

THE COURIER



1401 FERNDALE AVE SW GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49534
616.453.5048 www.covenantchristianhs.org

PUBLISHED BY _____ OF

COVENANT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

**John C. Flikkema, Jr.-President,
Herm DeVries-Vice President
Mike Van Overloop-Secretary,
Keith Noorman-Treasurer
Dave Moelker-Asst. Secretary,
Ron Corson-Asst. Treasurer
Dan Bodbyl, Tim Koole,
Kevin Van Overloop**



*For more information about this artwork,
by Eric Gritters, see back cover*

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Rick Noorman



SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION

For nearly 50 years, from the early planning for the formation of Covenant Christian High School to the school that we have today, there has been a group of 9 dedicated men involved in overseeing and directing the operations of our school, who would put their shoulder to the wheel to meet the challenges that came before them. These men, often working in the background and perhaps even unknown to many of the parents, were elected by the members of the Society for Protestant Reformed Secondary Education to serve their interests as the School Board. A three year term for a Board member involves at least 36 evenings spent in regular Board meetings, plus many more hours and evenings spent in preparing for and attending monthly committee meetings and special meetings, and observing classes. From year to year this group changes, as three men complete their terms and three new members begin. Throughout our history, over 125 men have had a hand in directing the operations of our school.

Over the years, the Board members of Covenant Christian have come from every walk of life. Some were professionals, some

worked in the trades, some were business owners, some were farmers, and others worked in area manufacturing plants. These varied backgrounds have provided a variety of perspectives on the work of education. Their many different talents have blended together to help accomplish our mission each year and move us smoothly into school was a working out of our covenant relationship with God and of our responsibility to educate our children in the fear of the Lord. These principles of Protestant Reformed Secondary Education, established when the school Society was formed in the 1960s, remain the foundation upon which all the work of the school stands. With their election to the Board, they become trustees of the mission that was set forth by the original Board and Society and the vision of what this school will be in the future.

Along with the challenge of maintaining the operation of the school from year to year, each Board member also faces the challenge of securing the interests of the next generation. This is achieved by maintaining the spiritual foundations set in place by the original members. Along with maintaining the proper operation and governance of the school, the Board must see to it that new programs, new processes, and new classes incorporated into the work of the school meet the purpose and mission of the school. Physically, they must be working for the Society to ensure that we have adequate facilities and property to be able to continue our operation into the future. I'm quite sure that the men who purchased the original 10 acres in the 1960s did not envision the school we have in place today. Yet, over the years, the subsequent Boards have acquired property and built facilities to make it possible for us to have a school of nearly 400 students. Today's Board is working to secure the interests of those who will send their young people to Covenant 30 years from now.

As parents and members of the Protestant Reformed community, we owe a debt of gratitude to these men who willingly give their time to serve all of us in this work. It is often a thankless job; when things are going well their work goes mostly unnoticed and when tough decisions have to be made they can be the subject of negative talk in the community. Yet, through it all, they labor for the cause that they represent and for the love of the children who are privileged to be able to attend our school. They take their responsibility seriously, truly acting as trustees of a valuable treasure. To those who serve now, and those who have served in the past, we say thank you for your work on behalf of all those who support Covenant Christian High School.

FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD
John C. Flikkema Jr., President



I first visited Covenant Christian High School in 1968... as a junior. Our newly opened high school had six classrooms. It had 53 students. And grade placement? Well, at that time there were two options: sophomore or junior. Covenant also had teachers; men and women who would not consider beginning the day without opening in prayer; teachers who based instructional content and practices on the Bible, God's word.

Recently, I returned to Covenant, just a little bit older, as part of the regularly scheduled Board visits. And, though I saw "the Now", I also recalled "the Then".

I remember the original building well (I can still recall its size and the location of its exits), but it has swelled in every direction; the six original classrooms have grown into more than twenty. The class sizes from that first year are dwarfed by the number of students today; during my visit I witnessed over 340 students moving through the rooms and the hallways. And Covenant has become a four-grade high school. In response to the need, the staff that works at Covenant has grown in number as well. However, measuring Covenant using these benchmarks misses the point.

You needed to be with me as I visited the first-hour class. I realized, sitting in the back of that classroom, that the teacher was beginning his class in the same way that my teachers began the classes they had taught in that first year of our school, by calling on the name of the Lord. And I realized that in that consistent act of prayer the most important point was being revealed to me. God was working in

the hearts of Covenant's members. Our collective act of calling on God was expressing a desire to know His Word and a desire to do His will, revealing the covenant faithfulness of our Father.

As I thought on this, I began to reflect on the fact that every class in Covenant on that particular

In our school's practice of calling on God and seeking His Word, we continually acknowledge that God's Word reveals the clearest paths. These are paths that have been chosen by Him and by which we are blessed. Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light upon my path."



BACK (from left): Tim Koole, Kevin Van Overloop, Dan Bodbyl, Ron Corson, Dave Moelker
FRONT (from left): Keith Noorman, John C. Flikkema, Jr., Herm DeVries, Mike Van Overloop

morning was beginning in the very same way; in prayer to God. Further, I was compelled to remember that the staff had begun its work even earlier in that very same way. I was happy to recall that the board of Covenant has never commenced in handling any of its business until it, too, has called on God in prayer and asked Him to bless its work, by doing His will in us. Furthermore, I was happy to recall that, not only had the staff begun its work even earlier in that very same way, but also the Board of Covenant has never commenced any of its meetings until it, too, has called on God in prayer and asked Him to bless our work, by doing His will in us.

REMINDER:
ANNUAL SCHOOL SOCIETY MEETING
Monday, March 31 @ 7:30

Nominations are as follows:

From Adams/Eastside:
Ken Boer
Dan Monsma

From Heritage:
Brad Brower
Henry Jay Kuiper

From Hope:
Marv Gritters
Eugene Kamps

Retiring Board members are:
Ron Corson
Tim Koole
Mike Van Overloop

FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Herm DeVries, Chairman



The Education Committee would like to use this opportunity to inform our constituents of some of the things we are working on. We can comment on a few things that have taken place in the first semester but much of our work won't be finished until later in the school year.

Our new employees have worked through one semester and are performing like seasoned veterans. Amy Mol is becoming very competent in her job as office manager. Having a capable person in the office helps make the school activities run smoothly. Amanda Haney's teaching and administrative work in the Special Education room is going very well. Her labors have helped CCHS to accommodate our students with special needs. Eric Bodbyl has shown himself to be a very capable teacher in the Spanish language department.

The overall student body seems to be very focused on taking advantage of the educational opportunities presented at CCHS. One indicator of this is the number of students listed on the Honor Roll, which is posted in the hall. Many students are also involved with extracurricular activities. We are thankful that our students can learn to work and have fun together within the sphere of the covenant.

This atmosphere of learning is due in large part to the capable and dedicated staff we have here at CCHS. Many of our teachers spend time in the summer making use of the CED (Curriculum Enrichment and Development) funds to update old and produce new materials to be used in the classroom. Others

are continuing their education in the pursuit of Masters' degrees. Board, parents and society members must all encourage our teachers to continue this type of dedication on our behalf for the education of our young people.

Our administrator, Mr. Rick Noorman has agreed to renew his contract for the next year. We are very thankful for his dedicated work here at CCHS and happy to have him stay.

At the writing of this report, the time to renew teacher contracts is just getting started. At this early stage we can report that our entire faculty has initially expressed a desire to receive a contract to teach here next year.

One of our concerns is how to accommodate the ever-growing student population. At this point it looks like we will have at least 16 more students here next year. In order to keep class sizes

manageable, extra sections of math and English will have to be added for the freshmen. Senior elective courses in science and math may also have to be pushed to 2 sections. We are also planning on adding 2 new one semester courses for seniors. They are a history class called Global Issues and a Computer Programming course. The Global Issues course will round out the history curriculum. Computer Programming is a reinstating of a class that has not been taught here for a number of years.

To meet the need arising from the addition of new classes and extra sections of existing classes, we will be looking to add one new teacher to the staff.

The Education Committee covets your prayers that God will continue to bless the labors of our administrator, teachers, staff and students, to the end that His name might be glorified through the Christ-centered instruction of our children.

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
2013-2014 Calendar
(dates remaining for this school year)

March 13	Band Concert at CCHS
March 19	Parent/Teacher Conferences 1/2 day
March 20	Choir Concert at Fairhaven
April 7-11	Spring Break
April 25	Grandparents Day
May 2	Junior/Senior Banquet
May 21	All Schools Band Concert - site TBD
May 22-23	Senior Class Trip
May 27	Senior Honors Convocation
May 28	Choir Concert @ Jenison H.S. Fine Arts
May 29	Senior Chapel
June 2-5	Second Semester Exams
June 6	Graduation @ Fairhaven

FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE
Ron Corson, Chairman



Covenant Christian High School is running smoothly and is being well maintained. Jon Engelsma and his crew continue to thoroughly clean the school. During the summer they take everything out of the rooms and do a very intense cleaning of each room before putting up a “work completed” sign. They also clean the school each day during the school year and do some preventative maintenance and repairs on certain items. They prepare the gym for events and clean up after as well. The Board thanks Jon for this, and appreciates his work.

Student enrollment projections indicate that we will need to add five classrooms in the next few years. The groundwork and footings were put in place when we undertook our last addition. When this next addition takes place, according to code, it becomes necessary to add an indoor

sprinkler/fire system throughout the school. At the time this system is installed we plan to replace the hallway ceiling tiles in the original hallway. One other major building maintenance project in the near future is the roof on the older section of the school. Thankfully, this section has held up beyond expectations including (as of this writing) having tolerated this past hard winter. But undoubtedly, this roof area will need to be replaced sometime in the next few years. The building committee and the board continue to build up the major maintenance fund for these items in the annual school budget.

In 2014, Oomkes Lawn Services will again maintain the lawn and the sports fields. The Board would like to thank them for their past service and look forward to working with them again this year.

Jim Van Overloop and Case Lubbers oversee the mechanical maintenance of the school and have a list of volunteers to call when they have projects that need to be done. Since upgrading the heating system and having a sensor in each room, we are able to regulate the heat so that the boiler does not run 24/7. This has already saved significant money over the past two years. Jim also spends many hours in and around school helping maintain the building. The Board would like to thank Jim Van Overloop and Case Lubbers for the many hours they donate to this school. We also want to thank the many other volunteers that give of their time.

We thank our Heavenly Father for providing for this school.

FROM THE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Dave Moelker, Chairman



The technology committee has been busy, not only implementing new and upgraded equipment for the ever growing student body, but also looking ahead to what our technology needs will be in the next 3-5 years.

One of the long-range plans we are working on is building our infrastructure to accommodate better and more convenient tools for our students. This may mean integrating Chromebooks or tablets, in which case the students

would be primarily using them in place of textbooks. Surely not every class can substitute tablets for books but there are a majority of classes where this system has its benefits.

However, there is considerable work that needs to be done with the school's infrastructure before this can be put in place.



In the short-term, we have scheduled to replace about 25 computers this summer, as part of a rolling 5-year plan to replace all 142 computers (20% a year). We are very thankful for the many generous contributors who offer their time and donations to keep Covenant's technology as robust as is necessary in this computer-driven age.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
Keith Noorman, Chairman



The Finance Committee has been busy with its various duties during this school year. What a blessing it is for us to have such a place as CCHS to be able to educate our children and to have supporting families who are committed to making sure that the financial obligations of the school are met.

Collecting and tracking tuition payments are the most important tasks that must be handled each and every month. The middle of the school year is a difficult time for the Finance Committee when it comes to tracking tuition. Quite often we see families miss a payment or two at this time of year. It is very important, especially at this time of year, to stay current with payments, because if a family falls behind now, it becomes more difficult for them to catch up in time to have their balance paid by the end of the school year. Part of the tuition payment policy states that if a family feels that they are unable to stay current on the tuition payments, they need to contact a member of the Finance Committee and let them know their payment plan. We are thankful for the communication that we have received from some

families this year. We have found that abiding by this policy saves the Committee a lot of time discussing what action we need to take with past due accounts.

We have just completed putting together our budget for the 2014-2015 school year. We are seeing continued growth in the number of students each year and with that comes the need for additional classes and teachers. We are also seeing the need for additional changes to the physical structure of our building. This will always be the case as long as God sees fit to continue to bless our labors here at CCHS. We are trying to factor in these needed changes into the future budgets of the school so that, when the time comes, we will be financially prepared. While it is impossible to perfectly project what will happen in the next school year, each of the respective committees does a very good job of monitoring their expenses throughout the year so that they can give their best estimate of what should be budgeted for the next year.

Our annual support drive is currently underway. The purpose of the support drive is to supplement

the tuition as another source of revenue for the school. The support drive also gives an opportunity for those who do not have children at CCHS to contribute to the operations of the school. This generous support allows the Board to keep tuition at affordable rates for our tuition paying families. We made an extra effort this year to contact recent alumni and those who may not have been contacted by mail in the past. We have been encouraged in seeing contributions come in from those younger people, but we had hoped for an even better response. We still have a way to go on the current drive, having received about \$190,000 of the \$260,000 that was approved by the society. If you are reading this and have never given to this drive in the past, please consider it an important responsibility to continue the cause of Christian education.

It is a pleasure serving on the Board of CCHS, knowing that we are just stewards of what God has given to us. We ask for your prayers for our Committee and the Board as we are called to manage the finances of CCHS in a way that is in accordance with God's will and for the benefit of covenant education.

NEW WAY TO SUPPORT COVENANT: YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES.

Here is a tip from Ms. Amanda Haney on a way to support Covenant each time you make a purchase on the Amazon website! Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

From Amazon's website:

"When customers first go to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) they'll be asked to select their favorite charitable organization from almost a million eligible organizations – and that's it. Once a customer has selected an organization on their first visit, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from any eligible purchases through AmazonSmile from that point forward, whether a customer shops just once or once a day. Customers can select a new charitable organization at any time, but don't need to add any additional information or change the way they shop. All they need to do is remember to typesmile.amazon.com into the browser on their PC, tablet or phone.

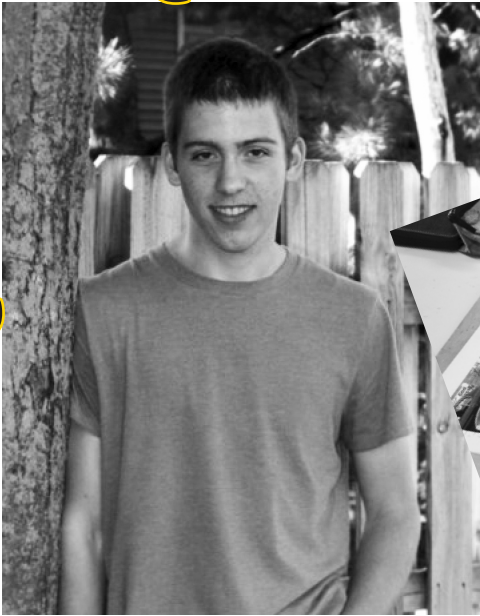
Donations to charitable organizations will be made by the AmazonSmile Foundation. Customers can learn more and begin supporting their favorite organization at smile.amazon.com, and charitable organizations can learn more and register to accept donations at org.amazon.com."

Covenant Christian High School
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 2012 through June 2013

	Jul '12 - Jun 13	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
4110 · Tuition	1,798,985.76	1,779,150.00	19,835.76
4200 · Church Collections	58,409.44	52,500.00	5,909.44
4300 · Pledges & gifts	277,917.47	250,000.00	27,917.47
4350 · CCHS Foundation Receipts	20,380.00	20,000.00	380.00
4450 · Special Education Receipts	8,937.00	9,500.00	-563.00
4600 · Miscellaneous Receipts	2,436.00	10,000.00	-7,564.00
4604 · Interest Income	776.39	0.00	776.39
Total Income	2,167,842.06	2,121,150.00	46,692.06
Expense			
5010 · Teaching & administration	1,063,126.84	1,093,690.00	-30,563.16
5020 · Custodial services	54,000.00	54,000.00	0.00
5030 · Substitute Teachers	0.00	500.00	-500.00
5035 · Teacher Assistants	24,054.86	23,980.00	74.86
5040 · Office Staff	25,456.06	41,520.00	-16,063.94
5050 · Athletic Director & Coaches	46,108.30	50,550.00	-4,441.70
5110 · Payroll Taxes	92,232.25	104,000.00	-11,767.75
5110.1 · Payroll taxes - custodial	3,849.24	4,500.00	-650.76
5120 · Group insurance coverage	184,792.73	174,000.00	10,792.73
5121 · Medical expenses - Rx copays	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00
5125 · Teachers' Retirement expense	26,549.82	37,480.00	-10,930.18
5130 · Workers' compensation insurance	4,428.00	4,800.00	-372.00
5135 · Special Education	43,852.55	38,250.00	5,602.55
6000 · Utilities	52,248.08	84,000.00	-31,751.92
6025 · Water improvements assessment	4,700.20	4,300.00	400.20
6030 · Telephone	4,883.71	6,000.00	-1,116.29
6040 · General insurance	10,048.00	17,300.00	-7,252.00
6050 · Janitorial supplies	11,281.92	10,700.00	581.92
6060 · Snow removal	4,200.00	4,500.00	-300.00
6062 · Trash removal	909.96	1,400.00	-490.04
6065 · Grounds maintenance	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
6070 · General maintenance	47,950.00	47,950.00	0.00
6080 · Major maintenance program	47,950.00	47,950.00	0.00
6090 · Building furnishings	2,002.43	2,000.00	2.43
6110 · Teaching aids & supplies	13,842.57	12,700.00	1,142.57
6120 · Educational equipment	17,550.00	17,550.00	0.00
6122 · Technology fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
6130 · Physical education equipment	988.69	760.00	228.69
6140 · Library	4,100.00	4,100.00	0.00
6145 · Copier replacement	2,300.00	2,300.00	0.00
6150 · Science lab supplies	4,932.56	5,500.00	-567.44
6160 · Equipment repair & replacement	1,367.74	3,000.00	-1,632.26
6170 · Teachers' development	11,443.98	10,000.00	1,443.98
6180 · Music	3,463.51	2,550.00	913.51
6190 · Band instruments	3,314.00	3,050.00	264.00
6210 · Transportation expenses	1,440.20	3,000.00	-1,559.80
6220 · Office supplies	3,545.85	7,500.00	-3,954.15
6222 · Equipment service contracts	9,500.86	10,000.00	-499.14
6225 · Publicity & printing cost	898.43	4,600.00	-3,701.57
6230 · Postage	4,220.27	4,600.00	-379.73
6240 · Federation dues	2,035.78	3,700.00	-1,664.22
6245 · Graduation expenses	3,045.19	3,050.00	-4.81
6250 · Accounting fees	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
6260 · Miscellaneous expenses	6,555.62	6,820.00	-264.38
6310 · Debt obligations - facilities	103,499.97	103,000.00	499.97
Total Expense	2,012,670.17	2,121,150.00	-108,479.83
Net Income	155,171.89	0.00	155,171.89

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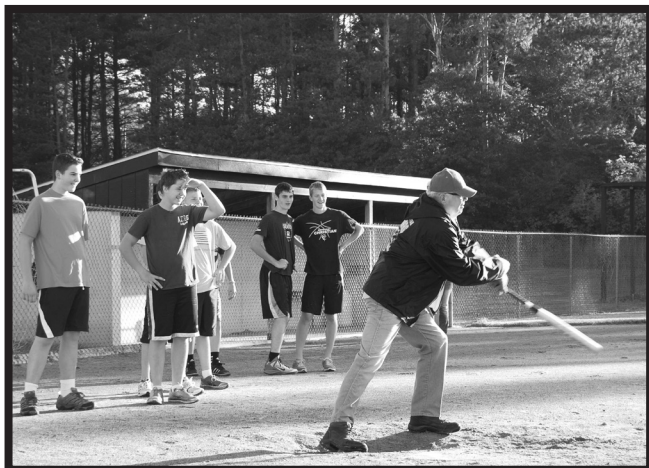
CONGRATULATIONS TO JAROD HANKO, WHO EARNED A PERFECT 36 ACT SCORE! OF THE 1.8 MILLION STUDENTS TAKING THE ACT, ONLY 1,162 ACHIEVED THIS.



CREATIVE SKILLS!



THREE GUEST INSTRUCTORS: DR. JOEL NAVARRO FROM CALVIN COLLEGE, DR. PHIL HASH FROM CALVIN COLLEGE, AND MR. ARNIE DYKSTRA FROM THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS!



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PIGEON CREEK ANVENTURE



HOMECOMING!



HOMECOMING!



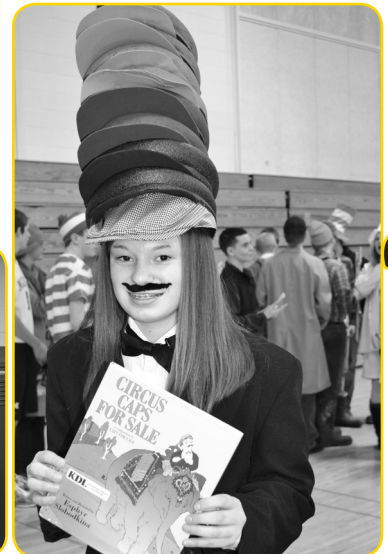
HOMECOMING!



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FROM THE FOUNDATION

Justin Koole



We are grateful to the Board of CCHS for the opportunity to inform our supporters of the activities for 2013. Our combined assets at December 31, 2013 were \$687,606.84. This increase of 10.6% for the calendar year 2013 is the combination of fundraising activities, fund expenses, grants awarded to CCHS and the increase in value of our portfolio. For the 2013-2014 school year, our two funds (General and Endowment) are able to contribute a combined \$35,834.00. The General Fund is used to reduce CCHS's tuition costs while the Endowment Fund, set up by a donation in 1998, is used for curriculum and teacher professional development and/or educational supplies and equipment.

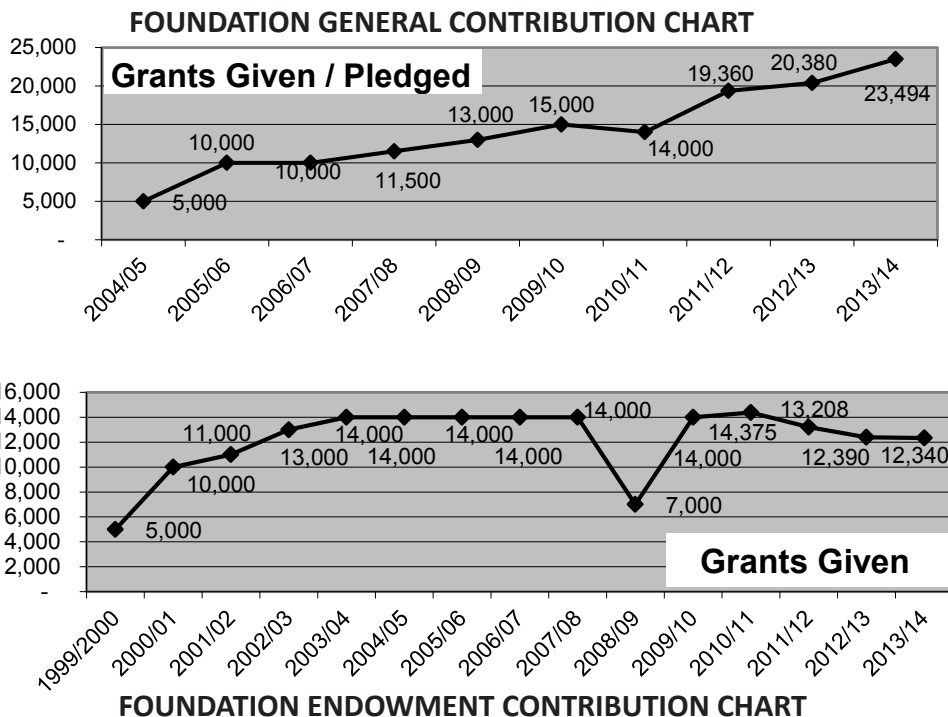
Once again, we held two fundraisers this past year, Taste of Covenant V this past spring and our annual golf

outing held at the beautiful Mines Golf Course this past fall, netting almost \$27,000. This spring we will once again hold the Taste of Covenant event at Georgetown.

In late January of 2014 we met with our investment manager, Kurt Knoll, who represents the Barnabas Foundation. We are very comfortable with our position in the market. The market showed substantial returns this past year, which create a potential for a market correction in 2014. Barnabas views this as healthy and would create an environment for purchasing. Barnabas sees a return to fundamentals; owning stocks and mutual funds based on actual corporate earnings and profits and strong balance sheets, not just chasing volatile trends. We reviewed the amount of risk we are

taking and are satisfied with the returns, relative to that risk. We are achieving our objectives, based on our Statement of Investment Policy. Briefly, our policy states that in order to contribute 6% annually, we have set the goal to generate 5% returns above inflation on a 3, 5 and 10-year basis.

We thank you for your support this past year and request that you continue to remember the Foundation in your inheritance trusts and wills. We are thankful to our heavenly Father for the increases to this kingdom work this past year. We as a Board understand the monies entrusted to our board are kingdom-focused funds and we take this responsibility very seriously.



COVENANT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Financial Report
Year 2013

	General Fund	Endowment Fund
RECEIPTS:		
Donations	\$ -	\$ -
Net fundraising income	26,916	-
Investment income (dividends & cap gains)	18,832	8,994
Total Receipts	<u>45,748</u>	<u>8,994</u>
EXPENSES:		
Membership fees	1,166	-
Miscellaneous	46	-
Total Expenses	<u>1,212</u>	<u>-</u>
GRANTS AWARDED TO SCHOOL	<u>21,937</u>	<u>12,365</u>
Receipts less expenses & grants	22,599	(3,371)
CHANGE IN MARKET VALUE	<u>29,609</u>	<u>14,001</u>
Net Change in Fund Assets	<u>\$ 52,208</u>	<u>\$ 10,630</u>
TOTAL ASSETS - December 31, 2013	<u>\$ 476,178</u>	<u>\$ 211,429</u>
RATES OF RETURN - For the year 2013	11.43%	11.45%



FROM MRS. SUE LOOYENGA:

Senior English students in the Advanced English Literature and Composition class were given the choice either to make a PowerPoint presentation including an analysis and paraphrase of a Renaissance sonnet in order to demonstrate their understanding of the form and content of a sonnet, or to write a sonnet themselves that demonstrated these qualities. Student **Mary Mahtani** chose the latter form of assessment, writing a sonnet in English sonnet form, using blank verse, with three quatrains viewing her subject (the Christian life) from different aspects, and ending with a rhymed couplet providing a summary comment upon it:

**A BATTLE ALREADY WON
BY MARY MAHTANI**

Sometimes the river seems just far too wide;
An ocean too impossible to cross.
My soul finds none in whom I can confide;
That river's filled with agony and loss.
I look inside, but there I find no aid.
I try to use my power and my might,
But in the end, it's only a charade,
For on my own I soon fall out of sight.
Then I look up and see my Savior's love;
He brings me out of all my pain and sin.
That river I now fly so far above
Can do no harm nor touch my soul within.
So when it seems I can't go on - I'm done,
I look to Him who has already won.

UPDATE ON OUR NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SPECIAL ED ADMINISTRATOR AMANDA HANEY

How do you like your new job? You're at Covenant now, right? So, how's it going?

What exactly do you do? Do you miss teaching second grade? The quick answers:

A lot. Most of the time. Great. How much time do you have? And yes.

For those of you who are interested in a little more detail, keep reading...

It has been an exciting and profitable first semester for the Special Education program at CCHS. The summer was full of preparations. The room itself was given a makeover. The walls were enhanced with a bit of a color boost, cupboards were installed for extra storage, tables were purchased, and computers set up. I spent time reviewing files, preparing lessons/curriculum, and coordinating student schedules. When the doors opened in September we were ready! There are four students enrolled in the Special Education program at CCHS. The students split their time receiving personalized instruction in the SE room and inclusive education in the general education classrooms. Mrs. Dorothy De Jong also teaches in Special Ed. part-time.

Back to my questions:

How do you like your new job?

When people ask me if I like my job, I'm not always sure how to answer. The easy quick answer is, yes. However, this is unlike anything I've ever done so it's hard to compare. I'm seeing a whole different side of education. I enjoy every aspect of this job. It is rewarding in so many ways. One of my favorite things is being able to advocate for students both now and for their future.

You're at Covenant now, right?

One thing that I think is confusing for many people is where I work. I was hired by the Special Education Board to serve as the administrator for the program. We are blessed to have two special education rooms in Michigan: one at Heritage Christian School and another at Covenant Christian High School. I spend time

in both schools throughout the week. So, depending on the day or time of day, you might see me at either place. I also communicate with all of our other West Michigan schools as well as our other Protestant Reformed schools with special needs students. Teachers from Hull, Randolph, Loveland, and Dyer have reached out for support and answers to questions via email and Skype. I am encouraged by the community we have, to support each other in the education of our special needs children.

So, how's it going? I get asked this question quite frequently. Sometimes I don't know where to start, because I could go on and on about all the GREAT things that happen each and every day. The amazing faculty at Covenant continually humbles me. Each and every one of the teachers has made a great effort to get to know the students on a personal level. I also collaborate with teachers to modify lessons and assignments so students are able to reach their individual goals. The student body is just as AWESOME! Many students, too many to name individually, have reached out to our special needs students to make them feel included and a part of CCHS. There are many students at Covenant who volunteer their study halls to come and be a part of the action in Room 31. I'm excited to introduce a new opportunity for involvement with our special needs students at CCHS for next year, 'Peer Coaching'. Those who are interested in becoming a Peer Coach can sign up when they choose their classes and will receive

credit added to their transcript. Peer Coaches will have a variety of 'jobs'. Some may help in the SE room with life skills and social skills classes while others may attend general education classes with a student to give extra support where needed.

What exactly do you do? Some of you have asked me, and others may be wondering, what do I do? In my intro my response was, how much time do you have? I say that because, it's really hard for me to nail down my job description in a quick answer. However, I'll give you a short description. I teach an individualized curriculum to our CCHS SE students. That includes a variety of subjects from English and Math to life skills and social skills. I also work with the general education teachers to make modifications for the inclusion classes of which our SE students are a part. I coordinate with Grandville Public School Services in areas that may be beneficial and appropriate for our students, such as speech, hearing/language support, and social work. I advocate for our students and their parents at annual IEP (Individual Education Plan) meetings. I communicate with our grade school Discovery and Resource room teachers to begin transition planning for future students, as well as the general oversight of the Special Education room, teacher, and aides at Heritage.

Do you miss teaching second grade? When I accepted this new position, I really had no idea what I was getting myself into. No one had ever had this job prior to me so

I knew I wouldn't be compared to anyone but I also wouldn't have a roadmap. That scared me a bit but also provided me with an exciting challenge. For those of you that know me, you know I love a bit of a challenge and a whole lot of excitement! I have had an immense

amount of support from the Special Education Board, the CCHS faculty and staff, friends, family and countless others. Rick Noorman and Brian Kuiper have answered many questions and continue to lend me advice whenever I need it. This year has already proven to be profitable

and exciting not only for me but also for the future of Special Education in our schools. Do I miss teaching second grade? Of course. I loved it. But I also love where God has led me this year and I know that I'm where he wants me to be.



If you're interested in learning more about our Special Education program
please contact me: amanda62377@yahoo.com

Check out a few of our links:

www.prspecialneedsbenefit.com <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76g-2QbwBEQ>

Find us on Facebook: Special Education: A glimpse into our school life



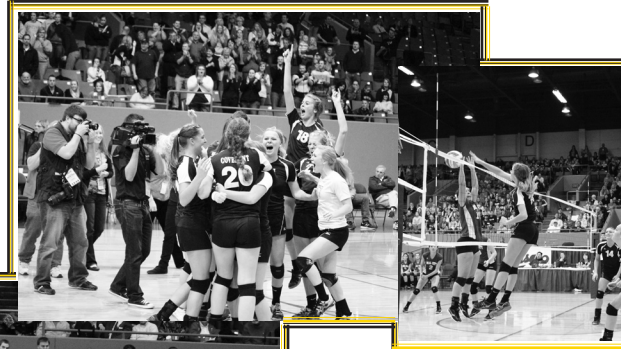
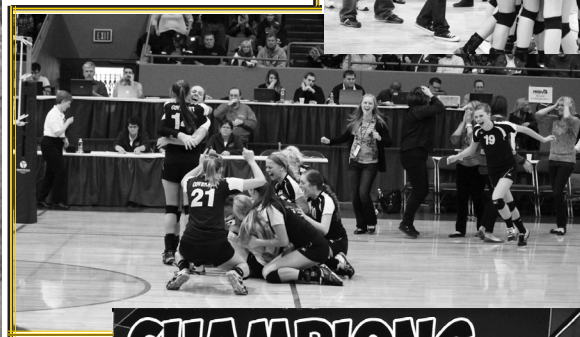
The fall of 2013 provided a lot of excitement around the Covenant Christian High School community; a very busy fall turned into successful MHSAA tournament runs for our teams.

For the first time in our history, the Girls Cross Country team qualified for the MHSAA State Meet, by finishing third at the Regional Meet. Although the Boys team did not qualify, two individual runners did qualify, and Michael Westra earned All State Cross Country honors for 2013. Coach Brian Kalsbeek had over 40 athletes participating in Cross Country this year.

The Boys Soccer team captured first place in the River Valley Conference. A large, and ever-growing group of Covenant fans soon began making trips to MHSAA tournament games. We travelled to Freedom Christian for Districts. At the Regional in Marcellus we watched a back and forth, gut wrenching game. After two overtimes, the score remained 0-0. The Chargers earned a 1-0 victory in a shootout. We went to Cedar Springs for the Semi Finals, and for the 2nd year in a row, we went to the MHSAA Finals, which were held at East Kentwood this year. A large group of very vocal fans saw the Chargers fall to Lansing Christian by a score of 1-0. Congratulations to Coach Mike Noorman and the Varsity team on their great season. Congratulations also to Coach Joel Van Oostenbrugge and the JV Boys Soccer team who finished the season with 16 wins, 0 losses, and 1 tie.

Our Basket ball season is now in progress as well...more on that sport later.

The Boosters have also been busy in the past year. Through the work of many volunteers, and the donations of material and labor, a new batting cage has been set-up in the mezzanine. The Boosters have also funded the purchase of weight equipment, which will be used by our teams and our PE classes. Thank you to everyone who helped out with this, either in the search for the equipment, or by delivery and set-up. We NEED people to become more involved in our athletic programs and fund raising. I encourage everyone to volunteer when the opportunity arises. (Also, see Boosters article, p. 16)

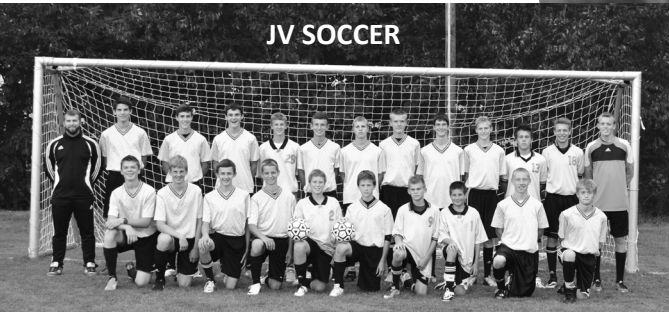


The week following the State Soccer Finals, the Volleyball team began its tournament run. After taking 1st place in the River Valley Conference, the team won the MHSAA District, which was held here at Covenant. The team travelled to Morley Stanwood for the Regional. The team had never won a Regional game before. That changed! The team advanced to the Regional Finals, where they defeated #2 ranked Morley Stanwood. On to Ithaca for the Quarterfinals!! The team defeated third-ranked Unionville-Sebawaing by a score of 3-1. The MHSAA Finals were held at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. The team defeated #1 ranked Mendon in the Semi-Finals, and then defeated 4th ranked Beal City in the Championship game. This was the first State Championship for Covenant in Volleyball, and the first in any sport since 1994!!





CROSS COUNTRY



JV SOCCER



FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL



JV VOLLEYBALL



BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL



GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL



BOYS JV BASKETBALL



GIRLS JV BASKETBALL



BOYS FRESHMAN BASKETBALL



GIRLS FRESHMAN BASKETBALL

FROM THE BOOSTERS Keith Noorman



The CCHS Athletic Boosters were organized with the main objective “to sponsor activities and programs which will provide an additional funding source to enhance the athletic programs at CCHS”. What that means is that our primary goal is to raise money to be able to provide adequate uniforms and equipment for our athletic teams so that we don’t have to cover those costs out of tuition. In the past, we have been able to purchase new bleachers, pitching machines, and a basketball shoot-a-round machine. Our goal of furnishing the new mezzanine area with a batting cage, new weight and exercise equipment, and freshly painted walls has been realized. The next projects could include a concession shed for soccer, baseball and softball games.

The baseball and softball fields have had a mini-makeover this fall; the stone dust in the infields was removed and replaced with a layer of new stone dust. By springtime, the new infield surfaces should be ready to go. The Boosters would like to thank Mr. Arnie Dykstra for all of his hard work and dedication in making sure that our athletic fields are in tip-top condition and always ready for play. Mr. Dykstra always seems to be willing to give of his time and efforts to this school – no matter the time of day or weather conditions.

The Boosters operate through the efforts of many other volunteers, and we thank them all for what they contribute to the school with their

time and abilities. More volunteers willing to help us out on these fundraisers are always appreciated. If you would like to be a part of our fundraisers, please contact Travis Van Bommel at covenantad@yahoo.com or by calling the school.

TO VIEW CCHS SPORTS SCHEDULES...

Go to Covenant’s Home Page (covenantchristianhs.org), click on “Athletics”, then click on “Athletics Information”

WE APPRECIATE OUR FANS!



ABOUT THE ARTWORK ON THE COVER: Mr. Eric Gritters was asked to work on a mural as the Class of 2013 gift to Covenant. After deciding to create it on wood he drew up the idea and transferred the drawing onto a wood support. He has spent perhaps 20 hours drawing, cutting, and sanding. The finished product is approximately 8 x 10 feet in size. Mr. Gritters thanks those that assisted him: Dan De Meester (brainstorming, troubleshooting, building backing and frame), Rebecca Ellerbroek (putting finishing touches on the preliminary design), Jeff Van Baren and Jim Van Overloop (affixing the backing and hanging), and Mike and Caleb Van Overloop (spraypainting).