

CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG



BUILDING TRUST

A few years ago, I had a detention with students who had taken something from another student's locker without permission. During our conversation, I shared a story about buying my house in Sioux Center, where the previous owners didn't even have keys to give me at closing. They had lived there for 20 years without ever using a lock!

I asked the students to reflect on why the owners didn't feel the need to lock their doors and why we don't use padlocks on our lockers at school. Together, we discussed what makes a place safe or unsafe, ultimately deciding that it boils down to the trust we have in our community.

This reminded me of an article I read in Harvard Business Review that found the happiest places to live are often those where people know and are known by their neighbors. God's design, once again affirmed by science, shows that our well-being thrives on strong communal connections. When reliable individuals act with integrity and build meaningful relationships, they create a shared sense of trust and security.

Personal Responsibility + Communal Commitment = Trusting Community

Philippians 3:18-20 reminds us:

"For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ..."

As we "eagerly await" our Savior this Advent season, may we remember our status as heavenly citizens. Creating safe spaces involves more than locking doors or minding our own business—it means embodying the gift of Jesus in how we live, love, and connect with others. As you gather with family, feast, and exchange gifts, don't forget to be a good neighbor and bring a little bit of heaven to the places where you live.

Jon De Groot, Superintendent



KNOWN PERSONALLY



DISCIPLINED INTENTIONALLY



CHALLENGED ACADEMICALLY

STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34-35

ELEMENTARY UPDATE:

November was a great month in Elementary Student Discipleship, discussing encouraging one another and how we can share God's love by encouraging. The Elementary students were thrilled to spend some time with the Middle and High School students during our first Flock day of the year at the beginning of the month. Walking through the classrooms during the Flock time and seeing all the smiles on students' faces made me so thankful for the opportunity for our Elementary students to interact with Middle and High School students they look up to. The next week, they made cards to encourage their Middle or High School buddy. We heard from Casey Bushard at the end of the month as we transitioned to our next focus of serving. She reminded us to share the gifts God has given us without expecting anything in return. Our hope is that this holiday season, the students will find ways to serve and show love to those around them!

— Mrs. Becky Berry; Academic Support Coordinator & Elementary Student Discipleship Coordinator



HS students raking leaves in the community.



EL students enjoying praise & worship.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE:

Our Middle School and High School students have explored the topics of “offer His welcome” and “give His grace” in the month of November. They were able to practice offering Jesus’ welcome on our first Flock day of the year by helping Elementary students feel loved and accepted as they interacted with their Flock buddies through fun games. Pastor Brett Barksdale spoke to our students during chapel on what it means to extend grace to others as a response to God extending His grace to us by offering us the gift of salvation.

We also had our annual Leaf Raking event where our High School students spent part of a day serving our community by raking leaves throughout Prinsburg. Their hard work, teamwork, and positive attitudes showed the power of service and the impact we can make when we come together with happy hearts.

As we look forward to Christmas, I pray that these two topics will overflow into worship as we have more time to reflect on the amazing welcome and grace shown to us by our Savior!

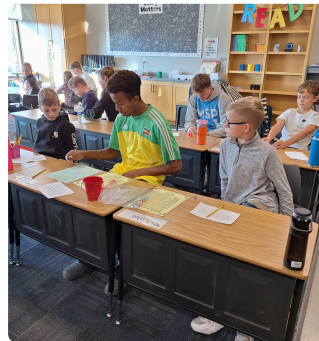
— Mrs. Lorna Cook; Faith Formation Coordinator

STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34-35

FLOCK DAYS:

Flock Days are a time set aside once a quarter to create intentional time for students K-12 to interact with each other and learn about a specific topic. For the first Flock day this year, students gathered with their partners and did get-to-know-you games and activities to learn a little bit about their partner's likes and dislikes.

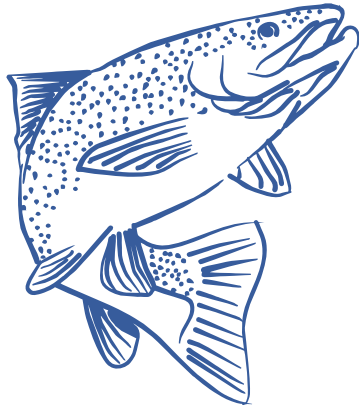


FLOCKSGIVING:

On Thursday, November 26, our entire student body and staff enjoyed a Thanksgiving lunch together. Students were seated in their Flock groups giving them another chance to interact with students not in their grade level. Students enjoyed the delicious meal prepared by our fantastic kitchen staff as well as some fun games and conversation starters at the table.

We're so thankful for the opportunity to be able to gather our whole school in one room to celebrate the blessings God has given us. A special thank you as well to the kitchen and operations staff who helped make the event possible!





COMING SOON! FISHING CLUB

This Spring, Mr. Rothstein is starting a new Fishing Club for High School students. The club will meet Thursday nights between mid-April through the end of July. The club is in need of volunteer Boat Captains to take the students out fishing. You don't need to be a professional fisherman/woman, just willing to spend time helping the students. If you're able to help out as a Boat Captain or have a fishing boat we could use, please reach out to Brandon Rothstein at 320-444-2605.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for individuals with a passion for Christian Education and a heart for discipling students toward a life of service.

- Part-time Custodian
- Knowledge Bowl Coach
- Part-time/Substitute Bus Drivers
- Part-time New to You Donations Associate



For a full listing of our employment openings, please visit our website at www.centralbluejays.org under Employment Opportunities or contact Jon De Groot at 320-978-8700 if you or someone you know is interested in applying.

WELCOME BACK!

SAVE THE DATE! ALUMNI DAY

This year's Alumni Day is taking place on Saturday, February 1. Alumni of all ages are welcome to attend the Girls and Boys home basketball games against Sleep Eye St. Mary's. In addition to the basketball games, we will have fun games, prizes, and plenty of throwback surprises.

Stay tuned for more details to come!

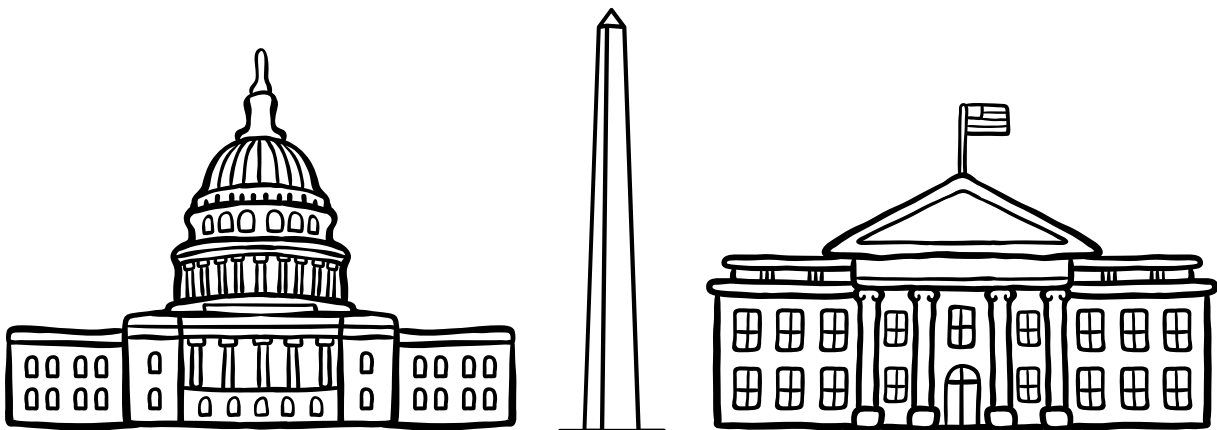


Government Class WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

Last month, the Senior Government class traveled to Washington D.C. for a jam-packed week of learning. A few stops on the visit included the Capitol, Library of Congress, National Archives, Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, Supreme Court, and all the monuments and memorials. Before visiting each location, every student had to research one of the sites and then present it to their classmates.

A few highlights of the trip include a tour of the White House, seeing A Christmas Carol at Ford's Theatre, visiting the Bible Museum, and dining in Old Town Alexandria.

Students and chaperones also spent time in prayer at many of the sites (White House, Capitol, Monuments, Arlington Cemetery, Pentagon 9/11 Memorial, etc) to pray for our leaders, our Veterans, and those who have lost loved ones.



Central Minnesota Christian School

BOARD MINUTES

October 28, 2024

Members Present: Joe VA, Paul L, Heidi G, Matt H, Christy G, Luke M, Sarah VB, Ryan M, Trevor D, Chris S, Jon DG

Devotions: Joe VA read a devotion from the book, New Morning Mercies. God's wisdom is revealed in His Word...all we need to know, but not all there is to know. We are created to be rational beings to make sense of our world in light of his wisdom. We won't know it all in this life.

1. Approval of Consent Agenda MSP

Motion- Paul L

Second- Heidi G

- a. September Board minutes
- b. Board Committee Minutes

2. Reports from Administration reviewed.

3. Governance Committee Motion:

- a. Motion: Joe VA explained, on behalf of the Governance Committee, a motion to allow for one candidate for each board seat open instead of requiring two candidates. He summarized the background/difficulties with the current model.
- b. Paul L suggested that we have an idea of what we would like to see, get a survey of what the constituents feel about this, then bring the change to a vote if there seems to be enough support. If there's not enough support, decide on how to proceed with more communication, table it for another year...
- c. The desire is to be a strategic, mission-driven board.
- d. Educate people of how other schools onboard members of their boards. What is the best organization of the Board?
- e. We must understand why we would make this change.
- f. Work to include new families in our community.
- g. Educate people on how the Board operates.
- h. Next steps:
 - *Board needs agreement on what approach seems best for the school,
 - *Get a plan for topics to talk to the community about related to this change,
 - *Governance Committee should articulate the why (rationale) and suggestion for moving forward in order for the Board to discuss in more detail at Nov. meeting.

4. Admissions Policy Discussion

- a. Phone call with Henry Contant regarding board engagement with policy. Clarified the board role regarding policy review/support.
- b. Should have a good admissions policy and trust the leadership of the school to follow the policy.
- c. Consider a meet and greet with new families and Board members.
- d. Action: Governance Committee to work on CMCS Position on Social and Cultural Issues.
- e. Action: Admissions Policy revision will be presented at our next meeting by Jon DG.

5. Board Prospects presented. Trevor talked about how the candidate pool is developed. Written motion to approve the handful of names to consider for the ballot. Tricia N, Jenna W, and Brian P have said yes and Mitch S, Phil C, and Liza F have said maybe. MSP

- a. Motion: Chris S
- b. 2nd: Joe VA

6. Book Club: "Guiding Schools to Flourish" Chapter 19 "Recalibrate! Leading in Precarious Times"

- a. Encouraged by the items listed that are important to keep in the forefront in difficult times that we have already begun working on.
- b. Should be engaging former parents and grandparents to continue their support of Central to give back for what their family received.

7. Henry Contant debrief shared by Joe VA.

Continue next page...

Central Minnesota Christian School BOARD MINUTES

Continued...

8. New 2 You update by Jon DG. Ryan M and Jon DG will meet this week. Jon has had conversations with Kristen P. There are many donations coming in. A couple of locations for lease are potentially available. Business plan is available for all to read. This plan has a lot of data to support the reasoning for expansion.

9. Round Table:

- a. Joe VA: enjoyed singing with choir
- b. Jon DG: nothing
- c. Trevor D: thankful that Ryan will run again
- d. Ryan M: nothing
- e. Matt H: nothing
- f. Luke M: nothing
- g. Paul L: nothing
- h. Sarah VB: nothing
- i. Chris S: CCS thanks for the invite to Willie R chapel
- j. Heidi G: MACCRAY/Central volleyball game student section
- k. Christy G: Trophy case for fine arts trophies is not yet funded

10. October 2024 Board Action Items

11. Trevor D closed in prayer.

12. Meeting adjourned.

- a. Motion: Heidi G
- b. Second: Sarah VB

COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

You're invited to join Superintendent Jon De Groot for a casual conversation over coffee.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, ask questions, share feedback, and hear about the vision and happenings at Central.

Each session will begin with a five-minute presentation from Mr. De Groot, followed by 20 minutes for questions and feedback. We will host four sessions at different times to accommodate various schedules. Feel free to choose the one that works best for you:

January 16 at 9:15am

February 3 at 2:00pm

March 6 at 7:00am

April 15 at 4:00pm

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or community member, we look forward to meaningful conversations that strengthen our school community. No RSVP is needed—just bring yourself, your questions, and your love for Central.

All sessions will be held in the Bluejay Room located in the High School Library.

We hope to see you there!





Store Update

Count It All Joy

Our first Quarter of the year, August-October, was certainly challenging as we felt the pain of being short-staffed and the blessing of an extraordinary amount of donations. Since vehicles came in 3-4 at a time, several times a day. By our estimate, our actual donations are double what was recorded because we failed to keep up. We have all felt the strain and stress. As I consider my report to you, I'm in awe of God leading me to the book of James.

In James, faithful followers of Jesus are challenged to not just “talk the talk,” but to “walk the walk.” While our faith walk requires a growth of knowledge about the Word, James exhorts us to not stop there. He focuses on the truths of Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount and motivates us to act upon what He taught.

James puts to rest the idea that one can become a Christian and yet continue living in sin, exhibiting no fruit of righteousness. Such a “faith,” James declares, is shared by the demons who “believe and tremble” (James 2:19). While Paul’s teachings concentrate on our justification with God, James’ teachings concentrate on the works that exemplify that justification. James was writing to Jews to encourage them to continue growing in this new Christian faith. James emphasizes that good actions will naturally flow from those who are filled with the Spirit and questions whether someone may or may not have a saving faith if the fruits of the Spirit cannot be seen. Good works are not the cause of salvation, but they are the result of it.

James presents the ultimate description of the relationship between faith and works – or rather, living out our faith – demonstrating what we say is true, IS true. James addresses perseverance, wisdom, and active obedience to God’s Word. Faith grows through trials when approached with joy and trust in God. “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2-4) Thank you, Jesus, for the opportunity to grow in you.

— Kristin Poortvliet; Director of Thrift Store Operations

First Quarter Report:

Number of Processed Items: **68,238**

Volunteer Hours: **1,974**

Sell-Through Rate: **75%**

Total Sales: **\$267,100**

*We had so many donations, we were unable to keep up our records. We estimate that around 5,000 people came through our drop-off (1,500 more than last year).

Harvest Festival

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

\$106,623 Raised

THANK YOU!

Welcome HEATHER DAUGHERTY

Family:

Tyler, Heather, Owen 2nd, Olivia 1st,
Bridger Pre-K, and Natalie 2 yrs old

Position:

MS Girls Basketball Coach

Church:

Bunde CRC

Hobbies:

Reading, Gardening, Spending time at the lake

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

My hope for the middle school girls basketball team is for them to feel joy and appreciation as they compete, run, dribble, shoot, and exercise their minds and bodies, which God has greatly blessed us with. I desire for the light of Jesus to shine bright on our team both in me, the coach, and the players through humility, kindness, and gratitude.



JOIN US IN WELCOMING HEATHER TO OUR COACHING STAFF

FALL ATHLETICS UPDATE

Congratulations to our talented student-athletes on their well-deserved awards! Your hard work, dedication, and perseverance both on and off the field and court inspire us. We are so proud of your achievements!



Soccer:

Logan Roelofs - All Conference, 2nd Team All State
Drew Duininck - All Conference
Moses De Groot - All Conference
Gabriel Timmer - All Conference Honorable Mention
Garrett Mulder - All Conference Honorable Mention

Cross Country:

Annaliese Wood - All Conference
Maggie Setrum - Academic All Conference (3.75 GPA or higher)
Peighton Mulder - Academic All Conference (3.75 GPA or higher)
Girls Cross Country Team - Academic All State - Team



Volleyball:

Morgan Groen - Academic All Conference (3.75 GPA or higher),
Academic All State (3.8 GPA or higher)
Aurora Rosen - All Conference
Emmilee Braem - All Conference
Madalyn Vander Ark - All Conference Honorable Mention

TRIP Schedule

December	2 & 16
January	6 & 20
February	3 & 24
March	10 & 31

SAVE THE DATE

December 10	6-12 Christmas Concert
December 13	K-5 Christmas Concert
December 16-20	High School Exams
December 20 - January 3	Christmas Break (No School)
January 6-10	High School Winterim
January 10	End of Quarter 2
January 20	One Act Performance
February 1	Alumni Day

Central

END OF YEAR GIVING

This giving season, we invite you to prayerfully consider supporting Christian education. By donating to the Annual Fund, you play a big part in furthering the mission of Central Minnesota Christian School.

Funds raised will directly support opportunities such as expanding our Academic Success Center, providing financial aid opportunities for families who desire a Christian education, keeping our curriculum up-to-date with Christ-centered learning, attracting and retaining high-caliber teachers, and so much more!

Whether through a financial gift, prayers, or acts of service, your support allows us to continue this incredible work—glorifying God by equipping students for a life of service.

3 WAYS TO GIVE FINANCIALLY

1

CASH/CHECK

Give by cash or check. Donations can either be mailed or dropped off at the High School office.

*No fees;
All money donated is received by Central

2

COMMODITIES

Bring your grain donation to your elevator of choice. Checks are then forwarded to the school.

*No fees;
All money donated is received by Central

3

PAYPAL

Give through PayPal, our online platform. Visit our website to give via PayPal.

*Fees are assessed;
After fees are paid by the donor or organization, the funds are then received by Central

CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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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 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)