



# 2025-26 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT



*Central*

**BLUEJAYS**

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# Letter From The

## SUPERINTENDENT

In the final chapter of *The Republic*, Plato tells of souls in the afterlife choosing the kind of lives they will live next. Many choose wealth and power, only to discover that those choices lead to misery. Wisdom is displayed in Odysseus, who, after a life of fame and power, chooses a quiet, ordinary life, knowing the dangers that often accompany status and ambition.

This classic book closes with the reminder that a thoughtful, virtuous life is more valuable than social conformity or the careless pursuit of power and wealth.

This feels particularly relevant in our culture. Neuroscientist Jared Cooney Horvath argues that the current generation is the first in over a century to show declining cognitive scores, with digital habits playing a significant role(1). But before blaming our children, we should remember how culture creep has changed our own habits.

The Reformed tradition, especially here in the Midwest, was known for its “farmer theologians.” Before television, it was common to find the family Bible on the mantel alongside works by Herman Bavinck, Abraham Kuyper, or John Calvin. Christian schools were founded not simply to prepare students for jobs, but to teach them how to think, work, discern, and live faithfully.

That is still our calling at Central.

Education is never neutral. It shapes values, habits, and loves. A Christian school must resist the temptation to treat education only as utility. When students ask, “When will I ever use this?” the deep truth is that education is formative, not merely functional. Math teaches logic and perseverance. Literature and story cultivate moral imagination. History gives perspective, and language trains clarity of thought.

Part of my role as a school leader is to be the CRO, “Chief Reminding Officer”, helping us remember who we are while resisting the pressures that constantly seek to shape us. TikTok, ESPN, Instagram, Netflix, FOX News, YouTube; endless voices are always teaching something.

Clarity about our purpose is critical.

Academically, we are a liberal arts school committed to teaching broad subject matter with intellectual depth. We value education and promote lifelong learning. Spiritually, we teach that all truth is God’s truth and that learning should form our virtue and values through a biblical worldview. Financially, we believe stewardship means funding the mission with excellence for the next 100 years.

Our children will still be formed, and if we are not intentional, it will be through voices and values we did not choose. Our task is not merely to transfer information, but to cultivate wisdom, virtue, and faithfulness: preparing students not simply for careers, but for lives of loving God, thinking clearly, serving others, and recognizing truth, goodness, and beauty in God’s world.

In His Service,  
Jonathan De Groot, Superintendent

(1) *The Digital Delusion: How Classroom Technology Harms Our Kids' Learning - And How to Help Them Thrive Again* (2026).



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# Letter From The

## BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Central Minnesota Christian School Community,

One of the most powerful things I have witnessed during my time on the board is how deeply this community loves Central Minnesota Christian School. The level of attachment, support, and involvement from families, alumni, churches, and supporters is truly moving. It is a reminder that this school means something significant to all of us.

At a broad level, we all want the same thing, a Christ-centered, quality education that equips students for a life of service. Along with that mission comes a shared desire to protect and strengthen the school so that it will still be faithfully serving students and families 100 years from now.

Providing Christian education today is more complex than ever, and faithful stewardship requires us to adapt to the times while staying rooted in our mission. While the mission of the school mirrors what was started 100 years ago, the world we live in is a different place, and stewarding God's school well means thoughtfully adjusting our operations to meet the moment.

A board functioning at its best is united around our mission, while a capable administration leads the daily work of carrying it out. The board's responsibility is to thoughtfully consider questions such as: How many students can we serve well? How do we continue to develop wise policy? How do we strengthen our culture, engage our community, and equip parents as partners in providing a quality, Christ-centered education? How do we raise the resources needed to sustain and grow this mission? And how do we make decisions that remain aligned with our mission, vision, and values?

One area where we recognize the need to grow to fulfill our mission is around communication. After all, even the best plans are incomplete if we do not have a strong communication loop. Conversations, lunches, coffee with parents and supporters, connecting people to our mission and vision, listening to feedback, and honoring the commitment families make to invest in Christian education—all of this is important board work.

Central Minnesota Christian School has a rich heritage, and this community's love for the school is evident. Please know that we see it, we value it, and we are deeply moved by it. It strengthens our resolve to protect and steward this gift well.

Thank you for your continued partnership with Central Minnesota Christian School.

With gratitude,  
Joe Vander Ark, Board President



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# ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

April 14, 2026, at 7:00pm, High School Gym

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<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Welcome, Opening Prayer, &amp; General Business</b> Minutes of April 8, 2025 Annual Meeting Reading of Articles II and III of the Constitution Board Accomplishments and Future Directions Recognition of Board Members	<b>Joe Vander Ark</b>
<b>7:15pm</b>	<b>Member Voting</b> Board Nomination Overview Determination of Members Present Absentee Ballots Determination of Simple Majority Item 1 - Board Member Election Reading and Explanation of Board Member Ballots Voting and Vote Counting	<b>Joe Vander Ark</b>
<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Administration Reports</b> Superintendent Principal School Counselor Elementary Student Discipleship Coordinator Finance Committee Chair Director of Advancement Student Body President	<b>Jon De Groot Dean Stier Malorie Antony Becky Berry Heidi Graves Kate Link Henry Ammermann</b>
<b>7:50pm</b>	<b>New to You</b>	<b>Kristin Poortvliet</b>
<b>7:55pm</b>	<b>CMCS Foundation</b>	<b>Ben Taatjes</b>
<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>Closing Prayer</b>	<b>Joe Vander Ark</b>
<b>8:05pm</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Joe Vander Ark</b>

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# *Constitution* **ARTICLES II & III**

## Articles II & III of Central Minnesota Christian School Constitution Reminder of Basis and Purpose

### Article II - BASIS

The basis of this organization is the infallible Word of God as interpreted by our Reformed Standards. The organization is governed by the following guiding principles:

- a) That all things have been created to the end that the Triune God may be glorified in and through them;
- b) That God by His wise covenant arrangement has appointed the parent to be responsible for the training of the child to the end that God and His glory shall be central and supreme in life's total experience;
- c) That the training of the child be continued under the parent's responsible supervision in a school that carries out the basic God-honoring, God-centered program begun in the home.

### Article III - PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization is to maintain a school for the daily instruction of our children, such instruction to be in accordance with Article II and directed toward the end that these children may occupy their places worthily in society, church, and state.

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## *Central* **LEADERSHIP**

### **BOARD COMMITTEES**

Executive - Joe Vander Ark, Chair  
Advancement - Chris Schlegel, Chair  
Education - Sarah Van Beek, Chair  
Finance - Heidi Graves, Chair  
Governance - Trevor Duininck, Chair

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Jon De Groot - Superintendent  
Dean Stier - Principal  
Kate Link - Director of Advancement

# MINUTES OF 2025 MEETING

## Minutes of the Central Minnesota Christian School Annual Member Meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 Central Event Center at 7:00pm

**ART I** School Board President Joe Vander Ark called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

**ART II** Minutes of the April 9, 2024 Annual Meeting were made available in the Annual Meeting Report.  
1. Motion was made and supported to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**ART III** School Board President Joe Vander Ark read Articles II and III of the Constitution as a reminder of the basis and purpose of Central. Joe reminded us of the Board accomplishments of the past year and future directions. Accomplishments that were mentioned were the prayer initiative, policy updates aligning with our mission, vision, and values, New to You success and potential for growth, and financial sustainability plan in process. Future goals are providing more clarity on financial sustainability and a road map for family retention and growth, rational tuition model, and alternative revenue sources.

**ART IV** School Board Secretary Christy Groen recognized board members who have completed terms in office:  
1. Trevor Duininck (two terms)  
2. Heidi Graves (one term-incumbent)  
3. Ryan Moorlag (one term-incumbent)  
4. Joe Vander Ark (one term-incumbent)

**ART V** President Joe Vander Ark presented an explanation of the board member candidate selection.  
1. Candidates were nominated by the Governance Committee based on Board needs and candidate strengths.  
2. The Governance Committee is continuing to build the candidate pool. Members are encouraged to submit names for the pool or serve on a committee.  
3. Voting process: Affirm the nominees with a simple majority, draw from the affirmed nominees to fill any remaining seats after incumbents have been assigned if affirmed.

**ART VI** Determination of members present and majority.  
1. 88 members were present  
2. 26 (10 printed, 16 electronic) absentee ballots  
a. Motion was made and supported to approve the absentee ballots. Motion carried.  
3. Simple majority needed for election: 58

**ART VII** President Joe Vander Ark presented the ballot for School Board election and Constitution revisions.  
1. School Board Member election  
a. Voting for four new members: Incumbents, if affirmed by the majority, will automatically fill 3 seats: Heidi Graves, Ryan Moorlag, Joe Vander Ark.  
b. New names to the ballot, if affirmed by the majority, will be placed in a drawing for the remaining seat(s): Philip Cleary, Tricia Nelson, Brian Punt, Mitch Schwindt, Jenna Wieberdink.  
c. Results: 3 incumbents were affirmed for another term. Drawn from other affirmed candidates was Mitch Schwindt.

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# MINUTES OF 2025 MEETING

## **ART VIII** Administrative Reports – Leadership Team

### **Superintendent Report – Jon De Groot**

1. Jon recognized and thanked staff who have served for 5 years: Malorie Antony, Jon De Groot, Pam Harrington, Melanie Vander Ark, and those who served for 10 years: Lisa Jerve, Travis Vander Woude, Kristin Poortvliet.
2. Jon thanked staff who are not returning: Laura Brouwer, Cari Bulthuis, Lorna Cook, Antonio Jean Louis, Kourtney Schwitters, Megan Wolfe.
3. Jon reported on the state of Central. He posed the question about the work of Central, “Is it worth it?” We trust that this is His school. We invest now and we will see fruit later. We want to grow the Foundation, invest in educational programs, and practice good stewardship for stable tuition.

### **4K-12 Principal – Dean Stier**

1. Dean reported on some accomplishments for 2024-2025.
  - a. Evidence is that we continue to raise the standards of academic performance.
  - b. We continue to provide education through a Biblical lens.
  - c. The Elementary implemented Amplify CKLA (teachers report that the curriculum encourages deeper thinking by the students).
  - d. The Middle School is also implementing Amplify ELA as their curriculum.
  - e. High School Bible 12 Capstone was added through work on the Education Committee and staff using throughlines to reflect and create a portfolio.

### **Director of Advancement – Kate Link**

1. Kate was a member of the Class of 2008. It was a smaller class that promoted a personal connection with teachers and admin.
2. She returns in 2025 to a school that still holds the same values.
3. Kate thanked the community, donors and volunteers, and leadership team as she learns.
4. Learn, grow, explore have been the theme for her first year in these areas: development message, donor engagement, Impact Report, leadership tools, earned media publicity, paid media advertising, social media posts, and improved storytelling.
5. We're just getting started and will focus on these areas: small group events, transportation marketing, Task Force for future planning, new family outreach, and Instagram messaging.

### **School Counselor – Malorie Antony**

1. Student Success Team: assist with academics, spirituality, physical needs, use of technology
2. Counselor's corner: college readiness, career exploration, PSEO
3. Spiritual support: small groups, Chapel, flock, squads

### **Director of Finance – Pam Harrington**

1. Pam presented the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 balanced budget and assumptions.
  - a. Teacher discounts are now classified as a staff benefit expense instead of a reduction of tuition.
  - b. Tuition for 2025-2026 will increase by 3.6%.
  - c. Gross tuition covers 52.6% of expenses.
  - d. Feb. is 58% through year and we're projected to end within budgeted income and expenses.

Continue next page...

# MINUTES OF 2025 MEETING

2. New to You debt will be paid in December 2025 and will allow additional funds to be contributed to Central in 2026.
3. Expenses for academic curriculum and other expenses are projected to increase as reflected in the balanced budget presented for 2025-2026.

## **ART IX** Student Body President – Carene Jean Louis

1. Carene gave a positive report on student life at Central.
  - a. Student Council leadership: Many fun student body parties throughout the year with the Fall party and January Spirit Week.
  - b. Growth in faith. Each person brings a unique perspective.
  - c. One example of growing faith was: Basketball girls responded that God has a plan following their loss.
  - d. Reminisce on years: Central community and student body set it apart from other schools and have been a blessing to her and the community.

## **ART X** New to You Thrift Store Report – Kristin Poortvliet

1. People, product, process, and property are the areas they continue to evaluate to ensure good balance.
2. Drive through increased donations.
3. The store reached \$1M in sales (2% growth) and raised volunteer hours by 14%.
4. Kristin is thankful for the 10 years she has been at the store.
5. Kristin emphasized the program “Be the Good” and all of the benefits it provides for the community and the benefit for New to You to be connected to the local community and economy.

## **ART XI** CMCS Foundation Report – Ben Taatjes

1. Ben Taatjes, Foundation Treasurer, gave an update on CMCS Foundation assets. He reflected on his unique perspective: He has been treasurer of the school, helped with raising funds for building projects, and now serves on the Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to promote, accept, and manage gifts for long term impact for Central. They have received new gifts of over \$1M since 2023, have \$8.4M total assets (91% growth in past 5 years).
2. The Foundation is in the Live It Forward Campaign: next milestone-\$12M
  - a. They continue to connect with donors and raise awareness of the variety of gift options.
3. Once the Foundation reaches \$12M, the available disbursement to Central is \$750,000.
4. The current assets are \$8,410,721, and they plan to distribute \$372,819 to Central for the 2025-2026 budget.

## **ART XII** Vice President Joe Vander Ark closed in prayer.

## **ART XIII** Motion was made and supported to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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# RECOGNITION OF COMPLETED TERMS



**Matt Hoekstra**

2023-2026

Advancement &  
Executive Committees



**Paul Leverington**

2023-2026

Governance Committee



**Luke Mulder**

2023-2026

Finance Committee

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## Board **PERSPECTIVES**

“As I reflect on my time serving on the Board and chairing the Advancement Committee, I am deeply grateful for the Lord’s continued faithfulness to Central. It has been encouraging to witness how God provides through the generosity, vision, and commitment of our expanding community to sustain and grow this mission. Advancement work gives a unique perspective on both the needs and the opportunities before us—reminding me that every gift, every prayer, and every act of support plays a part in shaping the lives of our students. While there are always challenges in stewarding resources and planning for the future, I am continually inspired by the unity and purpose we share in Christ. It is a privilege to serve in this role, trusting that God will continue to guide and provide so that Central can flourish for generations to come.”

- Chris Schlegel

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“During my first year of serving on the Board, I have come to deeply appreciate how this role is truly one of stewardship. It has been a year of learning, listening, and seeking wisdom as I’ve been a part of decisions that impact the spiritual direction and future of our students and school. I’ve seen firsthand the dedication of our teachers, staff, and leadership who faithfully live out the mission each day, and I’ve been encouraged by the growth of our students both academically and in their walk with Christ. This year has also reminded me of the importance of unity, prayer, and trust in God’s guidance as we navigate challenges and opportunities. I am grateful for the partnership of families, churches, and this community, and I count it a privilege to serve in this role, trusting that the Lord will continue to lead and sustain this school as we look ahead.”

- Mitch Schwindt

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# *Staff* **RECOGNITION**



Nate Duininck - 5 years



Katie TeBrake - 5 years



Heather Daugherty - 10 years



Scott Buteyn - 20 years



Cindy Van Otterloo - 20 years

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**Thank you for your years of dedication and service.  
We appreciate you and your investment in Central.**



Jake Abrams



Cheryl Wersinger

## Staff PERSPECTIVES

“Central Minnesota Christian was my first "real" job out of college. I was going to stay for three years and then look for a school closer to my family. Here I am, 26 years later, still teaching at Central and a parent of a third grader! This school has been such a blessing to me, and Bluejay Nation is so special to be a part of. This is incredibly evident as I watch staff and families invest abundantly in both my son and me. I can't say enough about how God has used this place to help me grow and mature in my faith. I'm incredibly grateful to be able to work at Central Minnesota Christian School!”

- Mindy Groen, High School Teacher

“It is a joy to teach at Central Minnesota Christian School with its amazing staff and school families. I marvel at all the extra time put in by teachers, administration, and parents, done with love for students, community, and God.”

- Sarah Brouwer, Middle School Teacher

“Having my children at a school that cares for the whole student—academically, personally, and most importantly, spiritually—has been such a blessing. Knowing their teachers are invested in all three areas means more to me than I can express. I also feel incredibly grateful to teach in an environment that values the same approach. While I have always been able to support students academically and personally, having the freedom to share my faith and engage openly in conversations about theirs has been deeply meaningful. It has not only impacted my students, but has also strengthened my own faith. I truly feel blessed that God led my family and me to this community.”

- Laura Rosen, Elementary School Teacher



# Central TEST SCORES COMPARISON

At Central, academic excellence is more than a goal—it is part of our vision to help each student grow in knowledge and faith. One way we see growth in action is through standardized testing. In 2025, our elementary students scored 16–51% higher than their peers in area public schools. These results show that Central students are not just meeting expectations—they are exceeding local benchmarks in both reading and math.

But these numbers tell only part of the story. Behind every score is a classroom where teachers challenge students to think critically, families who encourage learning at home, and students who dive into their studies with curiosity and determination.

Together, this partnership brings Central’s Christ-centered approach to life, helping students reach their full God-given potential—both in the classroom and beyond.

## Central Elementary Results

Determined by IA Standards Proficiency

GRADE	READING	MATH
<b>First Grade</b>	72.7%	63.6%
<b>Second Grade</b>	82.4%	82.4%
<b>Third Grade</b>	84.8%	90.9%
<b>Fourth Grade</b>	71.4%	90.4%
<b>Fifth Grade</b>	85.0%	90.0%
<b>Elem. Average</b>	80.0%	83.8%

## Area Public Elementary Schools Results

Determined by MN Standards Proficiency

GRADE	READING	MATH
<b>Public School A</b>	44.6%	41.5%
<b>Public School B</b>	38.9%	32.7%
<b>Public School C</b>	35.6%	39.6%
<b>Public School D</b>	56.1%	67.8%

When reviewing proficiency rates, a few differences to note between the assessments used at Central and those used in area public schools are:

Central Students take the Iowa Assessments (formerly known as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills) - a nationally recognized norm-referenced test used by many Christian Schools across the country. The Iowa Assessments also align well with most state standards nationwide. When we talk about proficiency, assessments that are norm-referenced (how a student compares to the other students taking the same test), most states, including Iowa, use a National Percentile Rank (NPR) of 41% or higher as the proficiency cut line to determine students "on or above grade level." For example, if a school has a 75% proficiency rate, it means that three-quarters of the school ranked at or above 41% nationally.

Area public schools administer the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs), which are criterion-referenced assessments that are aligned with Minnesota State Standards, and determine proficiency at a fixed performance level based on the students meeting the standards.

Even with different testing systems, Central's performance stands out: our students are mastering key concepts and achieving at levels that far exceed local benchmarks.

# Christ-Centered Education



Since 1911, Christ-centered education has been the focus at Central Minnesota Christian School. Central teachers embed God's truth into all subject areas while also implementing discipleship habits. Christ-centered education is not only learning His story, but also living His story. - Dean Stier, Principal

## Central Stories

### Servant Working

In 2nd-grade Bible class, Mrs. Katie TeBrake is teaching students through the Gospels about the lead-up to Christ's death and resurrection.

"One of the lessons was Jesus as a servant. We talk about what it means to be a servant and what it meant for Jesus, a highly respected man, to be a servant to his disciples. We read the story from John 13:1-17 in our Bibles and discussed why Jesus did this for his disciples. We discussed what feet were like in the Bible times, and that usually the lowest servant would wash people's feet before they entered houses. Throughout this passage, we learned that Jesus washed his disciples' feet because he was showing them how he wanted them to serve others. We also talked about how Jesus wanted his followers to know that no one is greater than another. We are all of the same importance. I told the students that even though I am your teacher and you are to respect me, I am not more important than you are. I told them that I wanted to show them what it might have felt like to be one of Jesus' disciples that night and that I, as their teachers can also serve them. I told them that I was going to wash their feet. They thought that was crazy but fun, and it was very powerful for them to experience what it meant for me to serve them." - Mrs. Katie TeBrake



### Community Building

In 6th-grade ELA class, Mrs. Taatjes is teaching students how to write biographies while building community with Bethesda's residents.

"A lot of time was spent pre-visit preparing students for their interviews. In Life Skills during our Communications Unit, we focused on the importance of body language, eye contact, and posture. Students practiced interviewing each other, asking follow-up questions, and speaking in front of the class. In ELA, students participated in simulations to better understand challenges residents may face, such as loss of dexterity, loss of hearing/vision, and loss of mobility. This was eye-opening for many students and helped them better understand what others may be going through. Following the interviews, students are working hard to prepare an accurate biography for their resident as well as a "word of wisdom" that they took away from the interview. We will return to Bethesda in April with a biography report, Word of Wisdom poster, and a picture of each student with their resident.



I was very impressed with the incredible job the students did interviewing the residents at Bethesda. They were careful listeners, and many students offered to pray with their residents at the end of their interview. They were blessed to be a blessing, and it was a great opportunity for our 6th graders!" - Mrs. Megan Taatjes

# Teaching FOR TRANSFORMATION

## Throughlines

Throughlines are discipleship habits and practices that both form the learners and transform God's world around them. Throughlines help students, teachers, and parents imagine what it means to be a disciple within God's story. They articulate a vision for how our Central graduates will live.

In light of this, our Seniors reflect on these discipleship habits and present on how they will use them in the fields God has called them to. This happens through our Central Capstone Class.

## Central Capstone

In 2024, Central introduced the Profile of a Central Graduate, a framework built around our Teaching for Transformation Throughlines—discipleship habits that invite students to see and live out their learning as part of God's story.

To help seniors reflect on these habits in a meaningful and personal way, Central launched a new Bible 12 Capstone course last spring. The course encouraged students to look back on their years at Central and consider how their faith has shaped their learning, relationships, and sense of purpose.

Throughout the semester, seniors created a Faith Formation Portfolio, a collection of essays and photos capturing their growth—academically, spiritually, and personally—during their time at Central.

The experience culminated in May with a Capstone presentation to family, friends, and members of the Central community. Each student explored the vocation they plan to pursue after graduation, interviewing a professional in that field and reflecting on how they might live as engaged citizens in God's kingdom through that work. Presentations were shared before a panel of local business professionals, with scholarships awarded in several categories, including medical, business, agriculture, and public/law.

"Personally, the capstone project was a defining moment for me, during my senior year, further proving my passion for my future. It helped me tie together my abilities to think independently and critically, and to make sure that my faith remains central when choosing my future career path," said 2025 graduate, Naomi Asake.

Scholarship Recipients



# Coaching FOR TRANSFORMATION



Coaching for Transformation has continued to shape the culture of athletics and activities at Central throughout the 2025-2026 school year. At the beginning of the year, our coaches, athletes, and parents were challenged to embrace the theme “Not to Us” from Psalm 115:1, recognizing that every ability and opportunity in athletics is a gift from God and ultimately meant to bring Him glory.

Athletes were encouraged to compete with gratitude and serve their teammates. Parents were asked to model perspective and unity in supporting their teams. Coaches were challenged to keep the mission first by investing personally in students and modeling Christ-centered leadership.

Through these shared commitments, our programs continue to grow not only in competitiveness but in purpose. Our hope is that when people watch Central Minnesota Christian athletics, they see teams that work hard, care deeply for one another, and seek to give God the glory in both victory and defeat. Thank you for all of your support this year!

- Travis Vander Woude, Athletic Director



**82% Students participate in at least 1 activity (7-12th grade)**

**61% Students participate in 2+ activities (7-12th grade)**



**Academic All State (3.80+ GPA during the season)**

- Volleyball Team Academic All State
- XC Boys Team Academic All State
- XC Girls Team Academic All State



**Camden Conference All Academic (3.75+ GPA during the season)**

- Riley Broberg, 2025 BB
- Morgan Groen, 2025 T&F
- Carene Jean-Louis, 2025 T&F
- Sidney Duininck, 2025 T&F
- Peighton Mulder, 2025 T&F
- Maggie Setrum, 2025 T&F
- Sam Zwart, 2025 T&F
- Peighton Mulder, 2025 XC
- Maggie Setrum, 2025 XC
- Alysia Buteyn, 2025 XC
- Etta Grannes, 2025 XC
- Maddie Vogel, 2025 XC
- Aurora Rosen, 2025 VB
- Carrie Mulder, 2026 GBB
- Peighton Mulder, 2026 GBB
- Addie Taatjes, 2026 GBB
- Aurora Rosen, 2026 GBB
- Eli Gerdes, 2026 BBB



**All State**

Emmi Braem - 2025 VB All State  
Sienna Duininck - 2026 GBB All State



- **Micah Asake - 2025 State Track & Field: 400 M Dash**
- **Sophia Vogel - 2025 State Track & Field: 300 M Hurdles, 100 M Hurdles, 4x100 M Relay, Triple Jump**
- **Carene Jean-Louis - 2025 State Track & Field: 4x100 M Relay**
- **Naomi Asake - 2025 State Track & Field: 4x100 M Relay**
- **Stella TeBrake - 2025 State Track & Field: 4x100 M Relay**
- **Carter Taatjes - 2025 State Golf**
- **One Act - 2026 Sub-Section Champion**
- **Girls Basketball - 2026 State 3rd Place**
- **Boys Basketball - 2026 Section 3A 2nd Place**
- **Asher Wieberdink - 2026 Camden Conference Boys Basketball MVP**

# ADVANCEMENT



This year in the Advancement Department brought both meaningful highlights and real challenges — but through it all, God has remained faithful.

We were grateful to welcome 370 students to Central this fall, including a thriving 4K class of 24. This is an encouraging sign as we continue building toward growth outlined in the school’s five year sustainability plan.

Even amid the challenges a wet spring and summer brought for our farming community and broader economic uncertainty, our community has continued to show up in generous and faithful ways. The impact of that giving cannot be overstated, and I am deeply grateful for each person who supports our mission, the families we serve, and the students whose lives will be eternally impacted.

- Kate Link, Director of Advancement

## 2025-26 FUNDRAISING GOALS

**Annual Fund Goal: \$626,539**



*As of March 30*  
**\$629,261.78**

**Harvest Festival Goal: \$98,000**



*As of March 30*  
**\$90,170.00**

**Church Offering Goal: \$40,000**



*As of March 30*  
**\$40,153.61**

**Legacy Dinner Goal: \$27,875**



*Taking Place: April 10*

0%

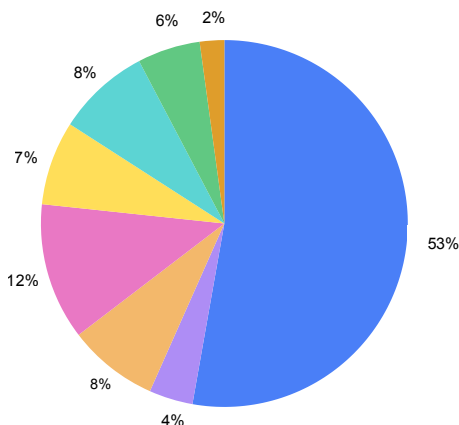
**Freedom Fun Days: \$159,845**



*Coming Soon: July 3 & 4*

0%

**TOTAL DONATED**  
**\$759,585.39**  
*As of March 30*



### GIVING & REVENUE BREAKDOWN

- Tuition
- CMCS Foundation
- New to You Contribution
- Fundraising Events
- Federal/State Funding
- MISC Giving (Memorials, Offerings)
- Annual Fund
- MISC Income (Rentals, Interest, Concessions)

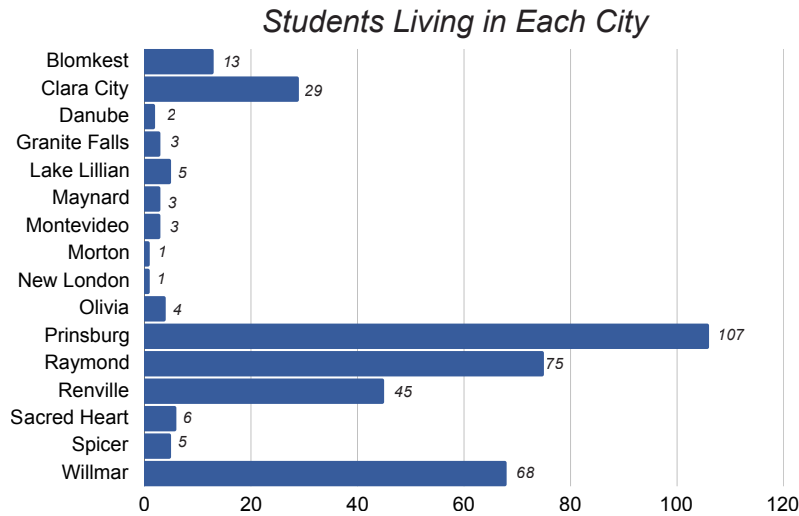
# 2025-26 ENROLLMENT

# 370

Students Enrolled  
4K-12th

# 34

Churches  
Represented



# 8

Transportation  
Routes

# 757

Miles Driven  
Each Day By Bus

## STUDENT VOLUNTEER HOURS

This year, the Advancement Committee piloted a new Student Volunteer Program, creating meaningful opportunities for high school students to live out an essential part of our mission: a life of service. Through this program, students in grades 9–12 actively serve within the school community while growing in responsibility, teamwork, and a heart for helping others.

Each student is required to complete a minimum of four service hours, with a variety of opportunities available throughout the year. While these hours fulfill a school commitment, the program is designed to be more than simply checking a box. It invites students to represent Central well, serve others with intention, and make a tangible difference in the life of the school.

We are encouraged to see strong participation and are currently on track for all students to fulfill their required service hours. This year, they have assisted with donor thank you cards, supported our administrative staff, operated live stream cameras for events, worked the concession stands, contributed to projects like landscaping, and so much more.



# Student **SUCCESS TEAM**

## Focus Areas

- Academics - enhance study skills, establish organizational habits, and increase academic achievement.
- Spiritual Discipleship - provide students with opportunities for spiritual growth outside of what they receive in the classroom.
- Physical/Medical Health - learn to care for our bodies and use them to honor God.
- Social/Emotional Wellbeing - help students develop strong relationships, regulate and express emotions, and cope with life stressors.
- Technology - foster knowledge of technology in a safe and Christian environment.



**Currently Serving  
60 students**

## Mission and Purpose

The Student Success Team (SST) is a support structure designed to assist students, families, and teachers to seek positive solutions for maximizing student potential.

The SST is a positive, team-oriented approach to assist students with concerns related to their overall wellbeing. The purpose of the SST is to identify and intervene early in order to design a support system for students having difficulty at our school.

## Meet the Team

<b>Malorie Antony</b> School Counselor	<b>Becky Berry</b> Academic Support Coordinator
<b>Carrie Asake</b> Nurse	<b>Heather McCoy</b> IT Coordinator

## STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

Student Discipleship in the elementary grades (Kindergarten through 5th grade) takes place during weekly small groups or chapel services. Small groups, composed of about ten students from different grade levels, are led by our dedicated elementary teachers and community volunteers. These groups engage in lessons that reinforce the topics discussed in chapel and align with our annual theme.

For our 6th through 12th grade students, discipleship takes place through squads, four days a week, and chapel on the fifth day. Middle school squads consist of approximately twenty students from grades 6-8, while high school squads include about ten students from grades 9-12. In these groups, students are guided by their Squad leaders, our committed middle and high school teachers, in meaningful discussions, devotions, and other activities to foster spiritual growth.

In addition to these regular weekly gatherings, the Student Discipleship Team hosts Flock Days and special events, bringing students from K-12 together around a central theme. These moments create invaluable opportunities for mentorship, unity, and shared faith experiences across all grade levels.

Our theme verse for the 2025-2026 school year is Psalm 115:1: "Not to us, not to us, Lord, but to your name be the glory because of your love and faithfulness." Our deep hope for this year is that students grasp that everything we have belongs to God. Our purpose is to direct glory and worship back to God in all that we do.

- Becky Berry, Elementary Student Discipleship Coordinator



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# Central COUNSELOR'S CORNER



As the School Counselor, I help students prepare for their future through academic planning, college and career exploration, and guidance as they make important decisions about life after graduation. My goal is for each student to feel supported and equipped to pursue their plans for the future. - Malorie Antony, School Counselor

## College Readiness

- Hosted representatives from several colleges, including Dordt University, Ridgewater College, Calvin University, and University of Northwestern.
- Many students went on college visits and attended college fairs throughout the year.
- Hosted recruiters from the US Army Recruiting Office.
- Hosted a Financial Aid/FAFSA Information Session for students and parents to learn more about applying for financial aid.
- Shared numerous resources for local scholarships.
- 8th, 9th, and 10th graders took the PreACT. ACT registration information was shared with 11th and 12th graders.

## Career Exploration

- ASVAB - 11th graders will take the ASVAB this Spring. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success. It is administered annually to more than one million military applicants, high school, and post-secondary students.
- Hosted a WC-CEO presentation for Sophomores and Juniors to learn more about the program. This year-long program meets every morning at area businesses where students are immersed in real-life learning experiences and are mentored on the opportunity to take risks, manage the results, and learn from their outcomes from area mentors.
- Hosted Classroom to Career for 8th graders. Classroom to Career is a branch of the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Education Network (BEN). Business professionals have the opportunity to engage with students, talk about their career choices, and share how their decisions in high school open future opportunities. The program is designed for 8th grade students to show them that they are in control of their future educational goals through personal choice and educational paths. Jeff Duinck from Duinck Construction visited Central in March to share his Classroom to Career presentation.

## Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

- 23 Juniors and Seniors participated in 30 PSEO courses during the Fall Semester.
- 33 Juniors and Seniors participated in 55 PSEO courses during the Spring Semester.
- Some classes taken include Introduction to College Writing & Research, Historical Perspectives, Public Speaking, Introduction to Literature, Lifespan Psychology, and Introduction to Sociology.

# FINANCIAL REPORT



Surrounded by our community of believers, Central strives to be fiscally responsible and to steward well the resources entrusted to us. Our goal is to provide students with a Christ-centered, quality education that equips them for a life of service.

## Highlights from This Past Year

The Finance Committee and Board established a goal of maintaining three months of operating cash in reserve. We believe this is an important step in being faithful stewards and ensuring continuity in the event of an unexpected disruption in funding. I am happy to share that we hit our goal!

In January, New to You expanded by purchasing a second store. We celebrate this milestone, as it aligns with our financial sustainability plan to increase long-term contributions.

We engaged in thoughtful discussion regarding tuition for the upcoming year. Ultimately, the Committee and Board approved a 1.5% increase. In the year ahead, we plan to further develop a financial sustainability model that will allow us to take a more strategic, forward-looking approach to tuition rather than adjusting it year by year.

We also worked diligently to present a balanced budget once again this year and are pleased to report that we met our annual fund goal.

As God closes one door, He opens another. We are excited to welcome Mary into her new role at Central and look forward to working alongside her in the coming year.

God cares deeply about how we manage the resources He entrusts to us. Scripture speaks extensively about money, wealth, and possessions, and Jesus frequently taught on these topics. As a Committee and Board, we take this responsibility seriously and are grateful for the trust you have placed in us.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.  
Heidi Graves, Finance Committee Chair

## TUITION BY THE YEAR

<u>Tuition Rates</u>	<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>Grades 1-5</u>	<u>Grades 6-8</u>	<u>Grades 9-12</u>	<u>Increase</u>
2022-23	\$5,795	\$7,170	\$8,370	\$8,895	\$120
2023-24	\$5,845	\$7,320	\$8,520	\$9,045	\$150
2024-25	\$7,670	\$7,670	\$8,870	\$9,395	\$350
2025-26	\$7,946	\$7,946	\$9,189	\$9,733	3.6%
2026-27	\$8,065	\$8,065	\$9,327	\$9,879	1.5%

# 2026-27 BUDGET

## Central Minnesota Christian School Budgeted Statement of Activities

	2025-26 Revised Budget	2026-27 Original Budget
<b>Support and Revenues</b>		
Tuition	\$ 2,741,346	\$ 2,783,000
Other Family Fees and Income	74,193	84,000
Co-curricular	100,701	100,000
Athletics	76,379	74,000
Unrestricted Contribution Revenue	1,448,036	1,484,000
Restricted Contribution Revenue	4,500	4,500
Non-Financial Contribution Revenue	41,804	41,800
New to You Distributions to CMCS	200,713	252,000
Interest Income	39,038	35,000
Federal and State Funding	413,726	427,000
Facility Income	49,360	50,000
Sale/Service of Industrial Tech Projects	1,800	1,800
Miscellaneous Income	1,701	1,700
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<b>5,193,297</b>	<b>5,338,800</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Compensation and Benefits	3,679,306	3,910,000
Professional Services	81,876	84,000
Education Expense	388,048	384,000
Food Service Expense	182,095	180,000
Miscellaneous Expense	97,218	95,000
Technology Expense	87,368	78,000
Occupancy Expense	418,816	427,000
Interest Expense	18,706	18,700
Transportation Expense	89,322	92,000
Event Expense	71,648	70,100
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,114,403</b>	<b>5,338,800</b>
<b>Income (Loss) Before Other Expenses</b>	<b>78,894</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other Income (Expenses)</b>		
Depreciation/Amortization Expense	(597,998)	(600,000)
<b>Total Other Income (Expenses)</b>	<b>(597,998)</b>	<b>(600,000)</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (519,104)</b>	<b>\$ (600,000)</b>



# CMCS FOUNDATION

## Our Purpose

Since 1970, the CMCS Foundation has existed with the purpose to promote, accept, and manage gifts for the long-term sustainability of the school. Gifts to the Foundation are invested with the goal of continuing growth. The CMCS Foundation is a separate non-profit entity from the school, governed by its own board, bylaws, mission statement, and giving cycle. The Foundation’s Board of Directors annually distributes 6% on the 3-year average balance of the assets to support Central.

## Goal

We continue to aspire towards a target of \$12,000,000 in total Foundation assets, equating to an annual distribution potential of \$720,000 to the school. We are eager to see our “Live It Forward Campaign” efforts become reality and meet that goal through the continued awareness of and support for the CMCS Foundation.

## Current Status

At the end of 2025, the balance in the Foundation was \$9,352,202 in total assets, which is a \$940,000 increase from 2024-year end. The Foundation has seen strong growth over the past 5 years and is grateful for God’s blessing and the gracious generosity of our donors! It’s so encouraging to see the steady growth of our annual distribution level to school, year over year.

## Future Focus

1. Continuing to pursue a goal of \$12,000,000 in total Foundation assets by connecting with core donors for consideration of impactful investments to benefit the school for decades.
2. Creating awareness for the variety of mediums through which to engage – from real estate to charitable trusts, memorials, cash, life insurance beneficiary designation, and more.
3. Creating an investment strategy to ensure we are maximizing returns on gifts while still maintaining a safe, well-balanced portfolio.

Thank you again for consideration of how you personally might engage – and spread the word about our targeted goal! Together, we can be a vital part of this legacy opportunity. If you have questions or would like to hear more about the CMCS Foundation, please reach out for a personalized visit.

Respectfully Submitted,

CMCS Foundation Board –  
Josh Lundeen (Chair), Ben Taatjes (Treasurer)  
Todd Kleinhuizen (Secretary),  
Jon De Groot (Central Appointee)  
Trevor Duinick (Member), Brad Link (Member)  
Jason Schwitters (Member), Mike Mulder (ex. officio)

<b>CMCS Foundation 5 Year Review</b>		
	<b>EOY Balance</b>	<b>Available to CMCS</b>
<b>2021</b>	\$ 5,733,089	\$ 178,348
<b>2022</b>	\$ 5,826,820	\$ 250,132
<b>2023</b>	\$ 7,081,059	\$ 319,067
<b>2024</b>	\$ 8,410,721	\$ 372,819
<b>2025</b>	\$ 9,352,202	\$ 496,880

# NEW TO YOU



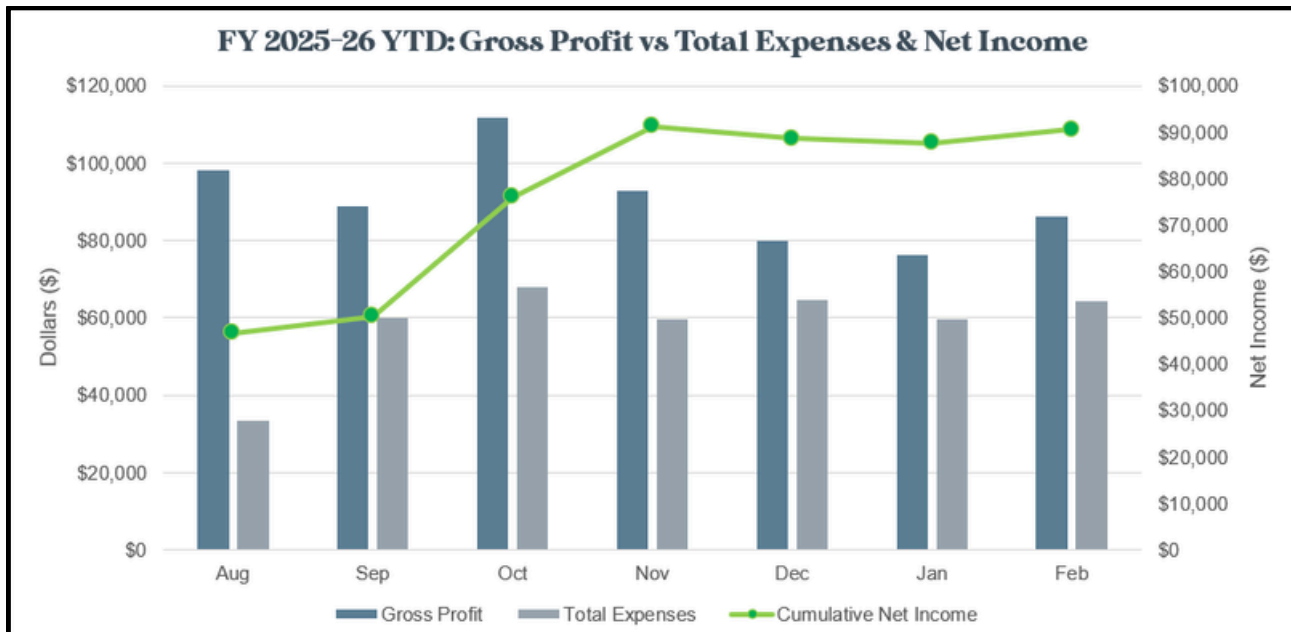
As we prepare to gather for our annual meeting, we pause to reflect with gratitude on another year of God's faithfulness. Once again, we have seen how obedience, generosity, and shared purpose allow Him to work far beyond what we could accomplish on our own.

This past year has been a reminder that our work is about much more than daily operations or financial outcomes. At its heart, our mission remains unchanged: to serve faithfully, to steward wisely, and to support

Christ-centered education while extending compassion to our wider community. Through every donation given, every volunteer hour served, and every customer welcomed, we see God using ordinary acts to accomplish extraordinary good.

We are deeply thankful for the many individuals who continue to invest their time, resources, and prayers into this ministry. Your support not only sustains the work we do today but also helps strengthen the foundation for the generations that follow. Each step forward is the result of a collective commitment to trust God's provision and remain focused on why we do what we do.

As we look ahead, we do so with anticipation and confidence—confident not in our own plans, but in God's continued guidance. Thank you for being part of this story. We look forward to sharing more at our annual meeting and celebrating together all that God has done, and all that is yet to come.



*\*The Net Income is our profit after this year's \$15,000 monthly contribution to the school.*

In His Service,  
Kristin Poorvliet,  
Director of Thrift Store Operations



# Student PERSPECTIVES

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students learning  
to be tomorrow's  
creative minds

“Central is a great school, and I am glad to be a student here. We have caring teachers and staff who really want to help us and see us succeed. Most importantly, all the teachers and staff try to keep Christ at the center. They connect their teachings to Christ and teach us about Him in all of our classes. Being at Central has helped me grow stronger in my faith and academics.”

- Silas Taatjes, High School Student

“I love being a student at Central. I have made good friends at school. The teachers I have had are amazing. I like that we get to learn more about Jesus every day.”

- Kalli Fagen, Middle School Student

“I love Central because I get to learn about God at school. I also love art class and recess on the playground. I’m thankful for my teachers who encourage me to do my best and for my friends who make school fun.”

- Vivian Feikema, Elementary School Student

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families committing  
to partnering for  
Christian Education

# Family PERSPECTIVES

“We are constantly reminded how quickly time passes as our two daughters finish their freshman and junior years. These seasons have shown us just how important it is to teach our children God's truth during the short, formative years we have them at home. Building a strong spiritual foundation now is an investment that lasts a lifetime. That's why Central was a clear choice for our family years ago. Central does an exceptional job teaching biblical truth and nurturing students' faith in an environment where they feel truly valued and cared for. We are reminded of the calling in Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." There is no greater investment than a Christian education!”

- Nate and Ali Sunvold

“Our family is new to Central, since our son, Paxton, started 4K in the fall of 2024. Our experience has been amazing and such a blessing. He loves school, and it’s easy to see why when you consider the quality of the teachers and the student body. We are so grateful to have the option to send our children to a school with Christ-centered education so close-by.”

- Craig and Makenzie Gartner

# Prospective BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

## Jason Brower

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Family: Moriah Brower. Leeland, Berkley, and Auden.

Vocation: Senior Director of Rehabilitation and Physical Therapist with Continuum Therapy Partners

Board Experience: Central Advancement Committee, Central Website Taskforce

Why I wish to serve Central: As a parent of students who attend Central, I have personally experienced the Christ-centered, high-quality education the school provides. Central is more than a school, it is a community committed to academic excellence, spiritual growth, and preparing students to live a life of service to God.

By serving on the board, I hope to support the students, families, faculty, and broader community connected to Central. I am committed to upholding the mission and values of the school and would consider it a privilege to invest my time and efforts in strengthening Christian education for both the present and future of Central.

## Matt Hoekstra (Incumbent)

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Family: Brianna Hoekstra. Parker, Poppy, and Hazel.

Vocation: Financial Advisor with Berger Financial Group

Board Experience: 3 years on the Central Board

Why I wish to serve Central: I believe strongly in Christian education. I want our kids to have a place where they can be grounded in biblical principles and learn to be disciples as they are prepared to go out into the world. If there is anything I can do to contribute to that, including board work, I am willing.



# Paul Leverington (Incumbent)

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Family: Nicole Leverington. Kaden, Truman, Ander, Sylvie, and Ayla

Vocation: Current – CEO of QTE By-Products, LLC (6 years). Previous 10 years Owner/CEO of Custom Marketing Company, LLC (CMC). 25 years working in Ag Industry

Board Experience: Current Central Board member and Governance Committee member the past 3 years. Current - Valley Christian Counseling & Wellness (Fargo) – Vice Chairman (Past 10 Years) & Chairman of Capital Campaign Steering Committee, Current – Dakota MB (Fargo, St. Louis) Board member (3 years), Current – QTE By-Products (MN) Board member (5 years), Park Christian School (Moorhead/Fargo) – Committee Member and Capital Campaigns (4 years)

Why I wish to serve Central: If the Lord wants me to serve at Central, I wish to support that calling. My wife and I both have a passion for Christian education. I have been blessed to have a lot of past board and leadership experience in strategy, governance, development, fundraising, and financial stewardship through helping serve at other Christian organizations. I have learned a lot about Central, our community, the challenges, and joys from both being on the school board, but also having our kids in school the past five years. What I have learned over the past three years about Central, our challenges, and initiatives we are focusing on will help me to continue serving here if the Lord leads.

## Josh Mulder

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Family: Susanne Mulder. Eddie & Allie Mulder and Owen; Case & Winnona Mulder; Garrett, and Josie.

Vocation: Electrical Engineering at Mulder Engineering

Board Experience: Previously served a 3-year term on the Central Board, served as a deacon at First CRC of Prinsburg, and served as an elder at Bunde CRC.

Why I wish to serve Central: I would be honored to serve as a board member at Central Minnesota Christian School because of the deep personal connection my family has to its mission. Both my wife and I are alumni, and now our children have the privilege of receiving a

Christ-centered education there as well. Central has played a significant role in shaping our faith, values, and community, and I am passionate about ensuring that future generations experience the same strong foundation. Serving on the board would be a meaningful way to give back, support the school's continued growth, and help strengthen its commitment to excellence in Christian education.



# Tricia Nelson

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Family: Brad Nelson. Bekah & Jack Arnold and baby on the way; Hannah & Jamison Wyatt, Rocko, Sully, & Quincy; Sarah & Peter Martin, Ozzy; and Joshua.

Vocation: Director of Family Engagement & Executive Assistant at Duinink Companies

Board Experience: While I am not currently seated on any boards, most recently, a near decade at Duinink Companies has provided me with the opportunity to become a trusted advisor to leadership—bringing clarity, structure, and momentum to complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives. My work experience spans executive operations and high-level governance with the Duinink Companies Enterprise Board, which governs the portfolio of companies. Outside of my professional space – years of service on various committees at both Central and elsewhere have shaped my experience in governance work.

Why I wish to serve on the Central: As an empty nester, my capacity allows me to step into board service and give back more fully to a place that has shaped our family in meaningful ways. It would be an honor to further the vision for Christian education in partnership with board members and staff in this Kingdom work. I believe this opportunity aligns with my natural God-given gifts and interests in board work, strategic alignment, and turning ideas into decisive action.

# Brian Punt

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Family: Janna Punt. Blake, Wyatt, and Brooklyn.

Vocation: Agriculture Sales & Service; Co-Owner of Next Level Ag Solutions

Board Experience: Kandiyohi County Farm Bureau Board and former Bunde CRC Admin Board.

Why I wish to serve on the Central: I believe that God has given me unique experiences and skill sets through my life and career that could be valuable assets to the board of Central. With everything that I am called to do in my family, my church, or my career, I seek to carry out God's will by using the gifts and talents that he has given me for His honor and glory. If chosen to serve on the board, I would seek to uphold the mission and vision of our school as well as support our staff and students through the tasks that are entrusted to me.



# Absentee Ballot Instructions

## Central Minnesota Christian School Annual Meeting Absentee Ballot Instructions

To maintain honesty and integrity in the voting process, please fill out your ballot and place it in a blank, sealed envelope. Place the blank, sealed envelope inside another envelope with your first and last name on the outside of the envelope. You may submit your ballot in one of three ways:

- Bring your ballot to the High School office. School hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Mail your ballot to the attention of the Central School Board Secretary.  
204 School Street, PO Box 98, Prinsburg, MN 56281.
- Submit your ballot electronically by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code below.

Absentee ballots need to be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14. Additional hard copies of ballots will be available at the High School office.

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### School Board Member Election

Please select the candidate(s) you wish to affirm on the ballot (candidates are not running against another candidate to fill a seat).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Jason Brower
- \_\_\_\_\_ Matt Hoekstra (Incumbent)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Leverington (Incumbent)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Josh Mulder
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tricia Nelson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Brian Punt



Scan QR Code to complete  
the form electronically.