



MANHATTAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Connections

“For you, Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.”
Psalm 92:4

SEPTEMBER 2025

ISSUE 1

VOLUME 26

The LORD Builds the House

Nathanael Hope, Head of School

This year our theme for the school year is “The LORD Builds the House.” It is based off of Psalm 127:1-2 which states:

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.
It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil:
for He gives to His beloved sleep.

So often our mindset as Christians can tend to be something along the lines of, “God gave me this ability, this gifting, etc. I’m going to work really hard and have things pay off.” We go on and think, “If I’m going to succeed, it all depends on me.” We want to say, “God, thank you for this gift/ability; I’ve got it from here.”

What does the Psalmist say about this heart attitude? He says, “Unless the LORD builds it, our work is empty and pointless.”

This year, we want to have the mindset that it is God who works through our work. We will work knowing it is God who is doing the building.

For teachers, we will plan and teach knowing it is God who works through us.

For students, we will study and work hard knowing it is God who builds.

For coaches, we will plan practices and coach games knowing it is God who accomplishes His purpose.

For parents, we will labor tirelessly and patiently knowing it is God who will build and produce the fruit.

Everything we do at Manhattan Christian this year and beyond, we want to keep in the forefront of our attention that it is the LORD who builds the house!

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Classroom Highlight of the Month

In Cultural Explorations with Mrs. Adams, seniors will dive into global traditions through hands-on projects like cultural research, meal planning, art creation, fashion design, and more. This class offers a creative outlet similar to crafts, giving students a chance to explore the beauty and diversity of cultures around the world.

The 63rd Annual Harvest Festival: October 25

Brittany Braaksma, Head of Harvest Festival



The 63rd annual Harvest Festival at MCS is just around the corner, and we're excited to invite you to this cherished event on the morning of Saturday, October 25th!

As one of the school's biggest and most beloved traditions, the Harvest Festival serves as a major fundraiser for MCS. It's a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and celebrate the fall season and the harvest. There's something for everyone to enjoy!

For the kids, the carnival games are always a highlight, while others come for the mouthwatering food, cookies, pies, delicious Dutch desserts, and caramel apples. Visitors can also find a variety of treats to take home, making sure no one leaves empty-handed. Our community shows its support through the live and silent auctions held throughout the day, and don't miss the Harvest Market, where you can purchase unique handmade items crafted by students and local artisans.

Whether you're a familiar face at past festivals or this will be your first time attending, there's plenty of fun to be had and memories to make.

MCS thrives because of the generous support from our families, alumni, and friends. Your contributions make a big difference! If you'd like to help out, there are many ways to get involved. Whether you enjoy crafting, baking, or other creative activities, we'd love for you to lend your talents. If you're able to donate cookies, pies, Dutch Specialties or other baked goods, please don't wait for a call—reach out to us directly. Our needs often change, and we want to make sure we have everything covered.

We are incredibly grateful to our alumni, grandparents, friends old and new, and all of our supporters who give their time, talents, or donations to ensure the success of this event.

For more details or if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Brittany Braaksma at brittany.braaksma@gmail.com. We can't wait to see you there!

Students, are you interested in selling your homemade goods in the Harvest Market (formerly craft room)? We have space for five student vendors, so act quickly! Scan the QR code to the right and reach out if you have any questions on this process!



Grace Dyk will have 2026 Calendars for sale in the atrium at the Harvest Festival. The calendar is entitled, "Psalm 121: 1-2. I lift up my eyes to the mountains- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth."

WELCOME New Students & Families!

Dan & Becky Bos: Tony, First Grade

Austin & Jaclyn Bosma: Grady, Kindergarten

Darren & Kaycie Braaksma: Braylee, Kindergarten

Micah & Katrina Burson: Briar, Fifth Grade

Cruz, Kindergarten

Jeff & Amanda Byler: Trenton, Ninth Grade

Tanner & Deborah Cochrell: Wesley, Third Grade

Amina, Sixth Grade

Tyler & Aimee Decker: Joshua, Kindergarten

Travis & Katie DeHaan: Ella, Seventh Grade

Derek & Erika DeJong: Barrett, Kindergarten

Sheryl Dettman: Madison, Fifth Grade

Tyler & Whitney DeVries: Eden, Second Grade

Levi, Fourth Grade

Deanna Dykema: AnnaMarie, Kindergarten

Trent & Kelly Dykman: Trent Jr., Kindergarten

Tucker & Nikki Edmundson: Cormac, Ninth Grade

Eric & Alana Edwards: Colter, Sixth Grade

Garrett, First Grade

Jake & Alyssa Feddes: Ella, Seventh Grade

Zach & Ashley Fountaine: Harper, Fourth Grade

Paige, Sixth Grade

Jeremy & Maud Gingerich: Danica, Fifth Grade

Marija, Seventh Grade

Cody & Kari Ham: Eliza, Kindergarten

Jeff & Kalin Higgs: Oscar, Eighth Grade

Richard & Lindsey Hurley: Christian, Kindergarten

David & Katie Kimm: Trace, Seventh Grade

Levi, Kindergarten

Michael & Erika Lanzarini: Niko, First Grade

Daniel & Hannah Lerud: Emma, Seventh Grade

Andrew & Sarah MacElroy: Sterling, Seventh Grade

Hunter, Third Grade

Gavin, Third Grade

Heidi, Kindergarten

Cole & Ali McIntosh: Katelyn, First Grade

Brett & Michelle Nibbelink: Micah, Sixth Grade

Bria, Ninth Grade

Kelly & Annie O'Hara: Solomon O'Hara, Seventh Grade

Cody & Jordan Pendergrass: Otilie, Kindergarten

Darin & Jayme Swenson: Ridge, First Grade

Remmy, Fourth Grade

Ryder, Eighth Grade

Reagan, Ninth Grade

Peter & Fallon Tranel: Paisley, Kindergarten

Austin & Amber VanDyken: Kinsley, Kindergarten

Lyndsey Whatley: Kinley, Eighth Grade

Erika Zanotti: Noah, Fourth Grade

Manhattan Christian had three high school girls audition for All State choir this past June. In Montana, there were a total of 1079 HS students who auditioned. All three of our students were accepted into the All State Choir which will be performing in Great Falls on Saturday, October 18. Huge congratulations to Haley Sander, Eliza Kimm, and Cecelia Morrison.

Two MCS Sweet Pea Poster Winners

Congratulations to MCS sophomores Harper Ohs and Alexa Van Kley! Last year, as students wrapped up their freshman year in Mrs. Ayers' Desktop Publishing class, they designed posters with original artwork for Bozeman's annual Sweet Pea Festival. Harper and Alexa's posters were selected among the top 24 out of 105 submissions and were proudly displayed at the ERA Landmark Visitors Center in Bozeman from July 1-30, with an artist reception held on July 11. Great job, Harper and Alexa!

Alexa Van Kley



Harper Ohs

Manhattan Christian X-Country 2025

DATE	OPPONENTS	Teams	Race Time
8/29/2025	@ Livingston	HS/MS	10:00 AM
9/5/2025	@ Gal. County Park (Belgrade)	HS/MS	9:00 AM
9/11/2025	@ Pony	HS/MS	9:00 AM
9/20/2025	@Mtn. West (Missoula)	HS/MS	TBD
9/25/2025	@ Butte High (Highland View)	HS/MS	12:00 PM
10/3/2025	@ Three Forks (Headwaters GC)	HS/MS	TBD
10/9/2025	@ Capital City 7on7 (Helena)	HS/MS	TBD
10/11/2025	@ BTC/XC	MS	TBA
10/16/2025	@ Cottonwood Hills	HS	8:00 AM
10/25/2025	@ STATE C, Missoula	HS	TBA, leave friday

Manhattan Christian High School Football 2025

DATE	OPPONENTS	Teams	Game Time
8/30/2025	vs Lone Peak	V	4 pm
9/5/2025	@ Twin Bridges	V	7 pm
9/19/2025	@ Flint Creek	V	7 pm
9/27/2025	vs Harlowton	V	1 pm
10/4/2025	vs Sheridan	V	3 pm
10/10/2025	@ Lame Deer	V	7 pm
10/17/2025	@ Park City	V	7 pm
10/23/2025	vs Ennis	V	3 pm
11/1/2025	1st Round of Playoffs	V	TBD
11/8/2025	2nd Round of Playoffs	V	TBD
11/15/2025	3rd Round of Playoffs	V	TBD
11/22/2025	State Championship	V	TBD

2025 Manhattan Christian HS Volleyball

DATE	OPPONENTS	Teams	Game Times
8/29/2025	@ Shelby Tournament	V	TBD
8/30/2025	@ Shelby Tournament	V	TBD
9/2/2025	vs Shields Valley	JV,V	5pm start
9/9/2025	@ Three Forks	C,JV,V	4 pm start
9/12/2025	@ Manhattan	C,JV,V	4 pm start
9/16/2025	vs Twin Bridges	JV,V	4 pm start
9/20/2025	@ Drummond	C,JV,V	3 pm start
9/23/2025	vs Three Forks	C,JV,V	2:30pm start
9/25/2025	@ Gardiner	JV,V	4 pm start
9/27/2025	MCS Invitational	V	TBD
9/30/2025	vs Manhattan	C,JV,V	4 pm start
10/2/2025	vs GVHS	C,JV	4pm start
10/3/2025	@ West Yellowstone	JV,V	4 pm start
10/9/2025	vs Drummond	C,JV,V	4pm start
10/10/2025	@ Shields Valley	JV,V	5pm start
10/14/2025	vs Gardiner	JV,V	5pm start
10/16/2025	vs Belt	JV,V	4 pm start
10/21/2025	@ Twin Bridges	JV,V	5:30 pm start
10/24/2025	vs West Yellowstone	JV,V	4pm start
10/30-10/31	12C DISTRICTS (At MCS)		TBD
11/6-11-8	WESTERN C DIVISIONALS (At MCS)		TBD
11/12-11/14	STATE C TOURNAMENT (AT MSU)		TBD



Schedules are subject to change.
Make sure to check the
live Google Calendar
and watch our social
media for updates!



Welcome to MCS; We are So Glad You're Here!



Joe Espinosa

Join us in welcoming our new Head Custodian, Joe! Over the summer, Joe dedicated countless hours to improving our facilities. He has introduced new tools and procedures that are already making a positive impact. We're incredibly grateful to have him on the team!

Ashley Fountaine

Welcome Ashley, our new IT Coordinator! Ashley has stepped into a brand-new role on our team and has already made a big impact. She spent part of her summer at school organizing and preparing our technology for the new year. As our tech needs continue to grow, we're grateful to have Ashley's knowledge and expertise supporting our staff and students!



Todd Rosenberger

Introducing Todd Rosenberger, our new (interim) Band Director! Todd brings a wealth of experience from public and private schools, most recently directing music programs in Manhattan Public Schools and serving as Artist in Residence at Northwest College in Wyoming. He's passionate about helping kids grow through music and is excited to join the MCS family. When he's not in the band room, you'll likely find him camping with his Labrador, Layla, and enjoying a Crumbl cookie or two!

Jeff Morrison

Welcome Jeff Morrison, our Interim High School Choir Teacher! Jeff is a dedicated MCS parent with a wealth of musical experience, and we're so grateful to have him stepping in to lead our high school choir this year. His passion for music and heart for students make him a wonderful addition to the team during this transition.



Meghan Mitchell

Say hello to Meghan Mitchell, our a familiar face and new 2nd Grade Teacher! Meghan is returning to the classroom after time at home with her children and brings past experience teaching 2nd and 5th grade in Washington. She's excited to be part of a Christian school where she can share Jesus with her students. Outside of school, she enjoys reading, floating rivers, and spending time with her pets—dogs, cats, a horse, and even chickens!

Jill Ray

Welcome Jill Ray, our new 1st Grade Teacher! Jill comes to MCS with 20 years of experience teaching kindergarten and first grade in California. She's excited to integrate faith with learning in a close-knit, Christ-centered community, and looks forward to forming strong, individualized connections with her students. Jill enjoys baking, decorating, party planning, and spending time with her husband and three kids—and she never says no to a Diet Coke or a homemade brownie!



Michelle Nibbelink

We're excited to welcome a familiar face to the MCS Middle School Team—Michelle Nibbelink! Michelle, also known as Mr. T's sister, has returned to Montana after spending time in California and is thrilled to be teaching middle school this year. We're so grateful to have her energy, experience, and heart for students back at MCS!

Jenny Thompson

Welcome Jenny Preece-Thompson, our K-8 Vocal Teacher! Jenny has a background in vocal performance and music education and spent the last three years teaching in Arizona. She loves music, is a devoted Diamondbacks fan, and is always up for Mexican or Italian food (with a dark chocolate treat to follow). Jenny is excited to share her love of music with students and be part of the vibrant MCS community.



Abbi Mulder



Meet Abbi Mulder, our new Middle School Science Teacher! Abbi holds a degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Middle School Science and is currently pursuing her Master's in Science Education. She comes to us with teaching experience in ELA and Bible, along with coaching varsity and JV girls basketball. Abbi is passionate about hands-on learning, fly fishing, hiking with her husband and golden retriever Morris, and diving into God's creation through science.

Genevieve Morrison



We're excited to welcome Miss Genevieve to MCS as our new Kindergarten teacher! She's an MCS alumna and a recent graduate of the University of Sioux Falls, where she studied Elementary Education, Special Education, and Vocal Performance. This is her first year teaching, and she's thrilled to be back at the school that means so much to her. Genevieve loves baking, painting, singing, and spending time with her fiancé, family, and friends. Welcome back, Miss Morrison!

Cooper Dixon



Welcome Cooper Dixon, our new School Counselor! Cooper is currently completing his Master's in Education for School Counseling and has a background in psychology from the University of Sioux Falls. He's excited to support students in a Christ-centered environment and looks forward to building meaningful relationships with students, families, and staff. You might also find him on the basketball court, golf course, or playing guitar at a local coffee shop—black coffee in hand!

WE'RE HIRING!

We are still searching for second semester High School Music & Bus Drivers

Visit our website: manhattanchristian.org/employment/



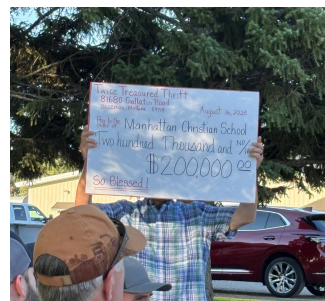
Volleyball Places Second at Annual Preseason Tournament

Eagles volleyball players had an incredible opening weekend of their 2025 season! They fell to the class B Fairfield Eagles in the championship match 21-25, 27-26, 1-7 (best of three; cap of 27). Great work, girls!



Twice Treasured Thrift Store: Another Amazing Year

Twice Treasured, our school's beloved thrift store, celebrated another amazing year of service and support. Staff, board members, and volunteers gathered for a joyful meal and fellowship, during which they presented Manhattan Christian School with a generous \$200,000 check to further our mission. We are incredibly grateful for their dedication and partnership in nurturing our school community!



senior project

For my senior project, I'm working on raising awareness about organ donation. I've already started communicating with the family support team that works with donor families, and I'll soon begin creating keepsakes to donate back to the organization. I'll be working on these with the help of Mrs. Swanson's elementary art classes. I also plan to speak at chapel about the importance of understanding what it means to be a donor and the impact it can have on families. This project is especially meaningful to me, as I'm doing it in honor of my aunt, who made the selfless decision to become a donor.

Brook Leep

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 _____

Manhattan Christian School Foundation

Our mission is to lower tuition!

Now Accepting Membership Applications!

A big welcome and thank you to our new members!

**Not a member yet? Please consider
SIGNING UP NOW!**

We are earnestly asking for your show of support.

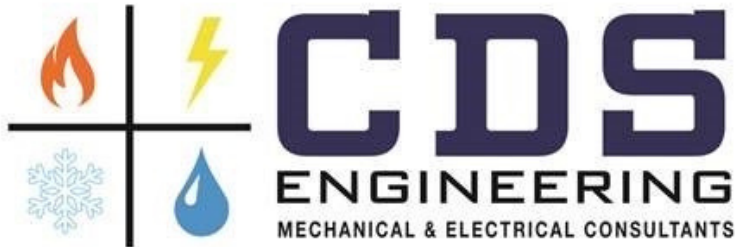
The vision of your fathers needs to be picked up in the present. 90% of our current members are over the age of 70. Most people joined over 20 years ago! Our goal is 250 members; will you help us get there and make lowering tuition your mission too?

**Become a member today by filling out the form to the left or visiting our
webpage at Manhattanchristian.org/support-mcs/mcs-foundation.**

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

Want more information on the Foundation?
Scan the QR code to hear all about it on our school's podcast!





Cory Vellinga - Broker

Cell: 406.220.1900

1970 Stadium Dr. Ste. 1

Bozeman, MT 59715

vellingaRE@gmail.com

www.discoveringthebigsky.com



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1245 North 15th Ave.

Bozeman, MT 59715

www.bozemanclinic.com

Gabor Benda, M.D.
Matthew Harrison, M.D.
Christy Mitchell, M.D.
Steven Roberts, D.O.
Jeremy Waters, M.D.
Kara Waters, D.O.
Sarah Watt, PA-C
Heather Wheeler, M.D.
Judy Douglas, Administrator

Phone: 406.587.4242

Fax: 406.587.3507

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Dave Cole
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1610 Ellis Street, Suite 3A | Bozeman, Montana 59715

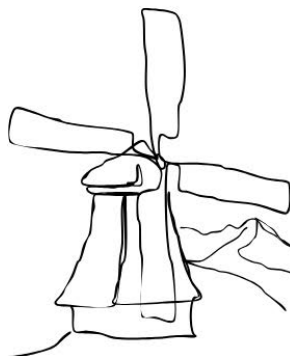
office: 406.582.1082 | mobile: 406.209.0649 | toll-free: 888.681.4188

fax: 406.582.1147 | e-mail: Dave.Cole@Raymondjames.com

www.PalisadeFinancialMT.com

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7255 Churchill Road



randy visser

(1) 406.3333

randy@visserarchitects.net

163 quiet water way
manhattan, mt 59741



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8000 Churchill Road
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