



HIGHLIGHTS

Graduation Issue

~

May 2024



“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

- John 15:16

PARTING THOUGHTS
Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

I call your attention to a little Bible history. Recall when Jacob took his family and fled from Laban to return to Canaan. Laban pursued Jacob for seven days and overtook him. You'll find the account of that meeting in Genesis 31. At the end of that meeting, Laban called the place Mizpah, "for he said, The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another." They likely never saw each other again. That word "Mizpah" has been used by many whenever there is a separation of ways. I'll use it loosely to say farewell to some, even though there won't be so much a physical parting but a parting of the past relationships.

Let's start with the Class of 2024 (take a look at this handsome group pictured later in this publication). They all have successfully completed the nine year academic requirements at Hope School and leave our halls to continue their studies at CCHS next fall, D.V. We congratulate and bid them farewell, praying the Lord's blessing on their high school experiences. Of these fourteen students only one, Jace Cammenga, is the youngest in the family. We thank Ben and Liz Cammenga for having their children educated at Hope School and pray for their continued support in the future. Mizpah, Class of 2024.

Next, we recognize the work and labor of two of our staff members. Leah Potjer has been our assistant in our Discovery room as well as serving as a teacher aide for two years. She has filled an important role in assisting teachers wherever she was needed. She will be missed, but we pray she will be blessed in her new role in motherhood, D.V. Also we recognize the long-standing labors of Brian Dykstra. He has served as an anchor in the middle elementary grades, serving as 5th grade teacher at Hope School for the past 39 years. Thanks Brian, for your dedication and contributions to the cause of Protestant Reformed education. We say to both of you, Mizpah.

We do disservice if we don't recognize the labors of the four men who have served the school well as School Board members for the past three years. We thank Scott Kooienga, Rich DeMeester, Dan Kalsbeek, and Dan Boeve for their tireless efforts to guide the school by policy and decisions on the firm foundation of the Word of God. We give thanks to God for qualifying these men with the wisdom and courage they needed to fulfill this important work on behalf of the Kingdom cause. We say to each of you, Mizpah.

So as the 2023-24 school year nears its close and the summer break approaches there will be a parting of ways for a time. May the Lord watch over parents, teachers, students, and all involved in this covenantal cause until we meet again next fall. Mizpah to all.

WORK BEE

The Building Committee has scheduled a work bee for Saturday, June 8, beginning at 8AM. Volunteers are needed to remove mulch (bring rakes and shovels), remove carpet, move the gaga pit, and other small projects. Yes, donuts and coffee will be served!

HOPE CLASSIC RACES

Come join the runners and walkers (5K / 1 mile) or be a cheering spectator at the 26th Annual Hope Classic Races on Saturday, May 25. Over 330 people have already registered. There will be refreshments for all runners and spectators. Come have an enjoyable morning with us! Go to www.hopepreschool.org/classic for more information.





SCHOOL BOARD NEWS



FOUNDATION REPORT

Joel DeVries

Matt DeBoer, Matt Rutgers, Andrew Veldman, Brandon Wassink

According to the Hope Christian School Foundation bylaws, the purpose of the Foundation is to “operate exclusively in support of, for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of, Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School for Christian Instruction. ”

“In particular, the Corporation is established to provide a means by which to exercise biblical stewardship over the financial resources that God has placed under its control (Matthew 25:14-31). The Corporation receives, invests, manages, and disburses capital funds and properties entrusted to it, and the income therefrom, for the benefit of the school. We acknowledge that we cannot realize this purpose to God’s glory apart from the grace of our Heavenly Father, and therefore the Corporation will prayerfully seek the wisdom of Christ before The Throne of Grace.”

2023 was another successful year for the Foundation. We held two fundraiser events again this year: the golf tournament in June, and the clay shoot in September. The golf outing reported a profit of \$15,661.14, and the clay shoot a profit of \$20,036.71 - for a total profit of \$35,697.85 from fundraisers. These fundraisers allow the Foundation to continue to grow the investment portfolio, while still offering a helpful annual gift to the school. Thanks to all who attended the fundraisers – and to those who worked many hours to make the events happen. I would like to give a special thanks to the businesses and individuals who donate to these events, either through a private gift, or a sponsorship. Most of these sponsors give year after year, and fundraising efforts would be nearly impossible without their generosity.

The Foundation was pleased to offer a gift of \$50,000 again to Hope School this year. This is the third year in a row that we have been able to give this amount, and it is our hope to continue this level of giving going forward.

Last year, we reported that the portfolio balance was “down considerably”, following what our financial advisor would call a “market correction”. This year the markets came back quite a bit and our balance ended the year at \$859,453.55. This last year our financial advisor, Dan Kalsbeek, moved employment from Royal Securities to Evergreen Capital, so we moved our funds to Evergreen as well. Thanks to Dan for his help in overseeing our funds and providing good advice on managing them.

Thanks also to retiring board member Andrew Veldman, who very capably served for three years on the Foundation Board. Another board member, Dan Kuiper, was elected to the office of elder at Hope church in December, and felt that he should resign from the Foundation to allow sufficient time for this work. The Board fully agrees with his decision, and thanks Dan for his time on the Board. We welcome two new members this year: Seth Engelsma, and Geoff Veldman, and look forward to working with them in the coming year.

Looking forward to this year, work is already in full swing for the golf tournament, and we are planning on the clay shoot again as well in the fall. We will also be holding the students’ favorite event in early 2025 - derby car races! Watch for more information on that next school year.

In closing, thank you to all the supporters of Hope School for your contributions over the years. Especially we give thanks to God for providing the means for Christian instruction at Hope School and we pray that He will continue to provide in the years to come!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Nine short months ago we were looking forward to the beginning of this school year. Now the instruction, activities, and labors of another school year are near completion. The final class trips, programs, exams, and graduation are all set to take place soon. In a few short months, Lord willing, another year of Christian instruction will begin. One year goes by so quickly! Scripture likens life to a vapor or a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes away (James 4:14). We sing in the Psalter from Psalm 90 about time as an ever rolling stream. If these figures are given about a lifetime, what is one year gone by? It is almost as nothing. And yet, every small event is ordained by the Creator of time and ultimately works for His purpose.

The Education Committee has been preparing for next year for several months by making sure we have teachers in place and projecting budget numbers for the staff payroll, robotics and technology, among other things. We are thankful that we do have all of the teachers needed for next year, although we are still seeking a full time aide for help in the Discovery program.

Within the last quarter, the Education Committee has made a change to the grading scale at Hope School. We have adopted a grading scale similar to Covenant which gives the same letter grade to slightly lower percentage scores. This was done to maintain consistency with CCHS and allow for better measurement for our students, especially in comparison to students of our other Protestant Reformed schools.

It should be mentioned that much of the routine business at our education meetings consists of reviewing our administrator's report for the previous month and looking forward to the events of the upcoming month. Items that are reported monthly are a review of the teachers' meeting, unexcused absences, and any other business that the administrator has done throughout the month. It has also become a normal practice for the local administrators to get together every few months to discuss any upcoming issues or issues in general that the schools are dealing with and talk about how to resolve them. For example, artificial intelligence, or AI, is a threat to the schools in general and one that our administrators discuss together. There are programs that will write an original report in full on any topic or book within seconds of giving the command. This brings plagiarism and dishonesty to a whole new level that our schools are dealing with already. By the administrators discussing topics such as this, the schools can share information of how they are approaching these challenges and how to take advantage of these new tools for good.

At our upcoming Education Committee meeting in June, the membership of the committee will be changing. Three members of the committee will have retired. Steve Langerak, who was the secretary of the committee was voted to be vice president of the board and therefore will become chairman of the Education Committee. The incoming members of the

committee will be Scott Moelker (board president), Joel DeVries (board secretary), and Matt DeBoer. Remember the entire school board in your prayers in the upcoming year as they as weak instruments are used in the hands of an almighty God for the good instruction of His covenant youth.

ANNUAL BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT 2024

Dan Kalsbeek, School Board Secretary

In a few short weeks, another school year of covenantal instructions will be in the books. This year has passed quickly and aside from four snow days, has proceeded on schedule. We thank our Heavenly Father for providing this school with teachers and staff and the financial means necessary for the operation of the school.

The board is pleased to announce that except for Brian Dykstra, all the teachers and staff have signed on for the 2024-2025 school year. Last year, the board hired Faith Bleyenberg and she has capably assumed the 6th grade teaching position. The Education Committee interviewed potential teachers for the 5th grade position and the Board is happy to announce that Melanie Hanko from Peace PRC has signed a contract to teach in the place of retiring 5th grade teacher Brian Dykstra. Brian began his teaching career in Loveland, Colorado and after teaching there for two years he has taught at Hope School for the past 39 years. Thank-you Brian, for dedicating your life to instructing the children here at Hope School. The Board thanks all who have labored over the past year for the good of Hope School, for your dedication to the on-going work and maintenance of this school. The list of volunteers and those that labor behind the scenes is extensive, but your work is appreciated.

The Building Committee has been busy with the upkeep and the maintenance of the school facility. The Building Committee has been working with the Kent County Drain Commission. The Drain Commission has requested an easement for a new drain to replace the existing one which runs through our property. This project is scheduled for this summer and contrary to what was reported at the last society meeting, there is a cost to the school of \$34,172.42 for this project. This drain project has been deemed necessary by the City of Walker and we have been assessed by the Drain Commission for this amount. We have been informed that we are not exempt from these charges as a private school. This assessed amount will be paid from the Building and Grounds Fund. A generous donor has made it possible for air conditioning to be installed in the southern facing classrooms and the 7th and 8th grade classrooms. This project is set to be completed this summer. Larry Meulenberg has asked to be replaced as the school handyman and the committee is working on his replacement. Thanks, Larry, for your help around school.

This year the Board is recommending a budget of \$1,337,393.00 which is an increase of \$59,149 or 4.75% from the 2023-2024 budget. The board is also recommending a wage scale increase of \$2,250 each for the teaching staff. The Finance Committee's proposed budget has the cost of tuition increasing 2% for this coming school year. Kaptein Dykstra CPA's have conducted and completed the annual review of our financials, and everything was found to be in good order.

The Circle Contact Committee of the Board met with the School Circle officers to review the monetary yearly commitments of the Circle. This committee is also tasked with updating

and maintaining the content on the school website. Every summer the committee reviews the content and notes changes that need to be made. The webmaster is our school secretary, Laurel Lotterman. Thanks, Laurel, for your work as secretary and webmaster.

The Transportation Committee has proposed to the Board and the Board has agreed to replacing Bus 15 at this time. This bus has served us well, but we have kept it beyond the normal replacement schedule of eight years. The committee is recommending we purchase a used 2020 Blue Bird 65 passenger bus with 55,000 miles.

The Education Committee of the Board has been busy this past year as well. Aside from the routine work, the committee conducted the annual interviews/reviews with the current teachers and staff in January. The committee also interviewed prospective teachers for the 5th grade position. After much discussion between our Administrator and our Discovery Staff, the Education Committee made a change to the assessment procedure that is used for our students. The new assessment program that has been introduced and utilized twice already this year is MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing. The committee has been provided with some feedback from the testing and the teachers have provided feedback to you as well during Parent/Teacher conferences. This testing is for the 3rd – 8th grades and the kindergarten through 2nd grade has added a math assessment component to their assessments which is administered through the Discovery staff three times a year.

This past fall, Rev. Haak spoke at the October PTA on the topic of anxiety and recently Jill Reitsma and Suzanna Smit presented for the February PTA on the topic of parent/teacher interaction. The Robotics program hosted the annual Robowl on Saturday, November 18. Thanks to our capable mentors, Matt Elzinga and Brad VanderVeen for their willingness to assist the Robotics program.

Along with Dan Boeve, Rich DeMeester and Dan Kalsbeek, our board president, Scott Kooienga is completing his three-year term on the school Board. Thanks for your capable leadership and thanks to the four retiring Board members for your dedication to Hope School.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. Deuteronomy 6:4-7

2024-25 School Calendar

• August 26	• First Day of School
• Aug. 30-Sept. 2	• Labor Day Break
• September 18	• School Pictures
• October 3	• PTA
• October 10-11	• Parent/Teacher Conferences
• October 17-18	• Teachers' Convention
• November 28-29	• Thanksgiving Break
• December 23-Jan 1	• Christmas Break
• January 17	• End of 1 st Semester
• February 6-7	• Parent/Teacher Conferences
• February 13	• PTA
• April 7-11	• Spring Break
• May 26	• Memorial Day – No School
• May 27	• Graduation (1/2 day)

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Josh Meulenberg, Treasurer
Phil Kalsbeek, Kevin Koole

“The Lord is great, and greatly to be praised” - Psalm 96:4a. The Lord has once again provided for the financial needs of Hope School. With only two months remaining in the year, we are in a good financial position with regard to the overall budget. A review of the financial statement shows that our income is at 94.1% of budget and our expenses are at 81.9% of budget. Our target position for both after ten months is 83.3%. We had a great Fall deficit drive and continue to count money coming in for the Spring drive. We are hopeful to meet our yearly drive goal which is currently about \$23,600 shy of the goal. On the expense side, we are tracking at or under budget on the major line items. You will see a final 2023-2024 financial summary in the next issue of the *Highlights*.

At the annual Society meeting a budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year was approved. Tuition will be increasing 2% for all families. The Hope Foundation has again pledged \$50,000 towards the operation of the school. We are thankful for the support. We plan to run a small budget deficit during the 2024-2025 fiscal year, but anticipated interest from putting some of our funds in CD's will offset the deficit so that we plan to end the year positive, the Lord willing.

Thank you to all tuition paying families who have stayed up to date or ahead of tuition payments during the past school year. We are happy to report that throughout the course of the school year there was very little discussion about delinquent tuition. A reminder that the last tuition payment of the year is due in May, so please have that into the office by May 31st. If you need to make special arrangements, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.

Finally, with a new slate of School Board members comes new committee assignments. Thank you to Phil Kalsbeek for his faithful service on the Finance Committee last year. We welcome Vance Grasman to the finance committee, where he will serve as vice-treasurer this year, and as treasurer during the last two years of his School Board term.

The Finance Committee expresses its gratitude to the individuals, families, and businesses that have given abundantly towards Hope School again this year. At every meeting we stand in awe of our God and give thanks for the financial support of Christian education at Hope School. To God be the Glory! Please continue to keep the financial needs of Hope School in your prayers, and in your giving plans.

Actual to Budget. YTD April	Total	Budgeted	%
<u>Income</u>			
Church Collections	37,699.80	46,000.00	82.0%
Gifts and Pledges	322,410.30	346,000.00	93.2%
Gym Rental	4,275.00	5,000.00	85.5%
Hope Foundation	50,000.00	50,000.00	100.0%
Special Ed Society	10,415.25	14,794.00	70.4%
Tuition	742,698.13	780,000.00	95.2%
Z - Bus Fees	20,489.16	20,550.00	99.7%
Total Income	1,187,987.64	1,262,344.00	94.1%

Actual to Budget. YTD April	Total	Budgeted	%
<u>Expenses</u>			
Accounting Fees	5,950.00	6,750.00	88.1%
Band Expenses	3,000.00	3,000.00	100.0%
Building and Grounds - Y/E	21,281.94	43,000.00	49.5%
Class Trip Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Educational Supplies and Books	35,000.00	35,000.00	100.0%
Federation Dues	4,419.12	5,136.00	86.0%
Insurance, General	15,454.50	14,762.00	104.7%
Insurance, Group	77,405.45	84,000.00	92.1%
Insurance, HRA - Y/E	519.44	4,000.00	13.0%
Insurance, Workers Comp	2,589.72	2,564.00	101.0%
Janitors Supplies	3,517.81	4,500.00	78.2%
Library Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Long Range Building Fund Trans	18,750.00	22,500.00	83.3%
Miscellaneous Expense	1,034.20	2,500.00	41.4%
Office Equipment - Y/E	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
Office Supplies (Financial Processing)	1,795.14	1,000.00	179.5%
Payroll - Band / Choir	19,558.98	24,000.00	81.5%
Payroll - Building Maintenance	1,527.75	2,500.00	61.1%
Payroll - Discovery Room	67,272.95	90,143.00	74.6%
Payroll - Janitor	29,168.00	35,000.00	83.3%
Payroll - Lawn Maintenance	3,060.00	4,200.00	72.9%
Payroll - Librarian	4,380.00	5,250.00	83.4%
Payroll - Office	29,433.25	36,575.00	80.5%
Payroll - Substitute Teachers	1,310.00	1,000.00	131.0%
Payroll - Teachers	499,776.40	603,589.00	82.8%
Payroll - Teachers Aids	23,984.50	21,546.00	111.3%
Payroll - Technology Maintenance	270.00	3,000.00	9.0%
Payroll Taxes	47,637.17	63,518.00	75.0%
Phys Ed Uniforms	713.30	1,000.00	71.3%
Repairs and Maintenance	10,182.33	9,000.00	113.1%
Retirement Plan	17,144.81	19,693.00	87.1%
Snow Removal	2,263.88	3,500.00	64.7%
Teacher Classroom	1,700.00	1,700.00	100.0%
Teacher Development - Y/E	3,697.32	4,000.00	92.4%
Technology Supplies	14,650.49	14,000.00	104.6%
Utilities, Electric	12,927.70	23,000.00	56.2%
Utilities, Gas	8,452.64	12,000.00	70.4%
Utilities, Internet & Phone	3,772.49	4,400.00	85.7%

Actual to Budget. YTD April	Total	Budgeted	%
Utilities, Trash	1,595.77	1,900.00	84.0%
Utilities, Water & Sewer	1,295.92	1,300.00	99.7%
Z. Bus Expenses			
Bus Depreciation Fund Tran	7291.70	8750.00	83.3%
Bus Driver Cost Subsidy	534.00	1000.00	53.4%
Bus Driver Payroll	16,985.00	22,918.00	74.1%
Bus Driver Payroll Taxes	1,274.95	1,700.00	75.0%
Bus Driver Workers Compensation	1,010.03	1,000.00	101.0%
Bus Insurance	2,157.00	2,100.00	102.7%
Bus Repair	5,562.03	7,000.00	79.5%
Gas and Oil	8,183.95	12,500.00	65.5%
Transportation Supervisor	3,000.00	1,250.00	240.0%
Total Z. Bus Expenses	45,998.66	58,218.00	79.0%
Total Expenses	1,046,491.63	1,278,244.00	81.9%

FEDERATION, PUBLICITY, CIRCLE CONTACT COMMITTEE

Dan Boeve, Chairman
Joel DeVries, Phil Kalsbeek

Our committee corresponds with the Federation of Protestant Reformed Schools to keep Hope School aligned with other Protestant Reformed schools in education, technology, and teacher compensation. While we participate in the Federation Association annual meeting, much of the work is carried out by the Federation Board. This year Dan Pastoor was elected Board President, replacing Marc Scholten who had served the 3 years prior. Kyle Bruinooge continues to be the Executive Director and Derek Van Overloop is the Technology Director. Other members are Rick Norman, Chad Uittenbogaard, Joel Van Egdome, Ross Zuverink, and Ryan Worries. The Federation Board continues to develop and administer a Mentoring program that encourages experienced teachers to pass on their knowledge to newer teachers. An organizational committee for the First Tier of the program began their work to encourage and mentor prospective teachers while they are still in school. The Third Tier of the program focuses on continued mentoring and advising as teachers become more experienced. The Board is looking into ways to keep up participation and enthusiasm as the program matures. Please keep these men in your prayers as they work behind the scenes to keep our Protestant Reformed Schools unified in teaching our covenant youth.

In April, fellow school board member Joel DeVries and myself stopped by school at lunchtime to have hamburgers with the teachers and staff. We did this to show appreciation for their work and it gave us an opportunity to visit with the staff over a good meal. It was great to have the entire teaching staff in the lunchroom at one time, thanks to a few mothers who watched the students at recess. The School Board has done a number of these teacher appreciation meals and special treats throughout the year with different board members participating.

Our committee is also communicating with the School Circle to pass along potential needs or projects for the school throughout the year. Through their fundraising, the Circle provides funds for projects that are not planned on in the yearly budget or that are of a special nature. This year, the School Circle is providing additional funds for library books and resources, and new chimes were purchased for the band. A baby grand piano for the music room was also provided through the work of the Circle. On behalf of the Board, our committee would like to thank the School Circle for the work they do to assist Christian education at Hope and the events they host that bring the school community together and encourage the students and staff.



SCHOOL CIRCLE NEWS



SCHOOL CIRCLE REPORT 2023-2024

Cassie Van Oostenbrugge, School Circle Secretary

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1 In His faithfulness, God has brought us through another school year. Thanks be to Him! The School Circle is grateful for the work He has given us to do as we seek to support Hope School with the means we have been given. It is a privilege to work with our principal, school secretary, teachers, staff, custodians, bus drivers and school board members with the one goal of bringing glory to God as we seek to instruct our children in the fear of His name.

Thank you to all who contributed and volunteered at our fundraising events. This year we hosted the Jog-A-Thon, Taste of Hope and Family Fun Night. The Circle also had the pleasure of serving lunch to our grandparents on Grandparents Day. These events are not only fun but are also great opportunities to experience the fellowship of our school community. Along with these events, the Circle has been busy serving hot lunches, organizing snack sales, catering events, making pigs-in-the-blanket, and selling Keycard coupon books, TRIP gift cards & Motman’s gift cards. We are also happy to support our teachers and staff by organizing Room Mothers for each grade, gathering classroom items through the Lend-A-Helping Hand committee, serving the Love Lunch and bringing in special treats for Teacher Appreciation Week.

In addition to our regular commitments, the Circle was able to provide \$4000 toward the purchase of concert chimes for the band and \$5000 towards library improvements. We also were able to acquire a baby grand piano for the music room. Trinity CRC (in Sparta), generously donated the piano to our school and our funds were used to move, repair and tune it. We are thankful to be able to provide assistance in these areas and continue to look for ways to help and support our school. We encourage all mothers to consider joining us in this labor of love.

Thank you for your encouragement and support! We couldn’t do what we do without our generous constituents. Please pray that all we do will be for the glory of our Heavenly Father and that He will bless the work of our hands.

OUR MARVELOUS MOMS

Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

Last week we celebrated Mother's Day, a special day to honor the women who do so much for us and our families. These women play a very important role in the life of a kindergartener. They wake us up early each school morning. They make a healthy and filling breakfast to start our day off on the right path. Then they pack a nutritious lunch and a few snacks for us while trying to juggle the needs of the other children (and perhaps even a husband). Into the van and off to school they go, only to be back later in the afternoon to collect the children again. After snacks, it is homework time, reviewing the memory verse, and listening to our ever-growing collection of take-home decodable books. Soon they will move onto preparing a delicious dinner and then inevitable cleanup responsibilities from the tasty meal. To round out the evening, there are baths that need to be given, laundry that needs to be folded, homework to be finished and a house to be tidied up again before falling into bed. Soon enough, the sun will rise and so will our faithful mothers to take up their labors once again.

To honor these marvelous moms, the kindergarteners wrote a short paragraph about their own special mother. We hope that you learn more about what makes these women so wonderful to us!

My mom is the best at *cuc otmel* (cooking oatmeal). She makes really good *serel brefist* (cereal breakfast). My favorite thing to do with Mom is *ples Navrse* (play Neighbors). ~ Sami Bleyenbergh

My mom is the best at *help my make crds* (helping me make cards). She makes really good *supres stumbullee* (suppers of stromboli). My favorite thing to do with Mom is *read books - Sinbrellu and A Snowee Day* (read book – Cinderella and A Snowy Day). ~ Makenna Bosveld

My mom is the best at *she is good at lonjre* (she is good at laundry). She makes really good *brots be kus she put tes on it* (brats because she puts cheese in them). My favorite thing to do with Mom is *bak be kuc she kuptax* (bake because we bake cupcakes). ~ Lael DeBoer

My mom is the best at *sleeping*. She makes really good *cinomon cream cheese coffe cakes*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *the Best Nest* (a snuggling activity). ~ Kort DeVries
My mom is the best at *makin choclit chip cakes* (making chocolate chips cookies). She makes really good *thicin tokos* (chicken tacos). My favorite thing to do with Mom is *cudlenn in my bed* (cuddling in my bed). ~ Cora Doezema

My mom is the best at *memre with me* (playing memory with me). She makes really good *making hot dogs*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *baking cookis* (cookies). ~ Mikayla Guichelaar

My mom is the best at *tucen me in at nit* (tucking me in at night). She makes really good *bakun bcuz she duz not brn it* (bacon because she does not burn it). My favorite thing to do with Mom is *pla memre mach* (play memory match). ~ Courtney Heyboer

My mom is the best at cooking *pump kin mufins she makes them at nit (cooking pumpkin muffins. She makes them at night)*. She makes really good *pe jae mask kace (PJ Max cake)*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *fool lonjree evry day (fold laundry every day)*. ~ Kaylie Huizing

My mom is the best at *takeing car of kids (taking care of kids)*. She makes really good *choklit chip cookees (chocolate chip cookies)*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *bakeing mufins (baking muffins)*. ~ Jace Huizinga

My mom is the best at *baking kukes be kux thae r tast (baking cookies because they are tasty)*. She makes really good *dinr be kux it is gud (dinner because it is good)*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *go e not the prk (going to the park)*. ~ Larkin Kalsbeek

My mom is the best at *makeind cuocese becus thar r choculit chips (making cookies because they are chocolate chip)*. She makes really good *macin chese thr is a lot uv chese (macaroni and cheese because there is a lot of cheese)*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *making boca of flowre (making a bouquet of flowers)*. ~ Abigail Kortus

My mom is the best at *cooken be kux it tast god (cooking because it tastes good)*. She makes really good *masb btatoz be kuz the are god (mashed potatoes because they are good)*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *snugl be kuz she is wom (snuggle because she is warm)*. ~ Olive Kuiper

My mom is the best at *bace cuces dllshis (baking cookies that are delicious)*. She makes really good *ceris sop pepers and salt tu it (carrot soup with peppers and salt to it)*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *play tag Isaiah sumtine wins (play tag. Isaiah sometimes wins)*. ~ Isaiah Miersma

My mom is the best at *art we do a pojex (art – we do a project)*. She makes really good *luzany she masx it yume (lasagna. She makes it yummy)*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *go to rebars (go to Rebounderz) It is fun to jump*. ~ Emmitt Peterson

My mom is the best at *schrechen wrcowts (stretching workouts)*. She makes really good *serrols (cinnamon rolls)*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *playing gams. We play bord gams (playing games. We play board games)*. ~ Carter Richards

My mom is the best at *cooking choklet bronees (cooking chocolate brownies)*. She makes really good *coffee cakes becus they are relly good (coffee cakes because they are really good)*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *shopeen at cosko be cus she bise me stuf (shopping at Costco because she buys me stuff)*. ~ Lena Rutgers

My mom is the best at *baken cukes (baking cookies)*. She makes really good *macenchees sweet (mac and cheese because it is really sweet)*. My favorite thing to do with Mom is *snugleen kowch (snuggling on the couch)*. ~ Grady Terpstra

My mom is the best at *hugging my wen I am scard* (*hugging me when I am scared*). She makes really good at making *moshd ptatoz and vejes* (*mashed potatoes and veggies*). My favorite thing to do with Mom is *tacening a woc becez we lik the sunshin* (*taking a walk because we like the sunshine*). ~ Naomi Van Oostenbrugge

My mom is the best at *redeg bocs on hr fon* (*reading books on her phone*). She makes really good *pancackas* (*pancakes*). My favorite thing to do with Mom is *reding books*. ~ Boone Van Overloop

My mom is the best at *bakeing makincheas* (*baking mac and cheese*). She makes really good *soop be cose it has peprs* (*soup because it has peppers*). My favorite thing to do with Mom is *baking I like to poring the eagreatis* (*baking – I like pouring the ingredients*). ~ Greta Van Uffelen

My mom is the best at *kukes choc ips* (*cookies with chocolate chips*). She makes really good *sof prests wieh ehes* (*soft pretzels with cheese*). My favorite thing to do with Mom is *kelen the windoe* (*cleaning the window*). ~ Skyler Vogel

HONESTLY

Miss Gayle Lotterman, 3rd Grade

I've heard people start sentences this way lately: "Just being honest...", "I'm not going to lie...", "I'll be honest...", or "Being fully transparent here...", and so on. These are just a few of the ways people might begin a sentence they are a little hesitant to say, or perhaps not necessarily very proud to admit. I myself have even done it plenty of times. A short little preface to whatever I'm going to say next, so that people know how serious and true my next statement will be. It seems to be all the more common, some adding this phrase to prove legitimacy, others to show their caution, or even to claim something cruel they said was just "being honest." I have heard it said this way: "Honestly, I'm not surprised." "I'm not going to lie, that really frustrates me." "If I'm brutally honest, that sounds ridiculous."

What I'm realizing about these phrases is that they leave me with the impression that this person is not otherwise truthful. To have to claim "I'm just being honest" makes it seem like in other instances, this person has not been honest. It has me thinking: Why isn't honesty something that is expected all the time? When did this become the norm? It has given me pause to consider what God has to say about honesty.

The Bible forbids lying in Exodus 20:16, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Though the 9th commandment seems to limit our application merely to times when we must speak about others, Lord's Day 43 shows the broader application. Not only should we not bear false witness, we should not backbite, slander, lie, deceive, and in any way use our tongues to engage in a war of words. Words are powerful and can be motivated by many evil things. James 3 shows how a "little member" like the tongue can cause great destruction. Just as a small rudder can steer a large ship and a small bit can turn a horse's entire body, so too can the tongue turn into a weapon, even a weapon of mass destruction.

How true this is in our society and culture today. It's hard to trust the words that people say, the advertisements one sees and reads, the media and government propaganda. Influencers are everywhere, and integrity is in short supply. Gossip is commonplace, and words can even be used for evil purposes and manipulation in the church. Proverbs 17:9 and 18:8 speak of gossip and slander separating friends and causing wounds, and again we see this so clearly in not just the world around us, but inside the church itself. Psalm 34:13 instructs, "Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." Romans 3 describes how tongues can spread lies, deceit, cursing, and bitterness, pointing us toward the depravity of man and our sinful nature. It can be discouraging; does anyone tell the truth anymore?

That's where a positive application of the 9th commandment comes in. It is a wonder of grace that we are born again, able even to speak the truth, and that grace gives us hope in times of discouragement. Ephesians 4:25 says, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another." Not only do we have instruction against lying, we are also commanded positively to speak the truth, with the reminder that we do this as members of the body of Christ. Lord's Day 43 tells us to "love the truth," to speak "uprightly and confess" the truth, and to "defend and promote" our neighbor. The tongue, as powerful as it is, can be a precious gift when used not only to confess the name of Him Who is truth, but to glorify Him in truth, and promote that truth in relation to our neighbor.

Therefore, Scripture clearly tells us the importance of speaking the truth and warns us of the dangers that come when we don't. Yet, Ephesians 4:15 additionally reminds us that we are to speak the truth "in love." Speaking in love means that we may need to speak hard truths at times. Prefacing these hard truths with "I'll be brutally honest" is not going to accomplish the same goal as those who come humbly, controlling their tongues to speak as gently and lovingly as possible, using words that edify, words that encourage and bless, true words that do not need "I'm not going to lie" in front of them.

God is a God of truth. Let us now bear His name as people of truth without having to constantly announce that we are telling the truth. Let our words and our lives show our honesty in speaking the truth, in love, towards one another, using our tongues for the good of our neighbor, and speaking the praise of God's name.



Please enjoy a variety of different writing projects from the third grade room:

[The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane Book Review by Katelynn Fogal](#)

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane is a book written by Kate DiCamillo. It's about a rabbit named Edward who is owned by a girl. One day while riding a big ship, two mean boys are messing with Edward. All of a sudden, Edward flies off the ship into the ocean! Will he ever see his owner again?

This book is a fantasy book. In my opinion, this was the best book that has ever been read by Miss Lotterman. The best part was the ending, but I'm not going to spoil that! I think this book should be read by 2nd grade and up. I would give this book 5 out of 5 stars, because it was so good!

Fred the Rat by Cole Huizinga

Fred the rat
Stepped up to bat,
And hit the ball
Down the hall.
It went through the wall
Into a stall,
And hit a bat
Who was flying at a hat.
So Fred the rat
Never again used a bat.

God's World by Ava Meulenberg

Look around Thy world so bright,
It has its own glistening sight.
The sun shines with all its might,
The moon gives us its light,
To show us our way at night.
The heavens declare Thy glory,
In the Bible read Thy story,
All the world will adore Thee.

Baseball by Miriam Koole

In my opinion, baseball is the worst sport ever. First, I could get embarrassed if I get three strikes. Next, I use metal bats and it could be scary using metal bats. Finally, I could get hit in the face with a fast pitch. That's why I never play baseball anymore.

Tigers by Casen Meulenberg

In my opinion, tigers are the coolest animal in the world! Tigers are my favorite animal because they are carnivores (meat eaters). Next, tigers can camouflage into the forest and other places really well. Lastly, this animal is a quick, agile creature, which I think is cool. That is why I think tigers are the sweetest animal ever!

Lost in the Storm Book Review by Clara Rutgers

Lost in the Storm is a book written by Holly Webb. It's about a cat. Her name is Star. Star's owner's name is Jasmine. Jasmine tells Star not to go outside because the snow is deep. Does Star listen?

This book is a fantasy book. I like this book because it is about cats, and I like cats! I really like this book and give it 4.5 out of 5 stars. I think girls would probably want to read this book. Ages of 7-9 could read this book.

Michigan Football by Henry Rutgers

Michigan Football is my favorite sport to watch. I like Michigan football because they are good at football. Also, I live in Michigan. Another reason I like Michigan is that blue and maize look good. Now can you see why I like Michigan?

Watermelon by Paige Schipper

I think watermelon is really good. It is my favorite fruit. This fruit is my favorite because I like juicy and fruity fruit. My opinion is that watermelon is the best fruit because it is good on a hot summer day. I like watermelon since it is big, and I can have a lot. There is no doubt that watermelon is the best fruit ever.

Baseball by Hannah Vandenberg

In my opinion, baseball is the best sport ever. For instance, I like to hit the ball as hard as possible. For another example, I like to run around the yard. Most importantly, I like to play outside. That is why baseball is the best sport ever!

Big Forest by Natalie VanderVeen

Blue mountains above fog,
Bright green forests, fallen logs.
Gleaming rivers shine,
Orange, red, yellow, leaves combined.
Tall trees and sunny sky,
Swaying green grass lies.
Stones as big as stumps,
Big wide river bumps.
Snow on mountain peaks,
Lots of river leaks.

Let's Get a Hamster by Nora VanOostenbrugge

I firmly believe that my family should get a hamster. The first reason is that hamsters make good companions. If I am bored, I will play a lot with it. Secondly, the hamster will give me responsibility. I will feed it and calm it down if it is loud. The final reason is that I would get entertained instead of bugging Mom and Dad. I will love it and give it a name so they don't need to. These are the reasons we should get a hamster.

More School Days by Myla Veldman

I think Hope School should have 190 days of school. First, I think we should have 190 days of school because we would be able to have more fun. We could get more exercise and would not wiggle in class. Also, we should have more days in school because we could get more work done. We could actually change seats. Finally, we should be able to be in school for more time because teachers would be able to see more cute faces. We'll smile all the time! I'm sure you'll agree that we should have 190 days of school!

REFLECTIONS

Miss Faith Bleyenbergh, 6th Grade

At a recent 3rd grade chapel, Professor Huizinga spoke on thankfulness. A fellow teacher also led devotions on being thankful for all that God has given—not just what we consider 'good,' but even the 'bad.' Although this does not come naturally, it was an excellent reminder to me to consider the year in the light of thankfulness for all that God has given.

To begin, I am thankful for the learning that I was able to do. God's creation and His providential hand guiding it all are amazing to contemplate. In our classroom we study how He guides history for the good of His church, moving kings and rulers to do His bidding. We see how He perfectly designs the smallest of creatures so that it can accomplish the purpose He determined. We see His order and infinity in numbers. We see His love and mercy as we study the life of Jesus and His sacrifice. I hope the kids were able to learn even half as much as I did about our God and His creation!

I am also grateful for the unique gifts that God gives. For students, sometimes having different gifts than peers can be difficult. Sometimes being different means having an academic struggle that few others have. It might mean lacking the coordination which other students

possess. In some cases, connecting socially is a challenge. Although these are real struggles, I have witnessed how these struggles have served as blessings. A student who excels in one area will step up to help a struggling friend. Often, these roles will flip depending on the subject or activity. Facing challenges together helps bring students closer to one another. Friendships grow, and communion of the saints is experienced in a beautiful way.

Although my list could go on, I will end with my thankfulness for covenant homes. The lives of the students often testify to the fact that they have parents who love them, care for them, and instruct them in their walk along the straight and narrow way. Although there is sin, evidence of the new man is present as well. How beautiful it is to see God's covenant promises and His work in the line of generations!



The excerpts below are written by 6th students asked to write about what they have learned about living as a Christian in 6th grade.

In the past year, we have learned about ancient Rome. We read an article by Rev. Barnhill about Tertullian's thoughts on Roman entertainment. Tertullian talked about the Colosseum and how it was wicked. Rev. Barnhill said in the article that the Colosseum was not evil of itself, but people made it corrupt. Rev. Barnhill connected today's entertainment to the entertainments of ancient Rome. He pointed out many things that can apply to our lives, especially about avoiding wicked entertainment. God calls us to live the life of the antithesis. We must always live the antithesis because there are so many wicked things around us. We are called to act, read, and live with discernment in this wicked world.

~ Zach Bylsma

In 6th grade this year, I learned how to be a Christian by doing my work in love. Doing work in love means doing it to the best of my ability. As Christians we are called to do our best because God put us here on this earth to love Him. When our work is sloppy and looks like we hurried to get it done, then it shows that we are not serving the Lord as we should. If you could try harder, do it! We are called to use our talents and abilities to serve God's name. Also, it's important to remember that it's okay to not be good at something as long as you are trying your best. Remember: do your work in love for God.

~ Sadie Meulenberg

One of the things that I learned about being a Christian this school year is how to be kind. At the 6th grade chapel, Seminarian Feenstra spoke about how to be a good friend. We can be good friends by being selfless. Seminarian Feenstra gave the example of Jonathan being selfless when Saul was chasing David. He was willing to give the kingdom to his friend. We can also be good friends by being friends to the needy. Jonathan was friends with David even though David did not have anything to give him. Finally, Seminarian Feenstra emphasized the importance of bringing the Word of God. We must apply this to our lives by being selfless, helping the needy, and bringing the Word of God as Jonathan did to David.

~ Reuben Langerak

This school year I have learned many things about how to live as a Christian. I am going to focus on one person that we learned about: Mary. Mary showed that she cared for the word of God by listening to Jesus speak. Just like Mary, we must listen to the Word of God, whether it be in church listening to the minister or reading the Bible on our own. Some people may think in the morning, "I'm in too much of a rush to do devotions, I'll do it later." We must always make our own time with God in prayer and devotions. Sometimes, I also fall into this rut. We must all learn from Mary. She went to the feet of Jesus to hear him speak. Her example makes me a little more eager to go to God in prayer and devotions, and I hope it does that for you too.

~ Charlotte Meulenberg

One of the things I have learned about Christian living this year is about prayer. We learned about how Jesus teaches what to pray with the Lord's Prayer. We are to ask for proper blessings. We ask for our daily needs. We ask for the blessings of grace.

Jesus also teaches us how to pray with a parable. There is a man who is traveling, and he arrives at his friend's house in the middle of the night. He was weak and hungry, but his friend had no food for him because back then they only bought enough food for one day. The friend goes to a neighbor's house and knocks to ask for food. The neighbor rejects the friend, but the friend continues to knock. This parable shows that when we pray, the door of heaven may seem closed. However, we must not stop praying. We must keep knocking at the door of heaven. When we pray, God's answer is not always what we want it to be. We must continue praying and having patience because God will answer our prayers even in times of need. Prayer is a gift!

~ Elizabeth DeBoer

CREATION REVELATION

Nate DeVries, 8th Grade

II Thess. 2: 9-12: "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

As scientific discoveries come at an ever-increasing rate, the unbelieving of the world are left with no excuse but to acknowledge an Almighty God who has created all things. Two apparently conflicting discoveries have been made in the arena of space which, along with many others, cast doubt on the foolish theories of how the world came into existence and how it has developed since that time. One of these discoveries was the detection of an additional six ancient galaxies on the outer reaches of the visible universe. These galaxies were hypothesized to be present in the past and were confirmed by the James Webb telescope. When first detected, the galaxies were not as they were thought to be, causing confusion among the scientists studying them. As they have been observed more in-depth, they have not become less confusing; in fact, they are being called "universe breaker" galaxies by some astronomers. According to Dr. Erika Nelson from the University of Colorado, "It's bananas. These galaxies should not have had time to form." A co-author of the results of the study published by Dr.

Nelson, [Penn State University's Joel] Leja, wrote, "It turns out we found something so unexpected it actually creates problems for science. It calls the whole picture of early galaxy formation into question." Along with the previous discovery of four "ancient" galaxies, these now confirmed galaxies are forcing scientists to reconsider the age of the universe; many are now proposing that the cosmos must be much older than previously thought, casting much of the current Big Bang theory into doubt.¹

Concurrent with the work of Nelson and Leja is a study conducted by astronomers from the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences led by Guo Qi. These scientists are studying various galaxy groups/pairs and their rotation with respect to each other. What is expected is that galaxy pairs or groups should be co-rotating, meaning they are rotating in the same direction. These expectations come from various "standard" models and super-computer simulations based on previous findings, most recently from the Planck mission, and are assumed because at the projected age of the universe only the youngest galaxies would not co-rotate. Although the astronomers had the expectancy of finding a small fraction of counter-rotating galaxies because, after all, there are supposedly parts of the universe that are much younger than other parts, what they found was a much larger number of counter-rotating galaxies than thought possible. The significant conclusion of this is that there are problems with the Standard Model of the universe and how it came into existence; in other words, "This suggests that the universe is younger than that suggested by the Planck observations," according to Qi. This conclusion opens up many other problems for astronomers. According to Keith Cooper of Space.com, "...there are other hurdles to overcome. If we lower the age of the universe too much, then astronomers will find themselves in the awkward position of having stars that are known to be older than the universe itself."²

At this point, all that the various secular scientists can agree on is that evolution is true and there is no God. Many are now working furiously to revise various theories and definitions to allow the evolution narrative to remain seemingly valid and acceptable. This, of course, is critical for the world, for the only alternative is to confess that God is God alone. This brings to mind the truth of Isaiah 44:18: "They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand." How sad it is when men deny the existence of the Almighty when he has not hidden himself, Romans 1:20: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" As more is discovered in the wonder of creation, we can expect more contradictory evidence, more supposed paradoxes, and an ever-more blatant denial of the truth of God's word and His glorious revelation in the creation. Knowing this, as Christians, it is even more important than ever to study the "most elegant book" of Creation and be ready to give an answer to those who do not believe.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/feb/22/universe-breakers-james-webb-telescope-detects-six-ancient-galaxies>

² <https://www.space.com/universe-younger-than-thought-galaxy-motion>



Enjoy some creative writing from the 8th grade classroom:

Beware the Porcupine!

By Jacob DeBoer

Jimmy Watson tiptoed into the grass at twilight. *It's the perfect time for hunting. I'd better watch out for those porcupines*, he thought. *Mr. McMillis said that they do not throw quills, but why would I trust a lying beggar?* Then, he saw the quills pointed directly at him, and, all of a sudden, a quill launched straight at him. Squealing childishly, he sprinted away, leaving his belongings behind. Johnny McMillis chuckled as he picked up the quills. *I could make lots off this job*, he thought, *as long as I keep that foolish Watson boy believing in quill-throwing porcupines.*

Sandcastle

By Ondra Kalsbeek

"Whatchu doin'?" said the boy's older brother, kicking over the beginning of a sandcastle.

The younger ignored him and started to rebuild his sandcastle.

Overcome with anger, the older kicked the younger saying, "That's what you get you little nothing of a kid!"

Again, the younger ignored his brother, not bothering to respond.

Finally giving up, the infuriated boy stormed into the house, ready to tell on his little brother.

Inside, his mother was watching as her son kicked some sand, then thin air, and finally storming into the house. *Poor child*, she thought, *he must really miss his brother.*

The Run-Away

By Daniel Langerak

The scraggly man yanked open the restaurant door. His arrival was so abrupt that the eyes of everyone in the restaurant turned to look at him.

"I'd like one water, please," he croaked hurriedly to the cashier.

"Alright," the cashier answered, frowning. The man looked familiar although he didn't know why. "Anything else?"

"Nope," rasped the man hastily. "The water's free, right?"

"Yes, it is," answered the cashier, "and are you sure that's all you want? I highly recommend our..."

"Just give me the water!" the man roared. It was at that moment that the police broke through the door.

The True Story Of The Heroic

By Ruby VanUffelen

She had just gone to the dentist and walked into the classroom five minutes late. The whole classroom had their heads stuck in the video that they were watching. She went to her desk, but, all of a sudden, she saw a dreadful, awful, poisonous beetle sneakily walking toward the teacher's desk. The beetle was getting ready to place his sharp and deceiving fangs into the

skin of the teacher. She then sprang into action, made a heroic jump, and smashed the devious beetle just as it was about to bite his poisonous fangs into the skin of the teacher.

A Beetle's Demise

By Mr. DeVries

"Gotcha!" yelled the spider as he raced toward the struggling captive.

"I don't wanna diiiiiieeeee!" screamed Tim as he struggled violently to free himself. "Somebody HELP!!!"

Soon, he observed giants surrounding him, their googly eyes staring and their mouths hanging agape. "HEEEEEELP MEEEEEE!!!" he screamed again. As the giants stood staring, muttering loud grumblings from their gaping maws, Tim realized that they would not help. This made him frantic as he twisted and turned to escape the onslaught of the hungry spider. Suddenly, he was free. As he lumbered on his way, a terrible shriek sounded. A shadow fell above...

The Near Escape of Tim

By Miriam Kuiper

Tim, the beetle, walks around, searching for food. Suddenly, he is caught in a sticky string. He struggles to escape, but the spider starts to descend upon him. He fights for his life. The merciless humans watch, offering Tim no help. Eventually, they leave him to die. He continues to fight the spider. Finally, he escapes. Triumphant, he walks away from the spider web. He is nearly at the front of the room. He isn't going to die by a spider today, not while those merciless humans watch. Suddenly, a giant foot squashes down on him, ending his innocent life.

Butcher's Beef

By Dani Bylsma

Allen was being summoned to a junky area in town. All because some dumb pets had gone missing. He walked around town and was drawn to the local butcher shop. Allen walked in the shop and grumpily grabbed a sample. He looked up in amazement because the meat was very delicious; he had suspected overdone meat because of how the shop was set up. The owner didn't tell you what kind of meat you were eating; he only said that it was good and you wouldn't regret eating it. Suddenly, it clicked. He had found all of the lost pets.

All For Nothing

By Jacob Huizinga

"Hurry up," cried Shabby, the friendly pelican.

"I don't think I can make it," cried Murphy, the baby sea turtle.

Murphy had just hatched and was making his way to the water. Shabby was cheering and encouraging him on.

"Almost there, almost there," cried Shabby.

Murphy kept going, pushing on. Three feet, two feet, one foot. "You got this little guy," encouraged Shabby.

Finally, Murphy had made it to the water. "Thanks, Shabby," said Murphy.

"No problem," Shabby replied.

Just as Murphy had made it into the water, a barracuda came for an afternoon snack. Shabby watched with complete horror.

Revenge of the Blister Beetles

By Colton Huizinga

Tim the beetle stood in front of his army of blister beetles.

"They thought I was dead! A human deliberately stomped on me after my life and death match with the black widow spider. Little did they know that it would take more than that to kill Tim, the blister beetle! I shall lead you back to that classroom, to get our revenge on all mankind for what horrible things they have thought and done to every bug!" With that, the army of beetles charged after Tim in search of those who had dared to murder Tim in cold blood.

Go Bake a Cake

By Kara Bleyenbergh

One morning in the middle of July, I, Cynthia, woke up, hearing a loud growl in my ear. "Get out of here," I yelled to Mike, my little brother. "Go to your own room."

"But Mom told me to wake you up."

"Tell her I'm awake and never come back here again."

"But I'm bored."

"I don't care, find something to do."

"There is nothing to do here."

"Go bake a cake."

"Whatever."

That same day, Mike went missing. We looked everywhere for him and couldn't find him. We checked the local grocery store. There he was, making a cake.

The Geezer On Mars

By Ellery Engelsma

Millions of people once lived on Mars, living in little glass capsules. They had not found aliens yet, but they felt they would soon.

"How do I feel about finding aliens?" said an old geezer to his old wife, "Well, I think we all would die!"

"Har, har," laughed his grandkids, "That would never happen!"

The very next day, there was a huge space gun invasion put together by aliens. Everyone died except the grandfather.

"How do I feel about the aliens? I think they shoulda done what they did," the grandfather said to himself.

The Velociraptor

By Lucy Schimmel

Scales the velociraptor was stalking his prey.

"Muhaha! I'm coming for you humans!" he chuckled. Just then a large roar came from above. Scales looked up and saw Bruce the T-rex staring down at the humans.

"Ugh, Bruce, why are you here!" Scales shouted at Bruce.

"Ha! Stupid chicken. I dare you to fight me," Bruce said. Just then an entire pack of velociraptors came and jumped on top of Bruce.

"ROAAAR! Get off of me!" Bruce roared.

"AHHHH!" screamed the humans. Scales and Bruce were too distracted with each other to notice them running away. Eventually Scales defeated Bruce.



Kara Bleyenbergh



Dani Bylsma



Jace Cammenga



Jacob DeBoer



Ellery Engelsma



Colton Huizinga



Jacob Huizinga



Ondra Kalsbeek



Miriam Kuiper



Daniel Langerak



Cambria Rau



Lucy Schimmel



Caleb Schipper



Ruby VanUffelen

Congratulations,
Class of 2024

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)

*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
Pencil sharpener	Dry erase marker

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	
(2) 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)



5th Grade

KJV Bible	Pencils/Eraser
Crayons	Scissors
Pencil sharpener	Notebook paper
3-ring binder	Gym Shoes
2 red pens	Highlighter x 2
Ruler	Black felt tip pen
Fine tip dry erase marker x 2	
Glue stick or rubber cement	
Binder dividers with 5 tabs	
Old sock for whiteboards	



6th Grade

KJV Bible	Glue stick
Psalter	3 ring binder w/ 8 folders
Notebook paper	Scissors
Gym shoes (labeled)	Colored pencils
Eraser	Ruler
Pens	Black felt tip pen x 2
Highlighter x 2	Dry erase marker x 2
5 subject notebook	Old sock for whiteboards
Half-circle protractor (3.75 inch)	
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

Black felt tip pen

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

PARENTS:

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