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A Cry for Teachers - Mr. B. Kuiper, Administrator

*"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,
and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house,
and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down,
and when thou risest up."
Deuteronomy 6:7*

Many writers have penned inspirational articles about this verse and the command that it gave to the parents in the Old Testament church. By implication and command, this calling continues for us as members of the New Testament church. Our desire is that we obey God in this calling that He has given to us. My intent in this article is to focus especially on the word *teach*, not on the command and calling. This is because our schools NEED teachers!

We give thanks to God for the growth we are experiencing in our schools. This growth has been substantial and is experienced by almost all of our schools continent-wide. Several areas have recently begun schools. Others have added high schools to allow parents and church members to work together to instruct His children until the age of 18. This blessing is humbling, and it reminds us to look to God who provides us with these opportunities. Great is His faithfulness!

With these blessings come responsibilities. Our collective responsibility is to teach the children that God has blessed us with. That calling comes to parents, but it also comes to the community of believers of which we are a part. The work of teaching is a work done in the home for a time, but the time comes where we use our covenantal, Christian schools for this work.

Parents and teachers – we need to be aware of the young people we are surrounded by daily. We should be looking for gifted young people who are wise, compassionate, and curious. When we see these young people, let's encourage them to consider if it is God's will that they teach. Don't simply suggest that they might *consider* teaching. Explain the gifts that you see in them and how these gifts will help them to be a good teacher.

Young people – when you begin to get serious about calling and college, consider the calling of teacher. Consider it seriously! Understand that God does not call everyone who is wise, compassionate, and curious to teach, but He does use His people with those gifts in our schools. Know that the calling of teacher is a rewarding one as well. Oh, it's tiring, trying, demanding, and even frustrating at times, but it IS rewarding. Ask any teacher. Additionally, young people, encourage each other. You know best what friend or classmate has the ability to explain a tough problem and make it easy.

That person might be a great teacher candidate, but they might also need a little push from you.

Beloved Christian – pray that God will lead His young people to know their calling in life, whether it be a calling to teach or not. But, pray fervently to God that He provide our schools with teachers.

The calling to see their children educated in the grade school has reached an end for several families who will witness their youngest child graduating at the end of this school year. These families include Travis and Melissa

Beute (Madison), Ben and Loree Bosman (Gideon), John and Becky DeBoer (Kaylie), Dave and Kari Doezema (Christien), Rick and Shari Gritters (Zach), Harlan and Lenora Hoekstra (Stella), Scott and Suzanne Koole (Micah), Jeff and Melonie VanBaren (Parker), and Ken and Dianne VanPutten (Sam). May the class text be dear to all graduates, but especially to these families. May the Lord, who teaches us to number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom, be with each of us as we go our separate ways.

Salary Committee Report – Mr. Jared Dykstra

As you may have heard, we are very blessed in that all of our teaching positions have been filled. While all of our returning teachers have signed their contracts back in March, we were also able to add a few new positions for next year as well. Since I don't want to be the spoiler for any other articles, I'll let you read who was hired for those positions in other reports.

Teaching contracts were handed out in the beginning of March. Salary increases were 2% for those with 13 years or more. The committee used the Christian School International Report as a guide to help make the decision for what increase our teachers would receive this coming year. Teachers with experience of less than 13 years were also given increases based on years of service. The Board is thankful for the teachers we have who have taken the calling of teaching our covenant youth here at Heritage Christian School.

The school budget for next year was just recently approved at the Society meeting, resulting in a tuition increase of only 1.5%. The budget is established such that the revenue equals the expenses, so there isn't a surplus of cash to pay expenses when the revenue and specifically tuition doesn't come in as required. The board encourages you to continue to pay your tuition in a timely manner enabling the board to see to it that all the bills and salaries of the teachers are paid.

The Salary Committee is thankful and we praise God that He has provided for us very willing and extremely capable teachers to train our covenant youth. We pray that God continues to bless our teachers during the remainder of this school year and as they begin the 2018/2019 school year next fall.

Annual Secretary's Report to the Society – Mr. Josh Hoekstra

[The following is adapted slightly from the Board Secretary's report delivered at the Annual Society Meeting on May 8, 2018.]

We are called to raise our children in the fear of the Lord and it is wonderful that we can band together in this calling at Heritage Christian School. It's about our baptism vow. We remember the question:

Do you promise and intend to see these children, when come to the years of discretion (whereof you are either parent or witness) – and can I add, whether as church member, parent who once had a child instructed at Heritage, or grandparent – instructed and brought up in the aforesaid doctrine, or help or cause them to be instructed therein, to the utmost of your power?

To the utmost of your power; to the best of your ability. Your best, our best, is as a community of believers. Banding together is not only efficient, but it shows that we acknowledge our own shortcomings, the fact that we will need help when troubles arise, and allows us to leverage the many gifts in the body of Christ that exceed our own. Many gifts are found here at Heritage, in our teachers, aides, office staff, and volunteers of every kind. Gifts vary based on student age and ability. Gifts are focused on a variety of courses. Gifts of teaching, organization, administration, fundraising, special needs, music, facilities management, and the list goes on. It is appropriately humbling to look around and see the great

talents of those around us, and it fills us with thanks that our children are raised in this community of believers, the community of Heritage Christian School. With grateful hearts we welcome the opportunity to participate and help as opportunity arises with our own small gifts as well.

Our school is blessed with a large staff, and we are thankful for the work that they have done again in this year. As can be expected with a large staff, there are changes throughout the year. For those moving on, we wish them the very best in their new and varied endeavors. All our staff members held a special role and performed it very well, their love for the school evident in all they did, and we are grateful for the care, attention, and expertise each of them brought. We are also thankful that new staff members can take up these roles, and we know they will bring their talents and apply them in a God-glorifying manner for the work before them. Here is a summary of the staff changes this year.

- Sarah Kortus left teaching the 3rd grade to take up her calling as a mother. Jan Poortenga came out of retirement to take over for the remainder of the year starting this past February. Beginning in the fall, Greg Gritters will begin as the 3rd grade teacher. He graduated from Dordt College this year and is married to Rochelle. They recently were blessed by the birth of their first child.

- Sue Looyenga will be starting a new role as Director of Curriculum and Instruction and will also be teaching Junior High part time. Sue will bring better clarity and written detail to what we teach within 3 sections of each grade and as students progress through the grades. Our goal is to continue to encourage teachers to be autonomous in their classroom while ensuring the content that each student is taught is largely the same at each grade level.
- Todd Timmerman has taken a new job and we are happy to announce that Jim Noorman has taken up the role of Facility Manager. Thanks especially to Pete Poortenga and Clare Kuiper for helping maintain and clean the common areas of the school during this transition.
- Dee Holstege retired as transportation director, a role she held for 29 years, and Jessica VanderKolk has stepped into the role.
- Vicki VanOverloop and Linda Van Uffelen are both retiring at the end of this year; Cara Dykstra and Sharla Hoekstra will be replacing them.
- Susan Bleyenbergh joined part time as a Discovery Room teacher.
- Audrey Decker, Erin Dykstra, and Melissa Schimmel joined as teachers' aides.
- Brad Gritters is moving from 6th grade to 5th grade as we manage through grades of varying size.

We continue to be blessed with growth in our school and tonight we take up a proposal to expand the building. With the help of our long-range planning committee we've been able to create an expansion plan that fits our growing school in an intentional manner. Just 3 years ago we had 459 students, this year we have been blessed with 536 students. This trend is expected to continue as smaller grades move on to high school and large incoming classes enroll. The proposal we take up tonight is necessary to support this continued growth and is a culmination of planning work that addressed the building design, financing, and implementation of this project. In a day and age where the value of Christian

education is often challenged, we are encouraged that your commitment to this important cause remains strong. There are a few other board items to highlight as well.

1. Last year the board conducted surveys of parents about teachers and surveys of teachers about administration, the board, and school culture. These surveys are helpful especially when one considers the size of our staff and the many parents that send their children to this school. We are conducting surveys again this year (check your email if you haven't seen it yet) and appreciate your strong participation.
2. We are in the process of creating a complete parent/student handbook with fully updated policies to be distributed next year.
3. As we look to implement some curricular changes, another key piece is requiring regular meetings at grade level with planning and reporting to administration and the Education Committee. Assigning a lead teacher at each grade level will put the responsibility on this teacher to be sure those meetings are regularly held.

In closing I want to go back to a statement earlier in this report. One of the many benefits of banding together as a school is helping each other when troubles arise. When you look across our school and think on the past year these examples are numerous. Some struggles are short, some are long, some are private, and some are public. By example, when Braydan Bylsma completed his last round of chemo, the school lit up with grey and orange. "Braydan shirts" were seen throughout the school as kids expressed their encouragement and helped celebrate Braydan's milestone. The acts of students can be as simple as taking homework home for a classmate, or parents often helping each other by bringing kids to various school functions. I'm joyful that we have such opportunities to serve each other in these ways and would like to close in encouraging each of you in this work. In all these things we serve not only the cause of Christian education, but we serve each other in the body of Christ.

Education Committee Report – Mr. John VanUffelen

Much of the work of the Education Committee over the past year has centered around three themes: communicating and learning through surveys, administration for a rapidly growing student body, and teacher recruiting. This article will recap these themes and outcomes.

Communicating and learning through surveys: Near the close of the 2016-17 school year parents were asked to communicate their thoughts by completing a survey about their child's classroom experiences. A high percentage of parents (67%) completed the surveys and provided valuable feedback to the administration and education committee relating to teacher performance and classroom experience. The survey results were communicated to teachers so that they could benefit

from parents' feedback. As the 2017-18 school year began, our teachers were asked to complete a survey to communicate their thoughts about school administration and the school board. The feedback from this survey proved beneficial to the education committee as it wrestled with determining the best path forward toward addressing the expanding administration needs of our growing school. The survey helped identify curriculum development as a primary need. Because of the information and benefits received, the education committee is committed to more surveys, and building on the ones completed, to develop trends and impacts from program changes. Parents have been asked again as the 2017-18 school ends to complete surveys about their children's classroom experience focusing on

teaching, communication, and classroom management. One major finding from all the surveys is that good and frequent communication between students, parents, teachers, administration, and school board is needed for a vibrant, functioning school.

Administration for a rapidly growing student body:

All of our Protestant Reformed Schools have an administrator. The administrators in our smaller schools often take on classroom teaching assignments. When schools grow to one classroom per grade, the administrator focuses mostly on administration. Our schools have little experience when schools grow to multiple classes per grade, but we recognize that administrative needs increase. With expected growth that will require three full time classroom teachers for each grade within two years, the education committee decided to take an initial step to address the added administrative need by adding a half-time Director of Curriculum and Instruction to the staff. The new position will be coupled with a developing lead teacher program that is designed to improve coordination of curriculum among the three teachers of the same grade. Expect more development of the administrative staff as continuing assessments are made. We thank our administrator, Brian Kuiper, who has willingly accepted the growing workload over the past years.

Fundraisers Year End Report – Mrs. Sara Byker, Retiring Secretary

As we approach the end of the school year, we look back and are thankful for another year of Christian education for our children at Heritage. We are grateful for the willingness of so many mothers to give their time and abilities to help support our school.

The work of Fundraisers began last spring with planning and preparation for our restaurant at the Hudsonville Fair held in August. It was another great year for the Fair and something we look forward to every summer! A huge thank you to the Fair Committee, our generous sponsors, the volunteer workers, and all those who come to eat at the restaurant for making this such a successful fundraiser! We started our school year with the Fall Family Supper where everyone was invited to come out and meet their children's teacher and enjoy dinner with other families from Heritage. Our annual fall and spring clothing sales were held in October and March, respectively. Grandparents Day, held in November, was well attended and enjoyed by grandparents and students alike.

We also have many standing committees that keep us busy throughout the year. Some of these are TRIP, Hot Lunch, Key Cards, Family Fare Direct Your Dollars, and General Mills Box Tops. A special "thanks" goes to the Kitchen Committee who keeps our kitchen clean and up to code year-round.

Much of the money raised by Fundraisers was given back to the school in response to requests from our school board. These requests included money to offset budgetary expenses, fund a reading support program,

Teacher recruiting: Heritage staff continues to grow with expanding enrollment. A third-grade teaching position became open mid-year when Sarah Kortus and husband Matt were blessed with their first baby in early February. Jan Poortenga came out of retirement and capably filled the position for the remainder of the year. To fill the vacancy and address additional growth and administrative needs, Heritage placed advertisements for a third-grade teacher, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and a two day per week discovery center teacher for the 2018-19 school year. Greg Gritters, Sue Looyenga, and Sue Bleyenburch were offered and accepted these positions. God is blessing many of our Protestant Reformed schools with growth. Let us pray that He will also provide teachers who are dedicated to instruct and prepare our children in the fear of God. The shortage of available teachers to fill all openings in our schools this year is evidence that focused efforts are required to encourage our young people to consider their talents and pursue education careers. Filling our classrooms with dedicated teachers may be the education committee's greatest challenge over the coming years. We trust that God will provide.

and purchase a machine to repair damaged books for the library. The hot lunch committee was also able to purchase table guards.

In addition to these special requests, fundraisers also provides teachers with an allowance to get their rooms ready each year. We also give funds to support a birthday party/gift for each teacher, Teacher Appreciation Week, and an end of the year luncheon for the teachers and staff to show our appreciation.

Fundraisers encourages every mother, whether from a new family or a family who has been at Heritage for years, to join us. We meet five times during the school year for regular meetings, although there are opportunities all year long to be part of Fundraisers. We would especially like to thank all the committee members of each of the fundraising events. We are thankful for the extra time and energy they give to make each fundraiser profitable.

The officers for next year are the following: President – Kelly VanOverloop, Vice-President – Anne Deemter, Secretary – Michelle Bult, Vice-Secretary – Megan Dykstra, Treasurer – Audrey Decker, and Vice-Treasurer – Lori Duthler.

Thanks to the retiring President Lanae Holstege and Treasurer Kristin Korhorn [and to retiring Secretary, Sara Byker] for their year of leadership and support. May God continue to bless our labors that His name may be glorified at Heritage.

Advice From Seventh Graders for Future Seventh Graders: Good Advice For All

– Mr. Matt Kuiper

For my seventh grade Bible class, we do journals a couple times every 6-weeks. Some of the questions the students have answered this year are the following:

- When someone picks on someone else, how do you feel? What do you do? What should you do? Make a Biblical application. Write out the Bible passage you chose and explain how the passage fits.
- What is one of your favorite Bible passages (2 or 3 verses written out)? Why do you like this passage? In what kinds of situations do you think of this passage? How could this passage be helpful and a blessing for Junior High students to remember? Give examples to explain.
- Which is most important to you – being popular, accomplishing things, or being organized – and why? Be sure to fully explain why you put each where you did and why or why not it's important. List in order of importance. Make a Biblical reference to at least one of your choices.
- Which quality do you dislike the most about yourself – laziness, selfishness, or childishness – and why? Give 2 examples of how your choice shows itself. What can you do about it? Find a Biblical passage that talks about the choice you made.

The question most recently was, "What advice do you have for next year's seventh graders? Pick your top three pieces of advice. Why are those things important? Make sure one of these examples is Biblical." The students were only thinking of the current 6th graders when doing this assignment, but I truly believe that these pieces of advice can be used by all of us. I want to share with you some of the pieces of advice along with the Biblical reason chosen by each student. Read these as if they were talking to you in your life, rather than to an incoming 7th grader.

"My advice to the new seventh graders is to work hard. You will be having your first exams this year and they are hard work. You might want to study two nights before the exam. For example, if you have a history exam the first night you might want to study terms and the next night go over the tests. Even though this is hard work, you need to do it diligently and do your best. Proverbs 10:4-5 says, 'He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich. He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.' This means that if we want to be successful, we need to do our work diligently and not lazily. If we see ourselves being lazy, then we are just like the one that is that is causing shame." - Rae Brummel

"God calls you to work hard in everything including school work. Colossians 3:23 says, 'And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.' Do your school work heartily but still remembering God. God doesn't call you to get A's but wants you to do everything to the best of your ability. We must do these things to

learn the things that you will have to deal with in later years but mainly to learn of Him." - Spencer Dykstra

"Memory work is most important. When our Bibles get taken away in times of persecution, a main source of comfort we will have is the memory verses we have learned over the years. If we don't memorize our memory verses, we won't have the comfort of God's Word, the Bible. Learn them now with the attitude of 'I will need these in the future', not with the attitude of getting a good grade. Proverbs 3:3 - 'Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart'. Write your memory verses upon your heart." - Max Holstege

"I also encourage next years seventh graders to be kind and forgiving to everyone. In Ephesians 4:32 God says, 'And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.' This means we must be like Christ in that we are kind and forgiving even when it is hard." - Carissa Looyenga

"Be wise and serious, when it calls for you to be. This doesn't mean that you have to be serious all the time, it just means you have to be serious when someone is calling you to pay attention. You must not get yourselves into fighting or other foolish things. Make good decisions, even if it makes you unpopular. Job 5: 1-2 says: 'Call now, if there be any that will answer thee; and to which of the saints wilt thou turn? For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.'" - Mike VanderKolk

"I also advise them to get to know your teachers because they are there to help. Teachers (parents, ministers, etc...) are there to teach and sometimes have fun. There is no such thing as a dumb question in school. Teachers want to help you. That is what they are there for. They want you to ask questions." - Cody Scholten

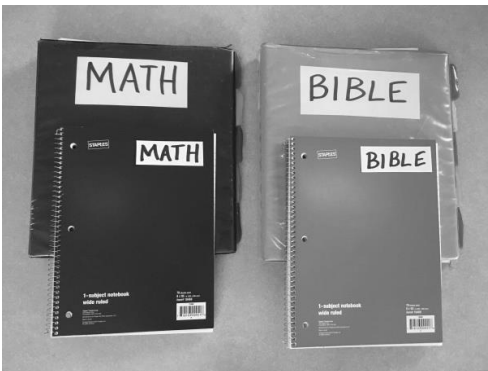
"I think you should have a good attitude toward classes and homework. A good attitude is 'I can do this', not 'This is so hard, I will never finish'. If you do not have a good attitude, you are being a negative influence on those around you and your day will not be any fun. If you have a negative attitude, you probably won't get much done. A positive attitude influences people around you in a good way. You can get a lot more done than if you are sulking the whole day about homework and school. Romans 12:8, 'He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with generosity; he who rules, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.' This verse is telling us that whatever we do, we must do it cheerfully, willingly, whether in or out of the classroom." - Abigail Vink

"Learning is one reason you go to a Christian school. We go to learn. Our parents send us to a Christian school to learn, yes, but to learn in the ways of Christ. It's right in our name. Heritage CHRISTian School. The way we learn shows our love for Him. When we appreciate our

education, we thank God. If we have a bad attitude and don't do assignments diligently, we are telling God we don't appreciate our ability to learn. Appreciate it, even if you don't really like it. God tells us this in Proverbs 22:6. It says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Our family, teachers, grandparents, or even bus drivers teach us. They teach, we learn. It is our responsibility to obey him and learn. Don't try to push your learning away. God tells us to learn. It is our responsibility to obey Him and learn." - Ella Rus

Buying School Supplies With an Organizational Purpose! – Mrs. Sarah Decker

A couple of different parents stopped in my room in the past few months to give me positive feedback regarding their child's use of color-coded binders and spirals in junior high. "It worked well for my child," and "It made a difference," were the thoughts expressed. I thought it would be worthwhile to share these tips (especially to parents of first time junior high students) in this 1 edition because at the end of the issue you will find the lists of school supplies needed by your children for the upcoming school year. Parents will be able to shop throughout the summer, perhaps taking advantage of good sales! If you keep these color-coding tips in mind, your purchases could reduce stress and anxiety for your child next year!

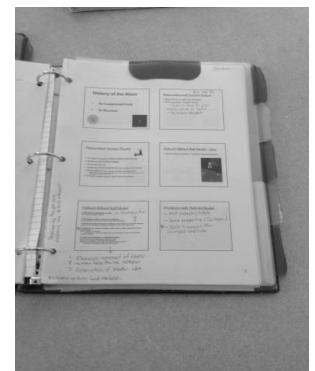


When you purchase the required 3-ring binder and spiral notebook for each junior high class, match the colors of these two together. For example, Science class could be a GREEN binder and GREEN spiral, Bible class a BLUE binder and spiral, and History class WHITE, etc. I have also seen students take 5 white binders and insert decorative or colored paper into the covers and spines to make them look different from each other. Some of the artsy students will match patterned binders with spirals in coordinating colors! Have fun with it and let your child add his/her creative twist. Maybe a rainy day craft project!

In between every class, students are at their locker, replacing their books from the previous hour and pulling out the materials they need for the next hour. It can be crowded with only a few minutes of time, so if your student can easily spot which binder and spiral they need for the next hour, it's a much smoother process. On the other hand, if your child has 5 blue spirals, the right one will not always get to class. Rather than

As you can see, the main ideas from my seventh graders were to be nice, work hard, be responsible, listen, have a good attitude, and to fully use the talents God has given each individual. Aren't these things we should all do? I was hoping to see some advice to use proper manners in school by saying please and thank you occasionally, but that advice never came. Maybe next year? Let's all heed the advice of our seventh graders in whatever calling God has put us in.

asking the teacher for permission to go get the right spiral notebook, the student will probably just take notes that hour in the wrong spiral. And those notes typically don't get transferred back to the right spiral, which leads to missing content when studying for the next test.



Clearly label the "subject" both on the spines and covers of your binders and your spiral notebooks. The lockers at Heritage have a nice shelf for placing books on end, allowing students to quickly pull out the desired ones if the label can be seen on the spine. At the beginning of the year, insert 5-tab dividers into each 3-ring binder; these dividers will be used to separate the papers of one chapter from the next. Clear division of each chapter is very helpful not only when finding the right papers to study for a test, but also at the beginning of each class. Teachers will ask students at the start of class to pull out a certain paper or worksheet. If students do not keep their papers organized in their binder, these students are scrambling to look through the mess of papers in their binder to find the right one. This is UNNECESSARY stress and anxiety at the start of class. In addition, the student, focused on finding the paper, is missing the instruction that the teacher has gone on to say...thus is already behind in absorbing the new information.

It is important for parents to help guide their 6th-8th graders in developing a good system to keep track of papers and to get the right materials to class. Some students have good organizational habits, but others do not excel in this area and need training. After a couple of weeks of school in the fall, evaluate whether the system for your child is working. For example, if your son's calculator is not getting to math class, try putting it in a pocket added to his math binder instead of it lying loose in his locker. Or perhaps he needs a larger pencil

case that could also hold his calculator. Perhaps your daughter is not able to produce the completed homework assignment at the beginning of class because she can never find it. Where does your daughter put completed papers? Try assigning a specific location for completed papers. Perhaps your student will want to use the front pocket of the binder or perhaps a folder could be designated for completed work in that class. What does your student do with returned papers? Do the dividers need to be labeled so there is more clarity? Work with your child to be intentional about where papers will be kept. Once a system has been formalized, parents should monitor for a few weeks to make sure he's following through on the steps.

Summer Slide – Mrs. Rhonda Holstege

When we hear the term summer slide, kids might just be thinking of a park or a water place that has slides. Loads of fun might be involved when we think about entertainment. Slides that have turns; slides that are high up; slides that have water at the end; how many slides did you go down; how wet did you get, etc. No one likes to think about summer slides in academic learning.

The claim for summer sliding is that students will lose much of what they have learned in school, so teachers have to make up for lost time in the fall to catch the students back up again. I know I have heard talk about schools that even want to go over or continue through the summer.

Here is what I want to know. If we lose our skills so quickly over the summer, did we ever really learn it at all? (I know there may be special circumstances and some students that really benefit from having help during the summer, so I am not suggesting that they change their summers.)

I have often wondered what one considers to be learning. Do we only learn according to how well we do on a test or essay paper or something else we are graded on? During the summer, we as parents create our own activities to actively keep the children busy. Are they not learning real life lessons that are not found in a book? This can prepare a child for what happens in everyday life as well as what they learn during the school year.

So is summer slide just a myth? Data has shown to be inconclusive in most areas except for math computation. Students do seem to forget their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills. (I remember a sixth grade teacher jokingly asking a third grade teacher if multiplication skills were taught in third grade.) As parents, take a look at your child, for you know them best. Would it help to have some review over the summer? Yes, indeed. Do they need to have some down time? Yes, indeed. You are the best judge, but please enjoy your summer break!

I asked my students what they wanted to do over the summer. Not one responded with an answer of doing

Don't forget to work with your student to occasionally DECLUTTER their locker and binders. This means all loose papers are pulled out and put in the right spot. After an exam, students will appreciate it if they can clear some space in their binders by removing each unit in their binders, stapling them, and keeping them in a file at home or in their lockers.

Organizational skills are skills that can be used by your child for the rest of their life. 6th through 8th grade is the time to experiment with a variety of organizational tactics to find a system that works for your child. Not all kids have to use the same system, but to be successful in school, each student must have their own system for managing homework assignments and class materials.

any kind of homework involved activity. (Surprise, surprise.)

Rebeka Bylsma- camping

Kailyn DeBoode- camping, swimming, and playing with cousins from Indiana

Derek denHartog- playing video games and fishing

Avery Dykstra- hay rides and going to Grandpa and Grandma's houses

Levi Dykstra- camping and visiting cousins

Austin Griffioen- fishing, camping, and swimming

Brennen Gritters- bike rides, playing with friends, and the pool

Anna Hassevoort- fishing with my dad, camping, swimming, and kayaking

Liam Heyboer- camping, sleepovers, tubing, and going up north

Jared Holstege- going to the cottage, mowing the lawn

Ashtyn Kalsbeek- swimming and visiting a museum and a zoo

Eli Kamps- going to the beach and playing with friends

Casey Karsemeyer- fishing, swimming and going to Whitecaps games

Madalyn Karsemeyer- fishing with Dad or Grandpa Kooienga

Landon Kooienga- camping at Hungry Horse

Meghan Kooienga- camping

Jordan Koole- camping, go on a houseboat and to a friend's house

Shelby Kuiper- camping and going to a friend's house

Martin Langerak- vacations, riding a quad, and my uncle's pool

Oliver VanderKolk- vacations and playing with cousins

Gracia VanderWaal- swimming, friend's house, and birthday parties

Our Working Memory – Miss Emily Gritters

Our memory is a wonderful thing. It allows us to store and remember information given to us. Obviously this is essential during school where we are learning new things every day.

There are three different types of memory. Short term memory allows the person to remember some sort of information for a short period of time (7+ seconds). Long term memory is the opposite. It is something that you remember that has already happened anywhere from a few minutes ago to years ago. But the memory I am going to focus on is the third type of memory, which is working memory. This is a memory that is often used interchangeably with short term memory. Working memory is a basic skill. It is so important for us to use in our every day jobs.

Working memory can be compared to a sticky note in our head. It holds new information so that we can use it and even connect it to other information in our minds. Working memory is the key to whether the information will stay in the short term memory bank or get transferred to the long term memory bank.

Working memory is vital in following multistep directions and is beneficial for math problems. To solve the equation $20+5$ a student needs to be able to remember the numbers 5 and 20 and then has to remember the steps to solve it.

When collecting information, first of all, a student needs to be paying attention. They need their focused attention to funnel what is important into the brain---without this they cannot get the information to their 'sticky note'. Once they have this information it can begin to do its job in the brain. Working memory is an active and instant process but it is something that needs to be built up. Poor working memory makes it hard for kids to use information that they learn every day in school. They have to learn how to sort information into the different memory banks.

There are ways a student can build their working memory. By making learning multisensory (or using multiple senses in order to receive information) they are using different parts of their brain to process the information given. Writing it down, reading it to them, and having them read it to you, as well as visualizing the information or visualizing themselves using this information can help build up working memory. It is especially common in the younger grades to see students using hand movements to help remember different concepts.

Using real-world connections will help build the processing section of the brain which will sort the

information to where it needs to be so that they can access that information later in life. Chunking information is also a strategy for storing information for longer periods of time. Take a moment to memorize this number: 7124390345. Now take a moment to memorize this number: 712-439-0345. It is a lot easier to process the second number than the first number, even though they were the exact same number, because of the way the longer number was chunked into shorter parts. The same is true for pretty much anything students learn. It is easier to learn in short bursts than in long sections. Students can take the little information they learn each time and sort it into where it needs to go, rather than being overwhelmed by all the information and then having to try and sort out everything that has just been thrown at them.

Two of my favorite working memory builders are playing card games and having the students teach the information. Yes, they can do that even in first grade! Card games like UNO or Go Fish are great ways to teach the kids how to: 1. Remember rules, 2. Focus on what cards they have, AND 3. Think about what cards they need to receive. They are working on multistep directions and having fun! (Go figure!)

Kids LOVE to share their knowledge. Once we have covered a topic, it is so revealing to let the kids have some time to pretend to be the teacher and try and 'teach' their partner on how to solve a math problem or how to CLOVER mark a sentence. It makes them stop and think how they need to solve it, and then go the extra mile deciding what they need to do to explain it. This way the process also is being repeated in their brains, plus they are using multiple parts of their brains to try and explain the concept to someone else. It will be a lot easier to remember what you did after you have shown someone else something rather than try and remember what someone told you that one time.

Our minds are so complex. Scientists have not even fully discovered the full potential of the human mind. Only our great God, who CREATED our minds, can fully understand them. It can be so easy to focus our minds on the things of this world, but we also have to use our minds to remember all the great things that God has done for us. "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." (Psalm 126:3) Because of this we confess with Psalmist in Psalm 103: 1-2, "Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul: and forget not all his benefits."

8th Graders' Farewells – Mr. Bill Joostens

Since this is the graduation edition of the Herald, I asked the 8th graders as graduates to reflect on their past years here at Heritage. On the next few pages, you will find several of their farewell words. I think you

will find their words very revealing of the blessing our Christian school has been to them as their last year here comes to a close. Likewise, we as parents and staff may ponder God's continued blessings that covenantal

Christian education has afforded us for yet another school year. Please enjoy and give thanks to God for this gift to us and our children.

Our school has been a great place for me to grow in faith and love for God and for my neighbor. It always amazed me how much I've grown since the first day that I went to school. There have been many good and happy memories, but there have also been sad memories. It was great to see the communion of the saints when there was a death or a sickness in the school. I thank you as a community of believers young and old for being kind to me when I felt sad or lonely. But now as it says in Ecclesiastes 3, there is time to leave and to move on in my life. Again, thanks for all that you (Heritage) have done for me. Sincerely,

Bradyn Lotterman

Thanks for guiding me from kindergarten to 8th grade. As I leave I realize I'm growing and there will be hardships but at least I can treasure the moments I had here [at Heritage] as I go through the years. Now that I'm leaving I wish I could stay a few more years. I will miss all the awesome and hilarious teachers but I'm happy to meet some new ones. I've learned so much about our God and other things. I hope this will help me but I guess it's time to go. Good-bye Heritage Christian School!

Parker Van Baren

From the very first day of Kindergarten to the last days of 8th grade you have taught us life skills that we will use every day, given us some amazing friends and memories, have always been a place where we come to, but most importantly you have instructed us in the paths of the Lord. Even though you have seen us go through changes, you haven't given up on us. Like the times we had to put our heads on our desks for discipline or the times we played soccer in the snow. You were there for us when we went through hard times, you were a shoulder to lean on when there weren't others around. Thank you for the love you have shown for the children of God. Heritage, you have seen all the students come and go and now it's our time, so thank you for teaching us and preparing us for the next steps in life. I couldn't ask for a better school, and I will always remember my time here with you.

Kaylie De Boer

I would like to thank Heritage for the education you have given me. You have taught me and many others to learn things in the light of God's Word, and see things from the point of view of the Christian. I appreciate the opportunities you've given me to grow in many things like sports, and form new, godly friendships not only with people in my grade, but also from grades above and below me. I want to thank the teachers who spent their time teaching us, even though it might have been hard and took a lot of patience and for the godly example they set for the students here. So thank you again for everything!

Madalyn Groenendyk

I am very thankful for this school and all the teachers that taught me. I am very glad I got to hang out with a group of my best friends. I am glad we got to hang out with each other. We had really good times most of the time. We are always happy to see each other. We joke around with each other. Then I am thankful for them, and I got to learn more about them in sports. I am also thankful for all the teachers and what they have done for us. Also, I think we are blessed to have been able to be taught the name of God here. Thanks good-bye. But most of all everybody is my friend.

Sam Korhorn

I will miss you [Heritage] and all the things you have to offer. You have always been here. I first met you in Kindergarten. You have led me to some of my closest friends. We have so many memories. You have helped me to grow up into a good, godly person. I am proud to say I am a student here. We have many memories in sports. You have helped me break out of my shell. You always have had just what I needed, Thank you! You taught me how to work as a team in sports and in school work. I remember so many fun field trips. We have all been rewarded together. And we all had fun with the move. Most of all you have shaped me into the person I am today and you have been a good, godly influence on me...starting with the teachers and ending with other students. Thank you Heritage!

Nikki Van Overloop

I will soon be graduating from Heritage and moving on to Covenant. I will be saying 'good-bye' to this school and to its teachers that have taught me here for the past nine years for which I am very thankful and appreciative. I am also very thankful for the spiritual instruction my teachers have given me, not just in Bible, but showing God's power through every subject we learn. I will miss Heritage and the people here, but I am also looking forward to going to Covenant, meeting new people and making more friends. The knowledge I have learned here will stay with me and guide me through the rest of my life, for that I am thankful. I have also enjoyed playing many sports here at Heritage, not aiming to win, but to have fun with my friends and classmates.

Josh Vink

From Kindergarten to eighth grade, WOW, nine years! It seems as though it was yesterday that Mrs. Pastoor was waking me up from my nap to go home (yes, I was that kid who actually slept in nap time). I cannot believe I am now 14, from 5 to 14 I am glad to say I came to Heritage. Not only were both Heritage buildings cool, but the things here are so amazing. Without them it would not run as smoothly as it does, so thank you. The teachers taught me so much here, not only mentally, but physically. Though they taught math and science, they never forgot to include God in all their lessons. They did all their work to honor God! Even though school, we could say, was sometimes "bad," my overall experience was awesome! I know now that we are fortunate to be going here. Our parents sent us here so, thank you,

parents! And if we hadn't been sent here we would not have the friends we have. I could not have asked for more than what I got here. They didn't just challenge me mentally by tests and exams, but they challenged me spiritually. They helped me grow into what I am today. Thank you for getting me prepared for what is to come!

Maylee Boven

I've always been part of you [Heritage], and it's hard to grasp the reality of leaving you behind. You've taught me so much, at times more than I want to know. I can hardly remember life before you, and it's hard to know that I'm now stepping away. The most important thing I'd like to say to you is that while I was with you I felt God's presence. You taught me Bible stories, doctrines, and many things about God I would never have known if it weren't for you. You taught me so much. Yes, since I met you, you've changed. I made my first 'move' with you, even if it wasn't too far. You introduced me to so many people and gave me so many memories, I couldn't forget if I tried. You taught me how to support a friend in mourning. I'll never forget the images of dear classmates so grieved with pain. I can feel myself growing and changing alongside you. And I know you will be okay without me. You were always supportive, even in my worst moments. I know that, even though I won't be with you anymore, you're bound for greater things, and I will always be watching you and praying for you. I thank God for crossing our paths and the only thing I would ask of you is to never forget me. Thank you for everything. Be strong and courageous and always love God. In the loved name of Jesus Christ,

Victoria Grace Ensink

Starting out in Kindergarten, I was so excited, but also nervous to go to school with all the big kids. There was so much stuff to take to school, and many, many pictures to take. First of all, to the teachers: All of the teachers are so kind and God-fearing. I wasn't the smartest in the class, but the teachers were always there for me, instructing me in Math, Bible, Science, etc., but also in a spiritual way. I was able to enjoy school more than I ever thought I would. As a whole grade, we were all friends. We all went on field trips together to go out and see God's beautiful creation. There was so much that I learned in my years through Heritage and I am so thankful for that. Also, the sports, all of the coaches that coached me for volleyball and soccer were very encouraging. They built me up as a player and as a person. Sports themselves are all so much fun, but when you are encouraged by your best friends, coaches, and parents, it is a lot more fun. I am so thankful that I was able to go to the 'old' Heritage and then switch to this building. This just shows how much Heritage has expanded. Through these nine years, I have grown a lot in faith, knowledge and wisdom. Learning new stuff with my friends, playing sports with them and hanging out with them has been such a blessing. Heritage, I will miss you, but thank-you for being a huge supporter in my life and preparing me for the years to come. Love,

Lydia Van Uffelen

I am grateful for having this school for the past nine years. I am also thankful for all the teaching which you have done in all the subjects. Bible – teaching us the Bible stories and what they mean. Math- Teaching us about order and not to be lazy. History- teaching us about God's plan through time. English- teaching us to be good writers so we can use that for Christian letters taking care in what we say. Science- teaching us all about God's creation. Reading- teaching us how to read and study the Bible carefully. I am also thankful for all the teachers, staff, and everyone else who have led me through this journey, and for correcting wrong which I've done. It seems the journey has gone quicker than I expected, but we must move on. Thank you very much!

Drew Brummel

Dear Heritage, It grieves me that we have to part ways. For nine years I have walked your halls and was taught in your classrooms. You have played a big part of my life that I will always remember. I have made friends because of you that will last for a lifetime. You have helped prepare for my next chapter in life and have given me memories that I will cherish forever. I am grateful for the opportunity I was able to have to learn side by side with others like me. I thank God for you and that I was one who could learn from you. I hope that others younger than me get to have the same experience that I did with you. I thank the parents and teachers who made this all possible. Above all though, I thank God for the blessing of this school.

Peter Smit

Dear Heritage, some of my best memories have been with you. You brought me to some of my best friends, and I am so thankful for that. Every year you've taught me new things that I need to know for that future. From learning the ABC's, their sounds, and how to count to 100 by 10's, to using the quadratic formula to find the x-intercept, writing good poetry, and the phases of the Moon. All of this information –and much more- I will have to use in order to get into college and get a job and to raise my family one day. Without all your help my life would not be the same because most importantly you taught me about God. You taught me of how He always takes care of me, how He died for me on the cross, and how one day I will be with him again. Next year I will remember the knowledge you taught me and think of my days with you. Thank-you for being my friend. Love,

Cristyn Gunnink

Heritage, I have spent my early years walking your hallways, exploring your classrooms, and climbing your playgrounds. You taught me most of what I know, from addition to beginner's Algebra. You introduced me to my friends, brought me closer to them, and even made me some new ones. You guided me in the ways of Christ through everything that was taught to me. It is with great sadness that I say "good-bye." Sincerely,

Connor Courtney

I've really like being at this school for the past nine years. I've had some great experiences! For some examples: March Reading Month, field trips, mummifying a chicken in 6th grade, grandparents day, and the special "Subject Nights" (Art, Bible, Social Studies...). I really appreciate the teachers, too. In every subject that they have taught us, God has been glorified. They make sure that God is the focal point in everything that is done. That is such a blessing for us!

I am very excited about going to Covenant next year, but it's a bit sad Heritage is almost over. It's been a good experience, and I'm very thankful for all that I've learned!!

Leah Decker

For nine years, I have not only learned subjects like Math, History, English, Science, Bible, and more, but also made friends. I was able to do sports, especially softball. Wow, nine years seems really fast. We went through a big change when moving from the 'old' Heritage to Freedom's building. I made a lot of fun memories here like field trips, swimming lessons, mummifying chickens, intramurals, and many more. Since we have been able to learn Bible that all our teachers have taught us all the way from Kindergarten, we were able to learn from a Christian perspective.

Hailey Byker

After nine years of being here, it is finally time to leave you [Heritage]. I have been here since I was young and learned so much. Through all these years, teachers, and classrooms, I have been taught the way of God, and for that I am thankful. You have taught me how to act Christian and praise God in everything I do. I won't forget how much I've learned here, things that will be so valuable as I grow older. Sincerely,

James Brands

At Heritage Christian school, it has been a blessing to come here and learn about God and to make many friends that I hope will still be with me throughout my life. I never thought of Heritage as a friend, but now that I look back on the past years of my life that I have come here, I realize that it does qualify as a friend. I learned things here that I will take with me for the rest of my life. As I grow older I can't wait to look back and think about my days here and long to come back. As I am about to

leave Heritage, I realize how much fun I had with friends at recess and how much I learned. I have loved going to Heritage even when I had to get up early in the mornings! I know that I will miss going to Heritage when I leave, and I will never forget all the memories I made at Heritage! Love,

Taylor Koole

I am very thankful for all my years at Heritage. These past years have gotten me smarter physically and also spiritually. I am very thankful for Christian education. I also want to thank all the teachers, especially those who have taught me, for the hard work they put in grading my tests and I also want to thank my Dad for grading my essays in History. I am very thankful for the wise decisions that the school board made on behalf of the school, and I am reminded of the sacrifices of many on behalf of my education. Thank You! Sincerely,

Cora Holstege

I am thankful to God for the past nine years. These past years have meant a lot to me. I have learned a lot and you [Heritage] have made me a better person. I am very sad to leave, but I know that I will be in good hands in the next four years. The teachers here have taught me to be patient, listen, and be quiet (although I may not have accomplished that one yet). Thanks again for everything. Your friend,

Lauren Kuiper

Heritage, you have been a good friend to me. You have taught me well. I have had fun times with you. You have taught me in the word and light of God. I have appreciated ALL the teachers. You have taught me to be a candle in a dark room. You have taught me that all things are orderly. You have comforted me in hard times. As I say this farewell, I can only thank you in words. You have taught me all that I have needed to continue down my road to high school, college and then the rest of my life. This is my good-bye to you. I will remember you as my best friend. Good-bye Heritage, I will remember you. In all my life, I will miss you.

Nate Bylsma

Continual Learning – Mr. Randy Kuiper

Humans are never finished learning. When a person graduates a school year, it indicates the end of a grade, but does not signify the end of learning. Instead, we learn continually. Each day, we acquire new knowledge about the world around us. We learn new games, better understand the Bible, realize the importance of different subject matter, and read in order to gain knowledge. As parents, we understand new things about the children God has given to us. Teachers can say the same about the students God has placed in their classroom. Every day of our life we grow in understanding.

Teachers also need to be continually learning. We are always thinking about our next license renewal. Between taking classes, attending conferences for professional development, and learning new curricula, we continually learn fresh strategies to use in the classroom. While doing all of this, we still realize it is not the end of learning.

Of course, we can always learn more about God. Every moment we devote to God is another moment we learn more about Him. It is remarkable to consider that even if

we read the Bible one hundred times throughout our life, we still will not know everything there is to know about our Creator. Therefore, we can always sit under the preaching, attend catechism or society, or discuss a passage of the Bible and still be able to search even deeper.

With summer approaching, continual learning is a necessary reminder for us and our children. Although summer is a break from the regular, somewhat intense, routine of daily classroom work, it is still a time to learn. Make your child spend time reading as a way to explore new places and learn new vocabulary. Review math skills with your child, not only concepts that have already been learned, but also skills that your child will learn in the next grade level. Encourage your child to write cards or letters to loved ones so they can better their writing skills or practice their cursive writing. Visit the library. Take walks to explore plants and nature. Play new games. Enjoy summer, while also learning.

My students reflected on things they learned in second grade during a recent writing project. While the list was large, it was by no means comprehensive.

I learned much, much more than I thought I would in second grade. I learned how to add and subtract double digit numbers. I mastered Islamic Art which is all about patterns and colors. Something I also learned is that the Consonant-le syllable comes at the end of some words. I can't take up the whole page but I wish I could tell you some more things I have learned. ~Mila Baatenburg

I learned too many things to remember in second grade. I learned how to draw a dinosaur in art. I also learned how to write using cursive handwriting. Something else I learned is that Islamic Art is made of patterns and colors. There are so many things I learned in second grade. ~Kara Bleyenbergh

I learned too much to remember in second grade! I learned that baby ladybugs eat other eggs if they emerge first. I also learned the kids have more bones than adults have. I learned the Venus is the hottest planet in our solar system. Something gross that I was taught is that the brain is gray and wet. I wish I could learn more in second grade. ~Caleb Boven

I learned a lot of things in second grade. I mastered the eight planets, which are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. I discovered that the different elements of a story are characters, setting, problem, and solution. Something I was taught is different ways for figuring out addition in math, like Count Ons, Zero Facts, Doubles, Ten Frame Facts, and more. There is much more that I have learned in second grade. ~Eli Brummel

I learned many new things in second grade. I learned to subtract three digit numbers from three digit numbers. I also learned that Islamic Art is all about patterns. Another thing I learned is that the eight planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. I learned how to read with fluency and with a loud, clear voice and with expression. I wish I

could tell you all the things I learned in second grade. ~Josie Brummel

I learned a lot of new stuff in second grade. I was taught all about Islamic Art design. Something else I was taught about was the lungs and that they help you breathe air in. I was also taught about the United States of America and that there is a place where four states touch. There are many more things I could tell you that I learned about. ~Nolan Corson

There are many things I learned in second grade. I learned that plants need water, sun, and soil. I learned that Islamic Art is all about designs. I learned about the lungs that help you breathe. I learned many more things, but I don't have time to tell you. ~Karli DeBoer

I learned a lot of things in second grade. Something fun I was taught in gym class was the game Apache Ball. I also learned that the order of the planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Something else exciting that I learned was the different story parts that are in a story like characters, setting, problem, and solution. There are some things that I learned in second grade. ~Claire Geerlings

I learned a lot in second grade. I learned that some plants eat bugs. I also learned the seven continents which are North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and Antarctica. I also learned about the human body. I do not have time to tell you the rest. ~Brielle Griess

I learned many things in second grade. I have already learned that Islamic Art is really pretty and that I like the colors. I also learned how to read better because I like to learn about stuff in books. We read James and the Giant Peach and we read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Then I learned science and learned about the solar system and the human body. I wish I could have some more time to learn but I don't have the time. ~Alex Gritters

I learned a lot of cool things in second grade. Mr. Kuiper taught us about Daily 5 and how to read in one spot so that we can focus on reading the whole time. I was also taught about text-to-self connections which are connections you make between a book and something that happened in your life. My teacher taught us about handwriting, and in handwriting you have to write really neat. There is much more that I learned, but I do not have time to tell you about it all. ~Sarah King

I learned more than I thought I would in second grade. Something fun that I learned is how to play the game Apache Ball. I also learned about insects and how they have an exoskeleton. Another thing I learned is some math strategies to help me with math facts, like Doubles. I wish I could tell you more about the things that I learned. ~Jake Koole

I learned a lot in second grade. I learned about the vowel teams AU, AW, OO, EW, and OU. I was taught about plants and how the leaves soak up sunlight. I also mastered how to subtract from a 3-digit number. I wish I

could tell you more about the things I learned in second grade. ~Kimberly Korhorn

I learned a lot of things in second grade. I was taught the eight planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune). Something else I learned is how to do double digit subtraction. I also learned the seven continents (North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, Antarctica). Another thing I learned about is the human body and that the lungs help us breathe. There is much more that I learned while in second grade. ~Evelyn Langerak

I learned too many things in second grade. In Music class, we learned a lot of fun songs. I learned how the rib cage in the human body protects the lungs and heart. Something else I learned is more about open and closed syllable words in VoWac. These are just some of the things that I learned. ~Tristan Ritsema

I learned a lot of cool things in second grade. I learned about the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. I have mastered how to subtract three digit numbers. I also learned that plants need water, sun, and soil in order to grow. These are only some things that I have learned in second grade. ~Olivia Uittenbogaard

There are many things I learned in second grade. I learned all about the solar system. I have already

learned about text-to-text connections that you can make when you are reading books. I also learned all about the kings of Judah and Israel. I loved learning in second grade. ~Cohen VanBaren

I learned so much in second grade. I learned about the planets that are in the solar system. Something I also learned is text-to-self connections that are made while you are reading. Then, I learned cursive, and it is fun to write words in cursive. There are many more things I learned in second grade. ~Jaimeson VanOverloop

I learned a lot of things in second grade. I learned all about three-digit subtraction. Something else I learned is that soft C says /s/ like in the word cent. I learned how to play five-base and I also learned the names of the books of the Bible. Then I was taught the names of the kings of Judah and Israel. There is also a lot more things that I learned. ~Micah Vink

I learned a lot of things in second grade. I was taught by Mr. Kuiper a lot of things I needed to know about the Bible. Something else I learned is how to play Apache Ball, which is fun. Another game that I learned to play is five-base, which is another fun game. I wish I could say more about the many things I learned. ~Owen Zuverink

The First Year of Teaching – Mr. Brad Gritters

I would like to tell you a little about myself for those who don't know me. I grew up in Hull, Iowa, with three sisters and a brother. Both of my parents are teachers. My dad, Loren, currently is a fifth grade teacher and the principal of the Hull Protestant Reformed Christian Grade school. My mother, Nancy, also teaches there in the Discovery and Resource Room. My older sister, Emily, is a first grade teacher here at Heritage Christian. I graduated from Dordt College in the spring of 2017 with a teaching degree. If I've done the math correctly, I counted five uncles and aunts and six cousins besides my own immediate family who are teaching in Protestant Reformed schools at this time, so teaching must be in my blood.

Recently, I have had the privilege of experiencing something that every teacher must go through...the first year of teaching. I didn't know what to expect with my first year and probably no matter how much I prepared for that first day of school, I still would have been taken by surprise in some way. The only way to learn and become more comfortable with teaching is by confidently diving head first into the school year.

The first year of teaching is filled with many challenges and obstacles. These challenges helped teach me different ways to improve. One thing that excites me so much about teaching is the fact that learning never stops. Even as I gain more experience, I will never stop learning with my students!

Now that I am nearly finished with my first year, I took some time to reflect on the positives and negatives that

this past year has brought. Briefly, I would like to share with you some of the different things that I learned during my first year of teaching from the "veteran" teachers that I now work with:

Have the Authority. Teachers take the place of the parents in the rearing of the covenant children in the fear and knowledge of God. Teachers are given authority within the classroom by the parents. It is of utmost importance that teachers and the students understand this idea. Instructors must be very clear in setting forth to the students what rules apply in the classroom. Having a clear discipline plan helps everything in the classroom to run smoothly.

Keep students engaged. If the students aren't engaged, they are not learning. Disengaged students become distracted from learning and quickly lose interest in the objective for the day. It is essential that a teacher has engaging activities or assignments for the students to work on that will keep them interested.

Stay Organized. Organization is extremely important for the teacher. When you are dealing with sixty different sixth graders every single day, staying organized is essential. On top of that, one must remember many other meetings with parents, teachers, and students that are scheduled at different times throughout the day.

Organization is something that really helps to keep things flowing efficiently.

Listen to Peers (Teachers and Parents). The biggest help that I have received has come from my fellow teachers. I greatly appreciated their wisdom and experience. They gave me ideas, materials, and methods to use while teaching. The advice that I have received from these other teachers has been priceless.

The encouragement from the parents was another thing that kept me going. I hope this encouragement never stops coming from the parents, because it is a reminder of the amazing blessing that we have here in this Christian school. The parental support helps to give me confidence in what I am doing: helping to train up God's covenant seed in the fear and knowledge of Him. What a blessing!

Have fun. It is easy to get so caught up in in the busyness of school life and forget to have fun. I have learned that it is extremely important to relax and have fun with the students. When I realized it was my job to spend time laughing and learning with the sixth graders, I saw how truly blessed I am!

I feel extremely blessed by this opportunity, and I have enjoyed my year here in Michigan. This year reminded me of the words of James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Everyone has been very hospitable and welcoming since my move out here, and the students have made it extremely fun for me as well. The entire school year has been a gift! Please feel free to stop by and introduce yourself to me if we haven't met yet, and maybe we can play some Dutch bingo as well...I've gotten pretty good at it since I've moved out here! .

Grab your golf clubs!!

Our Heritage Christian Foundation will be holding their

Heritage Foundation Golf Outing

on Saturday, July 21 with a shotgun start at 7 AM.

The outing will once again be held at The Meadows in Allendale.

To reserve a spot for your team, please call Kevin Van Overloop at 616-662-4128

or Scott Koole at 616-293-1624.

Cost is \$500 per team. Please call soon!



**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**



Lord willing, the construction on the addition will begin this summer.

This is an exciting time for us! The August *Herald* will have an update on the progress.

~ PARENTS – Some items to take note of ~

Report card/enrollment packet pick up dates are June 12-14 (Tues – Thurs) here at school. Please stop in between 9 AM and 1:45 PM and grab them in the hallway by the main doors!

2018-2019 class lists will be emailed out the day after the August *Herald* is distributed. The email will be sent to the 1st of two email addresses supplied to us on your forms at enrollment time – so make sure they are correct on the forms!!

TRIP summer dates are (from 9-10:30 AM): June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, and August 21. Regular TRIP hours will resume on August 28.

Special thanks goes out once again to all of our 2017 - 2018 volunteers. Your willingness to help is noticed by us here at Heritage. The volunteer hours are such an important part of the students' education here, and we appreciate it immensely. Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities in your enrollment packets. There are many, many different time slots open every year. Grandparents – we ALWAYS love our grandpa and grandma volunteers, so please call school (616-669-1773) if you are interested in helping next year!

2018-2019 School Year Calendar

August 27, 2018 – First day of school
August 31 – September 3, 2018 – Labor Day Break
September 20, 2018 – Fall Family Supper
October 6, 2018 – Fall Children's Clothing and Toy Sale
October 18-19, 2018 – Teacher's Convention (no school)
October 26, 2018 – Grandparent's Day
November 7 – 8, 2018 – Parent Teacher Conferences
November 22 – 23, 2018 – Thanksgiving Break
December 24 – January 4, 2019 – Christmas Break
January 30 - 31, 2019 – Parent Teacher Conferences
February 15, 2019 – Mid-winter Break
March 29-April 5, 2019 – Spring Break
May 27, 2019 – Memorial Day break
June 4, 2019 – Last day of school, ½ day, HCS graduation

Thank-you for volunteering your time at Heritage Christian's Fair Restaurant

Here's what you need to know before you come:

From the Health Department:

- No open-toed shoes or sandals allowed
- No tank-tops allowed
- Long hair must be tied back
- Kitchen help must wear a baseball cap, or we will provide you with a hairnet
- Food from home may not be stored in the restaurant kitchen. If you wish to bring in food for your break, please keep in your vehicle until break time.

Dress code and suggestions from the committee:

- Expect your clothing to get dirty, particularly if you are working in the kitchen.
- Neat, modest, clothing is always appropriate.
- Shorts are permitted by the Health Department, and suggested by the committee, since it is usually hot in the building.
- Wear comfortable tennis shoes.
- Please do not bring large purses or bags with you for your shift. We have limited shelving, so we would appreciate it if you could put your keys and phone in your pockets or in a very small bag.

Other important things to note:

- Children are not allowed to accompany parents to their shift at the restaurant or the food prep day. We could be shut down by the Health Department if this rule is not followed.
- If you are working in the kitchen, expect to wear gloves for most of your shift. We will provide latex-free gloves in two sizes.
- You will be given one 15-30 minute break on your shift, at which time you may order one meal from our kitchen at half price.
- Per the Hudsonville Fair Board, our volunteers are required to pay the regular gate admission fee of \$3. Please consider this a donation to our school. If this is a hardship, contact a committee member during your shift for reimbursement.
- If you are sick or otherwise unable to work your shift, please find a replacement and notify a committee member of this change.
- Have fun! Be kind! Remember, we will be representing Heritage Christian School to many people this week!

You should get a reminder email from Sign Up Genius confirming the date and time of your shift. If you would like to check on your shift go to www.signupgenius.com and search under heritagefairwork@gmail.com.

Thanks again for volunteering your time! We are looking forward to another fun and successful week at the fair!

The Fair Food Fundraiser Committee

Cara Dykstra, Jen Eriks, Lanae Holsteg, Tara Koole, Melissa Schimmel, Lori VanOverloop

Congratulations, graduates!
Heritage Christian School
Class of 2018

*"So teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our
hearts unto wisdom."*

Psalms 90:12



*Andrew James
Bartelds*



*Jack Christopher
Bergman*



*Madison Nicole
Beute*



*Everett Jay
Bleyenbergh*



*Gideon Matthew
Bosman*



*Maylee Kay
Boven*



*James Michael
Brands*



*Brynn Alexis
Brummel*



*Drew Kyle
Brummel*



*Hailey Nicole
Byker*



*Nathan Jay
Bylsma*



*Connor John
Courtney*



*Kaylie Joy
DeBoer*



*Leah Joy
Decker*



*Christien David
Doezeema*



*Audra Grace
Dykstra*



*Caden Paul
Engelsma*



*Hallie Mae
Engelsma*



*Victoria Grace
Ensink*



*Kylee Grace
Fisher*



*Zachary Alan
Gritters*



*Madalyn Hope
Groenendyk*



*Cristyn Joy
Gunnink*



*Stella Anne
Hoekstra*



*Cora Marie
Holstege*



*William Henry
Kalsbeek*



*Evan Michael
Koole*



*Micah Jay
Koole*



*Taylor Anne
Koole*



*Samuel David
Korhorn*



*Jenna Faith
Kuiper*



*Lauren Sue
Kuiper*



*Bradlyn James
Lotterman*



*Alex Steven
Lubbers*



*Riley Noel
Miedema*



*Parker Thomas
Mowery*



*Abrielle Dawn
Schimmel*



*Ethan Jason
Scholten*



*Peter Charles
Smit*



*Carson Jon
Terpstra*



*Kaylee Renae
VanBaren*



*Parker Jeffrey
VanBaren*



*Carter Allen
VanderKolk*



*Jacob Lee
VanderKolk*



*Mason Ross
VanderKolk*



*Brylynn Sue
VanOverloop*



*Calvin James
VanOverloop*



*Nicole Marie
VanOverloop*



*Samuel John
VanPutten*



*Lydia Eileen
VanUffelen*



*Troy Allan
VerStrate*



*Joshua Dale
Vink*

Kindergarten Supplies - all labeled

Backpack
Lg size Pencil Box (> 4" high)
2 Large Erasers
2 Large Solid Glue Sticks
Thick Washable Markers
Crayons (24 or less)
Good Quality Scissors (round-tips)
1 Sturdy Folder with Inside Pocket
Gym Shoes (Velcro or Slip-on)
Art Shirt
Small Pillow (14" or smaller)
One pair socks
Picture of your kindergartener

1st Grade Supplies – all labeled

School Box – Large Size
10 Pencils
1 yellow highlighter
1 Large Eraser ("Pink Pearl")
3 Large Glue Sticks
24 Crayola Crayons
Colored Pencils
12 Thick Washable Markers
4 Dry erase markers
Fiskar Scissors
1 **wide** ruled spiral notebook
Paint Shirt
Gym Shoes
2 Strong, Durable Pocket Folders
Earbuds in a small bag/pouch

2nd Grade Supplies - all labeled

KJV Bible
Psalter
12 **Sharp** Pencils
24 Crayons
24 Colored Pencils
10 thick washable markers – standard colors
1 Yellow Highlighter
2 Dry Erase Markers – black or blue
1 normal pink eraser
Large Plastic Pencil Box (w/ Snap Lid)
Fiskars **Sharp-Point** Scissors
3 Large Glue Sticks
1 Wide Ruled Notebook
1 Hard Covered Composition Notebook
2 Strong, durable Folders
Art Shirt
Gym Shoes & Extra Pair of Socks

3rd Grade Supplies

KJV Bible
12 - #2 Pencils
Earbuds in a small bag/pouch
Fiskar Scissors

3rd Grade Supplies, continued

2 Red Pens
4 dry-erase markers
2 Glue Sticks. 1 Glue Bottle
Art Shirt
Small Pencil Box
12" Ruler w/Inches & Centimeters
2 Blue or Black Erasable Pens
1 yellow highlighter
Small Notebook for assignments
2 Black Papermate brand fine point, non-permanent markers
1 Black Sharpie marker
Crayons (~48)
Markers, Colored Pencils
3 Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks
3 Single Pocket Folders – incl blue
Loose Leaf Paper –Wide Ruled
Psalter
Large Eraser
Gym Shoes

4th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible
Psalter – in Good Condition
Crayons
Red pen
2 Black Flair pens (Papermate brand fine point, non-permanent markers)
2 Black Sharpie markers (1 fine and 1 ultra-fine)
Thin washable markers
24 pack of colored pencils
10 sharpened #2 Pencils
2 large glue sticks
Yellow highlighter
Large Eraser
12" ruler with metric and customary measurements
Pointed scissors
Zippered 3 Ring Binder/Trapper
Wide ruled loose Leaf Paper
Gym Shoes
1 wide ruled 1 subject spiral Notebook
6 2-Pocket PLASTIC folders (w/ holes)
Earbuds
1 dry erase marker

5th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible and Psalter
Zippered 3-Ring Binder/Trapper
6 Folders
Colored Pencils
Markers
#2 Pencils
2 Red Pens
Blue or Black Erasable Pen
1 Yellow Highlighter
Large Eraser

5th Grade Supplies, continued

Loose Leaf Notebook Paper
5 wide ruled spiral notebooks
Ruler (w/Standard & Metric)
Pointed Scissors
Gym Shoes
Calculator
1 Large Glue Stick
2 fine tipped Black Sharpies

6th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible and Psalter
Pencils and Eraser
Pens: Blue/Black for Work
Pens: Red for Correcting
Black Thin Tip Marker
Colored Pencils
Markers (Optional)
Highlighting Markers (optional)
6 spiral notebooks (70-100 pgs)
Calculator
Gym Shoes
Ruler with inches AND centimeters
Glue Stick
Scissors
Zippered 3-Ring Binder/Trapper
5 Folders w/Pockets
200 pg. loose-leaf paper

Junior High Supplies

KJV Bible and Psalter
Multiple Pencils and Pens (they lose them!)
Colored Pencils
1 good eraser
Rubber cement
White-out
Scissors
5 3-Ring Binders (1" rings) for core courses
5 Spiral Notebooks for core courses
5 Folders w/Pockets
Folder for Art
Loose Leaf Notebook Paper (200 pages)
Ruler with Inches & Centimeters
Compass
Protractor
Scientific Calculator (TI-83 or 84)
1 pkg. 3x5 note cards

