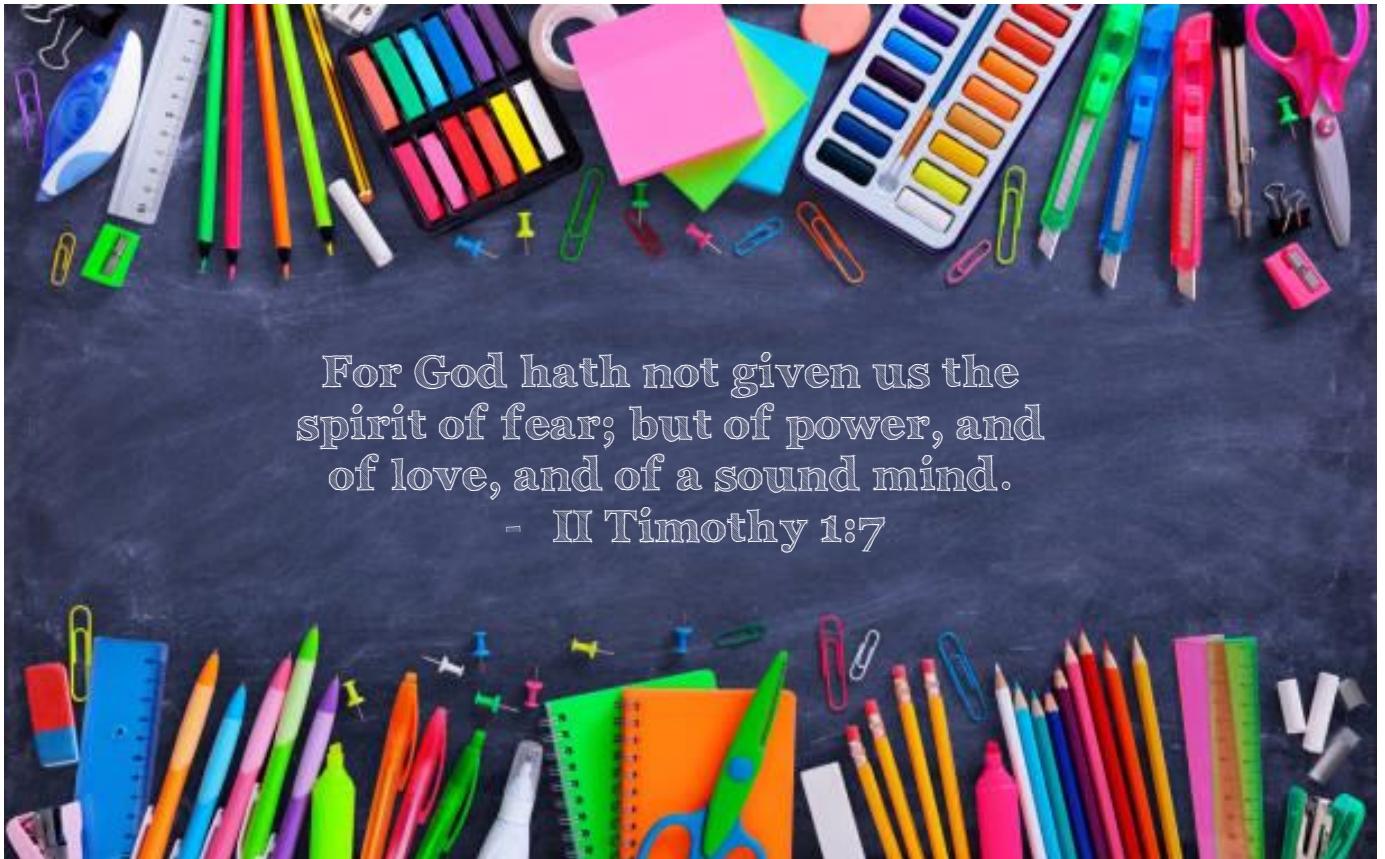




HIGHLIGHTS

August 2020

Back-to-School





FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



THE TIMES AND SEASONS

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

What time is it? Children of the light and children of the day, what time is it? I Thessalonians 5:1, "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you." We are watching, and we are sober, are we not? What are these times and seasons which the children of light know and understand in the light of the Word of God? They surely are the days and years preceding the Day of the Lord. They include the events which are clear signs of the coming of Jesus Christ and the end of time. The day of the Lord will not overtake us as a thief, will it?

The man of sin is coming and God is sending strong delusion to so many. The children of light are not to be soon shaken or troubled by these times and these events. These events are and must take place. They all serve to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus Christ.

We have all witnessed in the past months the shocking increase of protests, violence, and civil unrest. Lawlessness is winning the day. The increase breakup of the God-ordained family structure is bearing its ugly fruit in the disobedience to all authority in society. And the sword power given by God to the state, to keep order in the state, is being taken away. The hatred of man toward his neighbor is going unrestrained and God is giving man over to his sinful nature. And we know that that hatred will in ever-increasing measure be focused on the people of God. The scriptures teach in Matthew 24 and II Thessalonians 2 that the mystery of iniquity (lawlessness) is at work during the times and seasons we are living in.

Consider the political climate of our country. Who are the leaders of our country and what of the "greatness" of the USA? Economic prosperity can be lost in a short while. Stimulus checks, increased unemployment benefits, spending 2.4 BILLION dollars on a Mars Rover Mission to search for ancient life and so many more expenditures are bankrupting a nation that so many people put their hopes and confidence in. Liberal policy making (read unbiblical) is ever increasing and the laws of God are being trampled underfoot and are receiving the approval of the Supreme Court. Take note of the times and seasons we are living in.

And then COVID-19. Shaken or troubled? Matthew 24 lists pestilences along with other "natural" disasters as those things that are the beginning of sorrows. Notice, the beginning of sorrows. There are more sorrows to come.

All these "events" come upon and affect the children of light, do they not? Our peace and physical safety are threatened by society's lawlessness. Our economic welfare is affected by the economic policies of our government. Our lives in society are affected by the liberal (unbiblical) laws and policies enacted by legislatures and the courts. Our health can be taken away by pestilences. Our home life, school life, and church life are affected by "stay at home" executive orders as well as gathering limitations.

How do we react to all of these circumstances and developments? Notice I said, "How do WE react?" not "How do I react?" We are the children of light. As the end approaches, it is important for us to think and act covenantally, always having the welfare of the body of Christ in mind as we make decisions. Not what I think is best for me and my family, but what is best for the body. Ephesians 4 points us in that direction even with the gifts God has given each of us. They are to be used for the edifying of the body of Christ. Now is the time and season to be joining together and to be putting away our personal preferences. We need each other.

We have a grand opportunity to show this biblical thinking by our support for our good Christian school. We know there are many threats from the outside world which will only increase. How sad when threats come from the inside. These things ought not to be. School boards make decisions prayerfully for the welfare of the body. Let's bond together and experience the joy of a body fitly joined together. It is the time and the season.

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Trevor Kalsbeek, Chairman
Aaron Cleveland, Jeremy Langerak, David Rutgers

As is stated in the Guidelines for Enrollment at Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School in Article II: *"The purpose of the Society of the Hope PRCS for Christian Instruction is to provide primary education to those children whose parents share a commitment to the Reformed traditions (faith) in a school system where instruction is based upon the infallible, inspired, written Word of God, the Holy Bible."* This statement sets before us the conviction that guides the Enrollment Committees role and responsibility of guarding the membership here at Hope School.

The Enrollment Committee had the enjoyment of meeting with six new families who shared with us their desire to send their children to Hope PRCS. The interviews were enjoyable as was the fellowship that was shared with these families. The committee recommended to the Board, that we approve the application of these parents, to enroll at Hope PRCS.

Please, join us as we warmly welcome these families: Derek and Lynette Bleyenbergh and their daughter Charlotte, John and Anna Heyboer and their daughter Lily, Ben and Becky Peterson and their daughter Aaliyah, Andrew and Renae Veldman and their daughter Myla, Reverend Jonathan and Keri Mahtani and their children Levi, Shane, Mayla, Ezra, and Lyndi, and Reverend John and Amy Marcus and their daughter Miriam.

We are thankful to our heavenly Father for the precious gift of our Christian schools and for the parents as they share with us the zeal for this cause. Continue to pray for the administrator, teachers, staff and board that God continues to preserve and bless the work of Godly instruction at Hope PRCS.



Andrew and Renae Veldman (Myla)

We have been married for just over 7 years and we have 3 daughters: Myla, Savannah and Allyson. Myla is 5 and is so excited to be going to Kindergarten this year. We live in the neighborhood right up the road from school and look forward to the day when the girls can walk to school. Andrew works in the finance department for Gordon Food Service and Renae is a mother in the home. As a family we enjoy going camping in the summer, and spending time with both our families.

Benjamin and Becky Peterson (Aaliyah)

We have three children; Aaliyah is five, Oscar is 4, and Emmitt is two. We enjoy riding bikes, going for walks, and being outdoors. We are big hockey fans. We are members at Grace PRC. As we begin our journey at Hope Protestant Reformed School, we are excited for sound Christian Education. We look forward to connecting with those who God puts in our path as we raise our children in the fear of His name. Aaliyah is excited to start kindergarten.



Derek & Lynette Bleyenberg (Charlotte)

Hello! We are Derek and Lynette Bleyenberg and this year our oldest daughter, Charlotte, is going to kindergarten. We currently attend Grace PRC and have another daughter, Elizabeth (3), and son Calvin (1). Derek owns Printed Marketplace, a design and printing company where he sells a variety of wall decor and printed clothing. Charlotte is so excited to go to school and meet new friends! She loves to swim, color, read books, and plays so well (usually) with her siblings. We are thankful for this opportunity to send her to a Christian school and start her formal education in a Godly environment.

Rev. Jon & Keri Mahtani (Levi, Shane, Mayla, Ezra, Lyndi)

Hello! We are the Mahtani family - Jonathan, Keri, Levi (12), Shane (11), Mayla (9), Ezra (8), Lyndi (almost 5) and Tressa (3 1/2).

About 9 months ago we said a tearful goodbye to our home in Indiana and to our very dear church family at Cornerstone PRC. We packed up our family of 8 to move across the world to Singapore! Although we were sad to leave, we felt very excited to serve God's people at Covenant ECRC and experience life in a completely different culture. To make a long story short, in God's wise and good plan, we did not move our family to the other side of the world, but instead we found our place at Hope PRC! God has filled our hearts with contentment and thanksgiving as His kind hand has led us exactly where He wants us to be.



We are grateful to be sending 5 of our 6 children to Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School this coming school year! Already we have gotten to know many families in our church and school community. Our children have been warmly welcomed and they are excited to start school with their new friends and teachers this fall, Lord willing. As a family we enjoy sports (especially soccer), hiking, reading, and board games. We look forward to these and many other activities as we fellowship with you.



John & Anna Heyboer (Lily)

Hi, I'm Lily Heyboer. I'm 5. My favorite food is pizza and I love to drink milk. I love to ride my bike and color. My brother Zack is 4 and he loves chocolate milk and ninja turtles. My sister Courtney is 2 and she loves milk and animals. My mom stays home and takes care of us and our dog Louie, while my dad goes to work and takes care of boilers and cooling towers. We go to Rev. VanOverloop's church and we live at 4242 Riverbend. I am excited to start school with my cousin Charlie!



Rev. John & Amy Marcus (Miriam)

Bonjour! We are the Rev & Amy Marcus family, recent transplants from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Only half of us have the privilege to be a part of the Hope Christian School family. Four of our children (Matt & Leah Ferguson and grandsons Brennan and Connor; Rebecca, Anna and Matthew) remain in Edmonton, one (Titus & Alyssa Mahtani) has settled in Pittsburg, PA and the youngest 3 are here in Grand Rapids. Kristin (grade 12) and Sam (grade 10) will be attending CCHS and Miriam will be in grade 7 at Hope. As a family we enjoy camping and hiking. We are looking forward to serving in the Hope community as we wait upon the Lord's leading.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Jason Kregel, Chairman

Joe Schimmel, Brad Schwarz, Jason VanOostenbrugge

Another year has come and gone, leaving Hope Christian School in better shape than it was the previous year. Much thanks to all who have donated time, money, and services to not only maintaining, but improving the facilities we have been given.

When we take stock of what projects have been recently completed and look forward to what is coming up, it sure seems like we have a lot going on right now. And then we remember that all we are doing is maintaining our existing schools which have been passed down from previous generations. Just think of the sacrifices our fathers and grandfathers made! Think of those men who made the tough decision to start these wonderful schools from scratch. What a strain - mentally, physically, and financially, that must have been! I suppose we don't have it too bad, do we?

The 2019-2020 school year required its share of the typical maintenance and repair which we perform on a regular schedule. Some of these items included: carpet replacement, painting, roof leak repair, weather stripping, and more. Most of these items are handled as part of a regular replacement schedule, with a few break/fix items surfacing as well.

Additionally, the Building Committee has overseen the purchase of the home on the corner of Riverbend and Wilson. This was the #2 property needed to fulfill the master site plan needs. This property is rented out for the time being, but is part of the master plan as a parking lot addition. For now, we have removed some trees and seeded the open space between the corner house and administrator's house to allow for overflow parking during school events. We have also been able to secure an option to purchase the property just to the west of the Riverbend driveway. This is the #1 property needed for the master plan. This property is likely to become available in approximately 1-2 years.

The kitchen is also receiving a much-needed facelift this summer. New cabinets, countertops, flooring, paint, lighting, and ceiling tiles are being installed, and a beautiful new 10 burner stove will cap off the project. Thank-you to the School Circle for funding this project!

The intermediate hallway is undergoing a few upgrades as well. New lockers will replace ones in disrepair, and new LED lighting and ceiling tiles means that this hallway will match the rest of the hallways.

After running our main boiler many, many years past its expected useful life, a decision was taken at the past society meeting to replace it with two smaller boilers. This project is also taking place this summer, and should provide us with cost effective heat for years to come.

With many of these smaller projects at or nearing completion, much of our time and energy is being spent on finalizing plans for the music room expansion and the remodel of a portion of the school. We are excited to have the opportunity to reorganize and rework some of the areas of the school in which the staff previously (and graciously) "made do". We are now able to design the space specifically to match the needs of the staff, which creates a much more efficient and usable space for our teachers and children. We are looking at a fall start for the music room, and the remodel of the existing portions of the school will take place during the summer of 2021, D.V. Stay tuned for future updates on this project.

We are grateful for the prayers and support of our school community as we strive to be good stewards of the building with which we have been blessed.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

David Langerak, Chairman

Aaron Cleveland, Ken Engelsma, Scott Moelker

With gratitude to Jehovah, our covenant keeping God, we look forward to beginning another year of covenantal education; an education of our covenant children which will be distinctively Protestant Reformed because it is carried out by Godly, Protestant Reformed teachers who share our convictions and beliefs and stand in our place each school day. When our teachers take up that important work again on our behalf, let us pray daily for them before God's throne of grace.

The Board, through a special committee, has been working through the implications of the Michigan Return to School Roadmap document that stipulates how the school must comply under each phase/stage of the Michigan Safe Start Plan issued by our governor. At the time of this writing, our region is under phase 4 of Governor Whitmer's 6 phase plan. Under phase 4, we are allowed to resume in-person instruction, albeit with certain safety restrictions and precautions in place. The parents of children enrolled at Hope have already received 2 informational letters from this special "back to school" committee. This committee consists of Ken Engelsma, Board president, Scott Moelker, Education Committee member & Transportation chair, Ron Koole, Administrator, and Matt Elzinga, Teacher Representative. Look

for more detailed informational letters from the Board on this subject as we near August 31. In the event that Governor Whitmer rolls our region back to phase 3, in-person instruction would not be allowed.

We mention a few changes to the teaching staff. Ed Bos has decided to take up teaching at our Lacombe Protestant Reformed School in Alberta leaving an opening in 7th grade. So we welcome Jill Reitsma to the full-time position of 7th grade teacher. Since 3rd grade is a split class we needed an additional teacher there. We welcome Miss Rebecca Boeve for this full-time position. Since Rebecca has a semester left of her college, Miki Kooiker (Dykshorn) has agreed to fill-in on a part-time basis while Rebecca finishes her schooling. Stephanie Daling, who had agreed to fill a part-time position in the Discovery Room, has now graciously agreed to take on a more comprehensive roll in Discovery due to Deb Kuiper's recent diagnosis of cancer. Deb will continue to oversee the instruction and scheduling of the Discovery staff and students, but remotely to the extent she is able. Please pray for Deb and her family as they bear this affliction sent from the Lord.

We remind our parents that the committee meets the Thursday before each monthly board meeting, which is the second Wednesday of each month. Please contact the chairman if you would like to meet with the committee at any point during the school year.

Let us together thank God continually for giving us Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School and preserving it for us again this year so that we are able together to provide our children with covenantal instruction.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeremy Langerak, Chairman

Trevor Kalsbeek, Dave Rutgers, Brad VanderVeen

"Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it." Psalm 90:16, 17. With the promise and power of the LORD our God to establish our work, we go forth in hopeful labor once again to start a new year of Christian instruction at Hope PRCS.

For the School Board and Finance Committee, the new fiscal year started in July with enrollment for the 2020/2021 school year. On the enrollment due date of July 27 the Finance Committee met to process the enrollment forms and attend to the work of the committee. We are once again encouraged by the financial support and prayers of the 86 families which have committed to another year of covenantal instruction for their children.

This issue of the *Highlights* contains the 2019 - 2020 Year End Financial statement. We received 99% of our budgeted income and our total expenses came in at 99% of budget. This resulted in a modest gain of \$4,401.88 for the past fiscal year. We would like to thank all those that have supported the school through the financial drives. Although our drives fell \$2,796 short of our \$310,000 goal, our lower expenses made up the difference. The financial drive along with church collections makes up almost 30% of our overall budgeted income each year, so please continue to give as you are able.

We are thankful to our Heavenly Father, who supplies our needs and provides the means to operate this school. Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School is a great blessing from God, where we can be confident each and every day that teachers who are united with us in doctrine and life will assist us in rearing the precious seed of the covenant. "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever."

**HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
INCOME STATEMENT
JULY 2019- JUNE 2020**

	YEAR TO DATE (Quickbooks)	PERCENT TO BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME			
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	41,662.93	0.95	44,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	307,203.98	0.99	310,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	30,000.00	1.00	30,000.00
GYM RENTAL	6,059.00	1.01	6,000.00
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	5,895.18	0.77	7,628.00
TUITION	751,726.25	0.99	758,779.00
BUS FEES	18,657.15	1.11	16,800.00
MISCELLANEOUS			-
TOTAL INCOME:	1,161,204.49	0.99	1,173,207.00

GENERAL EXPENSES

ACCOUNTING FEES	4,963.96	0.99	5,000.00
BAND EXPENSE	3,000.00	1.00	3,000.00
CLASS TRIP FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS	26,000.00	1.00	26,000.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	30,000.00	1.00	30,000.00
ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES	-		-
FEDERATION DUES	3,560.35	1.37	2,600.00
INSURANCE, GENERAL	10,658.69	1.11	9,600.00
INSURANCE, GROUP	103,494.48	1.03	100,908.00
INSURANCE, WORKERS COMP	1,965.41	0.94	2,100.00
INSURANCE, HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT	3,999.96	1.00	4,000.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	4,272.68	0.95	4,500.00
LIBRARY FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	1,378.38	0.69	2,000.00
LONG RANGE BUILDING FUND	63,999.96	1.00	64,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	292.63	0.29	1,000.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	8,250.26	1.00	8,280.00
PAYROLL, BUILDING MAINTENANCE	770.00	0.45	1,700.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	5,599.82	1.00	5,620.00
PAYROLL, DISCOVERY	49,173.44	1.06	46,375.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	30,000.00	1.00	30,000.00
PAYROLL, LAWN MAINTENANCE	3,579.32	1.02	3,500.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	4,952.93	1.20	4,125.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	30,479.47	1.03	29,600.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	1,200.00	1.20	1,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	553,512.68	0.99	556,750.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	5,772.69	0.92	6,300.00
PAYROLL, TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	750.00	0.25	3,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	50,005.15	0.94	53,255.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	20,587.72	1.17	17,635.00
PHYS ED UNIFORMS	1,184.50	1.48	800.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	4,397.79	0.49	9,000.00
SNOW REMOVAL	1,676.53	0.56	3,000.00
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	17,400.00	1.00	17,400.00
TEACHER CLASSROOM FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	10,000.00	1.00	10,000.00
UTILITIES, ELECTRIC	18,351.94	0.97	19,000.00
UTILITIES, GAS	8,927.12	0.81	11,000.00
UTILITIES, TELEPHONE	2,704.50	0.75	3,600.00
UTILITIES, TRASH	1,545.15	0.91	1,700.00
UTILITIES, WATER & SEWER	1,135.98	0.87	1,300.00
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:	1,095,043.49	0.99	1,104,148.00

BUS EXPENSES

BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	17,000.04	1.00	17,000.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	807.00	0.81	1,000.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	26,650.20	1.20	22,250.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	1,483.58	0.94	1,580.00
BUS DRIVER WORKER'S COMP	1,123.09	0.94	1,200.00
BUS INSURANCE	2,588.00	0.75	3,450.00
BUS REPAIR	3,563.78	0.51	7,000.00
GAS AND OIL	7,293.43	0.66	11,000.00
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR	1,250.00	1.00	1,250.00
TOTAL BUS EXPENSES:	61,759.12	0.94	65,730.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	1,156,802.61	0.99	1,169,878.00
GAIN OR (LOSS):	4,401.88		

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Scott Moelker, Chairman

Trevor Kalsbeek, Brad Schwarz

The Transportation Committee is happy to report that our buses are ready to go. The Michigan State Police inspections have taken place and after a few minor repairs the buses have been approved for use. They also received a thorough wash and wax.

The Jenison and Coopersville routes are similar in length to last year. There could still be some changes before school starts, but they would not be significant.

Tom Oosterhouse is the primary driver on the Coopersville route. Jennifer Kalsbeek is the primary driver on the Jenison route. Dan Kuiper, James Haveman and Dan Kalsbeek will be helping out when needed. Dan Kalsbeek continues to do a good job as our Transportation Supervisor.

The Michigan Return to School Roadmap has a few safety requirements for busing this year. To summarize they are:

1. Students must use hand sanitizer before entering the bus. We will have a foaming dispenser for use at the entrance.
2. The bus driver, staff, and all students in grades preK-12, if medically feasible, must wear facial coverings while on the bus.
3. The buses must be cleaned and disinfected before and after every route.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind our parents to review the bus policies printed in the back of the School directory. These are in place primarily for the safety of our children and drivers as well as the orderly operation of the routes each day. The ride on the bus can be difficult for a young student or one who rides the duration of the route. Our hope is that the time our children spend on board our buses is a good reflection of our godly parenting.

With these things in mind, we ask that you remember our bus riders and drivers in your prayers. May God grant us a safe and blessed school year.

2020-21 Hope PRCS Bus Routes

Jenison

Driver: Jen Kalsbeek (616-350-5376 cell)

7:02	J. Molenkamp	7420 Harmon Ln.
7:03	M. DeKraker	Corner of Greentree Dr. & Pine St.
7:06	M. DeBoer	7028 Rolling Hills Dr.
7:09	M. Rutgers (PM Only)	3411 Sagecrest Dr.
7:12	M. Potjer	6955 Longtail Dr.
7:30	J. Kregel	4613 Caspian Dr.
7:38	B. Kregel	6886 Kenowa Ave.
8:00	Covenant	

Coopersville

Driver: Tom Oosterhouse (616-238-9026 cell)

7:05 N. DeVries/D. Rutgers 11830 24th Ave.

7:12 K. Koole 4997 Leonard St.

7:14 J. Langerak 5150 Candlewood Ct.

7:22 T. Kleyn 4263 Garfield

7:29 T. VanDenTop 4234 E. Cleveland

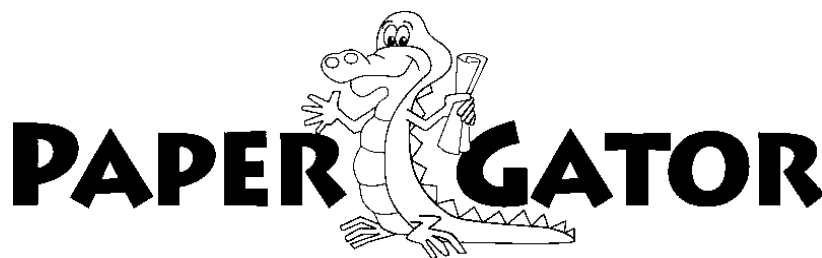
8:00 Hope

If you have any questions regarding the schedules, please contact the Transportation Supervisor, Dan Kalsbeek at 616-791-4425 (home) or 616-890-1029 (cell).

School Cancellations

When school cancellations due to weather or other emergencies are necessary, all families will be informed via a mass email. Bus calls will be made only when special circumstances demand it, but not for general school cancellations.

Cancellations can also be viewed on woodtv.com or wzm13.com. You can also sign up for email and/or text alerts for closings. Go to woodtv.com and click on "more" to customize these alerts.



The Gator is hungry!

Feed it your newspapers, phone books, old books, magazines, & catalogues.

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

Thank you for your support!



STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS



A YEAR OF CHANGE

Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

2020 has been a year of change, to say the least. What started out as a normal second semester was flipped completely upside down with the closing of schools and in-person learning. When we sent the students home that Friday in March, we thought that it was going to be a closure extending until Spring Break. Little did we know that the students would never return to their classroom to finish out their academic year. What followed was a quick learning curve about how to make videos and post them online for the students to get some personalized instruction. Then came the creation of packets to send home to the students each week, which was soon replaced by the grading of such packets. I felt that I was no longer teaching, but just wading through piles of papers, without the joy of seeing the students grasp the concepts that I was trying to teach them.

As soon as school was concluded for the year, instead of relaxing after a crazy semester, we began to plan for the new incoming Kindergarten class. We needed to find a safe manner to test the new group of children so that we could assess their readiness to start a new year, even if it was two months later than planned. As of now, I am planning on teaching two classes of students, but that is still subject to change due to the Governor's approval of in-person learning based on where the state stands with cases in the next few weeks.

Not only was the manner of teaching at Hope School changed this year, but as we begin working toward another school year, our staff has changed as well. We said goodbye to a teacher who has dedicated decades of his life to Hope School and we welcome to our staff a new teacher beginning her career. We see many others who are stepping into new roles at our school also.

Throughout the uncertainty of 2020, there is one thing that has never changed – the faithfulness of our Father in heaven. We see this in Malachi 3:6a – *For I am the LORD, I change not.* Even though this time in our life may seem crazy and uncertain, we must remember that it is all ordained by God. I take this thought a step further and remind myself that this pandemic is part of His perfect design for my life. As we read in James 1:17 – *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.* We can rest assured that all of this will work out according to the plan that God has had for us before He even spoke the Creation into being. He alone holds our life in His control, and on that fact I can rest during this time of change, and have peace.

As we look towards a new school year, please pray for the teachers of Hope School as we take up our labors once again. We ask for your patience and understanding as we teachers do our best to guide the children on their educational journey. Pray also for the men who tirelessly serve on our school board as they make decisions to guide our school through all of the changes that this new year may bring. I will end my article with the opening of one of the songs that we were going to teach our Kindergarteners as part of our annual program, *Great is Thy Faithfulness.* It gives me comfort that while this world and everything that we know is ever-changing, we can rest assured that God will be our constant, a never changing presence in our life.

"Great is Thy faithfulness, " O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

OPEN COURT: A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

Mrs. Susann Grasman, 1st Grade

Among the many changes that lie ahead for the upcoming 2020 – 2021 school year, there is one that is welcome and exciting, and that is the new Open Court reading series that will be used in grades K – 3. Calling it new, however, is somewhat of a misnomer seeing as Open Court reading has served the students at Hope School well for the past 20 years. Instead of being new, it is rather an upgrade from an older edition to the latest Open Court reading edition available, and we are anxious to begin using it. With that said, I would like to give a brief introduction to Open Court and how it is used at Hope School in the elementary grades.

The Open Court reading program is supported by more than 50 years of research on teaching children to read, and its systematic and explicit instruction ensures confidence and growth in both teachers and students alike by providing a range of different options for teaching reading to all students, including those who are struggling readers. This mastery is achieved largely due to Open Court making phonics instruction (the ability to identify different sounds and to connect those sounds to the letters of the alphabet) a cornerstone of the program that they present, an element which was highly important to us teachers when choosing this program.

So what is new in this updated edition of Open Court? For one, online resources. This is something that was not available to us in our old program and will be a great addition for use with the Smartboards and document cameras that are in the classrooms. Teachers will now have access to "Show me How" videos that model teaching techniques, tech – help videos, professional development, online decodable books, stories and more. New themes are also introduced that stretch across grade levels. Students will learn about such topics as kindness and friendship as well as about subject areas such as life science and government. The literature and non-fiction selections include informational articles, songs, persuasive essays, poems and so on.

Using a Teach/Practice/Apply model of instruction, Open Court's primary focus is turning out confident readers. This is achieved by having each grade level build upon the foundation taught in the previous grade, starting in Kindergarten and continuing through 3rd. Seeing as this approach had been successful at Hope for many years, I am confident that this new Open Court reading series will continue to meet our needs in instructing our children in the important task of learning to read. It is a well-rounded program that is well equipped to provide students with the foundational skills they need to master on their reading journey and I am looking forward to putting the series into action this coming school year. Amidst the uncertainty that looks to be present in the 2020-2021 school year, this change is certainly one welcome addition!

BEST LAID PLANS

Mrs. Julie Schwarz, 2nd Grade

Plans. We all make plans. We plan our day. We plan our weeks. We plan our vacations. This might include where we want to go and how we will get there. We plan many major events such as weddings, graduations, birthday parties, and holidays. Teachers plan their subject material. Businessmen plan their strategies. Sometimes our plans are a broad outline but often they are very detailed. We plan for our future. There is always something to look forward to and something to plan for. When we make plans, we hope they work out like we expect, but we know that often things don't go according to our plan. Often we then have plan B and maybe plan C.

During this year, 2020, it has been almost impossible to make plans. It seems that everything we plan changes daily. The end of the school year was nothing like we had planned. Many people had to cancel their vacations or change them from what they had originally planned. Many of the weddings that took place this year were very different from what was expected. We have always taken for granted the way we worship at church each Sunday and now that changes weekly. The school board is trying to make plans for the new school year knowing that all their hard work might have to be changed. It is very unsettling to not be able to plan. It can cause a lot of stress and worry.

How comforting it is to remember that there is one plan that never changes. This is God's plan. God's plan from eternity to eternity. God's plan which includes everything that has happened and will happen in our lives. All the uncertainty and fear over Covid-19. All the unrest in our country. Everything that is different from what we are used to. This is all part of God's perfect plan. We do not have to worry and fear because we can say with the apostle Paul in Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

As we look towards the new school year, we pray that God will grant us the ability to trust in Him. We must trust that even though our plans may fail, everything that happens and the way it happens is God's will and is the working out of His perfect plan for us. With God's grace we sing with confidence the words of Psalter 383 verse 2-- "Ere into being I was brought, Thy eye did see, and in Thy tho't my life in all its perfect plan was ordered ere my days began."

A LESSON IN UNCERTAINTY

Miss Gayle Lotterman, 3rd Grade

I think in August, every teacher gets asked some variation of the question, *Are you ready for another school year?* When answering, I tend to keep my response pretty concise since I always have mixed feelings. If it's the beginning of August, *Not quite!* If it's the end of August, *I sure hope so!* Making light of it means I don't have to really think too hard about my answer, in the same way one answers the question, *How are you?* Sometimes brief is easiest.

But this August, questions were different. *Any idea what school is going to look like this fall? How are you preparing for the possibility of more virtual learning? Will your students have to wear masks, or just the older grades?* My answers to these questions sounded a lot the same, because the reality was that I was very unsure what school would look like, how to prepare,

and what grades would have to wear masks! Obviously, many of these decisions have now been made, but there is still a lot of uncertainty facing this school year. *Will we have to move to virtual learning at some point this year? Will we ever be able to have chapel together? How long will all of this last?* Normally, as I spend some time over the summer preparing for a new school year, I have a lot of time to think about what's coming. But it sure is hard to prepare when you don't know what's coming.

It certainly was hard to prepare on March 13 when we were told that the earliest we would return to school was April 6. Then it became hard to understand as it was made clear that in-person learning would not happen again for the remainder of the school year. *How do we finish our school year this way? How do we wrap our minds around this?* We mourned the loss of experiences for our students. But as time went on, things fell into a rhythm and we found other ways to provide our students with experiences they would remember.

That's not to say it was easy. For parents and teachers alike, I know it was not. I was frustrated, for all of the work I had put into making a day of school engaging for students - with visual and auditory elements, with hands-on learning, with just the right amount of reading in a day so students don't grow weary, yet enough that they are practicing their comprehension skills, with some teacher-guided work and some independent work - all of that went out the window. Suddenly I was thinking, *How much screen time is too much screen time? If I send home a math and a science video, will parents be frustrated that I am also requiring social studies to be online? If I read every story out loud and give students the option to listen at home, will they actually follow along in their books? If I ask them to read it themselves, will they have the vocabulary skills to do so? Am I wasting my time developing a bunch of optional activities nobody is going to do? Am I preparing these students for 4th grade?* It was a whirlwind of questions with no answers.

As more and more uncertainties developed, others resolved. There was a constant flow of doubts and fears as the year finished, and this summer was no different. Once the school year was complete, my uncertainty came from learning more about the virus itself. *Would I get sick? How can I protect my family?* When mid-July it became apparent that my dad was sick, then my brother, then my mom, fears crept in tenfold. *Will they get better? How long before I get it? Will I still be able to care for them?* Then, my own coughing and fever started, and my fears changed again. *Will this affect me like it has affected them? As symptoms worsened for all of us, How bad will this get?*

Now, my family safely on the other side of COVID-19, my uncertainties turn again to the question of August, *Am I ready for a new school year?* This year is bound to be different than any other. *How can we safely return? How can I welcome a new third grade teacher and help her prepare for something so uncertain? How will parents respond to the safety measures we have in place? What will happen when a student does get sick?* Uncertainty and worry threaten to overwhelm.

But wait. What a lot of questions I have thought out of fear. What a lot of doubts and worries I have expressed out of uncertainty. *Have I forgotten Who is in control?* My weak and imperfect faith shows how quickly I do forget, and I have learned this lesson over and over again in these past months. The uncertainties of this world have consumed my thoughts so much that I have forgotten to cast my cares upon God (1 Peter 5:7). I have forgotten not to worry about tomorrow (Matthew 6:34). I have forgotten that He has promised to be with me always (Joshua 1:9). I have forgotten that He is my help in times of trouble (Psalm 46). I have

forgotten to go to Him with my requests, knowing that I will be filled with peace (Philippians 4:6-7).

This peace that fills me does not mean I can perfectly look ahead to this school year without uncertainty. It does not mean that I will ignore safety measures and take unnecessary risks. It does not mean that I have the answers to all the questions I have asked. But, this peace gives me the opportunity to live unafraid because of a hope that is not based on staying 6 feet apart, wearing a mask, or developing a vaccine. Instead, my hope and peace rests in my trust in God, Who is my refuge and my strength.

RETURNING FOR A NEW BEGINNING

Miss Rebecca Boeve, 3rd Grade

Hello! I am Rebecca Boeve, and this year I will be teaching one of the third-grade classes. I am beyond excited to begin this school year and start my journey here at Hope. Even back when I graduated from Hope School in 2013, this was my dream job: to come back and walk these same halls as a teacher. This school means a lot to me and it's where my love for learning and teaching was fostered, so I couldn't think of a better place to begin my teaching career than right back here!

I am the second oldest child of Daniel and Carol Boeve. I have 3 siblings: Tyler, Breanna, and Jonathon. We attend Faith Protestant Reformed Church. As a family, we love to travel around the United States and visit the National Parks. This summer, we visited Smoky Mountains National Park. Wow is it beautiful there! We love to hike and explore areas off the beaten path. We also love to go camping and spend time at the beaches of Lake Michigan or at my grandparents' house on Cedar Lake. In my spare time, I like to read, bake, play piano, garden, exercise, go for walks, and catch up with friends.

After graduating from Covenant Christian High School in 2017, I started attending Calvin (College) University in pursuit of an Elementary Education degree. There was never a doubt in my mind that I wanted to be a teacher, even from a young age. I spent many summer breaks during grade school playing school with any neighbors or siblings I could wrangle for an hour or two. And if no one wanted to sit nicely and play school with me, I had no trouble finding cooperative stuffed animals instead. I have always loved going to school and learning. The prospect of teaching always excited me, and now the reality is here, and I couldn't be happier.

If you do the math and count back the years, some of you may have been confused when you realized that I have only been out of high school for 3 years. Yes, that is correct, and I am going into my senior year at Calvin right now. So how am I going to be teaching this year? Well, it really is a long story and confusing process, so I'll try to simplify it for you. This fall, I will be teaching part time at Hope, while taking 12 credits at Calvin. A lot of planning went into making this arrangement possible, and I am very grateful to all those who worked through it with me, especially Mr. Koole. Mrs. Miki Kooiker, who taught 6th grade here a few years ago, will be subbing for me on the half days when I am gone at Calvin for class. A special thank you is warranted for Miki, who has been so willing to work with me and give her time to teach. Once fall semester is finished, I will be able to teach full time and have that be counted as my student teaching throughout the spring semester. Miss Gayle Lotterman, the other third grade

teacher, will be my mentor, especially during my semester of student teaching, but also now as she has helped me in many ways already this summer. I look forward to working with her throughout the entire year. Next May, Lord willing, I will graduate from Calvin with my degree in Elementary Education and minors in Mathematics and Special Education Studies.

So here I am, back at Hope, ready to work on the other end of the classroom. I know I will continue learning new things every day, whether here or at Calvin. I am very excited to teach this year and embrace the busyness. As I begin this new journey amidst the end of my college career, I ask for your prayers and support as I work to the best of my abilities to teach your covenant children in this Christian school.

SEEN IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT

Mr. Dan Hanko, 4th Grade

That paint looks blue. Over here in this corner it appears gray. I see a purple hue to that wall when I stand here. Looking at a painted wall in different light can be rather amazing. I came across this quite often this summer during my busy painting schedule. The homeowner struggled with picking out a color for the room. The paint samples on the wall reflected different colors to the eyes in different parts of the same room, depending on amount of direct sunlight, reflected light, or shadow on the wall. It made a difference if the paint was brushed near the ceiling, beside the oak trim, or near the painted baseboard. Sometimes the paint brought out the color of the carpet or drew my attention to the woodwork.

As I thought about this remarkable change in appearance, it reminded me that we often look at the same event or issue in a different light. Here we use the term figuratively. We say “someone shed more light on the subject.” Our view changes as more information is gathered or someone else offers his thoughts and wise advice. One may look at the issue from a different angle and see it quite differently.

It is very helpful to me to understand a problem with a student’s behavior in the classroom after looking at it from different angles. Were there circumstances which led up to this event? Were there other influences that I did not realize? Talking with the student alone or speaking to another classmate sitting nearby may shed some light on the disruption. How I first perceive to see the problem and root cause might very well look differently once the shadow of a family concern or a recent difficulty with a student on the playground is brought to light. This information will help me to deal with the behavior problem. As a teacher I have to remember to make sure that the information is relevant. Some information given to me may not relate to this problem or situation. Once some details are gathered I now must deal with the sin. It cannot be excused, but I must deal with it in the proper light.

As a Christian school teacher, I must certainly look at all things in light of the Word. The Scriptures are a textbook for me to faithfully study in order to deal with discipline issues and prepare to teach all of my subjects. I must have the glory of God as the goal of my teaching. This cannot be done without the Scriptures. How could anyone view the expanse of the Grand Canyon or the jagged peaks in Glacier National Park or the sand on the shores of Lake Michigan in the proper light without the Scriptures! If I did I would fail to see God’s glory, His Almighty power, His steadfastness, and His covenant faithfulness to many generations. “Scripture is God-breathed, inerrant in everything it contains, clear, sufficient, trustworthy, and

authoritative. It is the Word of God, graciously given to us to be 'a lamp' unto our feet, and 'a light' unto our path (Ps.119:105). It is a lamp also to our educational feet and a light on our path in the schools." (Prof. Engelsma's *Reformed Education* pg.22) I see things differently than an unbeliever. I have been given the eyes of faith to understand all things in light of the Word. I pray for God's grace to open my eyes to view the things I teach in the proper light. To God be the glory!

A RETURN TO BASICS

Mr. Brian Dykstra, 5th Grade

Students and teachers have not been together in the classroom since the middle of March. I'm sure there are some basic skills which will need to be relearned. For example, we had "internet" church for a few weeks to begin the lockdown. The first time it was my family's turn to attend the morning service in Faith PRC's sanctuary, I nearly jumped out of my skin when the alarm went off.

How will the students do upon their return to class? They might have become accustomed to doing their school work on their own terms. They won't be able to take a break whenever they please or reach into the cookie jar for a snack. They will have to adjust to the discipline of doing work together as a class.

This is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the basic goals of our schools. What do we want from Protestant Reformed education? We strive for the "perfect man" of Ephesians 4:13. This goal cannot be achieved on this side of the grave, but we work toward this goal now as pilgrims who are passing through this world.

We desire to see the love of God in our children's hearts which they display in keeping the summary of God's law. We cannot put the love of God in their hearts, that is the Spirit's work, but we seek to promote and encourage this love as best as we are able. Our attitude may not be, "Well, if my children are saved, they are saved. If they are reprobate, they are reprobate. There is nothing I can do about God's eternal decree." No, God calls us to rear the children He gives in the fear and admonition of His great name. God uses means.

We also seek to teach obedience to our children. This is becoming difficult in our age. We witness disobedience to the extent of riots in cities and attacks upon the police. Much of this civil disobedience is tolerated, if not encouraged, by some political leaders. Our children see some of this. God requires us to obey and to honor those in authority over us.

Gaining knowledge is another goal. The knowledge we want for our children is for them to know God. Who knows what the job market will be or what skills will be valued in the years to come when our children begin looking for work. Jobs today do not look anything like the work which was done fifty years ago. Technology and the workplace change rapidly. Also, we do not know when physical persecution will come and Christians will not be permitted to participate in the marketplace no matter what their qualifications may be. No matter what work is available, our children will need a knowledge of God so they do their work as His servants and give a witness about Christ.

Our children need to be taught reverence for God and His works. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge," says Proverbs 1:7. How can one have a proper understanding

of science and history without knowing God is the Creator of all things and that He directs all events, great and small, by His own eternal counsel?

These are the goals of our Protestant Reformed schools. However, PR education is not cheap. The months of distance-learning might have made home-schooling an appealing option. Keep in mind, though, that we are part of a community of Reformed believers. Arminians do not stress this. "Accepting Christ" and heeding the "altar call" are very individualistic activities. Schools founded on Arminian principles do not have a rich history. Calvinism stresses the community of the Body of Christ. Our Communion form speaks of one bread being baked from many grains and one wine flowing from many pressed grapes. When we confess the communion of saints, we commit ourselves to serving and helping each other. We are to use our gifts for the benefit of fellow believers. Some of us possess the abilities needed to home school, but not all of us. As a result, we join together as a school society so that ALL of the children of our congregations where our schools are available can enjoy the blessings of covenantal instruction. We do not have the attitude, "I can take care of my own, so you must do the same for yours."

Finally, being part of a community and school society means that we do not always have what we want in the decisions which are made. We have different ideas about what makes the ideal school. School boards have difficult decisions to make. How can we best return to school when, at the time I write this, we do not know what restrictions our Governor will impose on us? On what sources of information are our Boards to made decisions? The media hates President Trump and seem bent on taking him down. Can the media be trusted to report helpful guidelines or give an accurate report about COVID-19? Group of Doctors A disagrees, sometimes very strongly, with Group of Doctors B. Whose research are we to follow? It's frustrating and bewildering. Board members need our support and encouragement as they try to meet the needs of many families with different opinions on what is best. The Board's task is not easy. Pray for the men on the Board and all of our administrators. They will do the best they can.

I hope to see the students soon, yes, even if that means I have to wear a mask.

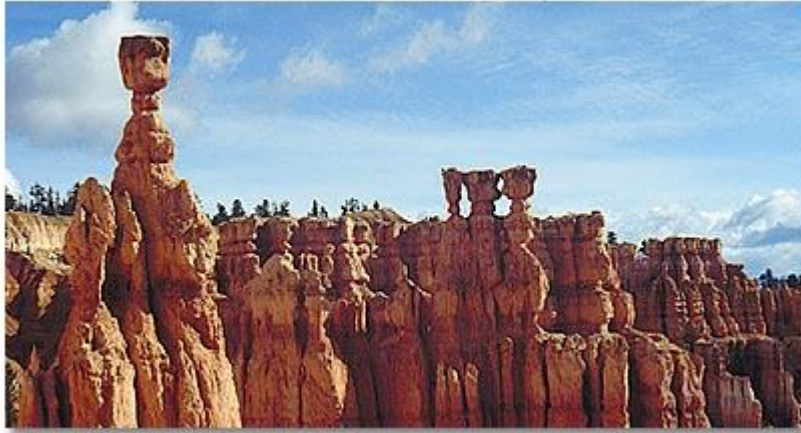
THE GLORY OF GOD

Mr. Jason Boone, 6th Grade

This past summer, I had the opportunity to go out west and see many different national parks. During my time on this trip, I was simply amazed at the beauty of God's creation. My companions teased me as I was the one who was always interested in the maps and the pamphlets that were handed out at the gates of these national parks. They make great souvenirs to show in the classroom but in each of these pamphlets they missed a key detail: the glory of God. This detail is so crucial and why I am excited to get back to teaching this fall. Our Christian education points out the most important detail in every subject: the glory of God.

I would like to take a few moments to look at the information at the parks that I visited:

- 1) Bryce Canyon National Park – if you don't know what a hoodoo is, don't feel ashamed, I also didn't know until I saw one and asked someone at the park. This is what a hoodoo looks like: The national park services website explains in 3 steps how Bryce National Park got all of



these hoodoos. Each of these 3 steps involves millions of years of naturally occurring events. Now every student can point out that millions of years is evolution, which is good, but could we explain why God formed them? The answer is quite simple actually: for His own glory. Each crack and crevice points to His glory as He fashioned these hoodoos and continues

to do so!

2) Zion National Park – little children, does the name “Zion” sound familiar to you? It should! It refers to heavenly kingdom of God! If you ever go to Zion National Park, one of the first things you will notice is that many of the titles are biblical such as: the Patriarchs (referring to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), Angel’s Landing, the Watchman, and the Great White Throne. The Patriarchs are indeed very impressive, here is a photo. Pictures truly don’t do the size of these mountains



justice. But what are these mountains named after? They are named after three men. Yes, these men are very important to our biblical history but they were ultimately just sinful men. These mountains were created by God and for God’s glory, not men’s.

3) Grand Canyon – When one first sees the Grand Canyon, you may think you have never seen something so big, so deep, or so wide. It truly is “Grand”. The different viewpoints around the canyon are indeed stunning with so many layers of rock sediment clearly visible. Of all the national parks I visited, the evolution theory was the most severe here. They claim that the Grand Canyon was created by the Colorado River slowly but surely carving its way deeper and



deeper into the earth’s crust. When I saw how truly magnificent the Grand Canyon is, I knew that a tiny little river could not have been responsible for such grandeur. This canyon could have only been made through the Flood and for one purpose: the glory of God.

I am excited to share many more stories and pictures with the students throughout this upcoming year and hope to instill in them an awe for the glory of our wonderful God.

CHANGES, YET UNCHANGEABLE

Mrs. Jill Reitsma, 7th Grade

Sometimes, just the word *change* may make one shudder or shake his head. We all experience change in our lives. Some of them we welcome with open arms, others we try to run as far away from as possible.

I keep thinking about all the changes taking place in my life and the world we live in. Foremost, I take a new position at Hope School this coming year. I am leaving Discovery and assuming the classroom teacher position for 7th grade. Most days the excitement is bubbling over. Some days as I am preparing lesson plans, I ask myself, "Am I ready for this change, Lord?" I look forward to working with the junior high students and learning about them as individuals. I am thankful that the Lord has put them in my path and care for this coming school year. I ask for your prayers, not only for myself, but for all of our school teachers returning this fall. Then, there are all the changes in our daily life with the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans have to be developed for churches, schools, businesses, and social activities. These plans can change at any time as well. I pray that the Lord will give us the patience and Godly attitude to deal with any change that may arise. Lastly, our relationships with family, friends, and our neighbor changes. The way we interact, respect, and socialize with one another.

Whatever the day may bring, changes will come and we need to have a Godly mindset in order to handle them. This brings me to the unchangeable. In Malachi 3:6 God says, "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore, ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." In Hebrews 13:8 God also says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." And then we can understand in Hebrews 6: 17 & 18 how God has given us both His promise and His oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can take new courage, for we hold on to His promise with confidence. Nothing can be more comforting than to know there is a God who never changes, slumbers nor sleeps and to have a secure relationship with Him. His love is a banner over us!

So let the changes come. God's ways are perfect! I will not walk in fear, but in faith. I will trust God with all the changes and be confident that He is always with me!

EMPTY-HAND ANXIETY SYNDROME?

Mr. Nate DeVries, 8th Grade

What do dopamine, compulsion loops, Google, Facebook, an iPhone, and WoW all have in common? If you can thoroughly answer this question, you probably don't need to keep reading. If you can't, continue. You may have already started to guess. Maybe you thought *they all make my life better!; why am I reading this when I could be using them?; thanks for reminding me, I'll finish this later; I don't know about some of them but I don't like the others, or keep them as far away from me as possible.* Or, perhaps you were correct when you guessed that they are all designed carefully and specifically to addict you. And sadly, most of us are

addicted. In reading on the addictive design and effects of technology, I researched a number of technology addiction tests. Following are some of the questions found in technology addiction tests.¹²

1. Do you stay online or play video games longer or much later at night than you expected?
2. Do you often check messages or emails before doing something else you should be doing, even during family meals?
3. Do you frequently get annoyed or irritated if someone bothers you when you are trying to do something online or on your phone?
4. Do you prefer to spend time with people on-line or through social media rather than being with them face to face?
5. Do you argue with or feel criticized by friends, spouses, or family when they ask about the amount of time you spend online or on your phone?
6. Do you prefer engaging in on-screen activities instead of going out and doing something else?
7. Do you hide or become defensive about what you do online or how long you spend online?
8. Do you find you would rather spend time online or on the phone than doing things around the house?
9. Do you feel that the quality of your work or school work has suffered due to the amount of time spent online or playing video games?
10. Have friends and family complained about the amount of time you spend in front of a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or gaming system?
11. Do you become angry or defensive when social media, smartphone use, or video game use is described as addictive?
12. Do you become angry or defensive when someone questions your use of your smartphone or video games?
13. While doing your daily work, do you find yourself frequently pausing to “check” your phone?
14. Do you check social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.), texts, or emails first before getting down to work or school work?
15. Are you anxious when separated from your smartphone, tablet, or laptop for any extended period of time?
16. Is it an escape from real life when I am playing video games or online?
17. Would my life be a lot less interesting and happy without access to the Internet?
18. When at work, home, or school and my smartphone is off or out of reach, do I spend a lot of time thinking about what I’m missing out on?
19. When I’m not checking my smartphone, do I fear missing out on what’s going on, making me unhappy?
20. Do you feel an urge to keep your smartphone in your pocket at all times, even during or at church services?

Obviously, this is a sampling of the possible questions that could be asked, and each person can decide for themselves at what level of addiction they are. What cannot be debated is that

¹ <https://www.nightingalehospital.co.uk/test/technology-addiction-test/>

² <https://psychcentral.com/quizzes/internet-addiction-quiz/>

the technology is addictive and is specifically designed to be addictive. There is no room for debate; this is fact. Two interesting examples demonstrate that the world in general understands this to be fact and freely admits it. China's government, which routinely demonstrates that they have no regard for life or the care of their citizens, has passed a law which limits how much time and money can be spent on video games by minors and how many video games may be made accessible to the people. Penalties for violating these laws are very harsh. The second example is Steve Jobs, the inventor of the iPad. Although this device earned him billions of dollars, his own children were not allowed to have them. When he was asked if his children liked the new device, Jobs replied: "They haven't used it. We limit how much technology our kids use at home." Instead of an iPad, his children were given books to read! One final thought as related to the technology addiction that has taken over our country: could the current revolution and socialist/Marxist movement in America have begun and flourished without today's mind-altering, highly addictive technology? I say impossible! Satan is using technology to blind people, to lead them into increasing foolishness and darkness, to influence young minds, to create ideologues who have no knowledge of God or even U.S. history. If you doubt what this article says or are interested in reading (yes reading!) more about tech's addictive power, I encourage you to read the book *Irresistible* by Adam Alter, a book (or another on the same topic) I believe every Christian should read. I cannot recommend this book highly enough. It is an easy read while at the same time very interesting. It is also shocking; it shows just how addictive technology is today, how many people are addicted, and how much of technology is designed to be just that: addictive.

ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE

Mrs. Deb Kuiper, Discovery

Since being diagnosed with cancer a few weeks ago, I have had many conversations with doctors, nurses, hospital personnel and insurance providers. After discussing my physical health, they all invariably ask, "How are you doing emotionally? Do you have someone to go through this with you?" Each time I assure them that I do. I have a wonderful family, extended family, church family and school family.

After a recent phone conversation in which I was asked this question, I thought, "I bet I have a thousand people that I could call to help me." A thousand people! How wonderful is that? God in His love has not only sent me this illness, but has given me a host of people to share my burden. How many people who go in and out of Butterworth Hospital can say that they could unashamedly call on one thousand people to help them? What a blessing I have been given in the communion of the saints!

Thanks to all who have reached out to me with cards, emails, and texts, with flowers and food, with help with yard and house work, with tears and especially with prayers. One card I received said, "You are in my thoughts and prayers constantly day and night." Those nights when I was unable to sleep, someone was praying for me. One card said, "May all the songs you know so well bring comfort and strength day and night." How very true! The words we have sung in elementary music and choir and in our devotions have come to me just when I needed them most. Another card said, "We pray that you will also know and feel the love and support of your church family and your school family." I do! Thanks to all who have helped even when

I told you I didn't need help. All the cards bring to mind God's faithfulness by including words of scripture.

I try not to run ahead of myself and especially of God as I look at the future. Like Peter, it is easy to look down at the water rather than up to Christ, but when I do look up to Him, I know that no matter what He has planned for my future, He will care for me and for my family and He will do it by using His saints. Thanks be to Him!

GOD'S PERFECT PLAN

Mrs. Stephanie Daling, Discovery

God's timing and plan is perfect.

I started last school year knowing I would not be teaching 2nd grade the following fall. I had a vision in mind of the activities I'd do, the lessons I'd teach, the party we'd have on the last day of school, and so much more. However, my plan was not God's plan. March 13 was the last time I'd step foot in my classroom with my rambunctious, kind, and loving 2nd graders. I was a mixture of emotions, as I'm sure most of you were. I was upset that I did not get to end the year the way I had anticipated. I was sad because it felt like my final year was ripped away from me. My heart ached because I missed my colleagues and the kids, and I wanted so badly to spend the last three months with them in that room instead of online. BUT, God's timing is perfect, His plan is divine.

Our timing isn't God's timing. The plans we make each and every day are not always what God's plans are for us. And so here I am writing an article in the *Hope Highlights*, before another school year, but this time in a new role. As some of you know, I will be taking over Jill Reitsma's duties in the resource room as she teaches 7th grade this year. I will also be teaching 6th grade math, 8th grade math, and 3rd grade language. In August 2019 I had no idea this is what God's plans would be for me. I expected to be home or helping in smaller ways at school. BUT, God's timing and plan is perfect.

Psalm 31:15a states, "My times are in thy hand..." David was confessing that God sovereignly controls all the events of our lives. Whether that be who we marry, when we start a family, or what career we have, God's perfect timing helps us grow in our faith, because we are taught to wait and trust in God. This helps make certain that He ALONE gets the glory and praise. In God's timing, He will provide for us. He will show us the path we are to walk down in this world at the PERFECT time, His time.

We must then remember that God's ways are not our ways. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9. Knowing that God's ways are not our ways means that we have to put all of our faith and trust in His ways. When we do this, then we will never be disappointed. Instead, we will have strong confidence to face whatever is before us.

I may sit here and think, this is not what I had planned. I was not ready to be placed in this situation. Yet, no matter how impossible it may seem or how different it is from our plans, God will see us through because His plans are perfect. "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait I say, on the LORD." Psalm 27:14. Waiting is very difficult for us, "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.

And so, as we began another school year, in a situation different than most years, we must pray for this strength. The strength to do what is right in God's eyes. To push through those uncertain times reminding ourselves and our children/students that's God's plan and timing are exactly what we need as His children – they are perfect.

SCHOOL OFFICE NEWS

NEWS FOR YOU. . .

1. **Parents of Kindergarten students, 7th grade students and new students:** Immunizations are required for all students entering 7th grade, kindergarten, and any transfer students. If your child's shots are not up to date, please have them completed by Monday, August 31.
2. The "School Supply Store" has many school supplies for sale including notebooks, pencils, and calculators at low prices throughout the year. The "store" (located in the office) is open before school begins in the morning and during first recess.
3. If you would like to receive the *Monday Memo* via email, please send your request to hopeschool@hopeprcschool.org or call 453-9717. If you received the memo last year, you are already on the list and do not have to email or call.
4. Please try to avoid making appointments on this date:
SCHOOL PICTURES! - Wednesday, September 16

2020-21 School Calendar

• August 31	• First Day of School
• September 4-7	• Labor Day Break
• September 16	• School Pictures
• October 8	• PTA
• October 15-16	• Parent/Teacher Conferences
• October 22-23	• No School
• November 20	• All-School Program
• November 26-27	• Thanksgiving Break
• Dec. 24-Jan. 1	• Christmas Break
• February 11	• PTA
• February 18-19	• Parent/Teacher Conferences
• April 5-9	• Spring Vacation
• May 31	• Memorial Day – No School
• TBD	• Last Day of School/Graduation

ATTENTION:
*All band students,
please bring your
instruments to school on
the first day.*

*The Hope Classic Races
which were re-scheduled for
August 29 have been cancelled.
Keep running, we'll
see you at Hope Classic 2021!*

KINDERGARTEN CLASS LISTS

M/W/F

Charlotte Bleyenber
Emily Cleveland
Katelyn DeJong
Benjamin DeVries
Alexa Feenstra
Bella Feenstra
Miriam Koole
Brooklyn Kregel
Clara Kregel
Ava Meulenberg
Casen Meulenberg
Judah Miersma
Henry Rutgers
Natalie VanderVeen
Nora VanOostenbrugge

T/Th/F

Lily Heyboer
Benjamin Huizinga
Cole Huizinga
Charlie Kooienga
Lyndi Mahtani
Judah Overway
Aaliyah Peterson
Bartholomew Price
Clara Rutgers
Paige Schipper
Hannah Vandenberg
Hoyt VanOverloop
Myla Veldman

THIRD GRADE CLASS LISTS

Miss Lotterman – 3A

Levi Bleyenber
Zachary Bylsma
Emko Doezema
Jamon Hanko
Quinton Huizinga
Wyatt Jordan
Harper Kalsbeek
Libby Kleyn
Triston Koole
Gideon Kuiper
Reuben Kuiper
Sophia Langerak
Walter Langerak
Ezra Mahtani
Anthony Quenga
Alexa Schipper
Seth VanOostenbrugge
Hazel VanUffelen

Miss Boeve – 3B

Emmitt Cleveland
Elizabeth DeBoer
Caleb DeJong
Cole Doezema
Brianna Feenstra
Cole Feenstra
Luke Kleyn
Sam Kleyn
Gabrielle Langerak
Reuben Langerak
Charlotte Meulenberg
Sadie Meulenberg
Nolan Moelker
Alex Oosterhouse
Cora Overway
Trevor Rutgers

SUPPLY LISTS

Kindergarten

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

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



5th Grade

KJV Bible
Crayons
Pencil sharpener
3-ring binder
Glue stick or rubber cement
Binder dividers with 5 tabs

Pencils/Eraser
Scissors
Notebook paper
Gym Shoes

1st Grade

KJV Bible (2nd semester)
Pencil box
12 pencils
1 large eraser
Washable markers
16-24 crayons

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

6th Grade

KJV Bible
Psalter
Notebook paper
Gym shoes (labeled)
Eraser
Pens
Highlighter
1 - 1 subject notebook
1 - 3 subject notebook
Pencil Sharpener
Glue or rubber cement

3 ring binder w/ 6 folders
Assignment Book
Pencils
Scissors (good)
Colored pencils
Ruler
Black felt tip pen
Dry erase marker
Basic calculator
Protractor (3.75 inch)



2nd Grade

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

Gym shoes (labeled)
Paint shirt (labeled with name)
2 solid glue sticks
Scissors
Old sock for whiteboards
(2) 2-pocket folders

3rd Grade

KJV Bible
Glue stick
Colored pencils
Washable Markers
Crayons (16-24)
Pencil box
(3) 2-pocket folders
2 red pens
1 spiral notebook
3 (100 ct) packages sticky notes
Old sock for whiteboards

12 pencils
2 large erasers
Scissors
Gym shoes
Wide-ruled paper
Paint Shirt (labeled)



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)

4th Grade

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

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



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