

# CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL | CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG



## BRIDGING THE GAP

We all know what happens when we assume...or do we?

Our brains are busy all the time, even when we don't realize it. They constantly sort through loads of information and decide what's most important. To do this, our minds look for patterns and shortcuts to help us understand what's happening around us.

Imagine you're walking in the woods at night, and you hear a rustling noise. You might feel scared and think it's a predator. But what if it's just a harmless squirrel? If you assume it's a squirrel but it's really a bear, you could get hurt. On the other hand, if you assume it's a bear and run away—even if it's really a squirrel—you'll stay safe but miss your walk. This is how our brains work: they use past experiences to guess what's happening, including risk assessment, and make a judgment, even when we don't have all the facts.

Our beliefs about the world help us make decisions, like whether something is good or bad, safe or dangerous, healthy or harmful. But sometimes, we fill in missing information with assumptions that may not be true. Sin affects our thoughts and assumptions even in our subconscious sorting and pattern-making. This is why it's important to check our thoughts and make sure they're based on what's real—not just what's popular or convenient.

The Bible speaks to this in Romans 12:2: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." This means we need to trust God and let Him guide how we think. We need Jesus to help us see things more clearly. When we feel like we know the whole story about a person or situation, it's a good idea to pause and ask God for guidance. Through prayer, scripture, and faith in Jesus, we can grow into people who make wise choices and have healthy relationships.

God made our brains to help us understand the world, but they aren't perfect. By trusting Him, renewing our minds, and being humble about our assumptions, we can make godly choices and grow in faith. Let's commit to seeing others and situations through the lens of God's truth and grace, knowing there's often more to the story than what we assume.\*

*\*for related study, check out [Blink \(Gladwell\)](#), [BlindSpot \(Banaji\)](#), [The Body Keeps the Score \(van der Kolk\)](#), and [Thinking Fast and Slow \(Kahneman\)](#).*

Jon De Groot, Superintendent



# STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

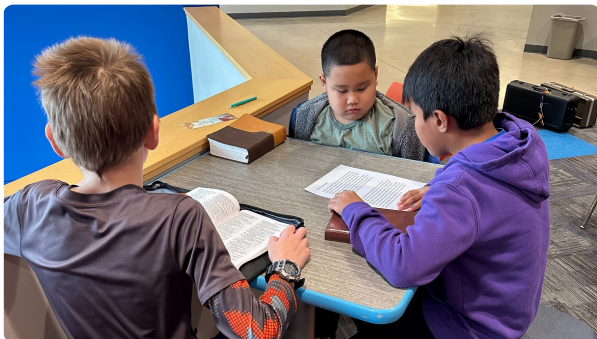
As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34-35

## ELEMENTARY UPDATE:

The month of December flew by! Our focus for the month was on serving one another. We talked in small groups about why we serve, when we serve, and where we can serve. In chapel, we heard from Todd Hazebroek who works at Willmar YFC. He talked about the parable of the talents and invited students to share some of their talents during chapel; we have some very talented students (and teachers)! We hope they will remember to use their talents to bring glory to God and show his love to those around them.

Our focus for the beginning of 2025 is going to be on prayer. We will be talking about what prayer is (talking with God) and some different ways and times we can pray. Be on the lookout for your child to come home with a prayer challenge to complete at home. Our hope is that our students understand what a privilege it is to have the opportunity to talk with God and share all their thoughts, feelings, and needs with God while also taking time to praise him for who He is!

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



*Elementary students looking up Bible verses about serving each other during small groups.*



*High School students on a scavenger hunt.*

## MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE:

Middle School and High School ended their semester of chapel and squads with a breakfast of pancakes and sausage followed by a photo scavenger hunt. I heard from many students that it was a highlight of their semester! Students were asked to fill out a survey giving feedback about chapels and squads. There were many thoughtful responses that will be used to plan chapels for second semester.

On December 20, our chapel was dedicated to Middle and High School students, helping Elementary students prepare a gift for someone. We also joined together as a school to sing Christmas songs before we departed for Christmas vacation! We are looking forward to a new semester of chapel and squad materials as we continue our focus of “as He has loved us, one love another.”

— Mrs. Lorna Cook; Faith Formation Coordinator

## ONE ACT PERFORMANCE



The One Act Team invites you to watch their performance of “Lafayette No. 1” by Mandy Conner. As the yellow fever epidemic ravages the streets of 1816 New Orleans, no one thinks of the orphans known as the Forgotten—except for Lizzie Landry. Lizzie brings bread to the band of homeless youths she's befriended, even though local police and politicians consider them nothing but a nuisance. But when the epidemic entangles Lizzie's fate with those of the Forgotten, they all must band together to hold the city accountable for their most vulnerable citizens. “Lafayette No. 1” is a haunting and immediate historical drama.

The performance will be on Monday, January 20 at 7:00pm in the Central Event Center. No tickets are required, but there will be a free-will donation accepted to assist with defraying the cost of production, set, and costume. Coffee and treats will be served following the show.

## FOOD SERVICES UPDATE

Due to state and federal regulations, the Central kitchen is no longer permitted to sell food items (such as cinnamon rolls, ice cream mix, or food for graduation parties) or supplies (like pan liners, plasticware, etc.) for non-school-related activities. While we have enjoyed partnering with individuals and organizations in the past, we regret that we can no longer offer this service. We encourage you to plan ahead and explore other sources to meet your needs. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



## SAVE THE DATE ALUMNI DAY

Central vs. Sleepy Eye Saint Mary's

**Saturday, February 1**

**GBB & BBB JV - 4:00PM**

**GBB Varsity - 5:30PM**

**BBB Varsity - 7:00PM**

Community Pep Band ● Halftime Games ● Prizes

**FREE ADMISSION FOR ALUMNI**





# Advancement Committee Update



The Advancement Committee is responsible for ongoing review and recommendations to enhance the development activities for Central Minnesota Christian School. Our goals this year focus on two areas --

First, we wanted to gain a better understanding of the enrollment process, recommend adjustments as needed, and provide support to Kate Link, the school's new Director of Advancement. The second thing we wanted to do this year is review fundraising events and find ways to improve upon what is working.

It has been awesome watching Kate hit the ground running. She has done a phenomenal job learning all that goes into Advancement at Central. The job can be very daunting by itself, and having to learn while you are doing it adds another level. I can't say enough about the job she is doing.

When it comes to enrollment, we are looking at ways to partner with 3K programs in the area to recruit new families. Kate and Dean Stier also participated in a Willmar MOMS event to connect with moms of young children. Kate has also done a great job growing our online presence and, as we look to boost our enrollment efforts in the new year, she'll be exploring additional marketing opportunities, including making sure prospective families know the transportation resources available to them.

In the first quarter, we spent time reviewing our fundraising initiatives including Harvest Festival, Legacy Dinner, and Freedom Fun Days. Kate did a wonderful job organizing information about each event and data from previous years for the committee to review. We have a very good idea what is working and what needs revision. We will focus our time in the remainder of the year looking for ways to improve what is working and find new ways to raise funds from outside the community.

## 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.

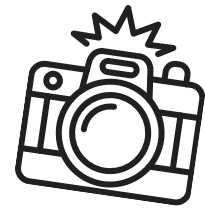
All sessions will be held in the Bluejay Room located in the High School Library.

We hope to see you there!





# STUDENT LIFE



- A. The 2nd Grade class collected non-perishable food as part of a recent math lesson and then delivered it to the local food shelf.**
- B. Members of the Robotics Club were awarded the Engineering Excellence Award and the Rising All-Star Award at a recent competition.**
- C. The Woodworking Class spent time building bird houses with the 1st Grade class. The activity was part of a new Tech-Buddies program.**
- D. Breanna Duinick (8th grade) and Riley Broberg (12th grade) each won 3rd place in the Olivia VFW's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Essay contests. Breanna's essay went on to also win 3rd place at the District level.**
- E. K-12 students hosted Christmas concerts for their parents and community members. Pictured is the High School Choir.**
- F. Senior Drew Duinick recently scored his 1,000th career point. The achievement came during the team's game against KMS.**



# Central Counselor's Corner

## College and Military Visits

Central welcomed representatives from various institutions this Fall. These visits provided students with valuable insights into future opportunities in higher education and military service:

- September 16: National Guard
- September 18: University of Northwestern Senior Campus Visit (pictured)
- September 24: Grand Canyon University
- September 30: Dordt University
- October 9: Ridgewater College
- October 30: Marine Corps (pictured)

## Testing Day - October 11th

Testing Day was a productive experience for students, helping them prepare for academic and career planning. These assessments assist students in understanding their strengths and aligning their goals for the future:

- 8th and 9th Graders: PreACT 8/9
- 10th Graders: PreACT
- 11th Graders: ASVAB



## Financial Aid/FAFSA Info Session - November 7th

Seniors and their parents were invited to an informational session to learn about financial aid opportunities and the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) process. This event aimed to help families navigate the steps toward securing funding for higher education.

## Renville-Sibley's Scholar of the Month Program

Central proudly participates in the Renville-Sibley's Scholar of the Month Program. Each month, teachers from the local school districts nominate one high school senior from their school. One name is drawn each month from the names submitted and the student selected is awarded a \$100 donation to be given to the student's school on their behalf. The student gets to choose which program the donation should be given to at their school (music, sports, arts, etc.). A banquet will be held in June for the students selected (and their families) throughout the year. One of these students will be chosen, by random drawing, as the winner of a \$1,000 scholarship from Renville-Sibley.

- September Nominee - Morgan Groen
- October Nominee - Riley Broberg
- November Nominee - Gabriella Pederson
- December Nominee - Kelsey Hillenbrand

Congratulations to Gabriella Pederson on being selected as the November Scholar of the Month. Gabby was nominated because she is an outgoing individual who is always willing to get the job done. She is attentive to details and always strives to do her best. Gabby works to solve problems with a positive attitude and is always willing to help others.

Gabby has chosen to direct her \$100 donation to support Central's Industrial Tech program. Thank you, Gabby, for making a difference in our school community! (pictured)





# WINTERIM EXPERIENCES

*"We officially wrapped up another successful week of Winterim here at Central! Teachers, leadership, and community members offered real-world opportunities for our High School students during Winterim week. From classes like ice fishing and lifetime sports, to cooking and baking, to career exploration and Agricultural Business, students are engaged in hands-on learning experiences to equip them for a life of service."* - Dean Stier



# TARGET CENTER BASKETBALL



Our Girls & Boys Basketball teams had the opportunity to play at Target Center, home of the MN Timberwolves & Lynx. Thanks to our dedicated Stream Team for covering the games so our fans could watch from home.



# Central Minnesota Christian School

# BOARD MINUTES

November 25, 2024

Members Present: Joe Vander Ark, Heidi Graves, Matt Hoekstra, Chris Schlegel, Christy Groen, Luke Mulder, Sarah Van Beek, Ryan Moorlag, Jon De Groot, Trevor Duinick (partially present online)

Member Absent: Paul Leverington

Devotions and Prayer: In order to focus on thankfulness during this holiday season, Christy G had board members read passages that showed the gifts we have received through Christ.

## 1. Approval of Consent Agenda MSP

Motion- Ryan M

Second- Sarah VB

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

## 2. DOF, Pam Harrington, gave a report on the revised 2024-25 budget.

- a. Pam walked through all of the explanations of the revised budget
- b. Motion to approve: Heidi G
  - i. Second: Ryan M
  - ii. MSP

## 3. School Counselor, Malorie Antony, gave an update on the 1st quarter.

- a. 5 areas covered by Student Success Team:
  - i. Academic: 42 served
  - ii. Spiritual:
    - 1) Chapel: Becky Berry-EL, Lorna Cook-MS, HS, squads
  - iii. Physical: Carrie Asake-Nurse
    - 1) Allergies-35, Asthma-8
    - 2) Medications
    - 3) Medical conditions
    - 4) Rapid response team
    - 5) Wellness Policy
  - iv. Emotional:
    - 1) Short-term needs until a solution is made
    - 2) Long-term needs- weekly to maintain progress
    - 3) Lunch bunch
    - 4) SEL visits
  - v. Technology:
    - 1) Ethical, balanced use with cybersecurity awareness
    - 2) AI policy at Ed Committee level
- b. Numbers:
  - i. 7-8 students are served regularly in 1 or more areas
  - ii. 55 students served this year

## 4. Motion to approve the 2025-26 school calendar with rationale presented by Jon DG.-MSP

- a. Reviewed the rationale
- b. Motion: Joe VA
- c. Second: Heidi G

## 5. Motion to approve Form 990 and rationale was presented by Jon DG.-MSP

- a. Rationale was reviewed
- b. Motion: Sarah VB
- c. Second: Heidi G

## 6. Jon DG and Ryan M gave an update on New to You.

- a. Potential of a dedicated New to You discussion time
- b. Action plan was discussed with Ryan M, Jon DG, Kristin P, Jason D (realtor), consultant
  - i. 2 options considered
    - 1) 2 phases:
      - a) Warehouse for baling (\$5-6/square foot), look for longer-term solution
      - b) Wait until something comes available for all the needs
- c. Options considered:
  - i. Industrial space build-out
  - ii. Other locations to look at

Continue next page...



# Central Minnesota Christian School

# BOARD MINUTES

## Continued...

7. Student Disciplinary Update:
  - a. Family requested a meeting with the Board
8. Book Club: "Guiding Schools to Flourish" Chapter 20 "The Vulnerability Complex" discussion led by Christy G.
9. Round Table:
  - a. Joe VA: Nothing
  - b. Jon DG: Sean Levesque doing strength and conditioning training with students, Harvest Festival was great
  - c. Ryan M: spend money to make money in relation to bringing students in - how many students could we add without great expense?
  - d. Matt H: Nothing
  - e. Luke M: Need to look at tuition & teacher compensation at Board level before budget is due
  - f. Sarah VB: constituent approached about race, social/cultural issues policy to top of list
  - g. Chris S: capacity 450 students, do we have growth potential, financial sustainability plan in place to pull all of the factors together.
  - h. Heidi G: Need Board direction to the Finance Committee regarding financial decisions, volunteers at New to You comment there is more space needed
  - i. Christy G: 2 Board documents that list our upcoming topics/issues and the rocks we are working on will be updated for review in a future meeting
10. Action items:
  - a. Reviewed November Board Action Items
11. Joe VA. closed in prayer.
12. Motion to adjourn: Chris S
  - a. Second: Sarah VB
  - b. Meeting adjourned. MSP

## Happy School Board Appreciation Month!

In honor of School Board Appreciation Month, we'd like to say THANK YOU to our dedicated board members. Thank you for selflessly leading our school and helping further the mission of Central Minnesota Christian School. We appreciate all you do!





# Store Update

Happy New Year! The team at New to You is thrilled to have finished off the year strong. It was a very busy season with a record-breaking December. We couldn't have done it without our amazing and talented volunteers who are such a valuable part of our team.

This January we are working diligently to clean up Christmas and push forward with our planned projects. Our focus this month is upgrading our departments to make sure we have four-foot aisles, increasing the footprint for the Women's Dept., and moving the Men's Dept. up to the front of the store. The Furniture Dept. is getting a revamp to ensure we have four-foot aisles there as well. We will not be able to hold as much furniture but are confident the improved shopping experience will lead to a higher turnover.

God is so so good!

— Kristin Poortvliet; Director of Thrift Store Operations

## Monthly Report:

This Year: **\$82,205**

Last Year: **\$70,764**

Volunteer Hours: **506**

Number of Processed Items: **20,025**

Sell-Through Rate: **80%**

## TRIP Schedule

A graphic of a calendar with a blue header and a grey body. The dates are listed in a simple, bold, sans-serif font.

January	20
February	3 & 24
March	10 & 31
April	14

## SAVE THE DATE

January 6-10	High School Winterim
January 10	End of Quarter 2
January 20	One Act Performance
February 1	Alumni Day
February 13-14	Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 14	No School
February 17	Presidents' Day In-Service (No School)
February 21	Central Showcase

**UPCOMING**

# CENTRAL EVENTS

<b>January 6-10</b>	<b>HS Winterim</b>
<b>January 20</b>	<b>One Act Performance</b>

<b>February 1</b>	<b>Alumni Day</b>
<b>February 13-14</b>	<b>Parent/Teacher Conferences</b>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>No School</b>
<b>February 17</b>	<b>No School - Presidents' Day</b>
<b>February 21</b>	<b>Central Showcase</b>

<b>March 11</b>	<b>6-12 Spring Concert</b>
<b>March 24-28</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>

<b>April 2-5</b>	<b>Spring Play</b>
<b>April 8</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
<b>April 18-21</b>	<b>Easter Break</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>K-5 Spring Concert</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>K-5 Grandparent's Day</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Legacy Dinner</b>

<b>May 2</b>	<b>Prom</b>
<b>May 13</b>	<b>HS Pops Concert</b>
<b>May 21</b>	<b>Last Day of School</b>
<b>May 23</b>	<b>Graduation</b>

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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)