotions by: Amber Mastbergen*

*Scripture: Joshua 1: 5-9*

After the death of Moses, God talked to Joshua and told him to lead the Israelites across the River Jordan, to a strange land, Canaan. The verses I read talk about having courage to follow God's commandments and to face the unknown. We also have to have courage to obey God's commandments, especially when the world persecutes us. When this happens, we need to remember what God says, "For the Lord Thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

*Devotions by: Caroline Duistermars*

*Scripture: Daniel 2: 19-23*

In these verses Daniel is thanking and praising God. Verse 21 indicates God's power and control over all things, for He is a God of power and might. "He removeth kings and setteth up kings." That verse reminds us of Job 12: 23, "He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again." How great is his power! This passage speaks of God's sovereignty, which means He is in control and whatever He does is right and according to His will. This text talks about how Daniel praises and thanks God for the wisdom he has been given. Let us remember to be thankful that we have a sovereign God, who gives to His people wisdom and understanding.

## THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD

Mr. Nathan DeVries, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

"...That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore..." Genesis 22:17. Thus spoke God to Abraham after Abraham showed his great faithfulness to God in offering his only son, Isaac, as a sacrifice to God, thereby showing that he esteemed God above all else. To Abraham, who had only one child, this must have seemed an incredible promise; without light pollution dimming the night sky he would have seen a seemingly uncountable number of stars. Yet, approximately 450 years later, the people of Israel had grown into a large nation, numbering 600,000 men, and a total population estimated between 2.5 and 3.5 million people. As the nation gathered at the Jordan River, Moses reminded the people of God's covenant faithfulness, again using the comparison given to Abraham by God Himself. "The LORD your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude." Deuteronomy 1:10.

Even though the example given by God of stars and sand were used to describe the "numberless throng"-to show that man could never number Abraham's true seed-the comparison between sand and stars may not seem to us to be an accurate one. Those who have been to the Lake Michigan dunes or to an ocean beach can attest to the incredible number of grains of sand that makes up even one dune. The question is then asked, "How many stars are in the universe?" "Are they truly without number?"

Secular scientists and Christians both ask these questions, albeit with very different motives. Modern science has for many years, and continues to attempt to calculate the number of stars although, even with modern technological advances, the answers found are at best an educated guess. This should not deter us, however, from examining the findings of modern science, if for no other reason than to better comprehend the vastness of God's creation and to better understand the example given to Abraham.

To gain perspective on the vast size of the creation, we can begin by examining our galaxy, the Milky Way. Because the size of space is so immense, distances are calculated in a unit of measurement called the light-year, the distance light can travel in one year. Since light travels at a known speed of 186,000 miles per second, or 671 million miles per hour, various distances in space can be calculated. The current measurement of the size of the Milky Way galaxy is 120,000 light years across. <sup>i</sup> In miles, the distance across our home galaxy is  $7.05 \times 10^{17}$ , a number that is almost beyond our comprehension. It would take a space shuttle, traveling at 17,500 miles per hour, 4.9 billion years to cross our galaxy. The latest estimate by NASA, based on the calculated mass of the galaxy, is that the Milky Way galaxy is home to as many as 400 billion stars. (Interestingly, it would take approximately 3,800 years of non-stop counting to reach 400 billion, counting 1 to 100 repeating.) The Milky Way, however, is only one of many galaxies, and a medium size one at that.

Scientists at NASA estimate that outer space contains 10 billion observable galaxies and another 190 billion unobservable (as yet) galaxies, although many believe that with better space technology, the number may be at least 10 trillion galaxies. <sup>ii</sup> The largest known galaxy, named IC 1101, is believed to contain 100 trillion stars. Based on an average estimate of 100 billion stars per galaxy, we can begin to see that the number of stars is indeed innumerable. With this incredible knowledge of God's immeasurable creation, we can certainly see "...that they are without excuse: because that, when they knew not God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools..." Romans 1:20b, 21, 22.

This incredible knowledge gained by science, science whose chief goal is proving evolution and disproving the existence of God, can have both practical and spiritual applications in educating our covenant children. Practically, we can observe the creation and help our children understand how great our God is; simply by His spoken word He created a creation so incalculable that man, with whatever advances God allows, can never quantify or even comprehend His amazing works. With the knowledge that God, by His eternal providence upholds everything He has made, we can begin to understand and show our children the infinite power and wisdom of the almighty God. With Job we say, "Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!" Spiritually, we can gain a better understanding of the covenant faithfulness of God to His people. As God promised, the true, spiritual seed of Abraham are certainly as great in number as the stars of the heaven. Hebrews 11: 12 says, "Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable." Also, we can teach the comfort of the believer that each of His children is known to Him, and that not even one covenant, elect child can ever be lost. This comfort is proclaimed by the psalmist in Psalm 147: 4, 5. "He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite."

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<sup>i</sup> Retrieved from <http://www.universetoday.com/22285/facts-about-the-milky-way/> April 14, 2016.

<sup>ii</sup> Retrieved from <http://www.space.com/26078-how-many-stars-are-there.html> April 14, 2016.



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Writings

Myanmar, also known as Burma, is mostly Buddhist. Eighty to ninety percent of the people are Buddhists. Only four percent of Myanmar is Christian. Three percent of that is Baptist and one percent is Catholic. The center of Buddhist life is the monastery and the monks are greatly revered. The Burmese follow the Theravada form of Buddhism which says that it is up to each individual to seek salvation and achieve nirvana. Buddhists also believe that those who die are reborn in a form which relates to the merit they collected while they were alive. This religion is believed to have been introduced to Burma by missionaries sent by the Indian emperor Ashoka in the third century B.C.

The funerals of Buddhists involve either burial or cremation. The ceremony includes a procession of monks and mourners who accompany the coffin to the cemetery or crematorium, with the monks chanting and performing rites. Funerals for monks tend to be elaborate, while those who have died a violent death generally are quickly buried with very little ceremony, since their spirits are believed to linger as malevolent ghosts. It is hard for a Christian to live in such a wicked country.

~ Katherine Morris

Buddhism is the main religion in Myanmar. It is considered the national religion even though it actually isn't. About ninety percent of the people in Myanmar are Buddhist, so it plays an important role in Burmese lives, their architecture, and in their society. The strength of this religion in Myanmar can be seen by simply walking down their streets. While walking down any

street in Myanmar, you can and probably will see many temples, pagodas, and statues dedicated to the Buddhist religion.

There are many ways to worship Buddha, at home or in a temple. When worshipping at home, you would normally set aside an area for a statue of Buddha. That statue would be surrounded by lit candles and burning incense. Then, you would worship Buddha by sitting in front of that statue, barefoot, and chanting to him. At a temple or at home, mantras and prayers can be said to Buddha. In Buddhist temples, worship is possible by listening to monks chant religious texts and then taking part in saying those chants. While praying to Buddha, you can use physical aids. Prayer beads, prayer wheels, and prayer flags can be used to help you remember certain mantras and prayers.

~ Breanna Boeve

### Myanmar's Government

While under the oppressive rule of a military dictatorship, Myanmar was seen as the outcast state. Nobody wanted Myanmar and basically wanted it to disappear. But since 2011, Myanmar's government has introduced political and economic changes after many years of isolation.

Htin Kyaw was made president in March of 2016, making him the first democratically elected civilian office bearer after years of military dictatorship. Technically, the presidency belongs to Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy, who was actually the winner of the presidential election. But she had caused so much trouble the military had put her under house arrest for decades. Since Aung San won the election but is prohibited by the constitution to be president she is using Htin Kyaw as a surrogate for her. She is making the decisions behind the scenes.

The constitution was written in 2008 to guarantee that Myanmar's civilian government would be, at best, democracy that is extremely supervised. The Myanmar military, under the constitution, is a branch of government making it the fourth one. It sets its own budget free from the president and parliament, and it has the right to veto decisions of all three branches of the government. In fact, the civilian government has no control over the military, which has the right to freely direct and judge all affairs of the armed forces.

~ Katie Copple

Myanmar, also known as Burma, is one of the poorest countries in the world and an uncomfortable place to live. The country is very humid and often very rainy. With all the rain, many homes are flooded and belongings can get buried deep in mud. Electricity is another problem in Myanmar, with only 26% of the population having access to it. For this reason, firewood is a major source of energy. Another sign of poverty in Myanmar is the daily minimum wage of only \$2.80. With very little money, many of the people have resorted to agriculture. They grow beans, rice, sugarcane, and much more. Rice is enjoyed by almost everyone in the country and is 75% of their diet. Because of their poverty, the people in Burma use everything they possibly can for a meal. Myanmar also has large street markets, and food sits outside in the hot sun for many hours. Sometimes the food can begin to rot, but the merchants continue to sell, hoping for some money. We must be very thankful that we live in such a prosperous nation.

~ Emily Rutgers

**HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
INCOME STATEMENT  
APRIL 2016**

	YEAR TO DATE	PERCENT TO BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>			
		10 / 12 - 83%	
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	37,924.73	0.95	40,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	220,197.00	0.88	250,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	9,000.00	0.50	18,000.00
GYM RENTAL	5,160.08	1.47	3,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	-		-
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	9,719.25	0.86	11,357.20
TUITION	676,905.50	0.94	717,570.00
BUS FEES	27,149.00	0.94	28,800.00
TOTAL INCOME:	986,055.56	0.92	1,069,227.20

**GENERAL EXPENSES**

ACCOUNTING FEES	2,875.00	0.83	3,450.00
BAND EXPENSE	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS	17,000.00	0.85	20,000.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	11,250.00	0.83	13,500.00
ELECTRIC	15,724.68	0.87	18,000.00
ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES	1,050.00	0.78	1,350.00
FEDERATION DUES	801.92	0.80	1,000.00
GENERAL INSURANCE	6,939.75	0.75	9,256.00
GROUP INSURANCE	78,407.14	0.79	99,400.00
HEAT	7,602.27	0.58	13,000.00
HRA	3,333.30	0.83	4,000.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	2,253.53	0.70	3,200.00
LAWN MAINTENANCE	1,998.84	1.33	1,500.00
LIBRARY FUND	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
MAINTENANCE MAN	290.50	0.14	2,100.00
MISCELLANEOUS	1,328.95	0.56	2,354.41
BUILDING MORTGAGE PAYMENT	100,000.00	0.83	120,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	738.30	0.62	1,200.00
PAYROLL, ART TEACHER	1,590.00	0.80	2,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	6,212.34	0.85	7,300.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	4,099.54	0.84	4,900.00
PAYROLL, DISCOVERY ROOM	42,442.33	0.98	43,156.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	23,335.60	0.83	28,000.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	3,417.00	0.81	4,200.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	20,660.50	0.82	25,130.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	540.00	0.27	2,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	382,843.84	0.84	454,935.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	7,333.91	1.46	5,009.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	6,584.59	0.73	9,000.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	13,059.34	0.87	14,942.73
SNOW REMOVAL	1,818.75	0.61	3,000.00
TRASH REMOVAL	1,213.92	0.81	1,500.00
TAXES, PAYROLL	35,590.65	0.80	44,420.57
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	2,552.00	0.64	4,000.00
TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TELEPHONE	1,352.59	0.85	1,600.00
WATER & SEWER	1,231.90	0.95	1,300.00
WORKER'S COMP	2,034.19	0.68	3,000.00
CONTINGENCY	894.42	0.18	5,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:	814,401.59	0.83	981,703.71

**BUS EXPENSES**

BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	16,666.70	0.83	20,000.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	-	-	400.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	26,347.98	0.89	29,562.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	2,009.00	0.89	2,261.49
BUS DRIVER WORKER'S COMP	405.31	0.41	1,000.00
BUS INSURANCE	2,164.50	0.77	2,800.00
BUS REPAIR	7,237.49	0.56	13,000.00
GAS AND OIL	9,423.41	0.54	17,500.00
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TOTAL BUS EXPENSES:	65,254.39	0.75	87,523.49
TOTAL EXPENSES:	879,655.98	0.82	1,069,227.20
<b>GAIN OR (LOSS):</b>	106,399.58		-

# Congratulations, Class of 2016!!



Titus Bleyenbergh



Breanna Boeve



Alicia Brunsting



Calvin Cleveland



Katelyn Cople



Anna DeVries



Curtis Hanko



Kamryn Jessup



Owen Kalsbeek



Charlie Kamps



Abby Kaptein



Evan Langerak



Dylan Meulenberg



Kyle Meulenberg



Trevor Minderhoud



Laura Molenkamp



Katherine Morris



Trent Mulder



Ty Mulder



Emily Rutgers



Megan Stoel



Ethan Vink



Mr. Nate DeVries

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Commencement**

**Thursday, June 2, 2016**

**7:00 pm**

**Faith Protestant Reformed Church**

# SUPPLY LISTS

## Kindergarten

Backpack  
Folder w/ pockets  
Scissors  
Crayons (24)  
Pencil box/holder  
Paint shirt (labeled)  
Markers (optional)

Pillow (labeled)  
Gym shoes - velcro style (labeled)  
2-3 large glue sticks  
Eraser  
Colored Pencils (optional)  
  
\*We provide "fat" Tri-Write pencils



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

KJV Bible (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)  
Pencil box  
4 pencils  
1 large eraser  
Washable markers  
16-24 crayons

Scissors  
Folder (2 pocket)  
Paint shirt  
Gym shoes (labeled)  
Colored Pencils  
2 solid glue sticks

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

KJV Bible  
Pencil box  
12 Pencils (#2)  
2 large erasers  
16-24 crayons  
Colored pencils  
Washable markers  
2 Spiral notebooks

Homework folder with 2 pockets  
Gym shoes (labeled)  
Paint shirt (labeled with name)  
2 solid glue sticks  
Scissors  
Red Pen  
2 plastic folders with 2 pockets



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

KJV Bible  
12 Pencils  
Glue stick  
2 large erasers  
Colored pencils  
Gym shoes  
Washable markers  
Ruler with inches & cm

Pencil box  
1 red pen  
Scissors  
1 sock (no holes)  
Crayons (16-24)  
2 plastic folders with 2 pockets  
1 spiral notebook (NO binders)  
2 (100 ct) packages of sticky notes

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

KJV Bible  
Pencils/Eraser  
Gym shoes (labeled)  
3 Red pens  
Colored pencils  
Ruler w/ inches & cm.

Wide-ruled notebook paper  
Scissors  
3-ring binder  
Binder dividers with 5 tabs  
Glue Stick or Elmer's Glue



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

KJV Bible  
Crayons  
Ruler  
Pencil sharpener  
Gym Shoes  
Glue stick or rubber cement  
Binder dividers with 5 tabs

Pencils/Eraser  
Scissors  
Notebook paper  
3-ring binder

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

KJV Bible  
Psalter  
Notebook paper  
Gym shoes (labeled)  
Eraser  
Pens  
Highlighter  
3-5 subject notebook  
Flash Drive

3 ring binder w/ 6 folders  
Assignment Book  
Pencils  
Scissors (good)  
Colored pencils  
Ruler  
Black felt tip pen  
Pencil Sharpener  
Glue or rubber cement



## 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  
Single subject notebook

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