

Central CABLE



**KNOWN
PERSONALLY**

**DISCIPLED
INTENTIONALLY**

**CHALLENGED
ACADEMICALLY**

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

204 SCHOOL STREET
PO BOX 98
PRINSBURG, MN. 56281

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WWW.CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG
INFO@CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG

We Want the Same Thing

Miscommunication often arises when we assume we know what others are thinking or feeling, filling information gaps with our own assumptions. In the complexity of community living, knowing what, when, and to whom to speak can be challenging. After 25 years of serving in various Christian contexts, including a Church, a University, and a Christian School, I've realized the importance of navigating these dynamics with empathy and understanding.

My mentor once said, "Never underestimate how far people are willing to go to get their own way." This statement, initially perceived as cynical, has proven true, even within Christian communities. Yet, amidst differences and disappointments, I've found that most conflicts can be resolved by finding common ground. Even in the most challenging situations, a modicum of reconciliation can be achieved when we acknowledge our shared desires.

Decision-making, especially concerning our children and finances, can spark intense disagreements. However, at the core, we all want the same thing: to equip our students for a life of service by providing them with a quality, Christ-centered education. This shared goal unites us, reminding us that we're on the same team, fighting for the same cause.

While accountability and standards are essential, maintaining unity is equally vital. As Ephesians 4:3 and 15 remind us, we're called to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace and to speak the truth in love. When trust is broken, reconciliation becomes necessary.

Continue next page...

Before succumbing to outrage or distrust, it's crucial to pause and ask ourselves: do we ultimately want the same thing?

By approaching our differences with empathy, humility, and a willingness to find common ground, we can foster unity. If you are reading this, I trust that you believe in the vision of Central and our common desire for Bluejay Nation.

To God Be the Glory,
Jon De Groot, Superintendent



Ag Day

Our High School Student Council celebrated our Ag community on Tuesday, March 19 by inviting our students to drive their tractors to school.



Thank You to our Amazing School Bus Drivers!

Thank you to all of our bus drivers for getting our students to and from school safely each day. Your dedication and service are truly appreciated! Be sure to thank your Bus Driver!



Pictured: Dave Groen, Joan Marcus, Bob Stoel, Andy Rosen, Rachel Marcus, Mindy Grannes, Ruby Graves, Rachael Zigterman, David Zigterman, Wade Buss
Not Pictured: Garrett Hovland, Roger Groen, Daryl Vander Well, Bill Harrington, Joe Vander Ark

Middle School Bible

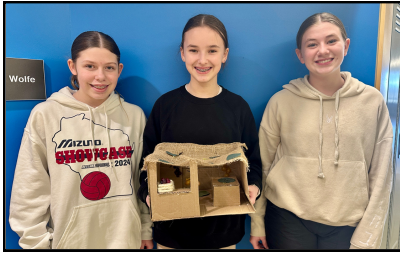


Isabella Rosen and Anna Bestge - 1st Place



Alyssa Schwitters - 1st Place

The 7th Grade Bible class spent some time learning about the Feast of Tabernacles in the Old Testament. Mrs. Wolfe challenged her class to build a "sukkah" or shelter as part of their unit. The 7th Grade class is separated into two sections, giving 1st-3rd place awards for each section. The teaching staff participated in voting for the winners. Great job, students!



Olivia Ziehl, Quinn Schueler, and Cara McLagan - 2nd Place



Aubree Slagter, Sabine TeBrake, and Josie Mulder - 2nd Place



Elsie Erickson and Breanna Duininck - 3rd Place (tie)



Claire Sunvold - 3rd Place (tie)



Stella TeBrake, Kenzie Ruplinger, and Nora Duininck - 3rd Place

4th Grade Bowling



The 4th Grade students earned a bowling party on Thursday, March 7, after raising the most money with their Heath Moves Minds event in February. They went bowling at Hutch Bowl in Hutchinson.

Kindergarten 100 Days of School

The Kindergarten class celebrated 100 Days of School on Thursday, March 7. Each student decorated a t-shirt with 100 items of their choice. Each student walked the red carpet on the stage, displaying their shirts.

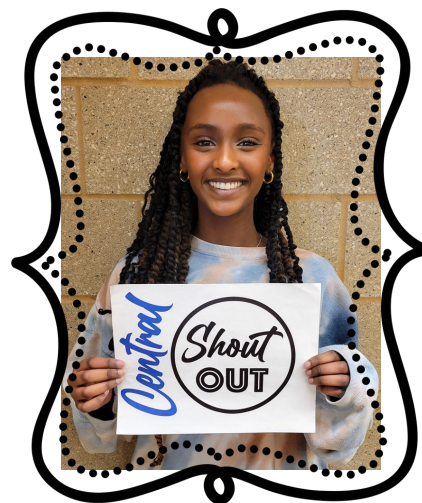




Quarter 3 ~ 2023-2024

*indicates pictured prize winners

Central Shout Outs are cards written by Central staff to acknowledge a student's outstanding character. Thank you to the following students for displaying the values of Bluejay Nation.



Elementary Shout Outs

*Kipton Antony
Bailey Bulthuis
Kalli Fagen
Oliver Htoo
Bennett Marcus
Grace Punt
Reagan Taatjes
Oliver Vogel

Middle School Shout Outs

Caleb Asche
Breckin Brouwer
Halley Brouwer
Jamin Buteyn
Griffin De Groot
Eliza Graves
Charles Leesman
Afton Meyer
Dillon Meyer
*Lily Moorlag
Isaak Rohlik
Isaiah Rothstein
Quinn Schueler
Elizabeth Wieberdink
Savanna Wolfe

High School Shout Outs

Naomi Asake
Alysia Buteyn
Kadin Dehmlow
Avery Duininck
Janessa Erickson
Ryan Harrington
Kaylee Hentges
Ruthie Leesman
Bjorn Mellema
Lillian Mellema
Peyton Meyer
Gabriella Pederson
Logan Rausch
Braelin Rime
Kaiden Ruis
*Tseganesh Schwitters
Maggie Setrum
Madison Vogel
Elizabeth Wassenaar
Braxton Zimmer

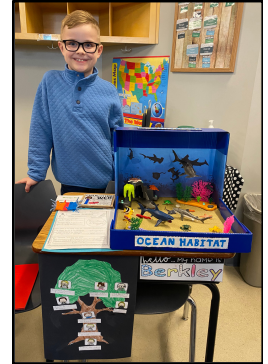
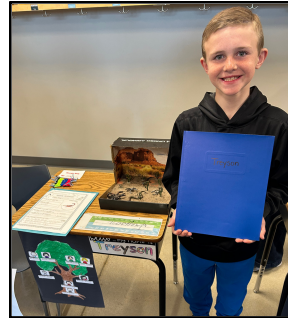


Central Showcase

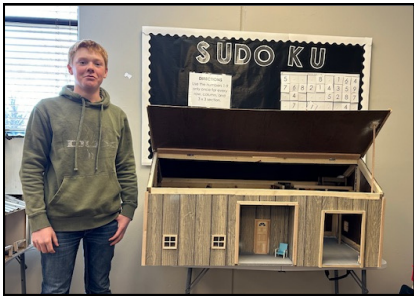
We had an amazing celebration on Friday, March 15 as students showcased their hard work this year.



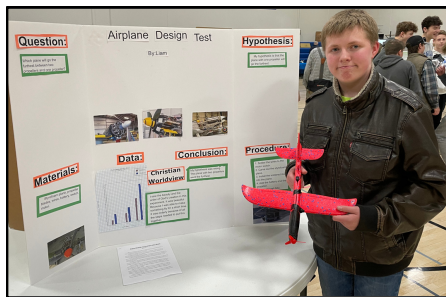
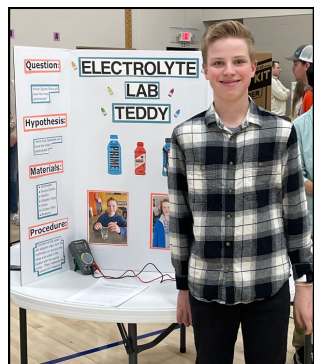
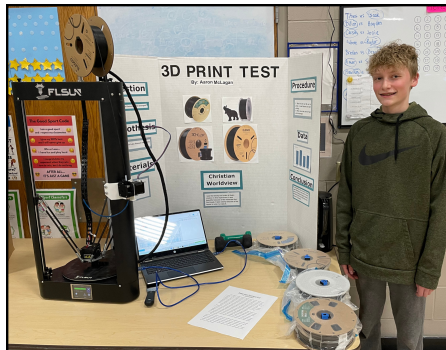
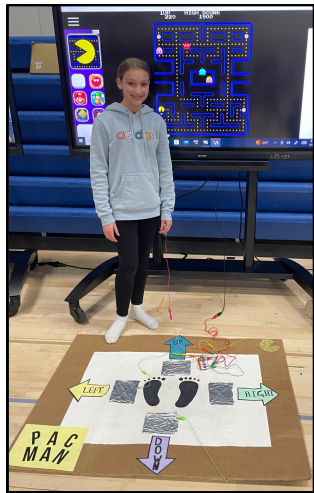
Junior Class Integrated Mathematics 3 Model Houses



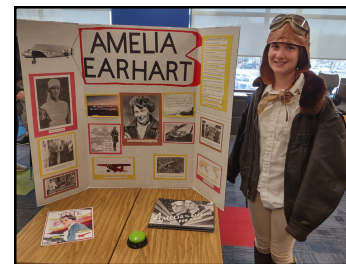
2nd Grade Animal Habitat, Family Trees, & Writing Projects



Middle School Science Projects



5th Grade Living Wax Museum



Low Brass Ensemble Music Recital



Robotics



Operation Wood Duck

Wildlife Management and Ecology students started an annual FLEX project. Our Students will use the wood duck houses for research by tracking the locations and usage rates each year. They will try to determine ways to improve biodiversity.



REAL NEEDS

Through the construction of 12 houses, our students are providing homes for wood ducks in Kandiyohi County. These houses will help grow the wood duck population.



REAL PEOPLE

The increase in wood duck numbers will benefit our local conversationalists. This FLEX also helps our future Central students by providing annual research opportunities.



REAL WORK

Our Ecology and Wildlife Management students have been studying wildlife habitats, population dynamics, and ways of improving local biodiversity.



FLEX ACTIVITIES ARE A DEEPER LEARNING TOOL WITHIN OUR TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION FRAMEWORK THAT ALLOWS OUR STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN REAL WORK THAT RECOGNIZES AND IMPACTS THE REAL NEEDS OF REAL PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

Elementary Student Discipleship

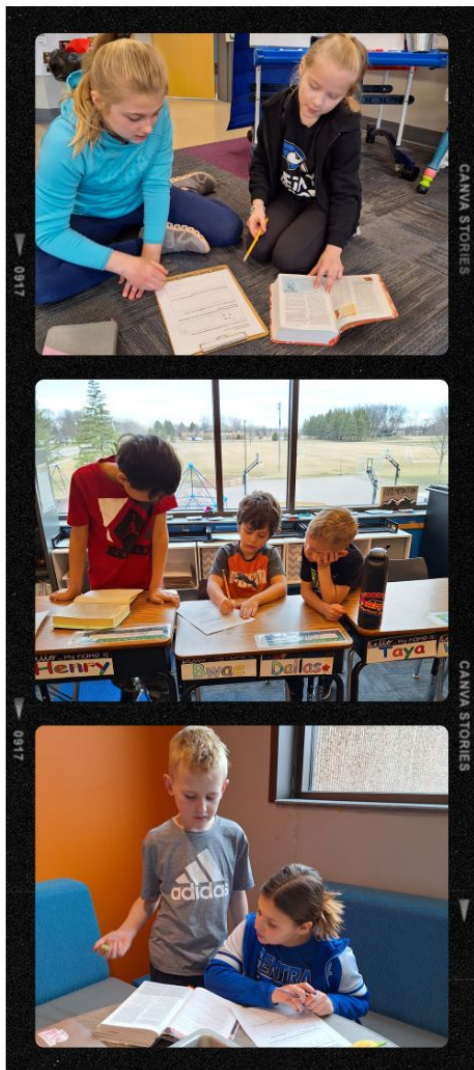


Parent Newsletter * April Issue

In March, our students dug into what it means to be an Order Discoverer and what we can learn about God when we look for His fingerprints in His creation. We spent time in small groups reading the creation account in Genesis 1. Students were challenged to look for order in the way God created the world and discussed qualities of God that we can see as he creates. We hope you had some quality family time over spring break and a wonderful celebration of our Savior's death and resurrection over Easter weekend!

In the month of April, we will be continuing to talk about creation and what it teaches us about God as we discuss the throughlines Creation Enjoyer and Earth Keeper.

We'll start the month with our last Flock day of this school year. We'll also enjoy time together as small groups and as an elementary school for chapel. We are hoping to spend some time outside enjoying spring and all the parts of creation that appear during, but we'll see if our lovely Minnesota weather cooperates or if we get to enjoy some winter weather instead. Towards the end of the month we'll talk about ways we can help take care of the creation God has given us. Our hope is for students to notice God's qualities expressed in his creation and look for creative ways to tend and care for His creation.



This Month's Theme Verse

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it."
-Psalm 24:1

Board Minutes for

Central Minnesota Christian School

Monday, March 18, 2024
7:00pm

Members Present: Joe Vander Ark, Paul Leverington, Heidi Graves, Matt Hoekstra, Jason Ver Steeg, Christy Groen, Luke Mulder, Trevor Duinick, Ryan Moorlag, Jon De Groot

Guests Present: Pam Harrington

Absent: Lanne Roelofs

Devotions: Joe VA presented a devotional based on Luke 18:9-14

1. Approval of Consent Agenda MSP
 - a. Board Committee Reports
 - b. Leadership Team Reports
 - c. Minutes from February 26, 2024 board meeting.
2. Leadership Team Items
 - a. Pam Harrington, Director of Finance and HR, presented the 2024-2025 Original Budget for approval by the Board.
 - i. Treasurer brought a motion, as recommend by the Finance Committee, to approve the budget. MSP
3. Board Retreat Debrief
 - a. All board members present had a chance to discuss key takeaways from the retreat and verbally committed to key unifying principles in the board room context
4. Policy Review
 - a. Grievance policy draft was discussed. Jon agreed to revise the policy based on the discussion.
5. Book Club was led by Christy on the subject of Commitment Letter for all board members (Chap 13)
6. Board Items
 - a. Governance Committee
 - i. The board election ballot was presented for approval. MSP
 - b. Education Committee
 - i. Christy brought a motion, as recommended by the Education Committee, to change the title of the Section 504 Accommodation Plan to Student Accommodation Plan. MSP
 - c. New to You Task Force
 - i. Discussed exploration of additional sources of income – Advancement Committee will help evaluate various options.
7. Roundtable
8. Jon DG closed in prayer
9. Next Board Meeting April 29, 2024
10. Meeting Adjourned.

It is the mission of Central Minnesota Christian School to provide a Christ-centered, quality education to equip students for a life of service.

Board Retreat



It's been said that an organization takes on the characteristics of the leadership. Leading organizations like Central is a responsibility that is taken seriously. Each year, board members gather for a retreat to educate and refocus in order to ensure that members have clarity on their roles on board committees and as board members. We are always working towards being the most efficient, effective, and strategic board possible.

Our speaker this year was Henry Contant, author of the book we have been reading as a board titled, "Guiding Schools To Flourish." Henry has over 44 years of commitment to Christian education as a teacher, curriculum writer, principal, director of development, board member, and as an inspector of faith-based schools around the world. He remains committed beyond retirement to strategic, visionary boards who have a healthy relationship with the school leadership as he conducts seminars and board retreats like ours to educate on strategic planning, board governance, and school leadership.

Specifically, Henry encouraged us to continue in practices that are moving us forward to reaching our goals and mission to provide a Christ-centered, quality education preparing our students for a life of service. Henry's wisdom challenged our board meeting agenda and overall strategy to help make our meetings and processes run efficiently to make our board operate in a way that will deliver the best results for our school and help us tighten up our focus and attention to be applied towards the topics that matter most. He challenged us to consider how to utilize our time during board meetings more efficiently as a way to energize each board member for the work that happens behind the scenes between our monthly meetings. He reminded us that our work should be largely focused on the future of the school, looking forward and setting goals of how to make Central a leader in education, setting us up to impact even more students for Christ.

It is the board's privilege to support the work of our gifted leadership team and all our excellent staff who are involved in the day to day important and influential work of making sure each student is known personally, disciplined intentionally, and challenged academically. This work has eternal importance and something that our world urgently needs. We appreciate the support of the Central constituents since we know that we are better together on this journey to follow God's will. Be in prayer for your board members as they work to discern what God has in store for Central.

Submitted by Christy Groen, Matt Hoekstra, and Paul Leverington

Rock Your Socks Day

On March 21, we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day. Some of our 4th grade students participated in "Rock Your Socks Day" by wearing brightly colored, mismatched socks.

Socks were chosen because the karyotype of Down Syndrome chromosomes actually look like mismatched socks. Thank you Mrs. Rosen for encouraging our students to be Better Together!



Central Counselor's Corner

Renville-Sibley's Scholar of the Month Program: Central participates in the Renville-Sibley's Scholar of the Month Program. Each month, teachers from the local school districts nominate one high school senior from their school. One name is drawn each month from the names submitted and the student selected is awarded a \$100 donation to be given to the student's school on their behalf. The student gets to choose which program the donation should be given to at their school (music, sports, arts, etc.). A banquet will be held in June for the students selected (and their families) throughout the year. One of these students will be chosen, by random drawing, as the winner of a \$1,000 scholarship from Renville-Sibley.

February Nominee - Ashlyn Brouwer
March Nominee - Braelyn Rime

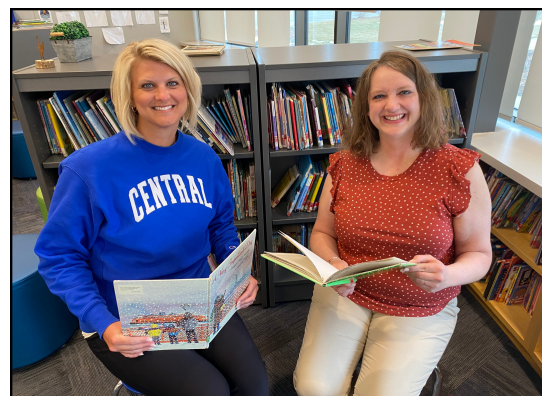
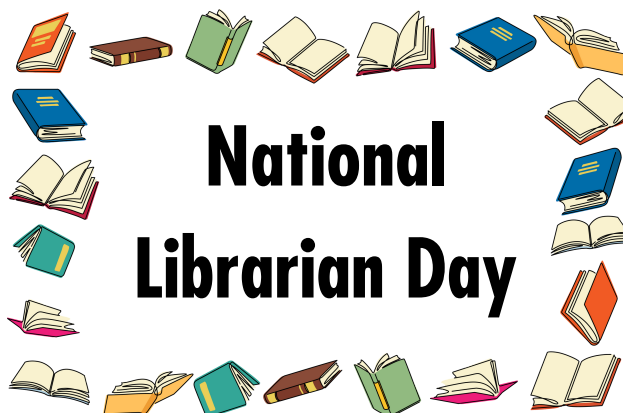


College Rep School Visits:
February 16, 2024 Bethel University
March 4, 2024 Dordt University
March 12, 2024 University of Northwestern - St. Paul

When Should I Take the ACT?

The ACT is a standardized test used for some college admissions and scholarships. The ACT test covers four academic skill areas: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Scientific Reasoning. It also offers an optional direct Writing test.

Many students take the ACT more than once in an effort to improve their score. Common times for students to take the test include: Fall of Junior Year, Spring of Junior Year, and Fall of Senior Year. More information can be found at act.org.



We want to say Thank You to our School Librarians, Cari Bulthuis and Heidi Link, for their dedication to Central and passion for fostering literacy, knowledge, and student engagement. April 4 is National Librarian Day. Cari and Heidi both do a great job keeping track of all the books our students read, providing access to resources for each student's designated reading needs, and creating a love for reading.

Athletic Highlights



Congratulations to our Girls Varsity Basketball team as they were the Section 3A North Runner Up and were 18-9 overall.



Congratulations to our Boys Varsity Basketball team as they were Section 3A North Champions, Section 3A Runner Up, and were 19-11 overall.



Our school had some fun Pep Rallies to send off our Bluejays! We are so proud of our girls and boys basketball teams for all their hard work this season.



"Becoming Juliet"

We are so proud of our cast and crew for an incredible play season and performance of, "Becoming Juliet". Thank you to our wonderful directors, Kevin Wassenaar and Randy Groen, for all the time and effort you put into working with these students. You all showed great passion, dedication, and hard work making each show an unforgettable experience for audiences. Thank you to our amazing community for all the support you gave our Central Drama Department. We thank God for the abundant gifts and talents that these students and directions have been blessed with.



Thank You for your service!

Join us in saying thank you to Travis Berry, Lorna Cook, and Hilda DeBoer. We want to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication and commitment to education. Your passion for teaching has ignited countless minds and inspired generations of students.



Travis Berry started seminary in January 2024 and is taking on more responsibilities at Unity Christian Reformed Church in Prinsburg.



Lorna Cook will be spending her time assisting her husband in their family business and enjoying time with her children and soon-to-be grandchild.



Hilda DeBoer will be retiring from teaching. She looks forward to no bells, no schedules, and being more relaxed.

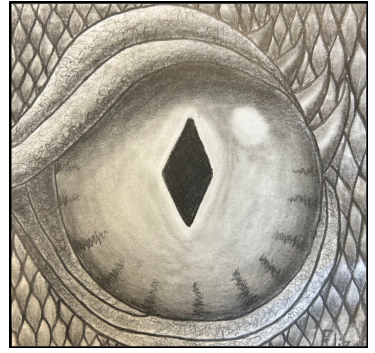
Central Art Gallery



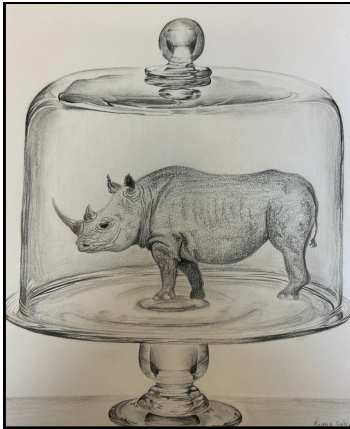
Ashlyn Brouwer, 12th



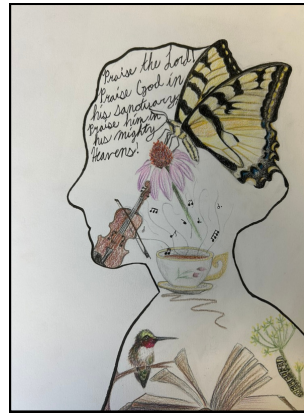
Isaac Asche, 11th



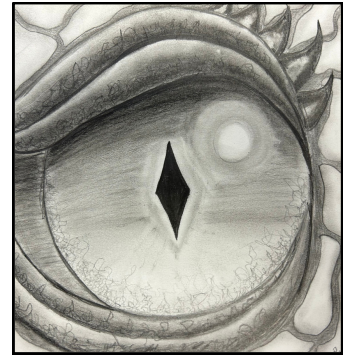
Eliza Graves, 6th



Maggie Setrum, 10th



Maggie Setrum, 10th



Poe Doh, 6th

Schedule for TRIP

April	8 & 22
May	6 & 20
June	10 & 24

Save the Dates

April 4-6	Spring Play
April 9	Annual Meeting
April 11	School Open House
April 19	Legacy Dinner
April 22 & 23	4K-K Parent Teacher Conferences
April 25	K-5 Spring Concert
April 26	K-5 Grandparents Day
May 3	Prom
May 14	HS Pops Concert
May 15	Awards Day
May 22	Last Day of School
May 24	Graduation



BETTER TOGETHER



ANNUAL REPORT

A special report sharing how our students are Known Personally, Disciplined Intentionally, and Challenged Academically at Central.



BUSINESS REPORT

An introduction to the 2024-25 budget.



BOARD NOMINEES

Nominees will be introduced and voted on for the open seats on the Central School Board.



You can view the Annual Report for the agenda, budget, new voting procedures, absentee ballot, and other pertinent information on the school's website under Stay Connected (www.centralbluejays.org). We will also host a meeting after the Annual Meeting on Shaping Our Future. We'd like to invite you to stay for a brief time (approx 45 mins) of interaction with the Board after the annual meeting aimed at gathering your input.

Here's a glimpse at the discussion format:

- Prompts to reflect on Central's current opportunities and potential obstacles.
- Looking ahead at hopes for Central in 5 or 10 years.

Your input is valuable. We appreciate your continued engagement and look forward to collaboratively shaping Central's future.

YOU ARE INVITED



WHEN WE STAND TOGETHER

THE 42ND ANNUAL
LEGACY DINNER
APRIL 19, 2024

6:00PM - PUNCH RECEPTION
6:30PM - DINNER SEATING
SPEAKER ENGAGEMENT AND DESSERT

**CENTRAL MN CHRISTIAN
EVENT CENTER**

THIS IS A FREE EVENT
HOWEVER, AN RSVP IS REQUIRED
PLEASE RESPOND BY APRIL 10TH
QR CODE or 320-978-8700



NATHAN SHACKELFORD, serves as Associate General Counsel at the **First Liberty Institute**, the largest legal institution in the nation dedicated exclusively to defending religious liberty to all faiths. Proactively advocating on the front lines in legal battles involving Christian Education, his stories will inspire you to stand firm in freedom.

WILL YOU STAND WITH US?

JOIN US FOR AN ENGAGING EVENING
IMPELLING BELIEVERS TOWARDS THE
INVESTMENT IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
CENTRAL MN CHRISTIAN

TIM BENZ currently serves as the President of **MINNDEPENDENT**, a trusted partner to Central, who advocates to ensure local and state policy makers understand and support policies and practices that strengthen Minnesota's private schools while allowing them to remain student-centered and mission-driven.



FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TO SUPPORT CMCS

GRANDPARENTS DAY FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH

9:15-9:30	Coffee and Conversation (Available throughout the entire morning) Event Center & Middle School Lounge		
9:30-9:50	2nd Grade P.E. Activities EL Gym	3rd Grade Class Activities Miss DeBoer's Room	5th Grade Performances (5B) EL STEM Room Class Activities (5A) Mr. Vander Pol's Room
9:55-10:15	Kindergarten Class Activities Mrs. Braem's Room Mrs. Brouwer's Room	1st Grade Music Activities EL Music Room	4th Grade Class Activities Mrs. Rosen's Room
10:15-10:30	Recess		
10:35-10:55	Kindergarten Music Activities EL Music Room	2nd Grade Class Activities Mrs. Runia's Room Mrs. TeBrake's Room	3rd Grade P.E. Activities EL Gym
11:00-11:20	1st Grade Class Activities Mrs. Duinink's Room Mrs. Jerve's Room	4th Grade Class Activities Mrs. Rosen's Room	5th Grade Performances (5A) EL STEM Room Class Activities (5B) Mr. Vander Pol's Room
11:30	Optional Lunch Provided HS Gym Dismissal at 12:00 PM		



Grandparents/Special Visitors, please RSVP through this QR code by Monday, April 22, indicating if you will be eating lunch with the students.



Join us for our



Freedom

FUNDAYS

Celebration

**June
29**

FUN RUN. PATRIOTIC SERVICE.
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. PARADE.



FIREWORKS



Prinsburg, MN



**FREE-WILL
PORK
DINNER**



www.centralbluejays.org

New to You News

The Monthly Minute *March*

Number of items processed:

22,555

Sell-through rate:

75%

Total Sales:

\$81,901

Compared to last year:

\$68,779

Total Volunteer Hours:

482

Volunteer Hours last year:

496

Contribution to Central:

\$12,000



Praise and Opportunity:

We feel so blessed to report a very successful March. The unseasonably warm weather was a huge help.

As donations continue to increase, we need all the help we can get to receive and process everything.

Several of our staff and volunteers have been out for health reasons and everyone is stretched. You are appreciated. Thank you, Everyone!



Central CABLE



MISSION

To provide a Christ-centered, quality education to equip students for a life of service.

VISION

Surrounded by our community of believers where God's presence is evident, our students will find their calling in God's world through an exceptional education, delivered from a Biblical worldview. Students will be known personally, disciplined intentionally, and challenged academically.

VALUES



Better Together - God created us in his image to live in Community. Therefore, we honor and care for the well-being and success of all. We value encouragement and helpful communications while speaking the truth in love. We celebrate the individual gifts and character of each member and provide an environment for them to struggle and grow. (Rom 12:4-5; Gen 1:27; Col 3:12-14)



Building Trust - We strive for Excellence in our character and proven-ness in our work. We do our best to earn respect by exceeding expectations, maintaining high standards, challenging complacency, and aiming for full potential. (Matt 12:12; Titus 2:7)



Being Transformed - We value whole-person Growth and practice continuous improvement through learning, personal reflection, and Christian development. We are open to new ideas and seek God's kingdom dream for our lives and the world. (Rom 12:2; II Cor 5:17; Ps 51:10)



Bridging The Gap - Through Service, we identify needs and address them. We see God-possibilities and obediently follow the Spirit to make them our reality. In humility we give of ourselves, investing in the cause of Christian education and thus, the future. (I Peter 4:10; Col 3:23, Is 58:10)



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