

CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG



VISION: ...THROUGH AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION...

“The word *exceptional* is too subjective when aiming for clarity.”

The board wrestled with this word when writing our vision statement. Some worried it might come across as sounding too “elite,” while others wondered if it might create unrealistic expectations. Another asked, “*Exceptional*...compared to what?”

Still, we went with it, trusting that people would read it in the context of the rest of our vision and our mission as a Christian school.

So, what do we mean by an *exceptional* education?

The working definition: “a high-quality education that goes beyond standard benchmarks by integrating challenging academics with personal and spiritual development.”

This year, we are engaging in two significant initiatives to help us live into that piece of our vision.

First, we are going to engage in a year-long, school-wide process of developing a strategic plan. We will listen to stakeholders through listening sessions, conversations, interviews, and surveys. Our goal is to listen well, learn from our community, and assist the board in calibrating the course for the next five years of our Christian school.

Second, we are pursuing a second accreditation through an agency called CESA (Council for Educational Standards and Accountability). Exploration and investigation began more than three years ago, and a year later the opportunity was introduced to the Board and its respective committees. It is our intention that, alongside our existing accreditation through CSI (Christian Schools International), dual accreditation through CESA will provide helpful benchmarking and allow us to learn from other schools as we continue to develop our expectations and understanding of school standards.



Continued next page...

KNOWN PERSONALLY



DISCIPLINED INTENTIONALLY



CHALLENGED ACADEMICALLY

VISION: ...THROUGH AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION..., CONTINUED...

CESA also provides access to helpful resources, including data collection and dissemination, peer review, group networking, and board education and support. More than simply another accreditation, we see this as an opportunity to learn, grow, and continually evaluate whether we are living up to the standards we have set for ourselves.

These initiatives are designed to promote best practices and are intended to serve, support, and reinforce the work our teachers are already doing. They are the ones providing the exceptional education.

God has brought together a talented and dedicated staff who believe in this vision, love our students, pursue excellence, and want His glory to shine through in everything we do at Central.

Jon De Groot, Superintendent

A promotional graphic for the RaiseRight program. It features a light blue background with a white rectangular area in the center. Inside the white area, there are three stars in the top left corner. The text "Earn for tuition" is written in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below it, a thin pink horizontal line separates the text from "BUY GIFT CARDS OR SHOP ONLINE", which is also in a bold, dark blue font. At the bottom of the white area, there is the RaiseRight logo, which consists of a stylized heart shape made of two interlocking loops, followed by the text "RaiseRight™" and the tagline "Simply the right way to fundraise" in a smaller font. The entire graphic is framed by a thick orange border on the top and sides, and a thick pink border on the bottom and sides.

SAVE ON TUITION BY JOINING TRIP

Want to turn your everyday spending into tuition savings? Join Central's RaiseRight (TRIP) program and start buying gift cards, shopping online, or dining at restaurants to earn up to 20% back every time.

You don't have to be a current family to participate! Have a Central family that you want to support? Or thinking ahead for future children who will attend Central? All the money you earn can be credited to them!

Whether you're at home or on the go, RaiseRight gives you the flexibility to earn with eGift cards, reloadable cards, and a mobile app. Click [here](#) to access the app.

Visit centralbluejays.org/trip for details!

THE FOLLOWING GIFTS CARDS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE:

Almich's Market, Cashwise, Cenex, Cub Foods, Culver's, Green Mill, Grizzly's, Jake's, Kwik Trip, Lulu Beans, McDonald's, Middle Fork, Oneil's, Pizza Ranch, Ruff's, Target, Walmart, Walt's

When setting up a RaiseRight account, use enrollment code: B72B897C236

STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

"...These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also..." Acts 17:6

ELEMENTARY UPDATE:

After spending the summer preparing for small groups and chapels, it is always such a joy to see students back in the building and participating in our first chapel of the year! I am looking forward to seeing how God will work in and through our students this year as we explore the theme Upside Down. For the first quarter, we will focus on what it means to be Upside Down Community Builders. If you are interested in digging deeper into the throughline Community Building with your family, [click here to check out this devotional](#), which was put together by Teaching for Transformation. If the language of throughlines is new to you or your family, [this document](#) shows all the throughlines and gives a brief overview of each one.

We are looking forward to hosting the area pastors at an elementary chapel coming up on October 8. Be on the lookout for an invitation coming home with your elementary student in the next few weeks.

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



Elementary students gathering together for the first chapel of the year.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE:

Upper School Chapel has made some big transitions this year, chiefly by moving chapels to Wednesdays instead of Fridays. One of the reasons for this change was consistency, as there are a lot of schedule flexes and missed Fridays throughout the year. If we say chapel is valuable, protecting that time needs to be a priority. We also noticed that Friday mornings, after a busy week of athletics and homework, found students a little less awake. Earlier in the week seemed like a natural adjustment. Also, pastors and ministry leaders often take Fridays off, so we also hope that moving chapel to midweek will make speakers and volunteers more available.

Another transition is that we have hired Katy Vogel as our part-time Faith Formation Coordinator. We restructured our discipleship approach. Mr. Buehler, Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Vogel, and Mr. De Groot will meet regularly to plan and review our Faith Formation programming and its effectiveness. Katy's role will be to help bring those plans to life through event planning, project management, purchasing, coordination, communication, and scheduling, while also building relationships with students and promoting spiritual vibrancy on campus.

Our first two chapels of the year included an introductory refresher on the mission, vision, and values of the school, led by Mr. De Groot. Using our school's mission and vision, he attempted to answer three questions: 1. Why do we exist as a school? 2. What do we hope happens to you while you're here? 3. And how are we going to do that?

Mr. Buehler preached from the Sermon on the Mount to introduce our chapel theme: "Upside Down Kingdom." He challenged us not to readily accept things simply because that's how they've always been, but rather to think about where our values come from and who is shaping the way we think about the world. Jesus' invitation is to live as people who are blessed because we acknowledge our need for God and lay down our self-sufficiency.

Finally, we are grateful and excited about the students who are serving on our teams through their musical gifts in worship, serving in the tech booth, setting up chairs, and praying for our school. We are thankful for the many ways our students are helping make chapel a place where our community can worship, learn, and grow together.

— *Mr. Jon De Groot, Superintendent*



SCHOOL CLOTHING STORE

Order Central apparel through our [online store](#)! The store closes at 11:59pm on Sunday, September 20. This is the only apparel sale of the year — so stock up for birthdays and Christmas gifts.

PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY

Our elementary students are excited to welcome area pastors to school on Thursday, October 8 for a time of fellowship and to celebrate their work in our students' lives. If you are a pastor or know of a pastor who would like to attend, please email Kate Link at katel@centralbluejays.org.



VOLLEYBALL TEAM PRAYERS

The Central Volleyball team would love to pray for you! Whether you are part of the Central community, an opposing team, a Bluejay fan, or a community member, you are invited to share a prayer request—big or small. All requests are anonymous and will be intentionally lifted up by our volleyball team. Click [here](#) to share your prayer request.

FALL ATHLETICS SENIOR NIGHT

We will be honoring our senior student-athletes on the following nights:

- Soccer - Thursday, September 24 vs Butterfield-Odin. Varsity only at 5:00pm.
- Cross Country - Monday, October 12, Home Meet @ Hawk Creek Country Club in Raymond. Races begin at 4:00pm.
- Volleyball - Thursday, October 22 vs MACCRAY. C team at 4:45pm. JV & V to follow.



LEAF RAKING

Our high school students will be serving the Prinsburg community by raking leaves on Friday, October 30.

We would love your help with the following:

Would you or someone you know benefit from this service?
Do you have trucks, trailers, and large tarps we could use?

If you can assist with any of the above, please contact the high school office at 320-978-8700 to sign up!

MEET THE STAFF

Get to Know

Mrs. Gretch Emahiser

Family: Husband: Gene, My Children: Jess, Casey & Blake, Grandkids: 4 boys in California

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

God truly led me here! I cherish the smiles and waves from the littles.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Hang out with friends/family, ride motorcycle, watch football (BIG Vikings fan), puzzles/games.

What is something people might be surprised to learn about your job?

Deciding on whether elementary recess is inside or outside in the middle of winter is a major challenge for me! It's all based on the weather - and previously agreed-upon guidelines - but I don't want to disappoint anyone.

Prayer requests?

That my adult children would return to God, that I could witness to my own grandchildren.



**Mrs. Emahiser
Elementary/Middle
School Administrative
Assistant**

This or That?

Coffee or Tea - Iced Decaf Coffee

Movie or Book - Movie

Beach or Mountains - Beach

Pencil & Paper or Electronic - PAPER!

Cats or Dogs - It was cats for decades, now we have a dog.

Fruits or Vegetables - Fruits are slightly ahead of veggies.

Sweet or Salty - A mix of both.

Farm or City - City

Weekends or Weekdays - WEEKENDS

Morning Person or Night Owl - Night owl who has to be a morning person.



Welcome ISAAC WIRTH

Family:

I grew up Northeast of Kerkhoven with my parents, Michael and Melanie, and my younger sister Izzy

Position:

2nd Grade Teacher starting in January

Church:

While studying at Dordt University, I have been attending Sioux Center United Reformed Church

Hobbies:

I enjoy being outdoors on the lakes, running, spending time with my immediate and extended family (often playing volleyball), vegetable gardening, and playing disc golf with my friends.

How will you use your relationship with Jesus in your position at Central?

My relationship with Jesus deeply impacts how I approach the calling to teach. Learning is an amazing gift from God and a pathway towards more deeply understanding and knowing the Lord and His creation. This drives how I challenge students in the classroom and what expectations they are each encouraged to reach. Every student is unique and was created by the Designer of the cosmos with a distinct mission to serve His Kingdom. Knowing this position that each student holds in God's heart is humbling and directs how I teach the classroom, respecting and honoring each child to live for Christ.



**JOIN US IN WELCOMING
ISAAC TO BLUEJAY NATION**

Welcome ASHLEY SMITH

Family:

My husband, Jordan, and our children Talon and Laney

Position:

2nd Grade Teacher

Church:

Refuge Church

Hobbies:

I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling & exploring God's creation, thrifting, watching baseball, and cooking.

How will you use your relationship with Jesus in your position at Central?

I pray that my relationship with Jesus is evident in the way I teach each day. I want to lead with grace, serve with humility, and encourage my students to recognize the gifts and abilities God has given them. Every child who walks through my door is uniquely created by God and has incredible value and purpose.



**JOIN US IN WELCOMING
ASHLEY TO BLUEJAY NATION**

Central Minnesota Christian School **BOARD MINUTES**

July 27, 2026

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

Members Absent: Mitch Schwindt, Matt Hoekstra

1. Devotions and Prayer: Led by Sarah Van Beek
2. Approval of Consent Agenda: MSP
 - a. Motion: Paul L
 - b. Second: Sarah VB
3. Committee Work Plans & Governance:
 - a. Work plans from committee chairs and leadership team will be gathered for August review and approval
4. Parent-Student Handbook Updates:
 - a. Reviewed updates regarding transportation/busing, PSEO alignment with the Pathways book, block scheduling language, and part-time student policies.
 - b. Motion to approve handbook revision: MSP
 - i. Motion: Chris S
 - ii. Second: Sarah VB
5. Strategic Plan:
 - a. The Board discussed the timeline, scope, importance of community and constituency involvement, and Board review process for moving forward with strategic planning facilitation.
 - b. Motion to proceed with strategic plan development discussions: MSP
 - i. Motion: Paul L
 - ii. Second: Joe VA
6. Foundation Update:
 - a. Received updates on foundation progress and preliminary proposals regarding future development support.
7. Conflict of Interest Forms:
 - a. Annual Conflict of Interest forms were completed and signed by present board members.
8. Governance Manual & Expectations Review:
 - a. Initiated routine section-by-section review of the Governance Manual.
 - b. Reviewed additions to board member expectations (meeting attendance, confidentiality, and engagement standards).
 - c. Motion to approve updated board expectations: MSP
 - i. Motion: Josh M
 - ii. Second: Joe VA
 - d. Motion to approve committee reappointment extensions for Trevor Duininck, Larry Marcus, and Jason Ver Steeg on the Governance Committee: MSP
 - i. Motion: Chris S
 - ii. Second: Heidi G
9. New to You Task Force:
 - a. Evaluated current structure and agreed to bring a first pass at an oversight structural model to the Governance Committee for review.
10. Prayer Initiative:
 - a. Discussed ongoing structure for board prayer leadership and monthly devotion scheduling.
11. General Updates & School Highlights:
 - a. Shared updates on recent events, community comments/feedback, facilities/security grant applications, and new staff hires.
12. Adjournment: MSP
 - a. Motion: Paul L
 - b. Second: Chris S

MEET THE NEW CENTRAL FAMILIES



Jason & Briana Ahrenholz
Kipton (4K)



Jonathan & Julie Anderson
Brynlee Shea (6th), Bostyn Gomez (3rd),
Breyah Gomez (2nd)



Trevor & Megan Bartz
Wade (4K)



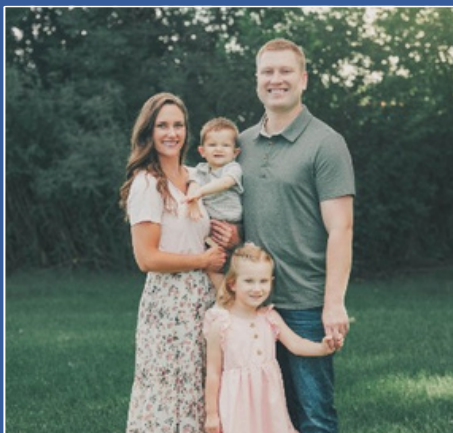
Tim & Lilli Brown
Theo (4K)



Julie Cunningham
Hunter (5th)



**Kalin Evenson & Wanique
Peterson-Evenson**
Quay (5th)



Grant & Christine Hoekstra
Ruth (4K)



Christopher & Destiny Hoffman
Rhett (4K)



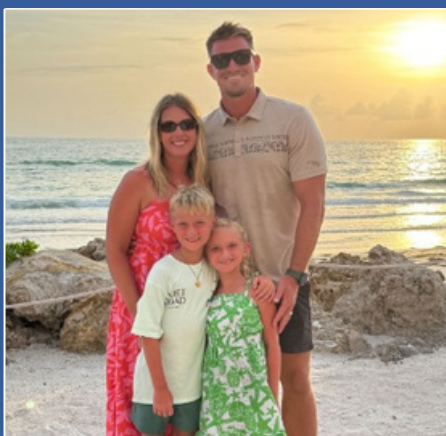
Levi & Katrina Post
Thalía (4K)



**Santiago Espi Candela &
Raquel Guevara López**
Mar Espi Guevara (10th)



Frank Silva & Mariana Trindade
Benjamin (4K)



Jordan & Ashley Smith
Talon (3rd), Laney (K)

MEET THE NEW CENTRAL FAMILIES

MEET THE NEW CENTRAL FAMILIES



Kordell & Deena Van Heuveln
Quentin (7th), Lincoln (4th)



DJ & Lacey Van Klompensburg
Wren (4K)



Aaron & Jodi Wubben
Evelyn (2nd), Freya (4K)

Welcome
TO BLUEJAY NATION



STORE UPDATE

Momentum is building for the OPENING of New to You's second store. We will be hosting our Grand Opening Saturday, October 3. Since we are waiting on a couple of items with our sprinkler system, it's not fully predictable when we will be approved to open – October is assured. We plan to proceed with a soft opening as soon as we are operational and approved.

WANTED

We are hoping you will prayerfully consider volunteering to help us through the final stretch. This would not apply toward parent service commitment, I'm afraid, but your willingness to help is greatly appreciated. These are the designated times for prep work that could include dusting, vacuuming, stocking, processing clothing, steaming, moving furniture – as ability allows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10/14 & 10/21 - 10a, 1p	10/15 & 10/22 - 9a, 1p	10/16 & 10/23 - 9a, 1p	10/17 & 10/24 - 9a, 1p

You are welcome to come and go as you need. The times are designated for paid staff to be present to give you direction. In between these times staff may need to run back and forth depending on our projects.

— Kristin Poortvliet; Director of Thrift Store Operations

August Monthly Report:

Total Sales: **\$109,500** Last Year: **\$94,018** Contribution to Central: **\$15,000**
 Number of Donations: **1,336** Last Year: **1,147** Approx.
 Number of Processed Items: **28,947** Last Year: **26,817** Volunteer Hours: **500**

TRIP Schedule

September	14 & 28
October	12 & 26
November	9 & 30
December	7 & 14

SAVE THE DATE

September 11	MS Retreat
September 11-13	HS Retreat
September 29	Picture Retakes
October 1-2	No School/Heartland Break
October 22-23	Quarter 1 HS Exams
October 23	End of Q1/Noon Dismissal
October 27	HS Fall Concert
November 5-6	Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 6	No 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)

204 SCHOOL STREET; PO BOX 98 PRINSBURG, MN 56281