

CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG



SURROUNDED BY OUR COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

On February 1st, we had the privilege of celebrating Brad Greenwaldt as the Voice of the Bluejays, calling his 500th Varsity game! For 14 years, Brad, along with Randy Groen and the “stream team”, have brought Bluejay athletics to life—volunteering countless hours so families and alumni can stay connected. A life of service! But what makes it even more incredible is their hearts. These guys don’t just love sports; they love seeing our students grow and our Christian community thrive—all for the glory of God.

To everyone who has ever volunteered their time or shared their talents with our school: thank you. This school has always been built on the generosity of those who show up—generation after generation. And while life seems to keep getting busier, one thing hasn’t changed: our students still need a community that invests in them.

And there’s one thing we can all do that we need more than anything: take time to pray. We invite you—yes, you—to cover our school in prayer. Grab a friend, take a prayer walk through the building, or set a reminder to pray from wherever you are. Pray for our students. Pray for our teachers. Pray that God moves in powerful ways, bringing healing, freedom, and transformation. We want our students to experience a faith that isn’t just talk or theory—but lived and experienced in real ways.

The Peace Corps needs volunteers. So does the local animal shelter. So does United Way. And while all these causes are great, what we’re part of is eternal. We’re not just trying to make this world a better place—we are training students who invite a broken world to encounter the hope of heaven. Your time, your talents, and your prayers matter. Your investment is shaping lives. It’s changing hearts. It’s making a difference that lasts forever.

Let’s keep showing up.

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:

We're off to a great start of 2025. Our focus for the month of January was on prayer. We talked about what prayer is and why we do it. We heard from Ben Markwardt from Willmar AG and did some activities about the Lord's Prayer. It is always a blessing to hear our youngest students take the time to share their hearts and thoughts with God. We hope your family was able to use the prayer challenge to spend some extra time together talking with our great God! To finish off the month, we celebrated Spirit Week with a special challenge to review everything we've learned so far this year.

In February we'll be finishing up our focus on prayer by working through some prayer stations with our Flock partners. The stations will be set up at the Central Showcase as well so you can stop by and walk through the stations! At the end of the month, our focus will move to the topic of forgiveness and how we can show others the love of God by forgiving them.

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



Elementary students spending time in God's Word discussing prayer.



Middle School girls celebrating Bluejay Day during Spirit Week.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE:

Between Winterim and Spirit Week, we have had only two chapels this month!

We started off the second semester with a chapel focused on assessing our spiritual health. In preparation for this chapel, I used a book by Donald Whitney entitled "Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health." I have received so many comments from students who have said how much they appreciated having the time and space to think about their spiritual health. Many made a renewed commitment to pursuing growth in various areas of their Christian walk.

Our second chapel was dedicated to recognizing Martin Luther King Jr.'s contribution to the topics of justice, mercy, and unity. We spent some time reflecting on God's Word as it relates to these topics; we responded to the Word by engaging in corporate prayer and singing. We also listened to a message that Dr. King presented to a group of students at a high school in Philadelphia in 1967.

January went by so quickly, but I believe we have laid a foundation for spiritual growth for the upcoming semester! I would appreciate your prayers as we plan for the upcoming weeks!

— Mrs. Lorna Cook; Faith Formation Coordinator



HEALTH.MOVES.MINDS. FUNDRAISER

Health.Moves.Minds. Fundraiser for 3rd-5th graders has kicked off and will run through February 27. We will celebrate our fundraising efforts with the H.M.M. Jump & Hoops Extravaganza on Thursday, February 27, from 1:00-3:10pm in the High School gym. Family and Friends are invited to attend and cheer on the kids as they compete in jump rope and basketball challenges.

The 3rd-5th graders will be raising funds through Shape America to support our school's physical education program and Rock Valley Christian School's physical education program. RVCS is a school in Northwest Iowa that was severely damaged by flooding this past June. They lost nearly everything but through the generous outpouring of labor, donations, and finances from many different people and communities, they were able to open their doors for the school year this past September 4. We hope to raise money to donate specifically to RVCS's physical education department as they lost nearly all their equipment and have not yet been able to replace all that they lost. The donation link can be found on our school website under Central Resources. Donations are open through February 27.

ONE ACT TEAM COMPETITION



The Central Minnesota Christian School One Act Team recently participated in the Section 3A One Act Competition. They gave a fantastic performance of "Lafayette No. 1" earning a Third-place finish! Thank you to all the hard work of our students and directors Kevin Wassenaar and Randy Groen.

SPELLING BEE

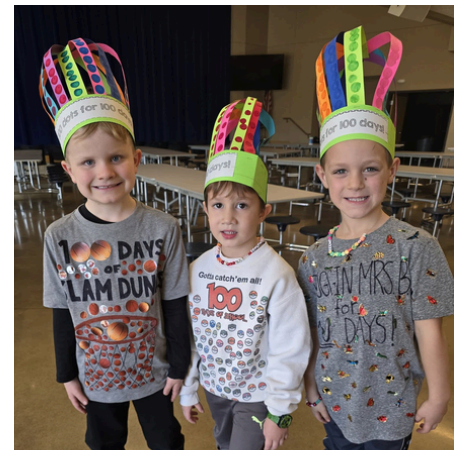
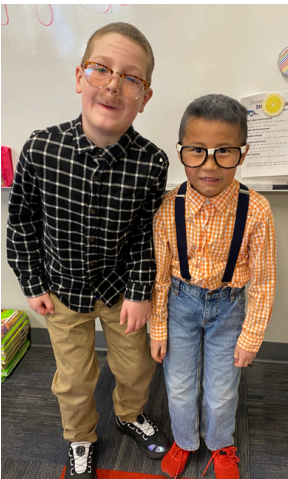


Congratulations to 5th Grader, Alexis Van Beek, the 2025 Spelling Bee Champion! Second place went to Evelyn Zigterman. Third place tie went to Jessa Buteyn and Abbie Rothstein.

Our students showcased incredible talent that it took two days of intense competition to crown our winner. We are proud of all the hard work, determination, and resilience demonstrated by all our participants.

SPIRIT WEEK

From 100 Day to Jersey Day, to Tacky Tourist Day and Jocks vs Nerds, to Rhyme without Reason and Character Day, to U.S.A. Day and Camo Day, the students had a blast showing their school pride and having some fun with friends.



Mr. De Groot at the State Capitol



Mr. De Groot recently had the privilege of spending a day at the Capitol with Rep. Dave Baker, sharing insights alongside public school colleagues with the Workforce Committee about the proposed Minnesota Paid Leave Policy.

“It was an eye-opening experience to see the legislative process in action. Rep. Baker's ability to collaborate with colleagues and work toward solutions for Minnesotans was impressive. While I don't typically endorse specific political figures publically, I was encouraged by his commitment to finding practical ways to address complex challenges, which ultimately benefit our communities, including schools like ours. This opportunity reminded me of the importance of ensuring our voices are heard in shaping policies that impact education and families across Minnesota.” - Mr. De Groot.

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:

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!





Central SHOWCASE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Featuring:

- 4K-12th Grade Classroom Exhibits
- Musical Ensembles
- Science Fair
- 5th Grade Wax Museum
- Art Displays
- Robotics Competition
- Poetry Reading
- Prayer Stations
- STEM Projects
- Children's Book Display
- Math Projects
- and much more!



This year, Mr. Buteyn has introduced a Senior Bible Capstone Class. The new curriculum will have seniors reflect on the 10 Biblical characteristics of a Central Ideal Graduate. To culminate their time at Central, students will present a research project looking ahead at their future profession and how they can live out their faith and be Kingdom citizens.

The students will present their research projects in front of a panel of professionals across different industries. The public is welcome to listen to their presentations as well. Additional details to come!

SAVE THE DATE MONDAY, MAY 12 7PM-9PM



Quarter 2 ~ 2024-2025

**indicates pictured prize winners*

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



Elementary ShoutOuts

Amari Alle
Gunner Bohlsen
Auden Brower
Berkley Brower
Leeland Brower
Breckett Dobmeier
Henry Duininck
Kalli Fagen
Lillie Gerdes
Parker Hoekstra
Bible Htoo
Hser Htoo
Miles Nelson
Jael Slagter
*Oliver Taatjes
Evelyn Zigterman



Middle School ShoutOuts

Kipton Antony
Tucker Bonnema
Joshua Braem
Halley Brouwer
Evalyn Cleary
Breanna Duininck
Silas Duininck
Tessa Engstrom
Ava Erickson
Vivian Fussy
Samuel Gerdes
Eliza Graves
Oliver Htoo
*Hayden Jaenisch
Graeme Molden
Bennett Rausch
Jackson Taatjes
Kelaya Ulferts
Kinley Ulferts
Titus Van Beek
Macy Vander Ark
Natalie Vander Ark
Elias Wassenaar
Conner Zimmer



High School ShoutOuts

Henry Ammermann
Caleb Asake
Naomi Asake
Mikayla Bolkema
Riley Broberg
Breckin Brouwer
Ella Brouwer
Jaycie Bulthuis
Alysia Buteyn
Moses De Groot
Preston Dehmlow
Bo Duininck
Sidney Duininck
Sienna Duininck
Morgan Groen
Evan Gustafson
Carene Jean Louis
Logan Moorlag
Garrett Mulder
Peighton Mulder
Gabriella Pederson
Maggie Setrum
Emily Sunvold
Keena Ulferts
Madalyn Vander Ark
*Sophia Vogel
Jordan Voogt
Sydney Watson





Middle School 1st Semester Honor Roll



Honor Roll is determined by a student's semester GPA.

*Denotes a 4.0 GPA

6th Grade - A Honor Roll

Kipton Antony
Tucker Bonnema
Charles Buehler
Brooke Bulthuis
*Aiden Buss
*Silas Duininck
*Briella Frikke
Vivian Fussy
Penelope Grussing
Lucas Jerve
Finley Larkin
Bennett Marcus
William Poortvliet
Owen Rheinheimer
Moriah Rohlik
Jackson Taatjes
Kelaya Ulferts
Macy Vander Ark
*Oliver Vogel
Tristan Ziehl

6th Grade - B Honor Roll

Ava Erickson
Oliver Htoo
Deacon Jaenisch
Keisha Miller
Lukas Punt
Isaiah Rosen
Abigayle Rothstein
Jocelyn Taatjes

7th Grade - A Honor Roll

Samuel Gerdes
Eliza Graves
Graham Lundeen
Afton Meyer
Lily Moorlag
Wyatt Punt
Bennett Rausch
Jaden Schwitters
Ethan Taatjes
Kinley Ulferts
Elizabeth Wieberdink

7th Grade - B Honor Roll

Halley Brouwer
James Brouwer
Evalyn Cleary
Poe Mu Doh
Addyson Fagen
Giada Grannes
Layna Van der Hagen
Natalie Vander Ark
Elias Wassenaar
Rosalyn Wood

8th Grade - A Honor Roll

Brooks Ahrenholz
Caden Bolkema
Jamin Buteyn
*Breanna Duininck
Carson Lundeen
Isaak Rohlik
Quinn Schueler
Hawken Slagter
Claire Sunvold
Chase Taatjes
Christella TeBrake
Titus Van Beek
Charles Vogel
Olivia Ziehl

8th Grade - B Honor Roll

Nora Duininck
Elsie Erickson
Hayden Jaenisch
Luca Ledeboer-Martinez
Cara McLagan
Dillon Meyer
Josie Mulder
Alexander Nay
Ryder Punt
Isabella Rosen
Isaiah Rothstein
Alyssa Schwitters
Brody Slagter
Landon Taatjes
Sabine TeBrake
Saw Tyson
Conner Zimmer



High School 1st Semester Honor Roll



Honor Roll is determined by a student's semester GPA. Certain advanced junior & senior level courses use a weighted scale to determine GPA.

*Denotes an unweighted semester GPA of 4.0

12th Grade - A Honor Roll

*Riley Broberg
Sidney Duininck
*Wesley Fussy
*Morgan Groen
Carene Jean Louis
Gabriella Pederson
*Sophia Vogel

12th Grade - B Honor Roll

Naomi Asake
Isaac Asche
Anica Damhof
Drew Duininck
Cristina Fresnillo Victoria
Kelsey Hillenbrand
Abenezer Larson
Melany Luna Guano

9th Grade - A Honor Roll

*Walter Ammermann
Caleb Asche
Breckin Brouwer
Chloe Bulthuis
Caitlyn Buss
Griffin De Groot
*Bo Duininck
*Jackson Marcus
Lanessa Miller
Logan Moorlag
Lindsey Setrum
Savanna Wolfe

10th Grade - A Honor Roll

Mikayla Bolkema
Ella Brouwer
Alysia Buteyn
Kaylee Dannen
Etta Grannes
Joseph Graves
Aurora Rosen
Kyle Schwitters
*Emily Sunvold
Silas Taatjes
Ketcie Ulferts
*Madison Vogel
Jordan Voogt

11th Grade - A Honor Roll

Henry Ammermann
*Peighton Mulder
Carrie Mulder
Kaiden Ruis
*Brooke Schlegel
*Maggie Setrum
Addilyn Taatjes
*Samuel Zwart

9th Grade - B Honor Roll

Jager Ahrenholz
Harper Larkin
Aaron McLagan
Blake Punt
Macie Rausch
Jax Rime
Sadie Ruis
Keena Ulferts
Drys Watson

10th Grade - B Honor Roll

Andrew Broberg
Sienna Duininck
Emery Fussy
Elijah Gerdes
Evan Gustafson
Carter Taatjes
Madalyn Vander Ark
Asher Wieberdink
Annaliese Wood

11th Grade - B Honor Roll

Micah Asake
Carson Beerman
Emmilee Braem
Moses De Groot
Preston Dehmlow
Reece Duininck
Ethin Mammen
Carson Meyer
Garrett Mulder
Jennifer Post
Tseganesh Schwitters
Trypp Slagter
Jacob Ver Steeg
Elizabeth Wassenaar
Sydney Watson

Thank You! LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

One of our four values at Central is Bridging the Gap: identifying needs and humbly addressing them by investing in the cause of Christian Education. Over the past several months, we have been blessed by our community of believers who have bridged the gap in long-term substitute teaching needs. The following individuals stepped up and continued to provide an exceptional education delivered from a Biblical worldview.

Tim Caylor stepped in as Middle School and High School Choir Director. He led them through the Christmas Concert in December and is now preparing them for Spring Concerts while Kourtney Schwitters is on maternity leave. Our community has been blessed by your talents and love of choral music. Thank you, Tim!



Cheryl Bonnema stepped up and subbed in one of our 2nd-grade classrooms while Katie TeBrake was on maternity leave. Cheryl was here at school every day, loving and growing with our 2nd graders throughout the first semester. Thank you, Cheryl!



Barb Ahrenholz, Faith Nelson, Tanya Ulferts, and Taryn Buteyn: They say it takes a village to raise a child, and it took these four wonderful ladies to prepare our Elementary students for their Christmas Concert and to keep them engaged this month and next until Kourtney returns from her leave. Each of these ladies contributed in different ways as we worked to piece together the many sections that Kourtney teaches! I was so pleased to see these ladies uphold the standards we have for Music Education in our Elementary School. Thank you, ladies!

Central Minnesota Christian School

BOARD MINUTES

December 16, 2024

Members Present: Paul Leverington, Heidi Graves, Matt Hoekstra, Christy Groen, Luke Mulder, Sarah Van Beek, Ryan Moorlag, Trevor Duinick (facilitated the meeting in Joe VA's absence), Chris Schlegel, Jon De Groot

Member Absent: Joe Vander Ark

Devotions: Trevor D. read a devotion about Christ's birth from Tripp's advent book. Isaiah 53 described his suffering that allowed us to benefit. We were challenged to be sad celebrants.

1. Approval of Consent Agenda MSP

Motion- Paul L

Second- Sarah VB

- a. Board Committee Minutes

2. Administrative reports reviewed for information.

3. Advancement Report: Kate Link, DoA

- a. Marketing & Communications update
- b. Parent Volunteerism remains strong
- c. Enrollment efforts
- d. Fundraising:
 - i. Zach Clark Training has been helpful
 - ii. Donations continue to come in
- e. Highlights:
 - i. Willie Robertson
 - ii. Foreign Exchange Students
 - iii. Online ticketing system for events started
 - iv. Bundt cake sales
- f. What's Next?
 - i. Alumni Relations-Twin Cities Alumni Event- Jan. 4
 - ii. Alumni Day- Feb. 1
 - iii. Instagram messaging
 - iv. Fundraising event
 - v. Paid & earned media
 - vi. Branding-build brand awareness, consistency in video production

4. Student Discipline Update-Jon DG:

- a. Board members attended a meeting with family and friends
- b. Dan Munson's text was shared. He is interim pastor at Unity CRC. Very encouraging message and prayer for the Board

5. Finance Committee: Financial Sustainability/Tuition Discussion: Trevor D reported the following information to start the conversation:

- a. Reviewed Revenue sources:
- b. Reviewed Expenses
- c. What if...enrollment increases, expenses are lowered, giving increases, alternative revenue increases from New to You/Foundation
- d. Reviewed gap between cost of education and tuition costs
- e. Reviewed Staff discounts and other discounts, financial aid, enrollment 364, average tuition paid \$6,003
- f. FTE-59
- g. Thoughts:
 - i. Saving our way out doesn't seem possible
 - ii. Higher enrollment helps but that doesn't solve it all either
- h. All areas need to be considered: Continue investigating in annual fundraising efforts, grow alternative revenues by 2029-30, align on tuition design-commit to annual increases, targeted discounts, financial aid
- i. Review cost categories for savings, keep current programs & add new if fully funded by dedicated gifts
- j. 10-year plan: many conversations have started.
- k. Board philosophy: discussions should conclude with setting a standard that all agree on to give guidance to the leadership team.

6. Work plan review: Committee chairs to submit a written report of progress on work plans for next month's review.

7. New to You follow-up discussion. Jon DG discussed alignment on industrial opportunity.

- a. MOTION: Jon will write a motion with the lease information for Board consideration. Continue next page...

Central Minnesota Christian School

BOARD MINUTES

Continued...

8. Book Club: “Guiding Schools to Flourish” Chapter 21 “Hiring the Right Teacher: One of the Most Important Responsibilities of a Principal”
 - a. Discussion postponed until next month
9. Round Table:
 - a. Jon DG: Great Ham Giveaway on Friday if available
 - b. Trevor D: nothing
 - c. Ryan M: nothing
 - d. Matt H: nothing
 - e. Luke M: nothing
 - f. Paul L: Enjoyed classroom visits...teachers and students
 - g. Sarah VB: nothing
 - h. Chris S: nothing
 - i. Heidi G: nothing
 - j. Christy G: Teacher comments were encouraging on Dean’s report
10. December Board Action Items were reviewed.
11. Closing prayer: Sarah VB
12. Motion to adjourn
 - a. Motion: Heidi G.
 - b. Second: Ryan M.

500TH NIGHT AS VOICE OF THE BLUEJAYS



Brad Greenwaldt celebrated his 500th night as the Voice of the Bluejays! Brad has been the heartbeat of Bluejays Athletics—calling thousands of games and capturing the spirit of every moment. As we mark this incredible milestone and Brad’s final season, join us in saying THANK YOU!





Store Update

Happy New Year!

This year we've had more donation drop-offs but smaller quantities. We have fewer items processed as a result, in addition to selling out of saved winter clothes at the end of November. (Last year we were rushing to get the last of it out in January.) If the trend continues, we will still beat last year's January sales.

Do you view service/volunteering as an obligation instead of an opportunity? We all have those days. This modern world can be frustrating, can't it? Sometimes everyday life is a tug of war between wanting to be good parents without letting the stuff/activities we offer them become an idol. Sometimes I think I am at max capacity, and sometimes that's true.

I often reflect on Bible times and wonder what they'd think of us now. Was it the same but different? Once when I was lamenting to myself I decided to read Proverbs 31:10-31 (the virtuous wife). Move over Martha Stewart and Joanna Gaines! I admit I was intimidated and humbled. Don't feel left out guys; you've got 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 (overseers/deacons). They are certainly qualities that all men should cultivate in their lives.

Those high standards can seem daunting to me. In those moments God reminds me that I'm probably not doing it all for His glory. I'm so busy but with what, and why? God has reminded me as often as I've needed it, 'Am I doing it for the right reasons?' When I am, He gives me the strength and joy I need to persevere.

Here's something God has shown me. I encourage you to press pause, if possible, and reflect:

1. In all I've chosen to prioritize, does it glorify God?
2. Every 'yes' (activity/event, etc.) requires a 'no'. What am I saying 'no' to?

Today is a good day to tell God 'I'm sorry I made it about me. It's all about you, Lord. It's all about you.'

God's blessings to you,

— Kristin Poortvliet; Director of Thrift Store Operations

January Monthly Report:

Number of Donations: **1,136**

Sales: **\$70,764**

Number of Processed Items: **18,040**

Sell-Through Rate: **69%**

SONSHINE 4K

NOW ENROLLING

HALF-DAYS AND FULL-DAYS AVAILABLE
TWO OR THREE DAY OPTIONS
BUSING INCLUDED



Play-Based &
Outdoor Learning



Biblically Integrated
Curriculum



Social &
Emotional
Learning

In Central Minnesota Christian School's Sonshine 4K program, we assist parents in nurturing their child by offering a well-rounded program of Christ-centered, developmentally-appropriate experiences that foster a love of learning. We consider our Sonshine program a kindergarten readiness experience. Our students learn and grow by doing and exploring with experiences reflecting the five developmental areas of spiritual, physical, intellectual, social, and emotional growth.

REQUEST MORE INFORMATION | APPLY | REQUEST A TOUR
CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG/ADMISSIONS

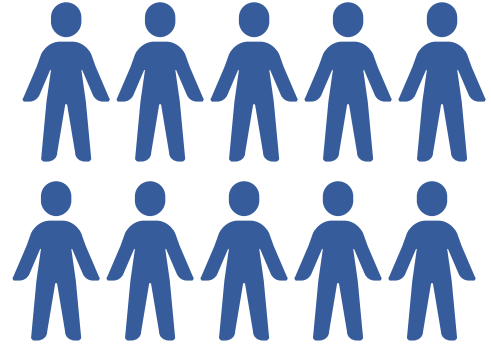
CONTACT KATE LINK
320-978-8700 | KATEL@CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG

TRIP UPDATE



\$15,816.54

**TOTAL EARNED BY
CENTRAL PARTICIPANTS IN 2024**



89

TOTAL TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (TRIP) allows Central families and community members to earn money to put toward tuition. The program works by purchasing gift cards, at face value, to your favorite stores and then receive a percentage rebate that is applied to a preferred tuition account. Community members who participate can apply earned funds to a tuition account of their choice (i.e. family member, Pastor's family, greatest need, etc).

[Learn more at centralbluejays.org/resources](https://centralbluejays.org/resources)

TRIP Schedule

February	24
March	10 & 31
April	14
May	5 & 19

SAVE THE DATE

February 13-14	4K-12 Grade Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 14	No School
February 17	Presidents' Day In-Service (No School)
February 21	Central Showcase
March 11	6-12 Spring Concert
March 24-28	Spring Break
April 2-5	Spring Play
April 8	Annual Meeting
April 18-21	Easter Break

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)