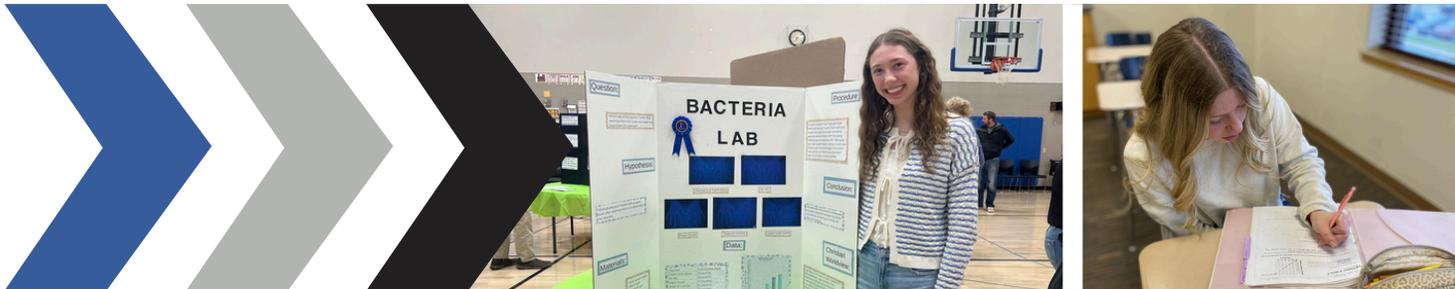


CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL | CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG



BETTER TOGETHER, BUILDING TRUST, BRIDGING THE GAP, BEING TRANSFORMED

Ronald Reagan was known for greeting visitors to the White House with the phrase: “Welcome to your house!” Sometimes he would add, “Thanks for letting me stay here for a little while.” That simple expression captured the right spirit of stewardship in leadership.

At Central, we often say, “This is God’s school.” Our Board, leadership team, faculty, and staff approach our work with this conviction. We are not owners, but servants called to the mission of equipping students with a quality, Christ-centered education. As leaders, we want our work to bring God glory and edify our students.

The hard work of leadership comes in discerning decisions when differing perspectives and disagreements arise about the best way to accomplish this mission. And in an organization that impacts thousands of people, directly and indirectly, differences will arise. Abraham Lincoln, often cited as one of the best leaders in American history, stood out because of his ability to be surrounded by people who disagreed with him while maintaining unity around the mission.

I am not Abraham Lincoln. But I am seeking unity around our mission. Whether the topic is finances, discipline, schedules, hiring, busing, policies, athletics, or academics, we may not always see things the same way. But I want you to know that we believe this is God’s school, and we are working hard to steward the resources and opportunities he provides. We value your voice and want to hear any ideas and perspectives that will help us move toward the mission and vision of the school.

Welcome to God’s school - I am grateful he is allowing us to serve here, together, for a little while.

Jon De Groot, Superintendent



STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

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

ELEMENTARY UPDATE:

We kicked off the month of February with one of our favorite chapels of the year, Favorite Songs Chapel. Each grade level chooses a favorite worship song and then gets a chance to be on stage and lead the rest of the students in their choice. It is always a joy to see the different songs chosen and to see the students take the lead in worshipping our God. Throughout the rest of the month, we focused on the throughline of Justice Seeking. This is a big topic to cover with elementary students, but hopefully, they've taken some nuggets from our discussions and activities and are seeking ways to confront injustice (brokenness) with compassion and advocate for righteousness.

If you are interested in continuing this discussion at home, we have a new resource available for you. Teaching for Transformation has put together a family devotional that provides discussion questions, Bible passages, and simple activities for a family to walk through together to learn more about the throughlines. [Click here](#) to access the introduction lesson as well as the lesson about justice seeking. We will continue to attach the relevant lessons as elementary students focus on them in student discipleship. If you would like a printed copy of the devotional, please contact Becky Berry at beckyb@centralbluejays.org.

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



Elementary students during their Favorite Songs Chapel.



High School students leading worship during Spiritual Emphasis Week.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE:

In the middle and high school chapels, February started with a bang, as we hosted Patrick Nelson, a highly decorated, retired US Army Paratrooper, who is Founder and CEO of Loyalty Point Leadership. He was dynamic as he reflected on how God's provision in his life, though having to navigate a turbulent childhood, was preparing him for the challenges he would later face on the battlefield. His message was one of encouragement to press on in trusting God, regardless of our current circumstances, with a bold and courageous faith!

That launched us into an All-Worship Chapel, which was designed to be spent mostly through songs of praise and adoration, along with guided times of personal and corporate prayer. This was well received by the student body, as the Holy Spirit was clearly present and many walked away from this time feeling blessed - Praise God that He is a promise keeper ... as we draw near to Him, he draws near to us.

(James 4:8)

This sure set the stage for our Spiritual Emphasis Week. We invited Jim McKenzie from Gainesville, Florida, as our Guest Speaker. He led our chapel services Wednesday-Friday, while adding a Parent Night on Wednesday evening. Jim focused our attention on the teaching of Shalom, and how this translates into 'flourishing' with God, creation, others, and self. Creatively, every service was led by a different Worship Team, providing ministry for local talent.

— *Mr. Bill Hodge, Faith Formation Coordinator*



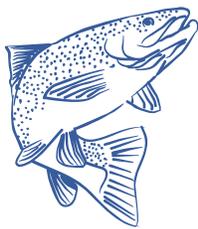
“CHARLOTTE’S WEB” SPRING PLAY

The Central Drama Department is preparing for their spring play, “Charlotte’s Web,” adapted by Joseph Robinette based on the book by E.B. White. The cast and crew include 23 high school students and one middle school student.

Performances will be on Thursday, April 16, and Friday, April 17, at 7:00pm for \$10 a person. A Dinner Theater experience will be offered on Saturday, April 18, at 6:00pm for \$30 a person. The play will be performed in the Central Event Center. Tickets go on sale on Monday, March 16, at 9:00am at centralbluejays.org/resources. 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 20, 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!



FISHING CLUB

The Central Fishing Club is in need of more boat captains. Fishing Club will be one evening a month from the end of May through the end of July, from 6:00-8:00pm. If you are interested, please contact Brandon Rothstein at brandonr@centralbluejays.org or 320-444-2605.

5-12 BAND & 6-12 CHOIR SPRING CONCERT

Our Music Department invites you to attend their Spring Concert featuring the 5-12 Grade Band & 6-12 Grade Choir on Monday, March 16. The Band begins at 6:30pm in the High School Gym, with the Choir to follow in the Event Center.



Welcome

MORGAN PAP



Family:

My parents are Jamie and Brigette Pap. I have three younger siblings – Makenzie, Ryan, and Tyler.

Position:

High School Math and Business Teacher

Church:

First CRC of Edgerton, MN

Hobbies:

I enjoy watching and playing sports, fixing puzzles, playing board games, and being outside on the farm!

How will you use your relationship with Jesus in the classroom?

My relationship with Jesus guides the way I teach and support students each day. Because of Him, I approach each student with compassion, high expectations, and a commitment to their academic and spiritual growth. I aim to model curiosity and a love of learning so students can connect their work to the world around them and their future calling. Ultimately, I want my teaching to point students toward using their gifts to serve others and glorify God.



JOIN US IN WELCOMING MORGAN PAP TO BLUEJAY NATION

25TH FREEDOM FUN RUN



& ADAM'S RACE

Hosted by:  **prins**BANK

SAVE THE DATE: FREEDOM FUN RUN
SATURDAY, JULY 4 2026

MEET THE TEACHER



Mrs. Zimmer
4K-2nd Grade Art & Academic Support

Get to Know Mrs. Laura Zimmer

Family:

My husband Chris and I have 4 children, Ellianna (3rd grade), Jay (Kindergarten), Cal (4K), and Mila (2 years old)

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

What I love most about my job is the strong sense of family within the school. The staff truly works together and pours so much time, care, and encouragement into the students. One of my favorite moments is listening to the elementary students sing at chapel, it almost brings me to tears every time. Seeing their joy and unwavering faith is such a beautiful and powerful reminder of why Central is so special.

What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, being outdoors, going on Ranger rides, playing games, and working on puzzles.

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

My deep hope is that the students in my class will discover and use their God-given talents to create beauty that inspires, blesses, and brings joy to those around them.

Prayer requests?

I pray that the students and staff are filled with renewed energy as we enter the fourth quarter of the school year. Help students remember that every talent, every idea, and every success comes from God. Guide their thoughts, their words, and their actions so that in all they do, studying, helping others, and growing in knowledge, they bring glory to God.

This or That?

Coffee or Tea - Coffee

Movie or Book - Movie

Beach or Mountains - Both :)

Pencil & Paper or Electronic - Pencil & Paper

Cats or Dogs - Dogs

Fruits or Vegetables - Fruits

Sweet or Salty - Sweet

Farm or City - Farm

Weekends or Weekdays - Weekends

Morning Person or Night Owl - Morning Person



Alumni Spotlight

where are they now...



Family:

Hope Ledeboer-Smith,
Isabella Smith (13), Hezekiah Smith (12)

What year did you graduate from Central?

1994

What is your favorite hobby?

Playing cards with friends or attending football and basketball games for my high school Young Life friends! Also baking with my kids!!!



Senior Picture

Hope Ledeboer-Smith

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

I graduated from Calvin University in 1998 with a major in Social Work and Criminal Justice. I worked for Young Life after graduating from Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI, for 2 years. Moved to Benton Harbor, MI, and worked for Young Life for 3 years before moving to Minneapolis, MN. I have lived in Minneapolis for the last 23 years. While on staff with Young Life, I got my Master's in Urban Youth Leadership from Fuller Seminary.

Currently, I still work for Young Life; 50% of my time is spent ministering to young people and staff in Minneapolis, and 50% of my time I am responsible for training and equipping our part-time staff of color in the Midwest.

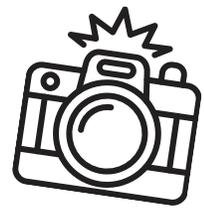
What are some of your favorite memories from your time at Central?

My favorite memories from Central include playing basketball and volleyball, the teams I got to be a part of, and the coaches who poured into us constantly! I often think of the teachers I had and how they cared about us deeply, not just how we performed or what grades we got. They wanted us to understand deeply how much the Lord desires for us and wants a relationship with us. I think about the ways they encouraged us to love everyone around us and how they integrated the gospel into all of our education. Also, having my Uncle Bud as my bus driver for 10 years!!!!!! I also created incredible friendships with so many while there!

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

Learn about the ways the Lord has uniquely created you and what you have to offer the world. Find what brings you joy that you can offer to others. Also, find a way to volunteer and get involved in whatever community the Lord puts you in!

STUDENT LIFE



A. Our 5th Grade students dressed up for their Wax Museums at the Central Showcase.

B. Mikayla Bolkema (clarinet), Caitlyn Buss (baritone saxophone), Lindsey Setrum (french horn), and Maggie Setrum (violin) were accepted into the Dordt Honor Band Festival.

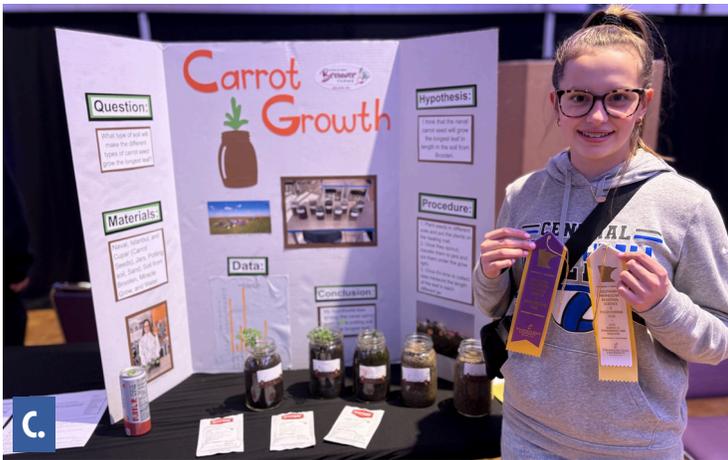
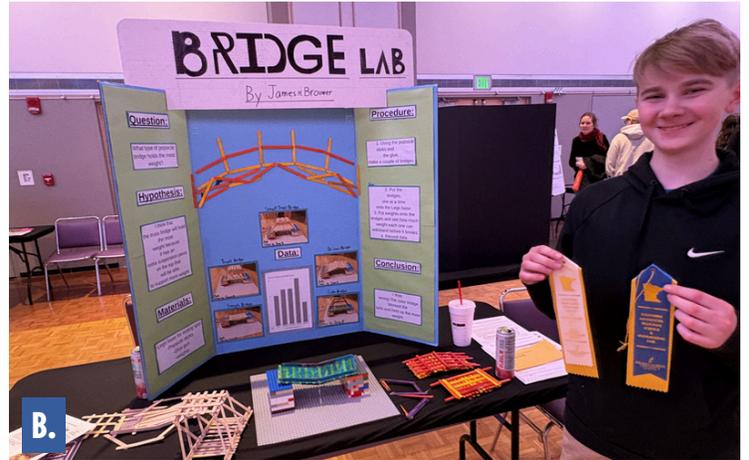
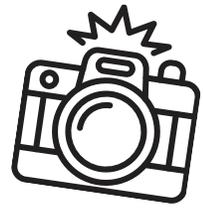
C. We want to thank Jim McKenzie for being our guest speaker during our Spiritual Emphasis week.

D. Our Anatomy & Physiology students brought science to life by showing sheep heart dissections and teaching 4th graders about the human heart.

E. Our littest Bluejays love the Lady Jays (and Blaze too)!

F. The 3rd-5th Grade students raised \$25,228.25 with the Health.Moves.Minds. fundraiser. The students celebrated with the Jump & Hoop Extravaganza. Congratulations to these top 10 fundraisers: Sydney Morris, Cayson Graves, Nellie Punt, Truman Leverington, Eva Hanson, Connor Marcus, Obadiah Zigterman, Beckham Daugherty, Oliver Van Beek, and Gianna Vander Ark

STUDENT LIFE



A., B., C. Congratulations to Elias Wassenaar (A.), James Brouwer (B.), and Halley Brouwer (C.), who earned ribbons at the Regional Science Fair in Mankato. They will advance to the State Science Fair Competition at the RiverCenter in St. Paul.

D. The senior Ecology class spent their morning dissecting sharks.

E., F. Congratulations to the high school band (E.) and the choir (F.) for both receiving superior ratings at Large Group Contest.

ART SHOWCASE



We are so proud of these 7 students for being selected to join Dordt University's 4th Annual High School Art Showcase.

- Bo Duinick – Moonlit Watertower (Acrylic)
- Lindsey Setrum – Double Arches (Acrylic)
- Keena Ulferts – Van Gogh Inspired Landscape (Oil Pastels)
- Maggie Setrum – Iris (Colored Pencil)
- Brooke Schlegel – Layla (Colored Pencils)
- Elzie Wassenaar – Flowers (Acrylic)
- Reece Duinick – Untitled (Acrylic)



Congratulations to Caitlyn Buss, as her artwork, a watercolor painting, was chosen as a winning piece in a local contest with the VFW Auxiliary and will advance to the state level in St. Paul in April. If her work is again selected, it will advance to a National level in Kansas City, MO, in May.



Maggie Setrum
Art 3,
Colored Pencil



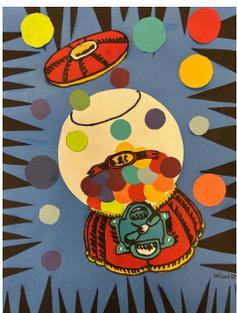
Conner Zimmer
Intro to Art,
"Beyond the Borders" Drawing



Grace Punt
5th Grade,
Coral Reef Drawing



Finley Ahrenholz
5th Grade,
Oil Pastels, Van Gogh



Leeland Brower
6th Grade,
Pop Art



Lillie Gerdes
6th Grade,
Pop Art



Trey Taatjes
6th Grade,
Creature in a Jar



Keena Ulferts
Art 2,
Surrealist Self-Portrait



Brooke Schlegel
Art 3,
Acrylic Painting

BLUEJAY BASKETBALL 25-26: A SEASON TO CELEBRATE

Congratulations to our boys and girls basketball teams on two exciting and memorable seasons! Your hard work, teamwork, and determination have made this year so much fun to watch. We are proud of you!



It has been a banner year for the Lady Jays! The team captured the Camden Conference Championship, swept through the playoffs to win both the Sub-Section and Section titles, and earned the program's first State Tournament appearance in 25 years.



The boys basketball team completed their regular season with a Camden Conference Championship and now find themselves in the midst of an exciting playoff run. Coming off their recent Sub-Section Championship win, they will face Hills-Beaver Creek for the Section Championship.

Central Minnesota Christian School

BOARD MINUTES

March 2, 2026

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

1. Devotions and Prayer- Mitch S read from I Kings 3:9 regarding King Solomon's request for discernment. He wanted to lead rightly with discernment. Heb 5:14 This skill is developed over time as we walk with God. Pause to listen for God's leading when making decisions. Does it align with Scripture, benefit our families and students, create peace in our hearts? Good leadership requires wisdom, but godly leadership requires discernment.

2. Principal's report: Dean Stier

a. Elementary:

i. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum was expressed by teachers. There are 5 core competencies of SEL with scriptural ties that are being piloted in Spring 2026, reviewed by Ed Comm fall 2025:

1. Self-awareness: Ps. 139:23-24
2. Self-management: Gal. 5:22-23
3. Social awareness: Phil. 2:3-4
4. Relationship skills: Eph. 4:32
5. Responsible decision making James 1:5

ii. Test Scores Comparison with area schools

b. Sub and long-term plan for MS ELA was shared.

c. MSU Science Fair: 3 students advance to state

d. Winterim Results: Many new course offerings

e. Block Scheduling/Deeper Learning Days:

i. Decision making timeline was explained

ii. New feature of block: (extended class time, fewer classes per day, less study hall time, limited study halls, more electives, more active learning, built-in work time with the teacher there)

iii. Staying the course: (instructional time, commitment to spiritual growth, commitment to Biblical Integration, commitment to our vision, Commitment to our Mission)

3. Approval of Consent Agenda MSP

Motion- Heidi G

Second- Chris S

a. Board Committee Minutes

b. Board meeting minutes from January 2026

4. Review of Leadership team reports for information

5. Opening Remarks: Mission, Vision, Board Work: Joe VA

a. Challenged to have 5 conversations with constituents in the next month

6. Superintendent Remarks: Jon DG

a. Superintendent Report questions

b. Policy Clarification discussion on co-op policy

c. Bus conduct policy: Shared for information, be sure it aligns with our mission/vision/values

7. Budget: Heidi G

a. 26/27 Budget with 5-year plan

b. 26/27 Budget to be presented at the annual meeting was reviewed and discussed.

i. We will have an email vote on the final projected numbers before Mar 18, 2026

8. Prayer Initiative Update- Sarah VB

a. March Prayer requests for Elementary staff will be shared later in an email

9. Discussion regarding Governance Committee list for nominees- Joe VA

a. Nominee chart was explained and agreed upon

b. 4 Board Nominees were affirmed by the Board members

Continue next page...

Central Minnesota Christian School

BOARD MINUTES

Continued...

c. Nominee Supporting Information was reviewed
Motion: Paul L
Second: Sarah VB
MSP

10. Previous and New Action Items: Christy G
a. Reviewed past action items
b. New action items were presented

11. Closing Prayer: Chris S

12. Meeting Adjourned- MSP
a. Motion: Paul L
b. Second: Matt H

Governance Committee Update

A few months ago, our Board president provided a great article in the Cable that explained Central's mission guided approach to Board operations, helping to ensure that Central remains rooted in biblical truth, excellent in education, and strong in leadership for years to come, supporting our mission "to provide a Christ-Centered quality education to equip students for a life of service."

To help the Board in this approach, the Governance Committee is responsible for ongoing review and recommendations to enhance the governance effectiveness of the Board. The committee is made up of past board leaders from the last 40 years, ensuring a diverse cross-section of viewpoints and perspectives that have shaped Central over much of its history. The focus of the committee revolves around the following five major areas:

1. Board Role and Responsibilities

- Leads the Board in regularly reviewing and updating the Board's statement of its role and areas of responsibility, and the expectations of individual board members.
- Assists the Board in periodically updating and clarifying the primary areas of focus for the Board — the Board's agenda for the next two years, based on the strategic plan.

2. Board Composition

- Lead in assessing current and anticipated needs for Board composition, determining the Board's knowledge, attributes, skills, abilities, influence, and access the Board will need to consider in order to accomplish future work of the Board.

Continue next page...

Governance Committee Update

Continued...

- Develop a profile of the Board as it should evolve over time.
- Identify and present potential board member candidates and explore with each candidate his or her interest and availability in Board service.
- Nominate individuals to be elected as directors of the Board.
- Work with each board member to identify the appropriate role he or she might assume on behalf of the organization.
- At the end of board members' first term, assess commitment and continuing interest in board membership and term of service.

3. Board Knowledge

- Designs and oversees a process of board orientation, including information prior to election as a board member and information needed during the first cycle of board activity for new board members.
- Design and implement an ongoing program of Board information and education for all board members.

4. Board Effectiveness

- Lead the periodic assessment of the board's performance; propose, as appropriate, changes in board structure, roles, and responsibilities.
- Regularly reviews the board's practices regarding member participation, conflict of interest, confidentiality, etc., and suggests improvements as needed.

5. Board Leadership

- Lead in succession planning, taking steps to recruit and prepare for future board leadership
- Nominates board members for election as board officers

While not very visible in its operation, the Governance Committee provides an important role in helping the Board run effectively, staying true to the historic principles on which the school was founded and built, while ensuring that the school is equipped to prepare current and future students for a life of service as they become Christ-centered leaders in the world in which we live.

On behalf of the Governance Committee,

Jon De Groot, Joe Vander Ark, Josh Lundeen, Paul Leverington, Trevor Duinick,
Jason Ver Steeg, Larry Marcus, Neil Graves

MARCH

PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 For students to find joy in learning and discovery in the classrooms	2 The School Board Meeting	3 Give thanks for supportive families of Christian education	4 Give thanks for the new New to You building	5 Bus Driver, Heh Nay	6 Give thanks for community partnerships who invest in our school	7 Give thanks for our dedicated teachers and staff
8 Give thanks for our Support Staff	9 Mrs. Erickson and Mr. Veenstra and the students participating in Large Group Contest	10 Prospective families who attend Central Preview	11 Custodian, Bob Stoel	12 Give thanks for laughter and joyful moments	13 Give thanks for a successful Quarter 3	14 Elementary Teacher, Vince Vander Pol
15 The spring baseball program	16 For our students this week during Iowa Assessments	17 Bus Driver, Mindy Grannes	18 The spring track & field program	19 High School Teacher, Emily Setrum	20 Give thanks for our fine arts programs	21 For students to build confidence and resilience
22 Give thanks for the beauty of the changing seasons	23 Give thanks for rest and renewal for families during Spring Break	24 High School Teacher, Rhonda Slagter	25 The spring golf program	26 Elementary Teacher, Laura Zimmer	27 Bus Driver, Ruby Graves	28 High School students at Solo Ensemble Contest
29 That students will use their gifts and talents confidently	30 High School Teacher, Brandon Rothstein	31 New York Mission Trip students and chaperones				



STORE UPDATE

Recently, we've identified a predictable seasonality between groupings of months. February is a perfect example to share. We've always known that January and February dip in sales - they are always the slowest months of the year. But what we've recently discovered in a five-year analysis is that if January is lower than normal (this Jan was down with snow), February will make up for it. The 'season' of January/February is always 12-13% of the year's total (12.6% average). Based on the seasonality we have observed in the fall and their usual percentage of the total, this January/February falls perfectly in line with the forecasted revenue, at 12.8%. In other words, business is great!

We will be hiring soon for the second store, for several positions in Receiving, Processing, and Retail. We will have more specifics soon. If you know someone who may be interested, please send them our way! Thank you for your investment in our school!!

— Kristin Poortvliet; Director of Thrift Store Operations

February Monthly Report:

Total Sales: **\$71,727** Last Year: **\$65,686** Contribution to Central: **\$15,000**

Donations Items: **796** Donation Items last February: **655**

Number of Processed Items: **22,475** Sell-Through Rate: **63%** Volunteer Hours: **526**

TRIP Schedule

March	30
April	13 & 27
May	11
June	1 & 15

SAVE THE DATE

March 13	End of Q3
March 16	6-12 Spring Concert
March 23-27	Spring Break
April 3-6	No School/Easter Break
April 10	Legacy Dinner
April 14	Annual Meeting
April 15-18	Spring Play
April 23	K-5 Spring Concert
April 24	Grandparents' Day/K-5 Noon Dismissal
May 1	Prom

CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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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)