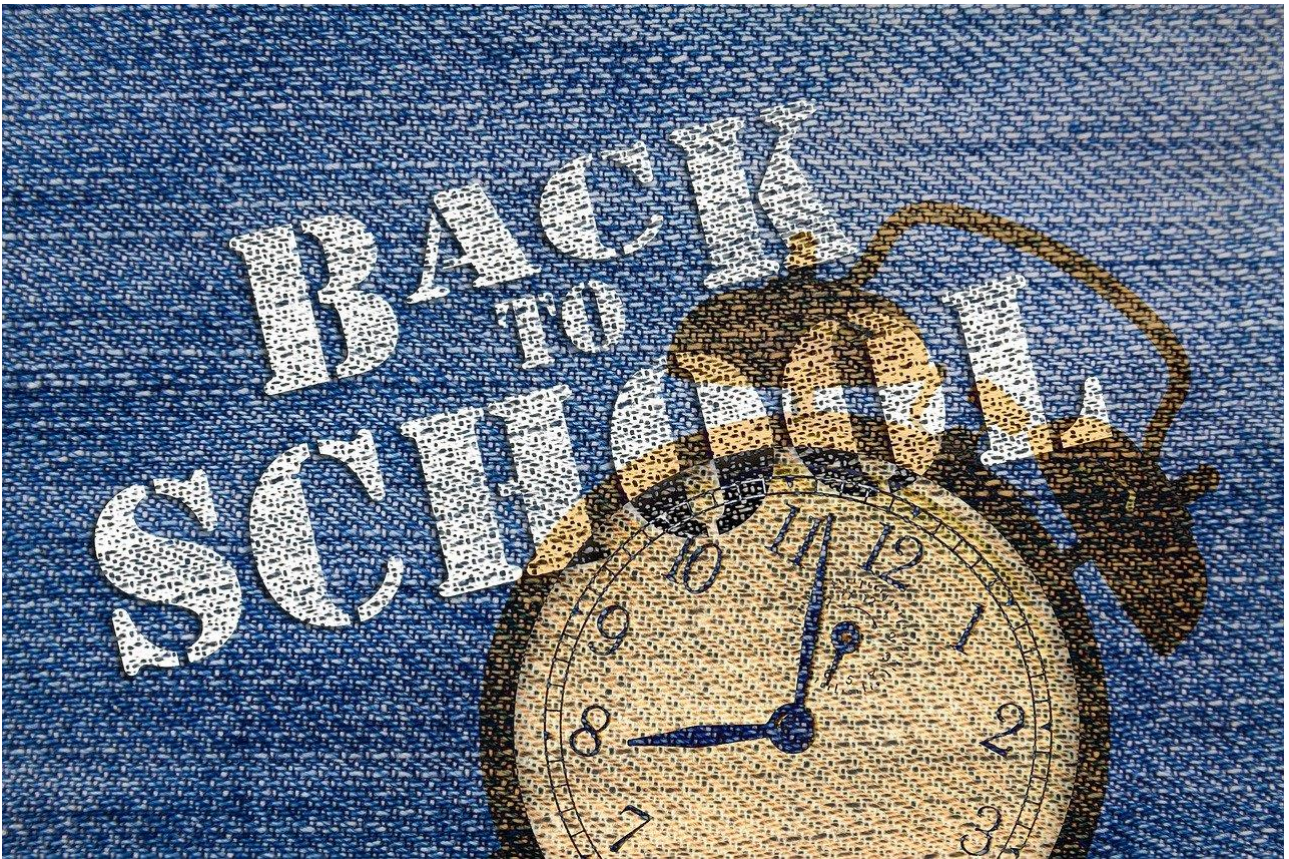




HIGHLIGHTS

August 2024



Be careful for nothing; but in every thing 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 Christ Jesus.

~ Philippians 4:6-7



FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



A MISSION MINDED SCHOOL?

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

Is Hope School mission minded? If by that question, one is asking if the function and purpose of the instruction is to save the children, then the answer is no. The Christian school's purpose is not to evangelize, that's the churches' work and calling. That is not to say that the school has no interest in the salvation of the children. It is, in fact, on the basis of the biblical teaching of the organic nature of the covenant, the Lord's promise to save the children of believing parents, that the Christian school has its purpose and function. The children are not to be viewed as unregenerate little heathens in need of salvation, but they are to be viewed as tender lambs to be nurtured and reared in the fear of the Lord, to the utmost of our power.

Hope School mission minded? Oh, yes! That mission must be known and understood by all involved in operation of this good Christian school. The mission must drive all the activities of the Christian school. Parents, teachers, and students must be working together to accomplish this mission. That mission can be expressed succinctly in a couple paragraphs written in the Parent/Student Handbook.

Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School was established by Christian parents in 1947. The basis of our school and its instruction is God's covenant with believers and their children. Since these children belong to Him, God has called believing parents to train their covenant children in the same God-honoring environment in the school as in the home and the church.

In maintaining Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School, parents have manifested their belief that the education of covenant children must serve to prepare them to follow their lifelong calling to reveal the glory of their God in a life lived from the principle of regeneration by grace. Hope School is first of all a Reformed institution where children are nurtured in a God-honoring and Christ-serving environment by God-fearing teachers, and the instruction is based on the infallible, inspired, written Word of God.

A noble calling and task confronts all of us again as we embark on the 78th year of covenantal instruction at Hope School. How can the mission of the school be accomplished? It will take generous financial giving by many supporters to meet the budgeted needs to operate the school, dedicated service and wise oversight and decisions by the Board of Directors, parents and teachers working together to provide the biblical instruction necessary for the children to develop their gifts to the glory of God, and children who receive the instruction while exercising diligence in their studies and kindness toward their school mates. And it will take much prayer. For we know that unless the Lord bestows His blessing on the work, we labor in vain. So pray fervently "Lord bless the work and establish the work of our hands". Then and only then will the mission of the good Christian school be accomplished.

POLICY REMINDERS

School Cancellation

When school is cancelled or delayed due to inclement or other emergencies, a mass email notification will be sent out to all families. Cancellations will be broadcast over WOOD TV and also reported on their website. If reason arises to shorten the school day after classes are in session, all parents will be contacted.

During 3-day Kindergarten years, if school is cancelled on Monday, classes will be held on Tuesday. If school is cancelled on a Wednesday, classes will be held on Thursday. Friday cancellations will not be made up.

Personal Electronic Devices

Students must have all personal electronic devices not specifically used for teacher approved academic work, turned off and out of use during school hours, including recess. First time violations will have the device brought to the office and returned at the end of the day. With subsequent violations, the device will only be returned to a parent.

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.

Locked Doors

During school hours the building will be locked. Visitors should enter the building through the front doors. The office will buzz visitors in. Students may not let strangers into the building.

Attendance

If your child will not be in school for the day or has an appointment, please notify the school office AND your child's teacher by 8:45AM.

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!

2024-25 School Calendar

August 26	First Day of School
Aug. 30 – Sept. 2	Labor Day Break
September 18	School Pictures
September 23-26	MAP Assessments
October 3	PTA
October 10-11	Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 17-18	Teachers' Convention – No School
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23- Jan. 1	Christmas Break
January 17	End of 1 st Semester (1/2 day)
January 20-23	MAP Assessments
February 6-7	Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 13	PTA
April 7-11	Spring Break
May 5-8	MAP Assessments
May 26	Memorial Day – No School
May 27	Last Day of School (1/2 day)
	Graduation

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Brad Schipper (chairman), Scott Moelker, Josh Meulenberg, Kevin Koole

It's hard to believe that another school year is upon us. During the summer the Enrollment Committee had the privilege of interviewing and welcoming five new families to Hope School. It is a blessing to be able to see God's work in adding new families to our school. This year we welcome Jordan and Margaret Schipper and their children, Reeve (7th), Willah (6th), and Breck (3rd), to our Hope School community. They are transitioning from Adams Christian where their children were blessed with faithful instruction. The four remaining families are enrolling their first child into kindergarten. They are: Dan and Amber Gritters and their son Kaden, Chad and Kezia VanBaren and their son Garrett, Matt and Brenda Duncan and their daughter Olivia, Zach and Amanda Klamer and their daughter Kayla. Each family met the requirements set forth in our enrollment guidelines.

We give thanks to our covenant God who has graciously given to us this school wherein the covenant seed are taught each subject in the light of His word. May the Lord bless the instruction given by our godly teachers this upcoming school year. "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it." (Psalm 127:1)

NEW FAMILY INTRODUCTIONS



Hello, we are the Duncan's. Matt and I (Brenda) have been married 6 years and have two children, Olivia (5) and Aiden (3). Matt works for Roth Trucking, driving an asphalt truck. I stay at home with the kids and also love crafting in my spare time. Olivia loves school, animals, and crafting with me. She is so excited to start kindergarten this year and Lord willing Aiden will be joining her at Hope in a few years. Aiden is an energetic boy who loves to wrestle with Daddy. He also loves dinosaurs and trucks. Matt and I are thankful to be able to send Olivia to Hope School so she can get a good Christian education.

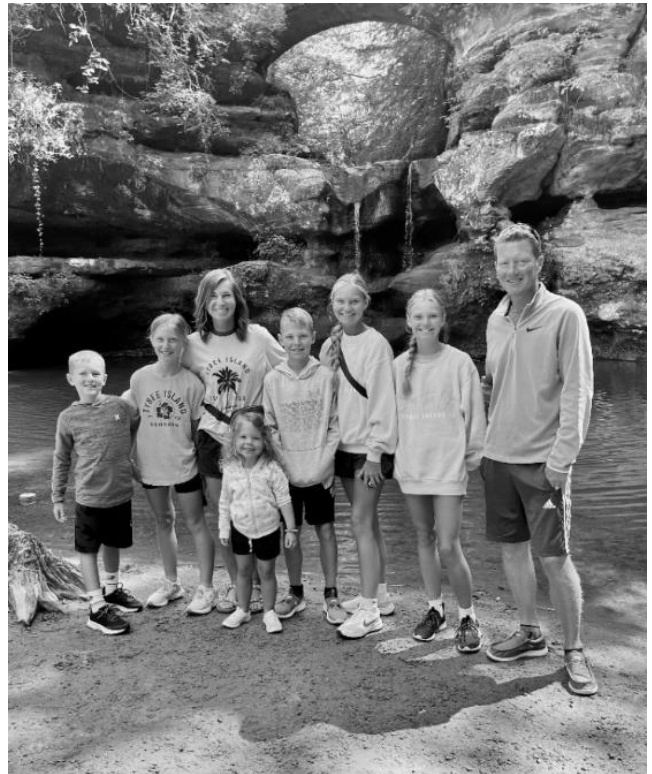
Hello from the Schipper family,

We are Jordan and Margaret along with our six children, Everley, Violet, Reeve, Willah, Breck and Etta. We attend Grandville PRC and are looking forward to a new school year at Hope. Our children have attended Adams for the past ten years and have made many wonderful friends and memories, we look forward to a similar experience at Hope.

Reeve will be entering 7th grade and enjoys playing sports; basketball, soccer and golf to name a few. He has played on some local soccer leagues over the years and spent Wednesday evenings this past summer learning some new golf skills. He is excited to join Hope's soccer and basketball teams this year.

Willah is going into 6th grade, and is looking forward to some familiar faces along with making more friends, as she thoroughly enjoys the social side of school. She likes to stay busy and will be the first to raise her hand to help out classmates or the teacher during the school day.

Breck is entering 3rd grade at Hope, he also enjoys all the sports, he was in the local golf program this summer, and he anticipates his fourth year playing basketball this winter with Upwards. Breck also enjoys, math, reading and making new friends.



Our two oldest children will be attending Covenant, Everley will be in 10th grade and Violet just graduated from Adams, and is anticipating her first year in high school.

Etta is 3 years old and anxiously awaiting the day she rides the bus to school with her siblings!

Jordan works for Insignia Homes, as a project manager. He prefers golfing rather than working on all the home renovation ideas Margaret comes up with.

As a family we enjoy being outdoors, swimming, walking our local trails, and visiting different beaches throughout the summer.

Hello! We are the Gritters Family. Dan and I (Amber) are excited not only to send our kids to Hope but also to meet and serve with you all this year and the years to come. Dan is a son of Marv and Marcia Gritters and I am a daughter of Jeff and Kim Scholten. We are members at Zion PRC. Dan works as a Software Developer at Configura. We have been married for seven years and have three children: Kaden (5), Levi (4), and Ella (1).

Kaden and Levi are inseparable, and Ella hates to be missing out. As a family, we love camping, bike rides, pool and lake days with the grandparents, and sledding and snowmobiling in the winter. Kaden is excited to go to school and maybe even more so to ride the bus with his "Aunty Carol" Boeve. God is faithful and we are thankful for the opportunity to send our kids to Hope. Lord willing, Alvin Rau (Great Grandpa to me) will be able to visit his great-great-grandson here at Hope.



Hello, we are the Klamers! We have been married for eight years and have three children: Kayla (5), Lucas (3), and Adalyn (1 1/2), with the blessing of expecting another baby this October! Zachary works as a bioinformatics researcher at Van Andel Institute, and Amanda stays home with the kids. Kayla is very excited to start kindergarten this year and go to the same school her parents went to! Kayla is sweet, helpful, and the best big sister, and loves to do anything that involves the outdoors or crafts. We had a very fun summer as a family going on camping trips, swimming in Grandma's pool, and just spending time outside. We are very thankful for the blessing of Christian education at Hope School and look forward to joining the community!



Hi! We're Chad and Kez (Kezia) VanBaren. We met in Australia and now live in Marne with our three boys Garrett (5), Declan (4) and Jett (2) and attend Grace PRC. We are also expecting our fourth boy, Lord willing, in December! Garrett is super excited to start kindergarten with his two cousins this year and excited to make new friends. We're thankful for a Christian school and teachers and looking forward to our first year at Hope School with Garrett.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Tom Huizinga, Chairman
Brent Kregel, Steve Langerak, Brad Schipper

As the summer draws to a close, and we get ready to begin another school year, it is time for the annual Building Committee Report. There were several larger projects to occupy the committee's time the past few months, and there is always plenty of work to be done if one looks around hard enough. The carpet in the 3rd grade classroom was in need of replacement so the old carpet was torn out by volunteers at our summer workbee on June 8 and new carpet has been installed. We had a great turnout for the workbee this year, and we would like to express our appreciation to all who gave of their time to help out once again. There were many small projects that day, and with willing participation, the work was completed quickly. The projects at the work bee included: disassembling the ga-ga pit, prepping the steel handrails by the gym entry for new paint, removing old mulch in the front landscaping, removing some bushes at the rental property, sending some old desks from the storage barn to Grace Church's scrap metal drive, removing some hallway ceiling tiles for an upcoming AC project, sealing the exterior walls of the large gym with masonry sealer, and spreading some top soil on the soccer field.

At the time of this writing, the Building Committee anticipates having air conditioning installed in the K-2nd, 7th, and 8th grade classrooms by the time school begins. This will be a great addition for the beginning and end of each school year when the heat makes work difficult for teachers and students alike. Another project some of you may have noticed on the school grounds is the work being done by the County Drain Commission. The old steel culverts are being torn out and new, larger concrete culverts are going in to hopefully improve water flow. Currently the grounds are quite a mess, but the county is confident that things will be put back together in time for the school year to begin. Perhaps this will be the time that a government run project finishes according to schedule. We certainly hope this will be the case. One more thing we have on our radar is the replacement of some of the old sidewalk on the south side of the school building and the west entryway.

The Building Committee would like to thank some of the people who take care of the daily tasks here at Hope School. The Koole family continues to perform the janitorial duties and sprinkler maintenance, Mike Elzinga will serve as our lawn and grounds keeper again this year and Dan Boeve has recently been hired as school Maintenance Man. A special thanks goes out to Larry Meulenberg, who recently retired from Maintenance Man duties, for his years of service.

We give thanks to God not only for this school where our covenant children continue to be taught by faithful teachers, but for the means and resources to maintain and improve the facility He has seen fit to bless us with. We pray for wisdom to act as good stewards of these great gifts from Him and to make decisions according to His will.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Langerak, Chairman
Scott Moelker, Joel DeVries, Matt DeBoer

Summer is flying by once again and in a few short weeks a new school year will begin. Moses knew a bit about how quickly time goes by, and that we are here for such a short time, when he prayed in Psalm 90:12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." The goal of the School Board, administrator, and staff is the same today as it was nearly 78 years ago: to not only provide for our children and grandchildren a good God centered education, but mainly to instruct them of our need for Jesus Christ, who is our Wisdom.

The Education Committee continues to meet monthly through the summer to make preparations for the new school year. The last *Highlights* report mentioned our need for a full-time aide to assist in the Discovery program and we are happy to announce we have contracted Jayanne den Hartog to replace Leah Potjer. Jayanne did some teacher aide work at Heritage last year and we look forward to getting to know her better as she joins the staff at Hope. Emma Minderhoud has agreed to do some part-time aide work to take over for Jen Kalsbeek and we welcome her as well. Val Minderhoud is returning as an aide for a rather large 7th grade class. The work of teacher aides often goes unnoticed and we would like to thank Leah and Jen for their work and thank all the volunteers and aides who are instrumental in the day-to-day operation of Hope School.

The Tech Committee has been busy this summer doing routine maintenance work on equipment, purchasing and provisioning new chrome books, making sure all the old chrome books are still working properly, updating the software inventory record, setting up four new PCs for teachers and the secretary, and installing new software and a Smart Board for some of the teachers. Hank Vander Waal has served the last couple years as our tech maintenance man but has asked to be relieved of these duties. We thank Hank for his willingness to help and take this opportunity to let all of you know that we are looking for a new techy person to take over our tech maintenance needs. Please contact anyone on the Education Committee if you would like more information.

The Robotics program is anticipating a very busy year with 15 to 20 students participating, which means that they will have at least three and possibly four teams. We thank Matt Elzinga, who is returning to lead the program and also thank Matt Rutgers and Ben Petroelje for stepping up to coach alongside him. Matt Moelker, a CCHS senior, has agreed to assist them. This season begins with a kick-off meeting on August 27 at 7PM in the music room and runs through November. All interested 7th and 8th graders are welcome to come.

We are thankful to God for His faithfulness in providing for us willing and able teachers and an administrator who give of themselves for His covenant children. Please remember the Board and the staff in your prayers as this new school year begins in this ever changing world.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Josh Meulenberg, Treasurer
Vance Grasman, Kevin Koole

Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." As the summer draws to a close and we look ahead to another school year, we hope that you had a time of refreshment. What a beautiful summer it has been! The weather was very enjoyable and seeing God's creation at full bloom brings life and joy to the heart. If you are anything like our family, you let your kids enjoy that beautiful creation way too long into the evening. It is hard to say goodbye to summer but with it comes the excitement of another school year ahead and hopefully some time of relaxation for our hard-working mothers.

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 2023-2024 financial statement. We are pleased to report that we ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$52,152.73. The drive surpassed its goal by over \$27,000 and church collections surpassed its goal by almost \$4,000. The income that we receive from PR Special Education is 15% of the expense of the Resource Room. We are very thankful for the work that PR Special Education does and for the support that they give to our school. The reason we received about \$3,000 over our budget is due to one additional late payment for last year coming in this fiscal year. To God be the glory for the continued financial support of Hope PRC School.

We set the deadline for enrollment for July 8 this year. It is the 2nd year in a row that we have set it earlier in July. This allows us to be better prepared for the beginning of the school year. This forces all of you to begin thinking about tuition already before the half way point of the summer. We appreciate you taking care of this for us even when you may be on vacation. The Finance Committee met at school on July 8 to review enrollment forms which had been mailed in or dropped off. There were a few late arrivals so we finalized enrollment in the weeks following and processed payment then. We have 80 families that have enrolled this year which is up 3 families from the beginning of last year.

You should have received your first tuition statement on August 12 for the 2024-2025 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. Many new families have chosen to take advantage of the monthly EFT. We are glad that we can offer this as a convenient way to pay tuition. Please reach out soon if you would like to be added to that list.

As we look forward to another time of school, we ask that you take time to praise and thank the Lord for the wonderful gift, He has given, called Hope PRC School. God has blessed us in many ways, one of which has been financially. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 100:4-5

Actual to Budget. Fiscal Year 2023-24	Total	Budgeted	%
<u>Income</u>			
Church Collections	49,940.42	46,000.00	108.6%
Gifts and Pledges	373,530.30	346,000.00	108.0%
Gym Rental	4,675.00	5,000.00	93.5%
Hope Foundation	50,000.00	50,000.00	100.0%
Special Ed Society	17,812.03	14,794.00	120.4%
Tuition	794,196.38	780,000.00	101.8%
Z - Bus Fees	27,809.16	20,550.00	135.3%
Total Income	1,317,963.29	1,262,344.00	104.4%
<u>Expenses</u>			
Accounting Fees	6,600.00	6,750.00	97.8%
Band Expenses	3,000.00	3,000.00	100.0%
Building and Grounds - Y/E	43,000.00	43,000.00	100.0%
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	93,677.03	84,000.00	111.5%
Insurance, HRA - Y/E	4,000.00	4,000.00	100.0%
Insurance, Workers Comp	2,566.72	2,564.00	100.1%
Janitors Supplies	4,047.05	4,500.00	89.9%
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	1,694.20	2,500.00	67.8%
Office Equipment - Y/E	1,500.00	1,500.00	100.0%
Office Supplies	2,104.82	1,000.00	210.5%
Payroll - Band / Choir	23,224.36	24,000.00	96.8%
Payroll - Building Maintenance	1,669.50	2,500.00	66.8%
Payroll - Discovery Room	81,348.68	90,143.00	90.2%
Payroll - Janitor	35,001.60	35,000.00	100.0%
Payroll - Lawn Maintenance	4,838.00	4,200.00	115.2%
Payroll - Librarian	5,580.00	5,250.00	106.3%
Payroll - Office	34,919.50	36,575.00	95.5%
Payroll - Substitute Teachers	1,810.00	1,000.00	181.0%
Payroll - Teachers	600,374.76	603,589.00	99.5%
Payroll - Teachers Aids	27,811.50	21,546.00	129.1%
Payroll - Technology Maintenance	270.00	3,000.00	9.0%
Payroll Taxes	57,370.66	63,518.00	90.3%
Phys Ed Uniforms	713.30	1,000.00	71.3%

Repairs and Maintenance	11,562.23	9,000.00	128.5%
Retirement Plan	22,786.64	19,693.00	115.7%
Snow Removal	2,263.88	3,500.00	64.7%
Teacher Classroom	1,700.00	1,700.00	100.0%
Teacher Development - Y/E	4,000.00	4,000.00	100.0%
Technology Supplies	13,410.10	14,000.00	95.8%
Utilities, Electric	17,526.21	23,000.00	76.2%
Utilities, Gas	10,111.10	12,000.00	84.3%
Utilities, Internet & Phone	4,539.47	4,400.00	103.2%
Utilities, Trash	1,919.37	1,900.00	101.0%
Utilities, Water & Sewer	1,295.92	1,300.00	99.7%
Z. Bus Expenses			
Bus Depreciation Fund Trans	8,750.04	8,750.00	100.0%
Bus Driver Cost Subsidy	1,165.83	1,000.00	116.6%
Bus Driver Payroll	21,430.30	22,918.00	93.5%
Bus Driver Payroll Taxes	1,415.51	1,700.00	83.3%
Bus Driver Workers Compensation	1,010.03	1,000.00	101.0%
Bus Insurance	2,157.00	2,100.00	102.7%
Bus Repair	6,611.41	7,000.00	94.4%
Gas and Oil	10,660.22	12,500.00	85.3%
Transportation Supervisor	3,000.00	1,250.00	240.0%
Total Z. Bus Expenses	56,200.34	58,218.00	96.5%
Total Expenses	1,265,810.56	1,278,244.00	99.0%

Net Ordinary Income **52,152.73**

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 27 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

Kevin Koole, Chairman
Matt DeBoer, Brent Kregel

Transportation is something we do not take lightly as we look forward to a new school year. We pray God will grant safety to the children, parents and staff as they travel to and from school each day. Busses are one of the safest forms of transportation for our children and we are happy to report that we have two full bus routes this year. One that travels through the Standale/Coopersville area, and one through Grandville, Jenison and Jamestown (including afternoon shuttle service from CCHS to Heritage).

We have also been blessed with a new fulltime bus driver this year, Carol Boeve. She went through many hours of studying and testing to become certified. We can't thank her enough for the time and effort she put into this, and her willingness to make time each day to take the children to and from school. We have no doubt she will be used as a blessing to the children that get the privilege of riding on her route. She will be driving the Grandville/ Jenison/ Jamestown route, and for the Standale/ Coopersville route Jen Kalsbeek will primarily drive in the morning and Dan Kuiper the afternoon. We are also thankful to Jen Kalsbeek for stepping in as supervisor and doing an amazing job for the past year, and being willing to take on the task again this year. We are currently looking for a replacement for Jen for the 2025-26 school year, and would like to find that individual as soon as possible.

The school also purchased a used bus (#17) this year that will be used to replace bus 15. Both bus 16 and bus 17 will have new Angel Trax camera systems in them as well. We intend to keep bus 15 for the time being, to be used when needed for field trips and for Covenant's use as needed. We want to make sure our bus fleet is running solid for a few months before we considering selling bus 15.

We also ask parents of children riding the buses to review the transportation policies. These are set in place, primarily, for the safety of the children and the drivers. We also ask that you talk to the children about being respectful to the driver and the other students while riding the bus. May they let their light shine even as they commute together to and from school, and may this time also be an opportunity to glorify God in the way that they act and the way that they treat one another, as well as those who have been put in places of authority.

Parents dropping their children off at school, we ask that you use the Hope Church parking lot, if possible. Enter the parking lot through the west entrance up by the church, off Ferndale, and exit through the south exit, nearer to the school, to Riverbend. If you use the parking lot on the southeast side of the school, near the south entrance, park in a parking spot. This way you do not block the way for buses and other vehicles.

May God lead and guide us as we look forward to another year of instruction for His children.

2024-2025 HOPE PRCS BUS ROUTES

Standale / Coopersville

Bus #17

Driver AM - Jen Kalsbeek (616-350-5376)

Driver PM - Dan Kuiper (616-727-0443)

6:50	Dave Rutgers	11830 24th Ave. Marne 49435
	Nate DeVries (PM ONLY)	11830 24 th Ave. Marne 49435
	Dave Langerak (PM ONLY)	2050 Canterbury Lane Marne 49435
6:54	Chad VanBaren	2560 Leonard St Marne 49435
6:59	Kevin Koole	4997 Leonard St. Coopersville 49404
7:08	Tim Kleyn	4263 Garfield St. Coopersville 49404
7:18	Dave VanDenTop	16985 48th Ave. Coopersville 49404
7:21	Tom VanDenTop	4234 E. Cleveland St. Coopersville 49404om
7:36	Julie Feenstra	13354 8 th Ave. Grand Rapids 49544
7:41	Ben Peterson	1061 East Avery Ct. NW Grand Rapids 49534
7:54	Seth Engelsma	1042 Kinney Ave. NW Grand Rapids 49534
8:02	CCHS	
8:05	Hope	

Grandville / Jenison / Hudsonville

Bus #16

Driver AM/PM - Carol Boeve (616-337-4030)

Heritage Shuttle (PM ONLY)

7:00	Jordan Schipper	647 Evergreen St. Jenison 49428
7:08	Kevin Huizinga	7345 Pine Aire Ct. Jenison 49428
7:12	Dan Gritters	2311 Greendale Dr. Jenison 49428
7:17	Matt DeBoer	7028 Rolling Hill Dr. Hudsonville 49426
7:22	Matt Rutgers	3411 Sagecrest Dr. Hudsonville 49426
7:35	Jason Kregel	7613 Caspian Dr. Hudsonville 49426
7:45	Brent Kregel	6886 Kenowa Ave. Byron Center 49426
7:55	Brad Vogel	4100 38 th St. SW Grandville, 49418
8:02	CCHS	
8:05	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

USING OUR TALENTS

Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 - Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

For the last few weeks, we have been watching athletes from the United States compete in the 2024 Summer Olympics. The gymnastic events have been a family favorite. As I was reflecting on the amount of publicity that Simone Biles has encountered throughout the competition, the instant fame of pommel horse Stephen Nedoroscik, and the lack of recognition of Hezly Riveria (I had to research to find her name); I realized that I could use this as a teaching moment in my classroom (and even my *Highlights* article). God has given many talents to Ms. Biles as she was able to compete in every women's gymnastic event. As for Mr. Nedoroscik, he waited over two hours just to complete in his only event, a forty second routine. And finally, Ms. Riveria competed in two events during the qualifying round, but I only saw those events on the internet because her low scores did not allow her to move out of the preliminary rounds and onto the national stage.

God has given us talents too. To some he gives many abilities – athletics, academics, and musical gifts. To others, he may give one single skill that may be used for a specific purpose only. To another group, He may give talents that are not fully developed yet, waiting to be used at exactly the proper time. I can think of many people who seem to have many strengths, while I struggle to think of one ability for myself. This is one of the themes that we discuss in Kindergarten each year. God has given each of us unique talents and we should not compare ourselves to others regarding these abilities. God gives us these talents for the express purpose to glorifying Him and to show love to our neighbor each day. It is our calling as teachers to help the students find and develop these talents so that they might fulfill their responsibilities given by God. It is also part of our responsibility to help the students learn contentment for the multiple or singular gifts that He has given them.

Please pray for the teachers as they undertake the endeavor of educating the students this school year. Pray for the students that they may discover these talents and use them for the good of all God's people. Pray for our school that we may be a good reflection of God's love and that we may use His gifts as He has given each of us, according to His perfect plan.

SUMMER ADVENTURES

Mrs. Susann Grasman, 1st Grade

A question that I am frequently asked is "How is your summer going?" or "Are you enjoying your break?" My answer is usually "Yes, for certain!" as the summer months provide a time for relaxation, reflection and recharging. This summer, however, has been a bit different from the usual. It began with what for us was a big move as my husband and I recently completed building and

moving into a new house next door to the Covenant Christian sports complex. We are enjoying our new home and settling into the neighborhood. My first grade class last year followed the building progress with anticipation and excitement and any are welcome to stop by to say “hi” and see the (mostly 😊) finished product. The location is perfect for after sports camp visitors and I may even have a cold drink or two to share! The highlight of the location so far was the christening of the “shoe tree” by this year’s cross country team. You will have to ask Coach Kalsbeek or a team member for more info or stop by to see it for yourself if you are now curious. Something tells me that “shoe tree” is just the beginning of some crazy adventures!

Another question of me this summer has been about my dog walking. Many have commented that they have seen me exploring the area with two beautiful and lovely dogs. No, I have not become a dog owner nor a professional dog walker. I have, however, gained two of the best buddies a girl could ask for in Leo and Prim, my dear stabyhoun “stand by me” friends. They look forward to our walks with great anticipation and I hope to continue our wanderings in “the back 40” after school instead of in the mornings. Hopefully that will be ok with them!

Summer for a “Huizinga” would not be complete without a camping trip to Mears State Park in Pentwater, Michigan. Once again our family was blessed to spend a week enjoying the beauty and wonder of the Lake Michigan coast and its lovely little beach town. This year more than ever we appreciated the time spent with each other and thank the Lord for once again blessing us with a week of fellowship and family fun together.

I anticipate another first yet this summer with a visit to Redlands, California for my nephew Ethan Vink’s August wedding to Megan Karsemeyer. This will be a first time visit to California for both Vance and I and we look forward, DV, to not only the wedding but also to meeting the saints in Redlands and visiting both the church and school located there. Maybe a summary of the trip will be the subject of a future *Highlights* article 😊, but for now it’s time to get to work setting up my classroom for 19 anxious and excited first graders who will be soon arriving at my classroom door. See you August 26!

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Mrs. Julie Schwarz, 2nd Grade

Summer evokes two emotions in me. When the school year ends, I am always a bit sad to say good-bye to my students. After spending a year together, I have grown to love them and even though we are all ready for a break, it is hard to think they are no longer mine! Yet, I am happy that it is summer. Having a break is a welcome relief. It is an opportunity to reflect on the past year and make plans for how to improve my teaching in the coming year. It is an opportunity to relax and spend more quality time with my family, and also a time to get things done that I pushed aside during the busy school year. I like to make lists and I had a long list of things needing to get done this summer. I am happy to say that so far, I have been able to cross off all but two things on my list and with a couple weeks left I will hopefully finish those too!!

Summer is also a time for vacations and a highlight of my summer was my family’s annual vacation in Pentwater. After 38 years of camping here, Pentwater holds many joyous memories. These memories were all the more dear this year as we spent this week without a very important part of our family. Yet, the Lord is gracious and we were able to enjoy our time together and another good week.

The days were warm so we spent a lot of time on the beach and the nights were cool which made for good campfires. I loved being surrounded by my family and friends, especially all my nieces and nephews. Another highlight of summer will be the opportunity to fly to California to attend the wedding of one of my nephews. It will be a quick trip but hopefully I will get to see a little bit of this state, as I have never been to California before.

Finally, one last highlight of my summer is watching the Olympics. I have always looked forward to watching these games. I have many memories of watching them as a kid. My family did not own a TV when I was growing up but this was one of the few times my dad would borrow a TV from my uncle so we could watch the Olympic games. This was exciting stuff! I don't know if watching the Olympics now is as exciting as back then, or if it is because I am an adult. Set against the backdrop of the Cold War, the competition seemed much more intense– the USA needed to beat the Russians and the East Germans! Also, it seemed much more exciting and suspenseful as we waited for the judges to turn over their scorecards. Would it be an 8, a 9, or, fingers crossed, a perfect 10? Nowadays, the scoring all seems a little anticlimactic. Nevertheless, I still enjoy watching the different sporting events and learning interesting snippets about the athletes who are competing.

As I watch the competitions I am amazed at the strength and dedication these athletes have. They have trained their whole lives and have spent countless hours honing their skills. They are able to mentally focus so completely on what they have to do to win. I can't help but think of how Paul compares the Christian to an athlete. As a Christian, we train too. We train by listening to the Word preached on the Sabbath, praying without ceasing, immersing ourselves in the scriptures daily to know how to live holy lives, and then living faithfully in our callings. An athlete trains in the hope of a gold medal, knowing that with one mistake it might be lost. As a Christian, we have a much greater reward–eternal life in Heaven with Christ. Thankfully, we do not have to rely on ourselves to attain this reward but we have the confidence that it will surely be ours for our Savior has already won it for us. As a new school year begins and we continue in our training, it is my prayer that God helps both myself and my students to be as disciplined and dedicated as an Olympic athlete.

THE BEAUTY OF SUMMER

Miss Gayle Lotterman, 3rd Grade

“What have you been up to this summer?” - a common question asked of every teacher as summer nears its end and we look ahead to the school year. My summers usually include quite a bit of camping, a few swimming lessons, days at the beach or pool, time spent in my classroom, and lots of reading. It's a good time of refreshment before the busyness of September takes over. This summer was no different, though I spent a lot more time taking drives and road trips this summer than ever before. A nice drive with the top off my Jeep has become one of my favorite things to do.

I spent quite a bit of time driving Michigan's coastline, catching sunsets and visiting beaches in South Haven, Holland, Grand Haven, Muskegon, Cadillac, Traverse City, Charlevoix, and Petoskey. Each place showed me a different facet to God's creation, and how I so enjoyed the beauty that exists where water meets land and sun meets horizon. Though I tried to capture it on camera, I realized that no picture can display that beauty the way my eyes behold it. No matter how many hundreds of pictures I took, none of them were as good as the real thing.

As an art teacher, I'm keenly aware of this. In 8th grade art, we try to replicate the glory of the heavens with an oil pastel project, but I know students would agree with me that we fall short

every year. In 7th grade art, we attempt a pencil drawing of different animals, but none show quite the same majesty as a real animal does. In 6th grade art, we complete a 3D project using model magic, but those birds will never take flight or be full of life. In 3rd grade art, students can easily be dissatisfied when trying to recreate the perfect symmetry of a snowflake. A photograph is no different. Though it can come close, photos still do not fully show the grandeur that exists in creation around us.

God's beauty is on display, we need only to look around to see it. Psalm 27:4 "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple." I am thankful for the time I had this summer to enjoy the masterpiece of this world God created, to see the unity and the harmony there, to see Him in the depths of the sea and in the splendor of the sky, and to praise Him for a beauty that only He alone has made. Psalm 113:3 "From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised."

A QUICK REMINDER OF THE THREE R'S

Mr. Dan Hanko, 4th Grade

Have you heard of the three R's in education? No, I am not talking about reading, writing, and arithmetic. Those **are** basic skills that will be taught this school year. But I am referring to the three R's that are even more important for students in Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School. These R's must be shown in the classroom, the halls, and on the playground every day. You have read or heard about them before. Let me remind you!

The first R is **Reverence**. Reverence is a deep love for the all wise God and His commandments. To reverence God is to stand in awe of Him with great humility. Students come to this school to praise God and learn of Him who hath made all things. As children of God we must especially show reverence during devotions, singing, chapel time, and every time we are writing, speaking and hearing about God and His Word. Psalm 111:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."

The second R is **Respect**. Show respect to your teachers, fellow classmates, and other people you come in contact with or about whom you speak. Think before speaking and say words which are wise, showing love to the neighbor. Do not interrupt others, but listen carefully to instruction and what others are saying to you. Show manners and happily obey the rules given to you. Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honour preferring one another."

The third R is **Responsibility**. Show responsibility as you use your talents to serve your Maker. Be organized in the classroom and do your work neatly and thoroughly. Listen and try to contribute to classroom discussion. Study and be well prepared for the next day. Do your work to the best of your ability. Be a good example to classmates and those around you. Behave even when the teacher is not watching you. Keep the school grounds neat and throw trash in the garbage containers. Proverbs 22:4 "By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life."

Remember the three R's throughout this school year, and thank the Lord for your church, Godly home, and the school which teach you these things!

HELLO

Miss Melanie Hanko, 5th Grade

Hello! My name is Melanie Hanko. I am replacing my Uncle Brian as the 5th grade teacher. I have quite the shoes to fill!

Growing up with five brothers has taught me how baseball innings start at the bottom, how dust bunnies really do hop, how to not be gullible, and how to use lots of patience. I wouldn't change it for the world. Many of you may already know my little brother Will who loves any chance to direct a choir or band. Time will tell what Will thinks of me as a teacher.



My childhood summers were filled with the outdoors, reading, and hiking. I attended Hope School through eighth grade and now have the pleasure of working alongside some of my past teachers. While I remember wanting to be a teacher in 1st grade, the 8th grade yearbook clearly states my dream occupation as "helicopter pilot." Thankfully, not all dreams come true, and I am a teacher. After four and a half years of schooling at GVSU, I graduated with a double major in elementary education and mathematics. Things didn't go quite to plan and I started teaching mostly high school math at Heritage Christian High School in Indiana. While many of the high schoolers were taller than I, I thoroughly enjoyed teaching them, minus a few of their shenanigans. I will never forget the day I found my room covered in at least a hundred tiny, colorful ducks thanks to the neighboring Chemistry class. Although it didn't take long for the students to clean up, there seemed to always be a duck hiding somewhere in the room.

After some teary goodbyes, I moved back to MI, hopefully without a few extra ducks. My most recent hobbies include reading, hiking, growing succulents, learning Spanish, and a bit of running. My summer has been filled with visiting old friends, spending time with nieces and nephews, and meeting many new people during a couple trips. I especially look forward to meeting Caleb and Leah Potjer's little boy (Leah worked at Hope last year). What a joy it is to get to know the body of Christ, young and old!

Already middle school cross country practices and races are on my calendar and the anticipation for the coming school year is mounting. I am looking forward to teaching the much shorter 5th graders and can't wait to see how much we all grow and learn. I ask that you continue to pray for the work of this school and its teachers. I pray for guidance, humility, and strength as I look forward to another "first" year. May God be glorified in Hope Protestant Reformed School and its community.

TIME FLIES

Mrs. Faith Kalsbeek, 6th Grade

All of my life I've heard the phrase "time flies." This phrase has grown more relevant to me for a number of reasons. First, the phrase itself seems to become more and more true the older I become. Every summer seems to pass by a little more quickly than the one preceding it. This was certainly true this year! I felt as though summer was only beginning when, lo and behold, it was August and time to start thinking about the return to school.

Perhaps the reason that my summer has flown by can be attributed to the part of the phrase that I left out— "time flies...when you're having fun." This summer has indeed been exciting and eventful. I spent the first three weeks of summer finalizing the plans for my wedding; on June 27th I got married, then vacationed in Mexico for a week. It was a lovely trip in spite of delays and tropical storms. Upon our return, we got to make ourselves at home in a new space...so new, in fact, that we lived for a few weeks with no counter tops or kitchen appliances! We are now adept at using our griddle, air fryer, and propane camping stove to cook meals. With all of the joy and excitement, of course time passed quickly.

The second reason that "time flies" has become more significant to me is because of the material that I teach. In 6th grade we spend some time studying figurative language. Good authors use figurative language to make writing more interesting, to add humor, or to emphasize a certain point. I would consider "time flies" to contain the figurative language of personification—flying is a human(ish) ability that is attributed to a non-human thing. I would also consider "time flies" to be an idiom. An idiom is a phrase with a specific meaning which is different from what the phrase literally says. For instance, the phrase "it's raining cats and dogs" does not literally mean that cats and dogs are falling from the sky, but instead means that it is raining hard. "Time flies" is similar: time is not literally soaring through the air, rather it passes by quickly. Teaching has led me to pay special attention to things I used to consider normal, such as the phrase "time flies," in my daily life in hopes that it can be applied in the classroom.

Teaching has also opened my eyes to spiritual applications of many normal things. For instance, the Bible is filled with figurative language—even figurative language that relates to time. Psalm 103:15a uses a simile (a comparison using "like" or "as") to talk about how brief the time of a man is: "As for man, his days are as grass." Here, "days" and "grass" are being compared. Just as the grass withers and dies quickly, so the life of man is for but a moment; we are pilgrims and strangers. This fact gives urgency to our calling to love and serve our God *now*. We cannot save it for later, as our lives are too short.

Our time flies by, so let us pray that we might use it always, but especially in this school year, to learn of and serve our Heavenly Father.

A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND

Miss Suzanna Smit, 7th Grade

Even the youngest of school-aged children have some familiarity with the government of the United States through hearing their parents pray for their leaders or speak about the upcoming elections. I have heard many voice their concerns about our presidential candidates. Many topics are being hotly debated: abortion, immigration, taxes, and Israel to name but a few. No one looking at the United States can honestly say that we are a united people; unless it is to say that we are united in selfishness -- for our own wants and desires.

This reminds me of a time in US history that was also chaotic, where the Union was also divided over various issues such as states' rights, slavery, and tariffs. Indeed, a now-famous series of debates was organized between two candidates, Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, each vying for election to the US Senate. In one of these debates, Abraham Lincoln stated the following, "A house divided against itself, cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved – I do not expect the house to fall – but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."¹ In other words, Lincoln realized that the issue of slavery would soon be decided. There can only be so much debate, so much discussion, so much controversy before the lines would have to fall one way or the other. In this case, this happened not very long afterward. While Lincoln lost the Illinois senatorial race to Douglas, he was later elected president, leading the country through the attempted secession of various southern states and the ensuing Civil War.

What can we learn from this? How can these historical parallels lead us as we make decisions and move forward? How does this affect the various 'spheres' of life? These are excellent questions to consider. However, to answer them, we must not turn to the foolish wisdom of mere man, but the perfect knowledge and loving guidance of our God and Father. "And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand" (Mark 3:24-25). Many other passages in Scripture speak of the dangers of a lack of unity. Let us take heed and not fall brother upon brother to harm and to hurt with words and with deeds.

Rather, let us carefully consider a proper way to learn from our differences and move forward. Therefore we must get to the heart of the matter by asking, "Why are we a house divided?" Why do we distrust another? Why is there anger among friends? In the school setting, a teacher may ask "Why are you arguing?" when two students disagree on the playground because while it is important to stop the outer behavior of arguing or fighting, it is also important to address the heart issues causing the fighting. Secondly, we must each decide if it is necessary to fight over the matter. Is this the hill that you want to die on? Is the color of the carpet at church worth the destruction of a friendship? And finally, if we fail to agree with one another, how ought we to reveal that disagreement? Are we distancing ourselves from that person or their viewpoint? Are we "speaking the truth in love"?

Now, as we look to the future of our country, we should not expect the lines to fall in pleasant places. Wars and rumors of wars will likely only increase. Yet, let that not be a reason for us to stop fighting the good fight or running the race that God has set out for us in this life. Let us continue to seek to be that house unified, to find our home and family in our Father who has adopted us for the sake of our brother and Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ House Divided Speech (<https://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/house.htm>)

BILL'S BUGS

Mr. Nate DeVries, 8th Grade

Mosquitoes are the deadliest animal on the planet, carrying and transmitting a number of diseases that claim the lives of millions of people each year. Because of this, various attempts have been made to either control populations of mosquitoes or eliminate their disease-carrying abilities. In the last three or so years, advancements in genetic engineering, an area of biology 7th grade science students will learn about and discuss this year, have made it possible to minimize the ability of mosquitoes to carry and transmit some of the worst diseases, especially dengue fever. By genetically modifying mosquitoes through injecting *Wolbachia* bacteria into them, future generations of mosquitoes born from the modified breed stock will either breed and lay eggs that can't hatch or have offspring that contain the bacteria which stops the transmission of viruses. A company called Oxitec, which received a large grant from Bill Gates, released 2.4 billion modified mosquitoes in California and Florida a couple years ago. Other companies in South America are also modifying and releasing millions of mosquitoes into the environment. One lab in Medellin, Columbia, also apparently supported by Bill Gates, breeds and releases 40 million mosquitoes weekly (check out "The Mosquito Factory" on YouTube if interested). Data in some areas show that up to 95% of dengue cases were eliminated in areas where the modified mosquitoes were released, so there does seem to be a good possibility that this method of disease alleviation could actually work. Of course, no one knows the long-term impact on ecosystems or the potential harm that could eventually come from putting modified organisms into the environment. What we do know is that subjects like genetic engineering raise many ethical/moral questions for Christians, another area 7th grade students will explore and discuss. What we also know is that men cannot help but use their technological advancements, apparently with little or no restraint. Finally, we also know that God will use even this for His purpose, the purpose of judging the wicked and gathering the just. How far men will go with genetic engineering remains to be seen; for us, the power and complex designs revealed in this technology give us more reason to marvel at the amazing creation our God has made.

EXECUTIVE SKILLS

Mrs. Becca Lubbers, Discovery

Over the summer, I have been doing a lot of reading: some reading for pleasure, but even more reading to learn. I wanted to learn more about my students, about new theories of education and brain development, and about different strategies to help my students overcome challenges and succeed in school. Yes, I have done plenty of relaxing, but I've kept my brain thinking and growing. Here, I am going to share a summary of what I learned and have taken away from one of the books I read this summer, *Smart but Scattered: The Revolutionary "Executive Skills" Approach to Helping Kids Reach Their Potential*.

Is your child smart but scattered? Do they find success in academics, but struggle to find that one book they took home from school last week that is lost in their messy room? Does your student clearly understand how to do the math problems, but they can't sit and focus on their work for more than a minute if you aren't sitting right next to them? Is it extremely difficult for your child to adjust or be flexible when plans change, even only slightly? If any of these scenarios sound familiar, your child may lack skills, specifically executive skills. These executive skills are the fundamental brain-based

skills required to independently execute tasks. Your young child simply just doesn't yet know *how* to perform these tasks on their own, and that is where parents and teachers need to step in to help them learn.

There are 11 different executive skills that children develop, starting already in the first 6 to 12 months of life and on through early elementary school. The following is the list of these executive skills with a short definition, given in the general order of how these skills develop over a child's lifetime.

- Response Inhibition- capacity to think before acting and resist the urge to say or do something before evaluating the situation
- Working Memory- ability to hold information in memory while performing complex tasks and draw on past experiences to apply to a situation at hand
- Emotional Control- ability to manage emotions to complete tasks and control behavior
- Sustained Attention- capacity to keep paying attention despite distractions, fatigue, or boredom
- Task Initiation- ability to begin projects in a timely manner
- Planning/Prioritization- ability to create a plan for accomplishing a task or meeting a goal, including deciding what is important to focus on
- Organization- ability to create and maintain systems of organization
- Time Management- capacity to estimate how much time one has, how to use that time, and how to stay within time limits
- Goal-Directed Persistence- capacity to have a goal and follow through to completion over a period of time
- Flexibility- ability to revise plans in the face of obstacles and adapt to changing conditions without major distress
- Metacognition- ability to monitor, evaluate, and critique yourself with the goal of improvement

Now that you have a general understanding of these important executive skills that your child needs to meet the demands typically placed on children their age, you might wonder how to go about helping your child improve the skill areas where they are lagging or have weaknesses. This book provides many tips, tricks, and examples of how to help your child for each of the 11 different executive skills. I am just going to summarize some of the general guidelines that can apply to all of the skills.

1. **Teach** the lagging skills rather than expecting your child to simply learn through observation.
2. Understand what is normal at your child's developmental level- don't expect too much from them too early.
3. You can make changes to the environment, the task, or the way you interact with your child to help them achieve the desired end result. (Common example: if your child struggles to focus on homework when working in their room, have them sit somewhere you can monitor them)
4. Practice difficult tasks in **small steps** and increase the demand gradually as they have success.
5. Build in choices to give your child some control.
6. Use incentives to augment instruction. Incentives make the effort of learning and performing a skill more desirable. Incentives do not have to be toys or candy...

7. Provide just enough support for the child to be successful. Keep the support and supervision in place until the child has mastered the skill. Only then should you gradually fade the support (don't abruptly end it).
8. If your child is old enough, discuss your concerns with them and include them in the work of creating a plan for how to improve their lagging skill.

If you found this information relatable, applicable, or interesting, and want to learn more, I encourage you to read the whole book. It can be purchased online (Amazon) and would be a very worthwhile read. There are many ways to encourage these executive skills in everyday life. It might take some extra thought and planning, but your child will benefit from the work you put in and the encouragement you give.

Dawson, Peg, and Richard Guare. *Smart but Scattered: The Revolutionary "Executive Skills" Approach to Helping Kids Reach Their Potential*. Guilford Press, 2009.

READY OR NOT, HERE COMES SCHOOL

Mrs. Jill Reitsma, Discovery

When is the last time you played "Hide and Seek"? It is one of my grandchildren's favorite games to play right now. While playing recently, the new school year came to mind, especially the last phrase after counting 1, 2, 3... "Ready or Not, Here I Come". As we peer into another school year, trying to figure out all the what, where, when and how's; may Christ direct our step! There is no limit to the ways Christ speaks with us. Let us be attentive through the sights, sounds, thoughts, impressions and scriptures as we go through this school year.

Summer usually brings about feelings of rest and contentment. The sunshine, less routines, vacations, and family time contribute to indulging our senses in personal pleasure. However, those pleasures are only immediate. The effects can fade quickly.

The feelings of contentment do not have to disappear just because the summer is ending, those feelings are always possible... if we choose to stop and pay attention to the meaning of the present moment. We can rush our life away, waiting for the next instance of short term pleasure, or we can find satisfaction in whatever is happening right now. Trusting in the Lord's way and will.

An honest day's work, helping and serving others, using our gifts from God to encourage those in our life or pathway are pleasures that linger on long after. They can create a sense of purpose and productivity that sustains us through the hard parts of life and leave us with a deeper sense of contentment and meaning.

Summer is short. That is okay! If we can keep focused on the big picture we'll remember that the season for work doesn't last as long as we think. More opportunities for relaxation and pleasure will sneak up on us, delighting us with a break from routine just when we think we can't go another moment. Until then, we have work to do.

Trust protects us from worrying. Thankfulness keeps us from criticizing and complaining. I encourage you all to encourage one another from day-to-day in the work the Lord gives us. From the mouth of babes, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey"!

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
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	

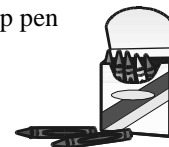
4th Grade

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.