

Central CABLE



**KNOWN
PERSONALLY**

**DISCIPLINED
INTENTIONALLY**

**CHALLENGED
ACADEMICALLY**

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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What's In a Name?

One of the topics I regularly cover with students in detention is "reputation". Proverbs 22:1 says: "A good name is better than great riches". I often challenge the students to consider how they want to be known and remembered. I also point out the fact that our actions and behavior are what determine our reputation. Even though it isn't always easy, it is entirely possible to change the way people perceive us simply by the way we behave and act.

Last year I surveyed our constituency about our school's reputation. More than 60% thought that from the menu given, "tight-knit and hard-working" best described what others think about us. The next closest description (45%) was "exclusive and elite". To be fair, I didn't offer "Christ-following" as an option, but I wonder...

A few people have voiced concern that we are using "Central" or "Bluejay Nation" on our clothing and brand marketing. They question if the word "Christian" is being taken out of our name. I assure you that it is not. Our branding policy does state that we are to use the name Central in place of CMCS for many logical and professional reasons (2 syllables vs. 4, confusing acronyms with other schools, etc.). Current marketing and design trends are minimalist and clean - saying and spelling out Central Minnesota Christian School is somewhat cumbersome and wordy. Trends change.

Continued on next page...

A name is vitally important for collective identity; however, it is secondary to the actions and behaviors associated with it. "By their fruit you will recognize them" (Matt 7:20). What we call ourselves has little bearing on the collective memory and socially constructed narrative of those who have experienced us. People will always associate our name with our actions. Calling ourselves Christian is surely a badge of honor, but it should also illicit a holy fear of misrepresenting Christ and his Kingdom.

On its own, the cross has no more inherent significance than a chair or a hammer. The power of the cross derives meaning because it is associated with the work of Christ and now stands as the universal symbol for the Christian Church. Our Bluejay logo, Bluejay Nation shirts, or the word Central (our shortened name) beg the question of how people will interpret these words and symbols. Will they connect it to our Christian witness because of the way they experience our school community, or will it be a disdain for hypocrisy and self-interest? "Bluejay Nation" could go either way. Let's live in such a way that Christ and his Kingdom give meaning to our logo and labels.

Blessings, Jon De Groot

Ecology Trip

Have you ever been to Northern MN when the tamaracks are smoky gold? What an incredible display of the beauty God instilled in his creation!

Our High School Ecology Class traveled up north to the Pine River, MN area again this year to learn and explore with the guidance of Mr. Den Pluimer, Mr. Ron Bouma, and the staff from Deep Portage Nature Reserve.



We did many fun and educational activities on our trip:

- Fort and fire building to practice survival skills
- Orienteering and navigation skills development using topographical maps and compasses
- Learning about all of the different types of bodies of water from bogs to glacial lakes
- Canoeing down Little Boy River and on Big Deep Lake to observe many different native species of Minnesota
- Learning about white tail deer habitat restoration efforts in Northern MN and the changing habitats and populations of fish in our MN lakes
- Learning about sustainable biomass resources and serving Deep Portage by helping to stack firewood that will heat their facilities all throughout the winter

Thanks to Jessica & Derrick Bulthuis and Mason Dehmlow for accompanying the group as chaperones!

Flock Days

Flock Days take place about once per quarter to create intentional time for K-12 students to interact with each other and learn more about a specific topic. This year the groups are mixed so that every Flock has students from Elementary, Middle, and High School, along with two adult leaders.

The first Flock Day took place on October 26th, and students played games and other activities with the goal of getting to know each other. The next event will take place in November, when our Flocks will eat a Thanksgiving meal together in the High School gym. In December, they'll gather to learn and explore more about worship, and in February they'll complete a service project together. Our last event will be in April, when we'll celebrate the year together.





JOIN US FOR A
VETERANS DAY
CELEBRATION

*and the home
of the brave ...*

NOVEMBER 10
9:00AM

THE GOODNESS COFFEE CART
ALL VETERANS WILL RECEIVE A
COMPLIMENTARY BEVERAGE
7:45-9:00AM (CONCESSION AREA)

CENTRAL MN CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

Artwork by: Reece Duinick

Honoring Those Who Served



Brooke Schlegel 10th



Maggie Setrum, 10th

"We Remember"

We hold dear the brave not given back,
Those lost in land unknown.
We share the hope, joy, and mirth,
The sorrow, tears, and woe.
We strengthen bonds forged in loss,
And friendships built on love.
We relate in constant prayer,
To our Lord, God above.
We wait in breathless expectancy,
Our hearts filled with concern.
We remember the sacrifice,
The broken souls who did return.

In my illustration (pictured left), I used pictures to remind us of several aspects of war. The poppies are a reminder of fallen soldiers, while the flag is for the country to whom we are loyal. The two soldiers display a camaraderie and the strong relationships formed by hardships. The depiction of a telegram tells of the anxious families left behind waiting to hear about their loved ones. Finally, the hazy smoke tells of the skirmishes and chaos of war. I hope that this piece serves as a reminder of the sacrifices for our country that our veterans and families made.

-Maggie Setrum



Isaac Asche, 11th



Tseganesh Schwitters, 10th

"Home of the Free Because of the Brave"

We honor the men and women who gave their lives,
And thank the ones who gave all their might,
We admire all who sacrificed,
Whether alive or flying high,
America had a need that they were able to see,
And to this very day,
We live in the home of the free because of the brave.

The painting (pictured on opposite page) is hopefully a reminder to us that we get to live in the land of the free because of the brave. The brave are the ones who saw America's needs and stepped into action.

It's good to honor those who are serving, have served, and those who gave their lives for us. But for my painting, I chose to put a cross in a field of poppies to honor those who gave their lives.

It's a reminder that those who believe and sacrificed their life for their country are dancing in a field with our Heavenly Father.

- Reece Duininck

Education Committee Update

We've all probably been guilty of following our GPS without really knowing where we are going. I've said more than once that I'll just do what it tells me to do, turn where it tells me to, and hope to get to where I'm going. This is exactly what the Central School Board works hard to avoid. The Education Committee's goals throughout this year center around ensuring that the direction we head and the decisions being made about staffing, curriculum, teacher evaluation, and the development of students' faith are in line with the vision our school has set out to accomplish... "to provide a Christ-centered, quality education preparing our students for a life of service."

Last year, one area of focus was choosing sex education standards that would help guide our teachers as these topics arise in different areas of curriculum and to ensure that our instruction aligns with our values, equips our students to be able to stand up for truth in a very challenging culture, and help us accomplish our mission. This year, we are walking alongside Dean Stier, Principal, and the elementary teachers, who are piloting a new reading curriculum. We want to ensure that our students receive accurate truths in every subject, are challenged by learning about opposing views, and grow in their own faith journey at the same time. We've also welcomed our new Dean of Students, David Lanning, to the committee and will support him as he acclimates to a new role, learns about the needs of our students, and encourages them in their faith walk. In addition, we are working on making the academic guidance that we offer to our high school students the best it can be, so our students can make the most of their educational opportunities. What a blessing to have such passionate, competent leaders in our school!

The members of the Education Committee are:

Jon DeGroot, Superintendent

Dean Stier, Principal

David Lanning, Dean of Students

Lanne Roelofs, Board Member

Christy Groen, Board Member and Chairperson

Malorie Antony, School Counselor

Laura Brouwer, Elementary Teacher

Scott Buteyn, High School Teacher

Sarah Van Beek, Secretary and Parent Representative

Susanne Mulder, Parent Representative

Please pray for the members of the Education Committee as we make decisions about our school's academics that will impact generations to come. Pray that we will continue to use God's Word to be our GPS as we discern the way we should go.

-Submitted by Christy Groen, Committee Chair



"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

Harvest Festival Fun Bucks

Stop by the High School Office to pick up some Harvest Festival Bucks for your kids or grandkids to spend at the Harvest Festival on November 18!

Harvest Festival Bucks will be accepted at the Kids Carnival, Teen Scene, Bakery, Sweet Shoppe, Snack Shack, and The Market.



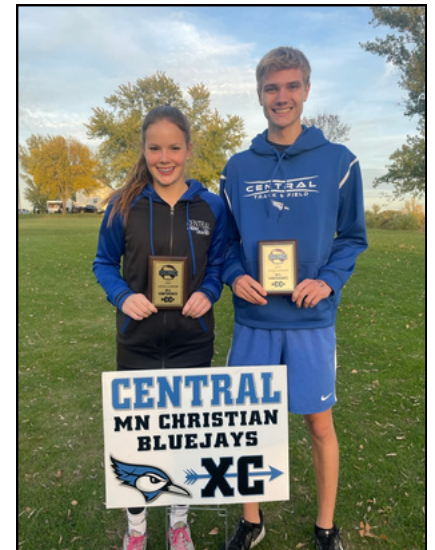
Fall Athletics Highlights

Thank you to everyone who purchased bundtlets for our Volleyball Dig Pink Fundraiser!

With your support, we were able to raise \$1,345.90 for the Side Out Foundation to aid in the fight against breast cancer!



Congratulations to Janessa Erickson who has committed to playing volleyball for the University of Jamestown. We wish her well as she continues her volleyball career!



Congratulations to Tim Brouwer and Annaliese Wood for their top-10 finishes at the Camden Conference Cross Country Meet. They finished 5th and 9th, respectively.

Harvest Festival

Saturday, November 18



Plan to join Bluejay Nation for the Annual Harvest Festival scheduled for Saturday, November 18! There'll be fun for all ages, with festivities beginning at 4:30pm. Come for some delicious food and fantastic fellowship, and stay to bid on a variety of great items at the auction. We hope to see you there!

Food and Fellowship - Serving from 4:30-6:30pm

Come and enjoy a complete old-fashioned ham dinner with all the trimmings, and be sure to save room for some pie or apple crisp! A free will donation is taken for the meal. Located in the Event Center.

Sweet Shoppe - Open from 4:30-8:00pm

The Sweet Shoppe is the perfect place to satisfy your sweet tooth. Stop in to stock up on your favorite old-fashioned candy, kettle corn or Wilhelmina peppermints. You can also sit and enjoy a hot cup of coffee or hot cocoa. Stopping at the Sweet Shoppe is a must before the night is through! Located in the high school gym.

Snack Shack - Serving from 4:30-8:00pm

The Snack Shack is a great place to go for a snack or light meal. We serve pizza, nachos, hot dogs, and pop. You can top it all off with an apple dumpling or a brownie sundae! Located in the concessions area.

The Market - Open from 4:30-8:00pm

This marketplace-type booth features all kinds of items - including decor, gift items, fun Bluejay gear, school cookbooks, and more! Located in the high school gym.

Kids Carnival - Open from 4:30-8:00pm

The Kids Carnival is a great place to bring your kids to enjoy jumping on the inflatables and playing fun games for a small admission fee of \$5. Located in the elementary school gym.

International Bakery - Open from 4:30-8:00pm

A variety of home baked goodies are available for sale at the Bakery. We have everything from pies, popcorn cakes, breads, cookies, and as always, the favorite Dutch treat - Banket. Let us take care of your holiday baking! Located in the high school gym.

Teen Scene - Open from 5:00-8:00pm

Back by popular demand, the Teen Scene will offer a great place for your middle or high schooler to stay entertained. There will be foosball, basketball arcade, karaoke, board games, and even laser tag! Admission fee is \$5. Located in the elementary & middle school wings.

Silent Auction - Open from 4:30-6:30pm

You won't want to miss the Silent Auction. We always have a variety of items available to bid on, with tables closing at 6:15 pm and 6:30 pm. Located in the high school gym.

Live Auction - Beginning at 6:30pm

Great items are up for bidding each year in our live auction with Fitzner Auctioneers. Located in the high school gym.



Introducing the new Bluejay Athletics App



NEW!

bluejay athletics app

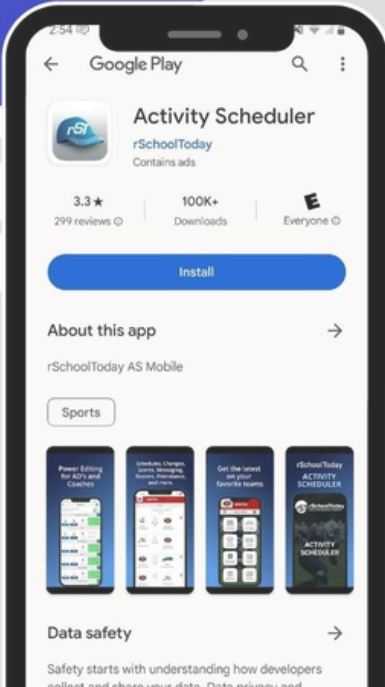


apple users



android users

- up to date schedules
- follow specific teams schedules
- score ticker
- team photos
- rosters
- more



download instructions

- scan qr code above for your device
- click to install activity scheduler
- search for camden conference and look for central minnesota christian school
- save to your quicklinks on your homescreen
- custom athletic app will install on your phone
- search for events, teams, photos, etc.

Science Exploration!

The 1st grade students have been working hard on a human body unit as part of their reading curriculum. To close out the unit, their class visited the high school science lab so that the Junior and Senior Anatomy and Physiology students could show them some real-life dissected organs - sheep hearts and brains, pig kidneys, and cow eyeballs! It was a real "eye-opening" experience!



Central Counselor's Corner

College Rep School Visits

September 9 - Faith Baptist Bible College
and Theological Seminary

September 26 - Crown College

September 27 - Army National Guard

October 17 - Dordt University

October 30 - Ridgewater College

Renville-Sibley's Scholar of the Month

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.).

September Nominee - Tim Brouwer

October Nominee - Lauren Taatjes

Financial Aid Information

November 21- 6pm



Central will be hosting a Financial Aid & FAFSA Information Session on Tuesday, November 21 (please note date change) at 6:00 pm in the Event Center. Harlan Harmelink, Director of Financial Aid at Dordt University, will provide an overview of the financial aid and FAFSA process and lead a time for Q&A.

This meeting is not only for prospective Dordt students. The information will be helpful for all students, regardless of where they plan to attend college.



Quarter 1 ~ 2023-2024

**indicates pictured prize winners*

Central ShoutOuts are blue cards that CMCS staff write to acknowledge a student's outstanding character. Thank you to the following students for displaying the values of CMCS!



Elementary ShoutOuts

- Winston Ammermann
- Tucker Bonnema
- Owen Buehler
- *Maya Bulthuis
- Lucy Duinick
- Silas Duinick
- Ava Erickson
- Vivian Fussy
- Parker Hoekstra
- Oliver Htoo
- Isaac Jerve
- Finley Larkin
- Bennett Marcus
- Taya Miller
- Jedidiah Slagter
- Christian Sportel
- Jackson Taatjes
- Jocelyn Taatjes
- Macy Vander Ark
- Tristan Ziehl



Middle School ShoutOuts

- Breckin Brouwer
- Caitlyn Buss
- Breanna Duinick
- Nora Duinick
- *Samuel Gerdes
- Dillon Meyer
- Ryder Punt
- Macie Rausch
- Isaak Rohlik
- Sadie Ruis
- MacKenzie Ruplinger
- Alyssa Schwitters
- Jaden Schwitters
- Lindsey Setrum
- Aubree Slagter
- Brody Slagter
- Hawken Slagter
- Charles Vogel
- Elias Wassenaar
- Savanna Wolfe
- Rosalyn Wood
- Breden Yuen



High School ShoutOuts

- Micah Asake
- Riley Broberg
- Jaycie Bulthuis
- Kaylee Dannen
- Moses De Groot
- *Kadin Dehmlow
- Reece Duinick
- Sidney Duinick
- Ryan Erickson
- Joseph Graves
- Kylan Groen
- Morgan Groen
- Ryan Harrington
- Kelsey Hillenbrand
- Gabriel Honken
- Bjorn Mellema
- Peighton Mulder
- Kaiden Ruis
- Maggie Setrum
- Sophia Slagter
- Lauren Taatjes
- Asher Wieberdink
- Nathan Wieberdink
- Cayden Wubben
- Samuel Zwart
- Seth Zwart



Board Minutes for Central Minnesota Christian School

Monday, October 30, 2023
7:00 P.M.

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

Absent: Lanne Roelofs, Joe Vander Ark

Guests Present: David Lanning (Dean of Students), CDS Accounting Consultant

Matt H. opened with a devotional based on Proverbs 3:5-6, challenging the Board to trust in the Lord.

- 1) Wendy from CDS presented an overview of the Independent Accountant's Review Report for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2023. Based on their review, they concurred with the financial statements presented for the fiscal year and found them to be in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- 2) Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2023 Board Meeting. MSP
- 3) Leadership Team Business
 - a. Action Items were reviewed.
 - b. The new Dean of Students, David Lanning, was introduced to the Board. Mr. Lanning reported a successful first few months, including involvement in the "Beautiful Work Class" (through Dordt University), setting up personal meetings with every teacher, learning context, leadership of the Student Success Team, student discipline, organizing chapel worship, and work on wellness policies. Mr. Lanning expressed gratitude to have been given this opportunity.
 - c. Jon reported on a number of items to celebrate.
 - i) Hiring of a Part-time Custodian
 - ii) Successful In-Service for staff
 - iii) Completion of 1:1 meetings with every teacher
 - iv) Leadership Team involvement in "Rooted" conference at Maranatha School
 - v) Completion of exciting soccer, cross-country, and volleyball seasons
 - vi) Great chapels
 - d. Director of Finance Report included collaboration with CDS and BCBS to determine next steps in regards to health care benefits and ongoing communication with Synergi consultant in regards to ERC funds
 - e. Director of Advancement Report indicated that we are at 8% of our Annual Fund goal, which is typical for this time of year, as well as the Legacy Dinner fundraising proposal, which split funds between student council furniture and remodeling, a fine arts trophy case for the Event Center, volleyball nets and equipment, and preservation for class photos.
 - f. Principal Report highlighted the Teacher In-Service focusing on TtT (FLEx activities), development of a teacher evaluation rubric, incorporation of sexual health standards into learning teams, Professional Improvement Plans and TtT staff coaching, and near completion of the 2024-25 Academic Calendar.
 - g. Jon discussed the Strategic Plan, which includes academic, spiritual, and operational goals.

- h. Jon presented the Student Absence Policy for review. A change to the policy to allow for an exemption for 4H events was discussed. Suggestions for further modifications were made and will be brought to the next board meeting for review and approval.
- 4) Board Business
 - a. Consent Agenda
 - i) Committee Reports were presented.
 - b. Book Club was led by Christy G. on the subject of the importance of a Mission Statement (Chapter 8).
 - i) General consensus was that we have a good mission statement and that it has an appropriate amount of exposure.
 - ii) Discussion about trying to be strategic and intentional in living mission and vision in the context of several areas.
 - 1. Central Branding Policy
 - 2. Board nomination process
 - 3. Special needs
 - 4. Industrial Arts program
 - c. Finance Committee Items
 - i) Heidi G. presented Financial Budget Analysis, highlighting areas of variance from budget.
 - ii) Finance Committee will incorporate New to You budget variance into Central budget analysis.
 - d. Governance Committee Items
 - i) Revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws that were approved by the CMCS Membership at the annual meeting were formally adopted by the Board. MSP
- 5) Round Table
- 6) Heidi G. closed in prayer.
- 7) Next Board Meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2023.
- 8) Meeting Adjourned



**Scan QR code to view the school store by:
Hansen Advertising
(This will be our Christmas store which will close on
November 19 for Christmas delivery)**



Bluejay **Gear**

Get some new Bluejay Gear in time for Christmas! The Bluejay Store will be open until November 19.

Concessions Bucks are also available for sale at the High School Office. They're perfect stocking stuffers for Christmas gifts!

Holiday



Greens Sales

Our High School students are selling poinsettias and greens for the Christmas season. Please scan the QR code below or contact a student to place an order by November 16.

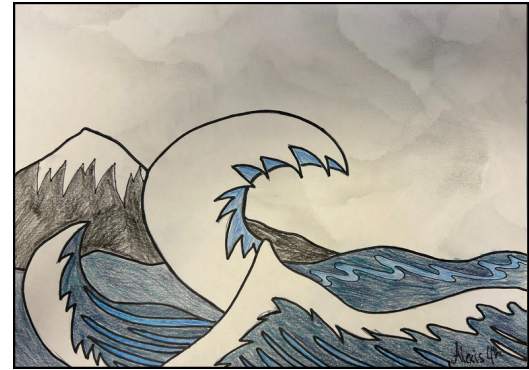
Orders can be picked up on December 1, or you can contact a student to arrange for delivery.



Central Art Gallery



Maggie Setrum, 10th



Alexis Van Beek, 4th

3rd Grade Music Field Trip



Our 3rd Grade students were excited to attend a free children's concert put on by the WASO (Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra) on Friday, October 13. The concert had a murder mystery theme based on the book "The Composer is Dead" by Lemony Snicket.

JAN 20

ALUMNI! EVENT!



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

Christmas Concert Dates

December 7 K-5 Christmas Program

December 12 Middle & High School
Christmas Program



Schedule for TRIP

November	6 & 20
December	4 & 18
January	8 & 22

Elementary Student Discipleship



Parent Newsletter * November Issue

Have you noticed the new bulletin boards hanging in the elementary hallways? One of them contains our Elementary Student Discipleship Storyboard; throughout the year pictures and projects we do as a part of chapel and small groups will be documented on this board. Be sure to take a look at all the learning we've done so far and see if you can spot your child in one of the pictures!



It was fun to observe students continue to build connections with their small groups this month as well as to form new connections with their partner during our very first Flock day of the year! We talked about what it means to be an image reflector and watched a video of some kids who had put it into practice!



Our Throughline for the month of November is Beauty Creating.

In chapels this month we'll talk about different ways we can create beauty that enriches the world and brings glory to God. Our deep hope for the students is that they can engage in beautiful work that enriches the world and reflects God's heart for diversity, complexity, and creativity. We look forward to seeing what they come up with as we put this throughline into practice and make some decorations for our Flock Thanksgiving Celebration! If you have any examples of beautiful work (of any kind) created by your children, send us a picture to add to our display board!



This Month's Theme Verse

“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”

Colossians 1:16

New to You News

The Monthly Minute

October

Number of items processed:

24,024

Sell-through rate:

76% (100% in clothing)

Total Sales:

\$90,270

Compared to last year:

\$89,978

Total Volunteer Hours:

429

Volunteer Hours last year:

510

Contribution to Central:

\$12,000



Praise and Opportunity:

"Why do we exist?"

This is the question often asked by our thrift consultant, Evan. It's a reminder of why we do what we do and of where our resources should be focused.

We exist to support
Central Minnesota Christian School.

As a Christ-based organization,
we pray we are doing that with
Stewardship, Service and Compassion.

We keep our focus by weekly evaluating our
four P's - People, Property, Process, Product.

**When you volunteer, you play an integral
role in our success - Thank you!!!**

New to You desperately needs volunteers to help with donation pickups on Wednesdays! We also need volunteers to sort, hang, and tag clothing. If you are willing to come regularly, even once/week, we could use help with pricing accessories and shoes. *Training will be provided!

Saturday, November 18 is our 4th Annual Thanks & Giving Event. We realize that this is the same day as the Harvest Festival, but that is where it fit best in our store calendar. If you are available to have fun and help us host the community anytime between 9am-5pm, we would welcome your help! Just give us a call so we can plan accordingly.

**Volunteers
needed**

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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