

CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG



WHERE GOD'S PRESENCE IS EVIDENT...

A few years ago, Simon Sinek's book, *Start With Why*, swept the nation. I wondered how something as simple as "Remembering One's Purpose" became a best-selling, groundbreaking idea. Since then, I have reflected on how much of life is "going through the motions." Don't get me wrong—healthy habits, traditions, and disciplines are essential for structure and stability. But one of the most important disciplines is regularly reflecting on "why" we do what we do.

Leadership author John Maxwell writes in his book, *Intentional Living: Choosing a Life That Matters*, "An unintentional life accepts everything and does nothing." Scripture instructs us to be intentional about not conforming to the world but instead being transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). This renewal comes from setting our minds on Christ and asking the Holy Spirit to give us a holy imagination for our lives, our school, and the world. Each day, we must recommit our lives to the Lord and ask Him to live through us so that others experience His presence and peace.

A few weeks ago, I sat down with a public school superintendent who is a sincere Christ follower. We had a great conversation about our schools and the challenges of living out faith in our contexts. He told me about his two daughters—one is an agnostic liberal in the metro, the other a conservative churchgoer in a rural community. Then he said: "What has been so hard for me to figure out is how my agnostic, liberal daughter looks and acts a whole lot more like Jesus than my Christian, conservative daughter."

He described his daughter in the metro as kind and compassionate, someone who works hard to serve others. "Frankly, she is more enjoyable to have at home," he quipped. In contrast, his right-wing daughter is argumentative, edgy, and judgmental. She prides herself on showing up to work every day but seems to find no joy or purpose in it. "She is honestly not easy to spend time with."

His story is a sobering reminder that our faith isn't defined by labels or routines—it's revealed in how we love, serve, and reflect Christ's character in daily life. Going through Christian motions won't make our character or community more Christ-like until we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us through forgiveness, surrender, and humility. Then we begin to reflect His peace, love, and joy and experience His healing in a broken world.

We're a dedicated community that values faith, family, and freedom. But we will lose our collective witness if we don't regularly reflect and challenge each other about "why" we're doing this in the first place. As Bluejay Nation, let's commit to not just 'go through the motions.' Let's continually ask ourselves, is God's presence evident in us? Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name be the glory (Psalm 115:1).

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 finished our focus on prayer at the beginning of the month with one more small group activity, as well as the Flock Day Prayer Stations. It was such a blessing to hear students praying and thinking about different ways to pray. We hope it was a blessing to your family as well. Seeing older and younger students praying together on Flock Day for missionaries around the world, family or friends who are sick, and leaders at their church, and sharing praises or thanksgiving was a beautiful picture. Towards the end of February, our focus shifted to our next topic, forgiveness. We heard a great message from Pastor Brian Bolkema and talked in small groups about having a tender heart toward others. Our focus verse for this topic is Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another just as God in Christ forgave you." We look forward to learning more about forgiveness and how it can show God's love in the coming month!

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



Elementary Chapel with Pastor Brian Bolkema.



Flock Day Prayer Stations.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE:

In preparation for our Flock Day Prayer Stations, our first chapel of the month was focused on prayer as I, with the help of a video from "The Skit Guys," talked about what prayer is and isn't. On February 21, Pastor Todd Henker, Youth Pastor from Bethany Christian Reformed in Clara City, shared a message on the impact our words have on those around us. He used a powerful example from his own life; Todd has been a lover of sports since he was a child and referred to himself as a "yeller" when it came to pointing out his frustration at officials during athletic events. His wife was used by God to point out that the words and attitudes he yelled at game officials did not represent Christ well. He challenged our students to remember that we are Christ's representatives to those around us, that the bar is set higher for us in our speech and actions, and that the world is looking at us to see what it looks like to be a Christ-follower. It was a thought-provoking message and beautifully introduced our topic for Spiritual Emphasis Week (February 24-28) of "Words Matter." The three chapels during that week were dedicated to this topic; Molly Sanborn from the Twin Cities was our featured speaker on Wednesday, February 26. We had breakout chapels with four different adults from the area on February 27. We ended our week with praise and worship with the Bunde Praise Band on Friday, February 28. We pray that as we have focused on prayer and our words this past month, God will use what we have learned to better glorify Him!

— Mrs. Lorna Cook; Faith Formation Coordinator



“THE GLASS SLIPPER” SPRING PLAY

The Central Drama Department is preparing for its Spring Play, “The Glass Slipper,” by Vera Morris. The cast includes 17 High School students and two Middle School students in this retelling of the Cinderella story.

Performances will be on Thursday, April 3, and Friday, April 4, at 7:00pm in the Central Event Center. A Dinner Theater experience will be offered on Saturday, April 5, at 6:00pm. Tickets go live on Wednesday, March 12, at centralbluejays.org/resources. Tickets for Thursday and Friday will be \$10 a person. Dinner Theater tickets will be \$45 a person. See you at the show!

4K OPEN HOUSE

Is your child starting pre-school next year? We invite you to join Mrs. Van Otterloo for our Sunshine 4K Open House on Monday, April 14, at 6:00pm. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the 4K program, meet other 4K families, and get a sneak peek into the exciting year ahead. We look forward to seeing you there and answering any questions you may have!



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As you may have seen in recent news reports, in his proposed two-year budget, Governor Walz has proposed eliminating two very critical services to nonpublic students and families – aid to nonpublic pupils and nonpublic pupil transportation aid. If eliminated, Central and our families would feel the impact. To help families stay informed, MINNDEPENDENT put out a press release that explains the proposed change, how you can stay informed, and what you can do. To view this press release, visit centralbluejays.org/resources.

2025 PRINSBURG SUMMER CAMPS

We are currently in the process of putting together a list of Summer Camps we plan to offer. Do you or someone you know have an interest in teaching/coaching a summer camp? If you have a hobby or talent that you would like to share with school-aged children during the summer, please reach out to Moriah Brower at moriahb@centralbluejays.org by Friday, March 21.



YOU ARE INVITED TO

CENTRAL PREVIEW



TUESDAY, MARCH 18

6:30P-8:30P



RSVP BY MARCH 14



Join us for an opportunity to tour the school, meet Central staff, and learn more about Christ-centered education.

YOU'LL ALSO LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- Financial Aid & Tuition Reduction Programs
- Transportation Options (both door-to-door and hub services)
- Our Student Success Team
- Teaching for Transformation (faith-based curriculum framework)
- Student Activities & Athletics

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
204 School Street Prinsburg, MN 56281
320-978-8700 • centralbluejays.org

4th of July

SAVE THE DATE

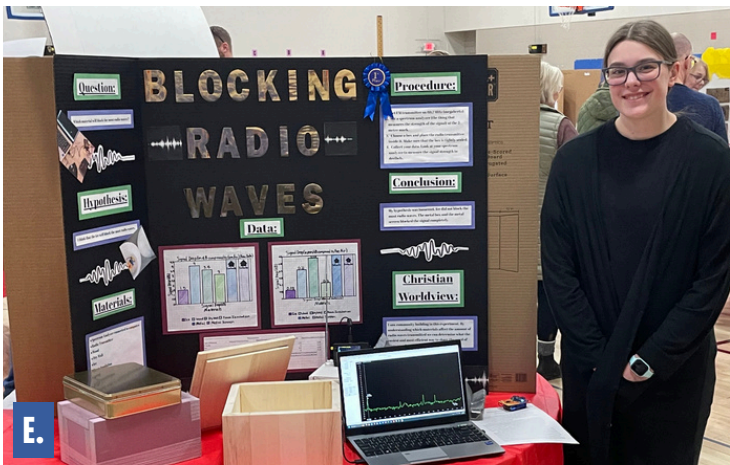
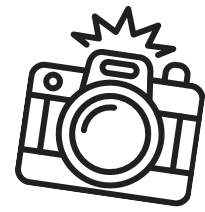
FREEDOM FUN DAYS

Thursday, July 3 — Fireworks

Friday, July 4 — Freedom Fun Run

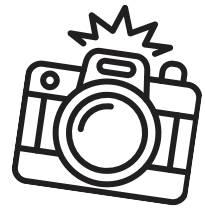
Pickleball Tournament • Pork Dinner • Family Games • Parade • and More!

STUDENT LIFE



- A.** Gabe Honken (percussion), Maggie Setrum (violin), and Lindsey Setrum (horn) were accepted into the Dorcht Honor Band Festival.
- B.** Junior Carrie Mulder recently scored her 1,000th career point. The achievement came during the team's Sub-Section game against RCW.
- C.** The 5th Grade Living Wax Museum projects showcased their famous people at Central Showcase.
- D.** The 3rd-5th Grade students raised \$24,036.56 with the Health.Moves.Minds. fundraiser. The students celebrated with the Jump & Hoop Extravaganza. Congratulations to these top 10 fundraisers: Truman Leverington, Sydney Morris, Cayson Graves, Gianna Vander Ark, Beckham Daugherty (Not pictured), Walker Slagter, Obadiah Zigterman, Laney Bonnema, Kailee Schwitters, Leeland Brower, and Berkley Brower.
- E. & F.** The 8th Grade Science Fair winners at Central Showcase were Breanna Duinick on 'Blocking Radio Waves' and Isaak Rohlik on 'Calf Growth.'

STUDENT LIFE



A.



B.



C.



D.



E.



F.

A. The 3rd Grade class celebrated a special milestone as classmate Bwae Soe became a US citizen. The students enjoyed a treat and took part in a lesson about what it means to be a US citizen.

B. Mrs. Wolfe's 7th Grade Bible class created shelters during their Feasts of the Lord study. The winners were Eliza Graves and Giada Grannes - 1st Place; Halley Brouwer and Poe Doh - 2nd Place; Ethan Taatjes, Jaden Schwitters, and Bennett Rausch - 3rd Place.

C. Speaker Molly Sanborn, The Cheese Ball Chick, sharing some cheese balls with our High School students during Spiritual Emphasis Week.

D. Our Bluejay Girls Basketball team finished the season as the Camden Conference North Runner-up and Sub-Section 3A North Runner-up with an impressive 22-6 record. Coach Brian Nelson was nominated as Camden Conference North Co-Coach of the Year.

E. The 2nd graders are learning about the Human Body: The Building Blocks and Nutrition in Knowledge class. They had a first-hand experience looking at animal hearts. They saw a deer heart, a cow heart, and a pig heart.

F. The 5th-8th Grade students enjoyed a day skiing and snowboarding at Powder Ridge, as part of the P.E. program.

Central Minnesota Christian School

BOARD MINUTES

January 27, 2025

Members Present: Joe Vander Ark, Paul Leverington, Heidi Graves, Matt Hoekstra, Christy Groen, Luke Mulder, Sarah Van Beek, Ryan Moorlag, Trevor Duininck, Chris Schlegel, Jon De Groot

Devotions: Sarah VB read from Romans 12:9-21.

1. Approval of Consent Agenda MSP

Motion- Paul L

Second- Sarah VB

- a. Board Committee Minutes
- b. Board meeting minutes from Nov. and Dec.

2. Administrative reports reviewed for information.

3. Work plan review: Chairs submitted a written report of progress on work plans for review.

4. New to You:

- a. Lease available for review-comments/questions were raised
- b. Motion will be presented by Jon DG for an email Board vote later this week

5. Tuition Discussion:

- a. Heidi G reviewed the base assumptions and tuition options
- b. Reviewed number of families with tuition assistance, full pay, multiple students
- c. Option 2 is recommended and supported by Pam H and leadership for upcoming year
- d. Motion to support Option 2 for 2025-26 academic year MSP
 - i. Motion: Paul L
 - ii. Second: Joe VA

6. Superintendent Job Description

- a. Draft job description for review and discussion
- b. Motion to support revised Superintendent Job Description pending a couple of minor changes MSP
 - i. Motion: Chris S
 - ii. Second: Trevor D

7. Financial Sustainability Discussion

- a. Slide show presentation
 - i. Joe VA introduced the idea of looking at all avenues of the issue (spending, salaries, tuition, Foundation, New to You, etc.)

1) Details will be figured out in the committees

b. Ideas:

- i. Outside company member rewards used for tuition
- ii. Financing over a course of years to level out the cost of tuition
- iii. Deferred payments
- iv. Prepay for education in the future

c. Concerns:

- i. Paying for programs in future after specific projects are initially funded
- d. Considered number of students needed in each classroom for efficient functioning
- e. Tuition strategy and capacity strategy will be developed

f. Refresh Marketing/messaging to community

g. Perception of denomination

- i. community involvement
- ii. sense of belonging
- iii. connection to broader community
- h. Discussed church affiliation and student growth from those churches

i. Brainstormed about realistic growth

j. Expressed desire to grow and stay true to our foundational principles (mission, vision, values)

8. Round Table:

- a. Jon DG: Good support from Dan Munson
- b. Joe VA: April 30-May 1 Board Retreat (afternoon/morning).
- c. Trevor D: nothing
- d. Ryan M: check out websites with school reviews, Winterim-Jon DG's leadership class showed growth in the kids

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Central Minnesota Christian School

BOARD MINUTES

Continued...

e. Matt H: Everyone's relationship with money is different based on their experiences. This is true on the Board and in the school. It's good to have different perspectives to help eliminate blind spots.

f. Luke M: nothing

g. Paul L: nothing

h. Sarah VB: Prayer Initiative spearheaded by Shana D and Lorna C. At Board level, what does this look like? She will email more info.

i. Chris S: New to You needs Bibles, AG Youth service had 11 new commitments to Christ-how to find friends message was great (could be good chapel message)

j. Heidi G: Asked Jon DG for an update on coffee events. First coffee meeting went well (3-4 people), would we consider a daycare center to help with recruitment?

k. Christy G: One Act received 1st place at sub-section

9. Closing prayer: Luke M

10. Meeting adjourned. MSP

a. Motion: Heidi G

b. Second: Sarah VB

February 18, 2025

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

Absent: Trevor Duininck

Devotions: Sarah VB

Paul talks about prayer in Ephesians 1. We were challenged to have an eternal perspective for the reason for being on the Board and why we support Christian education. Remember to keep praying and why we pray.

1. Approval of Consent Agenda MSP

Motion- Chris S

Second- Paul L

a. Board Committee Minutes

b. Board meeting minutes from January

2. Administrative reports reviewed for information.

3. Principal's Mid-year Report: Dean S

a. Student engagement and winterim class surveys by students are encouraging

b. Teacher workshops (Heartland & LETRS), End of Semester checklist, and Feb. in-service continue to pour into our teachers promoting excellence

c. '25-'26 Academic calendar, Winterim week, Central showcase, academic calendar/class schedules, Grandparents' Day are all in the works

d. Teachers have professional development as part of their work plan, which will include consistent teacher evaluations.

e. Dean S has refined the curriculum review process into 10 phases to cover all subject areas. Teaching for Transformation flex projects are being encouraged to meet real needs in our community while meeting educational goals. Central Capstone has been added for Seniors (faith formation pathway that contributes to our ideal graduate profile).

4. Financial Sustainability 5 Year Strategic Plan: Joe VA

a. 3 Pillars: Conversation was had about our support of this 3 pronged focused approach:

i. Retain/Recruit Families

ii. Rational cost cutting & student experience focus

iii. Alternative Revenue Sources (New to You, Foundation, Improved foundation)

b. Board members took time to comment on each area:

i. Action steps:

a) Executive committee: Tuition Task force aligned with Advancement.

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Central Minnesota Christian School

BOARD MINUTES

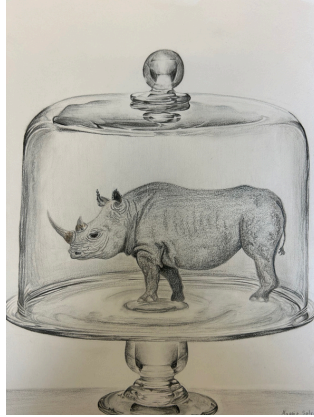
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- b) Assessment of cost cutting plan: Pam H, Heidi G, Finance Committee.
- c) New to You lease agreement: Jon DG & Ryan M
- d) Capacity assessment for the school and how to fill it: Advancement
- ii. Annual meeting:
 - a) Communicate at the annual meeting that we will work hard to provide the best product at a fair price
- 5. '25-'26 Board Candidates: Governance Committee Recommendation:
 - a. Candidates' and incumbents' names were reviewed
 - b. Applications/Profiles have been received
 - c. Motion to support MSP
 - i. Motion: Paul L
 - ii. Second: Heidi G
- 6. Admissions Policy and Process Review: Jon DG
 - a. Motion to support MSP
 - i. Motion: Paul L
 - ii. Second: Chris S
- 7. Prayer Initiative: Sarah VB
 - a. Sarah VB, Shana D, Lorna C are setting up framework for the larger community, including the Board to participate in prayer for our school
 - b. Framework presented:
 - i. Prayer Coordinator Role: Sarah VB
 - ii. Regular Prayer Components: choose a couple of items to start on
 - c. Comments were given to help with development of this idea
- 8. Finance Committee - 3 year Review Recommendation: Heidi G
 - a. Difference between audit and review-recommend the review
 - b. Motion to support MSP
 - i. Motion: Joe VA
 - ii. Second: Sarah VB
- 9. Round Table:
 - a. Jon DG: Foundation wants school to take on clerical work
 - b. Joe VA: Board Retreat April 23 (3-8pm)-24 (8am-12)
 - c. Ryan M: Could students volunteer more?
 - d. Matt H: nothing
 - e. Luke M: nothing
 - f. Paul L: nothing
 - g. Sarah VB: nothing
 - h. Chris S: nothing
 - i. Heidi G: nothing
 - j. Christy G: attention to the Thinking Minnesota magazine article related to Social Studies curriculum in Minnesota
- 10. February 2025 Board Action Items
 - a. Classroom visits: Feb.-Trevor D, March-Ryan M/Chris S
 - b. Devos/Meal: March meeting-Chris S
 - c. Identify measurable outcomes for Superintendent's job (Exec)
 - d. Finance Committee Cable article in March- Heidi G
 - e. Jon DG will talk with Kristen P, Jason D and TWC about the lease changes and email the board for a vote
 - f. Develop a task force to formulate a Tuition strategy (Should we consider an outside organization to hire and evaluate our current and future status?)
 - g. Develop Capacity strategy (Jon DG and Advancement)
 - h. Test alternative revenue goals (New to You-Ryan M), Foundation (Jon DG and Trevor D)
 - i. Brainstorm regarding Spiritual Vibrancy-Jon DG (home and school)
 - j. Jon DG- update the classroom visit form with a prayer request question
- 11. Closing prayer: Chris S
- 12. Meeting adjourned. MSP
 - a. Motion: Matt H
 - b. Second: Sarah VB

ART SHOWCASE



Isaac Asche - 12th Grade



Maggie Setrum - 11th Grade



Mikayla Bolkema - 10th Grade



Sidney Duinick - 12th Grade



Maggie Setrum - 11th Grade



Brooke Schlegel - 11th Grade



Isaac Asche - 12th Grade



Sidney Duinick - 12th Grade



Isaac Asche - 12th Grade



Maggie Setrum - 11th Grade



We are so proud of these 5 students for being selected to join Dordt University's 3rd Annual High School Art Showcase.



Sidney Duinick - 12th Grade



Store Update

We need assistance with installing our new security camera system. It is WAY more affordable to order the cameras and install them ourselves, but we don't know how. Would you or someone you know be willing to help? We are looking for someone experienced with installation, but have been unable to find anyone willing or available to help. We are happy to pay for the services. If you can help, please contact Kristin at 320-231-1850.

This was a unique month. Cold weather made for a VERY slow first half month or more. We are delighted with the final results for the month.

You will see a lower sell-through rate as we have adjusted how we count seasonal items in processing. This is to give us a more accurate account of how our time is spent (pieces processed per hour). We decided that staying on top of productivity was a better metric for our strategic use than the sell-through rate.

— Kristin Poortvliet; Director of Thrift Store Operations

February Monthly Report:

Total Sales: **\$65,321** Last Year: **\$65,240** Contribution to Central: **\$12,000**

Number of Processed Items: **24,487** Sell-Through Rate: **51.2%** Volunteer Hours: **449**

TRIP Schedule

March	10 & 31
April	14
May	5 & 19
June	2 & 16

SAVE THE DATE

March 11	6-12 Spring Concert
March 24-28	Spring Break
April 3-5	Spring Play
April 8	Annual Meeting
April 15	Coffee with the Superintendent
April 18-21	Easter Break
April 24	K-5 Spring Concert
April 25	K-5 Grandparent's Day
April 25	Legacy Dinner
May 2	Prom

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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)

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