



**MANHATTAN  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

# Connections

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!  
Psalms 133:1

FEBRUARY 2026

ISSUE 5

VOLUME 26

## Little Eagles Powered by Local Support

Layne Glaus, Athletic Director

We are deeply grateful to the eight local businesses who sponsored our Little Eagles teams this year. Because of their generosity, we are able to keep the Little Eagles program free for Manhattan Christian and Amsterdam families while providing a meaningful, fun experience for over 100 young athletes. Little Eagles is a longstanding tradition of Manhattan Christian that the students look forward to every year! This was also our first season to welcome first grade students, as fifth graders now play their own school season. That added extra excitement, and it's so fun to see the players repping their sponsored jerseys at school throughout the week. High school games were even more enjoyable this winter due to the halftime Little Eagles matchups.

Thank you VanDyken Trucking, Triple C, Tiffany Dykema Real Estate, Feddes Family Meats, CDS Engineering, North Grounds, Montana Corn Maze, and Daniel Corbin State Farm. We are also thankful to Balance in Life Physical Therapy for sponsoring volunteer coaching sweatshirts and supporting those who generously give their time. Our local businesses are always willing to step up for our school and students. Please join us in supporting the businesses that so faithfully support us. See page two for team pictures.



Coaches Sweatshirts Sponsored By



## February Contents

Thank You Little Eagles Sponsors!

Congrats, Spellers

Speech & Drama Co-Op

Annie: Spring Production

Rotary Students of the Month

Registration Dates

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Thank You, Generous Community

Senior Project Spotlight

Follow Us on Socials

The MCS Foundation

## Classroom Highlight of the Month

Mrs. Swanson's first graders recently drew self-portraits that were compiled into a group photo. With help from her high school crafts class, the design was then silkscreened onto T-shirts for each student to keep!

# ROTARY

student of the month

Please join us in congratulating December's Rotary Student of the Month, Brook Leep. Brook was chosen by her teachers because she is known to display high character, leadership, and community mindedness both at and away from school.

Brook Leep



**How long have you been at MCS?**

I have attended MCS since Kindergarten.

**What extracurriculars are involved with?**

I am involved in volleyball, basketball, track, student council, choir, and four-time class president.

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

Volleyball- Academic All-State all four years, Basketball- Academic All-State all four years, track- Academic All-State freshman and junior year, 3 sport athlete award, Leadership award.

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

One of my favorite classes this year has been agricultural science with my aunt. We have gotten the opportunity to go on many field trips to different ag. sites and do a lot of fun hands-on activities which are my favorite. It is hard to choose a favorite teacher at our school. I have loved art with Mrs. Swanson, speech class with Mrs. Taber, helping Mrs. Glaus as a teacher's aide, and surprisingly even math as Mr. Kimm is very good at teaching it while making it fun. I am so thankful for all of my teachers at MCS as they lead by example and incorporate their faith into our everyday learning.

**What are some of your best non-academic memories?**

I have really enjoyed participating in sports at our school. They are so fun for me but also teach me so many life lessons I can carry with me forever. One of my favorite memories was in 2025 when our basketball team was able to make it to state through a thrilling challenge game after not even placing in districts. Another thing I really enjoyed was my class's senior retreat. It was so fun to play paint ball with my class although we got rained out and we had a lot of fun camping out in tents for the night.

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

My goal for senior year is to just enjoy all the time I get with my class and all my friends while working hard till the end. I also want to take all the fun opportunities I get before I have to be an actual adult.

**What are you working on for your Senior Project?**

My senior project is spreading awareness on organ donation in honor of my aunt Nikki who was an organ donor. This included giving a chapel on the topic to the high school and middle school while also working with the fourth grade art class to create clay memory-making hearts that will be donated to the hospital

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I plan on attending MT Tech. and pursue a career of nursing specifically pediatric/NICU. **What is one thing you think sets your education at MCS apart from at other schools?**

The first and most important thing that sets MCS apart is the fact that we get to grow our faith more every single day through our education. This is such an amazing gift we often take for granted. I also think that the quality of our education sets us apart. Our class load, especially junior year, is very challenging in a good way and really prepares us well for college.

**Favorite Bible Verse?**

Romans 8:37-39 "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

## Little Eagles (Continued from Page 1)



# ROTARY

student of the month

Please join us in congratulating January's Rotary Student of the Month, Bria Ohs. Bria was chosen by her teachers because she is known to display high character, leadership, and community mindedness both at and away from school.



Bria Ohs

**How long have you been at MCS?**

I have attended MCS for two years. My freshman year I attended Billings West High School. My sophomore year I attended Harrison High School.

**What extracurriculars are involved with?**

I am involved in cross country, track, and choir at MCS.

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

I have won academic all state and all state in cross country by placing in the top 15 at state both my junior and senior year. I have also won academic all state in track. I won districts in all of my events in track my junior year and placed in the top 10 in three of my events at state. I have also won the musicality award for choir at school.

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

One of my favorite classes at MCS has been Mr. Kimm's statistics class. I enjoyed learning about a new subject and I loved the math that went into it. Mr. Kimm did a great job teaching the class and it led to me and many of my classmates being able to score high on the AP test at the end of the year. Another class I have enjoyed is Mrs. Ayer's accounting class. I want to study finance in college and she has taught me a lot about accounting and given me a good base for my future.

**What are some of your best non-academic memories?**

My favorite memory at MCS is state cross country my junior year. I loved it because I placed and our girls team placed third. It was so much fun to achieve my goals with my best friends by my side.

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

My goal for my senior year is to make memories that I will never forget. I want to finish the year out strong academically, while also taking the time to enjoy the moments and activities with friends.

**What are you working on for your Senior Project?**

For my senior project I have started a Fellowship Of Christian Athletes (FCA) group at our high school. Every other Wednesday at lunch, over 50 high school students gather to eat pizza together and hear from a guest speaker. The speakers speak on anything from glorifying God through sports, to how to deal with anxiety throughout high school. This has been a great way for students to become more connected and learn more about how to reflect God while participating in extracurriculars.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I am still undecided of where I want to attend college. I know that I want to study finance and am planning to use that degree to become a financial advisor.

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

I have attended many different schools and experienced multiple different educations. At MCS the education is the best I have ever received. Not only is it challenging, but it also includes learning about God. I have never been able to learn about religion or talk about God in any of my other classes at other schools. MCS allows for us to learn about God and glorify Him through our academics.

**Favorite Bible Verse?**

1 Corinthians 10:31 "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

## Spelling Bee Winner: Congrats, Aliyah!



Congratulations to all of our classroom spelling bee winners for advancing to the school bee earlier this month! We're especially proud to celebrate this year's champion, sixth-grade student Aliyah Leep.

## Annie: Coming Soon to our MCS Theater

Join the MCS Theater Department on March 26, 27, and 28 for Annie, the musical. Annie is a cheerful, red-headed orphan in 1930s New York City who, despite a bleak life at a cruel orphanage run by Miss Hannigan, holds onto the hope of finding her parents. Eventually, Annie lands in the mansion of billionaire Oliver Warbucks, who offers her a new family and a chance to meet President Franklin D. Roosevelt, all while battling Miss Hannigan's schemes to claim a reward for Annie. It's a story of optimism, resilience, and found family, featuring iconic songs like "Tomorrow" and "It's a Hard-Knock Life".

## Speech & Drama Co-Op with MHS

This year, two MCS students participated in Speech & Drama, and we are thankful for our co-op with Manhattan Public School, which provides meaningful opportunities for our students to learn, compete, and grow. Madi Nichols competed in Informative Speaking. She competed in three tournaments, represented MCS well, learned a great deal, and had a successful season. Brielle Struble finished strong in all five tournaments, advancing to finals in four out of five. She competed in Spontaneous Oral Interpretation (SPOI) and wrapped up an impressive season at Divisionals.

## Registration Dates

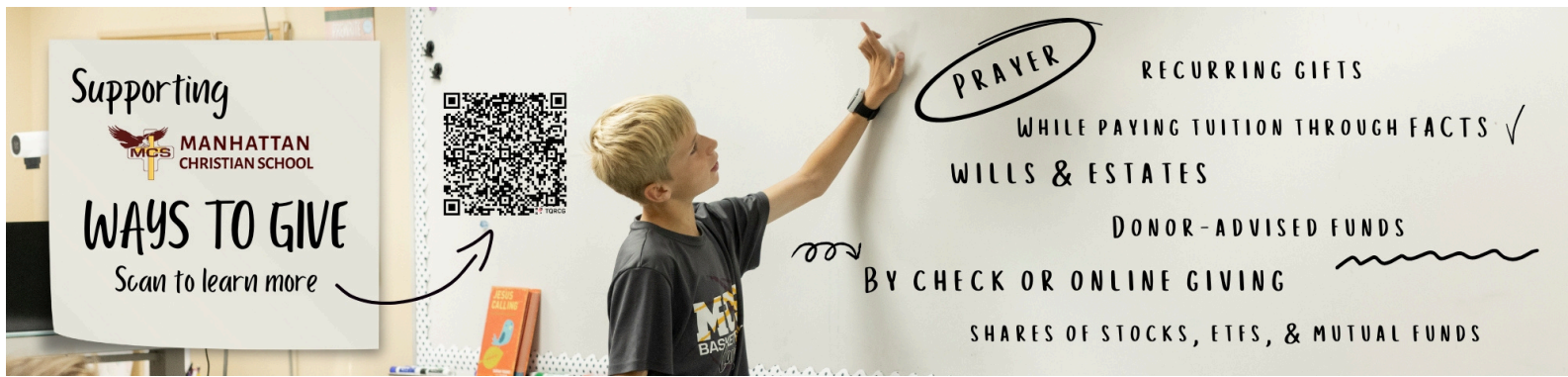
Registration is happening earlier than in years past! Be sure to save the dates and plan to join us for one of our registration evenings: February 18 from 4-7 p.m. or February 23 from 5-6 p.m.

Preschool registration forms will be hitting our website soon, and we will begin accepting completed forms on Tuesday, March 24 at 8:00 a.m. Classes fill quickly, so prompt registration is strongly encouraged. Watch our social media for the updated form to drop!

## MCS's Annual 3 on 3 Tournament

Get ready for an action-packed 3-on-3 basketball showdown on Saturday, April 4, 2026! Boys and girls in grades 3-12 are invited to bring the hustle and hit the court with teams of 3-5 players. Registration is open now, so don't wait; scan the QR code to sign up and secure your spot. Questions? Contact Kendal Walhof at 406-580-2282 or kendal@churchillequipment.net.





## Thank You, Manhattan Christian School Community

Joel Westa, Development Director

To the faithful and generous people of Manhattan Christian School, from the bottom of our hearts: thank you. Because of your generosity this past year, our school is able to carry out its mission today and take confident steps toward the future. Your prayers, volunteer hours, and financial gifts are moving this school forward in very real, tangible ways, and we are deeply grateful.

### Here's a quick look at what your generosity accomplished this year:

#### 1. Building on Your Blessings: Classroom wing (our highest priority)

Our primary focus for the Building on Your Blessings effort is the new elementary and middle school classroom wing. This is the piece of the project we need most urgently so that we can relieve overcrowding and replace aging facilities. Combined cash and pledges for the campaign now total a little over \$2.5 million. To begin construction we need \$2.3 million in cash; currently we have about \$1.25 million in cash on hand.

If you haven't yet given, please prayerfully consider partnering with us. One practical way to help is a monthly ACH gift: for example, \$100/month over five years yields over \$6,000 toward the project while keeping your monthly impact small. Every gift matters and will bring us closer to breaking ground on this desperately needed classroom wing. If you'd like to talk about a gift or invite prospective donors to learn more, please email me at [development@manhattanchristianschool.org](mailto:development@manhattanchristianschool.org). I will happily meet and walk through giving options.

#### 2. Annual (End-of-Year) Campaign

We kicked off our annual campaign with a wonderful banquet featuring John Stonestreet as our guest speaker. Thanks to generous supporters, that campaign raised \$117,000 towards our \$140,000 goal for the ongoing operations of the school. This consistent, faithful giving is what keeps our day-to-day mission strong. Thank you.

#### 3. Education Tax Credit (scholarship support)

The Montana education tax credit window this year opened and closed very quickly. \$7.2 million was available statewide and supporters acted decisively. Because of those who redirected funds through the tax credit program, MCS secured \$161,000 to put toward student scholarships. That is a huge blessing and will make Christian education more accessible for families in our community.

We are blessed beyond measure by your partnership. Whether you volunteer, pray, or give financially, your support sustains this school and helps prepare it for decades to come. If you have questions about giving through appreciated assets, capital gains, required minimum distributions, or would like help structuring a gift, please contact me at [development@manhattanchristianschool.org](mailto:development@manhattanchristianschool.org); I'd be glad to sit down and discuss options.

Thank you again for your generosity, commitment, and faith in the mission of Manhattan Christian School. God bless you.

Save the date for our next big event! This year's Tulip Mania and Dutch Supper is set for Friday, April 10. Watch the Weekly and Socials for more details!

## New Year, New Gear!

Stop by the MCS office to grab brand new Eagle apparel. We've got shirts, hoodies, BOOM hats, and cozy winter beanies from four great vendors, perfect for refreshing your winter wardrobe or showing off your Eagle pride. Youth and men's sizes are now in, all the way down to 3 months for our tiniest Eagle fans!

Didn't find exactly what you need? No problem! You can also shop online; our Eagle Fan Store and Basketball Store are open now through Game One. Find the link on our website under Support MCS and keep that Eagle spirit going all winter long!

## History Lesson Series: The Manhattan Christian School Logo

Don Vaniman, MCS Foundation Secretary

Our wonderful Manhattan Christian School logo with the Eagle and the cross is recognizable anywhere in America. It totally defines Manhattan Christian School. It was designed by Dale Alberda, who grew up in Seattle and graduated from Montana State University.



Dale enrolled in Architecture at Montana State University from 1982-1986. During that time, Manhattan Christian School had a "contest" to design a logo for Manhattan Christian School. I understand Dale won hands down! The logo was adapted by MCS, and the Manhattan Christian School Foundation also uses the Logo by adding the word "Foundation" across the bottom of the cross (see page 7). Dale graduated Montana State University in 1986 with a Master of Architecture Degree and currently lives and works in Seattle, Washington. Dale is Principal and Lead Architect for NBBJ. Dale's parents are Bern and Verna (Wierda) Alberda. Both were in the first high school graduating class of Manhattan Christian School in 1956. They also live in Seattle, Washington, where Bern is a retired pediatrician and Verna a retired teacher.



Dale Alberda, 1982

As Principal and Lead Architect at NBBJ – a design firm named the fastest growing by Architectural Record and among the world's most innovative three times by Fast Company – Dale Alberda leads the design of corporate workplaces and commercial office buildings, healthcare projects and public works buildings, including libraries and transportation projects. He has recently led projects for clients including Amazon in Virginia, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation in Silicon Valley, and the Southcentral Foundation in Alaska.



Dale Alberda Today  
(from NBBJ's website)

With four decades of professional experience, Dale seeks out innovative solutions for clients that reflect their unique culture, aspirations and business goals. His designs emphasize the use and detailing of materials, building systems and sustainable technologies that optimize quality. Both clients and colleagues prize his collaborative approach and ability to produce well-crafted and thoughtful tools that enable informed and intelligent decisions. His inspirational leadership and pursuit of excellence produces award-winning work that helps his clients realize their enterprise goals. Dale's work has been featured in publications around the world, including the Financial Times, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Fast Company, Architectural Record, Dezeen, and The Seattle Times. Outside of professional practice, Dale has served as a design critic for the school of architecture at the University of Washington.

Dale and his wife Heidi have been married for 39 years and they have two daughters, Sydney and Noelle.

For more about Dale Alberda look here: <https://modelo.io/blog/index.php/dale-alberda-nbbj/>

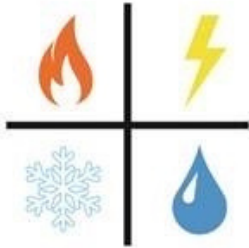
## Join Our Team at MCS: See Employment Opportunities on our Website

We are prayerfully continuing our search for several positions for the coming school year, including a Secondary Music Teacher, Development Director, Spiritual Life Director, Bus Drivers, and a K-12 Art Teacher. If you feel called to serve in a community that is purposeful, supportive, and united in its mission, we invite you to learn more. Full position details are available on our website.

# project SPOTLIGHT

## Cecilia Morrison

My project is centered around music and the ways in which it can deeply influence people's lives. A few months ago I went into the homeless shelter and played guitar and sang a few worship songs for those gathered after dinner, and I am having a music night on **March 15 (updated date)** to tell my story through songs that have meant a lot to me in my life. I also lead a wonderful group of students in the chapel band every week. Watch MCS social media for more details!



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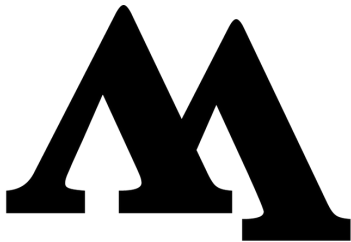
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Help us share OUR STORY!



## Manhattan Christian School Network on Facebook

- Manhattan Christian Football
- Manhattan Christian Cross Country Teams
- Manhattan Christian Eagles Volleyball
- Manhattan Christian Lady Eagles Basketball Team
- Manhattan Christian Eagles Boys Basketball
- Manhattan Christian Eagles Track & Field
- Manhattan Christian Eagles Golf



## @manhattanchristianeagles on Instagram

- @manhattanchristianvolleyball
- @mcsboysbasketball
- @mcseaglesgirlsbball
- @manhattanchristianfootball
- @manhattanchristianxc



## 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.

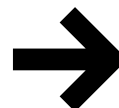
## MCSF GIFT ANNUITY

**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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