

Central CABLE



**KNOWN
PERSONALLY**

**DISCIPLED
INTENTIONALLY**

**CHALLENGED
ACADEMICALLY**

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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God Worshippers

Part of the Christmas story haunts me when I lay it against the backdrop of my American Christianity. Matthew 2:13-31 records Joseph and Mary's flight to Egypt shortly after Jesus is born, prompted by an angelic visit, to escape the wrath of Herod. Joseph, initially excited about his upcoming marriage and the development of his carpentry trade, suddenly finds himself under the cover of night, fleeing to Egypt with his new wife and her baby, Jesus.

I simply cannot fathom how strange it must have been for Joseph to hold the God he worshipped in his arms while running for his life. This narrative shatters any notion of fatalism that I might incorporate into my theology of God's sovereignty. It is challenging to understand how to worship a God who takes a position of helplessness and requires us to leave comfort and control for his sake. Questions arise, echoing Joseph's sentiments: "Lord, why don't you fix this!? You send angels to wake people up, but you won't stop a narcissistic king from killing untold baby boys?"

Yet, as I grapple with these questions, a praiseworthy trait about God emerges—not just having all the power, but choosing not to make it all about power. God opts to live out His plan of redemption through us, His broken and fragile people. Like Joseph, we carry His presence, whether we are running for our lives or living cozy and comfortably. Inevitably though, we will find ourselves in predicaments and places of trial that don't seem to make sense when viewed through the lens of power.

As we reflect during the month of December on what it means to be a God Worshipper, we need to remember in these moments that every situation is an opportunity for God to display His glory. Not in our comfort and control, but through the cross, his forgiveness, and love.

As we worship and adore the newborn king this season, who will one day set everything right, imagine carrying God with you into every situation - whether comfortable or difficult. Let's not simply adore the baby in the manger - let's take him with us. And know that in the same way caring for a baby takes work, accepting God's invitation into HIS-story of redemption might not be easy or comfortable. Peace on earth comes with a price.



Glory to the newborn King!

Jon De Groot, Superintendent

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
goodwill toward men!" - Luke 2:14*

Flock Thanksgiving Lunch

We have so much to be thankful for here at Central! One of those blessings is the ability to gather and praise the Lord as a community for everything the Lord has done and is doing on a daily basis here within our walls! On Tuesday, November 21, before Thanksgiving break, our entire Central student body and all of our staff did just that over a delicious Thanksgiving meal. Our students were seated in their Flock groups, which included students from Elementary, Middle School, and High School. They not only enjoyed some good food, but our students also participated in some fun conversation starters and Thanksgiving activities at their tables.



This event required a lot of planning and organizing. We would like to give a special thank you to our Kitchen Staff and Cooks for preparing such a delicious meal. Thank you to Nate Duinick and Andy Rosen who helped with setup, and Becky Berry and the High School Student Council for organizing and setting up.



We're so thankful for the opportunity to be able to gather our whole school in one room to celebrate our blessings from the Lord!



--Submitted by the Student Council

Harvest Festival

Wrap-Up

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We're so grateful to everyone for their contribution to this year's Harvest Festival. Whether you contributed baked goods or financial donations, worked a shift or helped to organize the event, every effort was greatly appreciated! Our guests enjoyed a wonderful night of fellowship, and everyone's generosity helped to raise over \$85,000 for the staff and students at Central.

We are humbled by the community support we have in our mission to provide quality education as we equip our students for a life of service. We are grateful for each and every one of you, and we pray you all have a blessed holiday season as you celebrate God's gift of redeeming love.



WITH GRATITUDE

Thank you so much for supporting the
Central Minnesota Christian School
Annual Harvest Festival

With your generosity, you helped us
raise over \$85,000!



Honoring Our Veterans

Members of the community were invited to attend our Veterans Day Assembly on Friday, November 10. All Veterans were treated to complimentary coffee and donuts before joining the student body in the High School Gymnasium for a celebration in honor of all those who have served our country. Students from various grades recited papers and performed musical numbers for our honored guests. To all our men and women in uniform, past, present, and future, God bless you and Thank You!



Community Service Day



Our Community Leaf Raking Day was able to take place in November, and our High School students and staff enjoyed a beautiful day outside serving the residents of Prinsburg.

We are blessed with such a generous community and are grateful for the opportunity to serve them!



Patriot's Pen Essay Challenge

Congratulations to Teddy Bonnema, Jackson Marcus, and Savannah Wolfe for finishing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, respectively, in the VFW's Patriot's Pen Writing Challenge! Savannah's essay has also been chosen to move on to the state level competition.

This nation-wide Middle School writing challenge encourages students to use their minds and knowledge of America's history and their experience of today's American society to write essays expressing their patriotic views.

Thank you, students for participating in this challenge and for expressing your patriotism!



Members of the local VFW were present to announce the winners at chapel on December 1.

Seniors Go to Washington D.C.

The Senior Government class had an opportunity to extend their knowledge about American history and politics with a trip to Washington D.C. from November 16-20. Items on the itinerary included: the US Capitol, White House, FBI Building, Supreme Court, National Archives, Arlington Cemetery, Holocaust and Bible Museums, Library of Congress, and all of the monuments and memorials. A couple evening highlights were a trip down to Old Town Alexandria and seeing A Christmas Carol at Ford's Theatre. We also got a chance to see Ashlyn Brouwer's art hanging in the Capitol tunnel after she had won our representative district's art competition last spring.



Students each wrote a paper about one of the sites we planned to visit. Once we got to each location, the students played the role of "expert," providing relevant context for the site and telling the class what they would be seeing while they toured.



Some students provided prayer requests related to their site, which gave our group the opportunity to pray for our leaders, veterans, and active-duty military personnel. After 35 miles of walking around the city, the students came back tired, but appreciative for this experience.

Central FLEX

Wounded Warrior Project



REAL NEEDS

The financial stewardship class focused on the importance of serving others. The students designated 10% of their monthly income to the "Wounded Warrior Project"

BRIDGING THE GAP



REAL PEOPLE

The Wounded Warrior Project provides many different types of services for those who have been in the military and have battle wounds whether physical or emotional.

COMMUNITY BUILDING



REAL WORK

The class had the opportunity to present their project during the Veteran's Day assembly on November 10. They will be sending the money raised in mid-December.

SERVANT WORKING



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.

PROVIDING A CHRIST-CENTERED, QUALITY EDUCATION TO EQUIP STUDENTS FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE

Holiday Greens Sales

Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias or greens as part of our student fundraiser. We are so grateful for your support and pray that you are filled with joy as we celebrate God's gift of love to us this Christmas season!



Get Your Bluejay Gear

If you missed your opportunity to purchase Bluejay Gear at the Harvest Festival, stop by the High School Office and check out some great items available for sale.

Help your family & friends show their school spirit by gifting them with a blanket, beach towel, pickleball gear, apparel, and more!



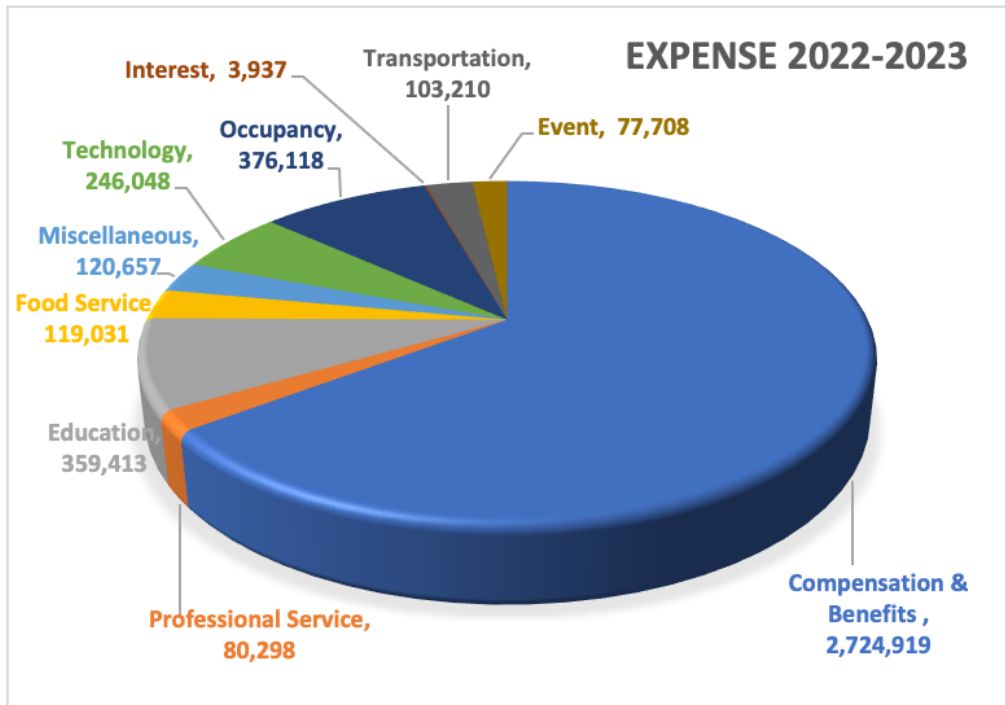
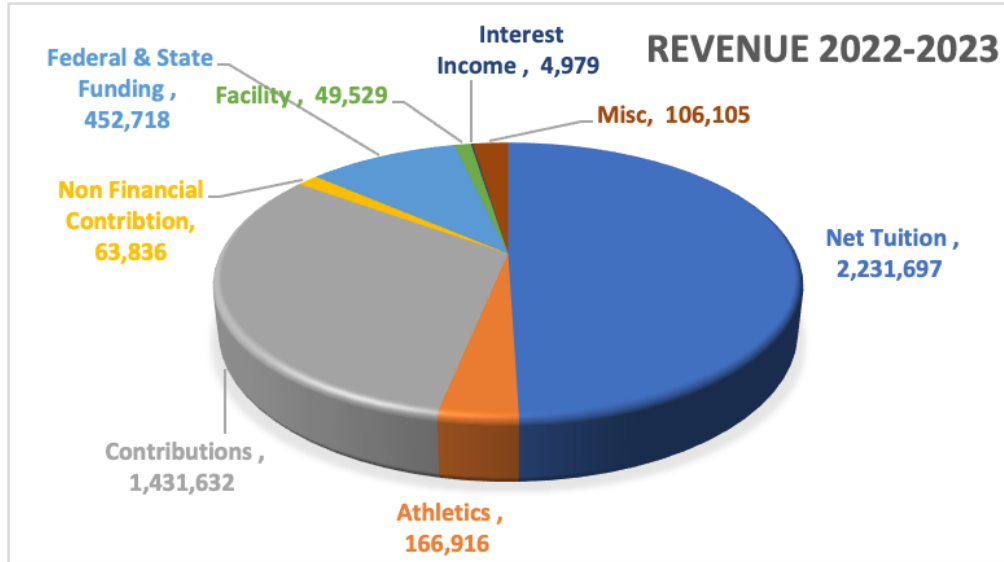
Leadership Opportunity

Do you have a passion for the mission, vision, and values of Central? The Governance Committee is seeking to add to its candidate pool to reflect members who would consider serving on the school board in the next 1-3 years. Please prayerfully consider serving in this way and reach out if you would like to learn more about how we partner with school leadership to fulfill the mission of Central, the time commitment to serve, and the attributes we are looking for in directors.

If you know anyone in your circle who might be a strong candidate to serve the school in this way; or for more information, please email: boardnominations@centralbluejays.org.

Finance Committee Update

Greetings from the Finance Committee. Our annual financial review for the 2022-23 school year has been completed, and the Revenue and Expense breakouts are below. Enrollment was 381 students, and the cost per student was \$11,053. We are so grateful to those who contribute to our school to help keep our tuition rates lower than the actual cost per student.



As we move through 2023-24, we will begin conversations related to 2024-25 tuition. We will start by laying out a plan for expenses and then budget what will be needed on the income side to balance the budget. This will take several months of conversations, and we will present the budget at the next annual meeting in April. We ask you to pray for God's guidance over our conversations.



-Submitted by Heidi Graves, Committee Chair

Board Minutes for

Central Minnesota Christian School

Monday, November 27, 2023
7:00 P.M.

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

Guests Present: Pam Harrington, Director of Finance

Heidi G opened with devotions from 1 John 5:14-15 regarding the power of prayer.

- 1) Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from the October 30, 2023 Board Meeting. MSP
- 2) Leadership Team Business
 - a. Action Items were reviewed.
 - b. Pam H presented the revised budget for approval.
 - i. Original budget anticipated 382 students. Actual enrollment is 377 students. Due to the lower enrollment and the previously adopted bus driver tuition credit, there was a deficit of \$110,352 compared to the original budget.
 - ii. Finance Committee recommends approval.
 - iii. Motion to approve revised budget. MSP
 - c. Pam H presented IRS Form 990 for approval. MSP
 - d. Dean of Students Report highlighted leaf raking day, discipline/discipleship, work on the NY Mission Trip with Bryan De Groot and Perry Breems, the Beautiful Work class - designed to foster a better understanding of the Reformed worldview, and a significant number of parent meetings.
 - e. Director of Advancement Report highlighted the Harvest Festival, which brought in \$85,000, and the Impact Report, which is a communication sent out to large donors.
 - f. Principal Report highlighted the work completed on the '24-25 Academic Calendar, which will be approved next month, the Winterim schedule, the ELA curriculum, and PIP teacher meetings and quarterly rocks, which are currently on track.
 - g. Superintendent Report highlighted a great Veterans Day program and discussion on Capital Campaign planning.
- 3) Board Business
 - a. Policy Review
 - i. Revised Absentee Policy was presented and a motion was made to approve. MSP
 - b. Consent Agenda
 - i. Committee Reports were presented.
 - c. Christy G led a discussion from chapter 9 of "Guiding Schools to Flourish" on the subject of the difficulty of being a board member.
 - d. Education Committee Items
 - i. Christy G introduced the new elementary reading curriculum, which has been positively received through the 1st & 5th Grade pilot program. This new curriculum will enhance skill development beyond the old curriculum.

- e. Finance Committee Items
 - i. Heidi G presented a brief financial snapshot of the organization, with no significant concerns at this time.
 - ii. No update on ERC funds - providing information as requested.
- f. New to You Task Force
 - i. Quarter goal has been achieved, so the store is anticipating an increased disbursement to school.

4) Round Table

5) Luke M closed in prayer.

6) Next Board Meeting: December 18, 2023

7) 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.

Central Art Gallery



Reece Duininck, 10th



Jenn Post, 10th



Hayden Jaenisch, 7th



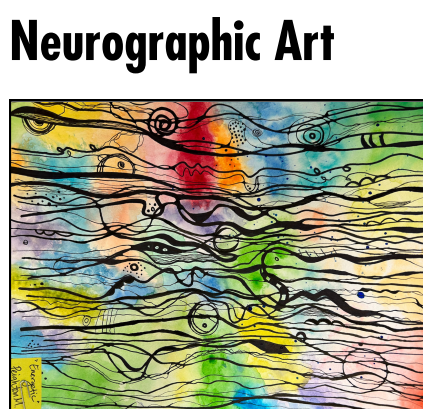
Olivia Ziehl, 7th



Josie Mulder, 7th



Isaac Ashe, 11th



Peighton Mulder, 10th



Brooke Schlegel, 10th

Neurographic Art



UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN

8 CLASSES RESUME
8-12 HS WINTERIM
20 ALUMNI EVENT
22 ONE ACT COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE

FEB

8-9 PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
9 NO SCHOOL
19 NO SCHOOL - PRESIDENT'S DAY

MAR

15 CENTRAL SHOWCASE
19 MS/HS SPRING CONCERT
20-22 SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS
25-31 EASTER BREAK

APR

3-6 SPRING PLAY
9 ANNUAL MEETING
19 LEGACY DINNER
25 K-5 SPRING CONCERT
26 K-5 GRANDPARENTS DAY

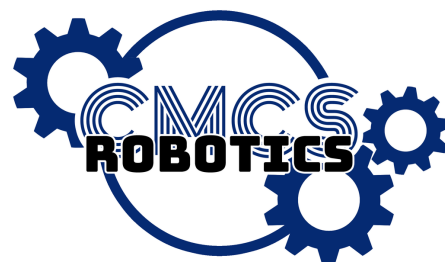
MAY

3 PROM
14 HS POPS CONCERT
22 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
24 GRADUATION

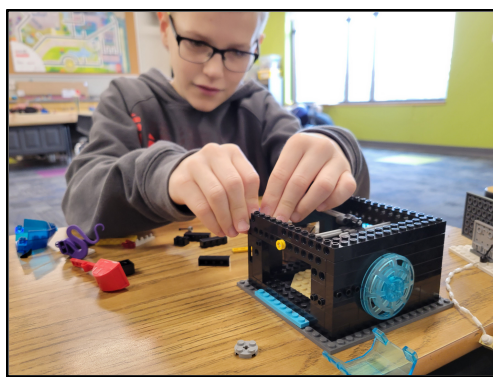
FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION GO TO OUR
WEBSITE WWW.CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG

Robotics Fun!

The CMCS Robotics Club team, Bluejay Bots, have been spending Monday afternoons and occasional Saturdays to prepare for this year's regional competition. The theme is "Masterpiece" where each mission is designed as a different type of creative production that captures the audience. The Bluejay Bots have been working as a team to build and code a robot with different attachments to complete different missions. The innovation project that the team will present on is focused on 3D printing.



The Bluejay Bots will go to regional competition on Saturday, December 16 from 8:00am-12:00pm at Discovery Middle School in Alexandria. Friends and family are welcome to attend and cheer on the team!



Schedule for TRIP

December	4 & 18
January	8 & 22
February	5 & 19
March	4 & 18

Employment Opportunities

We currently have openings for the following positions. If you are interested or would like more information, please visit the school website or contact the High School Office.

- Marketing and Connections Coordinator. We are looking for someone to assist in executing and monitoring our communications strategies, as well as help with front desk coverage.
- Custodial Staff. We are looking for another part time team member as we continue to steward our amazing facility - perfect for a parent waiting for a student at sports practice or a student looking to earn some extra money.

JAN 20

ALUMNI! EVENT!



Girls Varsity starts at noon
Boys Varsity starts at 1:30

Christmas Concert Dates

- December 7 K-5 Christmas Program
7:00pm in the High School Gym
- December 12 Middle & High School Program
Band to perform in the HS Gym
at 6:30pm, with Choir to follow in
the Event Center



Fitness Center Update

We've recently made some security updates to our key card system. If your card has been deactivated, but you would like to continue or gain access to these amenities, please contact the High School Office.

Fitness Center usage is free for current Central families, and memberships are available to the surrounding community for a monthly or annual fee. A one-time \$20 card activation fee applies to ALL cards made.

New to You News

The Monthly Minute *November*

Number of items processed:

25,089

Sell-through rate:

76%

Total Sales:

\$92,395

Compared to last year:

\$90,158

Total Volunteer Hours:

482

Volunteer Hours last year:

370

Contribution to Central:

\$12,000



**Praise and
Opportunity:**

*Grateful * Thankful * Blessed*

**Thank you to all of our Volunteers
and Staff who helped this crazy
season be a successful one!**

*Blessings to You and Yours
this Christmas!!*



Stop in to stock up on
cold weather gear!

We have lots of
seasonal items and a
great selection of
furniture as well!



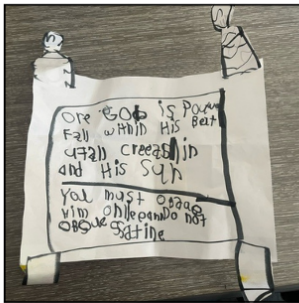
Elementary Student Discipleship



Parent Newsletter * December Issue

We had a great month in November talking about what it means to be beauty creators! Students got a chance to practice being beauty creators by making decorations of things they were thankful for, which were used at our Thanksgiving lunch.

We also got the opportunity to hear from Shalese Sands, an artist from Willmar, who shared about how she is a beauty creator! The kids loved seeing examples of her art and watching her draw live in front of us!



One of Mrs. Brouwer's kindergarten students practiced being a beauty creator over Thanksgiving break and made the awesome scroll pictured above left. In case you're not familiar with kindergarten spelling, the message says, "Our God is powerful within His beautiful creation and His Son. You must obey Him only and do not obey Satan." It is a blessing to see evidence of the things we are teaching taking root in their hearts!

We are looking forward to discussing what it looks like to be a God Worshipper in December and celebrating Christmas! We're praying this season brings you and your family the opportunity to stop and worship our great God and praise him - for He is worthy!

This Month's Theme Verse

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100

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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