



# 2024-25 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT



*Central*

**BLUEJAYS**

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# Letter From The

## SUPERINTENDENT

**Commit your works to the LORD [submit and trust them to Him], and your plans will succeed [if you respond to His will and guidance].** *Proverbs 16:3 (Amplified)*

I've just completed 5 years as a Central employee, and we've accomplished a lot worth celebrating! I am so grateful for our dedicated and talented team. Together, we've focused on a variety of areas, including:

Opening school after COVID (with multiple contingency plans), 3-5 Year Strategic Planning, EOS Work Plans, crafting our vision (*Known Personally, Discipled Intentionally, Challenged Academically*), updating core values, financial sustainability modeling, CSI Accreditation, transitioning the Board to a governance model, HOMEwork Program, JHU Parent Survey, Teaching for Transformation, launching the Industrial Tech program, Board retreats, recruiting bus drivers, surviving the winter of 22-23, implementing The Working Genius framework, improving teacher evaluations, donor and constituency development, compliance with government changes, developing professional growth plans, creation of Student Success Team, managing hiring and dismissals, partnering with Zach Clark consulting, The Breakthrough Coach, and of course, countless meetings...

I paused to ask myself: *Are these efforts necessary and worthwhile?* Because the truth is, we have not seen the numerical growth I hoped for when I first arrived. At times, I have also been reminded that our Christian community is not immune to the pain caused by misunderstandings, rumors, and unmet expectations. Managing our disappointments and experiencing the effects of sin is hard on all of us, and it can cause us to ask: *Is this really worth it?*

Everyone will have to answer that question for themselves, however, I can say with confidence: Every initiative we pursue and every dollar we spend is done with a conviction of faith that *it is worth it*. We will not operate in fear. We regularly submit our plans to the Lord in prayer and seek guidance from Scripture. This is His school, and we are His servants. Our calling is to be faithful and to steward well what He provides (including a vision for the future). Scripture reminds us that God rewards those who invest their talents rather than burying them. We will see the return on our investment if we do not grow weary and lose heart.

I have learned much over these past five years, and I am grateful for our awesome students and the amazing team of people I am privileged to work with every day. As we look to the future, our strategic planning efforts include long-term financial sustainability, recruiting new families, and fostering a culture of hospitality and belonging. Thank you for your trust and support of Central. As we prepare to welcome the class of 2038 next year, I look forward to what the Lord has in store for us and celebrate how He is glorified through our school community.

In His Service,  
Jonathan De Groot



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# Letter From The

## BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Central Minnesota Christian School Community,

As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of the incredible legacy of stewardship and service that defines Central Minnesota Christian School. For generations, families, teachers, and supporters have faithfully used their time and resources to advance the Kingdom through Christian education. We are blessed by this strong foundation, and it is our responsibility to ensure that Central remains a place where Christ-centered, quality education thrives for generations to come.

Stewardship is more than financial management—it is the faithful use of the gifts God has entrusted to us. Luke 12:48 tells us, *“To whom much is given, much will be required.”* As a school community, we must regularly ask ourselves: Are we managing these resources wisely? Are we investing in a culture in which our students are known personally, disciplined intentionally, and challenged academically? Are we both doctrinally sound and hospitable to newcomers? Are we ensuring financial sustainability not just for the next five years but for the next 50? Tuition is always a topic of discussion, and rightly so. It challenges us to prayerfully examine whether we are stewarding our resources in a way that balances affordability, excellence in Spiritual formation and education, and long-term financial health.

To address these questions, the School Board has committed to a **Five-Year Financial Sustainability Plan** built on three key pillars:

1. **Family Retention and Recruitment** – Strengthening enrollment to ensure more families can experience Christ-centered education.
2. **Rational Cost Assessment** – Maintaining a strong student experience while managing costs wisely.
3. **Fundraising and Alternative Revenue** – Enhancing traditional fundraising efforts and seeking new revenue sources to sustain our mission.

Our goal is not just to maintain Central but to strengthen and grow it for the future. This requires leadership, vision, and a commitment to the values that have shaped our school. Together, we have the opportunity to set an example for the next generation, ensuring that Central remains a beacon of faith and learning for years to come.

As we move forward in faith, we hold fast to the words of Colossians 3:17: *“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”* Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and partnership with Central.

In Christ,  
Joe Vander Ark



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# ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

April 8, 2025 at 7:00pm, Event Center

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<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Welcome, Opening Prayer, &amp; General Business</b> Minutes of April 9, 2024 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 Director of Finance and HR Director of Advancement Student Body President	<b>Leadership Team</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 - Matt Hoekstra, Chair  
Education - Sarah Van Beek, Chair  
Finance - Heidi Graves, Chair  
Governance - Trevor Duininck, Chair

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jon De Groot - Superintendent  
Dean Stier - Principal  
Pam Harrington - Director of Finance and HR  
Malorie Antony - School Counselor  
Kate Link - Director of Advancement

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# MINUTES OF 2024 MEETING

## Minutes of the Central Minnesota Christian School Annual Society Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 Central Event Center at 7:00pm

- ART I** School Board President Joe Vander Ark called the meeting to order and opened with devotions from Colossians 3:11-17 and prayer.
- ART II** Minutes of the April 11, 2023 Annual Meeting were made available by President Joe Vander Ark.
1. Motion was made and supported to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- ART III** President Joe Vander Ark read Articles II and III of the Constitution as a reminder of the basis and purpose of CMCS.
- ART IV** President Joe Vander Ark recognized Board members who have completed terms in office:
1. Christy Groen (one term)
  2. Lanne Roelofs (two terms)
  3. Jason Ver Steeg (two terms)
- ART V** Member Voting
1. President Joe Vander Ark presented a summary of the Board nomination process and the CMCS Foundation Board makeup
    - a. Current Governance Committee members responsible for administering Board nomination process
      - i. Trevor Duininck – Chair
      - ii. Jason Ver Steeg
      - iii. Paul Leverington
      - iv. Lenny Schwitters
      - v. Larry Marcus
      - vi. Jon De Groot
      - vii. Joe Vander Ark
    - b. Current CMCS Foundation Board makeup
      - i. Jon De Groot – School Representative
      - ii. Brad Link – Member Representative
      - iii. Jason Schwitters – Member Representative
      - iv. Mike Mulder – Foundation
      - v. Todd Kleinhuizen – Foundation
      - vi. Ben Taatjes – Foundation
      - vii. Trevor Duininck – Foundation
  2. President Joe Vander Ark presented an update to the member voting process for 2024
    - a. Step One - Determine number of members present and absentee ballots.
    - b. Step Two – Affirmation of Nominees – determined by simple majority of Membership.
    - c. Step Three - If an incumbent is affirmed, they are automatically seated to serve another term.
    - d. Step Four – All remaining affirmed candidates will enter a random drawing for the remaining two seats.

Continue next page...

# MINUTES OF 2024 MEETING

3. President Joe Vander Ark presented the ballot for Board nominee and Foundation Board member affirmation
  - a. Ballots were distributed, and majority was determined, including absentee ballots.
  - b. The six nominees on the ballot as candidates for School Board were as follows:
    - i. Christy Groen (incumbent)
    - ii. Thomas Heiderscheit
    - iii. Jeff Morris
    - iv. Chris Schlegel
    - v. Mark Taatjes
    - vi. Sarah Van Beek
  - c. The one appointee on the ballot for Foundation Board member was Jason Schwitters.
  - d. Board Results: Chris Schlegel and Sarah Van Beek were chosen as new Board members. Christy Groen was affirmed as an incumbent so will serve a second term.
  - e. Foundation Results: Jason Schwitters was affirmed as Foundation Board member.

## **ART VI** Leadership Team Reports – Jon De Groot, Dean Stier, Malorie Antony, Pam Harrington, Michelle Schwitters

### Superintendent Report – Jon De Groot

1. Jon discussed current reality vs vision for the future, along with the challenges we face in achieving that vision.
2. Jon reminded members of Central's Vision and Mission
  - a. Central 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.
  - b. Central Mission – To provide a Christ-centered, quality education to equip students for a life of service.
3. Jon discussed potential long-term sustainable revenue model, which included balancing three main sources of income:
  - a. % Tuition
  - b. % Residual Revenue (Foundation / New To You)
  - c. % Annual Funds (one-time gifts)
4. Jon presented the actual cost of education per student
  - a. 167 Elementary students at \$11,468 per student
  - b. 83 Middle School students at \$13,260 per student
  - c. 102 High School students at \$14,047 per student
5. Jon discussed potential capital needs:
  - a. Future expansion
  - b. Programming
  - c. Foundation Developments
6. Jon presented the organizational structure of the Leadership Team
  - a. Executive Leadership (Superintendent)
  - b. Academic Excellence (Principal)

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# MINUTES OF 2024 MEETING

- c. Student Culture / Spiritual Climate (Dean of Students)
- d. Financial Sustainability (Director of Finance and HR)
- e. Marketing and Development (Director of Advancement)

7. Jon recognized the staff members who were retiring and leaving their current positions at the end of the school year – Travis Berry, Lorna Cook, Hilda DeBoer
8. Jon recognized staff member milestones in this year:
  - a. 5 years – Jimmy Buehler, Christine Hoekstra, Heather Link, Kourtney Schwitters
  - b. 10 years – Amber Brouwer, Janey Landberg, Heidi Link, Devin Veenstra
  - c. 20 years – Justine Meyer-Hillers

## Principal Report – Dean Stier

1. Dean presented this year's school theme, "All Things," based on Colossians 1:16-17
2. Dean presented the teacher evaluation timeline is being used
3. Dean discussed the professional development tools that are being used to help our staff continuously improve
4. Dean gave a report on the development and success of the Industrial Art program in the High School as well as a new curriculum that will be implemented in the K-5 levels called Amplify CKLA.
5. Dean reflected on providing an exceptional education from a biblical worldview.

## School Counselor and Interim Dean of Students Report – Malorie Antony

1. Malorie reported on the Student Success Team, which focuses on helping students to succeed in the following areas:
  - a. Academics
  - b. Spiritual Discipleship
  - c. Physical/Medical Health
  - d. Social/Emotional Wellbeing
  - e. Technology
2. Malorie described the school counseling work she does, focusing on the following areas:
  - a. College Readiness
  - b. Career Exploration
  - c. Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

## Director of Finance and HR Report – Pam Harrington

1. Pam presented a Statement of Activities, comparing February YTD Actual vs Annual Budgeted Amounts
2. Pam presented the 2024-25 Budget, in comparison to the 2023-24 Budget, highlighted items with significant deviation.
3. Pam reported that current outstanding debt of New to You is \$268,311.

## Director of Advancement Report – Michelle Schwitters

1. Michelle reflected on where we came from to where we are and encouraged members to continue to move forward in faith.
2. Reported donations of nearly \$900,000 between Annual Fund, Harvest Festival, and Legacy Dinner.

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# MINUTES OF 2024 MEETING

Student Body President Report – Tim Brouwer

1. Tim reported on the activities of the student council and a positive student culture.

**ART VII** New to You Report – Kristin Poortvliet

1. Director Kristin Poortvliet presented a report, which was included in the information packet sent out to parents prior to the Annual Meeting

**ART VIII** CMCS Foundation Report – Mike Mulder

1. Review of the Foundation's Purpose
  - a. To promote, accept, & manage gifts for the long-term sustainability of Central
2. Reported on the current financial status of the Foundation
  - a. Gifts received in 2023: \$730,100
  - b. Investment Income: \$524,891
  - c. Total Income: \$1,254,239
  - d. Total Assets at End of Year 2023: \$7,081,059
3. Presented a 5-yr review, showing the balance of each year and the financial impact the Foundation has had on the school in terms of cash available annually. This ranged from an asset balance of \$2,389,324 and an annual contribution to CMCS of \$116,689 in 2019 to an asset balance of \$7,081,059 and an annual contribution to CMCS of \$319,067 in 2023.
4. Presented the "Live it Forward Campaign"
  - a. Next asset milestone the Foundation is shooting for is \$12,000,000.
  - b. Campaign includes:
    - i. Connecting with donors
    - ii. Awareness – variety of gifting mediums
    - iii. Collaborating with Central Leadership – communications and connections
5. Thanked the donors and encouraged them to consider how they might personally engage and spread the word about the next milestone.

**ART IX** Closing Prayer – President Joe Vander Ark

**ART X** Meeting Adjourned.

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Minutes submitted by Jason Ver Steeg, Central Board Secretary

# RECOGNITION OF COMPLETED TERMS



**Trevor Duininck**  
2019-2025  
Governance &  
Executive Committees



**Heidi Graves**  
2022-2025  
Finance Committee



**Ryan Moorlag**  
2022-2025  
Advancement Committee



**Joe Vander Ark**  
2022-2025  
Governance &  
Executive Committee

## Board **PERSPECTIVES**

“Board work at Central has been a rewarding experience for me. My gratitude and appreciation for what happens at Central has grown deeper by seeing the effort, teamwork, and overall quality of what is pursued each day by our staff and the wider community to create a thriving learning environment for our kids. It’s hard work, though. Central is a beautiful testimony of how the Lord sustains and renews us in the mission. While a lot goes well at Central, I’ve also regularly been humbled by the challenges: relationship breakdown, disappointments, mistakes, missed expectations, etc. As a team at Central and the broader community of committed stakeholders, we need to constantly calibrate toward Christ and His loving kindness toward us so that our purpose at Central, and our community witness, is not diminished by our own frustrations and conflicts. It is a sensitive balance to maintain, and we are blessed with the opportunity. Many before us have done it well, and we seek the Lord’s grace each day so that Central will thrive for another generation.”

- Trevor Duininck

"As I have served on the Board, I have grown in my thankfulness for Central and the work of the Lord here. I have gained a new appreciation for all of the work that goes on behind the scenes - seeing just how much time and energy each person puts in, from the teachers, those working in the office, those working in maintenance, each member of administration, and each member of the Board and committees. I am so thankful for the heart for Christ I have seen reflected at all levels, as well as a passion for our school to hold true to the word of God. May we continue to lift each other up in prayer, praying that the transforming work of the gospel will continue to bear fruit in our children and be reflected in each other through the work of Central."

- Sarah Van Beek

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# *Staff* **RECOGNITION**



Malorie Antony - 5 years



Jon De Groot - 5 years



Pam Harrington - 5 years



Melanie Vander Ark - 5 years



Lisa Jerve - 10 years



Travis Vander Woude - 10 years

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



Laura Brouwer



Cari Bulthuis



Lorna Cook



Antonio Jean Louis



Megan Wolfe

# Central TEST SCORE RESULTS

At Central Minnesota Christian School, we value providing a nurturing and challenging environment where every child is *Known Personally, Discipled Intentionally, Challenged Academically*. Year after year, our students exceed national academic averages, often performing one or two grade levels ahead of their peers. We believe in equipping children not only with academic excellence but with a strong foundation rooted in a Biblical worldview. Through our Teaching for Transformation framework, our teachers thoughtfully integrate God's word into every subject so that students may experience His story through meaningful lessons that engage both their minds and hearts.

*Iowa Assessments from the 2023-24 school year.*

*Results indicate what level students are testing at in each grade. Students were tested in Math and English Language Arts. For example: 4th grade students, on a 4th grade level test, tested as if they were a student in the seventh month of 5th grade.*

## 1st Grade

SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	1.9	58th Percentile
Math	1.9	54th Percentile
Composite	2.1	65th Percentile

## 2nd Grade

SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	3.2	67th Percentile
Math	3.5	75th Percentile
Composite	3.4	72nd Percentile

## 3rd Grade

SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	5.0	77th Percentile
Math	4.9	81st Percentile
Composite	Not Available	Not Available

## 4th Grade

SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	5.7	68th Percentile
Math	5.9	73rd Percentile
Composite	5.7	66th Percentile

## 5th Grade

SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	7.1	70th Percentile
Math	7.1	71st Percentile
Composite	7.3	70th Percentile



**KNOWN PERSONALLY**  
**DISCIPLED INTENTIONALLY**  
**CHALLENGED ACADEMICALLY**

“It has been amazing to see the support that our community has for our school and all of us teachers. I love that each day, my children are learning more about how to live as a Christian in today's society. I'm very appreciative that our administration allows me the freedom to explore new and exciting offerings for our students.”

- Brandon Rothstein, High School Teacher

“Central Minnesota Christian School has been a blessing and a tremendous support in my life. From being a student here, to beginning my career, and now sending my own children to Central, I have always felt a deep sense of community rooted in Christ. I am so grateful for the work done here at Central. The community is actively involved, consistently praying for our school. The students are being nurtured by talented teachers who approach every subject with a Biblical worldview. The teachers are supported and led by an administration that deeply cares about our growth and success. Thank you, Central.”

- Heather Daugherty, Middle School Teacher

“People ask me, 'So, how long have you been teaching?' To be honest with you, I don't keep track of the years. All I know is that I enjoy teaching and am so glad that God has placed me here at Central. Every morning, I am eager to wake up, head to school, and meet my preschoolers. The joy they bring to my life is truly a gift. I love teaching them about Jesus and His love for us. As I teach them, they also have taught me many valuable lessons in life. I am thankful for the great staff that I work with, along with the parents and community. May God continue to bless Central.”

- Cindy Van Otterloo, Elementary School Teacher

## Bible 12 Capstone

This Fall, Mr. De Groot introduced the Profile of a Central Graduate, which incorporates the Teaching for Transformation Throughlines—discipleship habits that encourage students to engage in God's story through their work.

As we sought to measure and reflect on students' growth as Central graduates, we introduced a new Bible 12 Capstone course for seniors during the spring semester. Developed by Mr. Buteyn with the support of the Education committee and myself, this course guides students in reflecting on their journey at Central through the Throughlines outlined in our Profile of a Central Graduate.

Students will complete the class with a Faith Formation Portfolio, containing reflective essays and pictures documenting their years at Central. Their final Capstone project will be a presentation to family, friends, and the Central community, sharing how they plan to live out their faith beyond Central as kingdom citizens.

- Dean Stier, Principal



# Academic Excellence



When I was hired in the fall of 2022, I was tasked with raising the standard of academic excellence at Central. This has been—and continues to be—my primary pursuit in this role. As the weeks, months, and years go by, I am continually reminded that we already have strong academics at Central. Yet, we strive to grow and elevate what it means to provide an exceptional education delivered from a Biblical worldview. - Dean Stier

## Elementary School

In Elementary School, we have focused on enhancing the academic rigor of our English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum through the implementation of Amplify CKLA, an innovative, research-based program. Amplify's approach is grounded in the Science of Reading, which draws from research in education, psychology, and neuroscience to improve how students learn to read and write. Amplify uses thematic units that help students build knowledge in science and social studies while learning to read and write.

## Middle School

You may have seen elements of our Middle School's academic excellence on display at the Central Showcase. One standout feature was the Science Fair hosted by Mrs. Brouwer for our 7th and 8th grade students. Seventh graders conducted experiments with plants, while eighth graders applied the Scientific Method to their research projects, reflecting on how different Biblical Throughlines were evident in their findings. In Bible class, students explored the Feast of Tabernacles and created their own sukkot (Tabernacles), which were displayed at the event.

A major curriculum shift this year—though not showcased at Central Showcase—was the implementation of Amplify in Middle School, aligning our ELA curriculum from Kindergarten through 8th grade. This program has challenged our students to read more and engage with high-quality literature. Additionally, students are writing more, strengthening their ability to articulate thoughts and ideas effectively.

## High School

At the High School level, academic excellence is unique depending on the day and class that our students are experiencing. I'm writing this the week of March 10th, and academic excellence has looked like... Biology students breeding fruit flies in the lab. New Testament students creating posters of persecuted Christians around the world. US History students simulating the stock market and its crash that led to the Great Depression. Physics students learning about rotational mechanics. Math students building a board game through the geometry principles. Spanish students learning how to navigate their created cities by using directions in Spanish. Art students creating "Notan," the Japanese art of paper cutting. ELA students writing college-level literature reviews. Electrical students soldering ACDC circuits. And the list goes on.

Students are invited into the academic excellence at Central through big shifts in curriculum, community events like Central Showcase, but also the day-to-day lessons and projects that help us advance our mission of providing a Christ-centered, quality education equipping students for a life of service.

# Teaching FOR TRANSFORMATION

## Formational Learning Experience

Formational Learning Experiences (FLEx) are deeper learning tools within our Teaching for Transformation framework that allow our students to engage in real work that recognizes and impacts the real needs of real people in our communities.



### A Prayful People

Our country is in need of prayer. As our 12th grade students prepared for the Government trip to Washington DC, each student was assigned to research one of the sites they had planned to visit. Once there, they shared their research with the class. Students displayed our Biblical Throughline of Justice Seeking through intentional prayer at the White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, and other federal buildings, as well as praying for communities of color at the MLK Memorial, the Jewish community at the Holocaust Museum, and for our veterans at the Vietnam Wall.



### Spreading Joy

Our Kindergarten students worked on their music and art skills in preparation for caroling and crafts with the residents of Cardinal Care in Prinsburg. Our Kindergarteners displayed how they were God Worshipers while singing Christmas songs for the residents. Students were able to be Beauty Creators with the residents as they created ornaments for them to keep. Lastly, our Kindergarten students were Servant Workers by delightfully investing their time and talents to bring joy to residents who may feel lonely during the Christmas season.

### Patriot's Pen

Our 8th grade students participated in the VFW essay contest, Patriot's Pen. To kick off the event for our students, Mr. Vander Woude and Mr. Wassenaar took our 8th grade students to the World World II Museum in Granite Falls. Then, students spent ELA and US History class time to complete this activity, along with students working on their own time to write their essays. Our students were Community Builders as a handful of them presented their essays at our Veterans' Day Assembly in front of our local Veterans in attendance.

# ADVANCEMENT



As the Director of Advancement, I have the privilege of overseeing key areas, including development, admissions, marketing, and parent volunteerism—each of which plays a pivotal role in shaping our school’s growth. In my first year, I’ve had the rewarding opportunity to connect with our generous donors, engage with our wonderful families and alumni, and share the unique story of what makes Central so special with our wider community. Entering the world of development has been a learning-filled journey for me. One of the highlights has been the professional development training we received through Zach Clark consulting. Alongside our

Leadership team, Board members, and the Foundation, we’ve been working closely with a coach to refine and strengthen our development strategy. As we look to the future, the Advancement Committee and I have been hard at work brainstorming and implementing recruitment efforts—finding new ways to connect with prospective families and share what differentiates Central from others. It’s been a privilege being back at

Central Minnesota Christian School and giving back to a school that shaped so much of who I am. I’m excited to continue building on the progress we’ve made and to further grow in these important areas.

- Kate Link

## 2024-25 FUNDRAISING GOALS

Annual Fund Goal: \$626,539

134%

As of March 12  
\$841,535.69

Harvest Festival Goal: \$98,000

108%

As of March 12  
\$106,694.50

Church Offering Goal: \$40,000

84%

As of March 12  
\$33,742.84

Legacy Dinner Goal: \$27,875

Coming Soon: April 25

0%

Freedom Fun Days: \$162,000

Coming Soon: July 3 & 4

0%

**TOTAL DONATED**

**\$981,973.03**

As of March 12

In 2023-24, we raised \$1,060,983.50

## IMPACT REPORT 2024



Central Minnesota  
Christian School

## DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

As part of our development training, we were encouraged to create and mail out an Impact Report followed by an end-of-year ask letter. Both of these documents were mailed in December. With the Impact Report in hand, Jon and I completed face-to-face donor meetings.

**729**

Impact Reports  
Sent to Donors

**\$20,273**

End-of-Year Letter  
Donations

**36**

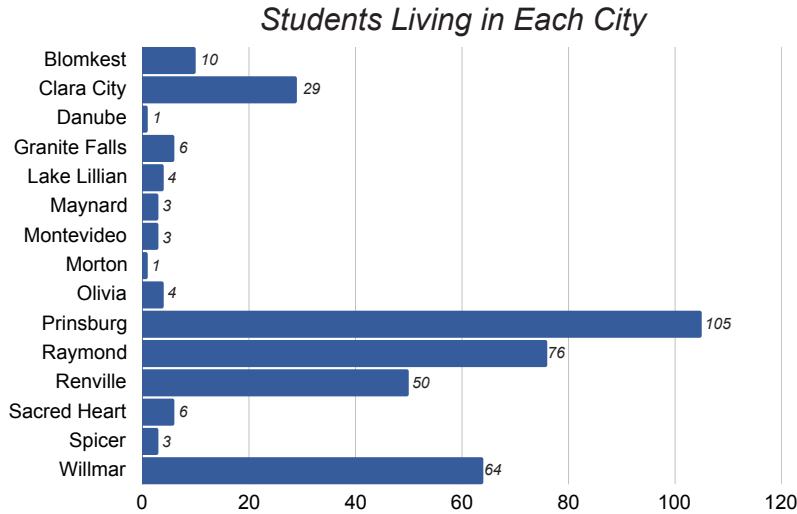
Face-to-Face  
Donor Visits



# 2024-25 ENROLLMENT

**365**  
Students Enrolled  
4K-12th

**36**  
Churches  
Represented



**7**  
Transportation  
Routes

**136**  
Families Utilizing  
Transportation

## Telling OUR STORY

This year, we've seized exciting new marketing opportunities to amplify Central's story to a wider audience. While we've already made great strides in exploring fresh avenues, we're excited to expand our reach even further in the year ahead. A few ways we've marketed Central include:

- Building connections with reporters from the Clara City Herald, West Central Tribune, and Renville County Registrar.
- Reaching targeted audiences with boosted and sponsored posts on Facebook and Instagram.
- Displaying graphic ads on Central's scoreboard and live stream.
- Running ads in the Clara City Herald and Renville County Registrar to promote enrollment.
- Airing an ad on Christensen Broadcasting during playoff basketball games.
- Storytelling videos at events like the Harvest Festival and Central Preview.

Central Minnesota Christian School  
Sponsored · 🌐

Looking for Christ-centered education? ❤️ At Central, our mission is to provide Christ-centered, quality education that equips students for a life of service.

**NOW ENROLLING NEW STUDENTS!**  
APPLY TODAY!

- ▶️ 4K-12th Christ-Centered Education
- ▶️ 20 Average Student Class Size
- ▶️ 7 Transportation Routes
- ▶️ 19 Student Activities & Athletics

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
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Central Minnesota Christian School... [Learn more](#)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**new to you**  
THRIFT STORE

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Bluejay Nation's celebrated broadcaster calls his 500th night in final season at CMCS

By Staff Reporters  
of evening, and will...  
Brad Greenwaldt...  
500th night in final...  
at CMCS...  
Brad Greenwaldt...  
500th night in final...  
at CMCS...  
Brad Greenwaldt...  
500th night in final...  
at CMCS...

### CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR RECENT VIDEOS!

<p><b>BRAD GREENWALDT FAREWELL</b></p>	<p><b>CENTRAL IMPACT STORIES</b></p>	<p><b>CHRISTENSEN COMMERCIAL</b></p>
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# 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  
56 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>Lorna Cook</b> Faith Formation Coordinator
<b>Carrie Asake</b> Nurse	<b>Becky Berry</b> Academic Support Coordinator
<b>Heather Link</b> IT Coordinator	

## STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

For our Kindergarten through 5th grade students, the Student Discipleship Team organizes small groups and 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 fifteen 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 in meaningful discussions that foster spiritual growth.

In addition to these regular gatherings, we host 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 2024-2025 school year is John 13:34-35: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."* Students were challenged to reflect Christ's love in their thoughts, words, and actions, shaping a school culture that embodies His example.

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# Central COUNSELOR'S CORNER



As the School Counselor, I help students prepare for their future by guiding them in academics, career exploration, and college planning. My goal is to support each student in making informed decisions to be successful in their future. - Malorie Antony

## College Readiness

- Hosted representatives from several colleges, including Dordt University, Grand Canyon University, Ridgewater College, and Calvin University.
- Many students went on college visits and attended college fairs throughout the year.
- Hosted recruiters from the US Army Recruiting Office and the Marine Corps.
- 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 took the ASVAB. 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 Duinink from Duinink visited Central in March to share his Classroom to Career presentation.

## Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

- 15 Juniors and Seniors participated in PSEO during Fall Semester.
- 22 Juniors and Seniors participated in PSEO during Spring Semester.
- Some classes taken include Introduction to College Writing & Research, Introduction to Psychology, Medical Terminology, Historical Perspectives, and Public Speaking.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Surrounded by our community of believers, Central strives to be fiscally responsible and good financial stewards while providing students a Christ-centered, quality education to equip them for a life of service.



The majority of the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) funds have been received with only a portion remaining receivable. This time last year, Central was in the middle of an IRS examination that reviewed whether Central was eligible for the outstanding funds. The IRS made a determination that Central is not eligible for the remaining funds. Central is appealing the IRS determination. Until a final determination is made, Central will hold the ERC funds and will not use them for operations or in future planning.

- Pam Harrington

## Programming and staffing changes from the 2024-25 school year and planned changes for the 2025-26 school year:

### In 2024-25 we:

- Moved from a 4 day Kindergarten program to a 5 day Kindergarten program which increased the Kindergarten teacher's FTE (full time equivalency) from .80 to 1.
- Reduced 1 FTE teacher position in 1st grade due to class size.
- Shifted 1 FTE teacher position from 5th grade to 3rd grade.
- Increased .17 FTE teacher position to meet Spanish class scheduling needs.
- Offered welding as part of the Industrial Tech program.

### In 2025-26 we are:

- Moving from 2 sections of Kindergarten to 1 section of Kindergarten due to projected Kindergarten enrollment. This will be reevaluated if more Kindergarten students enroll.
- With the previously noted change, also reducing .03 FTE Elementary specials teacher due to one less Kindergarten section.
- Adjusting the Middle School by reducing 1.27 FTE Middle School positions due to projected enrollment and staffing needs.
- Reducing .17 FTE teacher position due to Spanish class scheduling needs.

## 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>
2021-22	\$5,675	\$7,050	\$8,250	\$8,775	\$150
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%

# 2025-26 DRAFT BUDGET

To be reviewed and voted on at the March 31 Board meeting.

## Central Minnesota Christian School Budgeted Statement of Activities

	2024-25 Revised Budget	2025-26 Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
<b>Support and Revenues</b>			
Tuition	\$ 2,185,254	\$ 2,691,866	\$ 506,612 *
Other Family Fees and Income	83,848	73,852	(9,996)
Co-curricular	91,524	99,194	7,670
Athletics	68,932	69,729	797
Unrestricted Contribution Revenue	1,408,841	1,448,729	39,888
Restricted Contribution Revenue	4,700	4,500	(200)
Non-Financial Contribution Revenue	50,925	39,464	11,461
New 2 You Distributions to CMCS	176,500	200,713	24,213
Interest Income	37,998	36,998	(1,000)
Federal and State Funding	411,171	401,609	(9,562)
Facility Income	48,754	49,607	853
Sale/Service of Industrial Tech Projects	300	1,800	1,500
Miscellaneous Income	38,535	1,741	(36,794)
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<b>4,607,282</b>	<b>5,119,802</b>	<b>512,520</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Compensation and Benefits	3,213,293	3,722,626	509,333 *
Professional Services	80,491	78,176	(2,315)
Education Expense	359,776	381,758	21,982
Food Service Expense	170,909	164,057	(6,852)
Miscellaneous Expense	104,776	97,025	(7,751)
Technology Expense	66,042	66,996	954
Occupancy Expense	398,861	414,613	15,752
Interest Expense	23,704	18,706	(4,998)
Transportation Expense	136,426	104,197	(32,229)
Event Expense	84,558	71,648	(12,910)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,638,836</b>	<b>5,119,802</b>	<b>480,966</b>
<b>Income (Loss) Before Other Expenses</b>	<b>(31,554)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,554</b>
<b>Other Income (Expenses)</b>			
Depreciation/Amortization Expense	(592,519)	(593,164)	(645)
<b>Total Other Income (Expenses)</b>	<b>(592,519)</b>	<b>(593,164)</b>	<b>(645)</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (624,073)</b>	<b>\$ (593,164)</b>	<b>\$ 30,909</b>

\*The large swing is because staff discount/tuition remission of \$494,500 was moved from the revenue section to the expense section since it is an employee benefit.

# FINANCIAL REVIEW - BALANCE SHEET

**Central Minnesota Christian School**  
Statement of Financial Position  
February 28, 2025

	<u>CMCS</u>	<u>Buildings</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash - Operations	\$ 2,039,127	\$ -
Cash - TRIP	23,194	-
Cash - Building Fund	-	9,959
Cash - Event Cash	2,140	-
Accounts Receivable Tuition and Fees	437,665	-
Pledge Receivable - Annual or Restricted	300	-
Pledge Receivable - Building	-	23,579
Pledge Receivable - CMCS Foundation	372,819	-
Allowance for Uncollectable Pledges	-	(13,317)
Accounts Receivable - Other	328,005	-
FACTS Clearing Account	2,629	-
Prepaid Expenses	71,623	-
Inventory - TRIP Cards	25,880	-
Other Assets - Equity in New to You	<u>1,558,334</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Assets Excluding Property and Equipment</b>	<u>4,861,716</u>	<u>20,221</u>
<b>Property and Equipment</b>		
Land	534,192	-
Building	16,847,513	-
Building Improvements	42,992	-
Furniture and Equipment	644,531	-
Right of Use - Fin Lease - Equipment	48,329	-
Playground Equipment	140,642	-
Vehicles	66,378	-
Right of Use - Fin Lease - Vehicles	<u>254,189</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Property and Equipment</b>	18,578,766	-
Accumulated Depreciation	(4,330,814)	-
Accumulated Amortization	<u>(56,456)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Property and Equipment</b>	<u>14,191,496</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 19,053,212</u>	<u>\$ 20,221</u>

# FINANCIAL REVIEW - BALANCE SHEET

**Central Minnesota Christian School**  
Statement of Financial Position (Continued)  
February 28, 2025

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	<u>CMCS</u>	<u>Buildings</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 34,380	\$ -
Accrued Salaries and Related Benefits	2,319	-
Accrued TRIP Liabilities	12,086	-
Deferred Tuition and Fees	931,921	-
Finance Lease Liabilities	<u>255,298</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,236,004</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	1,688,443	20,221
Property and Equipment	14,191,496	-
Designated - TRIP	36,227	-
New to You	<u>1,558,334</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Without Donor Restrictions	<u>17,474,500</u>	<u>20,221</u>
With Donor Restrictions	<u>342,708</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>17,817,208</u>	<u>20,221</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 19,053,212</u>	<u>\$ 20,221</u>

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**Central Minnesota Christian School**  
Outstanding Debt  
As of February 28, 2025

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Outstanding Debt	
New to You Loans	\$ 251,856

# FINANCIAL REVIEW - PROFIT & LOSS

**Central Minnesota Christian School**  
Statement of Activities  
Year to date February 28, 2025

	<u>CMCS</u>	<u>Buildings</u>
<b>Support and Revenues</b>		
Tuition	\$ 1,267,194	\$ -
Other Family Fees and Income	58,302	-
Co-curricular	78,010	-
Athletics	71,983	-
Unrestricted Contribution Revenue	1,066,258	-
Restricted Contribution Revenue	92,873	-
Non-financial Contribution Revenue	40,300	-
New to You Distributions to CMCS	116,020	-
Interest Income	30,679	-
Federal and State Funding	276,001	-
Facility Income	29,190	-
Sale of Industrial Tech Projects	957	-
Miscellaneous Income	37,300	-
Building Contributions	-	250
	<u>3,165,067</u>	<u>250</u>
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<u>3,165,067</u>	<u>250</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Compensation and Benefits	1,843,291	-
Professional Services	42,935	-
Education Expense	232,107	-
Food Service Expense	110,298	-
Miscellaneous Expense	66,157	-
Technology Expense	32,118	-
Occupancy Expense	222,456	-
Interest Expense	17,929	-
Transportation Expense	75,900	-
Event Expense	49,012	-
	<u>2,692,203</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>2,692,203</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Income (Loss) Before Other Expenses</b>	<u>472,864</u>	<u>250</u>
<b>Other Income (Expenses)</b>		
New to You Income	66,127	
Depreciation Expense	(355,629)	-
	<u>(289,502)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Other Income (Expenses)</b>	<u>(289,502)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<u>\$ 183,362</u>	<u>\$ 250</u>



# Coaching FOR TRANSFORMATION



Coaching for Transformation continues to shape the athletic and activities experience at Central MN Christian, guiding our students to compete with purpose, unity, and Christ-like character. Rooted in our mission to equip students for a life of service, this framework is leading to deeper relationships, personal growth, and a commitment to excellence both in and out of our extra-curricular programs. Through intentional discipleship, trust-building, and a focus on glorifying God in competition, our students are learning what it means to lead and serve through sports and activities. As we move forward, Coaching for Transformation will remain at the heart of our extra-curricular programs, preparing students to impact their teams, communities, and beyond for Christ.

- Travis Vander Woude, Athletic Director



**83% Students participate in at least 1 activity (7-12th grade)**

**58% Students participate in 2+ activities (7-12th grade)**



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

All Team, 2024 XC  
Morgan Groen, 2024 VB  
Morgan Groen, 2025 GBB



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

Riley Broberg, 2024 BB  
Caitlynn Roiseland, 2024 T&F  
Hannah Graves, 2024 T&F  
Morgan Groen, 2024 T&F  
Peighton Mulder, 2024 XC  
Maggie Setrum, 2024 XC  
Morgan Groen, 2024 VB  
Morgan Groen, 2025 GBB  
Carrie Mulder, 2025 GBB  
Peighton Mulder, 2025 GBB  
Addie Taatjes, 2025 GBB  
Riley Broberg, 2025 BBB



**All State**

Logan Roelofs,  
2nd Team, 2024 Soccer  
Sienna Duininck,  
Honorable Mention, 2025 GBB



**Nathan Wieberdink - 2024 State Track & Field: 6th place discus**  
**Sophia Vogel - 2024 State Track & Field participant in 300 M hurdles, 100 M hurdles, Triple Jump**  
**Joey Graves - 2024 State Golf participant**  
**One Act Sub-Section Champion - 2025**  
**Girls Basketball Sub-Section 3A North 2nd place - 2025**  
**Boys Basketball Sub-Section 3A North 2nd place - 2025**

## Senior Athlete Stories

"I have noticed the coaches put so much emphasis on centering ourselves on Christ and focusing on bettering the team and playing unselfishly. The coaches at Central truly care about all of us and have helped us become better people."

- Morgan Groen

"I've seen myself and my teammates grow through doing devotions before games. Each player had an opportunity to share their devotion followed by a prayer, and this helped us remember that we're not just teammates on the field but in our faith as well."

- Wesley Fussy

"My coaches have challenged me in my sports/athletics by being a player that always tries my best to show the joy I have in the Lord in how I play."

- Sophia Vogel



# 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 \$750,000 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 2024, the balance in the Foundation was \$8,400,000 in total assets which is a \$1,329,000 increase from 2023 year end. The Foundation has grown by 91% in 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. Connecting with a core of donors for consideration of an impactful investment to benefit school for decades to come by specifically naming the ‘CMCS Foundation’ as receipt of those gifts.
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. Collaborating with Central leadership to leverage communication and connection efforts with our various stakeholder groups. You will likely see more joint marketing and solicitation efforts in the future between Central leadership and the Foundation.

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 Duininck (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>2020</b>	\$ 4,393,457	\$ 130,168
<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



# CMCS FOUNDATION

## CMCS Foundation Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2024

	<u>Dec 31, 24</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Barnabas Fund	6,135,309.90
Checking - PSB	483,644.04
PB CD#21009 12M 2/13/24 4.75%	431,004.94
PB CD#21146 12M12/29/24 4.2%	262,537.76
PB CD#21152 24M 12/29/23 4.25%	130,322.24
PB CD#21312 12M 12/30/24 4.2%	250,000.00
PB Money Market #7225	717,901.92
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>8,410,720.80</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>8,410,720.80</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>8,410,720.80</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	8,410,720.80
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>8,410,720.80</b></u>

## CMCS Foundation Profit & Loss January through December 2024

	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>
Income	
_RlzdGain	207,449.81
_UnrlzdGain	243,935.00
Div Income	100,141.87
Donation	1,041,907.85
Interest Inc	73,259.48
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>1,666,694.01</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1,666,694.01
Expense	
Charity	319,067.00
Professional Fees	17,868.50
Rent	72.00
Tax	25.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>337,032.50</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>1,329,661.51</b></u>

# NEW TO YOU

I recently read a thought-provoking article by Ben Chenoweth, reflecting on his three-year study of the Parable of the Talents for his Masters of Theology. His article challenges the traditional interpretation that the parable is about using God-given gifts and abilities or resources. He argues that Jesus' parables were meant to confront and provoke, not just affirm simple truths already taught in several other parts of the Bible.



Chenoweth draws a link between Matthew 25:14-30 (Talents) and Matthew 13. He argues it's not about stewardship of material or personal gifts but about sharing "the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven." He emphasizes the disciples' mission: those who multiply the "talents" (by teaching others) are rewarded, while the one who hides it faces judgment - not just for wasting skills, but for silencing the kingdom's revelation. If this were the case, the third servant's failure (from Matthew 25) isn't about worldly things but a refusal to act on this kingdom knowledge, a serious warning about faithfulness and responsibility. It is certainly food for thought.

Again this year, God is revealing to us that in all that we do as followers of Christ, what is most important is sharing the message of God's love and salvation through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. At New to You, we have been blessed by your demonstration of God's love in the work you do that benefits our school and our community.

As we've reported before, by the end of December 2025, we will pay off our largest long-term loan. Following the payoff, we will begin redirecting the funds back to school! This last year, our sales increased by 2% bringing us, for the first time, to \$1 million in sales! To draw a comparison, Goodwill's average revenue per store across Minnesota is \$979,000.



**We reached \$1 million  
in sales, an increase of 2%.**

In the last year, we were blessed by a 14% increase in volunteer hours and a 15% increase in the value of donations. Home Goods are still our biggest seller at 47% of our revenue. It's our goal this year to attract more quality clothing donations. As our best-selling higher-priced item, it's one way we can increase our revenue with the same square footage. As we have maxed-out growth in our current location, we are actively evaluating expansion possibilities. We are praising God for the abundant blessings and looking forward to growing New to You's role in supporting the financial needs of Central. Thank you for your continued prayer and support!



**A 14% increase in  
volunteer hours.**

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

# 365

students learning  
to be tomorrow's  
creative minds

## *Student* PERSPECTIVES

“Learning at Central has provided me with so many opportunities to apply my faith to what I’m learning. The teachers always challenge me to think of ways that my beliefs connect with history, math, science, and the arts. Everything at school has Christ at the center, and I will forever value learning the importance of centering my life on God. The teachers are encouraging and want to form personal relationships with each student so that we all feel valued, seen, and heard.”

- Morgan Groen, High School Student

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“I love being a student at Central. I am grateful that my teachers teach us about God and pray for us daily. My teachers are kind, helpful, and encouraging. I have made many great friends at Central. I love going to school each day to see my friends and teachers and learn more about God and His creation.”

- Briella Frikke, Middle School Student

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“My favorite thing about Central is learning about Jesus. The teachers are nice, and they care about us.”

- Thatcher Ruschen, Elementary School Student

## *Family* PERSPECTIVES

# 181

families committing  
to partnering for  
Christian Education

“When our kids leave for school, we have full confidence that what we are teaching them at home about God and His world is what they will learn at school. Plus, the Christ-centered community strengthens us all.”

- Nicholas and Stephanie Brouwer

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“As a family with two graduates from Central and our last child approaching her Senior year, we have seen how Central has shaped our children for their future. Central has challenged them academically and spiritually, and they are prepared to go into this world to serve the Kingdom of God. We are thankful for the role that the teachers have invested in our children's lives. The investment that we have made to send our children to Central has been a blessing to our family, and we are thankful for Central.”

- Ron and Melanie Post

# Prospective BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

## Philip Cleary

---



Family: Rebekah Cleary. Evalyn, Clara, James, and Aliza.

Vocation: Attorney

Board Experience: I have served on the boards of a number of organizations from time to time, including campus ministry groups, political organizations, community/athletic clubs, and special interest organizations. Most recently, I was the Chairman of the Mitchell Hamline Federalist Society for three years and the Treasurer of a candidate committee for eleven years.

Why I wish to serve Central: Education is a cornerstone of strong families and thriving communities. Central is an institution with an important legacy and a bright future as a beacon of academic excellence and Christian values where our children are known personally, disciplined intentionally, and challenged academically. I hope to serve with the Board and be actively involved in contributing to the ongoing growth and success of the organization.

## Heidi Graves (Incumbent)

---

Family: Nathan Graves. Benjamin & Grace Ulferts and Payten and Justin; Alexis, and Cayson.

Vocation: Clinic Administrator at Janning ENT Center

Board Experience: Central Finance Committee, New To You Task Force, and Treasurer for the last 3 years on the Central School Board.

Why I wish to serve Central: It is such a privilege to be a part of the Central community. I have enjoyed serving on the School Board for the last 3 years. It has been amazing seeing God's goodness and faithfulness as we continue to strive to provide quality, Christ-centered education. To have the opportunity to serve another term would allow me to build on the knowledge I have already gained.



# Ryan Moorlag (Incumbent)

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Family: Carrie Moorlag. Logan, Lily, and Sadie.

Vocation: Brand Manager at Hormel Foods – Jennie-O

Board Experience: Toro Federal Credit Union Supervisory Committee, Unity CRC Administrative Elder, New To You Task Force Committee (current), Central Advancement Committee (current), Central School Board (current)

Why I wish to serve Central: Thank you for trusting me to serve on the School Board during these past few years. I am eager to continue to represent our families and support the dedicated faculty, staff, and volunteers who provide our students with valuable education and experiences each day. This role also carries the responsibility of providing clarity and focus while managing our resources wisely. With that in mind, we must continue in diligent, sustainable planning to ensure that we continue delivering a Christ-centered, quality education that empowers students to reach their potential and prepare them for their future.

# Tricia Nelson

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

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

Board Experience: As a former parent and employee, those experiences provided context (at least past) for the work of Central. As part of the building steering committee at Central for several years, that experience grew my understanding of volunteer board-level type work. On a professional front, I have had various teams and committee experiences, some of which include volunteers (vs paid employees). All of this shapes my understanding of the need for working as a team, setting best-vision for the future aligned to values, etc, and creating plans to achieve those goals in a way that provides accountability for the work. I am not currently seated on any boards, but many past committees, and in my current professional space, aspects of my work are directly accountable / interfacing with our portfolio's enterprise board.



Why I wish to serve Central: So many, past and present, have graciously served Central. My current capacity allows me to step into board service and give back more fully now that we have an empty nest. It would be an honor to further the vision for Christian education here at Central, seeking ways as a team of board members to raise the bar in this kingdom work.

# Brian Punt

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

Vocation: I have spent all my career working in different facets of Agriculture Production. That led me to today, co-owning and operating Next Level Agriculture Solutions in Clara City.

Board Experience: I currently serve on the Worship Committee at our church, Bunde CRC, and have previously served on the church council. I also serve on the Kandiyohi County Farm Bureau Board.

Why I wish to serve on the Central: Central school means a lot to our family. It is a joy to see our children learn about creation and their Creator while having meaningful life experiences and growing in their faith, academics, and through the extracurricular activities. I believe deeply in the ability to provide a Christ-centered, true, and accurate education to our children. It would be an honor to contribute to the further growth and leadership of this school by serving as a Board member.

# Mitch Schwindt

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Family: Kylee Schwindt. Norah, William, and Joelle.

Vocation: I am a 5th-generation farmer. We farm northwest of Sacred Heart.

Board Experience: 3+ years on the Farmward Cooperative Board. I just started my second 3-year term in January.

Why I wish to serve on the Central: Central has been a valuable partner to Kylee and me in instilling important values to our kids as we raise them. A few of those important values include having Jesus at the center of your life, respecting authority, and showing God's love to others. Having Central as a partner to help us guide our kids, it has given us peace of mind as we send them off to school every day, knowing that they are in good hands and have a school that is going to help them become the best they can be while aligning with our values.

I would like to serve Central as a Board member to help Central continue to provide a Christ-centered, quality education to equip students for a life of service. I will do this by giving my time, my knowledge, and my experience in all the facets of an organization, such as culture, relationships, finances, regulatory items, etc. Thank you for your consideration!





# Joe Vander Ark (Incumbent)

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Family: Melanie Vander Ark. Maddy, Natalie, Macy, and Gianna

Vocation: Insurance Agent, Farm Bureau Financial Services

Board Experience: I am finishing up my 3rd year on the Central School Board. I was Vice President my first year and President my second and third years. Former Refuge Church Deacon Board Chair, YFC Board of Directors.

Why do you wish to serve Central: I feel compelled to use the gifts God has given me to serve the school and community where my family resides. I believe strongly in Christ-centered education, and I am willing to help make that environment a reality for many more students at Central in the years to come.

# Jenna Wieberdink

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Family: Eric Wieberdink. Nathan, Asher, and Ellie.

Vocation: HR, Learning & Development Director at Willmar Assembly of God; Certified Life Coach, Executive Coach, Emotional Intelligence Coach, and Associate Member of AG Coaching Coalition

Board Experience: I have served on the Harvest Festival Main Committee for 3 years and the Re-Branding Task Force for New to You. For the past 2 years, I have had the privilege to teach a Winterim class.

Why I wish to serve on the Central: My desire is to serve the school, students, staff, and community. I want to constantly be learning by asking thoughtful questions with the intention to drive the school's mission forward while at the same time strengthening culture. I will do this through a mindset of humility and grace while keeping in line with the Holy Spirit through prayer, reading scripture, and fellowship.

My experience and background in leadership development, coaching, and HR can contribute by demonstrating strong leadership skills, the ability to facilitate effective communication, a deep understanding of human behavior, and a proven track record of guiding individuals and teams towards positive change.





# 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 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 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 8. 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).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Philip Cleary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Heidi Graves (Incumbent)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ryan Moorlag (Incumbent)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tricia Nelson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Brian Punt
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mitch Schwindt
- \_\_\_\_\_ Joe Vander Ark (Incumbent)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jenna Wieberdink



Scan QR Code to complete  
the form electronically.