

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

IMPACT REPORT

2025





How Does a Student Experience Central's Mission?

Dear Bluejay Nation,

Last week, I spent a full day shadowing our 8th-grade class. It was a valuable experience to see the day through their eyes. They were a genuine learning community, filled with kindness and curiosity. What I experienced felt like a normal day at Central: real learning, real energy, and real faith in action. From lively discussions about the U.S. Constitution to hands-on science experiments and spirited music rehearsals, students were both challenged and supported. I was pleased by the balance of engaged learning, appropriate uses of technology, and a genuine sense of belonging.

Another way I experience our students' perspectives is by sitting down individually with each senior during their last year for a conversation about Central. I ask them about their teachers, their best memories, and how their time here has shaped them. I am always a bit surprised (I shouldn't be!) by how thoughtful, mature, and encouraging their answers are. Because we know our students personally, it is a joy to see how much they have transformed throughout the years, now ready to be sent out, equipped with a quality, Christ-centered education to reveal God's kingdom through a life of service.

Whether it is the joy and energy of elementary classroom visits, experiencing a day in the life of a middle schooler, or hearing seniors reflect on how faith and learning have shaped them, it's clear: the mission of Central is alive and well. Thank you for helping make that possible through your generous support and prayers.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jon De Groot
Superintendent

Our Mission:

To provide a Christ-centered, quality education to equip students for a life of service.

Our 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.**

Our Values:

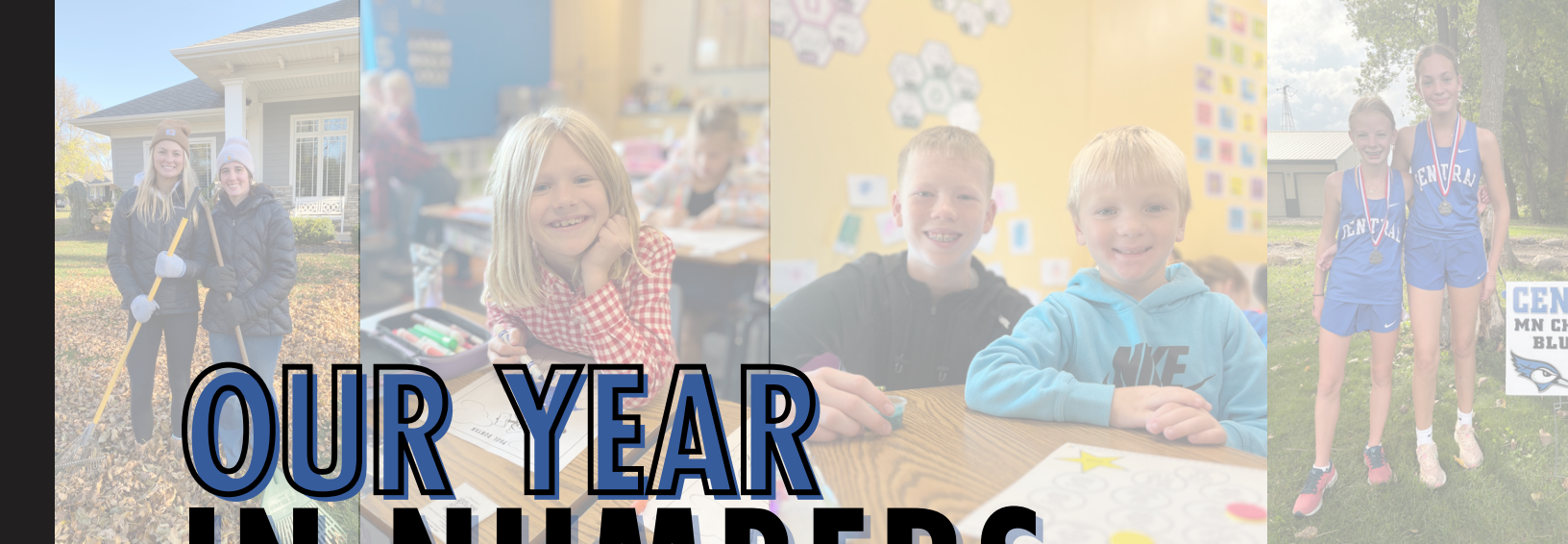
Bridging the Gap: Through service, we identify needs and address them. We see God-possibilities and obediently follow the Spirit to make them our reality. In humility, we give of ourselves, investing in the cause of Christian education and thus, the future.

(I Peter 4:10; Col 3:23; Isa 58:10)

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 13:12; Titus 2:7; Phil 1:9-10)

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)

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)



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

114 — years of providing Christ-centered, quality education and equipping students for a life of service

370 — 4K-12th grade students enrolled in the 2025-2026 school year

181 — families investing in Christian education for their child(ren)

34 — churches attended by Central families

55 — full-time teachers and staff

8 — transportation routes

20 — average classroom size

\$9,733 — tuition for students in 9-12th grade

28% — of the cost of educating our students is covered by generous donors

\$5.1M — total budgeted for 2025-2026

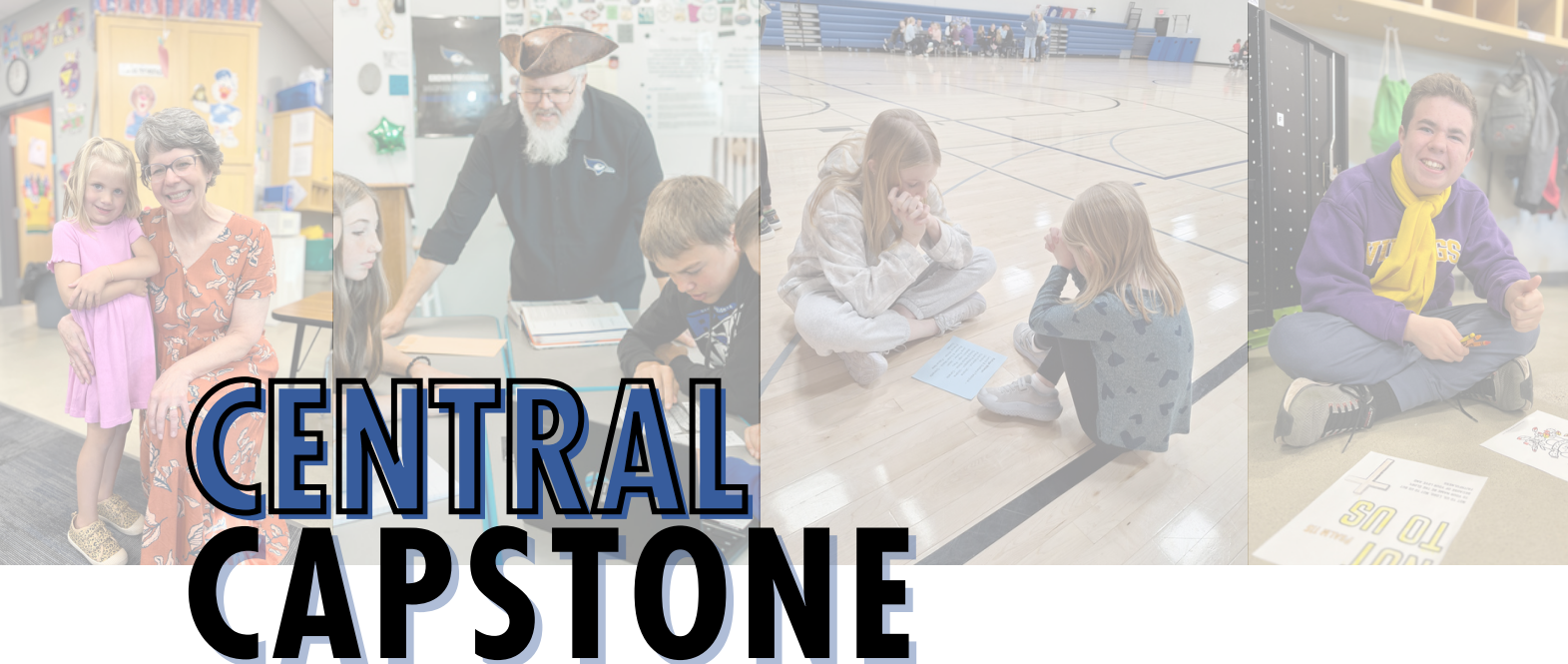
\$369,644 — total financial aid received by 37 families in 2025-2026

\$426,372 — projected gift from the Foundation

83% — of 7-12th grade students involved in at least one activity

6 — Academic All-Conference Athletes





In 2024, Central introduced the Profile of a Central Graduate, a framework built around our Teaching for Transformation Throughlines—discipleship habits that invite students to see and live out their learning as part of God’s story.

To help seniors reflect on these habits in a meaningful and personal way, Central launched a new Bible 12 Capstone course last spring. The course encouraged students to look back on their years at Central and consider how their faith has shaped their learning, relationships, and sense of purpose.

Throughout the semester, seniors created a Faith Formation Portfolio, a collection of essays and photos capturing their growth—academically, spiritually, and personally—during their time at Central.

The experience culminated in May with a Capstone Presentation to family, friends, and members of the Central community. Each student explored the vocation they plan to pursue after graduation, interviewing a professional in that field and reflecting on how they might live as engaged citizens in God’s kingdom through that work. Presentations were shared before a panel of local business professionals, with scholarships awarded in several categories including medical, business, agriculture, and public/law.

“Personally, the capstone project was a defining moment for me during my senior year, further proving my passion for my future. It helped me tie together my abilities to think independently and critically, and to make sure that my faith remains central when choosing my future career path,” said 2025 graduate, Naomi Asake.



*Scholarship Recipients ➡

STUDENT VOLUNTEER HOURS

New This Year

This year, we are excited to pilot our new Student Volunteer Program—an opportunity for our high school students to live out one of the core parts of our mission: a life of service. The program encourages students to take an active role in our school community while learning the values of service, responsibility, and teamwork.

Much like our Parent Volunteer Hours, students are now asked to give a set number of hours in service to the school. Already this year, we have seen students step up in wonderful ways—helping with landscaping projects, providing office support, running concert live streams, and serving in the concession stands.



“

I really enjoyed helping out in the concession stand during the volleyball game. It was a great way to serve the school and connect with parents I might not have met otherwise. — Carson Meyer; 12th grade

”



In addition to the new Student Volunteer Program, we are committed to providing meaningful service opportunities for students throughout the year. One of our favorite traditions is Leaf Raking Day, when our high school students spend a morning serving local residents by raking leaves across the community.

We also organize an all-school giving project, bringing students of every age together to make a difference beyond our walls. Last year, students collected donations, made tie blankets, and assembled dry soup mixes for Family Promise of Kandiyohi County, a ministry that supports individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our area. The second grade class had the opportunity to deliver the goods to the organization as a reward for collecting the most donations.

These experiences not only bless those we serve but also shape our students' hearts for lifelong service.

TEST SCORES COMPARISON

At Central, academic excellence is more than a goal—it is part of our vision to help each student grow in knowledge and faith. One way we see growth in action is through standardized testing. In 2025, our elementary students scored 16–51% higher than their peers in area public schools. These results show that Central students are not just meeting expectations—they are exceeding local benchmarks in both reading and math.

But these numbers tell only part of the story. Behind every score is a classroom where teachers challenge students to think critically, families who encourage learning at home, and students who dive into their studies with curiosity and determination.

Together, this partnership brings Central's Christ-centered approach to life, helping students reach their full God-given potential—both in the classroom and beyond.

Central Elementary Results

Determined by IA Standards Proficiency

GRADE	READING	MATH
First Grade	72.7%	63.6%
Second Grade	82.4%	82.4%
Third Grade	84.8%	90.9%
Fourth Grade	71.4%	90.4%
Fifth Grade	85.0%	90.0%
Elem. Average	80.0%	83.8%

Area Public Elementary Schools Results

Determined by MN Standards Proficiency

GRADE	READING	MATH
Public School A	44.6%	41.5%
Public School B	38.9%	32.7%
Public School C	35.6%	39.6%
Public School D	56.1%	67.8%

When reviewing proficiency rates, a few differences to note between the assessments used at Central and those used in area public schools are:

Central Students take the Iowa Assessments (formerly known as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills) - a nationally recognized norm-referenced test used by many Christian Schools across the country. The Iowa Assessments also align well with most state standards nationwide. When we talk about proficiency, assessments that are norm-referenced (how a student compares to the other students taking the same test), most states, including Iowa, use a National Percentile Rank (NPR) of 41% or higher as the proficiency cut line to determine students "on or above grade level." For example, if a school has a 75% proficiency rate, it means that three-quarters of the school ranked at or above 41% nationally.

Area public schools administer the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs), which are criterion-referenced assessments that are aligned with Minnesota State Standards, and determine proficiency at a fixed performance level based on the students meeting the standards.

Even with different testing systems, Central's performance stands out: our students are mastering key concepts and achieving at levels that far exceed local benchmarks.

Wonderfully Made: Exploring God's Design Through Science

Why did you choose to take Anatomy/Physiology this year?

That is the question posed by Mrs. Bulthuis to 31 juniors and seniors who elected to take this challenging, non-required science course. Their answers varied—from exploring future medical careers, to wanting to tackle a tough subject, to simply gaining knowledge that could one day help them care well for others.

For these students, Anatomy and Physiology is a real challenge. It stretches students to study information in great depth, recall prior learning, and wrestle with moral and ethical questions about life, disease, and death.

For Mrs. Bulthuis, her deep hope is that the students in her classroom see the good design of our Creator in the way the body works, that they have the opportunity to process the way in which the Fall and sin have affected the human body, and that they are equipped to join in bringing restoration where bodily disease has real impact on people made in the image of God.

To help bring the classroom to life, the class partners with a local healthcare system and medical professionals. This fall, they visited the Chippewa County Montevideo Health Facility to tour their Radiology Department. Students learned about imaging technologies—X-ray, MRI, CT, and more—along with education paths and job opportunities.

A special highlight of the visit was students witnessed a live 2D and 3D Sonogram of Mrs. Bulthuis and her husband's unborn son.

Ultimately, as a science teacher, it is Mrs. Bulthuis' prayer that these students leave the class prepared to serve and inspired to show compassion to God's fearfully and wonderfully made people, in utero and at every stage of life.



Serving Beyond the Volleyball Court

It was a fun season watching the Lady Bluejays. From their push into the playoffs and a thrilling win over MACCRAY to earn the Camden North Conference title to receiving numerous conference honors, the season was full of memorable highlights. But for this team, the scoreboard only tells part of the story. Their greatest victories this year came not just in how they played, but in how they served the community.

Guided by Central's Coaching for Transformation framework, the volleyball program continues to focus on more than athletic skill. Coaches are intentionally shaping student-athletes who compete with purpose, unity, and Christ-like character. Practices and games have become places where discipleship happens—where trust is built, where leadership grows, and where glorifying God matters more than a win.

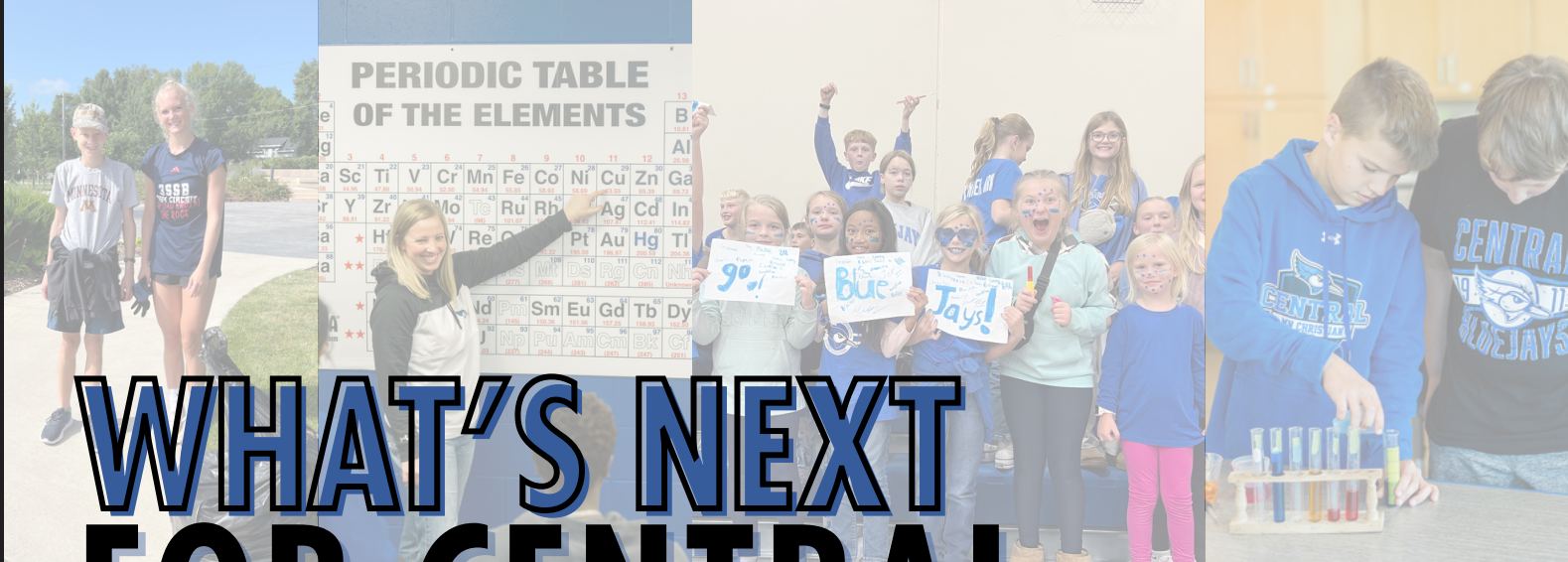
That heart for service showed up in several ways this season. In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the team hosted their annual Serving Up a Cure night, selling bundt cakes to raise money for the Willmar Cancer Center. The girls raised an incredible \$3,161, supporting the center's wig shop, Blessing Bags for new patients, and the Cancer Support Fund that helps families facing financial hardship during treatment.

The team also found smaller, heartfelt ways to serve others. Before each match, captains Emmi Braem and Maddy Vander Ark shared boxes of homemade cookies with opposing captains—a simple act that turned pre-game competition into a moment of kindness and connection.

And for senior Reece Duinick, this season carried extra meaning. Inspired by her younger brother Henry, the team joined in supporting Jack's Basket, a Minnesota-based nonprofit that globally celebrates babies with Down syndrome. With the help of a generous donor, every "pancake" (a diving save) on the court meant another contribution to the cause. Their efforts didn't stop there—the team also plans to visit Jack's Basket to learn more about their mission and help pack baskets for families.

As the season has come to a close, the Lady Bluejays' record reflects their hard work—but the deeper impact is measured in the ways they have used volleyball as a platform for faith, gratitude, and service. Through practice, games, and outreach efforts, they are discovering what it means to compete for something greater than themselves—and to serve others with the same energy and joy they bring to the court.





WHAT'S NEXT FOR CENTRAL

At Central, our vision remains clear—that students grow in knowledge and faith in a community where God's presence is felt and faith is lived out. We want our graduates to step confidently into the world, grounded in faith and ready to serve as compassionate leaders, faithful friends, and Christ-centered thinkers.

Your support makes this possible. Thanks to the generosity of our community, our students are growing in their faith, developing their gifts, and preparing to make a lasting impact wherever God leads them.

As we look to the future, we will continue to focus on three key areas—academic excellence, spiritual growth, and financial sustainability.

We are excited about what is ahead and some of the opportunities we are working toward include:

- Continuing thoughtful discussions on tuition and financial aid to keep Christian education accessible for all families
- Exploring the expansion of our band and industrial arts spaces to meet growing student interest
- Funding a full-time Spiritual Formation position to deepen faith development and strengthen our school culture
- Supporting the continued growth of New to You to increase its financial impact on Central
- Enhancing campus safety and security to ensure our staff and students are prepared and protected
- Growing the CMCS Foundation balance to \$20 million
- Building a strategic cash reserve to ensure long-term stability and future readiness

Behind each of these opportunities is one goal—to equip students to live with purpose and impact the world for Christ.



WAYS TO SUPPORT CENTRAL

PRAY

Pray for our students, staff, and leadership, that God's guidance and wisdom shape everything we do. May His glory be reflected in our learning, service, and community life.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Help us share Central's story—every like, comment, and share helps reach more families and friends.

INVITE

Be an advocate for Central! Share your experience with other families and encourage them to attend an event or schedule a visit.



VOLUNTEER

Lend a hand and get involved! Volunteer as a crosswalk guard, help at New to You, support special events, or serve as a room parent. Every role makes a difference in our school community!

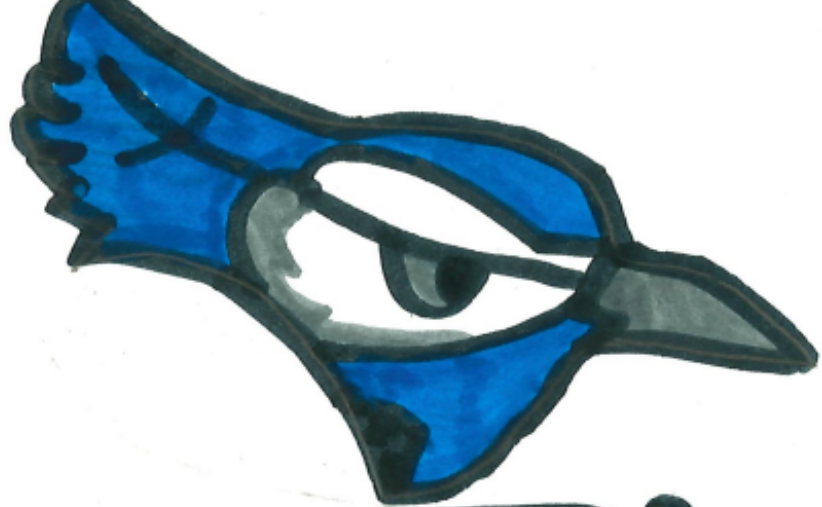
GIVE

Consider supporting our Annual Fund. Donations help keep tuition affordable, covering nearly 30% of our operating budget and ensuring families have access to Christian education.



INVEST

A gift to the CMCS Foundation, whether in cash, stock, land, or other assets, becomes a lasting investment in the school. These gifts are managed to provide steady, ongoing support for generations of students.



Thank you



Serenity
2nd