



**MANHATTAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Connections

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17

APRIL 2026

ISSUE 7

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Another Great Turnout!

Thank you for the incredible turnout at this year's Tulip Mania and Dutch Supper, one of our favorite ways to celebrate spring with our friends, family, and surrounding community!

We are so grateful for the generous auction donations from our local businesses, talented artists, and the friends and families of our school. Your support truly makes such a meaningful impact.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing Tulip Mania volunteers: Kristie, Holly, and Ashley, along with our new Dutch Supper volunteers, Aimee and Jackie. A special thank you as well to Carmen and Sue for taking over Dutch dancing lessons; we are so grateful for you!

We are also so thankful for everyone who helped behind the scenes, from setup and Dutch specialty makers to servers, movie helpers, craft station leaders, and our clean-up crew.

Each year, we are truly blessed by a community willing to serve for the greater good of our school and to bless all who attend. We couldn't do it without you!

There are still plenty of spring events and sports happening, and we would love to see you there! Be sure to read more on the following pages for details on upcoming opportunities to join us in celebrating this busy and exciting season.



April Contents

Annual Tulip Mania & Dutch Supper: Thank You!

Rotary Student of the Month

Spring Art Show: Calling All Alumni Artists!

Spring Concerts, Grandparents' Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, the Fun Run, and MORE!

Little Eagles Summer Camps: 2026

Senior Project Previews

Senior Project Spotlight: The Avery Melling Scholarship

Follow Us on Socials

The MCS Foundation

So many spring events that we would love to share with YOU! Read the details inside.

ROTARY

student of the month:
Andrew Kimm



How long have you been at MCS?

All 12 years

What extracurriculars have you been involved in during your time here?

Basketball and previously band and choir

What awards have you won during your time in those extracurriculars?

Academic All State, All State Basketball, two time state basketball runner up, and honor roll

What have some of your favorite classes and teachers been while at MCS?

Art because of Mrs. Swanson and Cultural Studies because we get to do a lot of fun stuff.

What are some of your best non-academic memories?

Music Tour and State Basketball Tournaments

What goal have you set for yourself during your senior year?

To be awesome

What are you working on for your Senior Project?

Leading a middle school Discipleship Group

What is one thing you think sets your education at MCS apart from at other schools?

Being able to learn about and grow in my faith is what I think sets apart my education at Manhattan Christian.

What are your plans for after graduation?

Attend college to study business and play basketball

What is your favorite Bible Verse?

Ephesians 2:1-10 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Annie: The Musical Wows the Community



This year's Annie cast lit up the stage and left a lasting impression on our community! Under the direction of Yvonne Kimm, a talented cast of 25 students delivered an energetic, heartfelt performance that drew enthusiastic crowds and plenty of praise. Missed it or want to relive the magic? Watch the full performance on our school YouTube channel!

Spring Art Show: Featuring Alumni Art

Calling all art alumni! We'd like to have your artwork displayed at the 2026 MCS Art Show on Wednesday & Thursday, May 13th & 14th. Please contact Mrs. Swanson (kswanson@manhattanchristian.org) if you are interested so she can reserve a space for you. **Friends and family, stop by the Eagle gym during the week of May 11-14 to view the Art Show!**

Families, teachers, friends, and students past and present: please join us as we honor Mrs. Kelly Swanson for her years of teaching and dedication to MCS. Celebrate with us in the Eagle Gym on May 14th, where we'll gather for light refreshments and snacks before the MS/HS concert begins.

Teacher Appreciation Week: May 4-8

We are so excited to celebrate our amazing MCS teachers!

If you are interested in helping bless the incredible teachers of MCS, please use the QR code to sign up. We appreciate your support in making this week special!



Spring Concerts & Grandparents' Day

Spring Concerts and Grandparents' Day are two of our favorite ways to showcase all that we've been working on this year! The Elementary Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30pm, followed by the Middle School/High School Concert on Thursday, May 14 at 7pm. Grandparents Day will also be Thursday, May 14. Grandparents, please join us on campus at 9:30 AM for coffee and donuts in the atrium, followed by an all-school chapel in the MEC at 10:00 AM. PK-5th grade grandparents are then welcome to stay for classroom visits, lunch, and recess. Please RSVP for lunch by calling or emailing the school office.

Annual Association Meeting: Tuesday, May 12

Join us at 7pm in the Eagle Gym. Association members have the opportunity to hear important school updates and vote for new board members! Stop by the office to sign the Association book to become a member.

Register for Little Eagle Summer Camps!

Dates are set for Little Eagles Volleyball and Basketball Camps!

Mark your calendars for June 8, 9, and 10

- 5-8th (fall of 2026) grade volleyball from 8:15-10:45am (\$60)
- K-4th (fall of 2026) grade volleyball from 11am-12:30pm (\$45)
- Lunch Break for Campers 12:30-1pm
- K-4th (fall of 2026) grade basketball from 1-3pm (\$50)
- 5th-8th (fall of 2026) grade basketball from 3:30-5:30pm (\$50)



Register early to guarantee your volleyball camper gets a t-shirt and your basketball camper receives a basketball!

2026 Fun Run: Let Your Light Run

Our Fun Run will take place on Friday morning, May 8. following a similar schedule to previous years. Funds raised this year will directly support literacy growth in grades PK-5 by helping us add classroom Yoto players, expand our collection of Yoto library cards, and increase access to technology through additional interactive boards to enhance instruction and engagement. Any remaining funds will go toward our Building on our Blessings campaign, continuing to invest in the future of our school community. Come join our runners or cheer from the sidelines at the park outside the MEC. Watch for classroom announcements on how you can support our runners in the coming weeks. Thank you for supporting our students as we build strong readers, and an even stronger school!

Donkey Basketball: April 27 at 6pm

Donkey Basketball is back, Monday, April 27 in the Eagle Gym! A true community favorite, this hilarious event had the gym packed wall-to-wall last year, and we're expecting another full house. Get ready for plenty of hootin' and hollerin' as students and teachers take the court (and try to stay on their donkeys!). Tickets will be available at the door, or skip the line by purchasing in advance at the office. Concessions will be available, so come hungry and ready for a night of laughter and fun!



senior project SPOTLIGHT

Aubrey Hofman

Hi, I'm Aubrey Hofman, a senior here at MCS. For my senior project, I have partnered with the Melling Family in order to create a scholarship which honors the life of their beloved daughter and my dear friend, Avery Melling. I would like to share this information with the MCS community in the hopes that word of this amazing scholarship opportunity would be spread and reach someone who is eligible to apply. If you know of any young woman who may want to apply, I urge you to share this with them!

About the scholarship:

Avery Melling, a 17-year-old junior at Manhattan High School, was tragically killed in a rollover accident due to icy road conditions on December 24, 2024. Avery was loved by many, and she is often distinctly remembered by her vibrant personality, fierce generosity, love for cheerleading, and passion for welding. Through the establishment of this scholarship, we (the Mellings and I) wish to honor Avery's life and her dream as a girl who wanted to go to welding school, and to see this dream of hers fulfilled by helping another young woman with a similar dream to be able to go to welding school. Avery had a substantial impact on her friends, family, coworkers, and community. Her death left a gaping hole in our hearts and in the entire community. We recognize that Avery and her bright legacy should never be forgotten, and the Avery Melling Memorial Welding Scholarship is our collective way of doing this.

Who is this scholarship for?

This scholarship is for females only. The female must be a high school senior, high school graduate, or currently enrolled in trade school/welding school. The female must be a Montana resident planning to attend an accredited welding program, and this female must be characterized by drive, ambition, and impact.

Amount: \$4,000

Applications:

Due by MAY 17, 2026.

The application for this scholarship is open and can be accessed on Bold.org. Search for the "Avery Melling Welding Scholarship for Women in Montana" or use this link: bold.org/scholarships/avery-melling-welding-scholarship-for-women-in-montana/

Other information:

Please spread word about this amazing opportunity to young women who are interested in pursuing welding! The Melling Family and I want to extend our warm thanks and appreciation to you for your efforts to help generate awareness for this scholarship. Your willingness to come alongside us in this process means a lot to us! We are working to make this scholarship a success and in doing so, bless another young woman and honor the life of our dear Avery.

Instagram page: @averymellingmemorial

Senior Project Previews

Join us on Monday, June 1 at 5:30pm for Senior Awards and Project Presentations to follow. Sessions will begin at 6, 6:30, and 7.

Updated & subject to change; we will post any updates on Facebook, Instagram, and manhattanchristian.org

Andrew Kimm

6pm / Mr. TeSlaa's Room

I led a middle school Discipleship Group. The real need was not enough people to lead D-Groups. The real people are the middle school boys. The real work has been meeting every other week to study the Bible and spend time together.

Haley Sander

6pm / Mrs. Leep's Room

My senior project was the k-8 production of The Best Little Christmas Pageant Ever. It was designed to boost confidence in kids the same way theater and drama did for me.

Mackenzie DeVries

6pm / Mrs. Taber's Room

I am planning my class senior trip which we will be going on after graduation. My plan is for this trip is to bring us somewhere different than what we are used to, so we can explore something beyond our bubble.

Will Ruffatto

7pm / Mr. Kimm's Room* Updated Time

I wanted to do something that would benefit the whole community and bring people together. I also wanted something that would encourage people to spend time outside, enjoying God's creation. So I Decided to put a disc golf course behind the school because it is something that I enjoy doing with my family. My hope with my project is that it will give people a new place to spend time together outside.

Zachary Alrbo

6pm / Mrs. Adam's Room

My senior project addressed the growing issue of the lack of physical education in our generation's youth. The majority of the youth, especially in the United States, have lost sight of their physical health due to several different factors. In my project I educated myself through the NASM certification program, and then used that education to lead several classes and sports teams through informational health presentations.

Cecilia Morrison

6pm / Band Room

My project addressed the need for a strong community in one's life to know you're not alone. I sang at a homeless shelter, did a Bible study with them, and also held a community music night where I sang songs both individually and with my family. My goal was to show others that music can bring people together and that surrounding yourself with people who love you and care about you makes a huge impact on who you are as a person.

Cutter Edmundson

6:30pm / Mr. Tesla's Room

There are senior citizens that need help with home repairs and maintenance. These seniors live in my community of Harrison, Pony, and Norris. The help I can provide for these seniors is manual labor or providing financial aid to help them live safely and comfortably in their homes. I create Serving Our Seniors (SOS) as a way to organize others to also help.

Jaxon Hinds

6:30pm / Mrs. Leep's Room

I created the masterplan for the track/football field area. This included the bleachers and lights for our football field. I also created the future plan for our all-weather track and field area. Lastly I redesigned our two sheds by our track; one used for storage while the other will be a new concessions stand. The real need for this project is to provide a better facility for our athletes to help them succeed in their sports.

Sophia Beiswanger

6:30pm / Mrs. Taber's Room

Sophia has a passion for others. She created, packaged (in Pringles cans-her favorite chip), and sold stickers saying, "With love, Hope, and Soul shine" to raise awareness for Wolf Hirschhorn Syndrome.

Join us Tuesday, June 2 at 6pm for High School Graduation and
Friday, June 5 at 10:30am for 8th Grade Commencement Chapel

Brooklyn Leep

6:30pm / Mr. Kimm's Room

I worked on organ donation awareness. After the sudden passing of my aunt who became an organ donor last year, I wanted to do something in honor of her. I worked with the 4th grade art class to create memory-making hearts, similar to what my family received, when someone is going through the organ donor process and gave them to the ICU at Bozeman Deaconess. I also presented at a high school and middle school chapel, sharing my story and talking about steps to take in order to bring more awareness to the topic. Lastly I got the opportunity to share at the hospital during a ICU nurse meeting given by some representatives from Life Center Northwest.

Nicholas Dykema

6:30pm / Mrs. Adams' Room

I built a cold plunge to donate to the athletic program. I decided to do this because injury preventions is super important, and recovery is a huge part of preventing injuries. In partnership with Lone Peak Physical therapy I am also setting up an injury screening.

Eliza Kimm

6:30pm / Band Room

I mentored four amazing sixth grade girls. With this project my goal was to get youth in our community more excited about music, and how music can change lives. I've been meeting with these girls twice a month since October, and they are going to perform the song that I wrote when I was in eighth grade at a few different community events.

Briannah Ohs

7pm / Mr. TeSlaa's Room

I felt that our school was in need of a student led group to help grow the faith of our high school. To help, I started a Fellowship of Christian Athletes group. We meet twice a month over lunch and hear from speakers, which has helped our student athletes significantly!

Aubrey Hofman

7pm / Mrs. Leep's Room

I have partnered with the Melling Family in order to create scholarships which honor the life of their beloved daughter and my dear friend, Avery Melling. While my primary goal was to make the Avery Melling Memorial Welding Scholarship, the Avery Melling Memorial Scholarship, and the Avery Melling Cheerleader Memorial for the Scholarship a success, I also wanted to ease the process for the Mellings, and to serve/give back to the community by sharing the intense generosity that Avery always radiated as a tribute to her legacy. (Read the details of the Avery Melling Memorial Welding Scholarship on page three under the Senior Project Spotlight.)

Nikki VanDyken

7pm / Mrs. Taber's Room

I love fashion, but people throw too many clothes into the landfills. Fast Fashion hurts the planet, thrift stores like Twice Treasure, and poor conditions for factory workers. Ways I can help, I learned to upcycle clothes from Twice Treasure, and I donated clothes to them as well.

Samuel O'Hara

6pm / Mr. Kimm's Room* Updated Time

I am donating my time as a professional auctioneer to loved organization to help them raise money for their causes. Some of these organizations include Heros and Horses, Warriors and Quiet Waters, Manhattan Christian School, Manhattan Rotary, and ZoeCare.

Blaise Bolich

7pm / Mrs. Adams' Room

I taught the 6th Grade PE class about rodeo. I taught them how to swing a rope and rope a dummy, how to tie a dummy, and I taught them about the logistical side of rodeo. At the end of the unit, I held a small fun rodeo and to cap it off I am taking them on a field trip to the Montana State slack performance of the Spring Rodeo to watch collegiate athletes compete.

Addison Venema

7pm / Band Room

Addison Venema My senior project is organizing a blood drive and spreading awareness about the need for blood. There are so many people who need blood transfusions, organizing blood drives is a way to directly make an impact and help people.

Join our Team at MCS!

We are thankful to the Lord for His provision in filling some of our open positions for next year, and we are thrilled to soon be welcoming a few new staff members to our team, but there are still employment opportunities for the 2026-2027 school year available! Check our website for the most current openings and employment applications.



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The Manhattan Christian Network on Spotify



Manhattan Christian School Foundation

Our mission is to lower tuition!

COMPARE

Certificate of Deposit:

- \$10,000
- 3.0% for Term
- \$300 Annual Income
- \$300 Taxable Income
- 0 Tax-Free Income
- 0 Federal Deduction
- 0 State Deduction

MCSF Gift Annuity:

- \$10,000
- 7.5% for Life
- \$750 Annual Income
- \$236 Taxable Income
- \$513 Tax-Free Income
- \$4,689 Federal Deduction
- \$1,876 State Deduction

MCSF gift annuities may offer more than money in the bank. Let's talk about the options that could work for you!

Contact Ron Hoekema at (406) 581-1460 with any questions or for more information.

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Mary Jones, Age 77

Property:
\$10,000



7.0%
Annuity
Contract



MCSF

Federal Income Tax Deduction
\$4,689 (4.2%AFR)
Montana Income Tax Credit \$1,876.

Annuity of \$750 for one life.
Tax-free portion \$513.

Property passes to MCSF's
Endowment Fund without probate
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