

# CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG



## REINFORCING OUR CULTURE THROUGH PARENT COMMITMENTS

I anticipate some chatter as we roll out the new Student Volunteer Hours initiative this fall. I've been reflecting on a principle I hold that has shaped me as both a parent and a school leader: I don't like it when we place expectations on kids that we, as adults, are unwilling to do ourselves. This really bothered me in 2020 when I saw schools mandating excessive COVID-19 restrictions on kids.

At Central Minnesota Christian School, we talk a lot about culture, that set of values, beliefs, and shared norms that unspokenly govern "the way we do things around here." For better or worse, cultures are not neutral and will change over time. The question is whether it will drift by accident or grow by intention?

Bluejay Nation is a covenantal community. That means at least one caregiver in every family professes faith in Christ and has committed to partnering with us in shaping students spiritually, academically, and personally. Our vision, mission, and values reflect that partnership and are rooted in scripture. But let's be honest: values hung on a wall don't build a culture; behavior does.

One of our core values is Building Trust. Trust flourishes when expectations are clear and followed faithfully. It weakens when we lose sight of the commitments. That's why our Parent Commitment is more than just paperwork you sign during enrollment; it's part of what makes this community thrive.

This partnership begins spiritually. Families agree to align with us in teaching a Biblical worldview and living out their faith, demonstrating practices like praying together, reading scripture, and serving others. We require active engagement in a local church, believing that we are Christ's witnesses in the world.

Parents also support learning at home, demonstrating lifelong learning, talking and reading with their kids, and supporting their teachers by maintaining open communication. Each family agrees to honor their tuition commitments, communicating with school leadership if hardships arise.

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KNOWN PERSONALLY



DISCIPLINED INTENTIONALLY



CHALLENGED ACADEMICALLY

And finally, it manifests in our mission of service. That means volunteering, showing up, and stepping forward when there's a need. Our School Volunteer Program isn't about filling slots on a spreadsheet or even saving money; it's about creating a family atmosphere where our students see adults living out the values we teach. These aren't just policies; they are the lifeblood of sustainable Christian education.

I'm reminded of the church usher who once said, "We have nothing but kind Christians in our church... until you try to seat someone else in their pew." Culture can quickly slide toward self-interest if we aren't careful. But when we actively nurture the right things like trust, service, generosity, and faith, we reinforce the culture we say we value.

As we approach another school year, thank you for being partners who don't just cheer from the sidelines but are on the field with us. Together, we are shaping a community where our children see the gospel lived out...by us. Let's steward Bluejay Nation for God's glory, one commitment at a time.

Jon De Groot, Superintendent

## 24-HOURS OF PRAYER



Join us for 24-hours of prayer at Central! Following Open House, we're dedicating the school year to the Lord with continual prayer inside our school building from 8:00pm Thursday, August 21 to 8:00pm Friday, August 22.

Sign up for a 30 minute slot to prayer walk through the school, and help cover our students, teachers, and staff in prayer. Come alone, with family, or a small group. Help us cover every half hour, and every corner of our building, in prayer. We'll close with a community worship service at 7:00pm on Friday, August 22 in the Event Center.

To sign up for a 30 minute slot, click [here](https://centralbluejays.org/resources) or visit [centralbluejays.org/resources](https://centralbluejays.org/resources).

## 2025 HARVEST FESTIVAL MARKET DONATIONS

Homemade and canned/preserved items were a big hit at the Central Harvest Festival Market last fall. If you, or someone you know, enjoys knitting/crocheting, embroidery, canning, or preserving, we would be honored if you would think of us while planning your garden or summer projects. Please contact Liz Ammermann (612-360-3942) with any questions.





## CROSSWALK GUARDS NEEDED

We're looking for adult volunteers to help with morning crosswalk duty. We need both regular helpers and substitutes. The commitment is just one morning a week from 8:00-8:30am. If you're interested, please contact Janey Landberg at 320-978-8700.

## COACHING OPPORTUNITIES

We are seeking individuals with a passion for coaching and who align with our mission to provide Christ-centered, quality education that equips students for a life of service. Please visit [centralbluejays.org/jobs](http://centralbluejays.org/jobs) for more information.

- MS Volleyball - this position could be for a specific team (7th or 8th) or as a full-time assistant coach
- MS Girls Basketball - this position could be for a specific team (7th or 8th) or as a full-time assistant coach
- MS Boys Basketball
- Robotics
- Knowledge Bowl



## ALUMNI SOCCER GAME

Join us for the Alumni Soccer game on Tuesday, August 19, at 6:00pm at the Central Soccer Field. Alumni, if you are interested in playing, please text or call Coach Emily Van Eps at 360-296-3672 and wear white. All are welcome to watch the game. Concessions will be available.

## BUS & SHUTTLE DRIVERS NEEDED

We're hiring two drivers for the upcoming school year: a morning-only bus driver and a Friday-only shuttle van driver. No CDL is required for the van position, and training is provided for the bus driver role. The bus driver position also includes tuition credits, which can be applied to your own family or gifted to another family. For example, a grandparent who drives could apply the credits toward their grandchild's tuition.





## 2025-26 YEARBOOKS

We are excited to present to you the opportunity to purchase the 2025-26 yearbook. The yearbook covers all fall, winter, and spring activities. If you would like to order, click [here](https://centralbluejays.org/resources) or visit [centralbluejays.org/resources](https://centralbluejays.org/resources).

## PRINSBURG MUGS

We're thrilled to sell these new Prinsburg mugs, beautifully designed by Ivory and Sage. All proceeds support Central Minnesota Christian School—a gift that goes far beyond the mug.

Mugs are available for purchase at the High School office and are \$25 each.

Whether you've lived in Prinsburg your whole life or simply carry it in your heart, we hope these mugs serve as a small reminder of the place and people that mean so much.



## OPEN HOUSE, SCHOOL PICTURES, & NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION

Mark your calendars for our Back-to-School Open House, School Pictures, and New Family Orientation on Thursday, August 21. Bring your school supplies, meet your teachers, and take your school photos. Below is a timeline of the evening:



- New Family Orientation from 5:00pm-6:00pm in the Event Center
- Open House from 6:00pm-8:30pm
- School Pictures from 6:00pm-8:30pm in the High School Gym
  - New Families from 6:00pm-6:30pm
  - Student Last Name A-L from 6:30pm-7:30pm
  - Student Last Name M-Z from 7:30pm-8:30pm

## ATHLETIC PHOTOS

High School and Middle School fall athletes, mark your calendars for fall sports photos:

- High School - Thursday, August 21, at 12:00pm.
- Middle School - Tuesday, September 2, at 3:00pm.



# STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

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

Our Chapel theme this year comes from Psalm 115 with a call to action: "Worship Responsibly". The Psalmist's declaration gives credit to where it is due... "Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory". The Lord is the one who is loving and faithful, worthy of all worship. Everything is His; we are grateful recipients called to steward His good gifts.

"Those who make [idols] will be like them and so will all who trust in them..." We will discuss the throughlines of Idolatry-Discerner and Order-Discoverer in how humans are hard-wired to worship. The question isn't "if" we're worshipping, it is who or what we are worshipping. We will take a look at our priorities and investigate how "what we love" shapes us and drives our habits and beliefs.

"May the Lord cause you to flourish...The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth He has given to mankind." We will also spend time discussing what it means to be a God-Worshipper, Community-Builder, and an Earth-Keeper in light of the blessings and gifts He pours out on us, His people. How do we rightly steward what He has given us and bring glory to God through our use of His "stuff"?!

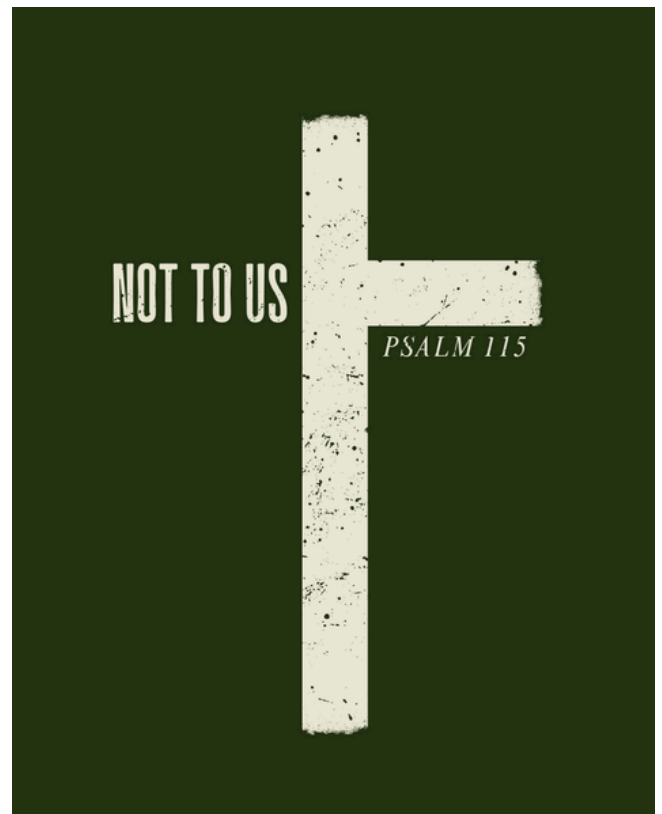
In summary, we will begin with the foundation that God made the world for His glory, and He has called us to care for and rightly enjoy what He has provided. We recognize that the curse of sin attempts to sabotage God's intention by luring us into loving other things more than Him (beginning with ourselves). We rejoice that Jesus has broken the curse of sin through His resurrection, giving us the promise of salvation and providing a new life through His Spirit. Our new eyes allow us to rightly order our lives in humble gratitude, giving glory: "Not to us, Lord, but to your name...now and forevermore".



Jon De Groot,  
Superintendent



Becky Berry,  
Elementary Student  
Discipleship Coordinator





# CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# TEST SCORE RESULTS

*At Central Minnesota Christian School, we value providing a nurturing and challenging environment where every child is Known Personally, Discipled Intentionally, and Challenged Academically. Year after year, our students exceed national academic averages, often performing one or two grade levels ahead of their peers. We believe in equipping children not only with academic excellence but with a strong foundation rooted in a Biblical worldview. Through our Teaching for Transformation framework, our teachers thoughtfully integrate God's word into every subject so that students may experience His story through meaningful lessons that engage both their minds and hearts.*

*Results indicate what level students are testing at in each grade using the Iowa Assessments. Student results include English Language Arts (ELA), Math, & a Composite Score consisting of ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. For example: 4th grade students, on a 4th grade level test, tested as if they were a student in the eighth month of 5th grade.*

## 1st Grade

SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	2.1	64th Percentile
Math	1.9	57th Percentile
Composite	2.2	69th Percentile

## 2nd Grade

SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	3.1	63rd Percentile
Math	3.2	65th Percentile
Composite	3.3	70th Percentile

## 3rd Grade

SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	4.6	70th Percentile
Math	4.8	79th Percentile
Composite	Not Available	Not Available

## 4th Grade

SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	5.6	67th Percentile
Math	5.8	72nd Percentile
Composite	5.8	67th Percentile

## 5th Grade

SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	7.0	69th Percentile
Math	7.2	73rd Percentile
Composite	7.3	70th Percentile



# CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# TEST SCORE RESULTS

*Results indicate what level students are testing at in each grade using the Iowa Assessments. Student results include English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, Social Studies & a Composite Score consisting of ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. For example: 7th grade students, on a 7th grade level test, tested as if they were a student in the seventh month of 9th grade.*

## 6th Grade

SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	7.8	65th Percentile
Math	7.0	53rd Percentile
Science	7.9	62nd Percentile
Social Studies	7.9	63rd Percentile
Composite	7.5	58th Percentile

## 7th Grade

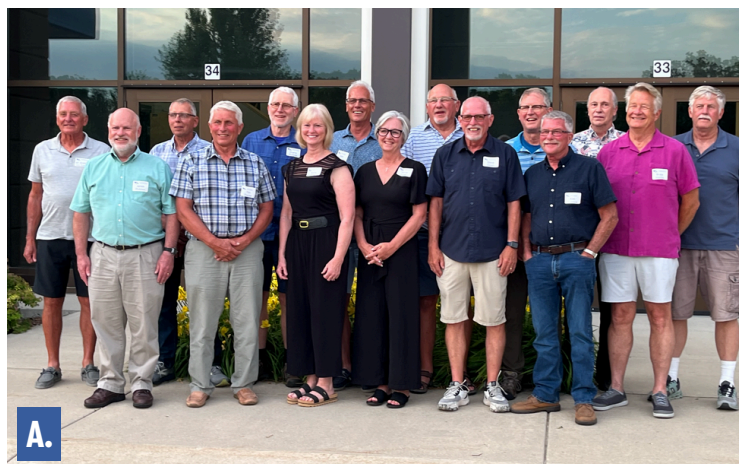
SUBJECT	Grade Equivalency	National Percentile Rank
ELA	10.2	76th Percentile
Math	8.8	61st Percentile
Science	10.4	71st Percentile
Social Studies	10.0	69th Percentile
Composite	9.7	68th Percentile



**KNOWN PERSONALLY**  
**DISCIPLLED INTENTIONALLY**  
**CHALLENGED ACADEMICALLY**



# COMMUNITY LIFE



- A. Fourteen members of the class of 1975 celebrated their 50th reunion. Mr. Quentin Van Essen, their Class Advisor, also joined them.**
- B. Drew Hovland was named a Community All-Star by the Willmar Stingers. To celebrate, Drew received a one-day promotional contract with the team, a custom jersey, his very own baseball card, and more! Congratulations, Drew!**
- C. In June, the Willmar Stingers hosted a special Bluejay Nation night for Central families and friends.**
- D. Girls Varsity Basketball Coach, Brian Nelson, stepped into the dunk tank during Freedom Fun Days to help raise money for the school.**
- E. Griffin De Groot and Jill Anderson were winners of this year's Freedom Fun Days pickleball tournament.**
- F. Central Dance Camp showed their spirit at this year's Freedom Fun Days parade, even in the warm weather.**



# DEEPER LEARNING DAYS

Block Scheduling. Modified Block. Deeper Learning Days. We've been using this language with high school parents for a month now, but what does it all mean, and why are we exploring it at Central? A Deeper Learning Day (block schedule) is a different way to structure a school day compared to the traditional period model. In the period model that we currently use, there are 8 periods per day of roughly 40-minute classes. Block scheduling, on the other hand, is structured in a way that offers fewer classes in a day, but for a longer amount of time (80-90 minutes). There are several reasons why schools consider block scheduling. The primary reason schools adopt a block schedule is to allow for extended class periods, enabling teachers to explore lesson content in greater depth and offer students more meaningful learning experiences, including labs, collaborative group work, and project-based activities.

As a Teaching for Transformation school, our Deep Hope is for students to have Formational Learning Experiences, build Habits of Learning, and discover how God's word connects to His world that we are actively stewarding. To implement instructional strategies and assignments that align with this vision, we are exploring what a restructured school day would look like here. With more time, our teachers will be able to provide more student-centered instruction, which is why we are piloting Deeper Learning Days on Wednesdays to see its impact on instructional practices and student work to help us live out our Deep Hope for Students at Central.

## Normal Period Schedule

<u>Period and Time</u>	<b>Squads</b> 8:30-8:45 (15min)	<b>1st Period</b> 8:48-9:28 (40min)	<b>2nd Period</b> 9:31-10:12 (41min)	<b>Break</b> 10:12-10:22 (10min)	<b>3rd Period</b> 10:25-11:06 (41min)	<b>4th Period</b> 11:09-11:50 (41min)	<b>5th Period</b> 11:53-12:32 (39min)	<b>Lunch</b> 12:32-1:02 (30min)	<b>6th Period</b> 1:05-1:44 (39min)	<b>Break</b> 1:44-1:50 (6min)	<b>7th Period</b> 1:53-2:33 (40min)	<b>8th Period</b> 2:36-3:15 (39min)
<u>Class</u>	Squads Mrs. Setrum	Biology Mrs. Bulthuis	Geometry Ms. Groen	Break	US History Mr. Buteyn	English 10 Mrs. Slagter	Spanish 1 Senora Brouwer	Lunch	Band Mr. Veenstra	Break	Electricity Mr. Rothstein	New Testament Mr. Buehler

## Deeper Learning Day (A)

<u>Period and Time</u>	<b>Squads</b> 8:30-8:45 (15min)	<b>1st Period</b> 8:48-10:10 (82min)	<b>Break</b> 10:10-10:22 (12min)	<b>2nd Period</b> 10:25-11:47 (82min)	<b>Break</b> 11:47-11:50 (3min)	<b>5th Period</b> 11:53-12:32 (39min)	<b>Lunch</b> 12:32-1:02 (30min)	<b>6th Period</b> 1:05-1:44 (39min)	<b>Break</b> 1:44-1:50 (6min)	<b>7th Period</b> 1:53-2:33 (40min)	<b>8th Period</b> 2:36-3:15 (39min)
<u>Class</u>	Squads Mrs. Setrum	Biology Mrs. Bulthuis	Break	Geometry Ms. Groen	Break	Spanish 1 Senora Brouwer	Lunch	Band Mr. Veenstra	Break	Electricity Mr. Rothstein	New Testament Mr. Buehler

## Deeper Learning Day (B)

<u>Period and Time</u>	<b>Squads</b> 8:30-8:45 (15min)	<b>3rd Period</b> 8:48-10:10 (82min)	<b>Break</b> 10:10-10:22 (12min)	<b>4th Period</b> 10:25-11:47 (82min)	<b>Break</b> 11:47-11:50 (3min)	<b>5th Period</b> 11:53-12:32 (39min)	<b>Lunch</b> 12:32-1:02 (30min)	<b>6th Period</b> 1:05-1:44 (39min)	<b>Break</b> 1:44-1:50 (6min)	<b>7th Period</b> 1:53-2:33 (40min)	<b>8th Period</b> 2:36-3:15 (39min)
<u>Class</u>	Squads Mrs. Setrum	US History Mrs. Bulthuis	Break	English 10 Mrs. Slagter	Break	Spanish 1 Senora Brouwer	Lunch	Band Mr. Veenstra	Break	Electricity Mr. Rothstein	New Testament Mr. Buehler

**Central MN Christian School Student School**  
**Supply List 2025-2026**  
**4K-5: 2 pairs of shoes- one indoor and one outdoor**  
**4K-12: labeled water bottle**

**SONSHINE 4K**

- \_\_\_ Backpack
- \_\_\_ Notebook or journal
- \_\_\_ 1- 2-pocket folder
- \_\_\_ 5 Ticonderoga #2 sharpened pencils
- \_\_\_ Pack of 12 glue sticks
- \_\_\_ 8 count Crayola fat crayons (not jumbo)
- \_\_\_ 16 count Crayola regular crayons
- \_\_\_ Extra clothes- labeled
- \_\_\_ Box of sandwich baggies (boys)
- \_\_\_ Box of gallon baggies (girls)
- \_\_\_ 1 box of Kleenex
- \_\_\_ Clorox wipes
- \_\_\_ Baby wipes
- \_\_\_ Blanket & pillow- full days ONLY

**KINDERGARTEN**

- \_\_\_ 1 box of Kleenex
- \_\_\_ 1 pencil box
- \_\_\_ 2- 10 count Crayola classic color markers
- \_\_\_ 2- 24 count Crayola crayons
- \_\_\_ 12 Ticonderoga #2 sharpened pencils
- \_\_\_ Box of sandwich baggies (boys)
- \_\_\_ Box of gallon baggies (girls)
- \_\_\_ Clorox wipes (boys)
- \_\_\_ Baby wipes (girls)
- \_\_\_ 3 low-odor Expo dry erase markers
- \_\_\_ 1 highlighter (any color)
- \_\_\_ Paint shirt- large size t-shirt
- \_\_\_ Backpack
- \_\_\_ Pillow- no blanket
- \_\_\_ Pack of 12 glue sticks
- \_\_\_ Headphones- labeled, no earbuds
- \_\_\_ 1 change of clothes in Ziploc bag

**GRADE 1**

- \_\_\_ Indoor shoes (no laces)
- \_\_\_ 2- 24 count Crayola crayons
- \_\_\_ Left-handed scissors if needed
- \_\_\_ Backpack
- \_\_\_ 1 highlighter (any color)
- \_\_\_ 1 pencil box
- \_\_\_ 12 Ticonderoga #2 sharpened pencils
- \_\_\_ 2 big pink erasers
- \_\_\_ 10 count Crayola classic thick markers
- \_\_\_ Headphones- labeled, no earbuds
- \_\_\_ 8 low-odor Expo dry erase markers
- \_\_\_ 1 change of clothes in Ziploc bag
- \_\_\_ Pack of 12 glue sticks
- \_\_\_ 1 red- 2-pocket folder
- \_\_\_ 1 green- 2-pocket folder
- \_\_\_ 1 box of Kleenex

**GRADE 2**

- \_\_\_ NIV Bible
- \_\_\_ 24 count Crayola crayons
- \_\_\_ Pencil box or bag- labeled
- \_\_\_ Backpack
- \_\_\_ Pack of 6 glue sticks (boys)
- \_\_\_ 2 boxes of Kleenex
- \_\_\_ 12 Ticonderoga #2 sharpened pencils
- \_\_\_ 2 Pink erasers
- \_\_\_ Scissors
- \_\_\_ Headphones- labeled, no earbuds
- \_\_\_ 10 count Crayola classic thick markers
- \_\_\_ 2 highlighters
- \_\_\_ 3- 2-pocket folders
- \_\_\_ Clorox wipes (girls)
- \_\_\_ 4 low-odor black Expo dry erase markers

**GRADE 3**

- \_\_\_ NIV Bible
- \_\_\_ 1 pencil box (labeled)
- \_\_\_ 24 count Crayola crayons
- \_\_\_ 10 count Crayola fine line markers
- \_\_\_ 12 Ticonderoga #2 sharpened pencils
- \_\_\_ 2 pink erasers
- \_\_\_ 6 low-odor BLACK Expo dry erase markers
- \_\_\_ Scissors
- \_\_\_ 2- 2-pocket folders
- \_\_\_ Headphones or earbuds- labeled
- \_\_\_ Backpack
- \_\_\_ 2 boxes of Kleenex

**GRADE 4**

- \_\_\_ NIV Bible
- \_\_\_ Backpack
- \_\_\_ 1 pencil box
- \_\_\_ 2 wide-rule notebooks
- \_\_\_ 2- 2-pocket folders
- \_\_\_ Wide-rule loose leaf paper
- \_\_\_ 2 glue sticks
- \_\_\_ 24 Ticonderoga #2 sharpened pencils
- \_\_\_ Pencil top erasers
- \_\_\_ 1 Pink eraser
- \_\_\_ 4 different colored highlighters
- \_\_\_ 4 low-odor Expo dry erase markers
- \_\_\_ 1 box of Kleenex
- \_\_\_ Headphones- labeled, no earbuds
- \_\_\_ Scissors
- \_\_\_ Colored pencils

**GRADE 5**

- \_\_\_ NIV Bible
- \_\_\_ 1 journal or composition notebook
- \_\_\_ 1- 3-subject notebook
- \_\_\_ 3- 2-pocket folders
- \_\_\_ 1 pencil box (labeled)
- \_\_\_ 12 Ticonderoga #2 sharpened pencils
- \_\_\_ 2 pink erasers
- \_\_\_ Scissors
- \_\_\_ 1 whiteboard eraser
- \_\_\_ Headphones or earbuds- labeled
- \_\_\_ Backpack
- To Share:
  - \_\_\_ 4 low-odor Expo dry erase markers
  - \_\_\_ 1- 10 count Crayola markers (thick or fine)
  - \_\_\_ 2 boxes of Kleenex

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- \_\_\_ Organization Materials (choose 1 option)
  - ☐ Option 1: 3 inch zipper binder  
[Zipper Binder 1](#) or [Zipper Binder 2](#)  
 (highly recommended for 6th grade)
  - ☐ Option 2: 5- 1inch 3-ring binders  
 labeled Math, Science, History,  
 Bible, English
  - ☐ Option 3: 5 folders labeled Math,  
 Science, History, Bible, English
- \_\_\_ Basic calculator TI-30 (not graphing)
- \_\_\_ 1 notebook or package of loose leaf paper
- \_\_\_ 1 inch 3-ring binder for Math (all grades)
- \_\_\_ 1 pkg 3x5 notecards for Math (all grades)
- \_\_\_ Colored pencils
- \_\_\_ 3 different color pens
- \_\_\_ 24 Ticonderoga #2 sharpened pencils
- \_\_\_ Pencil bag(only needed with options 2&3)
- \_\_\_ 3 different color highlighters
- \_\_\_ NIV Bible
- \_\_\_ Scissors
- \_\_\_ Earbuds (these will be left at school)
- \_\_\_ Backpack
- \_\_\_ Padded or neoprene case for  
 Chromebook (8"x12", diagonal 14")
- \_\_\_ 2 boxes of Kleenex for squad room
- \_\_\_ Athletic shoes for P.E. (If you wear athletic  
 shoes daily, not applicable)
- Assignment book provided for 6th grade only**

**GRADES 7 & HS ART**

- \_\_\_ 5.5" x 8.5" sketchbook
- \_\_\_ Box of Kleenex- optional

**GRADES 9-12**

- \_\_\_ NIV Bible
- \_\_\_ Pens and pencils
- \_\_\_ Notebooks and folders
- \_\_\_ 3-ring binder & loose paper for each  
 subject
- \_\_\_ Padded or neoprene case for  
 Chromebook (8"x12", diagonal 14")
- \_\_\_ Kleenex- optional, bring to advisor

**HS MATH**

- \_\_\_ 2- 3inch 3-ring binder
- \_\_\_ Texas Instruments TI-30XIIS calculator
- \*No Casio calculators allowed**

**INTEGRATED MATH**

- \_\_\_ 2inch 3-ring binder
- \_\_\_ 5-8 dividers
- \_\_\_ Texas instruments scientific calculator

**ACCOUNTING**

- \_\_\_ 1 inch 3-ring binder

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

- \_\_\_ 2 inch 3-ring binder

**HS SCIENCE**

- \_\_\_ 2inch 3-ring binder
- \_\_\_ Notebook
- \_\_\_ Texas instruments scientific calculator

**HS INTRO TO SPANISH**

- \_\_\_ 1 inch 3-ring binder



# SOCCER FIELD UPDATES

Over the past few seasons, our soccer field has presented ongoing challenges with water usage and grass maintenance, making it difficult to balance quality play with responsible stewardship of resources. After a thorough assessment by an independent turf specialist—facilitated by Duininck—we now have a sustainable path forward. Their analysis confirmed the field’s soil structure is excellent, but the existing Kentucky bluegrass required more water and fertilizer than our school and city could sustainably support. In collaboration with city leaders and with generous support from Duininck, including donated time and resources, we “rebooted” the field this summer. This included re-seeding with a resilient tall fescue blend, installing soil moisture sensors for smarter watering, and providing turf care at no cost to the school for at least two years. These improvements will ensure the field is more environmentally responsible, fiscally sound, and ready for play this fall.

Additionally, this fall, a new scoreboard will be installed in the southwest corner of the field. Its purchase was included in the same fundraising campaign that provided the high school scoreboards a few years ago; installation was simply delayed until now. While electrical work still needs to be completed, we anticipate it will be ready for the start of the soccer season.

We’re grateful for our community partners who make updates like these possible, benefiting both our students and the wider community. We look forward to enjoying the new season ahead!



## NEW! STUDENT VOLUNTEER HOURS

This year, we will be implementing a new, student volunteer program. Similar to our parent-volunteer program, high school students will now serve in a variety of capacities. The program is designed to immerse our high school students in the heart of our mission—living a life of service. It offers a meaningful opportunity to instill core values such as service, responsibility, and community involvement.

As we pilot the program this year, each student in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to serve 4 hours over the course of the year. Volunteer opportunities include concessions, Harvest Festival, helping with live streams, Freedom Fun Days, and more.

We are thankful for parents and a school community that live out the values we strive to teach our students, and now provide them with tangible opportunities to actively get involved. As they step into new opportunities to serve this year, we hope you’ll join us in affirming their efforts. When you see a student volunteering, take a moment to acknowledge their work—it’s a meaningful way to reinforce that living out our mission matters.

Our Mission:

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



# PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

This spring, 110 parents completed our annual Parent Feedback Survey. We're grateful to those who took the time to share their thoughts. Your input is a vital part of how we evaluate our family's experiences at Central—and how we plan for the future.

This year's survey focused on three key areas: use of technology in the classroom, homework load, and tuition. The responses provided both affirmation and valuable direction.

Overall, we were thrilled to hear that families are having a positive experience at school and feel we are holding to our core mission and values. A few positive takeaways include:

- Almost 90% of parents rated Academic Excellence, Spiritual Formation, and "Known Personally" as 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale.
- Parents consistently celebrated our Christ-centered community and the care of our teachers.
- Families expressed joy in meaningful friendships and students being challenged academically and disciplined intentionally.

Alongside this positive feedback, families also shared honest concerns regarding tuition and long-term affordability. Key takeaways include:

- While most support modest tuition increases to preserve programs, nearly 40% support holding tuition flat while considering cuts to programming.
- Families also shared their concerns about long-term affordability.

This feedback is not only heard, it's being acted upon. Both school leadership and the school board have reviewed the results, and several steps are already underway:

1. Tuition Task Force: A group of parents is being convened to serve on a Tuition Task Force. This team will review our current tuition model and explore potential opportunities.
2. Financial Sustainability Plan: The school board has approved and begun implementing a comprehensive, 5-year plan focused on enrollment growth, cost rationalization, and identifying new revenue sources. This plan is being actively carried out by the board, leadership team, and supporting committees.

Your feedback is being heard and taken seriously as we prayerfully make decisions that impact our students and families. Thank you to every parent who shared honestly with us. We are encouraged by your support and committed to growing thoughtfully together.

# Central Minnesota Christian School **BOARD MINUTES**

June 30, 2025

Members Present: Paul Leverington, Heidi Graves, Luke Mulder, Matt Hoekstra, Christy Groen, Sarah Van Beek, Ryan Moorlag, Trevor Duinink, Joe Vander Ark, Mitch Schwindt

Members Absent: Jon De Groot, Chris Schlegel

Devotions and Prayer: Trevor D read from a Leadership Handbook about Interpersonal Relationships, Exodus 17:9-14 Joshua listens to Moses-This leadership relationship and others in the Bible helps others develop leadership skills. Followers feel inspired and become more involved.

1. Introductions and Welcome to Mitch Schwindt

2. Approval of Consent Agenda MSP

Motion- Sarah VB

Second- Heidi G

- a. Board Committee Minutes
- b. Board meeting minutes from May
- c. New to You Financial Statements from March and April 2025

3. Administrative reports reviewed for information.

4. Principal Report: Dean S gave State of the School report

a. Testing results

i. Elementary:

- 1) all grades a year or more above national average

ii. Middle School:

- 1) a little more flattening of scores for 6th grade but still above average,
- 2) 7th continues to show upward trend,
- 3) 8th grade doesn't take ITBS
- 4) Many positive comments about teachers implementing a Christian worldview
- 5) some teachers rated over 90% as displaying Christian character
- 6) MS team has family atmosphere and works well together

iii. High School:

- 1) High reviews from various classes
- 2) HS team is a tight-knit group and willing to try new things like modified schedule

(block schedule)

3) Working hard to use staff in the ways they are gifted which is sometimes limited due to a tight schedule and to # of staff

b. Teacher Evaluation rubric is completed

i. Teachers developed the rubrics

ii. Eventually, would like to do these prior to contract renewals

c. All Central Team- highlighted great work of staff throughout the year

5. Survey Discussion: top recurring themes from surveys

a. Parent Survey

b. Leadership Survey

c. Joe VA shared themed responses

6. Superintendent Evaluation:

a. Discussion Guide was used in 2 small groups and then discussed together

b. Evaluation Responses were shared

c. Job Description was reviewed with some feedback for revisions

7. Financial Policy Update: Heidi G

a. Motion: Needs rationale: Heidi G

b. Will revisit this next month

8. Summary of all motions from current year: Christy G

a. Review on your own

b. Good information for incoming Board member

Continue next page...

# Central Minnesota Christian School

# BOARD MINUTES

## Continued...

9. Vote: Trevor D
  - a. President: Joe VA
  - b. Vice-President: Matt H
  - c. Treasurer: Heidi G
  - d. Secretary: Christy G
10. Committee involvement:
  - a. Advancement: Current Chair is Matt H, but would like someone else to chair (Chris S?)
  - b. Governance Committee requests Board support for Jason Ver Steeg to be Chair. MSP
    - i. Motion: Trevor D
    - ii. Second: Ryan M
  - c. Governance Committee reports that Larry M, Jason VS, Trevor D are finishing their 6th year. They would like the Board to extend their terms 2 more years or stagger their term end dates. MSP
    - i. Motion: Trevor D
    - ii. Second: Joe VA
11. May 2025 Board Action Items:
  - a. Christy G will check with Jon DG on progress on his items
12. June 2025 Board Action Items:
  - a. Added task for Executive Committee to review the wording of surveys
13. Closing prayer: Ryan M
14. Meeting adjourned. MSP
  - a) Motion: Sarah VB
  - b) Second: Joe VA

# FREEDOM FUN RUN



Hosted by:  
  
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# & ADAM'S RACE

# \$152,025

## 1,171 PARTICIPANTS

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Blade Works	Ohden Farms
Bonnema Excavating	Orred Financial Partners
Bonnema, Molden & Wrede CPAs	PrinsBank
Brouwer Farms - Darrin & Amber	Prinsburg Farmers Co-op
CHS	PrinsInsurance
Citizens Alliance Bank	Punt Companies
Country Pork	Service Oil
De Groot Farm & Land Sales	Slagter Builders Inc.
Dooley's Natural Gas & Petroleum	Slagter Tree Service
Duinick Companies	Stewards Planning Group
Erickson Farms	Stine Seed - Troy Ahrenholz
Farm Bureau Insurance - Willmar	Southern Minnesota Beet -
Groen Partners - Randy & Tony	Sugar Cooperative
Hanson Communications	Tom & Mardi MacNally
Jon & Kara De Groot	Tri-County Funeral Home
Kim's Electric	Truck Transport
Legend Seed - Brad Link	Van's Electric
Marcus Construction	Various Anonymous Donors
Max Seed Solutions/Beck's Hybrids	Warren's Generators

## SAVE THE DATE: FREEDOM FUN DAYS

## JULY 3 & JULY 4 2026





# Store Update

What a year! Thank you to our FANTASTIC customers, and our AMAZING team of staff and volunteers! Last year was our first time breaking \$1M in sales. This fiscal year, we hit \$1,030,144!! For the fiscal year, paid labor was down 116 hours and volunteer labor was up 1,044 hours for an increase of \$26,761 in sales!

The BUSY SEASON is really just days away. Any way you can help, is so appreciated. We are looking for a Closing Shift Lead in Retail, .6FTE or an average of 24 hours/week. Give us a call at 320-231-1850 if you are interested!

— Kristin Poortvliet; Director of Thrift Store Operations

## June Monthly Report:

Total Sales: **\$89,193**   Last Year: **\$97,820**   Contribution to Central: **\$12,000**  
Number of Processed Items: **29,000**   Sell-Through Rate: **65%**   Volunteer Hours: **555**

## July Monthly Report:

Total Sales: **\$91,484**   Last Year: **\$83,595**   Contribution to Central: **\$12,000**  
Number of Processed Items: **24,000**   Sell-Through Rate: **65%**   Volunteer Hours: **465**

## TRIP Schedule

August	11 & 25
September	8 & 29
October	13 & 27
November	3 & 17

## SAVE THE DATE

August 18	Athletics Orientation
August 21	Open House/Pictures
August 26	First Day of School
September 1	No School - Labor Day
September 5	MS Retreat
September 5-7	HS Retreat
October 7	Picture Retakes
October 21	HS Fall Concert
October 24	End of Quarter 1
November 6-7	P/T Conferences

# CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG



## 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)