

The Heritage Christian School

Herald



The Board and Staff Newsletter ~ May, 2026

2025-26 Board Members: Jason Butler, Jared Dykstra, Joel Kooienga, Brian Koole, John Pipe, Chad Rus, Corey Terpstra - Secretary, Jim VanBaren, Brandon VanOverloop - Vice President, Kevin VanOverloop - President, Mike VanTil - Treasurer, Ross Zuverink

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Fruits from God

Mr. Brian Kuiper, Administrator

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” James 3:17-18

Another school year soon comes to a close. We began the year praying that the Lord would lead us in the truth and teach us (Psalm 25:5). We have experienced His hand leading us throughout the year. We have felt His presence as we worked, played, and learned together. Now, we have an opportunity to look back upon that work and reflect. Was that work effective? Will it last? Did it bring about lasting change and learning? Will the result be wisdom “from above”? What is the fruit?

As parents and teachers work together while instructing the covenant seed, many combined efforts are used in these endeavors. From a very young age, attendance at church services, catechism, and Sunday school are expected and supported. Enrollment in a good Christian school begins at the age of 5. Lessons at school are taught intentionally to lead to understanding and knowledge. But, they are infused with spiritual integrations in hopes of knowledge becoming wisdom. Schoolwide devotions. Grade level devotions. Discipline administered in love and with the Word. Assignments and tests that teach and assess what we value - the application of knowledge to the christian’s walk and ways. And the countless prayers...

Certainly all of this will be enough for students to become wise! We have done so to the “utmost of our power” as we promised at baptism. Then we remember the words of the Lord. Wisdom from above is “full of good fruits”. Fruit is a beautiful gift from God. Fruit normally grows on plants or trees that are perennial. That is, the tree or plant yields fruit year after year. Additionally, the seed for growing the plant exists in the fruit itself. So, in many ways, fruit bears fruit and bears fruit for a long time. We might say fruit is generational.

So is the fruit that comes “from above”. While we might not see a change in behavior or attitude because of the intentional and diligent work we have done, be assured there is and will be fruit. Though it seems chasing that late work isn’t bringing about responsibility and understanding of deadlines, fruit is growing! Though some never seem to *grow up*, join the Psalmist in saying, “establish Thou the work of our hands” (Psalm 90:17). Then, rest assured that He who created fruit for His glory will bring fruit to all of the work that is done - to His glory!

We give thanks for the following families whose youngest child graduates this year! With you, we pray that the time your children spent at Heritage Christian School will yield fruit for years to come. Those families are: Ted and Shannon Brummel (Aleta), Mike and Lisa DeBoer (Shaun), Todd and Bethany DeBoode (Micah), Kevin and Audra Gritters (Luke), Joel and Lanae Holstege (Symone), Mike and Nikki Holstege (Nash), Andy and Olivia Kalsbeek (Noah),

Brian and Tara Koole (Troy), Heather Mowery (Kurtis), Corey and Brenda Terpstra (Melise), and Jon and Janis VanDyk (Kialynn). Please continue to remember HCS in your prayers. Though you leave as families, we continue to work together in the covenantal cause He has given us.

Salary Committee Report – Mr. Mike VanTil

As many of you may have already heard, we are grateful to share that all teaching positions for the upcoming school year have been filled. A few teachers will be transitioning to different roles, and we appreciate their flexibility and willingness to adapt as class sizes change from year to year.

Teaching contracts were distributed at the beginning of March. Salary increases of 3.0% were granted to teachers with 13 or more years of experience, while those with fewer than 13 years received increases based on their years of service. In determining these adjustments, the committee used the Christian Schools International Report as a guide. This approach is consistent with practices followed by other Protestant Reformed and Christian schools in the area.

The school budget for the coming year was recently approved at the Society meeting. The budget is structured in such a way that

projected revenue matches expenses, meaning there is no surplus to cover costs if tuition payments are delayed or incomplete. The Board encourages families to continue making tuition payments promptly so that all school expenses, including teacher salaries, can be met.

The Board expresses its sincere gratitude to the devoted teachers who have embraced the calling to educate and nurture our covenant youth at Heritage Christian School. Alongside parents, teachers serve a vital role in guiding students according to the truth of Proverbs 22:6: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” We pray for God’s continued blessing upon them for the rest of this school year and as they prepare for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Education Committee Report - Mr. Brandon VanOverloop

As the school year draws to a close, we are reminded of God’s faithfulness throughout another year of learning. We give thanks to Him, who continues to provide for our school in so many ways. We are deeply grateful for the teachers, staff, volunteers, parents, grandparents, and friends who faithfully work together to provide our children with a Christ-centered education.

As a committee, we have remained active throughout the year.

- School policies have been reviewed and updated where needed.
- The number of board visits has increased so that each teacher is visited at least twice per year.
- One important area of focus has been the development of the Protector curriculum, an anti-bullying program designed to equip students with both practical tools and a biblical understanding of how to treat one another. This curriculum is currently being piloted in several classrooms, with the goal of implementing it across all grades in the coming fall.
- We have also continued conversations around the growing presence of artificial intelligence. As this technology becomes more prevalent, we are thoughtfully considering how to guide our teachers and older students in using it responsibly and appropriately.

In addition, we have been working to ensure that we have the necessary staff in place for the upcoming school year, taking into account projected enrollment and the needs of our classrooms.

With the close of this school year also comes a season of transition. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to several teachers who

will not be returning next year. We are especially grateful for the many years of dedicated service given by Sarah Decker and Deb Altena who have faithfully served in our DC program. Their commitment to their students and to Christian education has left a lasting impact.

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Kooienga and Kelly VanOverloop, who will be stepping into these roles. We look forward to the ways God will use them in the lives of our students.

We also recognize Rhonda Gritters and Erin VanRijs, who will be concluding their teaching at the end of this year. Erin, who is expecting her first child this fall, begins an exciting new chapter, and we pray for God’s blessing upon her family. We are thankful that Rhonda will still be around school working a few days each week as an aide. These positions will not be replaced at this time. Instead, some of our current teachers will transition to different grade levels where needed to best support our students moving forward. Alaina Baas will be moving to second grade, Beth VanBaren to third grade, and Katie VanOverloop to fifth grade.

In addition, we want to acknowledge others who will be stepping down from their roles this year. We thank Dianne VanPutten for her service as librarian, and Amanda Booth for her work as a kindergarten aide. We offer a special recognition to Wilma Overway for her approximately 39 years of faithful service at Heritage. Her long-standing dedication has been a tremendous blessing to generations of students and families, and we are deeply grateful for her commitment.

As we move forward, we ask for your continued prayers for our students and staff, that God would bless our efforts and use them for His glory.

2025-2026 Board Secretary Report - Mr. Corey Terpstra

Dear Society and Supporters of Heritage Christian School,
Welcome to the Annual Society Meeting for the 41st year of covenantal education at Heritage Christian School. By God's grace, another year has passed since our last meeting, and we have once again experienced His many blessings.

As we gather this evening, we are reminded of Hebrews 10:23:

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"

This is especially fitting as we reflect on covenant education. For more than forty years, parents in this community have sought to hold fast to the promises made at baptism. Out of that calling, Heritage Christian School was established to instruct our children in God's Word and guide them in lives of service to Him.

Before reflecting further, I would like to highlight a few key aspects of our school's Mission Statement. (If you are interested in reading this, you can find it in the front cover of your HCS directory.)

First, we are a community of believers who take seriously our baptismal vows, and those promises continue to guide the work of the school.

Secondly, our instruction remains Christ-centered and academically strong, grounded in Scripture and the Reformed Confessions. Once again, our teachers, administrators, and staff have worked diligently over this past year to fulfill this calling.

Finally, our goal is that, through the work of the Holy Spirit, this instruction may bear fruit in a living faith, as students learn to serve the Lord and one another.

This mission is evident throughout the life of the school, in classrooms, hallways, and on the athletic fields. We are thankful for the Christ-centered example set by our staff as they guide our students in lives of service.

Year in Review

Earlier this year, a SWOT meeting was held to reflect on strengths, areas for growth, and opportunities within the life of the school.

Strengths included strong academic support, the presence of classroom aides, and the preparedness of our graduates as they transition to Covenant Christian High School. The unity of our school community in the faith we share, along with the care shown by our staff toward families, remains a defining characteristic of Heritage.

Areas for continued attention include student privacy and safety policies, staffing for physical education and art, communication and transparency, enrichment opportunities, and playground needs. As the school continues to adjust, including navigating declining enrollment, these discussions help ensure wise stewardship of both resources and direction.

Opportunities were identified to strengthen communication, particularly with new and prospective families. Efforts have included sharing the *Herald* more broadly and exploring ways to invite future families to school events. Additional steps are being taken to strengthen parent connections, including increased follow-up to encourage participation in parent-teacher conferences.

Transparency and communication were also identified as areas for growth. In response, more intentional weekly communication has been implemented, including sharing glimpses into school life such as Monday morning devotions.

To support this work, six committees of board members and teachers were formed. Their efforts have already resulted in improvements, including enhanced communication, increased focus on conference participation, playground updates such as a new sandbox, and updates to student protection processes, including a picture and video release form in enrollment materials. Additional work remains ongoing.

The Board has also increased the frequency of school visits this year, providing greater visibility into daily school life and strengthening its ability to support the work taking place in the classrooms.

At the same time, we continue to recognize the importance of addressing broader challenges facing students today, particularly student mental health and awareness.

Life at HCS

At the heart of Heritage Christian School is a shared commitment to nurture the children entrusted to our care. Each day we strive to provide a learning environment where students grow academically, spiritually, and personally in their understanding of God and His creation.

Through both instruction and community, we seek to develop students' gifts while pointing them to the truth of God's Word in every area of life. We are thankful for the many ways the Lord has blessed this work over the past year. With that in mind, we share the following highlights.

Education

- From the SWOT, one of the committees met with teachers from Covenant Christian High School to discuss ways we can better prepare our students for the transition to high school. This collaboration provides valuable insight into how we can continue strengthening our academic programs and supporting our students as they move forward in their education.
- For our teachers and staff, in-service days continue to provide opportunities for professional growth. This year, David Smith, a professor from Calvin University, was invited to present and conduct breakout sessions focused on connecting intentionally with students and creating space for reflection within the school environment.
- Policy reviews and revisions are also completed annually to ensure the school remains aligned with best practices and educational standards.

Our Campus

- As reported at our last society meeting, both of our boilers were replaced this past summer through funds generously donated by the Fundraiser Committee. We are very thankful for their support, as well as the work of the Building Committee and the volunteers who assisted with the installation.
- Our facility manager, Leon Kamps, continues to do an excellent job maintaining the building and grounds, ensuring that our school facilities remain safe and well cared for.

Technology Updates

- The Technology and Education Committees continue to review developments related to artificial intelligence and the role it may play within education. Their work includes

considering both potential misuse and ways AI might serve as a constructive educational tool. A “guidebook” for teachers is now in draft form with the goal of having it ready for next school year.

Safety

- Each year the Ottawa County Sheriff’s Department conducts a walkthrough of the school building and campus to review safety practices. We are thankful to report that no additional recommendations were made during this past year’s review.
- In addition, the Protection Committee has been working to develop curriculum and materials that can be used by staff in the classroom. The program currently being piloted is called the Protectors curriculum, which serves as an anti-bullying initiative while also focusing on student conduct and Christ-centered behavior toward one another. Several teachers have begun reviewing and piloting the materials. The goal is to provide teachers with the resources before the end of the school year so they may review them over the summer, with full implementation anticipated next year.

Staff Recognition

The work that takes place at Heritage each day is made possible through the dedication of many individuals who faithfully serve our school community. Our teachers, staff members, and volunteers invest countless hours into the life of the school, and their commitment is evident in the care they show to our students.

Beyond the classroom, office staff, aides, librarians, bus drivers, and volunteers all contribute in meaningful ways to the daily operation of the school. Some serve visibly throughout the school day, while others work quietly behind the scenes—often after hours—to care for the building, playgrounds, and athletic fields. Every role is important, and we are grateful for the many individuals who faithfully support the work of Heritage.

We would also like to recognize the leadership of our administrative team.

Now in her third year in administration, Erika Aalsma continues to serve faithfully as Assistant Administrator and Director of Educational Support. Her responsibilities include serving on the Education Committee, supporting teachers in their professional growth, and overseeing the DC program and its staff. We are thankful for the encouragement, care, and leadership she brings to our school community.

We are likewise grateful for the continued leadership of our Administrator, Brian, who is now serving in his 30th year at Heritage, including 19 years as Administrator. His steady leadership and deep commitment to the students, staff, and families of Heritage are evident each day, and we are thankful for the consistency and dedication he continues to bring to this role.

As we reflect on the many individuals who faithfully serve within the school, it is also appropriate to acknowledge several staffing transitions that will take place as we look ahead to the coming school year.

Staffing Updates

- We extend our sincere thanks to Deb Altena (25 years) and Sarah Decker (30 years) for their faithful service. Their dedication to Christian education has been a

tremendous blessing, and their impact on generations of students is deeply appreciated.

- We also recognize Rhonda Holstege, who is transitioning from her full-time teaching role after 18 years of service. We are thankful she will continue next year as a part-time teacher aide.
- We extend our thanks to Erin Van Rijs for her six years of service, and wish her and her husband God’s blessings as they prepare to welcome their first child.
- We welcome Kelly VanOverloop (4–6 DC, 7 years experience) and Sarah Kooienga (JH DC, 3 years experience), and look forward to their contributions to our school community.
- We thank our teaching staff for their continued flexibility. Alaina Baas will move to 2nd grade, and Beth VanBaren to 3rd grade.
- Katie VanOverloop will transition to teaching 5th grade for one year. We sincerely appreciate her adaptability and readiness to address this unique need next year.
- Finally, we thank Dianne VanPutten for her 11 years of service in the library and her faithful support of both students and staff.

Closing Reflection

As we bring this report to a close and look ahead to the coming school year, we are reminded once again of the covenant promises of our faithful God. In Jeremiah 32:39–40 we read:

“And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.”

These words beautifully capture the heart of the work we seek to support through Heritage Christian School. Our desire as parents, teachers, and society members is that the next generation may know the Lord, walk in His ways, and grow in the fear of His name.

Throughout this past year we have once again seen evidence of God’s faithfulness to this school community. In the classrooms, in the dedication of our teachers and staff, and in the continued support of our society members, the Lord has graciously sustained the work of covenant education at Heritage.

For more than four decades, this school has served as one way the covenant community fulfills its calling to instruct our children in the truth of God’s Word. Generation after generation of students has been taught to see God’s hand in His creation and to understand their calling to live lives of service to Him.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude and confidence. The future may bring challenges, but our foundation remains secure in Christ. It is our prayer that Heritage Christian School will continue to remain faithful to its mission, equipping students with knowledge, faith, and a desire to use the gifts God has given them in service to His kingdom.

May we continue to support this work with our prayers, our encouragement, and our faithful stewardship, giving thanks to the Lord for the many blessings He continues to provide.

Fundraisers Report - Mrs. Holly Feenstra

As the close of the 2025–2026 school year draws near, we reflect with great gratitude on all that God has provided and the many ways He has worked through our school community. We've been especially blessed by the dedication of so many mothers who give of their time and talents to support Heritage Christian School.

The Fair Committee began their work back in early spring of 2025 for the annual week of running a restaurant and the grandstands at the Hudsonville Fair. The Lord abundantly blessed the activity of hundreds of people working together to support our school. The work of so many committee members and volunteers, and the generosity of our sponsors and diners fills our hearts with gratitude for all the intentional support for Heritage Christian! The shift sign-up for the upcoming summer has already been out a few weeks and once again, our needs are being met. God is good! Please continue to keep an eye out on email or social media for more or other ways you could help with this amazing week, as needed this year are over 500 shifts to be worked, and that doesn't include the hundreds of hours put in by the committee and subcommittees, pre-fair food prep and pie ladies throughout the week! We extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to especially the committee members and spouses who are just about working 24/7 as the fair week arrives!

We take opportunity to thank the following committees for their provision also for a few annual events this year: the Teacher's Convention in October, Grandparents Day in October (Thanks also to our teachers for providing fun activities for them to share together), Heritage Apparel in December, lunch for the volunteers at Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Day in February, and Teacher Appreciation in March. Thanks also to everyone who gave to help these events run smoothly! We take opportunity to thank the following committees for facilitating profitable and enjoyable events that took place during the school year: 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament in November and Penny

Wars in March, and for all those who gave on these occasions as well!

To the committees that serve all year long—TRIP, Hot Lunch, and the Kitchen Committee, a hearty **THANKS** to you all!

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 athletics department, and this year, we were able to give money to help the teachers attend the Teacher's Convention in Loveland, Colorado, in October 2026, Lord willing.

Fundraisers also provides teachers an annual allowance to get any new supplies needed. In addition, we provide funds to support a birthday party/gift for each teacher, and an end of the year luncheon for the teachers and staff to thank them for a job well done.

Fundraisers encourages every mother to get involved, whether it be on a committee or attending our meetings and letting your voice be heard. Our main purpose is to keep tuition cost down. We meet five times during the school year, but there are opportunities all year long to be part of Fundraisers.

The officers for next year are: President- Heidi Kleyn, Vice President-Kim (Faber) Kuiper, Secretary-Tricia Brummel, Vice-Secretary-Anna Beelen, Treasurer- Emily Joostens, and Vice-Treasurer-Shauna Spriensma.

Thanks to the retiring President, Pam Bylsma and Treasurer, Amanda Schut for their year of leadership and support. It's been a pleasure working with you. (We in administration also add our thanks to retiring Secretary, Holly Feenstra, for her work!) May the Lord bless our efforts to support our school! Above all, may He be glorified in our work, and may others see by our walk that He is alone is God and worthy of all praise.

Proverbs – Mrs. Jane Woudenberg and her 4th Graders

“Actions speak louder than words!”

“An apple a day keeps the doctor away.”

When you hear these familiar sayings, you immediately recognize that you are reading a proverb. A proverb is a statement which contains wisdom, truth, morals, lessons, and advice concerning life.

Our fourth grade class meditated on the book of Proverbs in the Bible this year. We were amazed by God's wisdom as we read and discussed the Proverbs from Scripture together. The principles of the Proverbs of Solomon are charity, justice, and wisdom. These Proverbs are the Word of God

The students composed some proverbs of their own. They looked around at God's creation, and then endeavored to pass along their own words of wisdom to you.

Proverbs by Theo Baas:

- As an ant is attracted to food, so we are attracted to God's Word.
- Three things that God loves:
 - Showing kindness to neighbors
 - Being helpful to parents
 - Talking to others about God

Proverbs by Bill Booth:

- It is better to be outside in God's creation than to be inside playing video games with wicked friends.
- The foolish man slumbers and doesn't work, but the wise man is hard working like the ant.

Proverbs by Evan Brands:

- As a mother bird protects her chicks, so God protects us from sin.
- It is better to enjoy nature than to play video games.

Proverbs by Grady Bylsma:

- As the falcon protects her young, so God watches over us.
- As the serval listens for his prey, so we listen to the Bible.

Proverbs by Lydia DeGram

- It is better to be helpful than to sit around doing nothing.
- As God controls the waves of the ocean, so God is also in control over the troubles in our lives.

Proverbs by Calvin Fisher

- God is divine and wise, but Satan is evil and deceiving.
- As the sun beholds all upon the earth, so the eyes of the Lord see both good and evil.

Proverbs by Claire Duthler

- It is better to meet a tiger than to be friends with an ungodly person.
- Three ways that God loves me:
 - He is always there for me
 - He keeps watch over me
 - He keeps me safe

Proverbs by Brecken Glass

- It is better to get up early and go to church than to sleep in and do what you want.
- As a lion protects its cubs, so God protects His children.

Proverbs by Kayla Holstege

- As a cat washes its paws, so God washes away our sins.
- It is better to be eaten by a tiger than to be a follower of Satan.

Proverbs by Raelynn Kamminga

- As a mother cleans the laundry, so God washes our hearts clean and pure.
- It is better to be at a table with one person who loves you than to be at a feast with many people who hate you.

Proverbs by Blake Lubbers

- As a bear protects her cub, so God protects us from Satan.
- It is better to be godly and follow God's commandments than to be popular and get attention.

Proverbs by Elsie Machiele

- As an elephant fights, so we fight the world's wicked temptations.
- As the foolish man despises God, so God despises the wicked world.

Proverbs by Anderson Rau

- As fruit that grows from seeds, so we grow from the seed of God's Word.

- Five things that show God's power in a storm:
 - The fast lightning
 - The booming thunder
 - The pouring rain
 - The icy hail
 - The strong wind

Proverbs by Amelia VanderKolk

- The lazy man is foolish, but the hard worker has wisdom.
- As a mother bird feeds her young, so God feeds us with the Bible.

Proverbs by Aleida VanOverloop

- Two things that the Lord hates:
 - A proud look
 - A lying tongue
- Three things you should do if you are a Christian:
 - Be honest
 - Be kind to one another
 - Love people who aren't your friends

Proverbs by Alexandra Vermeer:

- As a deer runs away from its predator, so we run away from sin.
- As glasses help us to see clearly, so God helps us to see spiritually.

Proverbs by Reid Wesorick:

- As the bear protects her cub, so God protects and loves us.
- A wise man gains knowledge, while a foolish man, who despises God, is cast into the pit of hell.

Proverbs by Ashley Zandstra

- A wise girl gets her chores done quickly, but a foolish boy sits and watches TV.
- As a lamb is weak without its shepherd, so we are weak without the Lord to guide us.

The Strength of the Body – Mrs. Erika Aalsma

There is value in working together as a body. By striving to create and maintain an environment where students, teachers, and families are deeply connected, we can move beyond simple instruction to true growth as a body of Christ. This sense of belonging to a community ensures that each part of the community is invested in the growth and development of the students, remembering that "we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another" (Romans 12:5).

It is our prayer that within our hallways and classrooms, students aren't just learning facts; they are learning how to love one another, encourage one another, and serve those around them. When a student struggles, we hope that they are met with a "cloud of witnesses" ready to lift them up, for "two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10). By making a commitment to be a united body, we are saying that we equally desire the academic and spiritual growth of our students.

A strong school community also bridges the gap between the classroom and the home. We must view education as a

partnership between parents and educators, working toward a common goal. When a student sees their parents and teachers united in their work, it reflects value and importance in the work that they engage in. We strive for a unity where we are "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10), helping students meet goals and tackle challenges under the shelter of a Christian community.

Within the walls of this Christian school, we seek to prepare students for a life of service. We are not just educating individuals for personal success; we are teaching believers who will someday contribute to their churches and communities. It is our hope that the students leave our halls knowing they are part of a community that has sought to teach them to be good stewards of the gifts God has given them. By experiencing the strength of a solid body of believers now, our students learn the beauty of the Psalmist's words: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

Behold Your God! – Miss Alaina Baas

This past March, Heritage Christian had the opportunity to host an ELA (English Language Arts) Night. Students worked hard to display their effort and growth in reading and writing. This year, we incorporated writing into our classroom devotions through a devotional booklet that focused on the attributes of God. As students worked through the booklet, they wrote responses about where they had seen these attributes displayed in the Bible and how they had seen God use them in their own lives. The word “attribute” is a big word for first graders, but it simply answers the question, “Who is God?” We explored six different attributes of God and ended our booklet by reflecting on the fact that such an awesome God is *our* personal God. Below are four of the six attributes we studied, along with student responses. It is my hope that these short, heartfelt responses will remind you of the greatness of the God we serve.

God’s Sovereignty

God’s sovereignty can be easily defined as His ability to rule over and control all things. God is the King who sits on His throne. Who causes the sun to rise each morning and set each night? Who makes the wind and the waves stand still? Who alone is able to make a wall out of water? Only God. The God whom we serve governs and controls all things by His Fatherly hand. What a blessing it is and a comfort to know that we are not in control of our lives.

In the Bible, I saw God was sovereign when...

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in the furnace. -Mason Langerak
- When Jesus said on the boat in the storm, “Peace, be still.”-Jackson VanPutten
- When Moses held his rod up, and the Israelites were winning. -Jed Dykstra
- When God put the Red Sea up into a wall. -Jaylee Crossen
- When Jesus walked on water.-Theo VanPutten
- When God shut the lion’s mouths. -Tessa Wieringa

I am so glad God is sovereign in my life because...

- When my grandma died, God brought her to Heaven. - Theo VanPutten
- It would be bad if I was in control. -Mason Langerak

God’s Omnipresence

God’s omnipresence is His ability to be everywhere at once. Students were fascinated by this truth. A few even stretched their arms out into the air, innocently trying to feel for God. They were gently reminded that God is a Spirit and cannot be touched, yet by faith, His presence in the classroom could still be known.

In the Bible, I saw God was omnipresent when...

- When God was in the whale’s tummy with Jonah. -Benjamin Nienhuis

I am so glad God is omnipresent in my life because...

- I am scared of the dark, but God is with me. -Madison Miedema
- I’m not alone. -Theo VanPutten
- When my grandpa died, God was with my grandpa in Heaven and with me. -Bowen Wieringa

God is Faithful

He is loyal to us, and He always keeps His promises. Throughout our first grade Bible curriculum, we learn about the many promises

God made to His people in the Old Testament, even though time and time again they failed Him—His promises to fallen Adam and Eve, trusting Noah, chosen patriarch’s, wandering Israelites, imperfect Judges, and prayerful Hannah. We heard many promises, and each time, we smiled at the fact that God never once broke His promise. This gives us hope. This gives us faith! Great is His Faithfulness!

In the Bible, I saw God was faithful when...

- The Lord saved Israel from Egypt. - Madison Miedema
- God said that He will not send the flood again. -Hailey Lubbers
- God said to Abraham that He would have as many children as the stars in the sky. -Jensyn Wassink

I am so glad God is faithful in my life because...

- God was with my aunt when she had surgery on her neck. -Lettie Moelker
- I know God will take me to Heaven. - Madison Miedema
- I do my prayers in my house. When I do it, God answers it. - Jed Dykstra

God is Good

God is a loving and caring God. We see the goodness of God on display all throughout our lives and the lives of the saints in the Bible. Even amidst the trials in our lives, we understand that God works *all* things for our good.

In the Bible, I saw God was good when...

- He kept the Israelites safe with food and water so they did not die. – Josie Vandyke
- When Joseph’s brothers did everything against Joseph, God was good. - Jaxton Start

I am so glad God is good in my life because...

- When God sent the storms, it might be scary, but God is talking to us. - Mason Langerak
- When loved ones die, it is sad, but God brings them to Heaven. - Josie Vandyke
- He helped Zeke in the hospital. - Jaylee Crossen
- When I moved, I was a little scared, but I like it now. - Bowen Wieringa

How I know God is my God

Finally, our attributes study concluded with a close look at God’s work in our lives. We have seen the work of God in the lives of the characters in the Bible. We have seen His power in what He is able to do and accomplish. But how do we *know* that this God is our God?

- Because He calls me and tells me not to sin. – Benjamin Nienhuis
- He loves me and He loves my mom. – Rowan Gritters
- Because He wrote all the pages in the Bible. - Jackson VanPutten
- He hath put the Holy Spirit in my heart. - Jensyn Wassink
- Because He created us. – Bowen Wieringa
- He called my name and said, “you are mine!”- Tessa Wieringa

I am so glad God is my God and my Father because...

- Not everyone is God’s. God could have not chosen me. - Josie VanDyke
- I would not even be born. – Jaxton Start

What Does My Teacher Do in the Summer? – Mrs. Brenda Pastoor

It's a common misconception with young students that their teachers only exist at school. They think we probably actually live in our classrooms! Seeing their teacher "out in the wild" is just crazy exciting! I recently asked my Kindergartners to answer a few questions about what they think I do and eat in the summer. This was mostly an exercise to try to encourage them to sound out words to spell them on their own, but also a little humor for me, and now you!

Aurora:

Things my teacher does: Go long (go out to lunch), go to the pouo (go to the pool) and go to wuc (go to work).

Things my teacher eats: Lvu (lasagna), Pzza (pizza) and Sld (salad)

The best part of my teacher's summer is: Go on a flt (Go on a flight)

Logan:

Things my teacher does: Beach and polwl (pool).

Things my teacher eats: Wotrmelin (watermelon), apple, is crem (ice cream) and pezza (pizza).

The best part of my teacher's summer is: wrk in the grdin (work in the garden).

Drake:

Things my teacher does: go to school, be kind.

Things my teacher eats: romin (Ramen) and macncheese (mac and cheese).

The best part of my teacher's summer is: go to the pool.

Tyce:

Things my teacher does: by trets (buys treats).

Things my teacher eats: brgr (burgers).

The best part of my teacher's summer is: the beach.

Dawson:

Things my teacher does: poal (pool) and rest!

Things my teacher eats: is crem (ice cream)

The best part of my teacher's summer is: poal (pool).

Baker:

Things my teacher does: go to the bech (beach).

Things my teacher eats: is grm (ice cream).

The best part of my teacher's summer is: the pool.

Mabel:

Things my teacher does: poel (pool).

Things my teacher eats: wtmain (watermelon).

The best part of my teacher's summer is: (going to the) zoo.

Autumn:

Things my teacher does: beech (beach) and shop.

Things my teacher eats: wrdmln (watermelon), apple, bakbares (blackberries), and ise serm (ice cream).

The best part of my teacher's summer is: boats, pool and zoo.

Maven:

Things my teacher does: get pets.

Things my teacher eats: icem (ice cream).

The best part of my teacher's summer is: (going to the) zoo.

Summer:

Things my teacher does: pool and shop.

Things my teacher eats: ise cream (ice cream).

The best part of my teacher's summer is: lay(ing) out.

Jack:

Things my teacher does: go to the beach and go in th(e) pool.

Things my teacher eats: ice cream and posba (pasta).

The best part of my teacher's summer is: slepn in (sleeping in) and go to the store.

Brooks:

Things my teacher does: bich (beach).

Things my teacher eats: chips.

The best part of my teacher's summer is: (going to the) zoo.

Madison:

Things my teacher does: wrxs (works), lunjre (laundry) and runs.

Things my teacher eats: yogrt (yogurt), grapes (grapes) and jam.

The best part of my teacher's summer is: the bech (beach).

Owen:

Things my teacher does: bich (beach).

Things my teacher eats: chips.

The best part of my teacher's summer is: (going to the) zoo.

Kate:

Things my teacher does: walks and goes to pools.

Things my teacher eats: pizza.

The best part of my teacher's summer is: going to the beach.

Leeland:

Things my teacher does: can (canning) and rind (reading).

Things my teacher eats: watmn (watermelon), i cm (ice cream), pastu (pasta) and mfen (muffins).

The best part of my teacher's summer is: wses (worships), se go on vcshn (she goes on vacation) and the wsh (the wash).

Revelation - Mr. Doug DeBoer

A first time for everything. There is a rather lengthy portion of time spent in 8th grade Bible on the book of Revelation. This was for me a new opportunity. This new experience has proved worthwhile and much knowledge has been gained by the teacher and hopefully on occasion by the students. In the days of yesteryear when teaching 9th Bible, we studied the Missionary Journeys of Paul and some of the epistles but left Revelation out of the curriculum.

Mrs. Uittenbogaard has worked diligently to put a curriculum together for 8th Bible that includes Revelation. Many of the insights into Revelation gained by me have come from that

curriculum and the well-known book entitled, "Behold, He Cometh" written by Rev. Hoeksema.

We began with the letters to the seven churches, and concerning the church of Thyatira, Hoeksema wrote, "this sweet and lovable little church had gradually forgotten to apply the objective standard of God's revelation and had allowed personal experience to be the chief criterion of truth." This caused me to begin thinking of how I am sometimes prone to do this.

A few pages later he writes, "And not only is the church of Thyatira a warning example to the churches of that time, but to those of all ages as well. The devil even in the present day goeth about like a

roaring lion; and his object is always again to sever the church from the basis of the Word of God, and thus to set her adrift on the seductive current of human imagination.”

The more I thought about it, the more I believed this is indeed an easy path for us as teachers and students, as well as the church to follow. We sometimes justify our actions based on how we feel, instead of on what scripture tells us to do. I can treat someone a certain way because they deserve it. I don't have to do that because it isn't fair. I can keep the Sabbath the way I desire to keep it. I only need to really be kind to those who return the kindness. If you hurt me I can hurt you. The list is endless. The

Welcome to “Choose-day Tuesday” – Mr. Randy Kuiper

Every Tuesday in our fourth-grade classroom, we kick off the morning with a fun journal prompt called “Choose-day Tuesday.” Students are given two choices and must decide which one they would pick. The general rule is simple: students must stick with the two options given and can't invent a third choice. However, you will notice in their writings that some students have found pretty creative ways around that at times!

These journal prompts encourage creativity by giving students time for free writing and imagination. They also help build critical thinking as students learn to explain the reasons behind their choices. When students share their responses with the class, it helps strengthen our classroom community because we learn more about each other's personalities, experiences, and perspectives. Best of all, the activity boosts writing motivation by making journaling fun and low-pressure. Responses do not need to be long, just thoughtful and fun.

Enjoy some of our “Choose-day Tuesday” journal ideas from throughout the school year. If one of the prompts catches your eye, please write a short paragraph explaining which option you would choose, and share it with our classroom so we can enjoy reading your response. And remember, it doesn't actually have to be Tuesday to join the fun!

Would you rather take a vacation to the ocean or to the mountains?

I would rather go to the mountains. I would do this because I would go skiing. I also like going to the ocean since the ocean is really fun, I just like going to the mountains better. That is why I would go to the mountains. – *Allison D.B.*

I would rather go to the ocean because I like to swim and see dolphins. Also, it is warmer and I like collecting seashells. That's why I would choose the ocean. – *Skyler K.*

Would you rather go on a hay ride or get lost in a corn maze?

I would rather get lost in a corn maze because I would find my way out! I also do not like hay rides. Hay rides are bumpy and noisy. I love corn mazes, because it is like a maze on paper but in real life! Also, in a corn maze you can eat corn. – *Kayla K.*

Would you rather sing a solo in a chapel or run a whole marathon?

I would rather sing a solo in a chapel because I have done that like five times. I also am not afraid of the crowd. Since I have done it many times, it is easy. At first it was scary but I made it. It was in third grade. – *Avery O.*

Would you rather eat 100 worms or get stung by 100 fire ants?

common thread is that we don't go to God's Word instead relying on our reason based on feelings.

With insights from Rev. Hoeksema and the curriculum that is written, we have been able to use Revelation as a book to learn of the end times and as a book to learn how to live our daily life. I end with one more quote from “Behold, He Cometh” that is applicable for all: “Do not drift away on subjective experience, ignoring the objective principle of the Word of God. Cling to the Word. For only that Word is our safe guide and firm basis in the midst of strong currents of human theories.”

I would eat 100 gummy worms, but I would most likely get a tummyache. Gummy worms are super yummy. I'd get hurt very badly if I got stung by 100 fire ants. I would set a world record for being the most puffy and having the most ant bites. – *Jacob B.*

I would rather eat 100 worms because I could eat 100 gummy worms. I love gummy worms. I like that they are sour and sweet. Gummy worms are my favorite candy. – *Layla B.*

I would rather eat 100 worms even though they are gross. I would do that because I do not want to get stung by fire ants. Fire ants really hurt when they bite. Eating worms would not be as bad as getting stung. I would rather do neither, but I had to pick one. – *Annalise P.*

Would you rather talk to animals for a day or become an animal for a day?

I would rather talk to animals because I could go fishing and tell the fish to come. Then I could catch bass, pike, and catfish. Fishing would be more fun. I could get good fights, and I could catch any fish I wanted. I did this based on fishing, because fishing is my favorite sport. – *Silas B.*

I would rather talk to animals for a day. This way I could talk to the birds. I could also talk to my dog, Belle. If I saw some deer, I could calm them. Also, I can talk to fish and catch them. – *Owen D.*

I would rather talk to an animal for a day. I don't think being an animal would be fun. I chose this because I want to talk to my horses. It would be cool if my horse would tell me what she is thinking. I could tell my family about her. – *Audrey L.*

I would choose to speak as an animal for a day. If you were an animal, your parents would not recognize you so they would not want you in their house. Speaking to animals would be fun. – *Ezra V.B.*

I would rather be an animal for a day. I could be a bear and scare everything away. No one would pick on me. If you were a cheetah, you would win every race. Plus if you had a conversation with a hungry and big animal and you were in an argument, you're dead. – *Milo Z.*

Would you rather have a magical wand or the power to fly?

I would rather have a magical wand. I would choose this because I could make myself able to fly. I could also fly over to my friend's house quickly. I could get a bird's eye view of everything. That's why I would pick that. – *Madison P.*

I would rather have a magical wand because I could make myself be able to fly and do more stuff. I would make my stuffed animals

come alive. Then I would play with them. It would be fun. I would also clean my room in one second. – *Lily V.D.S.*

I would want the power to fly. Flying is cool because if I can fly then I can go anywhere I want without paying. Also, I could fly with a bald eagle. It would be really fun. People would think that I'm superman. – *Tannor Z.*

Would you rather have tickets to the MLB World Series or the NCAA Final Four?

I would rather go to the MLB World Series. I love watching baseball. The Cubs are hopefully going to make it to the World Series this year. They are really good and I love watching the Cubs. – *Easton N.*

I would go to the MLB World Series because I have never gone to one. I have also never been to an NCAA Final Four, but going to the World Series would be fun. Going to a Final Four would also be very fun, but the World Series would be a little bit better. – *Lawson V.T.*

Would you rather never have homework again or never take a test again?

I would rather never have homework again. I would do that because in older grades you get a lot of homework. After school, you can play outside whenever you want. For me, tests are easier but homework is super boring. – *Joel D.*

The Great Value of Reformed, Christian Schools – Mr. Jason Holstege

The title for this article comes from one of the sessions of the *History and Principles of Reformed Education* course offered by the Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies. This course is designed to give our Protestant Reformed teachers an understanding of the history and principles of Christian education, especially as parental Christian schools developed in the Netherlands and in America. Prof. R. Dykstra led this class again, and the current and prospective teachers and board members who attended in person or online were privileged to hear over two and a half hours of instruction on the first and third Wednesday night of each month from November through April.

While many of the class sessions dealt with the fascinating history of Christian schools, it was the classes dealing with the principles of Christian education that were especially profitable. Whether we were discussing the covenant of grace as the foundation of Christian education, or the evil effects of a conditional covenant view in the Christian school, these sessions helped us focus on what makes our Protestant Reformed schools distinct and to what ought to occupy the thoughts of our teachers in order to keep them that way.

One of the later sessions of the class dealt with the question of the value of a Reformed, Christian school. What is meant by the qualifiers “Reformed” and “Christian” is that schools so named follow the doctrines set forth by the historic Reformed faith and put Christ at the center of all education. The main characteristics of such schools are that

- their **basis** is the **scriptures**, as well as our **confessions**.
- their **center** is **Christ**, the mediator of the covenant, by whom all things consist.
- their **instruction** is **covenantal**, both in content and in the relationships cultivated there.

- their **character** is **antithetical** as they set forth the truth against the lie in the subject matter presented - and in life.

It is good for not only teachers and school boards but also parents to consider these characteristics and evaluate how their school is doing in these crucial areas. For when we understand where our school is at, we will then more clearly comprehend and appreciate the great **value** of our own Reformed, Christian school. Several aspects of this value were outlined in our class, including:

- **to provide a firm foundation** for the covenant child to stand on in an age when the “sinking sand” of all other ground becomes more pervasive in our culture..
- **to prepare** the covenant child to **live as friend-servants of God** in this life, which is ultimately preparation for the life to come.
- **to teach the Reformed world & life view** so that they are able to **think biblically**, that is, to apply their knowledge of God’s word to our times and properly evaluate competing ideologies.
- **to offer a communal view of life** that goes against the grain of our individualistic age and thus provides helpful preparation for life in the kingdom of God.

All of which, with the blessing of God, yields the overarching goal of **equipping the covenant child to love, serve, and praise God in all of his life**, “*that the man of God may be perfect (i.e., complete), thoroughly furnished unto all good works*” (II Tim. 3:17). May God grant that we see such value in Heritage Christian School and be all the more thankful for it!

70th Year of the Protestant Reformed Teachers’ Institute – Mr. Josh Moelker

The Protestant Reformed Teachers’ Institute (PRTI) began 70 years ago in the spring of 1956 with about 10 members from two schools (Adams and Hope). Today, there are almost 180 members of the PRTI from 19 schools. Although the size of the PRTI has increased, its purpose remains to equip its members to be “more qualified to teach from a Protestant Reformed viewpoint” and to

promote “unity and understanding among our Protestant Reformed Christian Schools.”

Each year, the PRTI meets once in the fall for a Teacher’s Convention. The first teachers’ convention was held on March 29, 1956 followed by a second on October 18 of the same year. Agatha Lubbers describes this meeting in “The Protestant

Reformed Teachers' Institute and the Federation of Protestant Reformed Christian Schools: Their History and Relationship" which was published in Perspectives in Covenant Education. She writes that "the late Rev. G. M. Ophoff was the featured speaker at 2:00 p.m. at Hope Protestant Reformed Church on the topic "Teaching Citizenship." Prof. Griess was the keynote speaker at the most recent Teacher's Convention. He spoke on the theme "Dwelling Together in Unity" from Ephesians 4:1-3.

Beside a keynote speech, roundtables, panels, and sectionals have always been a staple of Teacher's Convention. These provide teachers the opportunity to learn from one another and to share ideas. A look at the topics discussed and studied at the Teachers' Conventions of 1956 show that Protestant Reformed teachers today and back then share many of the same concerns and face similar issues. Several that Agatha Lubbers lists are "Failure and Promotion of Pupils," "Parent-Teacher Conferences," "The Distinctiveness of Our Schools," and "Hiring New Teachers: When? How?" Sectionals at this past year's Teachers' Convention included "Encouraging Students to Learn from Failure", "P/T Conferences: Avoiding Awkward Silence and Angry Stares," and round table discussions on "Threats to Good Christian Schools" and the "Teacher Mentoring Program."

Beside the annual Teacher's Convention in the fall, the PRTI meets once in the winter and in the spring. These meetings are hosted by schools in the West Michigan area and consist of a speech usually given by a teacher, minister, professor, or organization on some topic relating to education. Beside serving as an opportunity for professional development, these meetings provide opportunities for members of the PRTI to connect and fellowship with one another.

The recent spring institute meeting was hosted by Redeemer. Professor Kuiper spoke and his speech was titled "Are You

Prepared to Teach Today?" The preparation that he spoke about was not physical, intellectual, or professional, but spiritual. He spoke about how this spiritual preparation is necessary for teachers in Christian schools because we who are God's children and represent believing parents are teaching God's children in His ways, we go to school with trials and burdens that could interfere with our work, and because we are sinners who need God and do not glorify him as we should. This preparation is morning work. It cannot be done the previous day like some preparation can! This preparation consists of coming before God in prayer and standing before God's law. In prayer, praise Him for his glory, ask that you can do his will, and pray to love all of your students and colleagues. To stand before His law, read some portion of God's word with your heart and soul engaged. .

Professor Kuiper acknowledges that there are obstacles to this preparation, but these obstacles are not insurmountable. Do you think you are too busy? You don't have time not to prepare! Luther used to say that when he was busy he needed to pray longer. Do you think that the circumstances of life are preventing you from preparing before you teach? It won't be easier later! Do you think you can multitask this preparation into another part of your morning routine? You probably cannot actually concentrate well enough to do this. Is your excuse that you will be leading your class in devotions anyway? By that time you will be teaching already.

The effect of this preparation is positive. You will be calmer, more focused on God, and have a better attitude. You will be equipped to be patient and have more wisdom. You will be better able to teach others in His covenant.

May God continue to bless and equip those who teach his covenant children for years to come!

Knowing the Scriptures as a Child – Miss Rebecca Gritters

It is a teacher's prayer each year that learning and growth takes place in the classroom. There are many factors that contribute to this growth; many means that our Heavenly Father uses to cause His children to grow in wisdom and knowledge. These means extend far beyond the classroom, and I am so thankful for the work that is done outside of the classroom that contributes to the growth I see in school. What a blessing it is to see that unity between school and home!

One of these areas of growth is in the memorization and retention of Scripture. When students come to my third grade classroom, they have already had multiple years of instruction in the Word of God. They have memorized texts at home, in church, in Sunday school, in catechism, at summer Bible school, and in school each year. Students have learned the books of the Bible and have practiced finding passages. They have practiced reading by verses and chapters and have learned strategies to successfully read the Bible independently. Even students who struggle with reading can open the Bible to a familiar text and use what they have memorized to help them read a portion of God's Word.

My favorite memory verse each year is the last one in my classroom. I give the students the opportunity to choose the verse they want to recite to me. I tell the students that they can pick a verse they have memorized before or they can choose a favorite verse that they have always wanted to memorize. The only other requirement I have is that the verse cannot be John 11:35. If a

student needs some encouragement, I remind them of the school verse that year or of memory verses I know they learned in second grade. Usually students immediately know the verse they would like to memorize for the week. On Friday, when they recite their verses, the students also share when they first learned the verse, why they chose it, and what it teaches God's people.

II Timothy 3: 15 says "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Every year I see that fruit in my students and am a witness of the truth that God has set on their hearts from a young age. I am so thankful for the many family members, teachers, ministers, and friends who God has used to teach my students His Word. His Word that they use daily to remind themselves of God's promises, to share with me and their classmates of God's faithfulness, and to serve as the guide to each of their steps through life.

- I memorized Psalm 100: 1-3. I first learned this verse in Kindergarten. I heard the verses a lot and recited it a lot in Kindergarten and first grade. I chose this verse because it talks about praising the Lord and serving God. My Mom and Dad read it a lot at the table for devotions. It is my favorite verse. It teaches us to sing and serve God with gladness. It teaches us that He is God and we are the sheep of His pasture.

Jedd Barnhill

- I learned Psalm 25:5. I first memorized this verse when I started third grade. I chose this verse because I like it. It teaches us to be good and wait on God. **Lewis Brummel**
- I memorized Psalm 11:3. I first memorized this in second grade for a memory verse in Mrs. Koole's class. I chose this verse because I like how God uses nature a lot in the verse and the chapter. The verse teaches us that we should be strong in faith and not like the wicked. **Jade Key**
- I memorized Isaiah 40:31. I first learned this verse when my Uncle Ross told me that in church they learned about it. I chose this verse because it talks about eagles. It teaches us that God keeps us safe. **Nolan VanDyke**
- I memorized Isaiah 40:8. I first learned this verse when I read the Bible and came across this verse. I chose this verse because it is my second favorite verse and I really like it. It teaches us that some things wither and fade but the Word of God never will. **Carly Noorman**
- I memorized Romans 8:28. I first memorized this verse around first grade. I chose this verse because it always reminds me that things work together for good and to put my trust in God. It teaches us that all things work together for good to those who love God. **Marie Langerak**
- I memorized Isaiah 40: 8. I first learned this verse when I read it in the Bible and liked it. I chose this verse because it is a good verse in the Bible. It teaches us that God will stand forever. **Molly Boer**
- I memorized Psalm 25:5. I first memorized this verse at the start of third grade. I chose this verse because it is the school's verse. It teaches us that God leads us through the valley of the shadow of death. **Parker Wieringa**
- I memorized Psalm 100:1-5. I first memorized this verse in preschool when Mrs. Bruinooge taught it to me. I chose this verse because I think that it is pretty. It teaches us to worship God with all your heart! **Tahlia Jurgens**
- I memorized I John 3:1. I first learned this verse when I was four or five years old. I chose this verse because it is my favorite verse in the Bible. It teaches us that God gave us love and that we can show that by being kind and loving. **Emmett VanTil**
- I memorized Psalm 25:5. I first learned this verse at the beginning of school in 2025. I chose this verse because it was the school's theme verse. It teaches us that God leads us in his truth and teaches us. **Lee Langerak**
- I memorized Proverbs 3:1. I first learned this verse in second grade in Mr. Kuiper's class. I chose this verse because I still remembered it! It teaches us to obey God's commandments. **Logan Doezema**
- I memorized I John 4:7-8. In second grade, it was the fourth memory verse I learned. I chose this verse because it was easy for me to remember. It teaches us to love one another. **Israel Lamar**
- I memorized Psalm 25:5. I first learned this verse at the start of third grade. I chose this verse because I liked it, and it's a good verse about God. It teaches us that God leads us. **Owen Gritters**
- I memorized Psalm 122. I first learned this verse when I was seven. I chose this verse because it is a good one, and I say it with my family when I go to my Nana and Papas. It teaches about God as our refuge and praying. **Ryer Bouwkamp**
- I memorized 1 John 4: 7. I first memorized this verse in second grade. I chose this verse because I like it. It teaches us to love our neighbor. **Mila Start**
- I memorized Psalm 25:5. I first memorized this verse in third grade. I chose this verse because it was the school theme verse. It teaches us that God is our salvation and that God leads me in the truth. **Tyson Butler**
- I memorized Psalm 25:5. I first learned this verse at the beginning of third grade. I chose this verse because I like it. It teaches us to wait for God. **Charlie DeBoer**
- I memorized Psalm 100:1-2. I first memorized this verse in Kindergarten with my teacher Mrs. Pastoor. She taught us the whole Psalm. I chose this verse because it is one of my favorites. It teaches us to praise God. **James Dykstra**
- I memorized Psalm 11:2. I first learned about this verse from my sister Libby. I chose this verse because I like hunting. It teaches us that the wicked are strong and the righteous is weak, but the righteous have God. **Marcus Dykstra**
- I memorized Luke 12:7. I learned in second grade when I was reading a devotional. I chose this verse because it's my favorite verse. It teaches us that God counts all the hairs on your head, and that you are of more value than the sparrows. **Calvin Nienhuis**

PARENTS – Some items to take note of

- **Report card pick up dates** are June 9 – 11 here at school. All items will be near the main entrance of school. Doors will be open between 9 AM and 2 PM. CHECK THE LOST & FOUND WHEN YOU COME IN please. 😊
- **Enrollment is due on June 12, 2026.** Packets were sent home mid-May.
- **2026-2027 class lists** will be emailed out the day after the August *Herald* is distributed. The email will be sent to the email addresses supplied to us on your enrollment forms.
- **TRIP summer dates** are (from 9-10:30 AM): June 9, June 23, July 7, July 21, August 4, and August 18. Regular TRIP hours will resume on Tuesday, September 1.
- **Room Moms sign-ups** will happen in the fall (so that you are aware which class your children are in before you sign up). Watch the first memo of the 2026-27 school year for information.

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

August 24-29, 2026 - Hudsonville Fair Restaurant

August 31, 2026 – AM Open House (9 AM – Noon)

September 1, 2026 – School begins

September 4-7, 2026 – Labor Day Break

September 9-10, 2026 – School Pictures

October 14-16, 2026 – Teacher’s Convention (no school)

November 12, 2026 – All School Program

November 26 and 27, 2026 - Thanksgiving Break

December 24, 2026 – January 3, 2027 - Christmas Break

February 19, 2027 – Mid Winter Break

April 2-9, 2027 – Spring Break

May 31, 2027 – Memorial Day (no school)

June 2, 2027 – Last day of school (1/2 day)

June 2, 2027 - Graduation

Grab your golf clubs!!

Our **Heritage Christian Foundation** will be holding their **Heritage Foundation Golf Outing** on Saturday, July 18, 2026 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 or text Scott Koole at 616-293-1624.

Please call soon as spots fill up quickly!

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
RESTAURANT
AT THE HUDSONVILLE FAIR

We're busy planning the 2026 Fair Restaurant and Grandstand Fundraiser and look forward to seeing you there!. Each year the Lord has blessed our work, and we raise an astonishing amount of funds to aid Heritage. Many thanks to everyone in our school community that volunteers, we could not do this without you!

As of this notice, we still have many shifts to be filled for the week. Encourage friends and family who haven't worked a shift before, to work a shift with you! We have a particular need to fill our lunch shifts and all shifts on Saturday. Please consider giving of your time. We'd love to have these shifts filled by mid-June so we can start working on the fair week schedule. Scan the QR code below to see what's available and sign up. If you have any questions about shifts or the week in general contact Natalie VanOverloop @ 616-323-7738.

If you're hesitant to work in the kitchens or dining room, we are still looking for more pie helpers. You would typically work a few hours M, W, & F mornings helping to make pies at Hudsonville Church. Reach out to Annie Langerak @ 616-886-0742 if this interests you!

SPONSORS. This fundraiser wouldn't be what it is, without your generosity. We are so thankful for you. There is still time and opportunities to be a sponsor! Reach out to Amy Horvat @ 616-260-3502. We would like to see sponsor checks sent in by June 1st. You can send in a check to the school office to be placed in the Fair Restaurant mailbox.

We are given a unique opportunity each year with this fundraiser, to be a witness to the greater community God has placed us in. Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."



2026-2027 School Supplies

Kindergarten Supplies - all labeled

Backpack
Lg size Pencil Box (less than 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
Water bottle

1st Grade Supplies – all labeled

10 sharpened Pencils
1 yellow highlighter
1 Large Eraser ("Pink Pearl")
4 Large Glue Sticks
24 Crayola Crayons
Colored Pencils
12 Thick Markers
8 Dry erase markers
Scissors
Paint Shirt
Gym Shoes
1 Strong, Durable Pocket Folders

2nd Grade Supplies - all labeled

KJV Bible
Psalter (2024 edition)
12 **Sharp** Pencils
24 Crayons
24 Colored Pencils
10 thick washable markers – standard colors
1 Yellow Highlighter
3 Dry Erase Markers – black or blue
1 standard sized pink eraser
Large Plastic Pencil Box (w/ Snap Lid)
Fiskers **Sharp-Point** Scissors
3 Large Glue Sticks
1 Hard Covered Composition Notebook
2 Strong, durable Folders
Earbuds OR headphones
Art Shirt
Gym Shoes & Extra Pair of Socks

3rd Grade Supplies

KJV Bible
Psalter (2024 edition)
20 – sharpened #2 Pencils

3rd Grade Supplies, continued

Earbuds in a small bag/pouch
Pointed Scissors
1 large eraser
2 Glue Sticks.
Art Shirt
Small pencil box or pouch
12" Ruler w/Inches & Centimeters
4 dry-erase markers
2 Blue or Black Pens
1 yellow highlighter
Crayons
Markers
Colored Pencils
3 Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks
3 Single Pocket Folders
Loose Leaf Paper –Wide Ruled
Gym Shoes

4th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible
Psalter (2024 edition)
Crayons
Thin washable markers
24 pack of colored pencils
12 sharpened #2 Pencils
2 large glue sticks
Yellow highlighter
Large Eraser
Pointed scissors
Zippered 3 Ring Binder/Trapper
1 pkg. wide ruled loose leaf paper
Gym Shoes
1 wide ruled 1 subject spiral Notebook
6 2-Pocket PLASTIC folders (w/ holes)
Earbuds
12" ruler with metric and customary Measurements (not for Kuiper)

5th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible and a Psalter (2024 edition)
5 individual 3 ring binders (*suggested please*), but a 3-Ring Trapper is OK
5 Folders w/Pockets
Colored Pencils
Markers
#2 Pencils
2 Red Pens
Blue or Black Erasable Pen
1 Yellow Highlighter
Large Eraser
Loose Leaf Notebook Paper (200 pages)
5 wide ruled spiral notebooks
Ruler (w/Standard & Metric)
Scissors
Calculator

5th Grade Supplies, continued

Gym Shoes
1 Large Glue Stick
2 Ultra-fine Black Sharpies
Earbuds or headphones

6th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible and a Psalter (2024 edition)
Pencils and Eraser
Pens: Blue/Black for Work
Pens: Red for Correcting
2-3 black thin tip Sharpies (fine point)
Colored Pencils
Markers
Highlighting Markers
5 individual 3 ring binders
5 Folders w/Pockets
5 spiral notebooks (70-100 pgs)
200 pg. loose-leaf paper
Calculator
Gym Shoes
Ruler with inches AND centimeters
Glue Stick
Scissors
Earbuds or Headphones

Junior High Supplies

KJV Bible and a Psalter (2024 edition)
8th graders: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkein
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
Case or container for pencils etc.
Rubber cement
5 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
Graphite drawing pencil kit for Art
Loose Leaf Notebook Paper (400 pages)
25¢ for a Protractor (school will supply)
8th grade Math and 7th Acc.Math - TI-83 or 84 Scientific Calculator
7th Regular Math – TI83 or above is recommended, but not required
DC Math - TI-30XIIS or above Calculator

