



Reflector

Welcome Back!

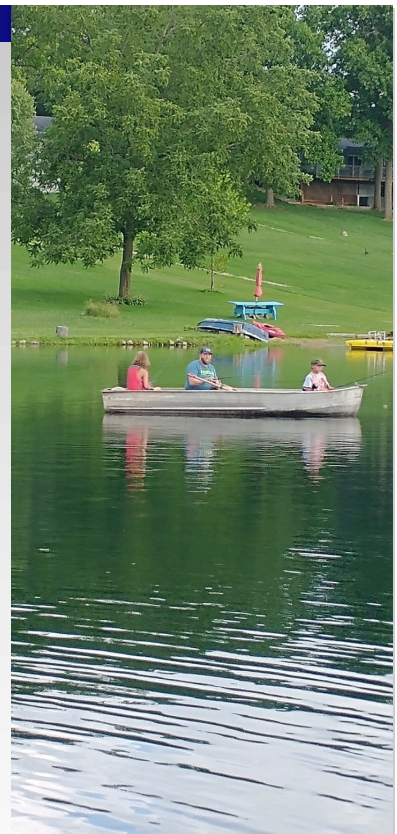
The school board eagerly welcomes students, parents, faculty, staff, and volunteers as we begin a new year of covenant education at PRCS/HCHS and expresses our gratitude to our Heavenly Father for his continued faithfulness. We are grateful to our administrator, faculty, and staff for their dedication and preparation over the summer months and anticipate a year filled with opportunity where we all learn, lead, and grow together.

Education Committee

We are excited to have all teachers returning this year and welcome the addition of Miss Faith Hoksbergen to the high-school where she will teach science and mathematics. We also welcome Mr. David Mahtani as our full-time, K-12 administrator, while also expressing thanks to Ryan Van Overloop and to Ralph Medema for their many years of service leading our school. We are grateful to our administrator and teachers engaging with new curriculum, and we are confident that in the 2023-24 year, we have a developed plan which provides a solid and distinctive, reformed education for our students and is taught fully by our staff.

Achieve Committee

We are thankful for our returning teacher Mrs. Virginia Boer, and aides Samantha Lenting, Michelle Dykstra, Stacy Lenting, and Jammie Boverhof, as we anticipate another great year. The Taste committee is looking at a possible date change for the Taste and will keep everyone posted. We thank the Lord for the opportunity we have in the Achieve program to ensure all students have the opportunity and attention required to develop their God-given skills and abilities.



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Special points of interest

- Our first day of school begins on Monday, August 21 at 8:15.
- School doors will open each day at approximately 8:00 A.M., 15 minutes before the start of school.
- To view our 2023-2024 academic calendar, please go to our website at www.heritagechs.org.

Transportation

We are thankful for our returning bus drivers Ben Boverhof, Ralph Medema, and Ryan Van Overloop. We appreciate the service they do for our Christian school. This committee is also looking for an additional, part-time driver to help with field trips and current school routes. Please reach out to Nick Lubbers at 219-613-5087, if you are interested and able to help with this service for our school. The routes are shown later in the Reflector – along with bus behavior requirements!

Building & Grounds

Thank you to all who have labored over the summer months in getting our school facilities and grounds ready for another year of Christian education and athletics. To help with the work during the school year we are looking for a facilities manager. This is a part time position during the school day. This position will consist of helping school personnel with work requests, mi-

nor repairs, setting up for special events, etc. Any interested applicants should contact Jesse Lanting at 219-386-5928.

Endowment Fund

Save the date of October 7 for the Annual Endowment Fund Golf Outing. Your contributions to this fund help secure reduced tuition for our parents and are greatly appreciated.

Finance

We have reviewed the financials of the 2022-23 fiscal year and are thankful for the continued display of strong financial support that we continue to receive. Thanks to our Heavenly Father for his continued faithfulness. Work on the athletic field designs, permits, and planning are underway, with construction planned to begin in August. Thank you to all the willing and generous donors to this exciting project for our community.

Progress & Promotions

Though a bit in the distance, please reserve **November 3**, for the Fall Promotional Dinner, an integral fundraiser necessary to support the finances for the 2023-24 school year. Please also reserve Friday, **November 10**, for a speech to be given at Peace PRC by Professor Kuiper on the subject of autism. The speech will focus on autistic children in our school and churches in order to raise awareness on the subject. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided after the speech. Please consider coming out to learn about this important topic and to fellowship with our school and church communities.

School Culture Survey

In the past year, the board undertook a significant survey of past and present teachers and parents of current students to assist in informing and guiding the board as we continue to develop curriculum and foster a positive, Christ-centered school culture. This information has been assembled, trends and opportunity areas observed, and each board sub-committee tasked with reviewing the results, in line with how their committee and the broader board can act upon the information learned. Thank you to all that participated in the survey as your feedback was helpful, positive, and constructive. We look forward to sharing our findings and plans of action with the community in the coming months.

New Faces

Mr. David Mahtani



Hello! My name is Dave Mahtani. I feel somewhat intimidated but also excited to take up the administrator position at PRCS/HCHS this year. Thank you all for welcoming me and my family into this Christ-centered community. We appreciate the love and support we have experienced and will continue to lean on it as we work shoulder-to-shoulder with you as fellow laborers in our Lord's kingdom.

Here is a little bit about my diverse background: I graduated from Grove City College with a degree in Christian Thought and then became certified as an Elementary Educator through studies at Western Governors University. Since then, I have worked at Covenant Christian, Adams Christian, Eastside Christian, and Cornerstone Christian, with students at almost every grade level. I have been a teacher, painter, seminary student, administrator, and guidance counselor. And finally, I have lived in Grand Rapids, Bloomington (IL), Pittsburgh, Houston, and Singapore.

My wife Madri is from South Africa. She has also been an educator in the past but has more recently been running a cookie-decorating business from home. We have four children named Myra (7th), Selah (6th), Zephaniah (4th), and Asher (K).

We are looking forward to getting to know all of you.

Miss Faith Hoksbergen

Hello everyone!

My name is Faith Hoksbergen, and I am excited to be joining the staff at Heritage Christian High School this year! I am originally from Randolph, WI, where I grew up with my four sisters and two brothers (Andrea, Jennifer, Seth, Nathan, Natalie, and Allison). I enjoy hiking, spending time with friends and family, and playing the piano. I graduated from Dordt University this past May with a degree in Secondary Math/Physics Education and an endorsement in Middle School Math and Science. This year, I will be teaching Advanced Algebra, Precalculus, Physics, Chemistry, and Earth and Space Science.



Miss Melanie Hanko

Hi, my name is Melanie Hanko. You may have seen me around, as I started teaching last January. Although I have not been around for long, I have enjoyed the time in the area so far.

In the last few years, my family has been growing. I have five brothers, three sisters-in-law, and eight nephews and nieces. Growing up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, I attended Hope School and Covenant. I have enjoyed the many blessings of covenant, Christian education. I attended Grand Valley State University and obtained a double major in Elementary Education and Mathematics. It is the math that brought me to HCHS. Last semester I enjoyed teaching Algebra II, FST, and Health and Wellness. I am looking forward to a slightly different schedule this coming year. My goal is to better incorporate biblical perspectives within my math classes.

I will be attending Peace Church. I am very appreciative of the fellowship I have already had with this congregation. I am looking forward to running again with Danielle Zandstra. Other things I enjoy in my free time are listening to or playing music, reading, and doing any outdoor activities. I appreciate your prayers as I start my first year of teaching.



Developing Defenders 2023 by Allyson Vis

For three weeks in July, the first-ever Developing Defenders summer camp series welcomed 75 campers from 1st grade through 8th grade across six camps, including Arts & Crafts, Fishing, Home Economics, Outdoor Adventures, Robotics and Watercolor Painting.

Most of the camps took place at PRCS, whether in the kitchen, mezzanine or classrooms with Fishing and Outdoor Adventures occurring off-site.



Developing Defenders 2023 (continued)

We will let the pictures (mostly) speak for themselves, but as you will see, the campers had fun while learning and developing new skills. In Home Economics, campers learned basics of sewing, cooked a meal, baked cupcakes, made greeting cards and more. In Arts & Crafts, students created slime (by far the highlight!), made ice cream, crafted greeting cards, practiced shading and calligraphy, among other activities. In Outdoor Adventures, campers learned the basics of fishing (how to bait a hook, how to cast, take a fish off a hook and untangle lines), archery, bb gun shooting, tracking animals, shelter building and map-reading. Students in Watercolor Painting created their own color wheels, learned about mixing watercolors to create additional shades and painted various nature scenes. The Fishing camp was a one-night tournament held at the home of Jeremy and Lynn Lubbers. Keep reading the Reflector to hear all about it, including who won! Robotics camp students were paired off into eight teams of two students each and tasked with building and programming their robots (with a set of blueprints to guide them). The teams built and improved their robots, programmed them (with mentor help) and learned the fundamentals of branding. During the final week, teams presented their robots to a large audience of parents and grandparents in an FTC-style competition. Team Live Wire (Drake Van Baren and Maddox DeJong) were the first-seeded team after qualifying and ended up winning the bracket with their partners, Team The Abomination (Max Dykstra and Austin Zandstra).



Who were the brave individuals who signed up to lead these first-of-their-kind camps? Mrs. Lai Yin Baldwin led two sections of Arts & Crafts, Mr. Nick Lubbers ran the one-day tournament-style fishing camp, Mrs. Annette Ophoff taught two sections of Home Economics, Mr. Nathan Vis ran Outdoor Adventures, Mr. Sam Ophoff led Robotics and Mrs. Anita Lenting taught Watercolor Painting. Thank you to this group for their hard work preparing the lesson plans for each day of camp, purchasing all the necessary supplies and giving their time. These camps encouraged our students' interest in a variety of subject areas and developed their God-given talents (some that they didn't even know they had!).

And it takes more than the leaders to make these types of camps happen, so a big thank you to the many assistants who helped with all the camps: Mrs. Janelle DeJong, Mrs. Amy Marcus, Mrs. Lisa Ophoff, Mrs. Bobbi Regnerus, Mrs. Ashley VanBaren and Mrs. Tiffany VanBaren, Mr. Jonathon Hillegonds, Mr. David DeJong, Mr. Daniel Olsson, Mr. David Boverhof, Mr. Joshua Boverhof, Mr. Kyle DeJong, Mr. Owen DeJong, Mr. David Holleman and Mr. Daniel Holleman.

Planning for Developing Defenders 2023 began nearly a year in advance with authorization from the school board to gauge potential interest for these types of camps in Summer 2022. From there, a subcommittee was formed consisting of three school board members and other members of the school community, including Mr. and Mrs. David Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Chad Dykstra, Mr. Nick Lubbers, Mr. Sam Ophoff, Mr. and Mrs. Dave VanderMeulen, Mr. and Mrs. Neal VanBaren and Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Vis.

If you are interested in helping to plan or lead future Developing Defenders camps, please reach out to one of the individuals listed above. Thanks for a great summer!



Fishing Camp *by Nick Lubbers*



On the hottest day of summer, with thunderstorms on the horizon, the PRCS launched its first inaugural fishing tournament. I wish a Bass Pro Shops representative was there to see the amount of gear campers and their dad's showed up with, because I think future tournaments would be fully sponsored. Campers also showed up with smiles on their faces and a great attitude. This camp's age group was 5th through 8th graders. Eighteen total students signed up to fish, and seven dads volunteered to assist in the camp (THANK YOU TO THOSE DADS!). Campers were catching fish off the dock before the tournament even began, but when everyone showed up, this camp kicked off with devotions. Being a former student from our school, I can say that every science teacher that I have been taught by has started the year by explaining Genesis 1. God created the heavens and the earth for His glory. With a camp outside, on the water, in creation, witnessing His handiwork with all that He created, we can truly say that only God could create a universe so complex and beautiful.

Christ was the greatest fisherman in all of Scripture: Yes, Our Savior, the One who died for all of our sins., the Alpha and Omega, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the I Am that I Am, fished! Read Luke 5:4-10. All Christ had to say to Simon was to let down his nets for a draught. "And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great

multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink."

This camp had no sinking boats, thankfully. The tournament had two campers and one adult in almost every boat. There were three jon boats, three canoes and one paddle boat with three 8th graders on it. Campers launched out into the lake with the goal to catch the most fish per boat and the biggest individual fish. The fathers that came were happy to know that they were allowed to fish and catch fish for their boats' total (I felt they paid enough in tuition to be a part of the tournament). Fish were kept alive in five-gallon buckets until three other helpers on kayaks came and weighed the fish. Once weighed, fish were dumped back into the lake. This camp was fortunate to catch over sixty fish in an hour and a half of fishing and has stories to tell about the ones that got away! Bass, bluegill and even a couple half-pound crappie were caught. Many different lures were used. Campers were throwing rubber worms, twisters, topwaters, minnows, real worms and lures I had never even seen before. In the end every camper caught at least one fish! The winning boat (Brad Lenting, Gavin Lenting and Levi Dykstra) caught a total of nineteen fish. Emmet Verburg caught the biggest fish (bass) weighing in at 1.6 pounds and won himself a new fishing pole.

This camp ended with a splash! Campers jumped off the end of the dock to cool off from the 96 degree heat and high humidity. Before they left for home, they were given prizes and a tackle box to start their fishing collection (or add to their current arsenal). They were also given a camp t-shirt with a fitting verse to reflect on before school starts off: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13



A few stats from the three weeks of camps:

272 lbs shot

200 worms baited

25 meals prepared

55 cards made

26 batches of ice cream frozen

21 nature scenes painted



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From the Athletic Director

Eph 4:32 *“And be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”.*

I am reminded, as I read this verse, of a story I heard on Christian radio a while back, which has stuck with me. An adult daughter was recounting some precious memories of time she had spent in high-school as a basketball player with her father in attendance. I believe it was basketball, but it really doesn’t matter; the same situation could apply to any sport. This woman was one of those players who did not have a starting position but would get into the game for a limited amount of time with a limited role. Her father would come to every game and cheer her on, every time she got to play. On the way home from the game, her father would then recount the few minutes she played and relive all the moments, telling her how great a job she did. This made a profound impact on this woman, as she recounted how her father showered love on her and made her feel special. I slouched a little in my truck seat and slumped my shoulders as I recalled some of the times I did anything but encourage my own children who played sports but rather pointed out what they did wrong more than what they did right. How foolish to waste time being a full-time critic and part-time encourager rather than the other way around. The time our kids have in organized athletics is short, and they should be used for the building up rather than the tearing down. Is there room for constructive criticism? Of course, but it should be used to address behavior and attitude rather than performance. We should also be mindful to encourage athletes on the opposing teams, since this can also make a large impact on students. I remember how, after a baseball game this past spring, the visiting coach (who lost the game) huddled everyone together to talk about how great the game was and went on to recount some of the great plays our players made. As we begin a new year of athletics, I would ask us all as parents to remember to encourage both our own and the opposing student athletes in these formative years and to leave our children with great memories of how we encouraged them even in those tough losses or disappointing performances. In that same vein, please take the time to encourage the officials that come to our school by acknowledging the difficult work that they do and by thanking them for their time. Please forgive the mistakes that they make, as this is a good example for our athletes to see and a powerful witness to those who come to our sporting events.

Currently, we are preparing to break ground on our new baseball and softball fields. The permitting process is under way, and the strong hope is that we will have the fields ready for the spring season. It is very exciting to think about playing home games at our own school, making it a lot easier for our own constituents to see the action. As we try to build these programs, please encourage your children to give these spring sports a try in order to keep baseball and softball going for many years to come.

We welcome some new coaches this year as we say goodbye to some other familiar faces. Brett Zandstra will replace Liz Bruinsma as the grade school boys soccer coach. Samantha Lenting will replace Nicole Van Baren as the JV girls volleyball coach. Ryan Zandstra (Melanie) will replace Scott VanDerGriend as the varsity boys basketball coach, and Ben Andringa will take over the JV boys basketball coaching position. Please welcome these new coaches, and thank the departing coaches for their time.

All high school athletes need to have a sports physical. Please have this done as soon as possible so there are not any delays in your child’s participation in athletic competitions. The form is found on our school’s website and needs to be turned into the school office prior to the start of the season.

As for season passes this year, we will have to raise the price to \$275 for the fall and winter sports schedule. As you know, the prices for everything have gone up, and this includes referees and equipment. I encourage you to purchase a season pass, as it helps out with our program. For parents who are new to high school athletics, you will be placed on a concession and gate schedule, which will come out prior to both the fall and winter sports season. Please make sure to be prompt for your turn and find your own substitute if there is a conflict. Once again, we will not collect gate fees or provide concessions for spring sports, as this has proven to be counterproductive. We will once again hold a fundraiser to provide the funds needed for the baseball and softball umpires and equipment. Thanks to all who attended and donated to our spring sports fundraiser this past May.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your incredible support over the course of the athletics seasons. I know that it is a sacrifice of time to have a child in athletics, but I appreciate all the hard work at the gate and concessions that you all do. Thanks for all the kind words of encouragement and small acts of help throughout the season that make this job enjoyable.

—Mr. Greg Lenting

From the Administrator

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;” Ecclesiastes 12:1

“I just forgot, Dad!” one of my children exclaimed in response to my questioning (and probably angry) look. It was past their bedtime, and my child had just remembered about a test that was scheduled for the next day. To make matters worse, a sibling then turned to me and said, “And I have an assignment due tomorrow, but I left the book that I need at school.” Forgetfulness is a common theme in our household, and I would not be surprised if it is in yours as well.

Kids use the word “just,” too, as if they have not actually done anything wrong or as if forgetting was something insignificant. That is a lie they often believe: If their action or inaction was accidental, then it cannot be considered serious, much less sinful! But the reality is that they are often too distracted by something else to remember their present, God-given calling to be a faithful student. I just said it to someone the other day: “We need to figure out a way to remind our forgetful/distracted students.” It is not something to take lightly.

We know the cause: the weak, sinful human nature of our children often affects their memory. They focus on themselves, their idols, and their wills instead of their teacher’s will or, more importantly, God’s will. Now that I say it that way, it is easy to see that we adults are not much different. Oh, as adults we do not want to lose face by forgetting a duty we have in our communities, but we are also very forgetful, especially about spiritual realities. We forget God’s presence and then fall into foolish sins. Forgetfulness is really at the root of much of our sin.

Will you join me in calling our youth (and ourselves) to remember? I am not referring to homework assignments any longer. I am referring to intentionally reminding students to take the time to recognize God’s presence, not just in an academic way but in a

worshipful way. I reckon that the results of nurturing a greater, genuine God-awareness in the minds of our students would be incredibly substantial. As Solomon wrote, they would sincerely fear God and grow wise!

He also said something else that I hope to try to work as a theme into our chapel speeches this school year: “Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth.” It seems so basic, but it is so rich and applicable. In fact, if our children would remember to see God in all their activities, I would wager they would also remember their homework and all the details of their calling a lot better. And that would only be a single aspect of the significant transformation we would see.

—Mr. David Mahtani

Pick-up/Drop-off Procedures

Official policies are found on page 5 of the Parent/Student Handbook. Please review the policies with your children to help ensure their safety. In summary, take note of the following:

1. Drive carefully and below 15 MPH at all times.
2. When dropping off students, form a single-file line under the canopy, and advance as far as you can up to where the sidewalk curves.
3. Pick up students the same way, but follow the procedure in the handbook about looping around the north island in order to avoid backup on the main road.
4. Student drivers are also required to drop off and pick up grade school siblings as described above.
5. Grade school children should not be in the high-school lot during normal pick-up and drop-off times.

Bus News

The wheels on the bus are rolling in a new direction! We are very excited to offer bus service to the Crown Point area this year. The Transportation Committee would like to thank everyone for their patience, understanding and cooperation as it made these changes to the routes. We encourage everyone using the bus to have their kid(s) ready at the stops five minutes early for pick up and drop off times, during the first week, to ensure that the routes run smoothly.

Bus Conduct

Please find the official rules and discipline procedures on page 3 of the Parent/Student Handbook. In summary, take note of the following:

1. Wait behind the curb until the bus arrives.
2. Wait for the bus to completely stop before getting on/off.
3. Stay seated in your assigned seat.
4. Ask permission before opening windows/doors, and then keep all body parts and possessions inside.
5. Refrain from eating and littering on the bus.
6. Take care of this piece of school property.
7. Keep dangerous items such as knives and lighters at home.
8. Avoid all loud and disorderly behavior.
9. Respect your driver.
10. Display love toward God and your neighbor.

2023-24 Bus Routes

East Bus AM Route:

- 1) Calvin Bruinsma's Driveway (Jesse Lanting/Mike Lenting)—7:20AM
- 2) Ethan Lanting and Jake Andringa @ Binyon & Morse—7:30AM
- 3) Ryan VanOverloop's Driveway—7:40AM
- 4) Brad Lenting's Driveway—7:48AM
- 5) Dewey Van Der Noord's Driveway—7:56AM
- 6) School—8:01AM

East Bus PM Route:

- 1) Nick Lubbers' Driveway—3:06PM
- 2) Calvin Bruinsma's Driveway (Jesse Lanting/Mike Lenting)—3:19PM
- 3) Binyon & Morse (Ethan Lanting & Andringa)—3:30PM
- 4) Ryan VanOverloop's Driveway—3:40PM
- 5) Brad Lenting's Driveway—3:48PM

West Bus AM Route:

- 1) Bart Grochowski (Sycamore Dr. and Dogwood) - 7:13 AM
- 2) Zach Zylstra's Driveway - 7:17 AM
- 3) Justin Verburg's Driveway - 7:19 AM
- 4) Eric Armendariz (Ridgewood & Forest Park Dr.) - 7:20 AM
- 5) Scott Vandergriend's Driveway - 7:21 AM
- 6) Engelsma's Driveway (Mancusi/Lonie) - 7:30 AM
- 7) Mark Lenting's Driveway - 7:44 AM
- 8) Ryan Worries Driveway - 7:52 AM
- 9) Todd Zandstra's Driveway - 7:55 AM
- 10) School - 8:05 AM

West Bus PM Route:

- 1) Bart Grochowski (Sycamore Dr. and Dogwood) - 3:15 PM
- 2) Zach Zylstra's Driveway - 3:18 PM
- 3) Justin Verburg - 3:20 PM
- 4) Eric Armendariz (Ridgewood & Forest Park Dr.) - 3:21 PM
- 5) Scott Vandergriend's Driveway - 3:22 PM
- 6) Engelsma/Mancusi Driveway - 3:32 PM
- 7) Stephan DeJong Driveway & Lonie - 3:33 PM
- 8) Joel Smits @ Vandrunen & Klemme - 3:40 PM
- 9) Aaron Regnerus' Driveway - 3:48 PM
- 10) Brian Lenting's Driveway - 3:50 PM
- 11) Mark Lenting's Driveway - 3:51 PM
- 12) Eric Lindsay's Driveway - 3:54 PM
- 13) Todd (Beth) VanBaren's Driveway (Dotsons) - 3:58 PM
- 14) Todd Zandstra's Driveway - 4:03 PM
- 15) Ryan Worries' Driveway - 4:05 PM

