



**MANHATTAN  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

# Connections

Everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds;  
whoever knocks, the door opens.  
Matthew 7:8

OCTOBER 2025      ISSUE 2      VOLUME 26

## Our 63rd Annual Harvest Festival

*Julie Bussis, Co-Head of the Harvest Festival*

We are delighted to invite you to the **63rd Annual Harvest Festival at MCS** on the morning of **Saturday, October 25th**. This cherished tradition brings our community together each fall while serving as one of the school's most important fundraisers.



Guests of all ages will enjoy:

- **Carnival games** for children (10am-12pm)
- A wide variety of **delicious food and baked goods**, including pies, cookies, Dutch specialties, and caramel apples (10am)
- The **Harvest Market**, featuring handmade items from students and local artisans (10am)
- Exciting **live and silent auctions** throughout the day (starting at 10am)
- We will once again have our **Touch a Tractor** where all ages can check out lots of different kinds of farming equipment (10am-1pm)

Whether you are a longtime supporter or a first-time visitor, the Harvest Festival offers something for everyone and creates wonderful memories year after year.

Thank you to our families, alumni, grandparents, and friends for your ongoing generosity. We look forward to celebrating with you on October 25th.

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We still have a lot of ways that you can help out!  
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### Classroom Highlight of the Month

In fourth and fifth grade library classes, we began by filling out character organizers for our class read alouds with our own drawings. Then, we explored how AI works by listing the character traits we heard in the story and letting AI bring those descriptions to life through image generation!

# ROTARY

student of the month

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



Aubrey Hofman

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

I attended Amsterdam Elementary for grades 1-6, and then for my 7th grade year I transferred to Manhattan Christian and have been here ever since. I am so beyond grateful for my experiences, opportunities, teachers, and classmates at both schools.

**What extracurriculars are involved with?**

Throughout my years at MCS I have been involved in Painting, Yearbook, Concert Band, Pep Band, Volleyball, and Basketball.

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

Some of my awards and achievements in these activities include the Art Award, Walsworth Photo Challenge Honorable Mention, Academic All-State Selection (for all years of varsity sports), Class C Volleyball State Championship 2023, Gratitude Award (volleyball award), and this season I'm honored to be one of the captains for the volleyball team. My academic achievements include Honor Roll, National Honor Society Member, Top GPA, and the Distinguished Christian High School Award in Academics.

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

While all the teachers at MCS are wonderful, I really enjoyed painting class with Mrs. Swanson. It was a great way to express my creativity and relax at the end of the day! I also love learning about history, and the fact that Mr. T teaches those classes makes them so much better! He is such a fun teacher and he incorporates a lot of character and passion into his teaching. Even though math isn't my favorite subject, I can't say enough good things about Mr. Kimm and the way he pushes his students. He really does strive to see us succeed and I admire him for his ability to be intentional and think clearly, his sense of humor, and most of all for his faith.

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

Music Tour is a very vivid memory for me. Mrs. Brewer took the band and choir programs on tour through Idaho, Utah, and the Zuni Reservation, with our final destination at Rehoboth Christian School in New Mexico. Tour was so much fun and I made so many new relationships and strengthened old ones throughout the trip. Tour was also a really big part of my faith walk. It was so eye-opening to see just how real and how big God's love is, and that there are other kids thousands of miles away who lived a completely different life than us, but shared the same love for our God.

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

During my senior year, I hope to push myself in academics to finish the year strong and hopefully be named valedictorian. More than ever, I'm realizing how important leadership is, and I'm hoping to step into that role this year. Most importantly, I strive to be remembered for my faith and my good character rather than any achievements or rewards I may receive, and keeping that in mind, I'm going to focus on serving others and pouring God's love into them.

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

For my senior project, I'm partnering with the Melling Family to set up the Avery Melling Welding Scholarship. Through this project, my ultimate goal is to come alongside the Mellings and to serve the community by sharing the love of Jesus and passing on the intense generosity and joy that Avery always radiated as a tribute to her legacy.

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

I'm currently undecided on a location, but I hope to go to school to become a physical therapist. I would like to attend a smaller college and play volleyball as I get my undergrad degree, and then move on from there to become a PT.

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

I think MCS is different than other schools in the way that the staff are so invested into the students, and the way that we are all united for a greater purpose. It's clearly evident that they want us to succeed, and they put a lot of care and effort into preparing us to go far in our futures. I also love the tight-knit community here at MCS, and I think that the support here is truly one of a kind.

**Favorite Bible Verse?**

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

## 2025 Harvest Festival Cont.

(Cont. From Page 1)

We still have a lot of ways you can help out:

**Auction:** Do you have something you want to donate for the auction? Donations can be brought to the front office before Friday, October 17. We also need a couple more people to help during the Auction (10:30am-12:30pm).

**Kids Games:** We need a new basketball arcade game. If you have one that is not being used or would like to donate one, please reach out to Jessica at 406-223-5377. We also need a few more Face Painting Volunteers during kids games (10:00am-12:00pm).

**Harvest Market:** Do you have any Handmade Goods you would like to donate? You can drop them off in the front office with contact info and suggested pricing information. We also need a couple of volunteers the day of the Harvest Festival to work in the Harvest Market (10:00am-1:00pm).

**Kitchen/Food:** We need a few more servers and dishwashers the day of the Harvest Festival (11:00am-1:30pm).

**Dutch Specialties:** If you are willing to make something for the Dutch Specialties table, those donations can be dropped off at the MCS office starting at 3:30 on Friday, October 24.

**Baked Goods/Cookies:** We are looking for people to make baked goods and cookies. You can drop them off at the MCS office starting at 3:30 on Friday, October 24.

**Pies:** Do you like to make pies? We'd love to have you make them for the Harvest Festival! Please drop pies off at Bethel Church (7693 Churchill Road) after 3:30 on Friday, October 24 or bring to MCS Concessions the day of the Harvest Festival.

**Touch a Tractor:** Want to bring your tractor to the Harvest Festival? Please reach out to Kelly O'Hara at 406-599-8079.

**If you are willing to help fill an open position please reach out to the MCS front office (406-282-7261). If you have any questions regarding the Harvest Festival please reach out to Brittany Braaksma ([brittany.braaksma@gmail.com](mailto:brittany.braaksma@gmail.com)).**

**Ollie Bollen:** Fresh Ollie Bollen will be available for purchase out of the Bethel Church Kitchen (7693 Churchill Road) on Friday, October 24 from 5:30-7:30pm. They will be selling fresh Ollie Bollen in plain, apple, and currant (raisin) varieties. Cost is \$15 per plate, cash or checks only. Ollie Bollen will also be available at the Dutch Specialties table on Saturday, October 25.

## Thank You, MCS Golf Tournament Sponsors & Volunteers!



A huge thank you to all the workers, sponsors, and organizers who made the annual MCS Golf Tournament a success! This event is one of the largest fundraisers for MCS Athletics each year, and we're so grateful for your support. It was a beautiful day at Cottonwood Hills Golf Course; special thanks to Johanna Eekhoff, Garret Nielson, and their amazing staff for helping make it such a fun and memorable day! Please show your support to the businesses listed below; they generously support our school, and we're thankful for their partnership!

### **Title Sponsor:**

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**Team & Hole Sponsors:** Consulting Design Solutions (CDS) & Platinum Tech Services

**Hole Sponsors:** Andy's Glass, Balance in Life Physical Therapy, Balco Uniforms, Blackfoot Communications, Carla Schmidt - Mountain West Farm Bureau Agent, Cook Development - Kevin Black, Dan Rust - State Farm Agent, Danhof Motors/Ressler Corp., Droge Farms Inc., Empire Building Materials, Ferguson, Game One, Healthy is Wellness, J&K Contractors (X2), Kenyon Noble, Kredit Electric, North Grounds, Northwest Pipe Fittings, Palisade Financial, Plastic Design & Manufacturing, R&R Taylor Construction Inc., Ramirez Family, Scenic City Trucking, SCS Unlimited, Sime Construction, Terry Sinnema Inc., VanDyken Accounting Services, Visser Greenhouse, Watson Irrigation, Wyatt Nielson, Vellinga Real Estate

**Team Sponsors:** Amsterdam Enterprises, Back Nine Bozeman, Churchill Equipment (X2), Clint Struble Real Estate, Egbert Plumbing, Forever Lawn, Gallatin Property Management, Kimm Seed, Opportunity Bank, Spring Creek Farms, ST Custom Homes, TD Hamilton Excavation (X2), TJ Electric

**Additional Sponsors:** Back Nine Bozeman, Brenda & Wes Asher, Bozeman Boat Rental, Carriage House Carwash, Coke, Cottonwood Hills Golf Course, Feddes Family Meats, Forever Lawn, Gallatin Valley Malt Co., Headwaters BBQ, Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning, Keller Supply, Kenetrek Boots, Livingston Dental Care, Manhattan Bank, Montana Fox Red Labs, Pacific Plumbing Supply, Pepsi, Pure Shot Golf, Rocky Mountain Golf, Sharon Kamps, Steve & Anita Hubers, The Ice House, The Ranch Club Golf Course

# senior project SPOTLIGHT

## Sophia Beiswanger

Sophia's senior project is about her living with a rare syndrome called 4p-/WHS or Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome. She'll be getting support from family and friends to raise awareness across the entire nation in all 50 states. Sophia hopes to have every governor understand the importance of issuing a proclamation this year to make April 16<sup>th</sup> the National 4p-/WHS Awareness Day! She plans to write and submit a letter and/or video, along with every in-state representative's letter, asking their governor to issue such a proclamation.

Sophia is also planning a fundraiser: she plans to sell water bottle stickers to spread awareness for her syndrome. She is currently collecting small-sized Pringles cans to repurpose for her fundraiser. Chip lovers like Sophia can drop off Pringles cans to the office. We'll be sharing her progress on social media, and she'll be fundraising at a few MCS basketball games this winter.

Sophia not only lives with a rare syndrome but she also lives especially with love, hope, and soul-shine. This is her senior project message and her life's legacy!

## Save the Date for this year's Campaign Dinner: Tuesday, November 18 Keynote Speaker, John Stonestreet, President of Colson Center

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 18 at 6 PM for an evening of food, fellowship, and inspiration! We're thrilled to announce our guest speaker for this year: John Stonestreet, President of the Colson Center. Stonestreet is a sought-after speaker and author on areas of faith and culture, theology, worldview, education and apologetics. John is the daily voice of [Breakpoint](#), the nationally syndicated commentary on the culture founded by the late Chuck Colson. He has co-authored five books including *A Practical Guide to Culture* and *Restoring All Things*. Before coming to the Colson Center in 2010, John served in various leadership capacities with Summit Ministries and was on the biblical studies faculty at Bryan College (TN). John is an ordained deacon in the Anglican Church of North America. He and his wife, Sarah, have four children and live in Colorado Springs, CO.



Don't miss this special night; we can't wait to see you there!

*If you would be willing to make a dessert for the Dessert Auction at the Campaign Dinner, please contact Jodi Venema at 406-580-0792. Thank you for helping make the evening sweet!*

## The MCS Network Podcast: We Want to Interview YOU!

We're excited to share that the MCS Network Podcast will be returning soon! While we won't be releasing new episodes as regularly as last year, we're planning some fun special episodes — including collaborations with the high school speech classes and interviews with both new and long-standing MCS families and alumni.

Interested in being featured? It's super easy to record and you'll receive the questions in advance. Plus, you can wear sweatpants and there's no camera stress... trust me, you were born for radio! Reach out to [mcscommunications@manhattanchristian.org](mailto:mcscommunications@manhattanchristian.org) if you'd like to share your story on the podcast!

Our podcast is a great way to help spread the word to surrounding families about our special spot on the Hill. Make sure to turn on notifications on Spotify so you don't miss new episodes!

## Thank You, Mr. Bill, for 15 Years of Driving

After 15 years of safely driving our students to and from Manhattan Christian School, Bill Alberda has retired from bus driving. We're so grateful for his many years of care and dedication. Our kids on the Black Lion will sure miss him!



## Faithful Grounds Coffee Shop Artists Needed

Are you or someone you know interested in sharing your creativity with the Manhattan Christian School community? The Faithful Grounds Coffee Shop is excited to offer a space again this year for artists to display and/or sell their work. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your talent, connect with our students, families, and visitors, and be part of a vibrant, creative environment.

If you would like to participate or learn more, please contact [kswanson@manhattanchristian.org](mailto:kswanson@manhattanchristian.org). We can't wait to see your art on display!

## 2025 Homecoming & Pasture Drive In Movie

Another memorable Homecoming Week is in the books! The week was jam-packed with creative dress-up days, He-Man Volleyball, Powder Puff Football, and plenty of cheering for our high school athletes in volleyball, football, and cross country.

A big thank you to our Student Council for all their hard work planning such a fun week — from the spirited events to the amazing music genre-themed floats in the parade! We capped it all off with a great evening at the Pasture Drive-In. Another big thanks to the Pasture again this year for hosting us for a night full of games, food, and *Ferdinand!*



# Class of 1965: 60th Class Reunion Held July 5, 2025



**Back Row**

Joe Braaksma, John Brouwer, Robert Poelman, Terry Triemstra,  
Will VanDyken, Ron Bos, Keith Fennema

**Front Row**

Arlene VanEgmond VanDyke, Janice Kamps Bos,  
Carol DeJong DeYoung, Joyce Droge Walhof, Lois Ypma Westra,  
Suzanne Veltkamp Smith, Irene Veltkamp Francis, Loretta Kamps Fennema

*We love hearing from you!  
Send your photos and updates to  
mcscommunications@manhattanchristian.org*



**2025**

# FALL ALUMNI NIGHT

**HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL:**

*vs Gardiner at 5 and 6:30pm*

**PEP BAND:**

*Alumni, bring your instruments and join us at 6pm*

**FREE ADMISSION & POPCORN FOR ALUMNI:**

*Just let us know what year you graduated!*

**GIVEAWAYS:**

*MCS swag & concessions \$ up for grabs!*

**ALUMNI GAMES & COMPETITIONS:**

*Bring your sneakers!*

**TUESDAY,  
OCTOBER 14  
AT 5PM**

 **PACK THE PLACE IN PINK**



## Employment Opportunities

We are so thankful for the amazing staff that God has knit together this year! There are still a few open positions (Spiritual Life Director, Director of Development, and Secondary Music Teacher), which you can view along with their descriptions on our website under Employment Opportunities.

# Like, Follow, Comment, Share, and Subscribe!

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
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## The Manhattan Christian Network on Spotify



### Manhattan Christian School Foundation

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to join the MCSF in the category listed below.

- \$100 Maintaining Level
- \$500 Sustaining Level
- \$1,000 Embracing Level

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Pat and Stephanie: Ages 49/50

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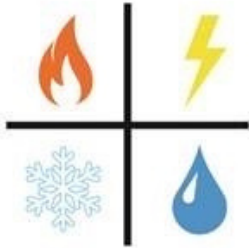
Cash-Funded \$10,000 DPGA commencing ages 88/87

Federal Tax Savings (24% x \$5,906 federal deduction)	\$1,417
State Tax Credit (40% of federal deduction)	\$3,937
<b>TOTAL TAX SAVINGS:</b>	<b>\$5,354</b>

"Cost of creating a \$10,000 MCSF Endowment \$4,646

\*The actual federal deduction of \$9,843 must be reduced by the \$3,937 METC claimed.

Become a member today by filling out the form to the left or visiting our webpage at [Manhattanchristian.org/support-mcs/mcs-foundation](http://Manhattanchristian.org/support-mcs/mcs-foundation). Contact Ron Hoekema at (406) 581-1460 with any questions or for more information.



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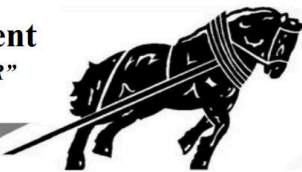
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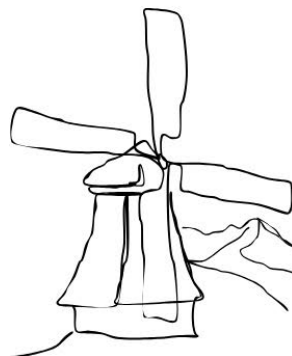
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