



HIGHLIGHTS

August 2023

Back-to-School



THE WHOLE DUTY

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

Ecclesiastes 12:12, "And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." Throughout the book of Ecclesiastes, the preacher warns God's people (especially the youth) to keep from the ways of sin and folly. He demonstrates the transitory character of life and the folly of setting our heart and hope on the things of this world. Of themselves they are all vanity. Instead the word of God should shine in the believers' minds and hearts so that each believer comes to spiritual understanding of the stages of life and their meaning.

As a new school year approaches with all its required reading and study demanded of the students, it is not surprising that "Jonny", who doesn't particularly like school, might read Ecclesiastes 12:12 and say, "See mom and dad, even Solomon says that making and reading all those books that teachers require us to read, only cause us to be weary and tired." But "Jonny" does not correctly understand the meaning of that text. He must remember His Creator in the days of his youth. The text is not meant to disparage books and study in themselves, but to contrast the truth taught in the inspired word of God with the writings of men in as much as they depart from truth and teach the vain philosophy of men.

In the light of the word of God, the children are to be shown the wondrous works of God. Then instead of becoming weary, the child of God will "delight to search and trace His mighty works and wondrous ways;" (Psalter 302 vs 2). This is the teacher's calling. Bring to light the works of God and constantly hold before the children's mind their Creator so that they always consider Him in whose creation they walk in the joy of their youth. They will not only behold the beauty of God as revealed in creation, but also see His judgments as they behold the creation as it is subjected to vanity because of sin.

What is the conclusion to the whole matter? Let the children be taught this above all, "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecclesiastes 12:13) This puts learning in perspective. The students come to a greater knowledge of the marvelous works of God and of God Himself. The Spirit applies this learning to the hearts of the children and the children fear God and desire to please Him by obeying His commandments.

May the instruction given in the good Christian school this year so clearly exalt the Creator, that the students make it their delight to study and learn.

Pick Ups and Drop Offs

SLOW! SLOW! SLOW! Drivers please exercise extreme caution when picking up or dropping off students. Use either the SE parking lot (NOT the front of school area) or the church lot (SW). Please enter through the Hope Church lot and exit out to Riverbend so that all traffic flows the same way. Also leave a lane open on the north side of the parking lots for area walkers and bikers to arrive and depart safely. (Cones will be placed out periodically to help.) Parents, make sure your CCHS drivers know the rules as well. Thanks for your cooperation!

ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Brad Schipper, Chairman
 Scott Kooienga, Kevin Koole, Josh Meulenberg

Each summer the Enrollment Committee has the delightful opportunity to interview and welcome new families. This summer we interviewed and welcomed six new families who desired to enroll their oldest child into kindergarten, and one family who requested enrollment of three children who had been attending Eastside Christian School. Each of the families have met the enrollment qualifications laid out in *Guidelines for Enrollment*. The Board has approved the requests of the following families to enroll at Hope School. We welcome Jared and Lydia Bosveld (Makenna), Kevin and Abby Huizing (Kaylie), Kevin and Alyssa Huizinga (Jace), Brad and Leanne Pipe (Deakin – 6, Remy – 4, Lucas – 1), Joe and Kaelyn Richards (Carter), Kenny and Lynnelle Terpstra (Grady), Joel and Jessica VanOostenbrugge (Naomi). Please help us make these new families feel welcome here at Hope School. To help us all get to know a little more about these families, each of them was asked to tell us just a little about their family. You will find their introductions below.

As a new school year begins, we give thanks to our heavenly Father for giving us this institution where parents can carry out their responsibility to have their covenant children taught in the light of God’s Word. We are thankful for our teachers and staff who have the blessed calling of teaching the covenant youth. We pray that the Lord continue to use Hope School for the rearing of the covenant youth for generations to come.

Hi! We are the VanOostenbrugges! Joel and Jess met at Covenant and have been married for 10 years. We are members of Grace PRC. Joel works as a salesman at Premier Auto and Truck Parts and enjoys singing in Hope Heralds, hunting, golfing and having the best looking lawn on the block. Jess stays home with the kids and enjoys gardening, cooking and baking, thrifting and filling the home with people (coffee anyone?). Naomi is very excited to join her VanOostenbrugge cousins at school this year! Naomi loves to play outside, anything to do with coloring or creating, and reading books. She loves her cousins and is up for anything if they are involved. Naomi is always eager to assist Mom around the house, especially when it comes to helping with her brothers. She is a big sister to Micah (3 years) and Jonah (1 month). This summer, we welcomed baby Jonah into our family. With 5 people and 2 dogs, our home is hardly ever quiet, but our hearts are full, and we wouldn't have it any other way! As a family, we enjoy anything with music, hanging out with friends and family, lazy days at the cottage and just generally being together. We are thankful for Christian education and are very excited to join the Hope School family!



Hello, we are Joe and Kaelyn Richards (Hanko). We met at Faith Church where we still currently attend. We got married in 2015 and have four children Carter (5.5), Erika (3.5), Breyton (2), and Ensley (2 months). Joe started his own business, Advanced Automation and Controls, in 2019 as an electrical contractor for automation companies. Carter is very excited to start kindergarten soon and is even more excited to see grandpa and his uncles at school each day! As a family we enjoy going on road trips, camping adventures, and spending time in our pool. We are so thankful to have good Christian schools to send our children to and look forward to many years at Hope School.



Hi there, we are the Huizing family! Kevin and Abby (DeVries) met at our PR Young Adults retreat in Washington back in 2014 and married in 2016. Kevin is from Edmonton, Alberta and that is where we lived for about six years before moving here to Grand Rapids last spring. We have 3 children- Kaylie (almost 6), Ezra (4), and Emmett (almost 3)- and are, Lord willing, expecting the arrival of our 4th child this December. Kaylie is extremely excited to start kindergarten this year and Ezra can't wait to follow along right after her!

Hello! We are Kevin and Alyssa Huizinga family. Kevin and I have been married 8 years and have 3 children, Jace (5), Peyton (3), and Kendall (almost 1). Jace is eagerly looking forward to beginning school here at the same school Kevin went to as well. We are thankful for the opportunity to send him here and are excited to watch him learn and grow in the coming years.



Hi, my name is Grady Terpstra and I'm 5 years old and am going into kindergarten this year! I went to Adams for preschool last year. I have a new little brother named Hudson and love him so much! As a family we love to go camping especially to Pentwater with all our family and friends! I also love to go swimming at my Grandma and Grandpa VO's pool a lot! I can't wait to go to school with all my cousins and friends!



Hi, my name is Makenna Nikole Bosveld. I attend Hope Protestant Reformed Church and I am very much looking forward to starting kindergarten at Hope School this year. My parents' names are Jared and Lydia and they also attended Hope School, about fifteen years ago. I have two younger brothers: Clint who is 3 and Boyd who is 1. After playing school at home with my brothers for months now, I am excited to finally have classmates and a teacher. This summer with my family I enjoyed days at the beach, lots of swimming at my Grandpa and Grandma's pool, riding my bike around the neighborhood, and playing at various parks. I am sad for summer to end, but I'm so excited to start school!

Hello! We are Brad and Leanne Pipe. We come from Eastside Christian School. Our son Deakin will be in the 6th grade class. He enjoys sports, traipsing in the woods, and fishing with Grandpa Pipe. Our daughter Remi will be in the fourth grade class. She enjoys being with friends, helping mom with the little ones, and baking. Our son Lucas will be in the first grade. Lucas is busy with friends and brothers. He's not sure he has time for school every day of the week. Leanne spends her time at home with 4-year-old Easton and Emmett, and 2-year-old Eva Rae. Brad is a self-employed contractor. We attend First PRC. We look forward to being a part of Hope School.



BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Langerak, Chairman
Dan Boeve, Rich DeMeester, Brad Schipper

It's the end of summer already and nearly time for a new school year to begin. Although the Building Committee has had a break from any major addition or renovation projects, we don't have to look very hard to find projects to do at Hope. The committee oversaw another hallway update project in the 3rd through 6th grade hallway which included new carpet and newly painted walls, lockers, and doors. The third grade classroom also received new desks and has a nice new paint job. This project was kicked off with a work bee early in June which included ripping out carpet, removing doors, and removing locker hardware. The work bee volunteers also assembled new desks, patched black top, shoveled pea stone, and even had time to eat a doughnut. We are very thankful for the willing help that Hope School always receives from all of you and thanks to the School Circle for their willingness to fund much of these projects.

By the time school begins, the small gym will have a nice new roof and some new exhaust fans thanks to the work of our friends at Bosveld Inc. and Rite Temp. Some of the future projects the committee is looking at include: retaining the pea stone glacier at the lower end of the playground, replacing some crumbling concrete walks, and adding air conditioning to the class rooms that don't have this luxury yet.

The committee would also like to thank all those who do all the things that most of us think just happen. Among those are our janitors; the Koole family and all who help them do such a great job of keeping the school clean and shiny, Mr. Larry Meulenberg and Mr. Mike Elzinga who fix all the stuff that needs fixing and keep up the grounds, and also Jason Koole who maintains the underground sprinkling system which helps keep the grass the right color.

We are thankful to our Heavenly Father who has given us this school for the instruction of His covenant children and we pray for grace and wisdom from Him as we labor to maintain this facility He has so graciously given to us.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rich DeMeester, Chairman
Dan Kalsbeek, Scott Kooienga, Steve Langerak

In a few short weeks, the Lord willing, our staff and students will once again fill the halls and classrooms of Hope School. As we look back at the summer break and wonder how it is over already, we also look forward to starting another school year. We pray that our teachers and students have had a pleasant and refreshing summer vacation and are ready to take up their labors in the school once again. What a blessing it is that in this sin cursed world where good is called evil and evil is called good, the truth is hated and denied, and the very ordinances of creation are scoffed at, that we are able to have a Christian school to instruct our children. For 76 years God has not only provided, but has given in abundance to us as covenant parents and children. As we begin our 77th year of covenantal instruction, we are confident that He will continue to provide for our many needs.

The Education Committee has continued to meet throughout the summer. The Technology Committee has been setting up new student accounts and replacing some of the teacher's computers. As for robotics, Brad VanderVeen has agreed to join Matt Elzinga as

coach this season. He replaces Becca Hoeksema, who is headed to Dordt this fall. Thanks to a generous donation, two new LEGO robot kits have been purchased for the teams to use. These are the latest generation of LEGO robots, replacing our existing robots that have been used for the last 9 years.

At our May school board meeting, after much work and many drafts, an abuse policy was adopted targeting child sexual abuse. On May 26, a letter was sent to parents and supporters informing you of this policy that is meant to be implemented for the 2023/24 school year. As part of this implementation, it is our intent for representatives from the Abuse Policy Committee to join the staff at their August teachers' meeting to review this policy with them. The Education Committee is also working to update various other existing handbooks to be consistent with this new policy.

Thank God that He has provided us with a school where teachers can act as extensions of our homes in the instruction of our children! May we put all our trust in Him who cares for our needs each day. As a committee and as a school board we covet your prayers as we continue in our work this school year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Josh Meulenberg, Chairman
Phil Kalsbeek, Kevin Koole

As seems to happen every year, the summer has gone fast. So, the saying goes, "Time flies when you are having fun." We hope that everyone has enjoyed family time this summer and has had time to relax. It sure is nice not to have such a scheduled routine. As much as the summer is enjoyable, it is also nice for many of us to get back to specific bedtimes and back to consistent schedules.

The Finance Committee is gearing up for yet another school year. Our fiscal year starts on July 1 so we closed out last year's numbers and began anew. This issue of the *Highlights* contains the 2022-2023 financial statement. We are pleased to report that we ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$65,534.63. The drive surpassed its goal by over \$26,000 and church collections surpassed its goal by over \$7,000. We also surpassed our tuition budget by almost \$27,000 due to the addition of 3 unexpected families last year. The bus income came in over budget due to a couple added riders from CCHS as well as CCHS using our bus for athletic events. This added income was able to negate the additional expenses incurred this year with the busing. To God be the glory for the continued financial support of Hope PRC School.

We set the deadline for enrollment for July 10 this year which is a little earlier than years past. This allows us to be better prepared for the beginning of the school year. The Finance Committee met at school on July 10 to review enrollment forms and to process payment which had been mailed in or dropped off. There were a few late arrivals so we finalized enrollment in the weeks following. We have 76 families that have enrolled this year which is up 3 families from last year.

You should have received your first tuition statement on August 2 for the 2023-2024 school year. Please contact Josh Meulenberg if you did not receive the statement, or if there was incorrect information. We ask that you make it a priority to stay current on tuition throughout the upcoming school year. Several families have chosen to participate in monthly EFT. We are glad that we can offer this as a convenient way to pay tuition.

As we look forward to another school year, we ask that you take a minute, or two, or many more to praise and thank the Lord for this wonderful gift He has given called Hope PRC School. God has preserved us and has richly blessed us in so many ways, one of which has been financially. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth they life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; who satisfies thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psalm 103:2-5

Actual to Budget. July 2022 - June 2023	Jul 22-Jun 23	Budget	% of Budget
<u>Income</u>			
Church Collections	53,111.86	46,000.00	115.5%
Gifts and Pledges	372,346.42	346,000.00	107.6%
Gym Rental	5,785.00	5,000.00	115.7%
Hope Foundation	50,000.00	50,000.00	100.0%
Miscellaneous	25.00		
School Circle Gifts	0.00		
Special Ed Society	10,888.43	12,074.00	90.2%
Tuition	764,415.46	737,570.00	103.6%
Z - Bus Fees	24,900.45	14,950.00	166.6%
Total Income	1,281,472.62	1,211,594.00	105.8%
<u>Expenses</u>			
Accounting Fees	6,400.00	6,450.00	99.2%
Band Expenses	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Building and Grounds - Y/E	43,000.00	43,000.00	100.0%
Class Trip Fund	1,500.00	1,500.00	100.0%
Educational Supplies and Books	30,000.00	30,000.00	100.0%
Federation Dues	4,179.34	4,168.00	100.3%
Insurance, General	14,303.00	14,118.00	101.3%
Insurance, Group	86,738.48	95,000.00	91.3%
Insurance, HRA - Y/E	4,000.00	4,000.00	100.0%
Insurance, Workers Comp	2,692.56	2,620.00	102.8%
Janitors Supplies	4,357.25	4,500.00	96.8%
Library Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Long Range Building Fund Trans	22,500.00	22,500.00	100.0%
Miscellaneous Expense	2,598.98	2,000.00	129.9%
Office Equipment - Y/E	1,500.00	1,500.00	100.0%
Office Supplies	1,601.10	1,000.00	160.1%
Payroll - Band / Choir	20,656.96	21,000.00	98.4%
Payroll - Building Maintenance	2,068.75	2,250.00	91.9%
Payroll - Discovery Room	75,795.65	67,600.00	112.1%
Payroll - Janitor	33,504.00	33,500.00	100.0%
Payroll - Lawn Maintenance	3,717.50	4,200.00	88.5%
Payroll - Librarian	5,408.50	5,200.00	104.0%

Payroll - Office	33,623.75	34,225.00	98.2%
Payroll - Substitute Teachers	390.00	1,000.00	39.0%
Payroll - Teachers	583,197.16	581,797.00	100.2%
Payroll - Teachers Aids	11,293.75	19,000.00	59.4%
Payroll - Technolgy Maintenance	330.00	3,000.00	11.0%
Payroll Taxes	54,505.40	59,158.00	92.1%
Phys Ed Uniforms	838.59	1,000.00	83.9%
Repairs and Maintenance	4,796.17	7,400.00	64.8%
Retirement Plan	21,689.05	18,862.00	115.0%
Snow Removal	2,235.00	3,500.00	63.9%
Teacher Classroom	1,700.00	1,700.00	100.0%
Teacher Development - Y/E	12,000.00	12,000.00	100.0%
Technology Supplies	13,400.00	14,000.00	95.7%
Utilities, Electric	17,681.17	23,000.00	76.9%
Utilities, Gas	12,610.02	11,000.00	114.6%
Utilities, Internet & Phone	4,383.21	4,000.00	109.6%
Utilities, Trash	1,929.63	2,100.00	91.9%
Utilities, Water & Sewer	1,390.65	1,300.00	107.0%
Z. Bus Expenses			
Bus Depreciation Fund Trans	8,750.04	8,750.00	100.0%
Bus Driver Cost Subsidy	390.00	1,000.00	39.0%
Bus Driver Payroll	25,077.00	22,918.00	109.4%
Bus Driver Payroll Taxes	1,566.30	1,700.00	92.1%
Bus Driver Workers Compensation	1,027.69	1,000.00	102.8%
Bus Insurance	2,164.75	2,100.00	103.1%
Bus Repair	12,919.56	7,000.00	184.6%
Gas and Oil	13,927.03	12,500.00	111.4%
Transportation Supervisor	1,600.00	1,250.00	128.0%
Total Z. Bus Expenses	67,422.37	58,218.00	115.8%
Total Expenses	1,215,937.99	1,226,366.00	99.1%

Net Ordinary Income

65,534.63

ATTENTION:

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

We will have a LEGO robotics informational meeting on Tuesday, August 29 at 7 PM.

If you would like to receive the **Monday Memo** via email, please send your request to hopeschool@hopeprcschool.org or call 616-453-9717. If you received the memo last year, you are already on the list and do not have to email or call.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Matt DeBoer, Chairman
Dan Kalsbeek, Kevin Koole

The purpose of the Transportation Committee as stated in the School Board Handbook is *“to transport our children to and from school in a safe manner at the most reasonable cost and to oversee and maintain the buses in good order”*. The new school year has already presented some unique challenges and changes to our transportation situation.

Due to the reality of the ongoing bus driver vacancy, the committee has spent many hours of the summer diligently evaluating scenarios to provide transportation to as many families as possible. The Coopersville route (including Marne/ Walker) will be driven full-time by Mrs. Jen Kalsbeek for the first time this year and will feature a few new faces. The Jenison/ Hudsonville/ Byron route will look much different this year. In the morning, we have coordinated an arrangement with Heritage Christian to pick up five Hope families, combine with their shuttle to CCHS and drop off at Hope. In the afternoon, a handful of families will ride a fairly standard route driven by Mr. Dan Kuiper and included in the route will be a shuttle from CCHS to Heritage. These unusual arrangements have unfortunately left some families without practical bus service, and so we continue to advertise for bus driver(s) for this year and hope some will consider it for years to come. In addition to being our only full-time driver, Mrs. Jen Kalsbeek continues to become more familiar with her duties as Transportation Supervisor. Thank you, Jen!

Our buses themselves are ready to begin another school year. Both received their regular maintenance and deep cleaning this summer and passed inspection by the Michigan State Police.

Please see the notes below the bus routes regarding the bus policies. 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 the godly atmosphere of our homes.

At the beginning of the new school year, we would like to remind ***all Hope families*** of the long-standing policy regarding pick up and drop off of students. This policy is to ensure a safe environment for the bus and non-bus traffic. We quote item #3 under Student Regulations from the Parent/ Student Handbook with emphasis on a few key points:

*Students transported by car should be dropped off and picked up, **preferably in the church parking lot; but if in the front, only on the south side of school.** This rule should also be followed when picking up or dropping off students for illness or appointments. At no time should a vehicle stop, or be left in the traffic lane in front of school. Designated parking places should be used whenever a car is unoccupied.*

For some of our families, getting to school may look a little different this year, but our prayer is that God will grant traveling mercies for all students, bus riders and drivers this school year.

2023-2024 HOPE PRCS BUS ROUTES

Coopersville

Bus 15 AM/PM

Driver - Jen Kalsbeek (616-350-5376)

6:50 Depart Hope School

7:00 D. Rutgers 11830 24th Ave. Marne 49435

N. DeVries 11840 24th Ave. Marne 49435

7:08 K. Koole 4997 Leonard St. Coopersville 49404

7:17 T. Kleynt 4263 Garfield St. Coopersville 49404

7:29 G. VanDenTop 16985 48th Ave. Coopersville 49404

7:32 T. VanDenTop 4234 E. Cleveland St. Coopersville 49404

7:52 S. Engelsma 1042 Kinney Ave. NW Grand Rapids 49534

8:02 CCHS

8:05 Hope

Jenison

Bus 16 PM ONLY

Driver - Dan Kuiper (616-727-0443)

Shuttle to Heritage

M. DeBoer 7028 Rolling Hills Dr. Hudsonville 49426

D. Overway 3227 Deep Rose Dr. Hudsonville 49426

M. Rutgers 3411 Sagecrest Dr. Hudsonville 49426

J. Kregel 4613 Caspian Dr. Hudsonville 49426

****BECAUSE WE HAVE A LACK OF BUS DRIVERS, HERITAGE SCHOOL WILL BE TRANSPORTING SOME OF OUR HOPE SCHOOL BUS RIDERS FOR THE MORNING ROUTE ONLY. BELOW ARE THE HERITAGE ROUTES WITH THE HOPE RIDERS IN BOLD/ HIGHLIGHTED PRINT.****

***HERITAGE BUS 13 AM ONLY**

Jenison/Hudsonville/Grandville

Driver - Terry Kooienga (616-337-4002)

6:50 Shawn Kamminga (6505 Oakland Dr) 616-318-9207

6:58 Darren Vink (4177 Lila St) 616-238-5616

7:00 Tom Pastoor (4115 44th St) 616-292-3306

7:10 George Kamps (7731 Henry Ave) 616-915-0184

7:10 Melissa Pastoor (7731 Henry Ave) 616-808-4058

7:16 Chad Richards (2315 Chippewa) 616-589-8374

7:24 Mitchell Kamps (Bend Dr/Fillmore) 616-304-0482

***7:32 Matt Rutgers (3411 Sagecrest Dr.)**

***7:34 David Overway (Deep Rose Dr/Camrose Dr)**

***7:35 Matt DeBoer (7028 Rolling Hills Dr)**

7:40 Hope families transfer to Bus 15 shuttle at Heritage

***HERITAGE BUS 15 AM ONLY**

Zeeland/Byron Center

Driver - Jessica Vander Kolk (616-688-5456)

6:50 Brent Vander Kolk (4238 Adams St) 616-688-5456

6:51 Brad Kuiper (4085 Adams St) 616-550-1104

6:52 Dan Langerak (40th Ave/Mason) 616-886-0742

6:55 Matt Dykstra (3485 146th Ave) 616-284-7805

7:01 Ross Zuverink (4473 34th Ave) 616-886-6398

7:05 Jared DeVries (4688 32nd St) 616-821-3247

7:18 Dan Drnek (St. Sebastian Catholic Church) 616-405-2172

7:18 Tim Kamps (St. Sebastian Catholic Church)

7:18 Mitchell Zuverink (St. Sebastian Catholic Church) 616-886-7132

***7:25 Brent Kregel (6886 Kenowa Ave)**

***7:25 Jason Kregel (6886 Kenowa Ave)**

7:28 Justin VanDyke (Floyd Ave/Ransom St) 616-206-9455

7:46 Heritage Shuttle to CCHS/Hope

A FEW REMINDERS:

It takes a couple of weeks for routes to settle in. Please expect changes.

Please review the bus rider policy in the school directory with special attention toward rules B through E. These rules are for the safety of the riders as well as the drivers. These rules pertain to proper bus boarding, behavior and conduct while riding the bus, and safe departure of the school bus.

*If you have any questions regarding the schedules, please contact the Transportation Supervisor, Jen Kalsbeek at 616-350-5376 or email brijenkalsbeek@gmail.com



STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS



A CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE

Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

*But as for you, ye thought evil against me; **but** God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as **it is** this day, to save much people alive. – Genesis 50:20*

Several weeks ago, my family and I were privileged to hear Professor Huizinga's sermon on how God meant the events of Joseph's life for his good. Since then, we have had several incidents that have occurred in my family that may seem to the world as negative. We may not understand why God has given us these trials, but by way of our faith, we have looked at these episodes not as something negative, but as a way that God is using them for our good. In order to do this, we had to change our perspective to focus not on the ways of this earth, but to the *Creator* of this earth instead. Each of these situations were given to us to strengthen our faith in God, to trust His plans for us, and not rely on our earthly strength and riches.

These trials are not just limited to my family. We can see the hand of God in the issues that have afflicted our denomination in the past several years also. We have been called on to look at the foundations of our faith and to hold tightly to them, even though this searching might cause us heartache during our time here on earth. While these conflicts have torn apart families and friendships, we trust that God is using them to gather His true church, just as He uses fire to purify gold.

As we look to a new school year, I ask that you have the same proper attitude, focusing on our Creator and not the trials that He has placed in our lives. God may lead your child down a path of struggle, either academically or socially, throughout the year. Perhaps you disagree with a teacher regarding a certain assignment or part of the curriculum. For my own parents, it may be listening to another decodable book, one that you have heard for many years already. God is using all these “negative” experiences to refine His people and prepare us for our eternal rest in His heavenly kingdom. Instead of having the wrong attitude toward these adverse situations, look at them from the correct perspective and use them to encourage one another as we walk through this pilgrim’s journey together. We are all working towards the same goal - rearing of our covenantal children in the fear of God’s name. We teachers cannot do this alone and we covet your support and prayers as we go through the school year, always look toward God and His glory, as this is our right and proper perspective.

A BRIEF PEEK INTO FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Susann Grasman, 1st Grade

Knowing that there are exceptions for every rule, most adults generally have only hazy and distant memories of their early years in elementary school. For most of us, those elementary years are lost in a fog of cloudy scenes and distant memories from a time long ago. So on August 28, as parents send their little ones off to first grade, natural questions may arise in many minds: “How has school changed since I was a kid?” “What should my child know before entering first grade?” “What will my first grader learn this year?”

While kindergarten is about carefully transitioning into school life, first grade is about fully stepping into the world of academia and learning. One might say it is where the rubber meets the road and this starts primarily with reading, as first grade involves increased responsibilities and huge growth in learning to read. Most students leave kindergarten and enter first grade being able to name the letters and identify the sounds, and by the end of the first grade school year students should be able to:

1. Read at grade level with fluency, accuracy and appropriate expression
2. Retell a familiar story and answer questions relating to it
3. Describe character and events from different texts
4. Distinguish between fiction and nonfiction texts

Along with reading comes the important skill of writing. Children in first grade learn to spell three and four letter words and begin to use those words to write in clear sentences with correct capital letters and ending punctuation. By the year’s end, students will construct short paragraphs with three or four sentences. They will also write a (very 😊) basic short story. Be sure to ask how their writing is progressing through the year – they love to share what they have written!

Finally, last but not least, comes math to round out the “three R’s”. In first grade, not only do children learn to add and subtract small numbers, but they are also introduced to place value and toward the year’s end begin adding and subtracting two digit numbers as well. Measurements are also part of our math learning along with basic geometry. Students compare the width and volume of objects as well as measure length using small tools, such as a paper clips and rulers. A favorite math lesson is identifying, comparing and describing basic shapes. We even turn this math activity into an art lesson! Finally, first graders learn how numbers and basic math are useful in their everyday lives by telling time to the half hour and how to name the days of the week and months of the year. It isn’t all work -they love singing the Days of the Week song – a tune that will play over in your head for the rest of the day if you aren’t careful. Trust me. I know.

As you can see, first grade is a busy year as we seek to build students who are proficient and confident in their foundational skills and to provide them with a strong base using a mastery of skills across all domains – spiritually, emotionally, cognitively and physically. Children who are created as servants of the King and who walk and learn in the fear of the Lord.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Mrs. Julie Schwarz, 2nd Grade

I hope you all are enjoying your summer as I am! I am thankful for this time to recharge and get things done that get brushed aside during the school year. I have been doing a lot of reading and spending time with my family and friends. I have also spent time “catching up” on things around the house and most exciting, I am getting some much needed work done on my house. Currently, I am getting my bathroom remodeled which has required a lot of decisions regarding paint colors, stains, flooring, and more. While this might sound like fun for some of you, I am finding it is not my “cup of tea.” However, it will all be worth it when it's finally finished! As I write this I am looking forward to my family’s annual vacation at Mears State Park. When vacation is over it will be August and then time will fly by. I am not ready for summer to be over but I can’t help but look forward to a new school year.

As I look back over the years I don't think there was ever a time I didn’t look forward to a new school year. I remember as a young girl, when August arrived, my best friend and I would take walks to Hope School and look inside the classroom windows. Knowing that the first seating arrangement always went in alphabetical order, we would try to figure out where we would sit and who we would sit by. We would then sit on the swings and discuss what outfit we would wear the first day and we would dream about what exciting things the new school year would bring. Back then the month of August seemed to go so slow.

Now, many years later, I still look forward to the new school year. I get excited for a new look to my classroom. I still ponder over seating charts, albeit with a different perspective, and I still think about what to wear on the first day. Most of all, I am eager to see all the new faces and get to know a new group of second graders. I also still wonder what the new year will bring and what kind of adventures we will have together. Along with the excitement comes some nervousness. Once again I will be in charge of teaching and instructing precious covenant children. This year I will have 22 students. What will their needs be? Some will be more difficult than others, some will be noisy, some will be anxious, some will struggle, and some will excel. How do I meet all these needs? How do I fulfill my calling and responsibilities to these children?

Recently I came across a book that was given to me when I graduated from college and was just starting my teaching career. It is called Chalkdust and is a book of prayer and meditations for teachers. As I was reading through this book once again, it reminded me that I cannot teach this coming year in my own strength. I can only do it in the Lord's strength. It reminded me of the importance of prayer. As I look forward to this new year, I pray for strength and patience and guidance. I pray that I might recognize the needs of my students and take their needs to God in prayer. I pray that the Lord will work through me and bless my efforts. I am confident that He will for He has promised to hear and answer prayer. Several verses in Philippians 4 bring assurance. Verses 6-7 read, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ." Verse 13 reads, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," Finally, verse 19 reads, "But my God shall supply all your need according to the riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Resting in this peace I can look forward to this coming year.

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Miss Gayle Lotterman, 3rd Grade

When I was a student, I always enjoyed back-to-school shopping. A fresh set of colored pencils, shiny new pens, colorful notebooks and folders – it was exciting to have new things each school year. A new teacher, a new classroom, a new desk, a new plan for how to keep things organized that year. I looked forward to the new, and what wasn't new felt boring and worn.

Now as a teacher, I look at the back-to-school displays in stores that seem like they start as soon as school gets out in June, and I have little desire for all the latest new things. Okay, yes, I may still pick up a few new colors of flair pens, some new sheets of stickers, or some sturdier book bins, but I'm thankful for the old. I'm thankful to return to the same classroom I have for the past 8 years, glad to open closets and see my things tucked away but ready to be brought out again, happy that what I have collected through my years at Hope School has resulted in an assortment of bright cheeriness and sentimental reminders - a good balance of colors, organization, and nostalgia.

There's the bookshelf passed down from the previous teacher that I spray painted bright orange my first year. There's the stool to match that's seen better days, but spins oh so smoothly. There's the books themselves, sorted into cheap dollar store baskets (how have they lasted this long?), collected from multiple sources: donations, summers spent scouring secondhand bins, some bought with classroom funds or by parents through Lend a Helping Hand. There's a bucket signed by my first group of third graders, and another bucket with a 3 on it that a friend just had to buy for me. There's the closet door full of Christmas cards and pictures, notes from students and friends, and little drawings and simple gifts I had to hold on to. There's the crate chairs covered with a patterned fabric I so carefully picked out, and the rolling cart I inherited from my grandpa a few years ago. There's the MSU cup given to me by a student, which has held my scissors ever since the day he gave it to me. Also on my desk, there's the Bible I received upon graduating from Hope School in 2006, and the mug that holds my pens and pencils, reminding me of our school's 75th Anniversary. There's a sticky note dispenser given to me by my mother my first year, held together by tape on the bottom but still working just fine, and the CDs in my desk that I'm forever "borrowing" from my dad.

Yes, my classroom might end up looking much the same as last year, or the year before, but these old things to me are still just as exciting. They bring familiarity to a new school year when there's already so much new to learn. New names, new faces, new personalities, new parents, new routines, new needs, new accommodations. I think I'll walk past the back-to-school displays and leave those things for my students. Because they, like I did so long ago, are probably looking forward to a few new things to sit in their desks this year. As for me, does all this talk of old things make you worried I've gone stale? Don't worry, I've still got a few new tricks up my sleeve.

TEACHING MICHIGAN HISTORY IN GEOGRAPHY CLASS

Mr. Dan Hanko, 4th Grade

Each school year fourth graders use six to eight weeks of their geography curriculum to study Michigan history. From the early days of the Native Americans, through the years of French trappers and explorers, during the days of British control, and then to Michigan's statehood until now we learn a little of Michigan's past. Certainly eight weeks does not scratch the surface of what we could study and learn on this subject. I think my fourth graders would rather spend more time learning about Michigan history than other parts of the United States. Let me explain why and tell you some of the valuable lessons we learn along the way.

The teaching of Michigan history to fourth graders is always enjoyable. Almost every student has a memory of a certain place in Michigan and is able to tell his experience and story. Whether that is taking a pontoon boat along Pictured Rocks in the Upper Peninsula, cruising through the channel on a holiday near Holland, or paddling a "Voyageur" canoe on Lake Superior, the water all around attracts us. Whether that is driving across the Mackinac Bridge, climbing the dune at Sleeping Bear Dunes, or walking the boardwalk in Grand Haven, well-known places fascinate us. Whether that is hunting for stones in Petoskey, looking for "yooperlites" in Grand Marais, or staring into the clear water at Kitch-iti-ipi, God's beauty and glory we recognize. Whether that is hiking in the Porcupine Mountains, climbing the stairs of the Big Sable Point Lighthouse, or strolling through Greenfield Village in Dearborn, the travels hold our attention. Every child comes to class with an experience or fond memory, some close to home and others miles away. The eager hands wave in the air waiting for opportunities to recall their stories. We may get off track sometimes to talk of our adventures, but the interest and enthusiasm are welcome sights and sounds.

Many truths of God's Word are woven through our studies. God's sovereignty is seen as we study the early history and forming of our state. "... all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." (Col.1:16b-17) Jehovah's power and glory are revealed in the waves and storms of the water around us and in all the rounded rocks and fine grains of sand on the shores of Lake Michigan and Superior. "Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven." (Ps.148:13) We learn of the Lord's covenant faithfulness as we follow the reformed faith to the area of Holland and then our own denomination coming out of the Christian Reformed Church. We stand in awe of God as we study a state rich in minerals, the white pines, and other natural resources. We give God the glory as we see ourselves as stewards of His earth. "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen." (Rom.11:36) My fourth graders and I will look forward to our study of Michigan history and continue to grow in the knowledge of the one true God who deserves all praise. We will look to that final glory and joy as stewards of Christ and His kingdom.

MAKING AMENDS

Mr. Brian Dykstra, 5th Grade

Last year I reported that our two sons had finally completed their studies. Since moving our sons home required the expenditure of vast amounts of energy from a diminishing energy reserve, my wife and I had no road trip last year, save for a little jaunt to Manistee National Forest.

I made amends this summer for not having a road trip last year. First, we spent a week camping in our tiny trailer in Michigan State Parks. (Google images of T@B trailers if you're curious.) We stayed two nights at Fayette State Park in the UP. Fayette's claim to fame is that it was home to an iron smelting operation. The buildings are being restored and new exhibits made at a slow but steady pace. We stayed there many years ago with all four of our children when the campground was rustic, meaning no electricity or restrooms with plumbing. As a result, not many people camped there. We had no trouble obtaining a site.

Fayette is now modern. There is electricity and a very nice, modern restroom facility with showers. This park is no longer a secret. It was crowded! The motor homes, fifth-wheels and large travel trailers dwarfed our little camper. I wondered what the total value of all that equipment would be. Also, at what point should one just jack up the house, load it on a flat-bed and just take the whole house camping?

We then moved to Petoskey State Park for three nights where we met our children and grandchildren. This was the first time we were able to do "family camping" with this generation. One evening my wife, two sons and I had just finished dinner. We did the few dishes, stowed the dinner gear and settled down to whatever the evening activity would be. I noticed a hissing sound. Why would my wife be boiling more water in her little plug-in teapot? She had no need for hot water! To my dismay, I noticed the line my eyes traced to the teapot did not match the line my ears traced to the sound! I came to the sad realization that the hissing sound was not the teapot but a leaking tire on the camper. Now what!

It turned out that the valve stem broke. Why it would suddenly begin leaking while sitting in the campground is a mystery, but it was better to happen there than on the road. Our camper is low to the ground, so I wondered whether I would be able to fit the jack under the frame if the tire went completely flat. My resourceful wife pinched the valve stem so it didn't leak while I quickly began unpacking the jack. My mechanically gifted, trouble-shooting sons-in-law noticed the commotion and rushed to lend helping hands. We put on the spare and at the end of the adventure returned safely home without incident. We have another story for family lore and a reason to visit a former student's tire shop.

The second trip will be to national parks in Washington to camp with some of my wife's siblings. One of the siblings is my wife's sister, Mary, who married Rev. Stewart. They are able to come here from Northern Ireland to visit on odd numbered summers. I believe Rev. Stewart has two goals when he visits. One, he wants to preach in the congregations of Classis West to establish ties as sister churches. Also, he wants to hike in as many of America's western national parks as possible. He enjoys the mountains, especially "the big ones." I cannot report on this trip as of this writing. This article was due before we are scheduled to return, so I had to write it the week before we were to leave.

Finally, the big change for 5th grade this year is that we will be in a different classroom. Since the North Wing of Hope School opened eighteen years ago (I think!), I have taught in the same room. However, what had been the 6th grade room is not large enough to accommodate that large

class, so the classrooms were switched. I'm going to miss that beautiful maple tree to the west of the North Wing! I will be fine when school opens in remembering to turn east into my classroom rather than west, but once we've been in session for a few weeks, I wonder if I will go into auto-pilot, turn the wrong way and be surprised to find Miss Bleyenbergh in "my" room. If you happen to see a confused, gray-headed teacher lost in the hallway, kindly point him in the right direction.

INTRODUCTION

Miss Faith Bleyenbergh, 6th Grade

My name is Faith Bleyenbergh, and I am the new 6th grade teacher at Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School. Although I feel as though I was only just in grade school myself, I could not be more excited to take up this blessed work of aiding parents in the Christian instruction of covenant youth.

I am the second born in my family, with one older brother and five younger sisters. As a child, my family often said I was 'bossy,' so it only makes sense that my job includes telling others what to do and how to do things. When I am not home with my family, I love spending time with friends and cousins—we enjoy games like spikeball, bean bags, pickleball, and volleyball during the summer. In the winter there is the occasional ski trip up north, attempt at ice skating, or card game. Reading, of course, is on my list of year-round hobbies.

Throughout my life I have also loved school. My childhood education began at Adams Christian for grades K-8, followed by Covenant Christian for 9-12. In 2019, I began my days as a college student at Grand Valley State University. I am grateful for the many hands-on opportunities I had to practice and grow my skills as an educator, particularly in my final year. I teacher-assisted in a 1st grade at Buchanan Elementary, then student-taught in a 4th grade at Grandville West Elementary. Both of these placements presented a variety of challenges and opened my eyes to many of the realities of the worldliness of the day. I am grateful for the opportunities I had to develop, however, attending a public university and working in the public education system only increased my love and appreciation for our precious schools.

Our Christian, covenantal schools so clearly evidence God's goodness in giving unity to His body, the church. I am so thankful for the role that I have been given as a part of this body, and pray that I never take it for granted. I have already received warm welcomes from many in the Hope circles, and look forward to getting to know the community around me in the upcoming school year.



THE GLORY OF OUR GOD

Miss Suzanna Smit, 7th Grade

This past summer, I had the opportunity to return to California and visit family and friends. One question that I was asked many times was, "Which is better, Michigan or California?" While considering how to answer that question, I found myself torn. California and Michigan are very, very different states in many ways, and yet, both places and the people there, are important to me. Even if I tried to categorize by deciding based on weather, geography, or people, it still was not something that I could just automatically decide.

As I have continued to face that question, I have reached two conclusions. First of all, I do not need to have an answer to this question. Secondly, both can be and are beautiful and important. As I looked out the window on the cold November morning of my first snow day, I could see God's providence and power in the beauty of the creation as I recalled a past teacher's lesson on the uniqueness of snowflakes. And now, as I look out the window and see the grand majesty of the mountains and hills that surround Yucaipa, California, I stand in awe at the power of God's hand that made all that I see.

Furthermore, I realize that I have been blessed with an abundance of family; that is, not just blood relatives but also brothers and sisters in the Lord. I have made friendships and created bonds in the past year. God is a great God, who grants us what we need in the place that we are in life. I now live in a different place, and with a different church body, yet still experience the fellowship of the saints and praise of our Lord and King.

The idea of God's continual care for his people was also driven deeply home one day as I was traveling around California. A friend and I went on a day trip to Los Angeles, but rather than driving, we took the train. At various times during the train ride, we saw camps of the homeless under bridges and alongside the road, yet short glimpses of tents did not give us much insight into their lives. However, when we arrived at the central hub of public transportation in Los Angeles, we decided to walk to a café to find some lunch and came face-to-face with a homeless camp. These people who live in tents face the heat of the summer without air conditioning. Many have few possessions, many of which are taken from piles of trash; piles of things that people, people like me, have considered useless or worthless. Now, as I sit protected from the 105-degree heat in an air-conditioned room, I am very thankful for the situation in life that God has granted me. Proverbs 30 comes to mind with the words, "Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."

Every day is a gift from God; every situation is the perfect place for us. We are guided through life to become molded to the image of Christ, and to realize that our God is great and glorious. Let us look around us and see the hand of God in creation and see His power and wisdom in creating such diverse geography and life. Let us look at our homes and our possessions and, with gratitude, see how much we have been granted while remembering that earthly possessions cannot compare to the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus. Let us praise and confess the greatness of our LORD!

Years ago, at least before the Covid era, science was a system of collecting data without bias in order to prove or disprove a given hypothesis, with the intent of arriving at a workable solution to a problem. What could be studied and proven by science was limited to that which was observable, measurable, and repeatable. Of course, science has since evolved into a political tool to manipulate people into voting for a certain person or approving of a certain lifestyle with no system used. Prior to this evolution, what was called the scientific method was used as a systematic way to obtain a workable solution to a problem. Although there are variations of the steps of this method, they all come down to these basic steps. First, a problem (or question) is clearly stated; then, background research is conducted to see if the same problem has already been researched. Next, a hypothesis is clearly stated; it is important that the hypothesis be without bias and the researcher willing to either prove or disprove the hypothesis in the end. The third step is to either conduct an experiment or a survey. These two methods are used for the purpose of obtaining data. Once this step is complete, all the data collected must be classified and then analyzed. The fifth step which is sometimes omitted is to verify the data by further experimentation or additional surveys; this step is important if the sample size of data is small but is sometimes skipped if a lot of data is collected. The last step is to use the data to prove or disprove the hypothesis and then to actually use the conclusions to solve a real-world problem or answer a question.

As a real-world example of the use of the scientific method, I have stated a problem, or if preferred, a question, which is "Has the primary purpose of Christian education been lost or changed as time has gone on?" Background research has clearly shown what the early Reformers viewed the purpose to be and what the founders and early church fathers of our own denomination thought. I have come up with a hypothesis, which I will not state in order to refrain from creating bias in potential survey takers. This brings us to the next step, experimenting or surveying. In order to collect data that can be analyzed, I am conducting a survey, which can be found at the following link (<https://forms.gle/VmLpLnz8tZRfZRYQ9>). It is a simple survey which should take no longer than five minutes to complete. Because it is important to have a large sample size to accumulate large amounts of data, I ask that you complete the survey and encourage others to do as well. If enough data is collected to come to a conclusion, I intend to publish the findings in a later article. Finally, in order to reduce bias, I ask that you do not research to see what others have said about the question, but simply give your own answers. This will allow us to show that, despite what we are led to believe, the scientific method can still be used to solve problems and answer questions.

SUMMER READING

Mrs. Becca Lubbers, Discovery Center

How much have your children read this summer? Reading throughout the summer months is very important for maintaining the academic skills and abilities students learned during the previous school year. Children enjoy spending their summers running around and exercising their bodies, but they also need to dedicate some time to exercising their brains. Reading is a great way for students to exercise their brains and stay academically fit and ready for the beginning of the next school year.

This year in the summer reading program at school, students were encouraged to read and reach the goal of reading for a total of 1,000 minutes (more than 16 hours)! This sounds like a lot

of time to read, but broken down into 20 minute sections, this can be accomplished very easily over the course of the summer. Every time the students came to participate in the summer reading program, they were able to select new books to take home, gather prizes for their reading progress, decorate bookmarks, read on the cushions in the corner, and listen to a few books being read to them. I enjoyed seeing the students come in with smiles on their faces, hearing them tell each other about fun books they had read, and listening to them read their new books aloud. That excitement and enjoyment of reading is also part of the goal of our summer reading program. We want our students to love to read!

Every student is going to be different in his attitude toward and desire to read. Many students need encouragement from parents and teachers to read, especially during the summer. There are many ways to encourage students to read. You can make the weekly trip to the local library to pick out new books a fun adventure to look forward to. Or you can provide challenges and set goals for the amount of time or the number of books read to motivate them. Rewards and small prizes can also be a great enticement. Students are encouraged to view reading as valuable and important when they see their parents reading frequently at home as well. It may take a while to find an appropriate motivator for each child, but it will be well worth the effort. Your student's new teacher will thank you for the work you put in over the summer.



FLYING TIGERS, ELEPHANTS, BABIES AND MINDS

Mrs. Jill Reitsma, Discovery Center

The summer months usually allow me time for more reading than during the school year. I love to read a variety of books pertaining to various genre. I keep a running list of books I want to read so I don't forget! This summer's reading didn't disappoint. It is interesting to me how writers tend to use many analogies, mind pictures or associations to help you make a connection to the people in their stories. Do you do this in your life relationships? I know that I also tend to do this. I was able to relate some of these to the work I do at school as well.

Flying Tigers. Before the US entered WWII, there were a bunch of American pilots in China. They were called the Flying Tigers. They flew planes with shark teeth painted on the nose of the plane. They didn't have many planes, so they would repaint them every few missions. By changing a bit of the design and the numbers, the Japanese would think there were far more of them than there really were. I've witnessed students "repaint" themselves for teachers, peers, or relationships so that others would think one thing about them when the opposite was true. They used this as a covering or masking for their lack of understanding, usually using exaggerations or cracking a joke to make light of the situation.

Elephants. Elephants have a very good memory! A good memory can be a positive thing for students. An elephant is also a pachyderm. It means an animal with thick skin. Elephants feel a wide range of emotions, but their behavior remains constant. On the outside, happy and sad often look the same. Students who sometimes have a hard time expressing themselves put up that “thick skin” instead of asking for help. Trying to show all is well, when there is a lack of understanding.

Babies. When babies are quiet, they are taking everything in while evaluating their surroundings. When they want something, they are loud about it and usually everyone knows they have a concern or need of attention, good or bad! Some students act out in frustration because any attention is better than others thinking they don’t know what to do.

Minds. Great minds don’t think alike. Did you know that Albert Einstein, Winston Churchill, Pablo Picasso, and Patricia Polacco, to name just a few, struggled to read as students in school? Their struggles weren’t because they were not gifted, it’s just that their minds worked differently. Students who need extra help, guidance and support must not think they are alone or lost. Sometimes the bravest thing to do is ask for help.

The Lord does not promise our life on earth will be a bed of roses. There are many different struggles and temptations for all of us. What the Lord does promise is that He will always be with us and not forsake us if we remain faithful to Him. Remember Psalm 56, a chapter about times of distress. Verse 3 is one of my favorites. “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee”.

As another school year begins, I covet your prayers that much learning and developing take place over the year, both for students and teachers!

POLICY REMINDERS:

Athletic Eligibility Policy

Those students who fail one or more subjects in a six-week period are ineligible to participate in interscholastic sports for a period of two weeks.

After this period, their grades will be recalculated to determine their eligibility. Also, those students who have multiple D’s will be subject to junior high staff evaluation to determine their eligibility.

Participation Policy

Participation in extracurricular athletic or robotics practices and games is restricted to students who have been in school for the entire day. Participation will be allowed for those students who are legitimately excused from class due to necessary appointments or other family emergencies.

2023-24 School Calendar

• August 28	First Day of School
• September 1-4	Labor Day Break
• September 22	School Pictures
• October 5	PTA
• October 12-13	Parent/Teacher Conferences
• October 12-13	Hearing/Vision Screening
• October 18	TC Travel Time (1/2 day)
• October 19-20	Teachers’ Convention – No School
• November 10	All School Program
• November 23-24	Thanksgiving Break
• December 14	Jr. High Band/Choir Concert
• Dec. 25- Jan. 2	Christmas Break
• January 19	End of 1 st Semester (1/2 day)
• February 8	PTA
• February 15-16	Parent/Teacher Conferences
• April 1-5	Spring Break
• May 27	Memorial Day – No School
• May 31	Last Day of School
• June 3	Graduation

SUPPLY LISTS

Kindergarten

Backpack	Pillow (15'' x 15'' max)
Folder w/ pockets	Gym shoes - velcro style
Scissors	2-3 large glue sticks
Crayons (24)	Eraser
Pencil box/holder	Colored Pencils (optional)
Journal Pictures	

*Please label all items

*We provide "fat" Tri-Write pencils

1st Grade

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

2nd Grade

KJV Bible – large print if possible	
Pencil box	Gym shoes (labeled)
12 Pencils (#2)	2 large erasers
2 solid glue sticks	1 Spiral notebook
16-24 crayons	Scissors
Colored pencils	Old sock for whiteboards
Washable markers	(2) 2-pocket folders

3rd Grade

KJV Bible	12 pencils (#2)
2 Glue sticks	2 large erasers
Colored pencils	Scissors
Washable Markers	Gym shoes
Crayons (optional)	Paint Shirt (labeled)
Pencil box	
(3) 2-pocket folders	
2 red pens	
1 spiral notebook	
3 (100 ct) packages sticky notes	
Old sock for whiteboards	



4th Grade

KJV Bible	Scissors
Pencils/Erasers	Notebook paper
2 red pens	3-ring binder
Colored pencils	Binder dividers with 5 tabs
Glue stick or Elmer's glue	Gym shoes (labeled)
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	Pencil Sharpener
Psalter	3 ring binder w/ 6 folders
Notebook paper	Scissors (good)
Gym shoes (labeled)	Colored pencils
Eraser	Ruler
Pens	Black felt tip pen
Highlighter	Dry erase marker
1 - 5 subject notebook	Old sock for whiteboards
Basic calculator	Rubber cement
Protractor (3.75 inch)	Glue stick
Pencils	

**All 6th-8th grade students will be issued a free assignment book



7th & 8th Grades

KJV Bible w/ references, concordance, and maps
Blue/black pens
Several red pens
Colored pencils
Highlighter
Dry erase marker
Pencils
Eraser
Scissors
Something in which to carry above items
Notebook paper
Binder w/ folders
5 subject notebook
Ruler
Protractor & compass
Scientific calculator - TI-30XIIS (available at school for \$14)
Gym clothes – labeled
Gym Shoes
Single subject notebook (8 th only)

PARENTS:

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