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**God's Lights**

**Mr. Brian Kuiper, Administrator**

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,  
and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

The verse used for this article has been chosen by the graduates of 2023 as their class text. While it is a familiar verse from the teachings of Jesus on the kingdom of heaven, it is also very instructive for teachers and parents involved in the good calling of Christian education. After all, Christian education is part of the broader work of the church members on earth as they prepare young people for that heavenly kingdom.

Notice first of all that we are called light. "Ye are the light" is the context (verse 14). Jesus taught not that we would become light or might be light, but that we are light. The impact on education is profound. Teachers and parents must see the young people and children as kingdom children - children of the light. The Word is clear in other places when making a distinction between light and darkness. The picture shows that there is a marked difference between the children of God and the children of the world. When students leave their homes and enter the classrooms of the school building, teachers see them as God's children and treat them as such. Instruction is geared towards their souls. Discipline is intended to impact their hearts. They are treated as God's children who sin but have forgiveness and salvation in Christ. Only He knows if one of them is not light.

The passage calls us to light a path. While the language in the passage refers to giving light to those "in the house" (verse 15), one can easily imagine the child of God walking a very dark path and needing a flashlight to light the path. The walk is treacherous at times. The believer experiences trials and tribulations as well as peace and joy. During the darkest of times, the Word must be used to light the way. However, each light - each believer - can help light the way as well. Are we the light that lights the path for others? Or, do we share in the darkness in such a way that the path becomes more dark and difficult to navigate? Our calling is clear. Be light to others, and by this means we will help them walk the path that they may have helped us walk in the past. And, it is explicitly stated that we do this only for the glory of the Father.

That brings to mind one more part of the passage we must consider. Lighting the path together will make each light brighter. In the darkness, pointing light across or at other light will do nothing to help the walk and light the way. Combining the lights and pointing many lights in one direction will enhance the light and illuminate the path greatly. Not only does this light the path, but it shows the world that lights walk together.

When Satan seeks to attack, he looks for weak lamps or flickering ones to prey upon. When he sees bright white, non-dimmable LED light, he knows he is defeated. Thanks be to God that His lights can be that light!

May the light of His Word light each path in the days ahead, and may each light be used to shine for His glory!

We take this opportunity to bid farewell to several families whose youngest child is graduating this year. They are Steve and Rosie Bylsma (Beka), Eric and Cara

Dykstra (Davis), Wes and Ronda Fisher (Mason), Doug and Michelle Holstege (Trenton), John and Laura Kamps (Eli), Dave and Kristin Korhorn (Matthew), Brian and Karen Kuiper (Kent), David and Amy Ondersma (Daniel), Jim and Stacey Schimmel (Easton), Mitch and Melissa Schimmel (Levi and Madison), and Tom and Heidi VanderWaal (Gideon and Gracia). We pray that the instruction your children received at Heritage has prepared them to be bright lights in the world - for Him!

### **Salary Committee Report – Mr. Tyler Schimmel**

While we are still looking for a junior high teacher for the 2023/24 school year, we are very blessed to report that all of our other teaching positions for next year have been filled. We had a few teachers leave, a few moving around, and few new teachers coming in. Our Education Committee has been busy! You will read about this in the Education Committee report, so I won't comment too much about it here.

Teaching contracts were handed out in the beginning of March. Salary increases were 4.0% for those with 13 years of experience or more. Teachers with experience less than 13 years were given increases based on the years of service salary scale. The committee used the Christian School International Report (CSI) as a guide to help make the decision of what increase our teachers would receive this coming school year. This report was especially helpful this year due to the inflationary environment we are all experiencing. The CSI report gathers metrics like annual wage growth, consumer price index, household effective buying index, local and regional compensation data, forecasted inflation rates,

and many other important factors to determine salary and benefit recommendations. This report is used with the other Protestant Reformed schools in the area and the other local Christian schools as well.

The school budget for next year was just recently approved at the April society meeting which resulted in a tuition increase of 4.5% and a \$3.14 million operating budget. The budget is established such that the revenue equals 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 that you 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 provide means to support HCS and our staff during the remainder of this school year and as they begin to prepare for the 2023/24 school year.

### **Education Committee Report - Mr. Stefan Engelsma**

Greetings on behalf of the Education Committee of Heritage Christian School!

It's an honor and a blessing to be able to bring this report to you as we near the end of another school year. It was a school year that had its share of difficulties, hurdles, and obstacles, but it was another year that provided our covenant children with an education based on the biblical principles that it was founded on so many years ago.

As a committee, we continue to be impressed by the dedication of our teachers, administrator, aides, staff, volunteers, parents, and supporters of our school. So many moving parts must work together for this institution to continue to provide the Christ-centered education of our children that we've come to expect, and it's a joy to watch that happen at Heritage. This doesn't happen because we deserve it or are able to make it happen on our own. Day in and day out, we are reminded by what we see at Heritage that this is a blessing from God, and because of the work of His Spirit in us, we are able to

see the importance of this education for our children, making personal sacrifices to see that it carries on for generations to come.

The work of the committee in this past year has been difficult but rewarding. We meet with parents and teachers, work on curriculum changes, review and revise school policies, anticipate changes that may need to be addressed, interview potential teachers and aides, visit the classrooms monthly (my favorite), and do our best to handle and deal with issues as they arise. No matter what the situations are that arise and need to be dealt with by the committee, I'm reminded of Galatians 5:22,23. Paul, inspired by the Holy Ghost, details the attributes that not only should, but must be evident in our everyday life. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law". May we all exhibit these attributes when we deal with each other, not only at Heritage, but in our everyday life.

Some changes will be coming to Heritage next school year that are of interest. As we weren't able to fill all the teaching positions we would have liked, for the 2023/24 school year we will have 2 first grade classes instead of the 3 we had this year. We continue to interview for a full-time aide to assist the two classes as well. Matt Kuiper, Katie Baatenburg, and Emily Cnossen did not renew their contracts for next year, and we thank them for their years of service and devotion at Heritage. They will be missed! Cathie Koole will be doing her student teaching at Heritage this fall in a second-grade class, and contingent upon the successful completion, the intention is that she become a full-time teacher at Heritage. Erika Aalsma has accepted a new position at

Heritage as well. In the upcoming school year, Erika will take on the combined roles of K-4 Assistant Administrator as well as Director of Educational Support. Although Erika will miss her current teaching position, the Education Committee is thrilled to have her step in and take the reins at these two important positions. We also welcome Katie VanOverloop to Heritage as a new member of our teaching staff! Katie will be teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

As graduation nears and the school year draws to a close, may we all reflect on the blessings that have been showered on us as a denomination and a school, and wonder at the glory and power of our God, who gives us all good things.

### **Annual Secretary's Report to the Society – Mr. Ben Rau**

*(The following report is adapted slightly from the Board Secretary's report delivered at the annual Society meeting in May.)*

Dear Society of Heritage Christian School:

Welcome to the Annual Society Meeting for the 38th year of covenantal education at Heritage Christian School. It is of the Lord's mercies alone that we are preserved through another year. As is our custom, we take a few minutes to reflect on the 2022-2023 school year and anticipate the year ahead, trusting in our Father's care. Each year of instruction is memorable in its own way, and 2023 has been no exception. As we open, it is worth noting in opening that the 2023 graduating class will be the first class to have never been instructed at the 40th Avenue facility, spending their first years at Beaverdam and our current facility only. How the years fly by!

#### ***Year in Review***

As we reflect, we have many reasons for thanks. The staff, Board, and parental community are certainly thankful for a year where the influence and impact of COVID continues to lessen. Tension from the recent schism in our churches remains an ongoing concern for many in our school community, but thankfully the impacts have not been heavily felt in the day-to-day education environment at HCS. Many joyful occasions during the school year within and outside of the school day come to mind as well – the opportunity to serve as a community with the Fundraisers at the Hudsonville Fair, the Fall Family Supper, Grandparents Day, the All School Program, Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Day, Teacher Appreciation days and events – all great reasons for joy. And on a lighter note, HCS triumphed over our other local PR schools in the first area-wide Spelling Bee, with both champions crowned as representatives from HCS!

That is not to say there have not been challenges this year. Significant losses of parents and grandparents have affected many of our children, teachers, aides, Board members, and society members. Even on this very night a family gathers in the house of mourning

remembering a dear son whose loss (from our finite perspectives) seems so untimely; our prayers are with Russ and Karissa Lotterman and their many family members in the HCS community in their time of need. Difficult circumstances with abuse and misconduct past and present in our church circles have impacted relationships. Valuable changes to educational methods intended to bring in more inclusive approaches for instruction caused challenging adjustments for many teachers during the school year. Significant effort has been required for changes to move towards aligned scheduling to ensure efficient use of teacher's aides, focused Response to Intervention (RTI) time to start the day, and implementing workshop model instruction for Math, but all aspects are normalizing further with the dedication of our staff and support from All Belong (formerly known as the Christian Learning Center).

The days in which we live have impressed on each of us the importance of a physically and emotionally safe environment for our students. The Board and administration at HCS take this seriously, and it is worth pausing to mention several key updates in this area from the last year:

- Our annual review and walkthrough of the building with the Ottawa County Sheriff and Hudsonville Fire Chief occurred again this year; specific enhancements to improve security have already been implemented. Thankfully, the high-speed police chase through Jenison in September did not come anywhere close to needing to exercise our security protocols!
- At the staff in-service day in January, the teachers and staff received training focused on Active Shooter and school threats, CPR training (for those not already certified) and "Stop the Bleed" training, along with hearing from Amy Dalman from the CAC on neglect, abuse, and mandated reporter requirements for educators.
- After the opportunity for parents to familiarize themselves with the Ottawa County-based Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in December and

feedback was considered, the CAC was approved by the Board to teach its body safety classes in grades K-4, focused on awareness and prevention of physical and sexual abuse. Classes were conducted in March, with follow-up lessons to reinforce as well. As a parent with kids in these grades, I'm glad to attest that the content has stuck.

- Several factors have led the Board to consider the use of third-party organizations in the realm of abuse awareness, protection, and investigation. We are actively investigating third party organization options who may be able to support the Board in the realm of abuse and harassment prevention, training, and investigation for the future.
- The Education Committee is also working through recommendations received from a third-party review of our Harassment and Abuse policies conducted in March to determine what enhancements ought to be implemented for better clarity.
- The Board has recently received several suggestions from society members around added safety measures to consider in light of the recent Nashville school shootings. We will continue to evaluate these possibilities and see what further changes can be implemented.

HCS is richly blessed with Godly, dedicated, loving teachers and staff. Each month, a pair of Board members is privileged to visit classrooms and observe the teachers at work with students, and the experience is always uplifting and encouraging. Our Administrator also conducts evaluations of a subset of our teachers each year, giving the chance for more detailed feedback and coaching for continued development and growth. We are grateful for the support of the PR Federation mentorship program which pairs experienced teachers with new teachers to help them through the challenging first years of teaching, in which our new teachers all participate. God has been good in his provision of qualified, capable teachers whose hearts love our children. A few highlights from this past year follow:

- Annika Brands and Elizabeth VanPutten both picked up their work in the classroom this fall post-graduation and have flourished, as have Jodee Van Overloop and Rochelle Heyboer on their respective transitions to full-time teaching from part-time aide and part-time teaching.
- The junior high teachers had the opportunity to adjust the distribution of responsibilities for teaching various subjects with Bill Joosten's retirement in 2022. They have managed adjustments and shared the load well.
- Cori Hop assumed the Business Manager position from Sharon Kraker and has done an admirable job on picking up the many nuances of responsibilities. Each of our office staff does an excellent job of ensuring the smooth

operation of our school daily and deserves our thanks!

- The Academic Support staff has been heavily engaged in supporting the new inclusive educational support methods and has shared an abnormally heavy workload as well for over half of the school year due to the severing of Mike Noorman's employment at HCS in November. We thank them for their diligence in embracing these additional responsibilities and look forward to resuming a more normal mode this fall.
- Thanks to the leadership of Matt Kuiper, Rochelle Heyboer, and others, a Student Council was formed at the beginning of the school year. This has given opportunities for students to engage as leaders, develop skills and relationships, and has led to several student activities being organized within the student body as well.
- The HCS Band has been busy, with festivals, travel to Dyer, Indiana for combined concerts and instruction, and prep for multiple concerts. We thank Matt Elzinga for his passionate and capable directorship. The benefits are evident from our students being involved in a music curriculum all the way through their years of instruction at HCS.
- Athletics remain an important extracurricular activity at HCS where students can come together in different ways as teams and represent our school. Thanks is due to our long-time Athletic Director, Doug DeBoer, and so many teachers and parents who have engaged as coaches – between soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, and track, the effort is significant.
- We continue to recognize the great work of Jeremy Lubbers, our facilities manager. He consistently goes above and beyond to help ensure the facility remains in clean, efficient, working condition and his diligence and attention to detail are unparalleled.

We do well to pause and express our thanks for our administrator as well. Brian's steady, Godly, leadership and influence is evident at HCS, and he pours himself into his responsibilities with zeal and takes ownership. Serving as the head of an organization the size of HCS requires sustaining relationships with an exceptionally large team, as was impressed upon Board members at the recent Board/Staff dinner. Yet, Brian's commitment to this weighty task is clear. I can personally attest from working closely with Brian on Ed Committee over the last few years of the asset he is to our school. Thank you, Brian, for your 27 years of labor at HCS, a full 16 of which now have been as administrator.

Brief highlights on the School Board's work are also justified. As you may know, the Board is divided into twelve active committees, with each Board member managing multiple committee assignments. As anyone who has served on an effective board can testify, work is

best done in committees which report to the Board regularly for approval and guidance. The diligent work of committees and their respective chairs may at times feel mundane but are critical to the school's operations. Committee highlights:

- The **Building Committee** continues to diligently maintain and improve our building and grounds. Carpet replacements plus enhancements and maintenance of electrical, plumbing, and mechanicals are continuous activities. In partnership with Fundraisers, changes to sidewalks in the playground which will enhance playground accessibility are being considered and prepared.
- The **Transportation Committee**, transportation supervisor, and bus drivers work tirelessly to ensure the safety of our children. Bus inspections, repairs, and maintenance are all taken with utmost seriousness. We express our thanks for our dedicated drivers and our transportation supervisor, Jessica VanderKolk! Continue to bear in mind the urgent need for openings for bus drivers for next year and consider anyone you know who may have interest.
- The **Technology Committee** continues to work with Greg Johnson, our contracted IT administrator, to manage our network and Chromebooks, ensuring staff and student needs are supported and tech platforms remain in a working, updated state.
- The **Education Committee** works with administrators, teachers, parents, Academic Support and our Curriculum Director on our educational needs, methods and approaches. Supporting teachers in professional development takes the form of seminars, conferences and other training, and licensing. Interviewing teachers and aides and planning for staffing needs is an important task as well. Finally, review and updates to policies and procedures ensures the school operates safely, efficiently, and sustainably.

Four board members are set to retire again this year as usual. In early April Jordan Dykstra informed the Board of his resignation effective immediately, just before the normal term end. Whether retiring in the normal timeframe or already having transitioned, it is appropriate to pause to thank each for their years of dedicated work and countless hours of laboring on the Board for the cause of Christian education:

- Jon Drnek chaired the Enrollment and Federation Committees this year, served on the Technology Committee for several years, and served on the Finance and COVID Committees as well (not to mention his commitment as a Robotics coach as well).
- Jordan Dykstra served on the Building Committee all three years of his term and served as chair this year, while also serving on the

Insurance and Transportation committees as well.

- Scott Ensink served on the Building, Insurance and COVID Committees, along with serving as on the Transportation Committee all three years and chairing the last two years.
- Marc Scholten served on the Enrollment, Federation, Salary committees, chaired the Education Committee and served on it two other years as well, and was Vice-President of the Board last year and President this year.

Jon, Jordan, Scott and Marc - thank you! Serving together has been an honor.

### **2023-2024 Preview**

As we look ahead to the 2023-2024 school year, several changes to teachers and staff are worth sharing. Matt Kuiper will be leaving HCS for a new role at CCHS – as he moves on, we do well to thank him for his 17 years of faithful service! Katie Baatenberg has also informed us she will not be returning next year – thank you, Katie, for the 8 years you have been a part of the Heritage community, one year of which as part of PRSE. Emily Cnossen will also be stepping away as well after 8 years of teaching at HCS to move into a new chapter of her life in the high calling of motherhood, Lord willing. We are also excited to recognize Erika Aalsma, who has accepted a new role as Educational Support Director and will also be managing Assistant Administrator responsibilities for grades K-4. The Board believes that Erika's passion, gifts and dedication will enable her to make a great impact in this new way. Sharla Hoekstra has been a key part of the office team for the last few years and has now decided to step down – thank you for your contributions to HCS over the years, Sharla. Finally, join me in thanking Vern Haveman for a remarkable 16 years as a Heritage bus driver as he hangs up the keys for the last time (at least in a regular daily route) at the end of this year. Reflecting on the hundreds of kids who have climbed those bus steps over the years cannot help but bring a smile to your face.

With the four teacher openings created by the above changes, the administrator and Board have been diligently working with interested candidates to determine the right fit, interests and qualifications. While not all positions are yet filled for teachers or aides for the 2023-2024 school year, we are pleased to be able to announce that Katie Van Overloop has accepted a 6th grade teaching position and will be transitioning from aide to teacher starting this fall. Katie received her Bachelor's degree from Calvin University in 2001 and taught at the sixth-grade level for a year at Plymouth Christian before she and Jon started their family. We are also pleased to announce that Cathie Koole will be student teaching here in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade this fall. Cathie has passed the MTTC, and following successful completion of student teaching the intention is that she will become a full time teacher for HCS. We thank God for his provision of well-qualified teachers to HCS but also ask that you continue to encourage any qualified candidates you know to consider the remaining teacher

position. It has been said so frequently for the last decade that it may be easy to tune out, but bears repeating – the need for more teachers is great! We trust in our heavenly Father's provision in His good time and in a way better than we can imagine.

As we look to next year, we can acknowledge our outstanding needs, but would be remiss to not join in giving thanks to God for His tremendous provision of teachers and staff! This may be best illustrated by an example. Consider a young man who marries young and is soon blessed with children, or one who simply has a heart for our schools. Either could very well join the HCS society at the age of 25. And yet even at that age, which we typically consider mature adulthood, that same man would be surpassed by a significant number of HCS teachers and staff members who have spent more years as professional educators than years that man has been alive. How many? You can share in my amazement when you hear that the number is eleven as of this writing. Thanks be to God for his faithfulness! I'll leave the mental work of thinking through who all makes up that list for you to do on your own.

### ***Closing Reflection***

In reflecting on the year past and thinking about how to close this report, the theme of the 2022 Teachers Convention came to mind – “Encouraging our Covenant Soldiers” – based on Deuteronomy 20:1-4. We are all soldiers in the army of our Lord and savior – students, staff, parents – fighting a battle not of flesh and blood,

but of faith. The clear reminder of this passage is that it is the Lord Who fights for us, and our constant calling is to rely on Him. With that, just as Israel needed to be unified in the cause of Jehovah, so too must we intentionally seek unity as a covenant community. As we encourage ourselves in the Lord by embracing and daily trusting in our God, we are then able to encourage each other, our children, and grandchildren. When we live with the daily recognition that we share “one faith, one hope, and one Lord” our perspective is clarified on how to work through the daily long-suffering required of those who live intentionally seeking unity as members of a body.

Yet, the encouragement must not stop there – there is a clear need to encourage our teachers, staff, and administrator in their labors, as there is our Board, who are all here to guide and serve. Continue to encourage your children and young people to be mindful of the influence that teacher(s) have had on them in their formative years and to consider whether this could be their calling as well. And, in closing (no, they're not paying me to say this), encourage anyone with the qualifications and interest to consider whether they may be able to take on the high calling of “army chariot driver”, piloting a HCS bus.

As we unite in this shared desire that our children be taught of God (Isaiah 54), we rest in the assurance of his blessing and walk each day by faith. Thank you for your time and attention.

## **Fundraisers Year End Report – Mrs. Sherry Pipe, Secretary**

Another year at Heritage Christian School is quickly coming to an end! Looking back on the 2022-2023 school year we can see that we have much to be thankful for. We have been truly blessed with the willingness of so many mothers who volunteer their time and talents to help support our Christian school.

The work of the Fundraisers began last spring with planning preparation for our restaurant at the Hudsonville Fair! We had the opportunity to purchase the Hudsonville Christian School side of the restaurant as well as their Grandstand. This allowed us to have the entire dining room for seating as well as being able to space out the seating some. The Grandstand was another great way for us to raise funds and was also a lot of fun to work at. With the additional kitchen and Grandstand came the need for more volunteers. We will be needing to fill close to 500 shifts this coming fair and that doesn't include the hundreds of hours put in by the committee and subcommittees. If you haven't had the opportunity to work at the restaurant yet, I encourage you to give it a try. It is such a blessing to see so many, from teenagers to grandparents, working together to raise funds for our school. A big thank you to the Fair committee, our generous sponsors, the many volunteer workers, and all who came to eat at the restaurant this past summer. All of your support helped make this fundraiser a huge success!

The Fall Family Supper was held in September. This was a great opportunity for parents to meet their children's teachers and fellowship with other families over dinner. Grandparent's Day was held in October and was enjoyed by both grandparents and students. Our Annual Fall and Spring Clothing Sales were held in October and March, respectively. In November, the 3 on 3 tournament was held and well attended. In March, Fundraisers was able to provide lunch for the volunteers at Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Day.

We also have many standing committees that keep us busy throughout the year. A couple of these are TRIP and Hot Lunch, both of which we are very thankful for! Family Fare Direct Your Dollar was another but ended as of March, 2023. 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 budget expenses and money given to the athletic department.

In addition, Fundraisers also provides teachers with an allowance to help 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 to get involved. Our purpose is to keep tuition costs down. We meet five times during the school year, but there are opportunities all year long to be part of Fundraisers. We would especially like to thank each of the committee members. The extra time and energy they give is very much appreciated!

The officers for next year are: President- Rosie Bylsma, Vice President- Katie Vander Kolk , Secretary- Becky

Vander Schaaf, Vice Secretary- Ellen Pastoor, Treasurer- Kelly Looyenga, Vice Treasurer- Sarah Kamps.

Thanks to the retiring President, Dena Dykstra and Treasurer, Cathie Koole for their year of leadership and support. {As editors and publishers of this article we add Sherry's name to this list as well, thanking her for her work as Secretary of the Fundraisers.} May God continue to bless our labors that His name may be glorified at Heritage Christian School.

*We express our thanks and gratitude to **Mrs. Emily Cnossen, Mrs. Katie Baatenburg** and **Mr. Matt Kuiper** for their years of service at Heritage Chr. School and wish them the best as they move on to the next phases of their lives.*

### **Encouragement – Mrs. Emily Cnossen**

This May I will have completed my 8th year of teaching. My first year of students are on their way out the door to high school. I marvel at the goodness God has shown me over the years. 8 years ago I came out here, a fresh 22 year old overwhelmed with a move away from my family and friends, to now – married and looking forward (LORD WILLING) to becoming a mother this October. I learned many things in college, but actually teaching them was a different matter. I have learned the ins and outs of math mountains, comparison bars, syllables, digraphs, magic e, fat cats, skinny kitties....

I have probably spent more time with 6-7 year olds than with adults. I have been honored with the privilege of meeting so many wonderful children of the covenant. Each year, I feel that blessing of the responsibility of teaching your children. I am very aware of the weight of that responsibility, of parents handing over their precious children to me – to teach and train up in the way of the LORD. In that responsibility, those children have probably taught me more about God and His love than I could ever teach them.

I am sad knowing that LORD WILLING, this is my last year of teaching (for the time being!). But I am excited to move on to this next step of life, called motherhood. I recently read an article (from **teach4theheart**) that summarized the 3 most important things that my students and teaching have taught me over the years, things that will also benefit me as a mother. I thought I would share some of those thoughts with you, that you too can be reminded about God's love and purpose whether you be a teacher or a parent.

1) **In order to teach the children, I need to know who I am in Christ.** My identity is found in HIM and HIM alone. Often it is easy to forget this in the rush of daily life. It is easy to find identity in my students'

success and when things academically or in the classroom go wrong – to feel like a failure, to compare myself with other teachers. Who I am has NOTHING to do with how good of a teacher I am, but EVERYTHING to do with what Christ did for us. When we see ourselves as Christ sees us, redeemed and loved - we are free to pursue excellence in HIS name. **We must abide in Christ and teach in HIS strength, not our own.** Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Without Him, we can do NOTHING, but WITH HIM – we will bear much fruit. I can spend all day with kids, teaching them all the facts of reading, math, science, etc...but what good is that without the knowledge of God's might, love, glory, etc. Students learn much more in HOW I teach, vs. WHAT I teach. I need to be teaching in LOVE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, etc. Some days are hard. I'm tired, the kids have been crazy all week, I honestly don't know how I am going to make it through the day, yet every day I do! I have to remind myself that it's not about me, it's about Christ. HE gives me the ability to make it through the day. HE gives me the patience when a student is being troublesome. HE gives me love and kindness when a student is hurt. In 3 years, they won't remember the nitty gritty of what we discussed in our subjects, but I DO hope that they remember how much their first grade teacher loved God by how she acted.

2) **Life isn't about being happy.** We are created above all else, to glorify God. HIS GLORY, not our own should be our daily aim. When teaching/parenting gets hard, instead of focusing on how hard we have to work, or how miserable we are, we need to take a step back and remember that God has a plan that is bigger than our own. There is a

meaning behind those challenges, a meaning that accomplishes FAR more good than our own temporary happiness. **God gives challenges for a reason.** I know there are moments in a parent's life where they are extremely frustrated with a certain child, and I would be lying if I said it never happened as a teacher as well. Whether it be the fear that our child won't measure up to others, acting out behaviorally, or struggling emotionally – that child has been placed in our care for a REASON. It is not to make you happy. We need to take a breath a moment and remember it is because God is USING us. He wants us to learn patience, to be an example of patience and love, to share the Good News of Salvation. He does not send challenges because we can handle it. It is because we CANNOT. It is because it MAKES us lean upon Him. We trust that God is using us to make a difference, whether it be in us or in a beloved child—it is for HIS good purpose. (Rom. 8:28) **We must surrender to God's plan, even if it means giving up our own.** God doesn't make mistakes.

3) **We must make time for rest and spiritual refreshment.** My family is well aware of my obsession with work. I would spend 12 hours a day at school, every day — and still take work home with me. It was easy when I was single. I had plenty of time in the evenings for a nap, supper, devotions and relaxing. It was a different matter once I got married, and I realized very quickly that juggling a husband, God, and work was a little more difficult. I would come home at 7pm completely exhausted, and would have to make a choice between skipping my nap, time with my husband, or time with God. (Not to mention the first year of being married I also

caught COVID in the first week of school and actually had quite a few medical issues that lingered for the entire year.) I burned myself out, and wasn't enjoying teaching, marriage, or Scripture. It wasn't until I set restrictions for myself, and set priorities – that all the joy came back in all those areas. It is an area I know as a parent that can get overwhelming. Caring for your children and your spouse, helping in the church, housekeeping, making sure ends meet — it can be SO easy to forget about your own spiritual and mental health. When God created the world, He created the 7th day. God Himself didn't need a day of rest, God never tires, He did it for us. Jesus rested in the middle of the storm. We may rest too. Skipping that time with God, or burning yourself out will have a MUCH bigger impact than skipping those dishes, sweeping, or mowing the lawn for a day.

Teaching is tough. Parenting is tough. How we face those challenges should be different than the rest of the world. We are not alone. We have God's Word that is our source of strength, a place of refuge when we are in the midst of the storms of life. We know through the Holy Spirit the true meaning of life and hear the calling of Jesus Christ. We've experienced the love of God through Jesus' sacrifice. We are not martyrs or superheroes. We are created by God to glorify Him by leaning upon Him in every aspect of life. I am so thankful for the many years with your children and their Godly parents, and look forward to applying these lessons YOUR children have taught me to my own. I only pray that God will use me in this next stage to the benefit of my children's faith as you have all done for yours!

### **Three T's From Third Grade – Mrs. Erika Aalsma**

Papers laid out on desks, morning instructions written on the board, devotion story and Bible passage ready on the podium, stack of papers and materials ready for the day. My morning routine is pretty consistent. Greeting the kids as they come in the room, listening to countless stories, answering questions, and solving problems, sometimes all before the first bell rings. Next year, for the first time in 25 years, I won't be walking into a classroom. Instead I'll be taking up a new role at Heritage Christian School. Next year I'll be moving from the 3rd Grade Classroom to the position of Director of Educational Support / K-4 Assistant Administrator.

Borrowing a teaching strategy from a dear pastor, three words starting with the letter T come to mind as I think, often, of the changes that are ahead for next year.

I know that next year will be a **TRANSITION**. Since accepting this position, I wonder, even worry, about what is ahead. I'm no longer certain of what each day will hold. Many of the responsibilities that I will have

won't require me to stand in front of a group of children everyday. Yet, the children will still be at the center, and most certainly, at the heart of my work. My role at Heritage will change. However, so many things will be the same. Each morning I'll still walk into Heritage Christian School. I'll still be a part of the Heritage family that has become so dear to me. I'll still work each day with students and faculty to help plan lessons, provide interventions, and help create a place where each kind of learner can grow. I will get to work with teachers and students alike to ensure that the academic and social-emotional needs of our students are being met.

All of these changes and new responsibilities will be easier, and the transition smoother because I will be working **TOGETHER** with brothers and sisters in the Lord. Working in a Christian environment is such a unique blessing. Certainly there are difficult days. We are a sinful people. There is disobedience, disagreements, impatience, selfishness,



misunderstandings, lack of communication, and the countless other realities that plague a workplace. Yet, our commonality as believers results in an understanding that in spite of our weaknesses, we are in this together. Parents, teachers, and students alike are rooted in our common goal; to serve the Lord and to reflect Christ in our teaching, our actions, and our relationships with each other. Already, in some of the meetings that I have been part of, the conversations I've engaged in, and the support I've received, I see that the relationships that I have within the Heritage community will be such a blessing to me in my work. The teachers and staff at Heritage are an outstanding group of individuals. They are caring, dedicated, tireless, and professional. I know that in the year ahead I will rely much on the experience, advice, and support of those around me. For that I am...

**THANKFUL.** I am also thankful for 25 years in third grade. I am thankful for each student that I have had the privilege of teaching. I am thankful that in the last few years I have been able to teach children of former students. I'm thankful for the stories about pets, bunnies found in the backyard, piano recitals, soccer games, and favorite NBA players; even if these stories come in the middle of a math lesson. I am thankful for girls who like to linger over their lunches so they can chat in the classroom, and for boys who barely eat their lunch as they rush out to recess. I am thankful for former students who come back to visit and keep me updated on happenings in their family. And especially, I am thankful that God's way for my life was different than what I had planned. I am thankful that He placed me here, in this place, at this time. And I trust that as I move forward, He will continue to give me much to be thankful for.

### **The Meat of Babylon – Mr. Greg Holstege**

The city of Jerusalem was in chaos in 605 B.C. as the Chaldeans had breached the defenses of the kingdom of Judah and were ransacking the city. Daniel 1 tells us that Jehoiakim, king of Judah, was attacked by Nebuchadnezzar and the city was taken. The city itself was not destroyed which would happen eventually in 586 B.C. by the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, but this first attack on the city was the beginning of the judgment of God upon the nation of Judah for its sin of idolatry.

The army of Nebuchadnezzar was ordered to take the treasures of Judah back to Babylon but that was not all. Nebuchadnezzar also ordered that the brightest of the young people were also to be taken back to Babylon. We read in Daniel 1:4 who was taken; **“Children in whom was no blemish, but well-favoured, and skilful in wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science...”**. Among these taken back to Babylon were four young men: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They were brought back to live in the king's court and be educated in the ways of Babylon.

Their education began by getting rid of their beautiful Hebrew names and giving them Chaldean names based on the gods of the Chaldeans. Hananiah (Jehovah is gracious) was changed to Shadrach (command of Aku...moon god). Mishael (Who is what God is) became Meshach (Who is what Aku is). Azariah (Whom Jehovah Helps) became Abednego (Servant of Nebo). Daniel (God is Judge) became Belteshazzar (May Bel protect his life). The indoctrination of the young men of the Chaldean ways had begun.

The life-style indoctrination also continued with the eating from the king's table. This consisted of the finest foods from Nebuchadnezzar's feasts. The best of the meats, the cheeses, the pastries, and all the delicacies from the king's table were given to the young people of the king's court. After a day of studies and learning, Daniel and his three friends and all the other young

Jewish captives had the opportunity to dine lavishly at night. They could eat the meat of Babylon.

Yet we read that Daniel and his three friends DID NOT partake of the meat of Babylon but instead asked to be fed only pulse (vegetables) and water. They did not want the luscious fruits and juicy meats of Babylon, only simple vegetables and water. The request of the young men was made to Melzar, the chief of the eunuchs, who immediately refused the request for fear of losing his life should the four men show themselves to be sickly and blemished due to their request. However, after ten days of eating pulse, we read that the four young men appeared **“fairer and fatter than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.”** (verse 15)

In the rest of the chapter we read that Daniel and his three friends were instructed in the ways of the Chaldean learning and “God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”(verse 17) Even though the Chaldeans tried to indoctrinate Daniel and his three friends in the ways of the Chaldean culture, God preserved them and gave them an understanding and knowledge that Nebuchadnezzar found to be **“ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.”** (verse 20)

This whole period in the lives of these four individuals was an attempt by Nebuchadnezzar to turn the future leadership of the Jewish nation from what was supposed to be God-centered as God had commanded to one that was going to be based on a heathen Chaldean centered. We do not read of what happened to the other Jewish young men and women taken captive back to Babylon but I think we can safely assume that they succumbed to indoctrination of the Chaldeans. By God's grace Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah did not but remained true to God and his ways. This is evident later on with the decree to worship the image of Nebuchadnezzar and bow down to it at the appointed time. The three friends

refused to bow down to the image even with the threat of death by the fiery furnace. Or think of Daniel's faith and prayer life with the threat of the lion's den hanging over him. It is evident that not only did these young men confess their faith but also lived it in a sin-filled nation like the Chaldeans.

What about our children in today's world? Are they receiving the "meat of Baylon" today? Are they being indoctrinated by the Babylon of today? One might ask if our children are being influenced by the ways of the world we are living in. Are our young adults being influenced by the "influencers" of the world on social media platforms? From what I hear from conversations in my classroom and the hallways, these so-called "influencers" are being viewed by young students as well. Fashion, challenges, videos, ideals, etc... are being viewed by our Christian youth more so than ever before.

It used to be magazines, TV shows, music, and movies that were the things that drew our young people to the "meat of Babylon" but now it is primarily social media outlets like Tik-Tok, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, SnapChat and Facebook among others. Marriage, genderism, religion, motherhood and other Christian ideals are currently being fiercely attacked on these social platforms. Homosexuality and transgenderism are being pushed as normal lifestyles and are to be accepted by all. So-called racial injustices are being used to promote racial activism and promote white privilege and equity rights in the colleges today and on social media.

A recent survey that came out earlier this year said tweens between ages 8 and 12 had an average screen

time of 5 hours and 33 minutes in 2022; teens between the ages of 13 and 18 in 2022 spent an average of 8 hours and 39 minutes of screen time. Tik-tok users spend approximately 93 minutes a day just watching videos that have been posted, passing Youtube as the main source of video watching. This screen time includes phones, tablets, computers (home or school), watching TV, and playing video games. The age of spending time outside or reading a book or doing a hobby of some sort has long passed us by.

Here is where our school and church life is so important for our children. They are eating the "pulse" of this world by receiving a Godly education in our Christian schools, being fed from the preaching of the Word on the Sabbath day but also the education of catechism they receive in the younger years till the time they make their confession of faith in the Church of Christ. The Young People's/Young Adults groups help encourage one another in their faith as they develop in their Christian maturity.

By their actions in their lives in Babylon, it was evident that Daniel and his three friends were taught the ways of the Lord in their younger days in Judah and applied their faith to their lives in Babylon. Their love of God guided them in the most dire of situations while living among the heathen in captivity. May we continue to pray for the spiritual well-being of our families, our schools, our churches, but especially for our covenant youth as they live in the Babylon of today. May we continue to feed them "the pulse of God" and not the "meat of Babylon". Let us take comfort in the words of the psalmist in Psalm 48:14, **"For this God is our God forever; He will be our guide even unto death."**

### **A Good Name – Mrs. Jane Woudenberg and her 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class**

Proverbs 22:1 says, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." This Bible verse actually refers to our reputation, but surnames might give us hints about the character of our ancestors.

In our class we have twenty surnames with a Dutch origin, and one surname that originated in the central Bohemian region of the Czech Republic. We learned that the French invaded the Netherlands, and in 1811 they forced our Dutch ancestors to choose surnames for their families. The types of surnames that people adopted were: location names, occupational names, names that describe characteristics, and patronymic (father) names. The students researched their own surname origins. Here is what we found out:

- Tabi Bol: My surname is an occupation name that means *bol*, or *bread roll*, like a baker. It may also describe someone who had a round, bald head like my dad. Bol also means *friend* or *brother* in ancient German.

- Cameron Boverhof: Boverhof is a name that means *upper* or *supreme court*. Maybe my ancestor was a judge or lawyer. The Boverhof family came from Drenthe.
- Cole Bylsma: Bylsma is an occupational surname that means *carpenter*. My ancestors were from Friesland. I'm curious about what carpenters did when my ancestors were in the Netherlands.
- Alivia DeVries: My last name means *from the province of Friesland*, which is in the northern part of the Netherlands. My great-great-great grandfather was named Wybe Sybrens DeVries. He was born in Kollumberland, Friesland.
- Anabelle Doezeema: My last name means *from the town of Doezum*, in the Netherlands. My great-grandparents lived on a farm which later became a park.

- Seth Drnek: My last name is Drnek. There is a town of Drnek in the Czech Republic. The village of Drnek was founded by Count Adolf Bernard in 1726.
- Liam Dykstra: Dykstra means *by the dike*. A dike is an embankment for holding back water from a sea or river. My name was originally spelled: D-i-j-k-s-t-r-a. My name comes from Friesland.
- Tyce Feenstra: Feenstra means *by a boggy area*. More names that mean the same thing are Veenstra and VanderVeen. Feen means *pit, bog, or moor*. There are many Feenstras in the Netherlands, Australia, Canada, and the USA.
- Cory Feenstra: My last name is Feenstra, which means *one who lives near a boggy area* in Friesland. It is a name which is about 225 years old.
- Kaleb Joostens: My surname is Joostens, which means *son of Joost*. The name Joost means *just, righteous, or upright*. Joost is short for Jodocus. My surname is patronymic.
- Simon Kamps: My last name is Kamps which means, one who lives *near a field or campground*. It's a good name for me because I like camping and campfires.
- Amelia Kuiper: Kuiper means *barrel maker*. Barrels were easy to make. They would burn the inside of the barrel to hollow it out. The English name for Kuiper is Cooper.
- Gerrard Kuiper: My last name is Kuiper, which means *barrel maker*. A cooper makes barrels, buckets, and tubs from wood.
- Wyatt Lenting: My last name is Lenting, which means *by the lime trees*. There is a city named *Lent*, and my ancestors could be from there. I would like to go to Lent because it looks nice.
- Gracie Lotterman: The name Lotterman means *plumber or lead roofer*. Lotterman could also mean a short person, or an owner of a section of land. I really don't think anyone in my family is that short.
- Jonathan Mol: My surname is Mol, which means *mole catcher*. It may also mean that my ancestors are from the city of Mol in Belgium. Mol is a popular resort town, with many lakes surrounding it.
- Cade Schipper: My last name is Schipper, which means *ship captain*. This is an occupation surname. A skipper is a mariner who commanded his own boat.
- Carter Schipper: My last name means *skipper*. My ancestor may have been a fisherman or a ship captain.
- Blake Spronk: My last name is Spronk, which means *stubborn hair* in Dutch. I have stubborn hair that sticks up. Spronk also means *jumper, spring, or well*. Spronk is a descriptive name.
- Nolan VanSingel: The name Singel, means *channel*. It also means *to surround*. The prefix *Van* is a very common prefix for Dutch surnames. I want to know more about my VanSingel ancestors.
- Devon Veldman: My last name is Veldman, which means *field man*. My great-grandpa started Fields Fabrics after the meaning of Veldman (field man).
- Andrea Visser: The name Visser means *fisherman*. Visser is a Dutch occupation surname. In 2007, nearly 50,000 people in the Netherlands had the last name of Visser, making it the eighth most popular name in the country.
- Brooke Zwak: My last name is Zwak, which is an occupation and characteristic surname. Zwak means *nailsmith or shoemaker*. It also describes a small or weak person.

### **Reading Recommendations from 7th Grade – Mrs. Elizabeth VanPutten**

In the last few weeks of school, if you had walked past my room during an English class, you likely would have heard the jingle of a celebratory bell. Throughout the school year, the 7th (and 8th) grade students have been challenged to read 30 books. Each. That's a little less than one book per week. They have a few requirements and rules, but for the most part, the choice of books is all theirs, and it's amazing to see what they've accomplished. With each completion of their tally sheet of 30 books, the students get to ring the bell, and it's been a time of celebration! As of now, the class as a whole has read 1,862 books (an average of 32 books per student), and I expect that number will go up. Just the other day, a student recorded her 37th book read and told me with a grin that she "used to hate reading."

This renewed interest in reading is worth celebrating (and emulating)!

As I reflect back to the beginning of the year, I can see improvement in many language skills, but I get the most joy knowing that many of my students have discovered a love of reading. Of course the challenge has been more difficult for some, and I know I haven't won over every single student (yet), but on a survey, 64% said they enjoy reading more now, and over 75% of them said they read more books this year than they ever have in a school year. I consider that a success!

Part of our calling as Christians is to be critical thinkers ("try the spirits" 1 John 4:1) and be excellent communicators (how else will we defend God's truth and

spread the gospel?), and reading helps us do that. Reading opens doors. It teaches empathy for people different from us. It challenges us to think about how we should act as Christians in situations that we might someday encounter. It helps us recognize sin and its consequences. It encourages us to consider the beauty of God's creation and His providence in history. Besides that, it helps students subconsciously build a sense of good sentence structure, spelling, and grammar. It builds vocabulary, which in turn will make them better writers and readers. I can see these skills in students who were readers already, and I'm so excited to know these skills will keep growing in each student that decides to make reading a part of their life. We need a church full of readers: people who are constantly learning through books and building skills to express God's truth clearly.

With this, I must give a heartfelt thank you to the school librarians who manage a wonderful collection of books and are always ready with recommendations and also to the fundraisers who help us with funds to start little libraries in our classrooms. Thank you to the parents who have taken their children to a library and nudged them to find a few minutes to read, and a special shout-out to those who read alongside them and ask them about what they are reading. To the parents of current 6th graders: it's never too late to build a love of reading, and it's not too early to start on the challenge (summer reading counts!).

Personally, I've also rediscovered the fun of reading middle grade fiction. Don't assume that you won't enjoy a book aimed at a younger audience; I've found deep and beautiful writing in these books, and they tend to be quick reads too! So with that, I'll recommend my two favorite books I read this year, and then I'll let a few of my students share their personal favorites to get you started on your own reading challenge:

*A Night Divided* (by Jennifer A. Nielson) - Gerta's family is separated by the Berlin Wall. A few years later, she gets a mysterious message from her father and has the courage to attempt to escape the oppression of the Soviets...or die trying. This book had me on the edge of my seat, and I loved learning about a period of history which I knew little about (bonus points for intriguing quotes at the beginning of each chapter). ~ Mrs. Van Putten

*Inkling* (by Kenneth Oppel) - an ink blob comes alive to help out the son of a comic book artist grappling with the death of his mom. It sounds quirky, but it's funny and

action-packed, and I appreciated the many positive messages including the main character's love for his sister with Down Syndrome and a thought-provoking portrayal of how the books/media we read affect the way we speak and think. ~ Mrs. Van Putten

*Prisoner B-3087* (by Alan Gratz) because it showed me what it would be like to be a Jew during WW2. ~ Peter VanderSchaaf

*Pax* (by Sara Pennypacker) because it is a slightly sad but also entrancing story and has a decent amount of action ~ Andrew Westra

*The Blades of Acktar Series* (by Tricia Mingerink) because every chapter left you with mystery so you wanted to keep reading. I also liked it because it was a Christian book. I like reading books that are in a series because you can get more of a full story and it is not just crammed into one book. ~ Ava Dykstra and Karli DeBoer

*Percy Jackson and the Olympians* (by Rick Riordan) because it was cool ~ Isaac Kamps

*I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* (by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda) because it was such a great story with a really good ending ~ Olivia Uittenbogaard

*The Giver* (by Lois Lowry) I liked how it threw you into a strange world with no explanation. It let you figure out where everything was and how their society functioned. The storyline and ending were also pretty spectacular ~ Evan Bomers

*Out of my Mind* (by Sharon M. Draper) because it shows how someone with a disability can overcome this great trial. ~ Gavin Heyboer

*The Wingfeather Saga* (by Andrew Peterson) It talks a little bit about God in the story who they refer to as the maker and how they work together to get through the situations they go through. It is really interesting because they are escaping from the evil Fangs who are monstrous looking lizards. It also kind of represents the world and us as Christians if you would put it that way ~ Malaya Kamps

*The Hobbit* (by J.R.R. Tolkien) because it was just a really good book and J.R.R. Tolkien literally created his own world ~ Eli Brummel

*The War that Saved my Life* (by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley) because it was during a war and I LOVE historical fiction ~ Laura Kamps

### **What is Media Doing to OUR Children? – Mr. Matt Kuiper**

My article I have chosen to write is a review of an article entitled Unsocial Media by Tony Reinke, from 11/6/2015, <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/unsocial-media>.

I have added in some of my observations as well from my class of 2023. The reason I found the need to write this article is the overabundance of technology that is

lambasting our students each day. Those days are about to get much longer as summer is quickly approaching! For the younger students, obviously social media is not a concern but other technology is a potential problem. For some of the junior high students and our graduating class as they move on to high school, Instagram,

Snapchat, Twitter, YouTube and maybe Facebook among other apps are a huge part of many of their lives. I hear about it more than any other topic. Their popularity seems to be dependent on their knowledge of the world around them. On top of social media is the gaming industry on game consoles and phones. This article will talk about the potential dangers of being unsocial with social media. I will tie the article into gaming. The article is broken into five main sections.

### **Technology and Isolation**

Many people today post things on social media with the hope that many people will “like” the post or comment on the post. Oftentimes, self-worth is a byproduct of the amount of likes or the amount of “followers” on Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, or YouTube. The author argues that isolation and the boom of technology are directly correlated and it has negative consequences. Technology is leading people away from each other. This excerpt from the article makes that point. “Street vendors give way to vending machines. Milk deliveries give way to refrigerators. Bankers give way to ATM’s. Central heating means we no longer congregate around the fireplace. And newspapers (maybe the internet or phone apps) mean we no longer gather local news at the pub.” This isolation has moved from single television sets where the whole family can enjoy a ball game together to personal screens and maybe crystal clear TV’s in every bedroom. They are much cheaper after all. Technology is bringing people apart.

### **Music Services and Ear Buds**

The author takes isolation to another level when referring to music services. He speaks of how the local symphony was the place to socialize and hear music years ago. Then it turned into the phonograph where many people would come from around the neighborhood to listen. Then came transistor radios, “boom boxes”, and the Walkman. Each of those devices were intended to make it better but steered people toward isolating themselves. Finally, the iPod or phone and personal headphones are the norm. If someone has ear buds or a headphone on, our first impression is to leave them alone and that might be what they want. If someone has a bluetooth speaker attached to themselves, we assume they are too busy and we better not interrupt them. Isolation is becoming the norm. Manufacturers like it this way because they are selling to individuals instead of a single, large family. According to Reinke, “Sharing has become an intrusion on personal space.” Leave me alone and get your own!

### **Losing Trust**

People trust their devices more than they trust people. The main point of this section questions the ability to build healthy relationships while alone with your phone. Social media is a scary place sometimes. People are allowed to say whatever they want in an unfiltered environment. This leads to the cyber-bullying epidemic that is plaguing schools today. I hear many conversations in the hall that are frightening to me. One

student got up at 4 A.M. so he could post on the group chat because his parents didn’t allow it. Maybe it was a nice post but I know that OUR young people are not always kind on the computer. The author suggests that it is possible that cyber-bullying, a general lack of empathy, and interpersonal skill is due to low self-esteem and isolation among cyber natives. Proverbs 22:24-25 speaks of the dangers of making friends we don’t really know. “Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared.” Is it possible for our young person to get caught up with a stranger? How often do adults question the ability of people under 25 to make a proper, well thought out decision? Maybe it’s because they are learning about relationships online or not at all. The author argues that social media will eventually die out because it can be such a mean place and relies on the skills it can not furnish, building trusting relationships with face-to-face relationships.

### **Build Face-To-Face Trust**

This is where the article becomes very important for Christians. If trust is lost online when people can say whatever they want, trust can be gained in personal relationships. We have to “be real with people God has put into our lives.” We need to be examples to the world around us of healthy relationships. Unfortunately, we might be raising kids who “don’t know how to talk with people and don’t even want to look up from their screen” or look them in the eye when they speak. In order to build trust with people, eye to eye communication is a must. As Christians, we need to know how to talk to be able to spread the love of Christ.

### **Protect Aloneness**

What is the purpose of aloneness? Isn’t isolation supposed to be a time to reflect or to spend time with God? What is the first thing you do in the morning? Is it to look at your phone or spend time in morning devotions? What’s the last thing you do before going to sleep at night? Are we spending all our alone time with social media or technology? The nature of solitude is to spend time with God or relaxing the mind and solitude has become a vain thing for us. We would rather see how many followers we have or to increase that number. The number of messages on my seventh graders chat seem to be very important to them. Christians should cherish aloneness, but not always with technology. This is ESPECIALLY true for our young people. I would argue they should never be alone with technology. Are we allowing this? What we allow, we promote.

How are Christian parents and students to balance technology, isolation, and face-to-face communication? I hope parents of junior high and high school students are monitoring the social media of their children. I am quite sure most parents are unaware of the extent of the world’s influence on their children. The awful things that can be found on social media and YouTube are astounding and only get worse as time continues. The sexual impurity and awful language is everywhere on the

internet bundled up right next to the “good” videos. I hope parents will look to limit the use of technology with their children in the coming months. Do you know what YouTube videos they are watching? Some of the things your kids are learning are straight from the internet. That’s terrifying to me and I hope it is for you, too. Limiting technology can be done first by leading by example and putting the phone down occasionally. This can also be done by encouraging kids to play together this summer in the neighborhood or with other students coming over for the day. Hopefully families will have the

opportunity to go on a vacation. Put away the technology and spend time together building relationships and kids who know how to speak to one another. I hope parents will encourage their children to cherish isolation properly and to use it in the right way, with God. Let’s encourage our kids to build real relationships with each other. Proverbs 13:20 is a good verse to close this article. “Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.” Let your kids be with fellow believers this summer. Let them make real friends. Let them appreciate true isolation as a good thing from God.

### **My Favorite Holiday – Mrs. Sue Bleyenburg**

“*Class, Class, Class!*”, said Mr. Kuiper. “Yes, Yes, Yes!”, his class replied.

I have had the privilege of assisting in Mr. Randy Kuiper’s 2nd grade classroom on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I love being in his classroom and have learned so much. He introduced a Creative Writing Assignment as a unit after Scholastic News on your favorite holiday. We talked about our favorite holiday and why it was our favorite.

“*One clap for each student!*”

Here are a few samples of their writings:

- My favorite holiday is Memorial Day. I like Memorial Day because I get to go with my cousins to a parade. I like Memorial Day because it is in my birthday month. I like Memorial Day because you get lots of candy at the parade. That’s why I like Memorial Day!  
*Everett Doezenia*
- My favorite holiday is Fourth of July. This is the best holiday because they have a parade. I think it’s the best because at the parade they throw candy. I love this holiday because they have fireworks. This is why this is the best holiday!  
*Kinsley Wassink*
- My favorite holiday is Fourth of July because people do fireworks. People hand out candy! You get to buy fireworks! That is why I like Fourth of July!  
*Logan Holstege*
- My favorite holiday is the Fourth of July because I get to go to a cottage. I like the Fourth of July because at the cottage I get to see my cousins and other people. The Fourth of July is a great holiday because I like the water. That is why I like the Fourth of July.  
*Jayme Westra*
- My favorite holiday is the Fourth of July because all of my cousins go to my grandpa’s cottage! I go to my grandpa’s beach. We see fireworks. We also see the grand finale. That is why the Fourth of July is the best!  
*Peyton VanBaren*
- My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. I like this holiday because I go to this place with my grandma and we

play bingo and if you win, you get a present. I loved it!  
*Lachlan Steenwyk*

- My favorite holiday is Christmas! This is the best holiday because we get to see our cousins. I like this holiday because it’s Jesus birth. I love this holiday because we get presents. That is why I think Christmas is the best holiday!  
*Kenzie Kooienga*
- My favorite holiday is Fourth of July. On this holiday it is my mom’s birthday! On Fourth of July, there are cool fireworks. I like this holiday because we get to buy fireworks. That is why I like Fourth of July!  
*Calvin Potjer*
- My favorite holiday is the Fourth of July. I love the Fourth of July because I love the fireworks! I like the Fourth of July because I love the colors of the fireworks. Another reason is that I always go to the cottage to watch the fireworks. That is why I think the Fourth of July is my favorite holiday.  
*Ari Dykstra*
- My favorite holiday is Fourth of July. I like this holiday because it is three days before my birthday. I really like this holiday because there are fireworks. On this holiday we stay up late and watch the fireworks. That is why I think the Fourth of July is the best!  
*Sadie Joostens*
- My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. I like the fall because I like to play in leaves. Another reason is I like turkey. I sometimes go to my grandpas and grandmas. That is why I like Thanksgiving.  
*Morgan Boer*
- My favorite holiday is Christmas. Christmas is my favorite because Jesus was born. I like Christmas because we get a lot of presents. We normally get to go to our grandma’s house. This is why I think Christmas is the best holiday!  
*Lincoln VanderSchaaf*
- My favorite holiday is Fourth of July. I like Fourth of July because I get to swim in my aunt’s pool. We get to go to my grandma’s house and go fishing. Me and



my brothers get to go fishing. This is why I like Fourth of July. *Hailey Karsemeyer*

- My favorite holiday is Fourth of July. I like the Fourth of July because there are lots of my cousins at the campground. I have lots of fun! This is why I like the Fourth of July! *Riley Ondersma*
- My favorite holiday is Christmas. I like Christmas because you get presents. We are celebrating the

birth of Jesus. We get together with our family. These are the reasons why I like Christmas!

*Jackson Gritters*

- My favorite holiday is Christmas. It is Jesus' birthday. We go out to Sakura. Christmas is my favorite holiday because I get to spend time with my family. *Brinley Koole*

### **Be Not Weary – Mr. Doug DeBoer**

Friday, March 10 – Chapel Day

Every other year each teacher at Heritage has the opportunity to lead a chapel. The teacher who leads the chapel may either speak or have someone speak for them. I dutifully prepared my speech for March 10. Then snow started falling on Thursday night causing school to be canceled on Friday and my speech went in the drawer to wait for another date. It never came. Since a teacher is also responsible each year to produce an article of some type for the Herald, my chapel speech has been revised into the following article.

Tiredness strikes us all. Sometimes we go to bed too late or have to get up too early. There are other times when fatigue is caused by exercise or too much play. There are also times when school itself makes us tired. What is our response to this weariness? Sleep? Quitting the activity? Taking a break? Becoming weary is a common problem. How do I know? Because it is mentioned many times in the Bible. For example every student is well aware of Ecclesiastes 12 which states that much study is a weariness of the flesh.

Physical exhaustion is not the only cause of someone getting tired. We also grow weary and tired spiritually. We are commanded to work at following God's will every day. The command to love God and our neighbor is a work in which we must always be busy. God in His word makes it clear that this work can become wearisome. II Thessalonians 3:13 states, "But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing." In other words - Don't Quit! - Keep on doing well!

There are various reasons why we may become weary in well doing. Perhaps others are not doing good things. We see our brother or sister not listening to mom or dad. We see our classmates acting disrespectfully to our teacher. We watch our friends acting unkindly to someone in our class. Watching these things happen may cause us to act in the same sinful manner because we begin to think that it is not necessary to follow God's word. Why should I be the only one to do good to my neighbor?

Another reason for weariness may be that doing good seems to be an endless task. There is no time off from well doing. Our other activities have time during which we get to take a break. School has Saturdays and vacation days. Practices and games have timeouts. When we work around the house we get time to eat or

do something different. Not so with well doing. We are called to do good unto others and obey God's word 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We can't choose to take next Tuesday off, or be kind to one person, but not another. We can't decide that I was good yesterday so today I don't have to be good.

A third reason we grow weary is because doing good to others is so difficult. This is not a one on one match-up. Essentially it is a battle of one versus three. It is me against the world, my own flesh, and the Devil.

In the world sin is everywhere. In the culture of our day almost everything we watch and hear takes the name of our Lord in vain. It so bombards us that it is easy to become numb to it. The Sabbath is ignored or turned into "family day" instead of the Lord's Day. We are told in our culture that your feelings should dictate your actions instead of God's Word. You determine what is right or wrong - not what God speaks to us.

We also grow weary by constantly having to fight against our own sinful nature. Think of catechism. Do we not often say, "It is too hard. I have all this other work to do. Learning my lesson just takes too long." Or consider Sunday School. Sometimes we think that we have school all year, can't we take a break in the summer? We become weary! Or perhaps the thought enters our mind that we don't have to forgive those who have sinned against us. After all, what they did was worse than anything I have ever done. We easily become weary because our sinful flesh causes us to be selfish. We become concerned with "me first" and lose our interest in well doing.

The Devil also wearies us with his constant attacks. We must never forget that the Bible states that the Devil goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He desires to destroy us by making us weary and causing us to give up the fight against evil.

So how do we overcome this weariness of the flesh? What can we do in an effort to combat this fatigue? One thing is to encourage one another to do the work. Think of a runner in a race. Think of a track meet or of someone running a long race. Spectators line the street or the track exhorting the runners to keep giving their best effort. "You can do it," they shout as the runners go past. With this encouragement ringing in their ears the last bit of effort is put forth to finish the race. Simple and brief comments to others such as, "Be nice", or "Let's

help him”, or “She can play too” will help all of us to not grow weary of well doing.

Also, if we show love to our neighbor others will see and follow our lead. We can be an example. The Bible tells us that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. This is said in connection with sin spreading throughout, but it is also true with regard to the fact that good behavior is something that can permeate a group as well.

A third and most significant way to fight against becoming weary is to be diligent in reading God’s Word and prayer. The Bible gives us much encouragement to be diligent in well doing. The Lord knows our

weaknesses and frailties. We should pray daily that God will give us His grace to be diligent to do good unto all men. We need the Holy Spirit so that the battle is not one against three. Through the work of our Lord Jesus Christ we have the ultimate victory. Galatians 6:9-10 tells us not to be weary in well doing and promises that we shall reap if we faint not. Moreover verse 10 adds that we should do good unto all men, especially those of the household of faith. We thus have the promise of salvation for God’s children who are busy in well doing to all. There is no greater promise. There is no greater encouragement.

### **Diamante Antonyms – Mr. Randy Kuiper**

Throughout second grade, we spend much time talking about nouns, verbs, and adjectives. We learn about these parts of speech during grammar lessons and spend time identifying nouns, verbs, and adjectives during our daily IEW and reading instruction. During phonics and spelling lessons, we often take time to identify which words fall under which category. While nouns are generally the easiest for students to initially understand, students gain a better understanding of verbs and adjectives as time progresses.

Parts of speech can be a tricky concept for children, especially when a word falls under multiple parts of speech depending on the way that word is used. Consider the word light. When used as a noun, Jesus is the light of the world or the fisherman saw the light shine

from the lighthouse. As a verb, John will light a campfire so that we can roast hot dogs. Use light as an adjective in order to describe that the cool, light breeze felt nice after taking the hike. But as an adverb, the experienced traveler knew how to travel lightly.

Recently, our class worked on writing Diamante Antonym poems. Due to the structure of these poems, they are a wonderful way to review nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Shaped like a diamond, this poem shows the difference between opposite nouns. The poem begins and ends with a noun, and each noun is described by two adjectives and represented with three action verbs. The middle line of the poem is a four or five word phrase that connects the opposing nouns. Enjoy the students’ poems below.

Mammoth  
Strong, giant  
Hunting, stomping, surprising  
Both work very hard.  
Working, digging, crawling  
Weak, small  
Ant  
-Joshua Bleyenberg

Lion  
Loud, scary  
Hunting, sleeping, running  
They are both mammals  
Sneaking, smelling, squeaking  
Little, hairy  
Mouse  
-Ari Dykstra

Elephant  
Big, slow  
Marching, bathing, stomping  
They are both mammals  
Stealing, sleeping, walking  
Little, fast  
Mouse  
-Sadie Joostens

Happiness  
Happy, cheery  
Smiling, cheering, laughing  
People can feel this way  
Crying, upsetting, weeping  
Sad, blue  
Sadness  
-Morgan Boer

Elephant  
Big, gray  
Walking, eating, playing  
They are both animals  
Working, marching, taking  
Small, black  
Ant  
-Jackson Gritters

Butterfly  
Skinny, colorful  
Flying, resting, eating  
They both have wings  
Working, hunting, hiding  
Dull, fat  
Moth  
-Hailey Karsemeyer

Cops  
Good, helpful  
Helping, working, protecting  
One good and one bad  
Stealing, hurting, crashing  
Terrible, bad  
Robbers  
-Everett Doezeema

Cops  
Good, amazing  
Loving, working, helping  
A good and a bad  
Stealing, hurting, running  
Horrible, bad  
Robbers  
-Logan Holstege

Happiness  
Good, joyful  
Smiling, playing, working  
They are both moods  
Crying, hurting, bawling  
Bad, blue  
Sadness  
-Kenzie Kooienga



Sun  
Big, yellow  
Frying, blazing, shining  
Both made by God  
Glowing, orbiting, helping  
Small, white  
Moon  
-Brinley Koole

Mouse  
Sneaky, bad  
Hunting, jumping, walking  
They are both animals  
Dancing, stomping, running  
Loud, big  
Elephants  
-Riley Ondersma

Cop  
Good, blue  
Helping, finding, chasing  
They both break things  
Robbing, running, hiding  
Bad, sneaky  
Robber  
-Calvin Potjer

Chicken  
Fast, soft  
Egg-laying, running, sitting  
They are both birds  
Protecting, crowing, running  
Loud, annoying  
Rooster  
-Lachlan Steenwyk

Cop  
Kind, friendly  
Caring, working, helping  
Both of them are people  
Robbing, hiding, stealing  
Naughty, sneaky  
Robber  
-Peyton VanBaren

Sun  
Bright, yellow  
Shining, frying, blazing  
Both in outer space  
Glowing, moving, changing  
Cold, round  
Moon  
-Lincoln VanderSchaaf

Bear  
Mean, big  
Hunting, running, sleeping  
They both start with B  
Hopping, eating, walking  
Soft, small  
Bunny  
-Kinsley Wassink

Sun  
Light, hot  
Shining, heating, burning  
Both are in space  
Glowing, moving, changing  
Dark, cold  
Moon  
-Jayme Westra

### **It Takes a Village – Miss Annika Brands**

May is here! The temperatures are rising, the trees are budding, and (most exciting of all) the sun is out again. Along with these things is the end of another school year, which means teachers are wrapping up all kinds of loose ends: standardized testing, field trips, and report cards. And (of course) we are all scrambling to finish that last math unit.

This is my favorite part of the school year. We've worked hard, and the kids have made mounds of progress since August. They've grown in their number sense, reading/writing abilities, and social skills. I hope that these children have also grown spiritually in their love for God and others.

When I think of how far the kids have come, I think of the people who invest so much into them to prepare them for what's next. Week after week, the Special Education and DC teams work with teachers, brainstorming ideas to ensure that every child succeeds at Heritage. Teachers spend time talking with each other about how to explain a new concept, encourage their students, and manage the logistics of teaching. Classroom aides bustle from one end of the

school to the next, making sure that everyone has enough support in their classrooms.

We also have the Administrator, RTI group, office ladies, cleaning crew, hot lunch servers, School Board, chapel speakers... I could go on and on. Maybe the most important of these all is parents, who find time each night to help their kids with homework after a tiring day of school, catechism, and piano lessons. Your work at home does not go unnoticed!

So we see that it is not one person who raises these children. It takes many! It takes the body of Christ working together. Many parts, one body, helping each other grow to be healthy and strong. As the famous words say, "*It takes a whole village to raise our children. It takes a whole village to raise one child.*" (paraphrased from an African proverb).

It is a privilege for me to teach alongside so many people who care about God's covenant children. The hard work is done, and the days of School Year 2022-2023 are nearly coming to an end. August is around the corner... but first, summer!

## **~ PARENTS – Some items to take note of ~**

- **Report card pick up dates** are **June 13 – 15** here at school. All items will be near the main entrance of school. Doors will be open between 9 AM and 2 PM.
- **2023-2024 class lists** will be emailed out the day after the August *Herald* is distributed. The email will be sent to the 1st of the two email addresses supplied to us on your enrollment forms.
- TRIP summer dates are (from 9-10:30 AM): June 13, June 27, July 12, July 25, August 8, and August 22. Regular TRIP hours will resume on August 31.
- Room Moms sign-ups will happen in the fall (so that you can be aware which class your children are in before you sign up). Watch the first memo of the school year for information.

### **Grab your golf clubs!!**

*Our **Heritage Christian Foundation** will be holding their **Heritage Foundation Golf Outing** on Saturday, July 15 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 Scott Koole at 616-293-1624.*

***Please call soon as spots fill up quickly!***

## **2023-2024 School Year Calendar**

**August 28, 2023 – School begins**

**September 1-4, 2023 – Labor Day break**

**September 6-7, 2023 – School Pictures**

**September 21, 2023 – Fall Family Supper**

**October 18-20, 2023 – Teacher's Convention break**

**October 27, 2023 – Grandparents Day (AM only)**

**November 1-2, 2023 – Parent Teacher Conferences**

**November 16, 2023 – All School Program**

**November 23-24, 2023 – Thanksgiving break**

**December 25, 2023 – January 2, 2024 – Christmas break**

**January 31 - February 1, 2024 – Parent Teacher Conferences**

**February 16, 2024 – Mid Winter break**

**February 29, 2024 – Band & Choir Concert**

**March 29 – April 5, 2024 – Spring break**

**May 16, 2024 – Band & Choir Concert**

**May 30, 2024 – Graduation, last day of school**

# HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL RESTAURANT

— *AT THE HUDSONVILLE FAIR* —

Last year was another "first" as we began the adjustment of running both kitchens at the fairgrounds. The first year with anything new offers a big learning curve; this fundraiser is no exception! As a committee, we learned quite a bit and made some changes to organize and simplify some of our processes. This fundraiser made more than \$100,000 last year, and with your help believe this year will be just as successful!

## Fair Week Shifts

In order to accomplish these goals, we need everyone's help. It is amazing to get to know and work alongside others in our school community. We love to see grandparents, aunts, uncles and teenagers at the restaurant helping out!! If you're not signed up yet, please click the "Sign Up" button under the banner on our Facebook page or go to [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com), enter [heritagehudfair@gmail.com](mailto:heritagehudfair@gmail.com) in the email field, and choose from the open shifts listed below.

<b>Breakfast</b>	(6:30-11:15 a.m.) Restaurant kitchen help and server shifts open most mornings. Friday morning has only one server!
<b>Lunch</b>	(11 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.) Restaurant kitchen help and server shifts. We have openings every day during this time, but Friday especially has <u>no one</u> signed up to serve.
<b>Dinner</b>	(5-11 p.m.) There are server positions open on Monday, Thursday and Saturday nights. Grandstand pizza runner (4:45-9:30 p.m.) on Saturday night.

## Other Ways to Help

### Gift Cards/Cash Donations

We can always use gift cards to help offset the cost of product expenses. Most of our product comes from GFS and Costco. These can be sent in to the school office and labeled for the fair.

### Ice Cream Pails

Please send in empty ice cream pails and lids to the school office or place in the school kitchen. These are used for storing food that the Food Prep Committee prepares the week before the fair.

### Advertising Opportunities

We love our business sponsors! There are many opportunities to advertise your business in the restaurant and now also at the Grandstand Food Booth. If you have the opportunity to help the school in this way, please contact Danae Karsemeyer at 616-690-1775 or [djkarsemeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:djkarsemeyer@yahoo.com).

## Thanks for volunteering, advertising and donating!

2023 Fair & Grandstand Committee: Sara Byker, Lori Duthler, Megan Dykstra, Danae Karsemeyer, Hillary Lotterman, Sherry Pipe, Lisa VanTil, Tara Koole, Kelly Looyenga

## 2023-2024 School Supplies

### Kindergarten Supplies - all labeled

Backpack  
Lg size Pencil Box (> 4" high)  
2 Large Erasers  
2 Large Solid Glue Sticks  
Classic Color broad 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 sharpened 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  
Scissors  
1 **wide** ruled spiral notebook  
Paint Shirt  
Gym Shoes  
2 Strong, Durable Pocket Folders

### 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  
4 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 Hard Covered Composition Notebook  
2 Strong, durable Folders  
Earbuds in a labeled bag/pouch  
Art Shirt  
Gym Shoes & Extra Pair of Socks

### 3rd Grade Supplies

KJV Bible  
12 - #2 Pencils  
Earbuds in a small bag/pouch  
Fiskar Scissors  
2 Red Pens  
4 dry-erase markers

### 3rd Grade Supplies, continued

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 Flair pens (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  
Thin washable markers  
24 pack of colored pencils  
20 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  
2 pkg. wide ruled loose leaf paper  
Gym Shoes  
1 wide ruled 1 subject spiral Notebook  
6 2-Pocket PLASTIC folders (w/ holes)  
Earbuds  
2 dry erase markers (not for Woudenberg)

### 5th Grade Supplies

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

### 6th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible and a Psalter  
Pencils and Eraser  
Pens: Blue/Black for Work  
Pens: Red for Correcting  
Black Thin Tip Marker  
Colored Pencils  
Markers  
Highlighting Markers  
5 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 a Psalter  
Multiple Pencils and Pens (mechanical pencils preferred, but not necessary)  
Colored Pencils  
2 Extra Fine Point black Sharpies for Art  
Highlighter  
White plastic eraser  
Ruler with Inches & Centimeters  
Compass  
Scissors  
White-out  
Rubber cement  
4 3-Ring Binders (1" rings)  
4 pkgs of 5 piece index tab dividers (1 pkg. per binder)  
Three Spiral Notebooks  
5 Folders w/Pockets  
Folder for Art  
Loose Leaf Notebook Paper (400 pages)  
25¢ for a Protractor (school will supply)  
8th grade Math and 7<sup>th</sup> Acc.Math - TI-83 or 84 Scientific Calculator  
7<sup>th</sup> Regular Math – TI83 or above is recommended, but not required  
DC Math - TI-30XIIS or above calculator

