



HIGHLIGHTS

Graduation Issue

~

May 2019

*"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind
is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."*

- Isaiah 26:3



If you enter school through the front doors, you will pass a wall filled with pictures of all the past graduating classes of Hope School. Many of the parents of this year's graduating class can find their pictures somewhere in this display. If you look closely, you might even be able to identify "yours truly" in one picture back a few years – no, not as far back as the black and white pictures. One can't help but be struck by God's faithfulness and abundant blessing as He fulfills His promises through generations.

It won't be long and the Class of 2019's picture will be added to this front wall display, D.V. Until that time you may want to view the front hall bulletin board display which expresses congratulations to these students by displaying the soon-to-be graduate's early childhood pictures. See if you can identify each of the 24 eighth graders and then compare those pictures with the graduates' pictures in this *Highlights*. We marvel how our children grow up so quickly, maturing physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It is our prayer that the Lord will apply the instruction they have received at Hope School to their hearts, and that the instruction will serve to further enable them to live the new godly life.

We also want to recognize those parents whose youngest child graduates from Hope School this year: Dan & Carol Boeve, Steve & Deb Hoeksema, Jon & Cori Hop, Dennis & Lori Kaptein, Steve & Maria Lotterman, and Bryan & Beth VanBaren. We thank them for having their children educated at Hope School and pray for their continued support of our school.

Last month the Hope School Society conducted its annual meeting. Along with the Annual Secretary's Report, which you can read on the following pages, a few

other details can be reported. The Society approved a budget of slightly over 1.1 million dollars, along with a small tuition increase. Also the following men were elected to three year terms to serve on the School Board: Trevor Kalsbeek, Jason Kregel, Scott Moelker, and Jason VanOostenbrugge. We thank the retiring Board members: Andy Bylsma, Jason Engelsma, Jon Rutgers, and Dan Schipper for their able and willing service.

Enjoy reading this *Highlights* and please take notice of the abbreviated 2019-20 school calendar, as well as the student supply lists for this fall.

~ Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

2019-20 School Calendar

August 26	First Day of School
Aug. 30-Sept. 2	Labor Day Break
October 3	PTA
October 10-11	Parent/Teacher Conf.
October 16-18	Teachers' Convention
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	Christmas Vacation
February 6-7	Parent/Teacher Conf.
February 13	PTA
April 6-10	Spring Break
May 25	Memorial Day
May 30	Hope Classic
June 3	Last Day of School/ Graduation

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

ANNUAL FOUNDATION REPORT

David Rutgers, Secretary

John DeVries, Scott Kooienga, Joe Schimmel, Jason Van Oostenbrugge, Joel Vink

The primary purpose of the Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School Foundation is to accumulate a special endowment fund from which earnings are used to reduce the cost of education. The Foundation accepts and manages all funds and estate bequests received. The objective of the Foundation is to accumulate endowment funds, which are invested for long term growth. The earnings of the funds are used to enhance the education provided at Hope as well as reduce the cost of tuition for our families. Since 2009 the Foundation has given \$238,000 to help with the operating costs of the school. This coming year the Foundation has agreed to give \$30,000.

The Board promoted the Foundation through 3 fundraisers the past year. All our events were well attended. We thank everyone for coming out to the events and supporting the Foundation and Hope School. Our bass tournament was in August. The tournament included 19 boats from the area and 3 boats traveled up from our Indiana churches to join the tournament. Our annual Clay Shoot held on May 4 was again a success. Our 3rd event this year was the Pinewood Derby. After a few years off, the derby was brought back. We had 71 kids racing and showing their cars at the school. We would like to thank our sponsors for their financial giving. With the help from our sponsors we can put on enjoyable events for the constituency, bring awareness to the Foundation, and provide a healthy profit.

Over the past year we have received \$20,735 from estate gifts and memorials. We are grateful that these families have included us in their estates. We hope that number continues to rise as more society members include the Foundation in their wills.

Our Endowment Fund balance ended last year at \$525,620.20. The market had a rough last quarter to the year but has rebounded nicely over the first quarter of this year. Our current balance at the end of March has jumped up to \$627,106.47. We would like to thank Dave Moelker and Dan Kalsbeek with RSC Advisors for their help in managing our portfolio this year.

We welcome Gerald Feenstra to the board as a new member for the coming year.

The Lord has blessed Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School with the financial ability to operate each year. As a foundation we continue to ask for your prayers as we work to help the school with its financial needs each year.



The Hope Classic races are scheduled for Saturday, June 1. The walkers take off at 8:45 AM, 5K runners at 9 AM, and the 1 mile runners start at approximately 9:50 AM. Runners and spectators will be treated with BBQ chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, sno cones, and more. You may still register for the races at www.hopeprcschool.org/classic. Come on out and enjoy this annual event!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Tim Bomers, Chairman

Andy Bylsma, Ken Engelsma, Mark Meulenberg

This issue of the *Highlights* marks the last issue for the 2018-19 school year. Schooling for our covenant children, for this season, is nearing the close. Reflection is always comforting for God's people, for in looking back we can always see His hand in life's pathway. He loves us. The walk of strangers in this world is full of cares, burdens, trials and even death. We can fret and worry. We also doubt. As strangers in this world, we are, however, no strangers to God. He died for us. The way God leads us is never easy, for we must learn how to trust. Trust God. Lean on Him, for His ways are so much higher than our ways. The instruction in Proverbs 3:5-6 has been a favorite of many graduating classes and is full of promise when facing uncertainty: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Reflecting on the school year, we clearly see how God has provided all our needs in covenant education. We are thankful for our administrator, each of our teachers, our support staff, volunteers, and supporters of covenant education in all forms. Many individuals, one Body.

One purpose of this article is to recognize individuals. We cannot mention everyone but here is a start; 40 years along life's path way is a significant journey. That is how long Mr. Ron Koole has been teaching in covenant education. We are thankful for his contribution in so many ways and in so many areas. May God continue to uphold him and bless him as he labors as administrator in the school. Mr. Andy Bylsma, Mr. Jason Engelsma, Mr. Jon Rutgers and Mr. Dan Schipper are retiring as board members. Getting to know them as we pull the plow, so to speak, we see gifts and abilities that they have employed over the last three years and thank God for their service. They will be missed. We are grateful to God that he has put in the heart of four more men to join the Board and we welcome them: Mr. Trevor Kalsbeek, Mr. Jason Kregel, Mr. Scott Moelker and Mr. Jason Van Oostenbrugge.

Our teachers! What would a school be without them? One of the benefits of being a Board member is that we get to visit the classrooms to observe the instruction taking place. What a joy this is to observe the education of our children in progress. The only problem here is that the busyness of the day prevents us from engaging with each of the teachers to have a meaningful talk and discussion. Teachers: we thank God for you and express gratitude for your service. This comes not only from Board members but especially as parents for standing in our place. Mrs. Julie Schwarz, thank you for completing, almost, your first year of teaching the BIG first grade. Just a little history is needed here. Julie stopped teaching to start and raise her family. This year, Julie agreed to help us by teaching the split first grade alongside her sister, Mrs. Sue Grasman. Julie will be teaching the split second grade class for the next school year, along with Mrs. Stephanie Daling. Mr. Jason Boone, congratulations on completing your first year at Hope. We hope you will call Hope your home for the foreseeable future.

Even though we had enough teachers to cover our needs here at Hope School, we recognize that this is not the case in other Christian schools. Are we asking God for His provision in this need? Pray for our teachers and pray that this calling may be placed in the heart of more of God's people.

Thank you teachers. All of you; we are indebted to God for your work. There is not enough time nor room to tell of all the ways that you have helped us in educating our children.

Finally, and most importantly, thanks to Jehovah God for our school. He has led us down life's pathway with great bounty. As we plan for the future, we pray that in our work, He will equip us with wisdom and understanding that we may give glory to His Holy name.

We welcome Mr. Scott Moelker to our Education Committee. We have important work to do and know that he will be of much help. Knowing who we are in Christ and knowing His command to imitate Him as a servant, we go about our work looking up to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. We listen, and instead of insisting on our own way, we look for the Spirit's wisdom in each other. This 'redeemed sight' enables us to accomplish much. It is a pleasure to serve with all the men on the Board. Many different ideas, opinions and thoughts but one vision, purpose and goal! Praise be to God.

Have a great summer break and may this time be for refreshment and learning. Psalm 128:1-2, "Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee."

FEDERATION/CIRCLE CONTACT/ PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Dan Schipper, Chairman
Ken Engelsma, Phil Kalsbeek

We are fast approaching the end of another school year. During this school year, our committee has been involved with attending the Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies fall and spring delegate meetings. Our spring meeting was held on April 18, 2019 at Adams Christian School. Delegates from our local schools, along with our western schools through skyping, were able to participate in this meeting together. The Teacher Training Committee (TTC) brought 3 proposals to this meeting:

1. To hold the regular History and Principles Class taught by Prof. Dykstra next school year at the cost of \$2500 to be added in next year's federation budget.
The class would be held at the Protestant Reformed Seminary building. It would begin late fall and end sometime in May 2020. There would be no cost to participants and the TTC is planning to video-record this course for future use in any approved teacher training initiative.
2. The 2nd tier of the Federation Mentoring Program was brought for approval. The TTC gave 3 grounds for recommending this proposal:
 - a. The Federation does not have a comprehensive teacher training program. This is going to be a good step in that direction because it begins to target the training of teachers in the distinctives of Protestant Reformed education in a fiscally and structurally maintainable manner without placing a great burden on the new teacher.
 - b. The TTC's comprehensive survey of current teachers conducted last year, indicated that many teachers thought a mentoring program would have been very beneficial for them.
 - c. This program is aligned with the Federation's mandate to the TTC.
3. The 3rd proposal was to pay each mentor working in the 2nd tier of the mentoring program \$1500 after the successful completion of his/her work. This would be based on 40-50 hours of preparation and meeting times.

All three proposals carried. This has been a huge undertaking by the TTC to bring about a formal teacher training program which will be distinctively Protestant Reformed. The meeting was well attended by our local schools as well as our western schools through the internet.

Throughout the past school year, our School Circle has been very busy making a lot of things happen at Hope School. Our committee and the Board would like to give our heartfelt appreciation to them for all their labors over this past year. They once again fulfilled their constitutional purpose which states, "we will work together to provide assistance for the benefit of Hope PRC School and promote godly fellowship among her parents and constituents." which is accomplished through many activities done on the school's behalf. Every week students enjoy a hot lunch organized by the Circle. The Circle also provides room mothers, piano tuning, playground improvements, and funds for other school needs. They are currently working on "HeART Prize" for the spring of 2020. Throughout this school year, the Circle provided funding for different projects and needs such as \$5000 to the athletic department, \$1000 to robotics, and \$5500 to the Technology Committee for 2 desktop computers and some projectors. The baseball and softball diamond has been completed and the Circle funded this complete project. Our committee, along with the entire Board, take this opportunity to once again publicly thank the School Circle for all their time and hard work over this past school year.

Just a side note for all our constituents, don't forget to look over our school website for information on events and activities that took place this past year. Check it out for other valuable information as well.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Rutgers, Chairman
Jeremy Langerak, Phil Kalsbeek, Dave Rutgers

The Lord continues to provide financial means for the school to operate. With only two more months to go in the 2018/2019 fiscal year, we should be at 83% of the approved budget. A review of the April financial statement shows that our income is at 90% of budget and our expenses are at 83% of budget, so we are right on track with expenses. Only one tuition payment in May should remain for this fiscal year. We expect all tuition to be paid by June so please send any remaining balance in this month.

During the fall drive we exceeded our expectations and the response to the spring drive has also been very positive. We need an additional \$41,950 to meet our goal of \$310,000 for the year. We have done some projections and the budget will need all of this money to be collected in order for us to balance the budget. We do not expect any excess funds and will have a loss unless the drive total is met. Please give if you are able and we will publish announcements into June to keep you updated.

At our annual Society meeting we approved the proposed budget for the 2019-2020 school year. Tuition will be increasing 5% on average next year. This is mostly due to a number of youngest children graduating from the 8th grade and only one new family with a kindergartener expected this coming year. Our total number of tuition paying families will drop from 95 to 89 in 2019-20, while the number of total students will remain the same.

To help balance the budget and prevent additional tuition increases, the Board decided to consolidate our busing routes from three to two for 2019-2020. Bus use at Hope School has been declining for some time, and the numbers made it clear that we could no longer sustain three routes. In 2006/07 we had 45 families using the bus at a rate of \$760 per year. This busing fee covered 45% of the total cost of \$72,639 that year. In 2019-20 we project only 23 families using the bus at a fee of \$1,050 per year. If we keep three buses running, this would only cover 26% of the expected costs. A significant drop from 47%.

The key to make two bus routes work vs. three is that with a bit of work, we can combine the Byron & Jenison routes. The Coopersville route stands on its own somewhat and has not changed in many years. The same number of PR families north of school continue to ride the Coopersville bus as these families all attend Hope School typically. Once south of Hope School and across the river, Heritage and Adams both have buses running similar routes so families can typically decide on any of the three schools. This year we had 9 families riding on the Byron route, but know that 4 of these families will not be using the bus in 2019-20. That left only 5 potential families on the Byron route with a total of 9 students on a 65 passenger bus! After further study, the Transportation Committee proposed to the Board that we combine the Byron & Jenison routes to make better use of our buses. Once we have actual enrollment paperwork in July of 2019, the new combined route will be determined and published.

A few additional comments regarding busing. First, Hope School was also potentially facing a shortage of bus drivers (if we maintained 3 routes) for the 2019-20 school year. We are not the only PR grade school that has/is struggling to find full time drivers. If you are able and willing, we would encourage you to consider driving bus for one of our schools. All the costs to be certified are typically covered by the school(s) and it is another way you can contribute to the cause of Christian education. Second, Hope School has been on a 9 year replacement schedule for our buses. Lord willing by June 2020, we will have sufficient funds to purchase a new bus (if necessary). The Board's decision to go to 2 bus routes will need to be reviewed annually, however, unless there is more demand it doesn't appear too likely to add a 3rd route in the next couple of years. Our oldest bus is 7 years old now, and the Transportation Committee will be investigating whether Hope School should keep or sell this bus at the end of this school year.

I have come to the end of my three-year term on the Board and so my two years as treasurer at Hope School is now finished. Jeremy Langerak is next in line and Lord willing, will be the treasurer for the next two years. It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board of Hope School and it is with thanksgiving to God that our Christian schools continue to be maintained. We have been richly blessed with teachers that give themselves whole-heartedly to this work and calling. Please continue to pray for God's blessing on all our Christian schools. "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." Psalm 127: 3-5

**HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
INCOME STATEMENT**

April-19

	YEAR TO DATE	PERCENT TO BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME			
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	33,806.80	0.77	44,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	268,050.00	0.86	310,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	40,000.00	1.00	40,000.00
GYM RENTAL	4,392.00	0.73	6,000.00
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	5,737.74	0.75	7,650.00
TUITION	675,864.53	0.91	738,650.00
BUS FEES	24,544.34	0.94	26,100.00
MISCELLANEOUS	3.59	-	-
TOTAL INCOME:	1,052,399.00	0.90	1,172,400.00

GENERAL EXPENSES			
ACCOUNTING FEES	3,859.87	0.67	5,800.00
BAND EXPENSE	3,000.00	1.00	3,000.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	33,333.30	0.83	40,000.00
CLASS TRIP FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS	25,000.00	1.00	25,000.00
ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES	-	-	500.00
FEDERATION DUES	2,487.91	1.78	1,400.00
INSURANCE, GENERAL	9,601.75	1.00	9,650.00
INSURANCE, GROUP	98,205.42	0.92	107,300.00
INSURANCE, HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT	3,333.30	0.83	4,000.00
INSURANCE, WORKERS COMP	2,200.67	0.98	2,250.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	3,622.22	0.91	4,000.00
LIBRARY FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
LONG RANGE BUILDING FUND	54,166.70	0.83	65,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	2,423.19	1.21	2,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	242.75	0.24	1,000.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	-	-	1,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	6,750.16	0.83	8,100.00
PAYROLL, BUILDING MAINTENANCE	472.50	0.24	2,000.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	4,583.24	0.83	5,500.00
PAYROLL, DISCOVERY	34,599.66	0.75	46,060.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	24,584.00	0.83	29,500.00
PAYROLL, LAWN MAINTENANCE	1,853.49	0.53	3,500.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	3,204.01	0.80	4,000.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	23,017.50	0.83	27,750.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	765.00	0.38	2,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	441,057.36	0.82	535,350.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	4,116.00	0.65	6,320.00
PAYROLL, TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	-	-	3,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	40,001.46	0.78	51,500.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	13,702.45	0.81	17,000.00
PHYS ED UNIFORMS	541.50	0.68	800.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	2,911.46	0.32	9,000.00
SNOW REMOVAL	2,862.50	0.95	3,000.00
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	4,000.00	1.00	4,000.00
TEACHER CLASSROOM FUND	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	8,000.00	1.00	8,000.00
UTILITIES, ELECTRIC	18,231.45	0.96	19,000.00
UTILITIES, GAS	9,265.84	0.71	13,000.00
UTILITIES, TELEPHONE	1,979.93	0.61	3,240.00
UTILITIES, TRASH	1,370.10	0.81	1,700.00
UTILITIES, WATER & SEWER	1,134.56	0.87	1,300.00
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:	894,481.25	0.83	1,080,520.00

BUS EXPENSES			
BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	21,666.70	0.83	26,000.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	64.00	0.06	1,000.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	26,935.50	0.87	31,000.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	1,551.88	0.67	2,330.00
BUS DRIVER WORKER'S COMP	978.08	0.98	1,000.00
BUS INSURANCE	3,363.59	1.02	3,300.00
BUS REPAIR	8,006.13	0.73	11,000.00
GAS AND OIL	11,704.93	0.78	15,000.00
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR	1,250.00	1.00	1,250.00
TOTAL BUS EXPENSES:	75,520.81	0.82	91,880.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	970,002.06	0.83	1,172,400.00
GAIN OR (LOSS):	82,396.94		

SCHOOL CIRCLE REPORT

Becky DeVries, Secretary

As another year of covenant instruction comes to an end, we take this opportunity to thank those who have contributed to our children's education: the School Board, the teachers and aides, the administrator and secretary who faithfully labor on our behalf during the school year. Only by God's grace can we understand and appreciate the benefits of such a school, and as mothers, we are thankful to God for the Christ-centered instruction that our children receive and the covenant fellowship they have here at Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School.

We have been blessed with opportunities as individuals and as a Circle to support our school. Once again this past year, the School Circle has been busy providing hot lunch to the students every week and organizing a cupcake sale with the help of all of the school's mothers every other week. We also catered and served at weddings, made pig-in-the-blankets, and volunteered for special events such as Grandparents' Day, Teacher/Board dinner, Love Lunch, and kitchen cleaning. We sold magazines, Moelker Orchard Fudge and Keycards. The Circle designed Hope School gear for our students and supporters and offered our teachers their choice of a jacket or sweatshirt. We have seen the teachers and students wear these a lot! We are grateful to our supporters who make our efforts and labors as a Circle financially profitable.

In addition to our yearly commitments, the School Circle was able to provide funds of \$1000 for our Robotics Program and \$5500 for the Technology Committee for computers and projectors. 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. We would like to encourage all of the mothers of children at Hope School to consider joining us in this labor of love and support for Christian education.

As a School Circle, we have been blessed spiritually by working together for the support of Hope School. Our work has been rewarded not only financially, but also in the fellowship and friendships we have enjoyed as we work together. We covet your prayers and ask that you continue to pray for us in the upcoming school year as we strive to glorify our God. We pray that God will continue to bless our efforts now and in many years ahead.



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!

WRITING ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

This year, the teachers of Hope Christian School have tried to incorporate more writing activities into our classrooms. This was done at the recommendation of our Writing Curriculum Committee. They have spent many, many hours during the school year looking at the current writing activities for each grade. They then created a program that will continue to strengthen and challenge the students' proper writing skills as they progress through the grades. A big thank you is due for the hard work and dedication of this committee: Ron Koole, Sue Grasman, Gayle Lotterman, and Nate DeVries.

As the year wraps up, the Kindergarten class looks for ways to exercise our writing skills. In the past, we have done this by writing a report about our mothers. This year, we had the privilege of interviewing our grandparents during Grandparent's Day also. We would like to take this opportunity to share some of our grandparents' favorite parts of their school days. We will also include our reflections of our moms during this Mother's Day month.

Grandparents' Memories of their School Days

What was your favorite book?

- roy rojrz – William Cleveland interviewing Grandpa Cleveland
- blak blote - Jayden Koole interviewing Grandma Daling
- box car cildrin – Danton VanderVeen interviewing Grandma VanderVeen

What was your favorite sport?

- sofbul – Macy Moelker interviewing Grandpa Langerak
- socr – Nathan Price interviewing Dr. Kreuzer
- basgitball – Brody DeVries interviewing Grandma Meulenberg
- bascitball – Preston Kregel interviewing Grandpa Kregel

What was your favorite class?

- jim – Finley Van Overloop interviewing Grandma Van Overloop
- gigrufe – Levi VandenBerg interviewing Dr. Kreuzer
- stooree – Margaux Duistermars interviewing Grandma Kalsbeek
- spling – Ainsley Huizinga interviewing Grandma DeMeester

Who was your favorite teacher?

- mr. doezm – Austen Veldman interviewing Grandpa Looyenga
- Mr. Kule – Kelsey Minderhoud interviewing Aunt Susan

Our Mothers

My mom looks beautiful when:

- awas – Gavin Rau
- nalpolish – William Cleveland
- she is don tacing a shoour – Brody DeVries
- at her weteng – Danton VanderVeen
- she dus dr har – Alice Meulenberg
- she got mared – Jayden Koole

- she wacs up in the mornig – Kelsey Minderhoud

When I am at school my mom:

- dos lojrey – Jude Rutgers
- wrks at hom – Teddy Langerak
- plas the pyeno – Silas Rutgers
- wochis Brooklyn – Preston Kregel

The best thing she cooks is:

- fish sewishs – Claire Feenstra
- spgetee – Margaux Duistermars
- kookez (yum yum) – Macy Moelker
- pancacs – Millie DeMeester
- spete – Darla VanDenTop
- cikins – Austen Veldman

My favorite thing to do with my mom is:

- snrugol – Nathan Price
- takawok – Tessa Kregel
- reed bux – Ainsley Huizinga
- gat msdlns – Finley Van Overloop

If I could buy her a gift, I would buy her:

- tooips – Levi VandenBerg
- a rino – Tony Oosterhouse

If you are having issues translating our sentences, please see the amended version of our work on page 15 of this Highlights issue.

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

Miss Gayle Lotterman, 3rd Grade

Glic was very frompered. This was because she had to plomp. There was no talping. She must get right to plomping a mardan jinky for Flarfie. She had just began plomping the jinky when he wibbled in the porger.

"Florsty nefferin!" she boffed.

"That's a croutish mardan jinky," boffed Flarfie, "but it'll have to sloppin."

"In that fuspén," boffed Glic, "You don't blumpin this jinky at all!" And she flouffed about, even more frompered, and left Flarfie in the porger.

If you read the above passage and were confused, that's quite alright. I'll explain later. For now, I have a few questions for you that I'm hoping you can answer. Feel free to go back and reread the passage, but see if you can find the answers to these questions:

1. Why was Glic frompered?
2. What did Glic have to plomp?
3. How did Flarfie describe the mardan jinky?
4. Where did Glic leave Flarfie?

I'm guessing you probably found them, but these were the answers I was looking for (of course, in complete sentences): 1. Why was Glic frompered? *Glic was frompered because she*

had to plomp. 2. What did Glic have to plomp? *Glic had to plomp a mardan jinky.* 3. How did Flarfie describe the mardan jinky? *Flarfie described the mardan jinky as croutish.* 4. Where did Glic leave Flarfie? *Glic left Flarfie in the porger.*

If you were able to answer all 4 questions above, congratulations! You've earned an A in many reading classes across America. Yet I must ask, did you actually understand anything you just read? Probably not. You see, many times we can answer surface level questions without understanding what we've read at all. Simple, search-and-find questions are easy to answer. We don't actually have to comprehend; we can look for key words and fill in the blanks. In effect, all we've done is regurgitated information that was provided to us without pausing to think about what that information means.

This type of questioning can (but shouldn't) be common in classrooms. As students get older, more emphasis is placed on comprehension. However, if teachers aren't asking the right kinds of questions, it can appear as if their students have learned the necessary facts to move on in a unit of study. Before you haul out your dictionaries, I should tell you that the words in the above passage are nonsense words, and they represent what happens when students read unfamiliar words and are not asked the right questions. If I only ask these four questions, I can be convinced that someone understands this passage. This is what happens when teachers ask questions that don't involve critical thinking.

The questions we ask are important, but teachers also have a responsibility to instruct their students in reading strategies, giving them the proper tools to be able to understand what they read. If you attended PTA this past February, you know that reading is an essential skill that affects all other areas of academics. Teachers have now spent another school year working with students on strategies such as questioning, sequencing, visualizing, predicting, inferencing, and more. As the school year draws to a close, I'd like to encourage parents to continue helping students practice these skills through the summer months as well. A break is well deserved for all, but I urge parents to engage students with questions about their reading in the coming months.

Sometimes parents work all summer long with their children and feel as if they've gotten nowhere. Sometimes they have to ask questions about a book they've never read before (believe me, I've been there). Sometimes parents think they are helping, but when their children return to school, they realize their student is behind. Summer regression is real! Equipping yourselves with a few tools is necessary to prevent this regression.

Students should keep up their reading all summer long, and weekly library visits greatly encourage this. However, reading can be made more meaningful by the questions you ask. Let's return to thinking about the nonsense passage above. Often we think we are asking seemingly important questions, but children can even find those answers pretty quickly. Who are the main characters? *The main characters are Glic and Flarfie.* At first we pat ourselves on the back, thinking that main characters are important, so we should ask about them. Nevertheless, students can still learn a lot from a book even if they don't remember the exact names of the main characters! If I ask different questions that still involve the main character, I can quickly figure out how much you've learned from that passage. What is a trait used to describe a main character in this passage? *Well, it says Glic is frompered, but I don't know what that means.* This opens up a discussion about vocabulary while also allowing you to double check that the book your child is reading is not too hard. This summer, try questions like this that require a little more thinking. Even if you haven't read the book your child is reading, you can still get a pretty good idea of their comprehension of a text.

In third grade, we ask and answer questions before, during, and after reading. Here are a few ideas for you this summer. When selecting books, looking at titles and cover illustrations of books together gives opportunity to make some predictions. Ask: do you think this is a true story? What does this cover picture make you think of? What topic might this book be about? How do we know if this is a good book for you?

Kids are never too old for picture books, so you could also pick out some picture books and read them a few times together. The first time you read it, don't show your child the pictures and instead make them visualize and describe what they are seeing. How closely do the illustrations match what they visualized? What's missing or added? What do you like better – the pictures in your head or the pictures on the page?

At the end of a book, it's easy to ask for a summary. But it's more beneficial to your child to ask what they thought were the themes in a book, or the qualities of the main character. Did this character change from the beginning of the book? I know from experience that sometimes students just throw ideas out and hope you don't ask more questions, but don't stop there. Make them provide text evidence, especially if you haven't read the book yourself. Ask: what made you think that? How do you know that?

As the summer goes on, you can ask your child to make connections and recognize the similarities and differences between books they've read. What makes this character like another? What genre does this book fit in? What makes it different from the other mysteries you've read? Would you read this type of book again?

A few extension activities can include review of other academics. Practice writing skills by writing a letter to the main character. Practice art skills by recreating an illustration. Practice math skills by figuring out how much time you spent reading this week, how many words per minute you read, or how many pages per hour. The ideas are endless, all you need to do is take the time. So ask yourself: are you asking the right questions this summer?



Below are a variety of third grade writings that have been collected throughout the 2018-2019 school year.

Best Summer Ever

Ruby VanUffelen - September 2018

This was the best summer ever. We went camping at the campground. Most of the time we played at the park. We went to the pool or the beach on hot days. We road our bikes around the campground. We had a campfire every night. All of these are my favorite summer activities!

My Grandma Who Died of Cancer

Ondra Kalsbeek - October 2018

My best Grandma DeMeester died when I was five. First, my Grandma went deaf. Then, we took her to the hospital, then they found cancer in her. Next, we took her to an Old People's Home. Then, my Grandpa brought white boards so we could tell her we still loved her.

Last, my Grandma died. We went to her funeral, and to her burial. Even though she died, she will always be in my heart. Then I remembered that she went to heaven, and that God was comforting me. God comforts me all the time.

Tough to Tackle Book Review

Jacob DeBoer - January 2019

This story is about a boy named Boots. He wants to play football. He wanted to be the quarterback but he ends up to be a lineman. Then he gets some letters from his brother Tom and starts to like being a lineman. Then at the end of the book his team wins 1st place.

I would say the genre of this book is realistic fiction. My favorite character is Boots because he helps his team win 1st place. I like this book because Boots' favorite position is quarterback and I like quarterback too. I recommend only boys should read *Tough to Tackle*. I also recommend 7-10 years old should read this book. I give this book a rating of 5/5.

My Favorite Food

Colton Huizinga - February 2019

What do you think my favorite food is? It has black stripes and is brown. It's pink inside and you cook it on the grill. It is also juicy. It's bumpy and smells like the grill. It sizzles when it is hot. When you chew it, it sounds munchy. What is it? You're right! It's STEAK!

The Water Cycle

Ellery Engelsma - March 2019

Did you ever wonder about how rain pours down? Read this and you will! First, there will be a puddle on the ground from the past shower. That's collection. Next, the puddle will go up into the sky because the sun's out! That's evaporation. Then, it will get cold and the water will get all puffy. That's condensation. Finally, the cloud will get all heavy. Soon, the sky is gray. It's raining! That's precipitation. I hope you learned a thing or two from this!

Dogs

Lucy Schimmel - April 2019

Dogs are the best animals. They're man's best friends. They're super playful and they all have a favorite spot. When the dog lives with someone for a while, the dog starts to know that his owner is the boss. Dogs should be famous. All dogs are cute. They are my favorite animals!

Go to the Library!

Dani Bylsma - May 2019

The library is the best place to go on a rainy day! Why are libraries so great? The library has a variety of books, not just one. Also, the librarians are very helpful and kind. Going to the library helps you learn to read and love books! It is also a quiet and peaceful place. And finally, there is not only books, but games and toys too. So jump in the car and head there right now!

Do We Need Another Gaga Ball Pit?

Daniel Langerak - May 2019

I think we should have two gaga ball pits. First, littler kids should be able to play the same games as bigger kids. Next, if littler kids play with bigger kids they might get hurt. I also think we have room for it in between the two baseball fields. Finally, if we have two gaga ball pits we don't have to play it in P.E. That's why I really think we should have two gaga ball pits.

Field Trips

Cambria Rau - May 2019

I think we should have more field trips during the school year. Class field trips teach us many new things. We learn a lot at school so we should be able to go on more field trips. Also, field trips can be great exercise. If students are well-behaved, a field trip would be a great reward. Kids love to have fun, and who wouldn't agree that field trips are great fun?



AMENDED KINDERGARTEN SENTENCES

Grandparents' Memories of their School Days

What was your favorite book?

- Roy Rogers – William Cleveland interviewing Grandpa Cleveland
- Black Beauty - Jayden Koole interviewing Grandma Daling
- Box Car Children – Danton VanderVeen interviewing Grandma VanderVeen

What was your favorite sport?

- Basketball – Preston Kregel interviewing Grandpa Kregel
- Softball – Macy Moelker interviewing Grandpa Langerak
- Soccer – Nathan Price interviewing Dr. Kreuzer
- Basketball – Brody DeVries interviewing Grandma Meulenberg

What was your favorite class?

- Gym – Finley Van Overloop interviewing Grandma Van Overloop
- Geography – Levi VandenBerg interviewing Dr. Kreuzer
- Story – Margaux Duistermars interviewing Grandma Kalsbeek
- Spelling – Ainsley Huizinga interviewing Grandma DeMeester

Who was your favorite teacher?

- Mr. Doezema – Austen Veldman interviewing Grandpa Looyenga
- Mr. Koole – Kelsey Minderhoud interviewing Aunt Susan

Our Mothers

My mom looks beautiful when:

- always – Gavin Rau
- when she wears nail polish – William Cleveland
- she is done taking a shower – Brody DeVries
- at her wedding – Danton VanderVeen
- she does her hair – Alice Meulenberg
- she got married – Jayden Koole
- she wakes up in the morning – Kelsey Minderhoud

When I am at school my mom:

- does laundry – Jude Rutgers
- works at home – Teddy Langerak
- plays the piano – Silas Rutgers
- watches Brooklyn – Preston Kregel

The best thing she cooks is:

- fish sandwiches – Claire Feenstra
- spaghetti – Margaux Duistermars
- cookies (yum yum) – Macy Moelker
- pancakes – Millie DeMeester
- spaghetti – Darla VanDenTop
- chicken – Austen Veldman

My favorite thing to do with my mom is:

- snuggle – Nathan Price
- take a walk – Tessa Kregel
- read books – Ainsley Huizinga
- get McDonalds – Finley Van Overloop

If I could buy her a gift, I would buy her:

- tulips – Levi VandenBerg
- a rhino – Tony Oosterhouse

A PRICELESS TREASURE - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mr. Nate DeVries, 8th Grade

The education of the children of believers always has been of utmost importance to the people of God. Beginning in the Old Testament, we see clear evidence of this instruction and the calling given by God to not only keep His commandments, but also to teach them to the children. It was no mistake that Abel knew the proper way to worship God; Adam instructed his sons in the truth of God. After God gave His commandments to the people, the calling, even the demand, was to “teach them diligently unto thy children”.¹ The psalmist echoes this in many Psalms, notably in Psalm 78, where we read, “We will not hide them from your children, showing to the generation to come...” Jesus himself gave a bold example of the importance of this in Mark 10:14, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not...” This education, lost for the most part during the Middle Ages, was restored to prominence by the Reformers. Both John Calvin and Martin Luther, embroiled in heated, doctrinal debates, understood and expressed the importance of teaching the children in Christian schools.² The great Synod of Dort, also focused on defending the truth against the lie of the Remonstrants, spent time on expressing their views on Christian education. Clearly, the history of the church demonstrates the great value of Christian education; the value is truly displayed in education’s Reformed characteristics.

The first characteristic of Christian education is its basis; it is based solely on the foundation of the word of God and the confessions of the Reformed church. Because the Scriptures are the word of God, and because God is unchanging, the Bible must be the basis for all education: in the home, in the church, and also in the schools. The Bible, with clear explanation in the confessions, is the only standard of truth. According to Psalm 33:4, “For the

¹ See Deuteronomy 6 for the complete context.

² “I am much afraid that the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, and engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which means are not unceasingly occupied with the Word of God must be corrupt.” Martin Luther

word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth." Further proof of this standard is found in the Belgic Confession, Article 7: "...for the truth is above all; for all men are of themselves liars, and more vain than vanity itself." Every subject, therefore, must be taught with the word of God as its basis. All content in each subject begins and ends with the Word. The Bible reveals God as the creator of all things in six days; it reveals Him as the God of the covenant, saving believers and their seed in the line of generations; it reveals a sovereign God who reigns supreme in all of history; and scriptures show language, reading and speaking, as the means He has ordained for communicating to us His truth. Without the Holy Scriptures, there is no basis for truth, nor is there a basis for recognizing and rejecting the lies of men. Thus, the Bible and confessions are not only read daily and applied to various situations that might arise in the schools, but they also form the foundation upon which all that is taught and learned rests.

Equally important to the biblical basis for Christian education is that all its instruction is Christ-centered and covenantal. Because Christ is the Word and the center of the God's eternal council, the education must bring that to light. John reveals that "all things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." Seated at the right hand of God and given power over all things in heaven and on earth, Christ rules over all things and directs the events of history and in the creation to bring about his triumphal return upon the clouds of glory. Therefore, every subject uncovers the fact that God has created all things by the Word and that Jesus Christ rules and governs all things. John Calvin summarized the importance of this well: "Knowledge of the sciences is so much smoke apart from the heavenly science of Christ." By definition, then, Christ(ian) education is Christ-centered. Closely related to Christ-centered education is the covenantal aspect of Christian education. "That the content of the instruction be covenantal is possible and necessary because the whole purpose of Christian education is to equip the child to live in covenant fellowship with God."¹ Understanding the covenant of grace properly, we treat our children as members of God's covenant, as friend-servants of the God of heaven and earth. Education must "...equip the students to serve God as members of His covenant".² Children are not only taught "facts", but they are also taught principles, important principles, that help prepare them for a life of service to God, and application of facts is made to the reality of life in a world created and upheld by God. This means that children not only gain knowledge, but they also gain the necessary wisdom to live as friends of God in an increasingly wicked world. Finally, Christian education in its covenantal characteristic views children as members of God's covenant, treats them as children of God, and sets God's standard as the standard in every subject and the standard of behavior in the schools.

A final characteristic of Christian education is that it is antithetical instruction. "The believer is called to live antithetically by saying "Yes" to God, and to all that is pleasing to God. However, there is a corresponding "No" in antithetical living. The covenant people are called to say "No" to all that stands opposed to God and to all that God hates."³ Believing this calling of the child of God to live separately from the world, Christian education must also give instruction that is antithetical. It presents the truth, but it also exposes the lie as it is in opposition to the truth. Christian education teaches that God created all things in six, literal days, but the

¹ Dykstra, Russell J. "The Great Value of Reformed, Christian Education (2)." *Standard Bearer*, 15 Jan. 1999, pp. 187-190.

² Ibid

³ Ibid

teaching also exposes the lie of evolution and all its implications. How to think logically is taught, but fallacies of logic that are used to twist, deny, or hide the truth must also be taught. The incredible order in the creation as seen in numbers is given as opposed to the lie of governance by random chance. Every subject area, therefore, must not only teach the facts and principles as based upon God's word, but the lie that is in opposition to the corresponding subject area must be exposed.

Christian education has a great value that cannot be overstated. Its chief characteristics, namely that it is Biblical, Christ-centered and covenantal, and antithetical, all contribute to how we value our education in Reformed, Christian schools. The education begins and ends with the word of God. All teaching is based on this word, along with the confessions, as the only standard of truth in the world. The education must also be Christ-centered, and as Christ is the Mediator of the covenant, it must also be covenantal, preparing children for a life of loving service to the God of the covenant. Finally, the instruction must be antithetical, teaching the truth in every subject, but also exposing the lies of the world and Satan that are directly in opposition to the truth. We have a great gift in our Christian schools, a gift easily taken for granted, a gift so very rare in the world in which we live. As we see laws passed in many countries that attempt to end the possibility of Christian education, may we continue to see the priceless treasure we have been given and not forget the value this education has for the parents and children of God's church.



8th Grade Sample Writing

I believe that Christian education is one of the most important things for Christian children. A Christian school is where a child can be sheltered from the world, make Christian friends, and most importantly learn about God. Christian education not only has a Bible class to learn about God, but the teachers bring God into every subject to show his wisdom, glory, and power in that area of learning. Also, a Christian education will help a child later in his life. Proverb 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This education is how we must treat others and love God. It is very important that children learn how to live a Christian life, and a Christian education is one way a child learns this. Contrary to this, a public education will not help a child walk in the ways of the Lord. This is because public education wants to make a child live like the world; the world does not love God, and this is not how a Christian child should be raised. Romans 12:2 tells us, "be not conformed to this world." Also, children should not be spending time at home playing video games or doing other unproductive activities all day; this is another reason why going to a Christian school for Christian education is so important. Finally, a Christian education is often better all-around than public schools. Conclusively, Christian education is invaluable for children. ~ Caleb Cleveland

Christian education is of infinite value in the life of a child of God. To be educated in a Christian school causes children to grow in the knowledge of God. The goal of any school, Christian or not, is to instruct children in the knowledge of certain subjects. For example, in a public school, history would be taught to teach children of the past: how is our country today different from back then? In what way did our country gain its freedom? What were the causes

of the Great Depression? The goal of godly teachers in a Christian school is not only to teach students about the events that happened in history, but also to show the course God's word has taken throughout the past, such as the four horsemen of Revelation and how they are seen in the various wars and uprisings. God's intricate creation is clearly seen in science while math is taught not only to teach the principles, but also to bring out how God's glory and intricate wisdom can be seen in all the numbers that fit perfectly together. All the words, clauses, verbs, and nouns of English are interwoven to form a language created by our heavenly Father. In other words, godly teachers apply God's awesome power, wisdom, and glory found in His word to all the subjects they teach. As children grow in faith and in grace, teachers and parents alike can praise God using the words of 3 John 1:4, saying, "I have no greater joy than to hear [and see] that my children walk in truth!"

Christian education not only is important because we grow more and more to know our heavenly Father, but also because of the evidence of Christ's example everywhere, whether in the halls, classroom, or on the playground. In a godly, Christian school, children are surrounded by their peers, who believe in the same faith and Savior. Additionally, godly teachers set the example of godly living and teach children to apply God's word to every aspect of learning. However, in public schools, younger children learn from older children, and the older children learn from the teachers that it is perfectly okay to take God's name in vain day after day and to slander one another. God has commanded in His word that we must love one another, for in loving each other we love Him. Furthermore, all the students, teachers, and administrators are part of the body of Christ. We need one another for encouragement, to grow in knowledge as one body, and to help each other, whether in schoolwork or in understanding and studying God's word. Good, godly, Christian schools are truly a gift, as well as the precious truth taught day after day in every classroom. We must thank God, our gracious, heavenly Father, for giving us this gift of Christian education both to help us grow in our knowledge of Him as a body and be encouraged by one another. Christian education truly is a treasure without a price! ~ Eleanor Duistermars

I believe that Christian education is very valuable to me because of the many benefits of it that others do not have. We are blessed with a Christian education that many others are not able to have. First, in this instruction we are able to see God's marvelous work in all of our subjects. We see His beauty in the creation, and His power in all the intricate processes and designs that He has created and upholds. Apart from learning more about Him through the study of His creation, we are also able to gain more knowledge of Him each day through His Word. Furthermore, we are surrounded by Christian friends and teachers, who help us to learn more each day. This training that we receive as a youth helps us to grow up as good Christian children, and to become more knowledgeable of God and His attributes every day. Proverbs 22:6 shows the benefits of this instruction when it says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The value of Christian education is very necessary for the growth in our spiritual lives. Finally, Christian education is a blessing that we should highly value because it helps us to grow in the knowledge of God. ~ Caleb Kamps

Christian education is a vital part of a believer's life. We have been given this gift from God, and we must use it to bring glory to His name. By receiving a Christian education, we are better equipped to glorify His name in all areas of our lives. We are shown in every subject the sovereignty of God. For example, in math we are shown His divine order, in history we are

shown His power and judgement on the wicked, and in science we are shown His beauty, power, and divine order. While public schools do teach almost all the same subjects as we, they do not give meaning to why we study them. They just educate the students so that they become smart, hardworking people. We must value this Christian education very highly, and we must not take it for granted. We must also be very grateful for the Christian teachers we have been blessed with. They work hard every day to prepare the lessons to teach us, and they dedicate most of their time to this calling. They encourage their students to do their work to the best of their ability and to the glory of God's holy name. Without this godly education, we would more easily fall into certain temptations and join with the world in their evil philosophies. Lies would be taught to our children every day, and after hearing it so many times, they would learn to believe it. Knowing the truth of God is a very important aspect of a Christian's life. Collectively, we must be very grateful for the blessed gift of Christian education.

~ Anna Langerak

Christian education is very different from an education you would receive in a public school. A child in a public school goes through many of the same things as a child would in a Christian school, but there are a few key differences between them. In a Christian school, all of the children are instructed in the love of Christ and are taught to reflect this love in all that they do. However, when public school children are not taught in these ways, problems arise; for example, bullying is a larger problem in public schools than in Christian schools. Christian education is also important for the behavioral and the spiritual development of the children. A child of God could not grow in spiritual knowledge at a public school because there are no teachers that explain the word of God along with their regular classes. Christian children would most likely be led astray from the truth in a public school because their minds are corrupted by the evil teachings of evolution and sin. Doctrinal truths that are not found in a public school are also taught in the Christian schools. When a child is educated in a public school, the command of God is not being followed, which is to live separately from the world. Instead, the child conforms with the world and, most likely, will depart from the truth. Without this Christian education, the spiritual welfare of the church would be destroyed.

~ Jeremy Langerak

As children grow older in this wicked world, they need a strong influence to help them grow in knowledge of physical things but also of spiritual things. From when children are five or six to when they are seventeen or eighteen, they can get good, solid Christian education. In addition to the teachings of parents, Christian education is valuable because it works to separate students from the sins of this wicked world. Young children especially look at what people do around them and copy it. Growing and learning in a Christian school helps them to separate themselves from the ways of the world. Although Christian schools separate children from this wicked and perverse world, they will not be separated when they leave school, so Christian education prepares them for the harmful teachings of the world. Christian education, along with the instruction of parents, helps children know what is right and wrong. It makes them strong in their religion, so when they leave school and are taught other teachings, they know what is right. The final thing Christian education does is connect every subject to the Bible. This shows students God's power in every subject and how He perfectly orders His creation to work together. Because of all this, Christian education is crucial for a child of God to grow up in this world.

~ Michelle Langerak

Christian education is valued by me because as well as receiving the education in of all my subjects, I am taught in every class of the greatness and order of God. Every day we learn the importance of each subject and are motivated by our teachers to do our homework, get our papers in on time, and study well for our test. However, if this was the only thing teachers did, our Protestant Reformed Schools would not differ from public schools at all. Our schools are different because along with teaching us our subjects, teachers show us how we can see God's majesty in every subject. Many important people in my life always point out to me to see God's power in all our subjects, but it is for easy for me to forget that very quickly. Teachers never let me forget that the glory of God is in every subject. Christian education is important to me not only because of the faithful instructors that work there, but also the godly instruction they give. Public schools instruct the pupils so that the children can get a good job when they grow, but our schools do something much more profitable. Many times when learning about a section in a subject, I catch myself wondering why we would learn this specific thing, but our teachers always emphasize the fact that we don't go to Hope School only for ourselves. They remind us that we go to school to better learn and study the beautiful creation of God. All in all, teachers are important, but more important to me is the good Christian education they give.

~ Miya Meulenberg

Christian education is vitally important, valuable, and needed for Christians growing in the faith. We need it to understand the order and flawless design of God's creation. In general, we know education is very important. Without it, there would be a lack of knowledge in almost every subject in life. Business owners couldn't run a business correctly, employees couldn't work correctly, and students would have nowhere to go to learn the basis of all knowledge. But regardless of the benefit, all of this education increases our ability to blend into the world. As Reformed Christians, this general education is needed, but it doesn't teach students directly about the Creator. For instance, subjects such as math and science show God's perfect order and knowledge of creation. Understanding God's revelation in His creation is of utmost importance. Comprehending the education of this world is important, but when it is absent of the Creator, it loses all value. The value of Christian education can be seen when given one reason. We need a Christian education to have a basis for all things we believe and do. When the basis is on Christ, we glorify Him and our Father in the subjects. But if the basis is on pure learning for our own good and well-being, it gives no glory whatsoever to God. One of the best ways to see and understand God's knowledge is acknowledging it in the subjects taught in many schools. Christian education is the principal way to see God's infallible reason. However, Christian education also does not always include the standard subjects. As we can see in Christian schools, studying the Bible and its history is a direct way to see the glory of God. Without having to see His majesty through other subjects, we can be directly taught in reading His Word and the study of scripture. In all this, as Christians we can see our Father's love and compassion in the Christian freedom we have to worship and magnify Him more and more.

~ Mason Schimmel

Congratulations,



Jonathon Boeve



Larissa Brands



Caleb Cleveland



David Cleveland



Ethan Cleveland



Matthew DeVries



Eleanor Duistermars



Anthony Griess



Rebecca Hocksema



Joel Hop



Caleb Kamps



Cassie Kaptin

Class of 2019!



Tyler Kocienga



Anna Langerak



Eli Langerak



Jeremy Langerak, Jr.



Michelle Langerak



Connor Lotterman



Miya Meulenberg



Weston Meulenberg



Madison Rau



Mason Schimmel



Dale Van Baren



Emma Van Uffelen

SUPPLY LISTS

Kindergarten

Backpack	Pillow
Folder w/ pockets	Gym shoes - velcro style
Scissors	2-3 large glue sticks
Crayons (24)	Eraser
Pencil box/holder	Colored Pencils (optional)
Paint shirt	*Please label all items
Washable markers (8)	*We provide "fat" Tri-Write pencils



1st Grade

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

2nd 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	Old sock for whiteboards
Washable markers	1 plastic folder with 2 pockets
3 Spiral notebooks	

3rd Grade

KJV Bible	12 pencils
Glue stick	2 large erasers
Colored pencils	Crayons (16-24)
Washable Markers	Ruler (in and cm)
Pencil box	Scissors
(2) 2-pocket folders	Gym shoes
2 red pens	Wide-ruled paper
1 spiral notebook (NO binders)	
2 (100 ct) packages sticky notes	
1 sock (no holes)	
Paint Shirt (labeled)	



4th Grade

KJV Bible	Notebook paper
Pencils/Erasers	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.	

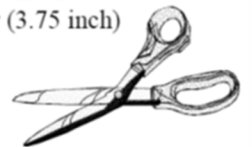


5th Grade

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

6th Grade

KJV Bible	3 ring binder w/ 6 folders
Psalter	Assignment Book
Notebook paper	Pencils
Gym shoes (labeled)	Scissors (good)
Eraser	Colored pencils
Pens	Ruler
Highlighter	Black felt tip pen
1 - 1 subject notebook	Dry erase marker
1 - 3 subject notebook	Basic calculator
Pencil Sharpener	Protractor (3.75 inch)
Glue or rubber cement	



7th & 8th 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
 Ruler
 Protractor & compass (optional)
 Scientific calculator - TI-30XIIS (available at school for \$14)
 Gym clothes – labeled
 Gym Shoes
 Single subject notebook (8th only)

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