

PRCS/HCHS

REFLECTOR

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BOARD NEWSLETTER

Milestones. A time for pausing and reflection. How fitting, that on graduation evening, the Eighth Grade and Twelfth Grade classes chose the theme “God Will Care For You”, as their theme and text for Graduation. No doubt, we are called each morning, and at the end of each day, to reflect upon the goodness that God has showered down upon us in the past day, or will shower down upon us throughout the day, but it can often times be especially at milestones, where we pause, observe, and are humbled by the goodness our Father has showered down upon us. Whether being preserved through nine or thirteen years of education, certainly, pausing to reflect upon the grace that our Father has showered down upon us and our children is reason for great joy and humility.

As we reflect upon the past year, we extend our hearty thanks to all staff, faculty, aids, and supporters who have donated materials or their time in the past school season. A special thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for their active support in the past school season in both fundraising efforts, and support in many other areas. What a joy it is, that we can grow together, not only with the instruction of our children, but grow together in fellowship and in the work our Heavenly Father has called us to.

We extend congratulations to the following students for graduating from Eighth Grade: Elliott Baldwin, Neil Bosman, Hudson Bruinsma, Ava De Jong, Collin Dykstra, Douglas Mancusi, Jenna Schaaf, Owen Smits, John Vander Meulen, Timothy Vander Meulen, and Cady Ward

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and to the following students for graduating from Twelfth Grade: Eric Benson, Rylee Bruinsma, Chloe De Jong, Derek De Jong, Braydan Dykstra, Kaitlyn Dykstra, Kenzie Dykstra, Tori Haak, Daniel Holleman, Sara Holleman, Alexis Lenting, Collin Lenting, Hannah Lenting, Noah Lenting, Summer Medema, Emily Olsson, Eric Ophoff, Paul Ophoff, Kayla Van Baren, Silas Van Baren, Keagan Ward, Kent Ward, Jonathan Zandstra, Lucas Zandstra, and Abby Zylstra.

May the Lord continue to watch over and care for you, as you continue in your studies and work.



The Education Committee has been busy at work planning for the upcoming school season. We are excited to announce that all teachers will be returning, as well as we will enjoy the addition of Miss Faith Hoksbergen, who will enable a broad range of science and mathematics classes to be taught at the high school level. And, we look forward to our new administrator, Mr. David Mahtani, joining us this summer and filling his role as both administrator of HCHS and PRCS.

This past season marked the first year for Mrs. Vicky Boer leading the Achieve Program. We are grateful to her and to the aides for their diligent study and application in attending seminars and other training, and for the complementary instruction that they are able to provide alongside our classroom teachers, for those students requiring modified teaching methods. In addition, we are grateful to Mrs. Karla Van Baren for her leadership in the Discovery Center, and for all other teachers and aides who have provided support roles there as well. As each board member can attest, having conducted Board visits in this past year, it has been wonderful to sit through each of the classrooms and observe the engagement and challenges that our teachers have provided to our students in this past season.

As we look to wind up the financial calendar, we have exceeded the budgeted amounts of donations this past fiscal year. We are grateful for the overwhelming financial support which has been shown through collections, gifts, and via the school auction and spring promotional dinner. Enlarging the school's staff, which enlarges curriculum opportunities creates a financial obligation for which we give great thanks to our God for providing for in this past season and in the future.

To our teachers, staff, and students, it is our prayer that you will be refreshed and reinvigorated over the summer months. And may we all, as we travel the path set before us, trust confidently that we may "Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." (Psalm 55:22)

FROM THE SHELVES: PRCS LIBRARY UPDATE

The PRCS library was (and continues to be!) a busy place during the 2022/2023 school year. With the \$800 budget that the school board allocated to the library, as well as donations from community members, 174 books were added to the school library!

Adding this many books to the library is not a quick process, so a huge thanks to the school librarians Marijo Van Overloop, Bobbi Regnerus and Trude Lenting for their work in processing the books. What does it take to process a book? Entering the book into the school's electronic library system, placing a plastic covering on a paperback book to ensure longevity and assigning the proper category to the book for placement on the library shelves. All of this work must be done by the librarians - in addition to helping grade school students check out books during their regularly scheduled library periods and working around the schedule of high school classes that meet in the library throughout the day.

But the work was worth it! The new additions to the library were a big hit with the students. 33 of the top 50 books checked out this past school year were the books that had just been added to the library in Fall 2022. To build on this enthusiasm, in April 2023 (and continuing still now), the librarians embarked on a project to "spring clean" the library, which meant pulling books off the shelves that have not been checked out for many years (and in some cases, ever). A special thanks to the team of volunteers who helped with this huge project: Wanda Bruinsma, Brenda Dykstra, Beth Van Baren, Tiffany Van Baren, Caitlin Vander Meulen, Shelley Vander Noord and Allyson Vis. These books were made available to our community at no charge, and their availability was published in consecutive editions of the Home School Announcer. With the increase in open shelf space, the library now has room for more new books that will get the students excited to read. Additionally, the librarians have plans to re-arrange the existing furniture (as well as purchase some new furniture) to create a more welcoming and fun atmosphere within the physical library itself that will inspire the students to start reading their library books once they've selected them during their class's scheduled library time.



To wrap things up, the PRCS library has some great momentum heading into the next year and would like to keep that going! If you're wondering how you can get involved with the school library, here are a few options:

- 1) Curious about what books are in the PRCS library system? You can access the library system at any time and any place to view the complete catalog. Visit prcs.follettdestiny.com. Then, click on Protestant Reformed Christian School (in blue). Next, click on Catalog (top left next to Home). You can search by title, series, author, etc.
- 2) Are you a reader? Are your kids or grandkids readers? Send us your book suggestions! We'd love to hear them and hopefully get them on our library shelves. You can contact one of the librarians directly or e-mail your suggestions to library@heritagechs.org.
- 3) The library is accepting donations! Please be on the lookout for an e-mail in the next week or two regarding the Amazon Wish List for the school library. On the list are books that we'd love to add to our catalog as well as furniture to help make the library a fun place for our students to get caught up in a good book. Or, if you'd prefer to give a monetary donation, please drop or mail your donation to school with a special memo for "PRCS Library."
- 4) Are you interested in helping process new books? Contact one of the librarians directly or via e-mail (library@heritagechs.org), and they'll contact you when volunteers are needed to help process new titles.

GRADUATE SPEECH

Here we are! Class of 2023! The tapestry of our school journey sewn to beautiful garment completion, designed solely by our King Creator. Our class started with 32 of us, and now 25 of us receive diplomas from Heritage Christian High. The colored threads in reds of trials and the blues of joyous moments, the yellows of friendships and so much more reveal beauty in the making. We've been through bumps and adversity, but our education here is now complete with the common thread of Savior Jesus vividly, vibrantly woven through.

I'd like to take the time to thank so many people. Our dear parents. How many hours go into earning tuition for 180 day school years? And how many hours were spent driving us back and forth each day? Moms and Dads, you've missed very, very few volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer or basketball games, not to mention driving to music lessons and innumerable concerts. To our parents, your many, many work hours to give us education from this particular covenant Christian school—we pause tonight to thank you from our hearts. Grandparents, your place has not gone unnoticed. We know you dedicated time and we loved to see your smiles and hear your cheers as you attended all our many events and extracurriculars. And to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, friends and family who have supported us, we are so very grateful. To our ministers, especially our current pastors, Rev. Spriensma, Rev. Marcus, and Rev. Engelsma, we thank you for guiding us spiritually along our educational journey. Those chapel speeches you made special effort to write and deliver? We may have looked zoned out, disinterested, or sleepy—but we really did hear of our Savior and living our lives in His service. Speaking of sleepy and disinterested, we take a moment to apologize...and to thank our teachers and teacher aids, bus drivers, secretary, and school board for all of your service to Heritage Christian High and the dedication you have put into our quality liberal arts education. For teaching us and even remediating both our academic as well as spiritual growth, we give passionate and sincere thanks.



Our woven cloth, Class of 2023, hasn't been without serious design alteration, tears, or seam-rips. During freshman year, our Master Weaver added in a new fabric of life sewn in with COVID. This new scruffy, coarse fabric delivered missed scheduled days of school, not to mention more momentous cancelled Young People's conventions, vacations, jobs or work, and times with people, changing our lives as the world around even today responds to such tumultuous change. And more—our Master Designer further welcomed to heaven's home a special friend Nolan Bruinsma on January 24 of our junior year. Nolan was always with us, from kindergarten on, and this too added a different fabric piece to our cloth. Additionally, we've been through harsh church controversy; none of us would have imagined the severe

stretching and gashes in our life cloth our Jesus Himself willed in our design.

But our tapestry is tautly held together by our Lord. Our designer and King calls us to continue to grow in service to Him. Some of us will begin our adulthood by starting a fulltime career of work in business management, building and construction, HVAC, mechanical work, or other trades. Some may get married. A couple of us are headed to trade school for mechanics while others look forward to cosmetology school. Some are beginning studies at a community college for radiology or other medical paths. Local 4-year universities like Indiana University Northwest, Purdue Northwest, or Trinity Christian hold paths for many of us in psychology, accounting, teaching, or forensics. Still others are heading further away from the comfort of Northwest Indiana to Northwest Iowa at Dordt University pursuing teaching, music-making, nursing, or computer programming. Our tapestry, even in our choices, is threaded, Class of 2023, to be gloriously beautiful for service to our King.

And most importantly, as we leave Heritage Christian High, we thank our Designer King Jesus Christ. He has given us our salvation, the focal point in our color-filled, vibrant, majestic tapestry of a life tale. He alone will lead us to its completion in heavenly glory.

-Kaitlyn Dykstra

HCHS HONOR ROLL 2ND SEMESTER 2022-23

SENIORS

High Honors

Chloe De Jong
Kaitlyn Dykstra
Alexis Lenting

Honors

Derek De Jong
Collin Lenting

JUNIORS

High Honors

Daniela Boer
Kyle De Jong
Levi Houck
Claire Mancusi
Jacob Van Baren
Jori Van Baren

Honors

Joshua Boverhof
Andrew Gagliardi
Aaron Regnerus
Ryan Regnerus
Ivan Smits
Lauryn Van Overloop

SOPHOMORES

High Honors

Adelle Bosman
David Boverhof
Tyler Dykstra
Luke Holleman
Nicholas Lenting
Nicole Lenting
Sydney Lenting
Andrew Van Baren
Derek Van Baren

Honors

Andrew Benson
Claire Bruinsma
Emmalie Dykstra
Micah Olsson
Alex Ophoff
Rebecca Ophoff
Cadence Verburg
Eric Zandstra

FRESHMEN

High Honors

Erika De Jong
Owen De Jong
Seth Dykstra
Ian Lenting
Madalyn Lenting
Rafe Medema
Hunter Regnerus
Cameron Terpstra

Honors

Sophie Armendariz
Bryce De Jong
Miriam Marcus

SUMMER CAMPS 2023

"Defender Academy: Developing Defenders"

PRCS is excited to launch its inaugural season of Summer Camps (Defender Academy: Developing Defenders), to complement existing and well-enjoyed sport camps this upcoming July. Camps to be offered this summer include a Fishing Camp competition, Outdoor Adventures, Arts and Crafts, Robotics, Home Economics, and Watercolors. Over 100 campers have signed up to date and camp leaders are excited to share their knowledge and provide fun-filled camp environments.

In Arts and Crafts, camp leader Mrs. Lai Yin Baldwin looks forward to introducing the students to a wide variety of art techniques, crafting origami and pop up cards, as well as developing wacky substances (home made ice cream!), for students in a broad range of ages. Camp leader Mrs. Annette Ophoff, teaching Home Ec 1, 2, and 3, looks forward to introducing the students to a wide array of recipes, cooking and baking techniques, and providing students and others in the community with take home meals.

Mr. Nick Lubbers is looking forward to challenging the students with canoeing basics, learning how to fish from a canoe, and a fishing competition. Mr. Nathan Vis will be leading Outdoor Adventures for younger children, who will learn the basics of fishing, casting, use of a compass, outdoor survival, and boating techniques.

Mr. Sam Ophoff, leader of the Robotics Camp, will be introducing his students to a wide variety of robotic building techniques, as well as robotics operations. And, Mrs. Anita Lenting is looking forward to sharing her knowledge of the artistic use of watercolors and painting, with her students.

The Summer Camp Committee appreciates the support of parents and students in the upcoming summer months and we look forward to communicating with you after the Summer Camp season to ensure that we are able to provide a fun and profitable learning environment for your students.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2023/2024

The school board has approved the 2023/2024 school academic calendar. This can be found on our school's website. When reviewing this calendar, please note several rather large changes to this school calendar when compared with past school calendars.

- 1) School starts two weeks before Labor Day.
- 2) We are no longer taking school off for a Record's Day in October nor in January.
- 3) HCHS exams occur before Christmas Break.
- 4) We included a long 4-day weekend in February, our new Winter Break.
- 5) Our Spring Break has been extended to include having no school on the Friday before Spring Break.

August 21	First Day of School	January 8	School Resumes
September 1, 4	Labor Day Weekend	February 16, 19	Winter Break
October 18-20	PRTI Convention (18th; half day of school)	March 29	No School (Friday before Spring Break)
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Break (22nd: half day of school)	April 1-5	Spring Break
December 20-22	HCHS Exams	May 21-23	HCHS Exams
December 21	PRCS Christmas Program	May 23	Graduation (half day)
December 22	Half day of school	May 27	Memorial Day
Dec 25-Jan 5	Christmas Break		