

Published by the Board of  
**COVENANT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL**

1401 Ferndale Ave. SW  
Grand Rapids MI 49534  
616-453-5048  
[www.covenantchristianhs.org](http://www.covenantchristianhs.org)

### **Board Members**

Dr. Brian Decker - President, John DeVries - Vice President  
Curt Gritters - Secretary, Joel Holstege - Treasurer  
Nate VanOverloop - Vice Secretary, Tim Kaiser - Vice Treasurer  
Joel Dykstra, Jonathon Kamps, Mark Meulenberg

*“ . . . a goodly heritage is mine, marked out with gracious care”.*

These beautiful words aptly describe our sentiments of the Lord's gracious provision during the 50+ year history of our high school. At the beginning of our school's history, our forefathers realized the necessity of a distinctive, Reformed, Christian, secondary education and enthusiastically undertook a major work – the building of a new high school.

More recently, the CCHS School Board appointed a Capital Campaign Committee to begin the process of raising funds to finance building additions and improvements to Covenant Christian High School. The mandate of this committee is to raise funds for the next phases of needed expansion at CCHS. The Capital Campaign Committee is asking for your help to raise \$12 million in 3 years.

We realize this is a huge undertaking and ask that you prayerfully consider giving to this expansion project. We would like to thank everyone in advance for supporting our building projects. What a financial blessing God has given us to provide this beautiful facility to educate our children in the fear of His name.





## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Rick Noorman



### IN THIS ISSUE:

Administrator's Report	Page 2
President's Report	Page 4
Education Committee	Page 5
Enrollment Committee	Page 5
Finance Report	Page 6
Building Committee	Page 8
Applied Arts Department	Page 10
Graduation	Page 12
Welcome to New Teachers	Page 14
Open Positions	Page 15
Athletic Director's Report	Page 16

Covenant Christian High School is greatly blessed with a staff of teachers who are both knowledgeable about their subjects and dedicated to using their gifts and talents to serve our parents and our students. A Christian school can have a great philosophy of education, a curriculum that is firmly grounded on Biblical principles, and all the necessary textbooks and materials, but without competent teachers the mission of the school will not be met. The thirty two men and women who stand before the students in our classrooms each day are the ones who tie everything together to accomplish the task set forth by the parents and the School Board. These teachers are diverse in age and experience, in interests, in family circumstances, and in skills. The common denominators are that they love the Lord Jesus, they love the students that come to school each day, and they desire to serve the parents who entrust their children's education to them.

The work of teaching is difficult and providing professional development for teachers is an essential part of helping teachers to continue to enjoy the work that they do in our Christian schools. It helps them to more firmly grasp and be able to articulate the purpose of their work and to build on the techniques that they use in teaching. It helps them to evaluate their own abilities and make adjustments in how they do their work. It helps them to grow in the

knowledge of their subject matter and the knowledge of their students. In the end, it also helps the teacher to more fully enjoy their vocation as they see the effect of their own development making a positive impact on their students. Every profession realizes the importance of a continual process of development for those who do the work, no matter what the level of experience. Teaching is no exception.

One organization that assists the Protestant Reformed schools with professional development for teachers is the Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies. The Federation, which includes every Protestant Reformed school, has been in existence since 1959. The stated purpose of the Federation "is to deal with matters pertaining to Protestant Reformed School Societies in common." This includes "seeking ways and means for a more thorough training of teachers and prospective teachers in Christian principles."

Since 2017, the work of developing teacher training has been the mission of the Federation's Teacher Training Committee (TTC). The initial formation of the TTC was based on the belief that our schools should become very intentional in the training and development of the teachers that go into the classrooms of our schools. It pointed to the fact that any educational endeavor that wants to instruct from a particular foundation, philosophy, and world and life view will need to see to it that there is an educational system in place which develops, promotes, and ingrains these ideals into the youth. Secular institutions that train teachers do this as they promote humanism and tolerance with a total disregard for Christian principles. Christian colleges, in their training, will deal with principles that promote the idea of common grace and the desire to produce students who can renew the world. Since we do not have our own teacher college to train teachers, this work of training teachers in the Reformed principles of education is taking place through a program for professional development being put together by the TTC.

One aspect of the work of the TTC has been the development of a mentoring program that assigns an experienced teacher, who is trained as a mentor, to work with a new teacher. This team of teachers works through a specific program that has been developed by the TTC. The program is designed to intentionally lead the new teacher to a greater understanding of the Reformed principles of education. It is evident that the young people who are currently entering the teaching field are well suited for the work. They are conscientious, hard-working, knowledgeable about the subject matter, and

well trained in many aspects of teaching. The goal of the mentoring program is to emphasize the development of their ability to understand and apply Reformed principles and doctrines to their work of teaching.

Since the first year of teaching can be challenging, the purpose of the mentoring program is to assist the new teacher as they navigate this first year and begin to take a deeper look at the work of teaching. In this program the teacher is introduced to 8 elements that are part of an educational platform. These 8 elements help the teacher to consider their underlying beliefs and principles upon which they base their work. The culmination of the mentoring program is the writing of a Personal Educational Platform which brings together all of the work of the program into a document which will help guide the work of the teacher.

In the Personal Educational Platform the teacher articulates what they believe are the important components of teaching. In that Platform they specifically consider, from a Reformed point of view, the following elements:

1. The aim or purpose of education. (What is our goal? What do we want our teaching to accomplish?)
2. The major achievements that the students will accomplish during the year. (What are the specific things that we want students to accomplish?)
3. The social significance of the student's learning. (Does the student begin to see how they are impacted by things in the past? How they will contribute to life in the Reformed community and the world in the future?)
4. The image of the learner. (Who are they teaching? What exactly is this "being" sitting in the classroom?)
5. The image of the curriculum. (What is it that we are teaching? What knowledge and skills do we hope to impart to the students?)
6. The image of the teacher. (What is the work of the teacher? What is the teacher's place?)
7. The preferred pedagogy. (What methods are used to teach the classes? What are the activities that are used in the teaching?)
8. The preferred school climate. (How do students and teachers relate to each other? How do students relate to each other? How does every one work together?)

Covenant currently has 3 teachers that are or have been mentored through this program. Mr. Jared Noorman has completed all three years of the program; Miss Kristen Pawloski is in the third year, and Mr. Brantley Van Overloop is in the second year. There are eight CCHS teachers who have been trained as mentors. Two of them are currently assigned to first year teachers in other schools and one is mentoring a second year teacher.

School Boards and school administrators also want to see their experienced teachers remain on a path of constant development and improvement. Both time and

funds are set aside to be able to make this possible. Teachers are able to attend conferences, workshops, and conventions that help the teachers grow in their knowledge of the subject matter and in the methods and techniques of teaching. These activities may involve the expertise of those who work in specific fields of teaching or those who may be experts in particular subject areas.

The development of teachers can often take place as teachers work together to discuss aspects of their work. The annual PRTI Teachers Convention and the periodic Teacher Institutes are events organized by teachers for teachers. These are meant to be a source of spiritual encouragement for the teachers as well as a means to grow in the practical aspects of teaching. Every teacher walks away from a PRTI convention having experienced something to spur them on to thinking about their work. These conventions also give opportunity for teachers to prepare sectionals to present to their peers. The time that they put into developing thoughts or concepts that involve their subject matter or teaching in general is, in itself, professional development for that teacher.

Professional development also takes place as teachers work on curriculum material. The Board of Covenant Christian makes funds available each year through the Curriculum Enrichment and Development (CED) program. The purpose of the CED program is "to encourage and enable teachers at Covenant Christian High School to upgrade, modify or supplement course material beyond the present customary level or to prepare new course material assigned." This process of curriculum development allows the teacher to give thought to what and how they are teaching. This often leads to fresh, new presentations and activities that have greater engagement of the students and more enjoyment for the teachers.

Teachers, who stand in the place of parents, serving in the classroom every day have an immense responsibility. They have a vocation that, to be done effectively, takes constant self-evaluation and continued growth in knowledge. A good teacher will evaluate things on a daily basis. They will think about each lesson that was taught and determine if it was done successfully or not and make adjustments if necessary. A good teacher will also consider their work over the course of a unit taught, a semester, and a year to determine how they could improve their work. A good school board and administrator will recognize the need to facilitate this continual process of development and provide the necessary funds and time for it to happen. This will inevitably lead to a school that has teachers that are vibrant and engaging with the students and daily encouraged in their work. It will also have teachers firmly grounded in Reformed principles who are able to articulate those principles in their teaching, thus passing them along to their students. In this way the school, working on behalf of parents, takes heed to the command to "teach them diligently unto thy children." Deuteronomy 6:7

**BOARD PRESIDENT**  
**Dr. Brian Decker**



If you asked anyone that has been on a School Board to reflect on their time on the Board, I would guess you would hear a similar comment from all of them. That universal response is this: “after being on the board I have a new appreciation and hearty thanksgiving for the school and everyone that is involved with it.” I readily agree with that, and in light of the fact that we have just observed the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to use this article to highlight some of the things about CCHS for which I’m especially thankful, particularly concerning the idea of community.

We have a wonderful community of parents. The last year and a half has been quite a ride. Yet, despite significant hiccups in the manner and mode of education, as well as ever changing rules and procedures and policies, the support from parents has never wavered. I’m thankful for your encouraging words and texts, your reminding the board that you are praying for us and the school, and your willingness to be content with the way that we were forced to walk for a while. It was (and is) so appreciated!

The community that meets every day at CCHS also deserves highlighting. We all know that in our broader school circles we have a quantity issue with teachers — we need more! What we don’t have at CCHS, however, is a problem with quality. After visiting classrooms, reading proposals that are presented to the Education Committee, seeing the continuing education work that is done, and reviewing the school work that my two high school kids bring home, I am so impressed with the educational work that goes on at CCHS. We have a group of teachers, both early

or later in their careers, that are very good at their craft. Even more encouraging is the fact that they continue to strive to get better. Take those excellent teachers and then add the fact that they purposefully and extensively work into their lessons a Godly, Christian perspective, and this can’t be said loud enough...thanks! Our administrator and support staff faithfully dedicate their time and effort to all the things that happen behind (and sometimes in front of) the scenes, and do so with great energy, attitude, and effectiveness. While that work is sometime less glamorous and less noticed, it is no less appreciated.

One smaller community also deserves notice, and that’s the group of men that work on the Board. Lots could be written, but I’ll be brief — their dedication to the school and clear love for CCHS is obvious and carries enormous value. It’s been a joy to work with those men.

Finally, I’m thankful that the broader CCHS community has been able to gather again. Seeing the community be able to enjoy events like the Fall Festival and the many games/meets/matches has given us opportunity to enjoy good Christian fellowship. It’s wonderful to be able to watch our kids use their musical talents in the band as they share the beauty of ensembles working together. And, if you were at the choir concert, you were able to have the soul-stirring and faith-building experience of hearing voices and piano and strings and tympani swell and proclaim, “With everlasting kindness will I gather thee...O my child - my kindness shall not depart from thee!”. Thanks be to God for his care of CCHS.



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

John DeVries



We are thankful for the in-person education of our Covenant children which has been moving forward this year at Covenant Christian. With the help of all our teachers and staff, we have been working hard to continue to educate our children to the best of our God given ability. We pray continually for our students, teachers and staff that they may continue in their hard work and Christ centered learning. We have had some staffing changes and also staffing shortages due to illness, but everyone has stepped up and put in the extra work to make our school continue to run smoothly. As a Board, we would like to thank our teachers for the extra time spent grading and preparing at home since losing prep time due to taking on extra classes.

We welcome our two new teachers, Alyssa DeVries and Kristen Pawloski. You will find a bio about these two teachers later in these pages. As a Board we are excited to have them at school fulfilling a great need in our English, Science, and Math departments. Tom Bergman and Brantley VanOverloop are remotely helping our Heritage Christian High School in Dyer, Indiana, with math classes. Two of our special education para pros, as well as some parents, have been helping monitor classes at Covenant when teachers become sick. We continue to be amazed at God's grace in providing for us during these times of staffing shortages and illness.

Thank you to our fall coaches for the work and time that they have put in throughout the season. We have welcomed back parents, grandparents and fans. It was nice to see families coming out to support the student athletes again this year. Congratulations to the cross-country teams who both finished 7th this year (a school record) at the State Finals. As we move into the winter season, our athletic director is working on our ever changing sport schedules to make sure all the pieces are in place for a successful season. We look forward to seeing that student section fill up this year!

It is enjoyable as a parent to see my kids excited to go to school in the morning. We have all learned not to take that for granted! Walking the

halls of the school as a board member, it is humbling to see God's work as the activity of the school is in full motion. Thanks be to God for the undeserved mercies He has given us and our children.

## ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

Brian Decker



This past summer, the Enrollment Committee had the privilege of meeting with the families that requested enrollment of their first child at CCHS. We reviewed our mission statement, basis of belief, and admission policy. We also answered enrollment questions. It is a blessing to meet with parents that desire to have their children enrolled at CCHS, and we were encouraged by their obvious dedication to Christian education. The Enrollment Committee and the Board as a whole express our thanks, both to the new families and those returning families, for their unwavering support of the work at CCHS.

Welcome to the following new families:

Mark and Kristin Bleyenberg (Grandville PRC)  
Brent and Rachel Bomers (Bethel URC)  
Andy and Shannon Bylsma (Grandville PRC)  
Mike and Rachel Cnossen (Hudsonville PRC)  
Marc and Sarah DeBoer (Grandville PRC)  
Todd and Bethany DeBoode (Trinity PRC)  
Rich and Nelle DeMeester (Hope PRC)  
Jordan and Rachel Dykstra (Hudsonville PRC)  
Tim and Jill Hop (First GR PRC)  
Tim and Penny Kamps (Unity PRC)  
Rev. Rodney and Liz Kleyn (First GR PRC)  
Tim and Elizabeth Machiele (Trinity PRC)  
Justin and Maria Miersma (Grace PRC)  
Scott and Lynette Oosterhouse (Hope PRC)  
Rich and Rachel Sleda (Unity PRC)  
Kyle and Melissa TenBroeke (Trinity PRC)  
Frank and Kristie VanBaren (Georgetown PRC)  
Brent and Jessica VanderKolk (Unity PRC)  
Jason and Cassie VanOostenbrugge (Zion PRC)  
Ben and Teresa Zandstra (Southwest PRC)

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
Joel Holstege



The Finance Committee continues to manage the finances of the school. Monitoring tuition balances as well as preparing and managing the budget are two duties of the committee that comprise most of its time. With thanksgiving to our God and Father, we have put a budget together of over \$3,000,000 this year and we encourage parents as they make this investment in their children...an investment that is substantial and spiritual.

The Finance Committee asks for your help this year in keeping updated with your monthly payments to ensure that funds are available for the operations

of the school. It is always very important that families stay current with their tuition balances to avoid falling too far behind. At the end of November, families should have close to 40% of their tuition paid. If you are having trouble staying current with your tuition, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.

The budget is prepared in the spring for the fiscal year that runs from July 1 – June 30. The numbers are usually somewhat predictable with very few changes, such as additional teachers. This current school year was somewhat different.

**Covenant Christian High School**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
July 2020 through June 2021

	<b>Jul 20 - Jun 21</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Tuition	\$ 2,407,645	\$ 2,385,013	\$ 22,632
Church Collections	92,997	80,000	12,997
Pledges & gifts	485,062	410,000	75,062
CCHS Foundation Receipts	52,000	42,000	10,000
Special Education Receipts	139,702	137,350	2,352
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,373	4,800	-2,427
Interest Income	633	0	633
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 3,180,411</b>	<b>\$ 3,059,163</b>	<b>\$ 121,248</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Teaching & administration	1,540,019	1,575,000	-34,981
Custodial services	62,011	62,000	11
Substitute Teachers	2,830	1,500	1,330
Support Staff	76,089	48,000	28,089
Office Staff	59,072	52,000	7,072
Athletic Director & Coaches	62,808	68,000	-5,192
Covid-19 Payroll	1,787	0	1,787
Payroll Taxes	130,479	140,000	-9,521
Payroll taxes - custodial	4,800	4,800	0
Group insurance coverage	300,000	300,000	0
Teachers' Retirement expense	48,009	50,000	-1,991
Workers' compensation insurance	5,936	7,000	-1,064
Special Ed & Academic Support	169,343	186,000	-16,657
Utilities	61,057	65,000	-3,943
Water improvements assessment	3,539	4,000	-461
Telephone	7,104	6,500	604
General insurance	17,539	17,000	539

This year we had a decrease in enrollment from what was projected in the budget. Students that we expected are not attending. This resulted in a drop from our expected tuition income in the amount of \$150,000. Therefore, the Finance Committee asks that you prayerfully keep this in mind when giving to the Support Drive. You should have recently received a letter regarding this drive. The purpose of the Support Drive is to supplement the tuition as another source of revenue for the school in order to keep the costs down for tuition paying families. This gives an opportunity for those who do not have children at CCHS to contribute towards the operations of the school. Please, keep CCHS in mind when considering your giving as we near the end of the year.

fiscal school year (July '20 – June '21). This report shows the difference between the actual income and expenses versus the budgeted amounts that were passed by the society back in the spring of '20. As you can see, the revenues for the school year were \$3,180,411 and the expenses were \$3,013,273, giving us a surplus for the year of \$167,137. We can be thankful that those responsible for controlling the expenses have been good stewards of what has been given to us by our heavenly Father.

We realize that there is also a Capital Campaign taking place for the expansion of the school. Continue to pray for us as a committee and a School Board to manage the funds of CCHS in a way that is in accordance with God's will and for the benefit of rearing our covenant youth.

Included below is a financial report for the latest

<b>Janitorial supplies</b>	6,455	10,000	-3,545
<b>Snow removal</b>	5,510	6,000	-490
<b>Trash removal</b>	1,974	2,000	-26
<b>Grounds maintenance</b>	18,000	18,000	0
<b>General maintenance</b>	64,000	64,000	0
<b>Major maintenance program</b>	60,000	60,000	0
<b>Building furnishings</b>	1,555	5,000	-3,445
<b>Teaching aids &amp; supplies</b>	10,677	16,000	-5,323
<b>Technology operating expense</b>	26,000	26,000	0
<b>Technology fund</b>	32,000	32,000	0
<b>Physical education equipment</b>	350	1,000	-650
<b>Library</b>	4,100	4,100	0
<b>Copier replacement</b>	1,500	1,500	0
<b>Science lab supplies</b>	7,111	7,000	111
<b>Equipment repair &amp; replacement</b>	1,015	3,000	-1,985
<b>Teachers' development</b>	14,525	18,000	-3,475
<b>Music</b>	4,756	6,800	-2,044
<b>Band instruments</b>	182	3,500	-3,319
<b>Transportation expenses</b>	-105	2,000	-2,105
<b>Office supplies</b>	6,130	6,500	-370
<b>Equipment service contracts</b>	12,271	10,000	2,271
<b>Publicity &amp; printing cost</b>	2,037	3,000	-963
<b>Postage</b>	3,648	3,000	648
<b>Federation dues</b>	10,045	7,600	2,445
<b>Graduation expenses</b>	3,302	4,000	-698
<b>Accounting fees</b>	11,100	11,000	100
<b>Miscellaneous expenses</b>	2,719	5,000	-2,281
<b>Property Acquisition</b>	44,000	44,000	0
<b>Future Building Expansion</b>	105,000	105,000	0
<b>Rental property - heating</b>	467	0	467
<b>Rental property - electric</b>	528	0	528
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 3,013,273</b>	<b>\$ 3,071,800</b>	<b>\$ -58,527</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 167,137</b>	<b>\$ -12,638</b>	<b>\$ 179,775</b>

**BUILDING COMMITTEE**  
Joel Dykstra



It's great to see the Covenant community together again at the various gatherings we've had in the past few months. How wonderful it is to gather together whether it be listening to the band or choir, having fun at the Fall Festival, or watching our children play sports. We take for granted much of what our Father has given us including the communion of the saints. The past year and a half has made us aware of this great blessing...unfortunately, we often don't realize what we have until it's gone. We stand or sit next to fellow parents and friends watching our children being taught various life lessons as they run or play soccer, volleyball, basketball, etc...

While observing our kids we can discuss various things together. We can consider together the various aspects of life including church and school, remind each other of the wonders of our covenant God, cry with those who are down, and be joyful with others. We can even reminisce about all the good ole days with our past principal (Miss Lubbers) at a soccer game.

The society of Covenant Christian High School voted last spring to enhance the facilities where all of this happens and to make room for a rising student count. We voted to buy some land and construct some new facilities for soccer, track, softball, and baseball (Phase 1). This will make it possible for a new gym, an applied arts building, and more parking to be added (Phase 2). With the addition of the applied arts building, more classrooms will be opened up for the future. Eventually more classrooms (Phase 3) will be needed for the anticipated influx of larger classes coming to the high school.

The sooner we collect funds and pledges for this \$12 million project, the sooner we can begin the different phases (assuming society approval). As of November 11, we have collected \$980,971 of the estimated cost of \$4,000,000. We have spent over \$1,428,000 on Phase 1 already with many more bills coming by the end of the year. Currently, we are using up prior years'



*Except the Lord  
build the house,  
they labour in vain  
that build it: except  
the Lord keep the  
city, the watchman  
waketh but in vain.  
Psalm 127:1-3*





excess operating funds and borrowing from our restricted funds to temporarily subsidize the shortfall of collections. Our goal is not to borrow for Phase 1 which would delay the start of Phase 2.

With this urgent need for funds we humbly ask that you prayerfully consider this cause. Whether you are aged and have grandchildren going to school...whether your children are all out of school...whether you have children in school now and they will use the new facilities... whether you have kids who aren't even in school yet, please consider contributing to this important cause. We thank God for the gifts He has given us including the gift of the communion of the saints.



# APPLIED ARTS



At this point you may be wondering how this Applied Arts program even got started? When did we think about it? How did it come to be? What is the future of this program? Well I'm glad you asked! Let me give you a brief summary.

Jon VanDyk



## Beginnings

I believe we have to go back 12+ years to the society meeting that first talked about and passed the motion to add the ninth grade to Covenant. At that time I was teaching at Kalamazoo Christian in their Applied/Fine Arts department teaching Woods, Mechanical Drawing, and Auto Mechanics. Even though I was not a member of the society at the time, I decided to go to the meeting. I had seen in the grounds for adding the ninth grade the possibility to add new courses to the current curriculum, including an Industrial Arts course. I was encouraged by the conversations I heard at that meeting. I always had a desire to teach in our PR schools but at that time they didn't offer classes that I could teach. So I continued to teach and develop my classes so that God could someday in His providence bring me to our schools.

One year before the ninth grade was added, I took a job at Illiana Christian after being let go by Kalamazoo Christian due to downsizing because of enrollment trends. At Illiana, I was able to continue my calling and add to my background courses in General Technology, Metals, and Electronics.

In December of that year I interviewed at Covenant for one of five positions that would be added to the staff due to the ninth grade moving in. During that interview the topic of Industrial Arts did come up and was discussed as a possible future endeavor. I was encouraged by this and hoped that the Lord could

use me in some way to bring this to Covenant but I was also content to be used in any means in our schools. So I was hired and the only course that fit in Industrial Arts at that time was Mechanical Drawing. As the years passed, I continued to teach the courses that were given to me, patiently waiting. The school continued to grow and with it the need for more elective classes. There were some men on the Board at this time that had a meeting with me about the future of Industrial Arts at CCHS. These men (Nick Kleyn, Al Van Dyke, and Jonathon Kamps) had a desire to see us start the process of adding these types of classes to our curriculum and a classroom to do it in. Then about four years ago, Mr. Noorman approached me about teaching Mr. Jon VanOverloop's Applied Science class as he needed Jon to teach another science class. He thought I could use it as a foundation to begin a more hands on class focusing on the application of industrial/technology techniques, the beginning of an Applied Technology class. I was thrilled. It was hard at first to teach what I wanted to with a standard size classroom and no equipment; so I had to get creative. I borrowed or used my own tools, used the art room, the mezzanine, and eventually the "lunch room" (the unfinished double classroom created during the last expansion project) for my classroom/lab.

A year later the Board, through the Education Committee, formed a sub-committee to write a proposal to add a new department and courses to the curriculum. That sub-committee, led by Mr. Kyle Bruinooge (our new curriculum director), Mr. Jon VanOverloop and myself, was assigned to write it. That proposal passed and that would lead us to where we are currently. There were many people involved in this process and I apologize for not naming all of them. They know who they are and I am truly thankful for their hard work and dedication.

## Current state

We are now into our second full year of having this department and courses. We are offering the classes of Mechanical Drawing, Architectural Design, General Applied Technology, and Woodworking. Please refer to our curriculum guide if you need more information about what is taught in these classes. All of the classes are now taught in that double classroom. I am pleased that we have full if not overflowing class sizes. We have had some donations of equipment and money to get this whole thing started, of which I am truly thankful. The Board has also given me an Applied Arts Committee that helps me with plans, ideas, purchasing, and future planning of this department. I have received many positive comments about what we are doing and trying to accomplish through this program. Many companies like Speed Wrench, Kamps Hardwoods, Koops, and Preferred Machine have approached me to have our students tour their facilities and to see first-hand the application of what is being taught in the classroom and to give them career exposure.

## Future

So what does the future hold for this program? As many of you are aware, at last year's society meeting we approved the first stage of a four stage expansion project. The first stage is to move some of our current playing fields to the Hall Street property to the north of campus. This is to allow for stage two, which is to add a new gym and new Industrial Arts classrooms so that the current room (which we are currently maxed out for space and storage) can be made into two stand-alone classrooms. This need for more classrooms stems from the incoming freshman classes consisting of 100+ students over the next several years. My desire would be to create two to three rooms in the new addition to house what we currently have and to expand into other areas. Those areas could include a course on Metals/Fabrication, Auto Mechanics and, if we plan ahead, a possible Home Economics course. The future looks promising. May God graciously continue to establish the work of our hands, yea Lord, the work of our hands establish thou it.



## CONGRATULATIONS

# 2021 *class of*



The Graduation ceremony for the Covenant Christian High School Class of 2021 took place on Friday, June 4, at the Grandville Middle School football field.

As our students graduate each year, we try to send them out with a reflection of what they have accomplished, by God's grace, and what we hope to see them do in the future. It is our hope that they will serve God with their whole heart and mind and soul and strength. Serve Him wherever He calls them to labor, being faithful and obedient to Him. Serve Him by loving the neighbor as themselves. Serve Him by being faithful in their family life and in their social settings. Serve Him in their schooling by being good stewards of what He has given them. Serve Him humbly, realizing that they receive all as a gift from God. Furthermore, to serve Him with joy in their heart, knowing that their life is to be one of gratitude to God.

### *Class Text*

*"And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed."*

*Deuteronomy 31:8*



### *Class Song, Psalter 28*

***1. When in the night I meditate  
On mercies multiplied,  
My grateful heart inspires my tongue  
To bless the Lord, my Guide.***

***2. Forever in my thought the Lord  
Before my face shall stand;  
Secure, unmoved, I shall remain,  
With Him at my right hand.***

***3. My inmost being thrills with joy  
And gladness fills my breast;  
Because on Him my trust is stayed,  
My flesh in hope shall rest.***

***4. I know that I shall not be left  
Forgotten in the grave,  
And from corruption, Thou, O Lord,  
Thy holy one wilt save.***

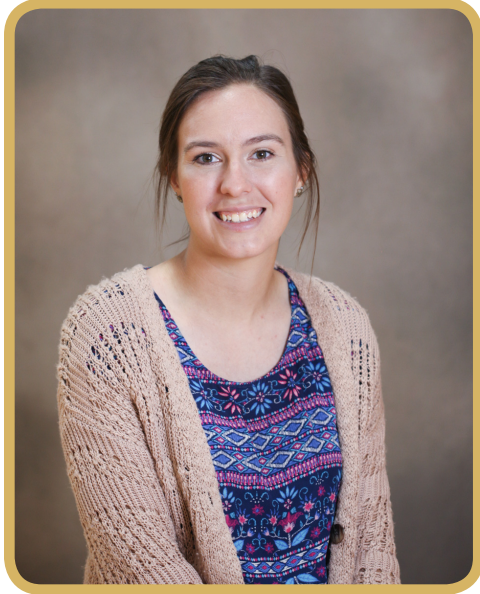
***5. The path of life Thou showest me;  
Of joy a boundless store  
Is ever found at Thy right hand,  
And pleasures evermore.***

**Academic Awards  
Highest Honor Students**

**Rebekah Bleyenbergh  
Danielle Brower  
Brett Gritters  
Austin Koole  
Cynthia Kuiper  
Amber Mastbergen  
Jordan Moelker  
Megan Pastoor  
Ella Pipe  
Ashley Spronk  
Tyler VanderMeulen  
Ashley Velthouse**



# New Teacher WELCOME



Hello! My name is Kristen Pawloski. I am excited to be in the environment of Covenant for the first time. I attended Zeeland Christian from K - 8th and Holland Christian High School from the 9th - 12th. After high school I attended Grand Valley State University for 5 years. After changing my mind, I ended up with a degree in Health Science, with an emphasis in Physical Therapy. While at Grand Valley, I started working at Heritage in Special Education. While working at Heritage I decided to continue working in the school environment.

After graduation I moved to Randolph, Wisconsin, to teach at Faith Christian School. Here I taught a variety of classes from Math to History to students in grades 7th - 12th. During my time there, I also took classes at Liberty University for a Masters in Education. I am grateful to have begun my teaching experience in a small school enabling me to learn the basics.

However, wanting to move back home led me to apply and accept a job here at Covenant. I am now teaching Advanced Algebra, Geometry Concepts, and Anatomy & Physiology. The time I have spent here has been very enjoyable, working with both fellow teachers and students. I pray that God uses me to continue to teach and build up students, and to grow personally as a teacher.



My name is Alyssa DeVries, and I am the newest English teacher at Covenant this year. I graduated in April 2017 from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I am a certified teacher and I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Education with an English major and a Psychology minor. I am excited to continue my teaching career at Covenant Christian High School – the same school I graduated from in 2012.

I am the oldest child of Dan and Angie DeVries, and I currently live in Grandville, Michigan. I am a confessing member of Hope Protestant Reformed Church, where I taught Sunday School to the kindergarten class for two years before moving to Indiana to begin my calling as a covenant school teacher.

After graduating from Grand Valley, my first teaching position was in Dyer, Indiana. I taught in Indiana for four years at Heritage Christian High School; where I taught freshman English, sophomore English Composition, American Literature, English Literature, Yearbook, Speech & Logic, Journalism, English Literature II, and also served as the school's Career Opportunity Adviser. I was very blessed to be able to begin my experience as a teacher at Heritage Christian High School, and although it was difficult to say goodbye to the many friends and families I grew to love, it is good to be back here at Covenant near my family and old friends.

As an English teacher, I love reading, writing, and teaching others how God's gift of words can be used to make an impact on others. I am looking forward to joining the Covenant school community and being able to instill this love for God's Word in the hearts of our covenant children. I covet your prayers as I take this next step, and thank all those who have already reached out to welcome me.

# Join our team!

## Open Positions — Seeking Applicants

### Guidance Counselor:

Due to Mr. James Haveman's desire to return to work in the classroom, we are seeking applicants for a full time position as guidance counselor. We are thankful for the many years that Mr. Haveman has dedicated to this work and for the advancements that have taken place under his watch. Applicants with a teaching background are preferred. However, we would consider individuals with a good knowledge of educational systems and a good knowledge of the work world. This person should also have an interest in working with young people to assist them in making their way through high school as well as finding and preparing for the work that God has for them in this life.

### Librarian/Media Specialist:

Mrs. Ria Faber has expressed her intent to retire at the end of this school year. Mrs. Faber has worked in our library for 21 years and has been instrumental in the development of digital access and digital materials as well as the growth of our physical collection of books. We are seeking someone who is capable of continuing to do this work on a full time basis during the school year. This position is also responsible for the management of students who visit the library during the school day. Essential qualifications include knowledge of library systems, a high level of ability with technology, and an ability to relate to students.

### Facilities and grounds maintenance:

We are also in need of a part time facilities and maintenance person to work with our new athletic facilities. This would involve preparation of the fields on game days as well as regular grounds and building maintenance. This work would be seasonal with most work in the spring and fall seasons.

For more information about any of the positions listed above, please contact Rick Noorman at [rnoorman@gmail.com](mailto:rnoorman@gmail.com) or John DeVries at [westmichiganrealestate@gmail.com](mailto:westmichiganrealestate@gmail.com).



**FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**  
**Travis Van Bommel**



At the time of this writing, I am happy to report that we were able to play the entire fall sports seasons without interruption. We didn't need to wear a mask or limit the number of spectators. There were fans in attendance. Our students could get together in the bleachers. Our parents and grandparents could watch us play. The cheering, the laughing, and the smell of hamburgers on the grill created a great atmosphere for everyone. It was a return to "normalcy" for the players, and fans. In 2020, the instructions from coaches often included the command to "Mask Up". Thankfully, we didn't need to hear that this fall.



If you were in attendance at any of our events this fall, you had the opportunity to take a peek at the progress on the new Athletic Complex. If you attended soccer games, you got an even closer look as you were able to walk around and through the new complex during halftime, or between games. You could see the transformation from a log cabin in the woods, into a pile of dirt, into different field levels, into sidewalks, into a ticket booth, a concession stand, a press box, a softball field, a soccer field, and a track. You watched the new baseball field turn from brown to green, and the area behind the backstop on the baseball field transform from a hillside, into a beautiful fan-friendly seating area. Great progress has been made, and we hope to be able to put some of those fields to use in the Spring and Fall of 2022.



Currently we look forward to the 2021-22 basketball season. At this point, the MHSAA does not anticipate any mask mandates or spectator limits. This year's schedule posed many challenges, and you may notice that the number of Friday night games is fairly small. We will make the best of it, and we look forward to packing the bleachers in Charger Arena. Thank You for your support!!