

Herald



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Christian Mathematics Instruction
Mr. Brian Kuiper, Administrator

The thoughts presented in this article originated from my own concerns over a 12 year period while teaching junior high mathematics. They resurfaced during several meetings with teachers as a part of their evaluation process this year. Then, they were brought to article status after a discussion with Board representatives following their classroom visits recently. Christian school teachers wonder regularly if they are doing enough to teach mathematics “christianly”.

When teachers pause and examine just how they are doing this, they suggest many of the following examples:

- God is a God of order. Mathematics shows his orderliness.
- God is sovereign over all things. This includes mathematics.
- God requires us to do our work carefully and neatly. Be sure your math paper is done neatly.
- God establishes deadlines and rules for us. Be sure your paper gets handed in on time.
- God made everything, so we study shapes.
- God is One, and there is only one correct answer to a math problem.
- God is infinite, and mathematics will explore the idea of infinity.

And, then the mathematics teacher might look at that list and exclaim how shallow some of his ideas for teaching mathematics “christianly” really seem. If only I had become a science teacher or a social studies teacher...Let the reader beware. These examples only scratch the surface - and are intentionally shallow in an attempt to support the points that follow.

Each teacher and learner of mathematics must begin with an understanding of what mathematics is. In his paper published in 1989, Mr. Vern Huber suggests that “mathematics should be viewed as an invention of the mind in response to God’s creation” (p 45). This paper, entitled *Mathematics: An Overview of Its History and Philosophy From a Christian Perspective*, was published by the Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies, and is a good read for all interested in knowing more about mathematics. Mr. Huber goes on to explain that man is not the *inventor*, but that God allows men to use and *develop* mathematics to describe or explain creation. This understanding will have a profound impact on *why* we teach and do mathematics.

It follows that the Christian school teacher will therefore look for opportunities in mathematics to use creation as the example. Good mathematics education is cross-curricular! Degrees are not simply measures of angles in theory or in triangles, but are used to measure rotation of the earth. Degrees have significant things to say about the seasons. Study of God’s providence in mathematics ought necessarily to include appropriate teachings on the history and development of mathematical ideas being taught.

Positive and negative numbers and their relationships to each other are mathematical in nature – but have profound applications in science, electrical charges, and the chemicals that must exist in balance for the human body to be healthy. Music, poetry, the art – other creations of God are mathematical at their core. When the mathematics teacher uses

creation as an example, she is teaching mathematics “christianly”.

One more point bears consideration. On its own this is not enough, but it is the case that Christian school teachers teach much about subject matter by their classroom presence. Conduct, discipline, punctuality, honesty, integrity, fairness, preparation, excitement and love of content matter, and so many other christian characteristics shown in christian teachers demonstrate that all of education in a christian school is different.

This education, in mathematics and all other subjects, is what our students - His children - need to be equipped to live in this world. In II Timothy 3, we read about the foolishness of the world’s knowledge. They are “ever learning, and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth” (7). May our students learn the truth - in all classrooms. And, may it prepare them to continue “in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them” (14).

Insurance Committee Report – Mr. Jordan Dykstra

It’s that time of year again. Another riveting Insurance Committee report! If you’ve made it past the title, please buckle up and enjoy the read.

Heritage Christian School has quality insurance policies in place, providing benefits for employees and coverage against adverse events that may occur. HCS policies include a Package, Auto, Workers Comp, Student Accident, Health, and Life/Long Term Disability Policy.

The Package Policy includes coverage for items such as General Liability, Additional Liability (Religious Freedom, Sexual Misconduct, Traumatic Incident Response, Terrorism, Cyber Liability, among others) and “Umbrella” Coverage which extends the limits of and coverages for the General, Vehicle, and Employers’ Liability Policies. The Package Policy also includes Property coverage – think school building, storage buildings, personal property, loss from fire, water, ice, theft, vandalism, crime, explosion, and so on.

The Auto Policy includes coverage for the 5 buses that shuttle students to and from school each day. The State of Michigan requires Worker’s Comp coverage which provides wage and medical benefits to employees who may be injured while at work. Student Accident coverage is in place for mishaps on the monkey bars and dental work thanks to dodge-ball day.

That leaves us with the Health and Life/ Long Term Disability policies. HCS employees enjoy Priority Health coverage. The plan is considered to be a “Grandfathered Plan” (Pre-ACA), which means premiums are considerably lower with a much lower max out-of-picket cost for employees vs. ACA plans. The Delta Dental and VSP Vision plans offer comprehensive coverage and excellent benefits to employees and dependents. HCS contributes to employee HSA accounts 3 times per year and encourages

employees to contribute to their pre-tax HSA’s as well! Finally, the Kansas City Life plan includes an employer paid Life/Accidental Death & Dismemberment benefit on each employee, volunteer life coverage that employees may purchase on themselves, spouses, and dependents at a group rate, as well as employer paid Long Term Disability on each employee.

Taking a quick peek at policy rates, HCS has seen some adjustments year over year. Insurance agents have done a great job guiding us through the renewal process, clearly showing the cost vs. benefit comparison. For example, the Priority Health policy is up 5.74% compared to last year, coming in at \$306,932, but is still by far the most cost effective for HCS employees for the benefits it provides. Other comparable plans had similar or much higher premiums and deductibles, however, all others included increases from \$500 - \$7,300 in employee max out-of-pocket costs! The Package Policy is +11.5%, Auto +1.3%, Workers Comp -4%, and Student Accident coverage is -1.7% compared to last year. Finally, students and staff can breathe easier now, face mask coverage is down 100% from last year, a visible rate decrease we can all smile about.

A very special thanks is also due to Sharon Kraker who handles the behind-the-scenes insurance paperwork, agency communication, and renewal process!

Insurance is in place to provide protection against possible events that may occur in our daily lives. However, let’s remember to look to and put our trust in Him for all that we truly need, and have the assurance that all things work together for good to them that love God. Thanks be to our God for providing for HCS throughout another year.

Building Committee Report – Mr. Steve Bylsma

Every morning during the school year, approximately 550 students, along with teachers and staff enter Heritage Christian School for another day of learning. 9 hours later, after various sporting events have finished up, the school sits empty again until the following morning when the cycle repeats itself. Again and again for 9 months out of the year, Heritage Christian school is full of our covenant youth. The Building Committee of the board is responsible for the care of the school building. As a Building

Committee, it is easy to focus only on the building itself and forget the reason for the building. So much of our work is concentrated on the brick, the drywall, the bathrooms, the flooring, the playground, the parking lot, etc, that we sometimes forget that without the students and the staff, there would be no reason for the building. So I take this opportunity to remind myself, the rest of the Building Committee, and the school society, that this school is a

great blessing to us because of the Godly covenant youth that are instructed there.

However, this is a Building Committee report so it behooves me to write for a short time about the school building. Heritage Christian school is approximately 92,000 square feet with 29 classrooms, 2 gymnasiums, and many, many support rooms. As you can imagine, caring for the maintenance and upkeep of this size of a building is more than a full time job. I would like to take this time to publicly thank (and praise) our facility manager (Jeremey Lubbers). Cleaning a school the size of Heritage takes many hours each day and Jeremey and his staff of 5 high school students work every day to make sure that the school is clean. Many times, Jeremey is one of the first people at school each morning, checking over the cleanliness of the school and making sure that bathrooms and classrooms are stocked for the upcoming day. As you can imagine, the bathrooms at Heritage are constantly in use and must be cleaned and restocked throughout the day. (Some interesting statistics for you – school uses about 100 boxes of Kleenex, 60-70 rolls of paper towel, 1200 trash bags, 35,000 linear feet of brown bathroom paper towel, and 31,000 linear feet of toilet paper per month). Add in the miscellaneous spills, mystery smells from lockers, sick kids who don't quite make it to the bathroom or trash can in time, and you can see how Jeremey spends his days. On top of that, there are always various maintenance jobs that can be done. Due to his plumbing skills, as well as various other maintenance skills, Jeremey has saved the school a fair amount of money by fixing toilets and sinks, replacing filters in the heating and cooling, and repairing other various things that get broken in the course of a day. So if you see Jeremey walking the halls at school, take a minute to say hello and thank him for the work that he does for our school.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know of some of the various projects that the Building Committee has finished up or is working on for our school. Every year we take a look at the carpet in the building and then each summer a portion of the carpet is replaced. We have tried to replace a little bit of carpet each year

so that we are not hit with a huge area of carpet that needs replacing in any given year. This summer marks close to the last of the carpet that was in the school when we purchased it.

This fall we redid the running track. The track was in very poor shape and a few teachers requested that we look into this. The track is used at recess, for the track team's practice, and it gets some use from the cross country teams of Heritage and Covenant. Thanks to Rush Creek Excavating for this work.

One other big project that was completed was the repair of the storage barn. Over the years, the wood siding and roof had deteriorated. This fall, the barn was sided with vinyl siding and the roof was redone. This should ensure that the barn will remain in good shape for storage.

The playground is another area that is a common request from the teachers. The toys, basketball hoops, and gaga-ball pits are full every recess. The Building Committee is researching installing one or two nine square games to give the students another option at recess. In the future, we also hope to add a few more basketball hoops for the junior high students.

Many have noticed upon entering the main gym, that the wall is painted with a large Falcon. Our mascot is a panther. The Building Committee is working with Meulenberg Painting and Kristen Bleyenbergh to cover up the Falcon and replace it with a design of a panther. I think that you will be pleased with the results.

So while the Building Committee's main focus is on the upkeep and cleaning of Heritage Christian School, every time one of us stops by the school, we are reminded of the real reason for the building. It is a place that God has given us for the education of our covenant children. We are thankful every day for this school building, the students, teachers, and the staff that make this education possible.

A Chosen Generation, A Separate People – Mr. Rick Gritters

Have you ever thought of yourself as odd or strange, with opinions or ideas different from most other people? Have you ever felt like an outcast, unwanted and unneeded? Maybe there has been that time in your life when you've felt truly lonely without any true friends. Loneliness and separation are feelings that none of us desire to experience. If you could, would you ever choose to be rejected? Can you think of anyone who would want to feel this way: separate, strange, different, unusual? Well, God desires and commands His people to be like this.

God instructs us and our children to be all of these things: a stranger in this world of darkness, different from the unbelievers around us, separated from the sin and evil that fill this world and attempt to harm the church. Our calling regarding this is echoed throughout scripture: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?..." (I Corinthians 6:14) "And have no fellowship

with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11) "...let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," (II Corinthians 7:1) "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness but unto holiness" (I Thessalonians 4:7).

Upon first thought, all of this may sound like no big deal, a simple thing to do, or something that you just naturally do without thinking about it. But stop and think about it for a moment. What exactly does separation involve? Just what must we as adults and children do to please God and to be considered spiritual and not worldly?

Does it mean that we are found in church twice every Sunday growing spiritually under the preaching and singing? Does it mean that we attend a Christian school where we can learn all of the subjects in the light of Holy Scriptures and be with others who love God as we do? Does it involve coming to God regularly and reverently in prayer to confess our sins and to ask for God's

comfort and grace? Does it include regularly reading and knowing the Bible and then applying it to our lives by obeying it? I don't think many would argue that God's calling to us in I Corinthians 6:17 to "be ye separate" does not involve all of these things. But there are so many aspects of our daily lives that we don't always consider when we read the words of I Peter 1:16, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." This is also part of our calling to be God's peculiar people.

Are we so involved in sports that missing a game or not reading the sports news makes us mad? Does our daily language (on the court, on the playground, or at the office) single us out as God's chosen generation? Are our Sabbath Day activities the same as our weekly ones? Do we treat our neighbors kindly or do we backbite about them or humiliate them in front of others? When our

TV or computer is on, are we viewing things that we know will fill our minds with immorality and worldly thoughts? Are we willing to be truly great by serving and helping others as Jesus did or do we think only of ourselves? There is no doubt that you can think of many other practical applications of the verses quoted above.

If we love God, we will obey His commandments. And if we love our children, we will carefully show them the precious truths that God has blessed us with. Especially in our day and age our children need to see in their parents and teachers an exemplary, Godly lifestyle. And only by God's grace, and with careful, constant guidance and rearing can we raise up our covenant children to be different and separate.

The Body of Christ – Mr. Benji Kuiper

In 6th grade Science, our focus of study is on the human body. For those of you who don't know, our body is organized into four main groups: cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems. Although it isn't my intention for this to be a science lesson, I think it would be important for you as the reader to review (or learn for the first time) what each of these things are. Let's begin with cells. As you know, you are a living organism. All living things have certain characteristics. One characteristic of all living things is that they are made up of trillions of cells. These cells are what we call the building blocks of the body. Cells can come in different shapes, sizes, and even colors. The body is also organized into tissues. Tissues can be defined as groups of cells that work together to do the same job. For example, our muscles are composed of many muscle cells, all of which come together to form muscle tissue. The next level of organization of the human body is organs. Organs are simply structures that are composed of different kinds of tissue. Our bodies have 3 main tissues. When these tissues work together to do the same job, we have what we call an organ. Each organ in our body is part of an organ system. An organ system is a group of organs that work together to perform a major function. The human body has 11 organ systems, all of which work together to help our bodies function properly. One key idea here is that all of these things must work together, and all of these different parts are unique, yet valued and necessary in order for our bodies to be at its best and to function properly.

Throughout our study of the human body, my mind has been led to consider many different Bible passages associated with the body. The Word of God has a lot to say about it! There is however, one portion of scripture that has stuck out to me and is most likely very familiar to you as well. This passage is 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Now I'm not going to quote all of these verses, but I would like to give a brief summary of them. In these verses, the apostle Paul makes a connection between our physical human bodies and the body of Christ. The main idea here is that just as every single physical body part is necessary for our physical human bodies to function properly, so is the importance of every member of the body of Christ. Just as every single part of the body is unique and performs its own particular function, so does every member of the body of Christ.

Although I have been blessed to grow up in the Reformed Faith for my entire life and have heard this same message over and over, I have been able to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for this truth as I sit and reflect on my short time as a Christian school teacher. Every day, I have the wonderful opportunity to come to school to teach and interact with so many different members of the Body of Christ: parents, students, and fellow teachers. Although we are all united in One Faith, one thing that I have noticed with my very own eyes is how unique and different we all are, yet important to the body of Christ. This is so easily noticeable in not only each student's physical characteristics, but in their different personalities, talents, and abilities. Not a single student is the same as one of their classmates. They all have certain things that make them unique, and make them different. One important message that I have tried to teach my students is that we shouldn't see these differences as a negative thing. I have taught them that it is okay for people to have different hobbies, to enjoy different sports, and to think reading is cool. Just because another person likes different things than you or is not as smart or physically talented as you, it does not make them any less important or give you any excuse to be mean to them. Every single student is different, but every single student should be valued and realize that they are all important members of the body of Christ. You would be amazed to realize how different a school day is when only one student is missing or one student is out with a sickness. The whole atmosphere can change, and you can see how things are just not the same. It is as though the class seems incomplete. This is the same when it comes to our physical body parts. If we were to get rid of a foot for example, our whole lives would be changed, and things would not be the same.

As I sit and reflect on the school year so far, I can't believe how fast time has flown. This year has been filled with many ups and downs, but in it all, God has been good. I am truly thankful and blessed to serve as a teacher at Heritage Christian School and to have an opportunity to teach the future generations of the body of Christ. In it all, I have learned so much and grown in so many different ways, and in it all, I have truly seen how beautiful the body of Christ really is.

Why So Many? Mrs. Kelly Ensink

Parents who have had a child taught by me are familiar with papers coming home with directions to “Read 3 Times”. They may have found these directions to be tedious, maybe even annoying, and wondered why it needed to be read more than once. Hopefully this article will give some insight.

Research shows that one encounter with a new word is not enough to help average readers commit that word to memory. While different studies have different amounts of repetitions needed, they average around 17 exposures needed for automatic word recognition. This is just for average readers. Struggling readers need upwards of 46 exposures to automatically recognize a word.

Why is word recognition important? Once a child needs less energy to decode a passage, more energy can be spent on comprehending what they are reading. Further, once a child can comprehend more of what they are reading, more learning and enjoyment can result from reading.

I am working on finishing up a class on teaching reading. One of the topics discussed is fluency. A definition of fluency is: the ability to read with expression, automatic word recognition, rhythm, and smoothness (EARS). A quote from my class is, “If the fluency door

remains closed, access to the meaning of print and the joy of reading is blocked.” Many people, including some of my students, think that the goal of fluency is to be able to read fast. However, reading smoothly (not jerky, and this is where automatic word recognition comes in), rhythmically (obeying given punctuational pauses), accurately, and at a “conversational” rate is when comprehension and enjoyment will take place.

At Heritage, many programs that we use apply the concept of repeated readings. Read Naturally/Read Live, Backpack Books, and basal readers are just a few examples. Many teachers also use repeated reading in their classrooms in other reading activities as well. This could be applied at home, too, with library books, text books, reading of the Bible, and any other times when your child is reading.

So, my directions to “Read 3 Times” are just the beginning. My students will not get 17 exposures to new words in this amount of time, and certainly not 46! So keep your children reading often so they are seeing different words over and over, and can begin learning from and enjoying reading.

Leveled Libraries – Mrs. Emily Cnossen

This summer I finally sat down and accomplished something I had wanted in my classroom since my first year. **I finally leveled my library.** Leveling my library refers to sorting books according to their range of difficulty. My classroom library is leveled A through M, with A being the easiest.

After many failed attempts to level these books, last summer was the perfect opportunity. I was spending my first summer in my new house, and I really didn’t want to do any housework (or spend hot days picking corn for my husband’s side hobby). That gave me just enough motivation to spend about a week going back and forth between school and house, hauling in box...after box...after box. I spent hours sitting in my backroom completely surrounded by books. It took me about two months to sort all the books — it felt like a never-ending chore. As I sorted book after book, putting each one into its individual home, I began to doubt my decision to level my books. I contemplated putting them all back into their old containers and just returning them back to school. I wrestled with those thoughts until I decided to put all the sorting on hold and re-evaluated the pros and cons of leveled books. I read articles, listened to podcasts, watched TED talks, and spoke with other teachers. I found a lot of information on the pros and cons of leveled readers. Here are just a few that resonated with me:

The student is kept motivated when they are reading books they succeed in.	Without proper phonics instruction, it can lead to poor reading skills like guessing.
It can help improve comprehension skills as they are reading at a level they can understand.	There is a limited amount of choice.

I decided to continue leveling my books, but I wanted to do so in a way that accentuated the pros and counteracted the cons. I sorted half of the library into leveled books based on their difficulty. The other half, I kept in groups based on topic.

In 1st grade, each student is given a personal bookbox. Each week they have the opportunity to choose or exchange books from the classroom library to put in their personal bookbox. At the beginning of the year, when not many first graders knew how to read, I gave them decodable readers and allowed them to pick out of the A,B,& C leveled book boxes. They were also allowed to pick a certain number of books out of any of the interest boxes. I had gone through all the leveled boxes and pulled out a couple of each level for the topic boxes. So no matter what box they chose, there would be one or two that would meet each child’s reading ability. I believe it is important to note that most of the cons in my list had to do with lumping readers together in groups by level in order to instruct them. I do use reading groups, but I group them based on their phonetic and comprehension skills along with their ability to read fluently, rather than just what letter level in the library they are reading. My students are not restricted to their assigned level. They are allowed, and even encouraged to try one or two books

PROS:	CONS:
There is more variety in sentence structure, vocab, phonic patterns,etc.	The texts are not based on phonetic patterns.
It can help build fluency.	It can be difficult for beginning/struggling readers.

from the level below and above it as well. These levels are not meant as restrictions, but instead are to be used as strong guidelines for what types of books are best suited for them

Now that we are over halfway through the school year and have created a foundation in phonics, I have opened the library up to all the different levels. Each child knows what they can choose from, and they all have access to the topic side. They must pick a certain number of books from the level they are assigned, but they also must choose books from topics that may interest them. Gone are the nights of me frantically searching each box trying to find a book suitable for the students who struggled to find 'just right' books. I still give decodable books to students who struggle in reading, which they are required to read on a daily basis to reinforce the consistent phonic pattern practice that regular leveled books aren't equipped with. The students have a better idea of what a 'just right' book is for them, but they also have the option to explore topics they may enjoy.

Grace and Truth: A Call to Godly Conversation and Living – Mr. Dan VanDyke

"Grace and truth shall mark the way where the Lord His own will lead..." (Psalter 65)

For my book club and devotional reading this month, I'm enjoying the book *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers* by Dane Ortlund. The main point of the book is that while God is perfectly holy, perfectly just, and perfectly wrathful towards those who live in stubborn opposition to Him, His heart is perfectly gracious, perfectly loving, and perfectly merciful to those whom He has chosen to be His own. That core truth should be enough to shake us into a new wonder of Who God is to us, but more than that - it should prick our consciences at how rarely and how dimly we reflect the love of our Father in our daily conversation and walk. Especially for our children's sakes, we need to model much more carefully what our Lord's heart is like in the way that we treat them and show them the love of Christ.

Our culture is growing increasingly insane in its headlong rush into deeper and deeper sin and folly. Young people are being told and even encouraged that they can choose their gender or none at all, and this even in our local public high schools. Our own young people will and are encountering this level of depredation on the buses and in their places of work. In keeping then with the holiness of God, we must teach them to be holy and completely antagonistic to such sin. Remember, that to them, these wicked things seem fairly normal because they've never known a time where such folly was rejected and even ridiculed in the culture. One of the greatest temptations Christians face is to be as understanding and tolerant of the culture as possible, but this is wholly contrary to the Bible's way of speaking of our interaction with culture. One of the main verses that comes to mind is John 15:19 - "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." And Psalm 139:22 calls us to hate them because they hate God.

But this is not EVER to be our attitude towards each other, not even towards brothers who are walking in sin. The first two words God uses when He reveals Himself to Moses in the cleft of the Rock are "merciful and gracious." He continues to characterize Himself as "longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth"

We do use DIBELS and READ NATURALLY in first grade, which are absolutely wonderful in identifying student strengths and weaknesses and helping us follow student progress. However, I do feel that having the leveled bookshelf adds even more accountability both in their comprehension and fluency.

Because God has created each student unique and with specific needs and abilities, each student's personal book box is completely unique and tailored to that child's reading needs and abilities. Our goal in teaching our covenant children to read is so that the child is able to glorify God through the reading of His Word. In order for that to happen God's people need to be able to read. Getting along in society or reading for pleasure is secondary. First grade is the place that the beginning steps in that learning journey take place. The size of those steps is determined by God when He created them. Each child is unique and the abilities are varied, so God has given us a variety of means to be able to teach them according to their needs.

(Exodus 34:6). Jesus' words of self-characterization are "meek and lowly in heart" (Matthew 11:29). Do these words characterize our attitudes and words to one another - especially to our children? With the onslaught of social media and church controversy, we are inundated by a flood of criticism. Are we guarding ourselves with extreme caution so that we don't become likewise critical by nature? Criticism is not in the nature of God. His judgment and wrath come only upon a select generation of stubbornly rebellious people. Do we discipline our judgments likewise to include only those whom God hates? Toward His people, even those who are walking for a time in sin, God's attitude is long-suffering and gracious. One of the most remarkable passages which shows this is Hosea 11:8 - "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together." The last phrase, "my repentings are kindled together," is translated in other versions as "my compassion grows warm and tender" (ESV) or "my sympathy is stirred" (NKJV). And this prophecy is written to the northern kingdom of Israel! Do such words characterize our own hearts when we are dealing with our siblings in Christ and our covenant children? Or are we quick to condemn, criticize, and castigate each other?

One final verse for reflection on how we are to let the love of God show in our walking and talking is I John 4:20 - "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" Sometimes we excuse ourselves from the judgment of this verse by assuring ourselves that we don't actually hate the brother that we're criticizing. In many places, the Bible makes clear that hatred is a matter of the heart. Any word or deed which is not motivated out of a sincere desire for the true spiritual good of another is hatred. Too often our criticisms are motivated out of a desire simply to prove a brother wrong and/or ourselves right. This is never God's way. He always seeks to draw His own to Himself. This must be our true desire as well - to draw everyone to God and the beauty of His grace and fellowship. We must always remember that we are witnesses of the very nature and love of God to one another. May His heart be clearly seen in our conversation and walk.

Chapel Reviews From the 8th Grade – Mr. Bill Joostens



The following is a sampling of 8th graders' (8B & 8C) reviews of several of our school chapels this year. Thankfully we were able to gather all together as students and staff this year and be taught by God's Word in a variety of topics. The 8th graders generally take notes on our chapels and now the reviewing of the chapels for the *Herald* makes a great opportunity to reflect what precious things we have learned. What blessings have certainly flowed from this as God's privilege to us as a school body. Much has been learned in faith, life and Christian walk of godliness. Each summary summarizes the student's favorite chapel, and states why the student chose that particular one as his or her favorite, and what the student learned from the chapel speech. I think you will enjoy these summaries they have written and realize in just one more way what a priceless gift our own Christian schools are for us as Godly parents.

October 29, 2021 Mr. Dan VanDyke

Chapel Summary by Troy Zandstra

Chapel summary My favorite chapel was the one that Mr. VanDyke gave to us. The chapel was mostly about children and obedience. He taught us that "foolishness is bound to the heart of a child" (Proverbs 16). You will lose your spiritual soul if you go in the way of sin. Martin Luther is a good example of this because even in the face of death he stood for the truth in front of Roman Catholic church officials. Later on, Mr. VanDyke said that a child is known by his doings (reputation). Chapel concluded by reminding us that we have to stand for what is right, even in the face of persecution.

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? This was my favorite chapel because it reminded us of our sinful natures and that we have to always obey God and His commandments in our lives.

What lesson was learned? We learned that we have to fight against our sinful natures and put away foolishness in our lives. We have to always stand up for what we believe, and we can never spare a punishment from someone who has sinned.

October 29, 2021 Mr. Dan VanDyke

Chapel Summary by Paige Decker

Chapel summary God gives us adults in our lives to teach us about Him. We are called to obey them. Sin is scary and it would be terrible if we went into sin and stayed there. This is why we must walk in obedience and walk what we believe (our confession). Our future must be filled with faith and obedience. There are two paths: one of joy/obedience/blessing, and one of disobedience/misery. We are to stand up for what's right in the sight of the Lord.

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? This one is my favorite chapel because it reminds us that we must obey the authorities in our lives and do what is right. We must remember this especially at this time in our lives because we are getting more freedom. But, we still are called to do what's right in the Lord.

What lesson was learned? As I said before, the lesson is that we are called to walk the path of righteousness. We are to do this all throughout our lives, and are to obey all in authority over us.

November 12, 2021 Rev. John Marcus

Chapel Summary by Avery Noorman

Chapel summary My favorite chapel is Rev. Marcus' chapel on using our tongues. The tongue is very small, but can cause great

damage or great good. James 3:8-18 talks about the tongue and ways we can hurt people. Two things to remember: 1) Don't be a peace-breaker, and 2) don't be a peace faker and deny the truth. We should be: 1) pure – the Holy Spirit purifies our hearts; 2) peaceable – wanting to be peacemakers; 3) easy to listen; 4) full of mercy (not hatred); 5) without hypocrisy.

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? This is my favorite chapel because it really stuck with me because of the reality of our tongues and bad words being spoken a lot. It also showed me how to go to those who have used their tongues unwisely and to hurt.

What lesson was learned? The lesson I learned from this was to use our tongues wisely. In order to tell those who sinned we should 1) tell them they did; 2) if they don't repent, go with others, 3) still no repentance, tell the church about their sins. Remember: go humbly and peaceably. Be a peace maker, not a faker!

November 12, 2021 Rev. John Marcus

Chapel Summary by Micah King

Chapel summary We can either use our tongues for good or for breaking people down. The tongue is a little member, but it does great things. The tongue is full of deadly poison that it gets from hell. The tongue cannot be tamed. None of the human race can control the tongue to love one another by themselves, but Christ in them. We mustn't be peace-breakers or peace-fakers with our tongue, but peace-makers. The Holy Spirit purifies our hearts, then we want to be peace-makers.

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? This chapel speech was my favorite because it gives us a good lesson about using our tongues wisely and to build each other up, not tear each other down. This is good that we hear it now so we can be Godly examples to other Christians.

What lesson was learned? I learned that the tongue can be a deadly fire or used for Godly upbringing of people. We must use it to build up other of Christ's church.

November 24, 2021 Rev. Garry Eriks

Chapel Summary by Addi Dmek

Chapel summary In this chapel speech, we were taught how gratitude grows. It grows by God, Gospel, Grace, Gladness, and Giving. We grow in God when we see how great He is and all His mercy. By the Gospel we grow when we are thankful for it. We should be because it teaches us the good news from God. The greater the gift, the more gratitude we have. That's why we must be thankful for the people God has given us in our lives. We have to serve the Lord with gladness. When we do that we will have gratitude for what we have. Finally, we must give thanks to God every day. We grow in gratitude through worship.

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? This is my favorite chapel because it was easy to understand.

What lesson was learned? It taught me how to grow in my gratitude to God every day and not complain for the things that I don't have.

November 24, 2021 Rev. Garry Eriks

Chapel Summary by Madison Lubbers

Chapel summary There are 5 main ways that we can grow in gratitude. 1) When we see God, when we see His power, His might, His mercy. God is good, meaning He is perfect, kind, and merciful when we sin. 2) We grow in gratitude when we see the

Gospel. The Gospel is remembering that we are the sheep of His pasture because of what Christ has done for me. We are dumb and go astray. Like sheep we need our Shepherd. 3) We grow with gifts. The greater the gift, the more thankful we are. God gave the greatest gift of salvation. 4) We can grow by showing gladness to God. With gladness there is no complaining. 5) We give thanks to God through worship. Not just on Sunday, but every day.

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? This is my favorite chapel because it is a good reminder of how we should act as Christians, by giving examples of how we can grow in gratitude.

What lesson was learned? We need to grow in gratitude: by seeing God, by seeing the Gospel (read Scriptures daily), giving gifts to others, and being thankful when we receive gifts. Praise the Lord with gladness. Give thanks to God always. These are the 5 activities we must do in years to come.

January 21, 2022 Rev. Carl Haak

Chapel Summary by Avery Zuverink

Chapel summary People who were (are) persecuted and heroes of faith are examples of faith. They believed God would save them, and were not afraid. We should have this faith as well. We should also build up the church; not tear it down. We must teach others to say, "I love the church."

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? This is my favorite chapel because it shows us that Christ is sovereign over all, and He will never pass away or forsake His people. Also, nothing can destroy God's truth.

What lesson was learned? We learned that we must always put out trust in God. "For this God is our God forever and ever, He will be our guide even unto death" (Psalm 48:14). We also learned that we must stand by the words of Psalm 48:14 because the antichrist is coming.

January 21, 2022 Rev. Carl Haak

Chapel Summary by Amber Kuiper

Chapel summary My favorite chapel this year was done by Rev. Haak. It's a very good lesson we must remember as Christians. We need God to help us get through things and are reminded by fellow believers (ministers, teachers, friends, family...).

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? I like this chapel because it reminds us that God strengthens His church. The church will forever remain in debt to God. But by God's great will He gives us strength and grace to get through it. God's church is placed in a perfect place and for where, when, and why God has them there. God promises the church will be raised above. God never lies, His promises are always true from now to forever. We have confidence that God cares for His people. With the confidence we are assured of we can use it to help care for the church's needs. Not a single person is like God. He is our unique Savior.

What lesson was learned? God strengthens His church. God's care for His people never ends, it's infallible. We must tell the generations to come of this good will. God builds our walls of Zion.

February 4, 2022 Rev. Ken Koole

Chapel Summary by Alaina Uittenbogaard

Chapel summary Doing everything to God's glory has a lot to do with love. We have to love others with the same love that God has shown to us. When we love, it gives God the glory. God wants glory for Himself, This does not make Him selfish, but since God is a trinity, the 3 parts of the trinity all want glory for the other parts of

the trinity. They desire that each part gets glory for His name. God loves Himself but He also loves His people. God is not just interested in His glory apart from His people, but the glory for His people. God speaks well of His people, whom He loves. Because God speaks well of His people, we are to speak well of each other also, because in this we are giving God the glory. We should not seek glory for ourselves, but only for the Almighty God.

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? I like this chapel because it teaches us that we should be kind to others, not for our glory, but for the glory of God in heaven.

What lesson was learned? We must be kind to others and not seek out our own glory. We must direct all the glory toward God in heaven.

February 4, 2022 Rev. Ken Koole

Chapel Summary by Laelle Terpstra

Chapel summary We must give God all the glory by loving Him and our neighbors. Only God can receive all the glory. Even though we might not like our enemies, we must love them even when they do evil to us. God loves Himself. This means that He seeks His own glory of His reputation. In God's love for Himself, He is seeking His own glory. He sent His only Son to die for us to show that He is faithful to us. In Christ's love for us, He does good things for our benefit. When we talk good of others, and give thanksgiving, we are giving glory to God.

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? This is my favorite chapel speech because it tells us to give thanks to others and speak good of others and not gossip. God gave us the Son to glorify Himself and we must follow Christ and give Him all the glory.

What lesson was learned? This speech teaches us that we must give all the glory to God, by loving each other and doing good to each other. These actions reflect Him and His grace. We must love all our enemies and do good to them even when they do evil towards us. When we do all these things, we are giving all honor, praise, and glory to God.

February 17, 2022 Rev. Jon Mahtani

Chapel Summary by Jacoba Kalsbeek

Chapel summary The world has an idea about Valentine's Day, not the right idea about love. There are 3 kinds of love: 1) Romantic – "eros" – husband and wife love; 2) Brotherly love – "philia" – love with brothers and sisters; 3) Christian love – "agape" – love with believers/elect. We must think about the love of God. He loved us so much that He sent His only Son to die for us, to save us from our sins. We must love our neighbors. Boys should not just love boys but also girls, and girls should not just love girls but also boys.

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? This is my favorite chapel speech because it talks about love, and I learned a lot of stuff I didn't know like agape, philia, and eros, words for different types of love. It talked about God's love for us, and how He sent His Son to die because He loves us.

What lesson was learned? We must choose love, we must show love even if someone doesn't love you. Love is choosing before feeling – you must choose love even if it doesn't feel good. Love is unconditional. Love never fails. Love is bold, you must help your friend when they have fallen into sin. Love is also action. Love manifests itself in actions. Love doesn't just say I love you. We must have the love that Jesus/God shows us. If you don't have love, you are nothing.

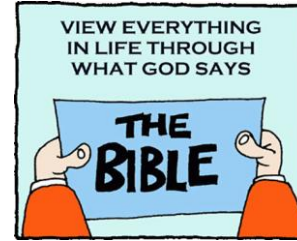
February 17, 2022 Rev. Jon Mahtani

Chapel Summary by Kenton Butler

Chapel summary There are three proper ideas of love: 1) Romantic love – husband and wife love. This love is not wrong, but is a beautiful thing if they are married in the Lord; 2) Brotherly love – when we hang out with brothers, friends, and sisters and we have a good conversation with them; 3) Agape love or Christian love – this love is the most important because it is the love of Jesus Christ. Out of love for God we must love our neighbor.

Why I chose this chapel as my favorite? This is my favorite chapel speech because Rev. Mahtani made clear what love is and helped me understand better.

What lesson was learned? We love all our neighbors around us and go to them when they sin and ask for forgiveness when we sin. We must show our love in our actions. We must remember love never fails. It's unconditional. Love is willing to address all things.



From the Front Row – Mrs. Sandy Glashower

What a spectacular view we have from the front row! What a blessed experience we have from the front row! The “front row” is the front row of the bleachers in HCS gymnasium where class 4A sits for chapels. From our vantage point we have heard not only stirring speeches but also marvelous music.

This marvelous music has come to us from many talented musicians in the form of vocal solos/duets/trios, piano duets, recorder performances, whole band selections or instrumental duets/trios, whole class singing, full choirs, ukulele groups, rhythm bands, and on the list goes. All have been amazing!

We are in awe of the young talented musicians God has given us at Heritage Christian. They are a blessing to us! Their music

and/or words slide into the cracks and crevices of minds and act as a healing balm. They calm the spirit and encourage the listener. They stir the heart and uplift the soul. They magnify our Maker and make Him known. They draw us into the presence of Jehovah, God Almighty, Prince of Peace and hearts are mended. We leave changed, glorifying God, and so will you.

Come attend HCS chapels sometime to witness the messages and especially the marvelous music. The row behind 4A is open and available for visitors to sit. Not only will the front row and your row be blessed, but also ALL rows will be blessed by HCS young talented musicians!

Reading – Mrs. Rhonda Holstege

Spring Break will be coming soon! You hopefully will have plenty of time to read! We enjoy reading a lot in third grade. We read our assignments and our Bibles and Psalters, we read to solve math problems and in order to write. Reading lets you solve mysteries, “travel” through the world, hear about a fantasy world, learn about an autobiography and much more! We have a wealth of information in the books we can read. Keep reading! Let others know about a good book you have recently read, or ask others for a good title or series. Reading can be fun, even if one struggles. Find an appropriate book for their level to give them some encouragement in reading. What follows is a list that my students found interesting for themselves:

- **Mason DeVries:** Who Would Win series because it helps me learn about new things and increases my learning. It is filled with facts about the competitors and who would survive a fight.
- **Marshall VanTil:** I Survived Twin Towers because it is about people that survived this thing. They went down so fast and started on fire. Only some people got out.

- **Arianna Engelsma:** Mac and Cheese is a book about 2 cats and is my favorite. One is orange and doesn't do much and one is white and likes to do everything.
- **Brady Nienhuis:** The Boxcar Children is a mystery book and is exciting and funny. There are 4 children who are smart, clever, funny, and like books themselves.
- **Will Kleyn:** I Survived series because it shows me what it would be like to be in such a disaster. It could be a hurricane, tsunami, or even the Great Chicago Fire. You are curious to see what happens next and if the people survived or not.
- **Eden Baas:** Owl Diaries are my favorite because there are so many different books! The book always has a problem to solve. The owls do talk in this series.
- **Casen Pipe:** I like Horrible Harry because Harry is always horrible. He once started a ketchup war and took a piece of someone's engagement cake. You should read it.
- **Jacob Brummel:** Wings of Fire is my favorite because of the dragons. There are 7 books and I am on the 6th one. They change their colors because of their feelings.

- **Brooke Zwak:** Owl Diaries is about owls who can talk and have problems but also friends. My favorite book is Warm Hearts Day.
- **Brendan Vink:** Danny The Champion of the World is a story about a man and his property that has over 100 pheasants living there. Some other stuff happens in the book and I found it to be entertaining and I recommend it a lot!
- **Wyatt Lenting:** I Survived series is interesting! My favorite is The Battle of Gettysburg in the Civil War. I think you should read it.
- **Kaiya Bylsma:** Survivors is a series that I like to read. The book is about dogs who fight and have hardships. They even talk about a pack and about a half wolf dog.
- **Cade Schipper:** I Survived The Shark Attacks is my favorite because someone goes in a stream, sees the fin, and is screaming for help. He got bit and his friends had to help him because he was bleeding.
- **Wyatt VanderKolk:** The Great Brain is a great series about 3 boys and 1 is very smart. That is how they got the title of the book. I personally like it because my dad also liked it.
- **Rylie Machiele:** Magic Tree House is about 2 kids that live in the woods. They climb a tree and find a book on the floor,

wish they could go to a place, and then when they get there they usually have to solve a mystery. Very interesting!

- **Livie DeVries:** Tornado is my favorite book. A family is stuck in a cellar and their grandpa tells a story of his youth when there was a tornado.
- **Seth Drnek:** Plants vs. Zombies is funny. The plants are alive and I like this book.
- **Sammy Horvat:** The Magic Tree House because they go on adventures to so many places!
- **Abbie Pols:** Owl Diaries is fun to read because it is with owls who talk. They are funny and silly.
- **Kaleb Joostens:** Hardy Boys solve mysteries usually before their father does.
- **Gracie Lotterman:** I Survived is interesting. I especially like the Hurricane Katrina book because a boy gets separated from his family and gets back home!
- **Simon Kamps:** Magic Tree house is my favorite. I have about 11 books and I hope to get more. My favorite one is Afternoon on the Amazon.
- **Chase Zuverink:** The Hardy Boys is my favorite series because they are suspenseful. The characters make the stories more interesting. Every story is a little different.

God's Perfect Love – Mrs. Kennedy Heneveld

Earlier this year, my class and I learned I John 4:7-12 for our Bible memory. We also read a devotional about it that was found in *Ignited by the Word*. This passage states: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love." These first two verses of the text were the ones that we focused on the most. We discussed as a class the difference between the love that we are capable of showing and the love that God shows us every day. After our discussion of the article and figuring out what the difference was, I had my students write about what it means for God to show perfect love, along with how we can show love to each other. Here are some of their responses.

"God shows perfect love. This means never fighting, never arguing, and never being selfish. I can show love by obeying, picking up my room, and doing chores." - Emma Decker

"I can show love to others by being kind to others, loving others, letting others play what they want to play first, and letting them be in front of me in line." - Gwennan Noorman

"God shows perfect love. This means to not be selfish. I can show love by letting a classmate go first." - Blake Gritters

"God showing perfect love means not fighting, not being selfish, and to have joy. I can show love by loving Jesus and others first." - Layla Heyboer

"By God showing perfect love, it means no arguing, no fighting, and no being selfish. I can show love by being kind and selfless." - Zachary Doezeema

"God shows perfect love. That means to not be selfish. I can show love by letting the person pick the game." - Christian Karsemeyer

"God shows perfect love. This means we don't fight. I can show love by playing with people if they are lonely." - Sadie Zuverink

"By God showing perfect love, it means no arguing, no fighting, no being selfish. I can show love by letting Blake pick the game." - Zander Koole

Educational Support Staff Reintroductions – Mr. Mike Noorman

Our Educational Support (ES) staff includes four teachers, Kelly Ensink, Deb Altena, Sue Bleyenburg, and Sarah Decker, that have been hired to work alongside classroom teachers to support students with learning how to read, write, spell, do math, as well as all the skills that students need to be successful in school. In the past few years, some of the parents of the students we work with have inquired about who these teachers are. I thought the Herald

would be a great place to give a brief reintroduction to this experienced group of teachers.

Our ES staff has been around for a long time. These four teachers have all been teaching for at least 20 years each and bring over 100 years of teaching experience to our school! Two other unique facts that stand out are that they are all Calvin College graduates and were all classroom teachers at some point.

Our ES staff also includes a group of part-time teacher aides that work alongside these teachers and students: Buffy Schimmel, Katie VanOverloop, Shelly Start, Melissa Schimmel, Marie Schipper, and Audrey Decker. This group of the support staff is an extension of the teachers. Their job description has changed quite a bit over the years, and most of their time is spent working with students either in the classroom or in small groups. They serve with willingness and humility, and we are blessed to have them give some of their precious time with our students at Heritage.

Not only have I enjoyed working with all of these individuals as part of a team that supports students in their learning, but also I appreciate the support we provide for each other. We are a tight knit group, motivated by the belief every student is “fearfully and wonderfully made” by God. As teachers, we are united by our desire to give our students the best education we are able and each child is viewed as a unique creation equipped to confidently serve the Lord in everything they do. As an ES staff, we take that perspective into every aspect of our work.

Every week, this outstanding group of four teachers and the teacher aides get together for a weekly lunch meeting. While we always have some business to get through, our conversations often include our families, our students, and our work at Heritage Christian School, a place we have all committed much of our lives to. We work through tough decisions together and celebrate the successes made by the students.

These teachers have watched how Heritage has changed over the years and have adapted with those changes. They have worked with many different classroom teachers over the last 20-30 years and learned all the main components of each teacher's classroom curriculum. This combination of knowledge and experience makes them uniquely equipped to come alongside the teachers in order to support your children in their learning.

The staff is not only knowledgeable about the ways of Heritage Christian School, they also work to stay up to date in the best

practices in education through ongoing professional development. They love to teach, but they also love to learn about the best ways they can instruct your children and support them in their learning.

Kelly Ensink is our lower elementary support teacher and specializes in reading. Kelly has been teaching for 20 years. After getting her special education degree, she worked at Ken O Sha, an early childhood center, and then taught 2nd grade at Hudsonville Christian School before beginning at Heritage in 2004. One of the parts of her job that she enjoys is “having many of my students for more than one year and seeing how far they come.”

Deb Altena and Sue Bleyenburg both work across many grade levels, but are currently focused on teaching students in the 4th-6th grade. “I love working with the kids,” Deb said. “I especially enjoy the ‘lightbulb’ moments when we get out the concrete manipulatives and they understand what they are doing when solving a problem.” The grade levels that Deb and Sue work in are usually tough transition years because the expectations start to grow, which can be difficult for some students to adjust to. Like Deb, Sue's work is driven by the love of seeing students learn. “My favorite thing about my work with the students is seeing the light in their eyes when they finally understand the concept or question!”

When students enter junior high, the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom will serve them beyond the classroom walls. Our junior high ES teacher, Sarah Decker, loves this part. “I enjoy developing the skills of my students to become successful learners in the classroom and in life.” While learning the content is important, the students who work with Mrs. Decker also learn the study skills that will serve them to become more independent learners beyond their time at Heritage Christian School.

As an Educational Support staff, we thank you for working with us, praying for us, and trusting God to use our school for the good of your children. We are extremely thankful to be able to work together with you. As teachers, we look forward to moving forward into the next stages that God has planned for our school.

REMAINING 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

March 18, 2022 – Fearfully & Wonderfully Made Day

April 1-8, 2022 – Spring Break

April 15, 2022 – Grandparent’s Day (in the morning only)

April 20, 2022 – Walkathon (rain date 4/22)

April 26, 2022 – Science Night

May 2-5, 2022 – Spring MAP testing

May 11, 2022 – Elementary Music Program (Main gym 1 PM)

May 13, 2022 – Kindergarten Program (Georgetown PRC 7 PM)

May 17, 2022 – Band and Choir Concert (Main gym 7 PM)

May 30, 2022 – Memorial Day break

June 1, 2022 – Last day of school, ½ day, HCS graduation (Fellowship Reformed Church 7 PM)

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

August 29, 2022 - School begins

September 2 & 5, 2022 - Labor Day Break

October 20 & 21, 2022 - Teachers’ Convention

November 24 & 25, 2022 - Thanksgiving Break

December 23 - January 2, 2023 - Christmas Break

February 17, 2023 - Mid-Winter Break

March 31 – April 7, 2023 - Spring Break

May 29, 2023 – Memorial Day Break

May 31, 2023 - Graduation