

# Central CABLE



**KNOWN  
PERSONALLY**

**DISCIPLINED  
INTENTIONALLY**

**CHALLENGED  
ACADEMICALLY**

## CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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## Servant Workers

Several years ago, someone (likely a teacher) had a great idea to serve the folks in the Prinsburg community by excusing the students for a day to rake leaves. Naturally, it was well-received by the recipients and it aligned with our school mission statement, so the next year they decided to do it again. This momentum soon created a pattern, and voila – a tradition emerged! As it grew, each year required tweaks for better organization and communication. Unfortunately, the expectations that come with traditions inevitably cause disappointment (i.e. running out of time or missing a house). The desire to maintain the tradition, along with the pressure to alleviate disappointment can create a tension which breeds frustration, entitlement, and even resentment as students lament: “Why do we have to rake leaves?!”

I am being somewhat facetious; however, as Central’s Leadership Team began planning for this year’s leaf raking service project, we experienced all aspects of this narrative. It caused me to wonder about servant leadership and our mission “to equip students...for a life of service.” How do we foster a heart of service when students are “volun-told” to participate in these “opportunities”? Acts of service are often born organically from a desire to bless. They originate from internally-motivated pure intentions, but often morph over time into externally-motivated top-down directives from an administration working logistics around a table. And it can feel like we are working uphill, attempting to manufacture “servant hearts” amid grumbles, while attempting to avoid bad PR.

*(Continued on next page)*

Our students are constantly learning. Unfortunately, some of the loudest voices they hear are not coming from home, church, or school. The social media we consume, the shows and movies we watch, politically charged news stations, and the government all scream that life is all about ourselves in a world that owes us something.

How about us? What do our students experience when they watch the adults in their lives? Do our attitudes about service “opportunities” or fulfilling our volunteer hours look more like our school’s mission that started out of a desire for pure-hearted service, or an annoyance that gets in the way of a self-focused life? Every generation must re-discover their purpose if we are to accomplish our mission. Our Teaching for Transformation Throughline during the month of September was “Servant Worker”. I challenge you to engage your kids by reflecting on what it means to live a life of service.

Blessings, Jon De Groot

*“...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” - Mark 10:45*

# Student Body Happenings

The High School Student Council held their annual fall party on September 22. Students enjoyed pizza and competed in the Powder Puff Football and Peach Fuzz Volleyball tournaments. The Freshmen took home the volleyball trophy, and the sophomores came out on top in football. This was a great class building time for our students!





# Industrial Tech Program

The Intro to Electricity and Woodworking students were able to visit the Ice Castle Fish Houses in Montevideo (pictured to the right) in September. They were able to observe the employees installing building walls & electrical wire, as well as the finishing process for the houses.



Intro to Manufacturing students are working on their skills on the CNC machines by making signs for our teachers.



Several Wildlife students met on a Saturday morning to help Mr. Rothstein catch some fish for the school aquarium. The students have been building and stringing their own fishing poles, while learning how to identify different Minnesota fish species.



## Financial Aid Information

### November 16 - 6pm

Central will be hosting a Financial Aid & FAFSA Information Session on Thursday, November 16 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.

# Executive Committee Update

Listening is a practice that is difficult to adopt. Our culture is not good at it. We live in an age when we tend to give much of our attention to the distraction of our phones. We scroll endlessly, switching from thought to thought rapidly. Interruptions abound. It is very rare to focus on someone else and truly listen. I have often heard the phrase “God gave you two ears and one mouth. Use them proportionally.” Listening is how we learn, and it is a crucial skill for working together.

*“To learn,  
you have to listen.  
To improve,  
you have to try.”*

-Thomas Jefferson

At the school board level, we have talked regularly about the value of listening to guide our way forward. In the recent past, proactively listening to the constituency of Central Minnesota Christian School has guided our decision making. Central has conducted two listening sessions series in the last four years.

In June and July of 2019, listening sessions were conducted at Central, Bunde CRC, and the EPIK building at the AG Church in Willmar. We were looking for a superintendent at the time. In these listening sessions, questions were asked about desirable attributes for the new superintendent and what would be different at Central as a result of the new hire.

It was clear that the Central community wanted leadership experience, culture improvements and focus, and a galvanizer who would work toward a common mission and vision. Jon De Groot stepped into the Superintendent position in June of 2020. We believe he fits the attributes that were sought and that his mission and vision focus has been a major win for the culture of the school.

A second round of listening sessions was held in May of 2022 at Central and the AG Senior Center. The focus areas of these sessions were: the Reformed commitments we want to continue to maintain for the next generation, key focus areas for raising our educational excellence, financial stewardship, and school culture. Around the time of these listening sessions, the Central Vision Statement was rolled out: “Known Personally, Disciplined Intentionally, Challenged Academically.” Also, the concept of having a “Hospitably Reformed” culture became a key focus area for our school.

I believe one mark of a good school board is to prioritize listening, and we plan to continue to look for opportunities to do so. Our most recent Annual Member Meeting provided another platform for listening: a Q & A for the Sexual Development Standards being implemented into Central’s curriculum. We want to continue to use the time after our Member Meeting as an opportunity to listen. If the need arises for another series of listening sessions, we will certainly consider conducting them.

In the words of Thomas Jefferson, “To learn, you have to listen. To improve, you have to try.” It is the goal of our school board to be constantly learning and improving. We value listening, and we endeavor to act on what we hear, all to the glory of God and in alignment with the mission of Central: “To provide a Christ-centered, quality education to equip students for a life of service”.

-Submitted by Joe Vander Ark, Chairman of the Board





# Student Council

## High School



2023-24 High School Student Council Members:  
Seniors: Tim Brouwer, Avery Duininck, Ryan Harrington, C.C, Roiseland  
Juniors: Sidney Duininck, Morgan Groen, Carene Jean Louis, Sophia Vogel  
Sophomores: Reece Duininck, Kaiden Ruis, Jake Ver Steeg  
Freshmen: Alysia Buteyn, Joey Graves, Evan Gustafson



## Middle School

2023-24 Middle School Student Council Members:  
8th: Caitlyn Buss, Griffin De Groot, Bo Duininck, Harper Larkin,  
Lindsey Setrum, Keena Ulferts  
7th: Jamin Buteyn, Quinn Schueler, Olivia Ziehl  
6th: Lily Moorlag, Bennett Rausch, Elias Wassenaar

# High School Retreat



As the doors at Central opened for another school year, teachers began preparing lesson plans to instruct the students from a Christian perspective. Year after year, students at Central have had the privilege to receive a Christ-centered education. An opportunity for High School students at Central to deepen their faith outside of school is to attend the weekend fall High School Retreat. This Retreat provides a time for the students to get to know each other better and to get to know Jesus better.

The venue for this event was Lake Geneva Christian Center. This center has excellent areas to create an atmosphere for worship, games, and entertainment. This year, the first two sessions were led by Heather Flies who has been the Junior High Pastor at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, MN, for the last 28 years. Heather is very energetic and loves kids! Her passion is to pass along the love of God to these kids. She used Matthew 22 and the Great Commandment for her sessions: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. A second commandment like unto it is - love your neighbor as yourself." Heather related our love of God as a vertical relationship and our love for our neighbor as a horizontal relationship. She spoke about our self-worth (in Christ) and how love flows from God down through us horizontally to our neighbor. She challenged the students to intentionally offer love to anyone they might meet during their days at Central and beyond the school walls.

Mr. De Groot led the Saturday evening and Sunday morning sessions. He talked about the prodigal son. He had the kids decide how they related to the different reactions of the brothers – were they rebellious or resentful? The kids were given time to build, repair, and/or form relationships with each other and time to commit and renew themselves in their relationship with God. Each session began with a time of worship led by a local band of former Central students, parents, and school board members.

Ryan Zimmer, band leader and Central Alum, spoke of his student experiences and commitments at retreats. He related how important those commitments were and are, and he emphasized how they can transform a person into what God wants them to be.

A big thank you to the Retreat leaders for planning this event! The students were blessed by the time they could spend in God's presence. It was a valuable experience for all who attended, and God was glorified!





# Middle School Retreat

The 2023 Middle School retreat was held at the Shores of St. Andrew. The kids enjoyed canoeing, playing 9 square, water balloon volleyball, laser tag, and various “survivor” type puzzle games. They also played large group games, including a highly intense game of musical chairs!



After the games and pizza, Jimmy Buehler talked to the kids about the story of the prodigal son. He asked the kids who needed Jesus more: the “bad kid” (the one who took all of his inheritance and left) or the “good kid” (the one who stayed and helped his father)? He then explained that both needed Jesus for different reasons. He shared that we need Jesus because we sometimes fall short, but we also need Him to soften our pride.



The night ended by dividing into small groups and writing down something encouraging about each of the group members. This reflection time was made into word art for each of the kids to keep.

Thank you to the retreat leaders for all their work in planning and facilitating this event and for fostering our students’ spiritual growth!



## See You At the Pole

Central students met by the cross before the school day began on Wednesday, September 27 to pray over our school community. We are grateful to be a place where students can freely express their faith through the gift of prayer!

“See You at the Pole” first began in 1990 and is a student-initiated, student-led annual prayer rally where students meet at the flagpole to lift up their friends, families, teachers, school, and nation to God.



# New to You News

## The Monthly Minute

*September*

**Number of items processed:**

*20,207*

**Sell-through rate:**

*72%*

**Total Sales:**

*\$86,472*

**Compared to last year:**

*\$78,652*

**Total Volunteer Hours:**

*538*

**Volunteer Hours last year:**

*359*

**Contribution to Central:**

*\$12,000*



**Praise and  
Opportunity:**

*Abundantly Blessed...*

This is an exciting time of year for us here at the thrift store. For one, the weather is cooling (hopefully) and that means cooler conditions at donations! That's a big deal since in September alone, the volume of our donations has increased by almost \$17,000.

Also, we're gearing up for Christmas and soon setting out hot cider for our guests to enjoy (while they decide which cider spice to buy)! 😊

Thank you SO MUCH to all of our Volunteers and Staff - you too, Parent Volunteers! Thank you for modeling service to our students!



*It's beginning to look a lot like...*

Stop in for some seasonal shopping! We still have some fall items, and we also have Christmas trees & decor available!





# Spotlight on 4-H

Several Central students participated in area 4-H Clubs this past year. We're proud of our students for pursuing their interests in agriculture, animals, and other hobbies through these clubs. A few clubs attended were the Kandi Countrysiders, Chippewa Champs, Danube Ful-o-Pep, and Clontarff Haymakers. Many students earned blue ribbons and even qualified for showing in their categories at the State Fair. Entry categories included Entomology, archery, needlework, art, model rocketry, arts & crafts, and photography - as well as horse, swine, beef, sheep, and goat shows.



Kade and Drew Hovland with their Show Goats.



Tessa Lewis with her Reserve Champion Beef.



Congratulations to Kelsey Hillenbrand, who earned a trip to the state fair to show her dairy goat.



Sidney Morris at the Cloverbud Horse Show.



Congratulations to Brooke Schlegel for earning several first place finishes, as well as The Youth Leadership award at the state Horse Show.



Caitlyn and Aiden Buss with their fair entries.

# Welcome

## JASON BROWER

**Family:**

My wife Moriah and I have 3 kids: Leeland (4th gr.), Berkley (2nd gr.), & Auden (4K)

**Position:**

Middle School Baseball Coach

**Church:**

Willmar Assembly of God Church

**Hobbies:**

Spending time with my family, playing sports, camping, and hunting.

**How will you use your relationship with Jesus on the field?**

I will use my relationship with Jesus on the baseball field to enhance the overall experience for the players by creating a positive and supportive environment on the field. I will lead by example by being a positive Christ-like role model, provide mentorship, and spend time in prayer with the team.



## JOIN US IN WELCOMING JASON TO BLUEJAY NATION

We are blessed with an amazing facility, and our custodial team keeps it sparkling clean!

If you see any of the following individuals, please be sure to thank them for all they do!

Nate Duininck  
Andy Rosen  
Bob Stoel  
Heh Nay  
Brad Bonnema

THANK  
YOU  
Custodians &  
Maintenance Workers





Mark your calendars for a fun evening with Bluejay Nation!

Come and enjoy a delicious ham dinner or some treats from the Sweet Shoppe or International Bakery. Let the kids jump around on the inflatables at the Kids Carnival while you bid on some great items at the Silent or Live Auction. And Teen Scene will be back with Laser Tag, Karaoke, and other fun activities for Middle & High School students. There's sure to be something for the whole family!

The Harvest Festival Committee is busily preparing for this annual event.  
We look forward to seeing you there!

## Schedule for TRIP

October	16
November	6 & 20
December	4 & 18
January	8 & 22

## Employment

### *Opportunities*

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

- Custodial Assistant (part time)
- C Team Boys Basketball Coach
- New to You Customer Care Associate (part-time closer from 3:30-6:00pm and one Saturday every third week.

# Board Minutes for Central Minnesota Christian School

Monday, September 25, 2023  
7:00 P.M.

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

Trevor D read a devotional from the "Handbook for Leadership" relating to the Parable of the Talents from Matthew 25:14-30 and opened with prayer.

- 1) Approval of Minutes
  - a. Motion to approve the minutes from the August 28, 2023 Board Meeting. MSP
- 2) Leadership Team Business
  - a. Action Items were reviewed.
  - b. Director of Finance Report noted 377 students, no delinquent tuition, FY 23 Financial Statements completed, CDS Review is in process, and successful breakfast service so far this year.
  - c. Dean of Students reported a successful onboarding process, getting acquainted with the teachers, attending school events, participating in the Beautiful Work course, jumping into chapel planning and worship, developing processes for the Student Success Team, and gaining context and preparing to work with District 815.
  - d. The Principal Report included updates on conducting teacher PDP meetings, developing teacher evaluation processes and observation/feedback forms, bus training, and incorporation of Sexual Health Standards into Learning Teams.
  - e. The Director of Advancement Report highlighted Pastor Appreciation Day, ongoing communication refinement through a new Cable format and engagement of non-parent constituency, parent volunteer follow-up, and Grains of Grace & Harvest Festival prep.
  - f. The Superintendent Report included updates on the Student Retreats and Student Council party, custodial support, staff reflections on what makes working at Central so special, and a presentation of one of the new videos that Mr. Buehler has created. Mr. De Groot also reported on the following current and up-coming issues:
    - i. No new update from the IRS meeting regarding ERC money.
    - ii. Some struggles around dress code and State Fair attendance policy approach.
    - iii. Making time for Q1 goals - Capital Campaign and Special Education Task Force development.
    - iv. Work with Director of Finance on compensation strategies and long-term financial modeling.
    - v. Work with Director of Advancement on Capital Campaign, communication strategy, and marketing/enrollment.
- 3) Board Business
  - a. Consent Agenda
    - i. Committee Reports were presented and corrections were noted.
  - b. Christy G led a discussion from Chapter 7 of "Guiding Schools to Flourish" on the topic of Servant Leadership.
    - i. Discussion about servant leadership in the context of board governance.
    - ii. Discussion about being others-focused vs. self-focused.
    - iii. Discussion about specific ways we can show humble servant leadership as a Board.



- c. Finance Committee Items
  - i. Heidi G presented the New to You Budget.
    - a) Looking to increase Central contribution, discussion about volunteer hours vs. paid staff, and what level of profit margin is acceptable.
    - b) Motion to approve Budget. MSP
  - ii. Heidi G presented a draft Financial Statement.
- d. Governance Committee Items
  - i. Update on the Board Election Process
- e. Foundation Board Update
  - i. Discussion and Motion to approve Jon DG as the Board Representative. MSP
- f. Education Committee Items
  - i. Discussion and Motion to approve Committee Mandate revision to update maximum number of members from 7 to 8. MSP.
- g. Work Plans Update
  - i. Motion to approve all presented Committee Work Plans. MSP

4) Round Table

5) Christy G closed in prayer.

6) Next Board Meeting: October 30, 2023

7) Meeting Adjourned.

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

*We ❤️ Our Pastors!*



We welcomed our area pastors to our annual Pastor Appreciation Event on Friday, September 29.

Several participated in a “Pastors Panel” during morning chapel for a Q&A session. They also had the opportunity to visit their students’ classrooms. We’re so grateful for how they pour into our students’ lives and serve our communities!

**JAN 20**

# ALUMNI! EVENT!



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

## Fall Concert Dates

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| October 24  | Fall Concert Choir & Band              |
| December 7  | K-5 Christmas Program                  |
| December 12 | Middle & High School Christmas Program |



## Community Service Day

**Friday, October 27**



Our students will be blessing residents in the Prinsburg community by raking leaves and making New To You donation pickups on Friday, October 27. If you are a seasoned community member and would like to be placed on a list for leaf raking or have items to donate to New to You, please call the school office.



# Holiday Greens Sales

Our High School students will be selling poinsettias and greens for the Christmas season. Sales will begin later this month.



# Dordt Honors Choir

Hannah Graves and Morgan Groen participated in the Dordt University High School Honors Choir on Friday, September 29.

85 students from high schools across the country were invited to campus to hear the Dordt Concert Choir and Jazz Band perform, before performing in the Honors Choir Concert.

*"It was a lot of fun to sing with different kids and a different group. I also loved getting to reconnect with a couple of graduates from Central!"*  
-Morgan Groen



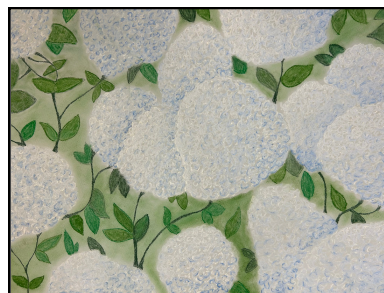
# Central Art Gallery



Brooke Schlegel, 10th



Maggie Setrum, 10th



Reece Duininck, 10th



Isaac Asche, 11th

# Elementary Student Discipleship

Parent Newsletter \* October Issue

We had a great month of chapel and small groups getting to know the other members of our group and learning more about servant working. Hearing all the students singing and worshipping together on chapel days is a truly uplifting sound! We are looking forward to more chapels in October, as well as our very first Flock Day at the end of the month.



Our Throughline for the month of October is Image Reflecting. In chapels this month we'll talk about reflecting the image of God we were created to reflect instead of letting our sinful nature shine out. Our deep hope for the students is that they can mirror God's goodness through who they are and what they do. We want them to learn to delight in the image of God inherent in all people. We'll talk some about what this looks like practically, as well as provide opportunities for them to celebrate the image of God shining through in people around them. If you notice your students reflecting the image of God, please share those stories with us!



## This Month's Theme Verse

“Let your light shine before men so they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16



# 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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