

CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG



GRATITUDE AND GIVING

"It's the most wonderful time of the year."

God's genius design is that by being thankful, we find joy, and in giving, we receive. His upside-down kingdom is full of paradoxes and contradictions to our natural inclinations.

The world teaches us to fight for control, to self-preserve, and to "do what makes us happy". Ironically, those things lead to loss, loneliness, and dissatisfaction.

I was a little blue heading into the Harvest Festival this year. When I arrived, I naturally greeted a few community members who were in line for the ham dinner, and just seeing them cheered me up a little bit. I continued to stand by the door and greet people as they entered, and as I did, my spirit continued to lift. I stayed there for nearly two hours, seeing smile after smile, warm handshake after warm handshake (and even a few hugs)! By the time I was done, my cheeks hurt from smiling, and I breathed a prayer of thanksgiving that I was "surrounded by our community of believers..." who love God and want our school to flourish.

I love that we have seasons dedicated to reflecting on gratitude and giving. And while the world may celebrate the shells of these holidays, we have the privilege of being in a Christian school community that understands the "why" behind these celebrations.

Thank you for being a valuable part of our community and for modeling to our students what it means to have a life of deep gratitude and generous living.

God is so good.

Jon De Groot, Superintendent



KNOWN PERSONALLY



DISCIPLINED INTENTIONALLY



CHALLENGED ACADEMICALLY

STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory," Psalm 115:1

ELEMENTARY UPDATE:

We had a fantastic celebration of gratitude in the month of November. Throughout each week in classrooms, chapel, and small groups, students reflected on different gratitude prompts. Their answers were recorded on cut-out leaves and added to our Grateful Tree on the elementary storyboard. It was so fun to see the tree fill up with students' thoughts, and I'm thankful for the 5th grade storyboard team who took turns gathering and hanging up the leaves! We heard a great message about gratitude from Pastor Brett Barksdale at the beginning of the month. Students also enjoyed watching the first video we received from ICEP that showed a bit about how students get to school there and things they enjoy about living in Haiti. God has richly blessed our school community, and I'm so thankful for the opportunity to witness his work in our students' lives and for all the adults who help pour into our students and make our student discipleship activities possible.

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



The Grateful Tree on the elementary storyboard.



The flag salute at the Veterans Day assembly.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE:

The middle and high school students had a great month of student discipleship. Chapels included visitors from Refuge Church, Pastor Paul Vasilko, and Ryan Zimmer, who led worship. Pastor Paul talked about "raising a hallelujah" and not being afraid to worship however you feel led. If that means just singing along or raising your hands, it's the heart behind your worship. The following week, Mr. Buehler shared a message about Jesus' casting demons into pigs with an invitation to receive the life of freedom Christ intends for his children.

Though it was not a "chapel," our Veterans Day service was also a special time of assembling as a community to honor those who have served our country. This was particularly special for our seniors, who had the privilege of spending a weekend in Washington, D.C. Mr. Buteyn created special moments where each student took a turn to read a few facts about the various places we visited before praying over the respective areas of government or national interest represented. We are grateful for a school where we can worship together in a free country.

— Mr. Jon De Groot, Superintendent



Christmas Giving Project



December 8-23, 2025

This year, Central is partnering with **Institution Chrétienne Enfants de la Promesse** (ICEP) in **Lagosette, Haiti**, a school serving **232 students (PreK–6th grade)** through the ministry of **Children of the Promise**. ICEP provides quality education along with family, nutritional, and medical support.

Our Partnership Includes:

Prayer: We're praying for ICEP students and teachers during both our elementary and middle/high school chapels throughout the year.

Connection: We're exchanging videos so students can see what school life looks like in each other's countries.

Giving: This Christmas, we're raising \$1,500 to provide textbooks and supplies for 20 students and therapy services for 40 students for one month.

You can **join us** by praying for ICEP and contributing toward our goal! To learn more or give digitally, visit [Children of the Promise's gift catalogue](#) or send donations to either school office. Checks payable to Central Minnesota Christian School.





CHRISTMAS CONCERT SAVE THE DATES

The Central Music Department cordially invites you to attend their upcoming Christmas Concerts.

The K-5 Grade Elementary Concert will be held on Friday, December 12, at 7:00pm in the High School Gym.

The 6-12 Grade Band & Choir Concert will be held on Monday, December 15, with the bands beginning at 6:30pm in the High School Gym, followed by the choirs in the Event Center at 7:45pm.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Director of Finance/HR
- Middle School ELA Teacher (starting August 2026)
- Bus Driver
- Robotics Coach
- Knowledge Bowl Coach



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!

ALUMNI DAY

This year's Alumni Day is taking place on Saturday, February 7. Alumni of all ages are welcome to attend the girls and boys home basketball games against Southwest Minnesota Christian. The girls varsity team plays at 12:00pm, with the boys varsity team to follow.

In addition to the basketball games, we will have fun games, prizes, and plenty of throwback surprises.

Stay tuned for more details to come!

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER EVENTS

- Monday, 12/8 - Trap Team – Pulled Pork Sandwich Meal
- Friday, 12/19 - Prinsburg Baseball Boosters – Taco in a Bag
- Tuesday, 1/6 - New York Mission Trip – Taco in a Bag
- Saturday, 2/7 - Alumni Day - New York Mission Trip – Pulled Pork Sandwich Meal

MEET THE TEACHER



Mrs. Van Otterloo
4K Teacher

Get to Know Mrs. Van Otterloo

Family:

Adults (L to R): Aaron, Jodi, Cindy, Larry, Jenni, and Jake. Kids: Evelyn, Freya, Caleb, Lydia, and being held, Anika.

Why did you choose to teach at Central, and what do you enjoy most?

I love Christian education and had taught Kindergarten at New Holland Christian School in South Dakota for 11 years. I moved here with my family in 2001 and was given the opportunity to get back into teaching at Central. I love teaching preschool, and I love to see the kids' faces light up as they learn, especially about God and His Creation.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Spend time with my family, especially my grandkids.

What is your deep hope for your students while in your classroom?

That they will experience JOY - putting Jesus first in their life, then others, and then themselves. I also love to see them have joy in general.

Prayer requests?

Please pray that I may show the love and joy of Christ to our students. Pray also that our students may learn to love God and serve Him all of their days.



This or That?

Coffee or Tea - I enjoy flavored coffee - especially Caribou

Movie or Book - Book - when I have time

Beach or Mountains - Beach, but I love mountains too

Pencil & Paper or Electronic - Pencil & Paper

Cats or Dogs - Cats

Fruits or Vegetables - Fruit

Sweet or Salty - Sweet

Farm or City - Small town - I used to live on a farm growing up, but now I like small town living

Weekends or Weekdays - I love my job, but I also enjoy the weekends

Morning Person or Night Owl - Morning person

Alumni Spotlight

where are they now...

Scott Ahrenholz



Family:

Scott, Holly (ageless), Fritz (12),
Liesl (11), Wilko (7)

What year did you graduate from Central?

1995

Where has life taken you since graduation, and what did you study or major in college?

Following graduation from Central, I attended Calvin College (now Calvin University), graduating in 1999. I majored in biology, minored in biochemistry, and had a pre-med concentration with a plan to attend medical school.

I then had one year off from education, having not been accepted to medical school. During that year, I moved back to Prinsburg (free housing, thanks, Mom and Dad) to reapply and was then accepted to medical school.

I attended Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine from 2000-2004. After completing medical school, I did my residency in pediatrics at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines, IA. I then finished a one-year fellowship in primary care sports medicine through Wright State University in the Dayton, OH area.

What is your career or current focus?

Upon completing my education in 2008, I moved back to Minnesota to work for Fairview Health Services (now branded M Health Fairview). The focus of our sports medicine practice is essentially non-operative orthopedic issues (think joint aches and pains, sprains and strains, fractures).

What are some of your favorite memories from your time at Central?

I have many great memories of Central. I so much appreciated the community feel of Prinsburg and the school. With the school in particular, I enjoyed playing sports, small class sizes, and knowing everyone. Some of my favorite memories of attending Central include winning spirit week all four years of high school and bus rides for sports.

How did your experience at Central shape who you are today?

Life is a series of choices, and for believers, with God guiding our paths. We get to where we are due to all the big, small, and in-between things that happen to us and for us. Looking back, I can see the big, small, and in-between ways that Christian influences in my life have led to where I am. For example, there are many factors that went into a decision to pursue medicine, but having a science teacher like Mr. Pluimer was a big influence in my career path. Then, as a result of my education path, I met my wife in Ohio and have the family I have today.

What advice would you give to current students about preparing for life after graduation?

I'm generally not one for unsolicited advice. But, for those who are considering what to do after high school, I would suggest being open to opportunities. I was set on medicine from my high school years, and that's what I do now. My wife has had a completely different education and career path, working in a field unrelated to her college education.

What is one fun fact about you that most people wouldn't guess?

Those who know me (or know my parents) know that my wife and I have visited all 50 states and have run a marathon in each state.

What is your favorite movie series?

Star Wars

Senior Picture



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!



Cross Country:

Kaiden Ruis, Jackson Marcus,
Bo Duininck, Annaliese Wood,
Maggie Setrum, Lindsey Setrum,
Etta Grannes, Peighton Mulder

- MN State High School
Coaches Association Gold
Team Academic Excellence
for Boys & Girls (10th-12th
graders with a team average
GPA of 3.75 or higher)

Annaliese Wood (5th place)

- All Conference (top 10
place at Conference meet)

Maggie Setrum, Etta Grannes,
Peighton Mulder, Maddie Vogel,
Alysia Buteyn

- Academic All Camden
Conference (3.75 GPA or
higher)



Soccer:

Logan Roelofs - All Conference
Moses De Groot - All Conference
Garrett Mulder - All Conference
Gabe Timmer - All Conference
Honorable Mention
Evan Gustafson - All Conference
Honorable Mention



Volleyball:

Emmi Braem - All Conference,
All Area, All State
Aurora Rosen - All Conference,
All Area Honorable Mention,
Academic All Conference
(3.75 GPA or higher)
Maddy Vander Ark - All
Conference
Emery Fussy - All Conference
Honorable Mention
Central Volleyball Team - All
State Academic
Coach Laura Rosen - Camden
Conference Coach of the
Year and Section 3A Coach
of the Year

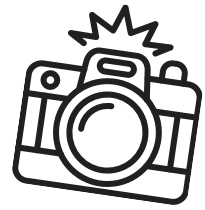


STUDENT LIFE



- A. We are so grateful for our student and parent volunteers who helped with setup and tear down of the Harvest Festival.**
- B. Our Financial Stewardship class stepped out of the classroom and into real-world learning with a visit to Stewards Planning Group.**
- C. At the Veterans Day Assembly, our first and second grade students performed a special tribute song in honor of our veterans.**
- D. The northern lights cast a stunning glow over our school campus, giving a rare and unforgettable glimpse of God's creation.**
- E. Our Ecology students lived out our mission as they served the community by cleaning the ditches along a two-mile stretch of highway in town.**
- F. Mr. De Groot and Kate Link, our Director of Advancement, recently attended a two-day emergency management training through the Minnesota School Safety Center. The program equips participants with the latest school safety best practices and, in addition to the in-person sessions, they will complete 9 hours of online courses.**

STUDENT LIFE



A. & B. Some 2nd grade students and their families rang the bells at Celebrate the Light of the World, where proceeds benefited four area non-profits. The class also took a field trip to the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf to drop off 246 non-perishable items they collected as part of a class project.

C. Our student volunteers worked together to thoughtfully pack the Impact Reports, demonstrating teamwork, care, and a heart for service.

D. Finley Ahrenholz, 5th grade, oil pastel artwork.

E. The Kindergarteners were showing 'Kindergarten Kindness' and brought Mr. De Groot thank-you cards for all he does.

F. Some of the junior girls enjoyed a special outing with the drama team to see The Phantom of the Opera.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

THANK YOU!
\$90,170

Government Class **WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP**

The senior government class traveled to Washington, DC, this fall to explore our nation's history and politics. We felt very blessed to be able to visit all of our planned sites, as the government reopened on the day of our departure. On Friday, we toured the FBI building, the National Archives, and the Holocaust Museum. We saw a performance of Fiddler on the Roof that evening. On Saturday, we visited the Capitol, Library of Congress, went up the Washington Monument, and toured the rest of the monuments and memorials, ending our evening with supper in Old Town Alexandria. On Sunday, we visited Ford's Theatre, the Bible Museum, the Smithsonian, and Arlington National Cemetery. We were also able to see the White House and Pentagon Memorial in the evening. We took time at many of the federal buildings and memorials to pray for our nation, our veterans, military members, and others who serve our country. While the itinerary was packed and students (and chaperones) came home exhausted, we were grateful to have this opportunity to deepen and expand our cultural and historical knowledge of America.

— Mr. Scott Buteyn, High School History Teacher



Central Minnesota Christian School **BOARD MINUTES**

November 24, 2025

Members Present: Heidi Graves, Luke Mulder, Matt Hoekstra, Christy Groen, Sarah Van Beek, Ryan Moorlag, Joe Vander Ark, Chris Schlegel, Mitch Schwindt, Jon De Groot, Paul Leverington (via phone)

1. Devotions and Prayer- Matt H did devotions about how trials and hardship can feel like drowning. We never go through this alone, but God is with us. The trials are used to refine us. Isaiah 43:2.
2. Proposed 2025-26 Budget was reviewed- Pam Harrington MSP
 - a. Motion: Heidi G
 - b. Second: Sarah VB
3. Approval of Consent Agenda (Board folder) MSP
Motion- Mitch S
Second- Chris S
 - a. Board Committee Minutes
 - b. Board meeting minutes from October 2025
4. Review of Leadership team reports for information
5. New to You opportunity- Jon DG
 - a. Motion and rationale were read.
 - b. Due Diligence document was reviewed, including these topics:
 - i. Location
 - ii. Purchase agreement
 - iii. Addendums /easements
 - iv. Tower easements
 - v. Inspection
 - vi. Appraisal
 - vii. Loan/mortgage agreements and amounts
 - viii. Building phases
 - ix. Business plan (financial protections)
 - x. Start-up cost estimates
 - c. Conversation was had about the comfort level of this opportunity.
 - i. Seems like a great opportunity.
 - ii. Kristin Poortvliet's excitement about this location is good.
 - iii. Would like to have a firmer construction number for renovation.
 - iv. A summary of the information would be helpful.
 - v. Jon will find out if some of the inspection items will be revisited.
 - vi. Seems to be a consensus that we should keep constituents updated about this purchase, but not required to get their vote.
 - vii. Meeting date for Board to vote will be set later after final information is gathered.
6. Temporary exception- Sarah VB MSP
 - a. Sarah VB would be teaching two classes temporarily during Jessica Bulthuis' maternity leave: Biology and Anatomy, and would remain on the Board during this time.
 - b. Motion: Mitch S
 - c. Second: Heidi G
7. Follow-up security discussion: Jon DG
 - a. Initial thoughts shared with potential changes- Jon DG
 - b. Jon DG, Kate Link, and all local law enforcement experts will meet to go through security options to discuss their perspectives and best practices for Central
 - c. Options will be presented to Board for Central's security plan consideration
 - d. Non-public grant will be pursued for security
8. Governance Committee Mandate revision- Joe VA MSP
 - a. Motion and rationale were read.
 - b. Motion: Ryan M
 - c. Second: Sarah VB

Continue next page...

Central Minnesota Christian School BOARD MINUTES

Continued...

9. Prayer Initiative Update: Sarah VB
 - a. December prayer plan was presented
10. CDS DCAP: Update our cafeteria plan to align with the IRS changes: Heidi G MSP
 - a. Motion: Heidi G
 - b. Second: Chris S
11. Election process feasibility letter- Paul L
 - a. Reviewed changes to the letter
 - b. Letter will be sent out to constituents
12. Action Items Review: Christy G
 - a. Reviewed past action items
 - b. New action items:
 - Jon DG and Kate L to meet with security law enforcement professionals
 - Jon DG to finish gathering information about New to You from another contractor and inspection questions
 - Board to meet before Dec. 9 to vote on the New to You opportunity
 - Governance Committee election letter will be sent out
 - Jon DG will invite Chris S and Paul L to Pam H exit interview
13. Closing Prayer: Luke M
14. Meeting Adjourned- MSP
 - a. Motion: Joe VA
 - b. Second: Matt H

Election Process Proposal

To: Central Family

Nov 24, 2025

From: The Central Minnesota Christian School Board

Subject: Proposed Change to the School Board Election Process

Dear Central Community,

The Central School Board is considering a proposal to revise our board member election process. The change would shift from requiring **two candidates per open seat** to **one candidate per seat**, and would require a **2/3 majority vote** from our constituents to amend the constitution.

Why the Change?

1. Talent Selection:

Finding two equally qualified candidates for each seat often results in losing strong candidates due to the random selection process.

Continue next page...

Election Process Proposal

Continued...

2. Candidate Reluctance:

Many capable individuals are discouraged from running again after losing, reducing our pool of qualified candidates.

3. Outdated Voting Method:

Our current process is rarely used by other faith-based schools in Minnesota and across the U.S.

4. Geographic Representation:

Candidates from outside our traditional church communities often struggle to get elected, potentially limiting perspectives.

5. Time & Resources:

Significant board time is spent recruiting candidates, which could be better used on strategic initiatives like long-term financial planning.

6. Random Selection (Drawing Straws):

While intended to avoid hard feelings, this method can prevent the most qualified candidate from serving.

Current vs. Proposed Process

Current:

- Two candidates per seat
- Vetting, interviews, and board vote
- Election held at annual meeting
- Draw names of affirmed candidates

Proposed:

- One candidate per seat
- Same vetting and interview process
- Board vote followed by member affirmation at annual meeting

Next Steps

We will send out a brief survey to gauge community support and determine if further communication is needed. The survey will not be anonymous, as we want the opportunity to follow up with questions or clarifications when necessary.

Thank you for your time and engagement. We'll notify you when the survey becomes available.

In Christ,

Central School Board

Joe Vander Ark | Board Chairman
Heidi Graves
Chris Schlegel
Sarah Van Beek

Jon De Groot
Christy Groen
Luke Mulder
Mitch Schwindt

Matt Hoekstra
Ryan Moorlag
Paul Leverington

DECEMBER

PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Give thanks for the hope we have in Jesus	2 Thankful for our Special Education Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Support Staff.	3 Our students health during the cold/flu season	4 Opportunities to show Christ's love during the Christmas season	5 Middle School Teacher, Travis Vander Woude	6 Give thanks for the individuals who shovel our sidewalks and parking lots
7 The Christmas School Giving Project with ICEP	8 High School Teacher, Jessica Bulthuis	9 Prayer over the search for a new Finance Director	10 Administrative Assistant, Gretch Emahiser	11 For peace in our homes, school, and in the world	12 Give thanks for Mrs. Ahrenholz & Mrs. Erickson as they direct the Elementary Christmas Concert	13 Missionaries and ministries sharing God's Word around the world
14 Elementary Teacher, Lisa Jerve	15 Give thanks for Mrs. Erickson & Mr. Veenstra as they direct the MS/HS Band & Choir Christmas Concert	16 Students and Teachers finish the year strong	17 For the high school students as they begin exams	18 Administrative Assistant, Janey Landberg	19 Those who feel alone during the holidays, to feel God's presence.	20 Cook, Cheryl Wersinger
21 Safe travel on winter roads for those who are traveling home for the holidays	22 The School Board Meeting	23 Give thanks for joyful moments that remind us of God's goodness	24 Gratitude for the gift of Emmanuel "God with us"	25 Thank God for Jesus, the Savior of the world!	26 Give thanks for the many blessings	27 Rest and renewal as the year comes to a close
28 Give thanks for a warm building	29 Bus Driver, Rachel Marcus	30 Elementary Teacher, Marit Rheinheimer	31 Give thanks for God's faithfulness throughout this year			



STORE UPDATE

It has been a busy Christmas season! Before the snow hit, we were maintaining a record Average Daily Sale of \$4,270! That is a higher average than October was. Of course, November has fewer sales days with Thanksgiving, and one less day in the month, thus the total is always less.

Speaking of snow...a reminder for our community and parent volunteers. If Central closes the school, we are not expecting you to come in.

For New to You store hours, if Central closes, we will be 2 hours late automatically (planning to open at 11am). A final decision will be made by 9am, whether or not to close.

Have a Blessed and Healthy Christmas Season!

— Kristin Poortvliet, Director of Thrift Store Operations

November Monthly Report:

Total Sales: **\$93,604** Last Year: **\$90,136** Contribution to Central: **\$15,000**

Number of Processed Items: **23,867** Sell-Through Rate: **79.8%** Volunteer Hours: **413+**
(not all entered yet)

TRIP Schedule

Month	Days
December	15
January	5 & 19
February	2 & 23
March	9 & 30

SAVE THE DATE

December 12	K-5 Christmas Concert
December 15	6-12 Christmas Concert
December 17-23	High School Exams
December 23	Noon Dismissal
December 24 - January 2	No School - Christmas Break
January 5-8	High School Winterim
January 9	End of Q2/4K-8 Grade Noon Dismissal/9-12 Grade No School
January 19	MLK Day Assembly
January 19	One Act Performance
February 7	Alumni Day

CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG



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)