



MANHATTAN  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Connections

"...Throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Hebrews 12:1

APRIL/MAY 2024 ISSUE 7 VOLUME 24

## Tulip Mania, Thank You!

*Joel Westa, Head of School*

Part of my job description as Head of School is raising the funds necessary for the school to function. In order to improve my skills and abilities in that area I've been taking advantage of online courses, webinars, and talking with friends who do fundraising and development work for their vocation. A podcast I came across the other day was titled "How to raise \$100,000 in five months!!". I chuckled to myself reading that title. MCS just completed Tulip Mania where we raised \$100,000 in five minutes! Our total for the auction and event including the Dutch Supper was over \$150,000: \$103,668 in kitchen donations and \$44,904 in auction sales. I want to thank all of the volunteers who served and planned the event, all of you who donated items, and all of you who were so generous throughout that evening.



This generosity is not unusual for the Manhattan Christian School community, but based on my experience, I haven't seen this level of sacrifice, generosity and giving in many other places. I think the reason is two-fold. First, a deep appreciation for the mission of this school and the impact it has had and continues to have on so many lives. Secondly, and more importantly, I think, is that this generosity flows from an understanding and appreciation for God's generosity to us in our own lives. All that we have been given ultimately comes from the Lord, and instead of holding onto it with a death grip, we open our hand and pass along those gifts. Thank you, all!

## April/May Contents

Thank You!

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We Are Hiring!

## Our Mission at Manhattan Christian

Manhattan Christian inspires students to live God-glorifying lives by teaching Christ's lordship in faith, learning, and living.



## National Honor Society Welcomes New Members



Miranda Wyatt  
Simeon O'Hara  
Kyanna Hoekema  
Mason Venema  
Gracie Honey  
Elaena Kamerman  
Bella Triemstra  
Isaac Hoekema  
Olivia Leep  
Wylie Donaldson  
Samantha Veltkamp

New members (names featured right) pictured with existing members. These students demonstrate and are committed to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

## Register for Little Eagle Summer Camps!

Dates are set for Little Eagles Volleyball and Basketball Camps!

**Mark your calendars for June 4, 5, and 6!**

- 6-9th (fall of 2024) grade volleyball from 8:15-10:15am
- K-5th (fall of 2024) grade volleyball from 10:30am-12:30pm
- Lunch Break for Campers 12:30-1pm
- K-5th (fall of 2024) grade basketball from 1-4pm



## We are Hiring!

There are still a number of employment opportunities for the 2024-2025 school year! Find them listed on page 6 or visit our website at [manhattanchristian.org/employment](http://manhattanchristian.org/employment) for a list of openings and our employment applications.

## Theater Program Wraps Up Cinderella: the Musical

Missed it or want to watch it again? The link to view is on our website under Arts!



## Association Meeting: Tuesday, May 7 at 7pm

Join us for the opportunity to see, hear, and vote on current and future initiatives in the school. In addition to hearing reports on all aspects of school operations and functions, we will be voting to elect three new Board members and approve our Strategic Plan which includes plans for beginning the process of building a new addition to our school. You'll also have the opportunity to meet some new staff who are joining us for the upcoming year. If you have any questions as to whether you are officially on the Association member list, please contact the front office prior to the meeting. Please join us on May 7th at 7pm for this important meeting!

## ROTARY

April  
student of the month

Please join us in congratulating April's Rotary Student of the Month, chosen by his teachers, Aiden Flikkema. Students chosen for this award are known to display high character, leadership, and community mindedness both at and away from school.



**Meet Manhattan Christian Senior,**  
Aiden Flikkema

**How long have you been at MCS?** I have attended MCS since kindergarten.

**What extracurriculars have you been involved in during your time here?** I play golf.

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

My favorite classes have been Stem Class and Animations Class. I enjoyed these classes because they involve computers and they let you decide how much work you want to put into the classes.

**What are some of your best non-academic memories?** My top two favorite memories at MCS would have to be the Senior Retreat and the 8th Grade Expedition: Yellowstone trip.

**What goal have you set for yourself during your senior year?** My overall goal for senior year is to finish out my last year in high school well.

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

For my senior project I decided to teach a model rocket class with a few 7th and 8th graders. In the class the students learned how rockets worked, how to make good designs, and learned different ways to make a rocket successful. During the class the students learned a lot and had a great time using their brains to create designs that would make a successful rocket.

**What are your plans for after graduation?** I will be attending Dordt next year and taking their Engineering Technology program; the subgroup of that program is the MPI program and that is for a future job as a CNC programmer.



# SAVE THESE DATES

## SPRING FUN AT MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN!

*\*Event will be livestreamed; find the links to watch on our website.*

### FREEDOM HALL WAX MUSEUM

Mrs. Kukes' fifth grade presents the annual Freedom Hall Wax Museum.  
**Thursday, May 16** in the atrium.

### ASSOCIATION MEETING

**Tuesday, May 7 at 7pm** in the Eagle Gym. Association members have the opportunity to see, hear, and vote on current and future initiatives in the school. Read more on page 2.

### MS/HS SPRING CONCERT

**Wednesday, May 22 at 7pm** in the MEC\* under the direction of Mrs. Anna Brewer. A special thank you to Mr. Morrison, Mr. Hope, and Mr. Sutton for their time with this program as well!

### SENIOR PROJECT & AWARDS NIGHT

Come hear what the seniors have been working on throughout the year;  
**Monday, May 20, 7pm.** Read project previews on pages 4-5.

### SPRING ART SHOW

**May 21-22** in the Eagle Gym. You don't want to miss Mrs. Swanson's notable presentation of K-12 grade art projects.

### ELEMENTARY SPRING CONCERT

**Tuesday, May 21 at 6pm** in the MEC\* under the direction of Mrs. Jackie Van Dam.



**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**  
Friday, May 31, 6pm\*



**ELEMENTARY FUN RUN**  
Friday, May 10



**GRANDPARENTS' DAY**  
Wednesday, May 22



**8TH GRADE COMMENCEMENT CHAPEL**  
Friday, May 31, 10am\*



## Senior Project Community Night

Congratulations to these hardworking 2024 seniors! Please join us on Monday, May 20 at 7pm for Senior Awards and Senior Project Presentations. We will begin in the Eagle Gym and then divide into classrooms for three separate sessions. Read a preview of their projects here:



Nicholas Albro

For my senior project, I held a baseball gear drive for less fortunate kids in the Dominican Republic.



Livia Appleby

I did a personal care item drive for Love INC, a non-profit organization in Bozeman that meets the needs of those struggling in the Gallatin Valley.



Oren Arthun

I volunteered to help build an affordable home for a family in our area.



Clara Bradsma

For my senior project I worked to raise money for a new school drum set through donations for giving percussion lessons to middle and high schoolers.



Jacie Burley

For my senior project I set up a toy drive for new and used toys to donate to kids in need.



Lindsay Cook

For my senior project, I brought letterman jackets to our school to recognize all of the accomplishments made by students. By bringing these jackets in, we can show our hard work and achievements for all sports and extracurricular activities.



Christopher Dykema

For my senior project I chose to help those who fought for our freedom by donating wild game to the Veterans of Montana. I worked with Whalen's Meat Packing and the Montana Veterans Meat Locker to make the donation possible.



Aiden Flikkema

I decided to teach a model rocket class with a few 7th and 8th graders. In the class the students learned how rockets worked, how to make good designs and learned different ways to make a rocket successful.



Avery Flikkema

I am selling gently used clothing that was taken in from Meridian Boutique. I created a profit and loss spreadsheet, priced the items and had events in April where I sold the pieces of clothing. My goal was to break even and have this process happen again in the future.



Kyanna Hoekema

For my Senior project I remodeled and organized the theater room. The theater room is located beneath the stage and with the growing theater program was in need of some attention. I cleaned it up, upgraded the dressing rooms, and added a makeup vanity.



Gracie Honey

For my senior project, I organized a diaper drive and gave the diapers to ZoeCare for their patient's babies.





Benjamin Kinn

I commandeered a creative writing class and turned it into a Drama Club. After going over basic acting skills, such as speaking loudly/clearly, they wrote and performed their own mini plays.



Simeon O'Hara

For my senior project I am helping out at the Love INC. Car Clinic. We meet once a month and fix cars for those in need for the cost of parts.



Jocee Ruffatto

My hope and goal for my senior project is to show everyone how important children's/ youth ministry is and why we need to support and nurture it. I'm going to be giving two sermons, one to my youth group and one to base camp, which is my church's Sunday school. I will also be going to Mongolia to teach the leaders of the churches there how to teach kids and youth about Jesus.



Ryan Schott

For my senior project I am organizing a blood drive and knitting hats to send to the American Cancer Society.



Nolan Street

I want people to understand God better and to be able to internalize His word. I want people to come out of it stronger, feeling like they know God better.



Samantha VanDyken

I built a dining room table for the non-profit organization family promise.



Katelyn Van Kirk

For my project I ran a volleyball camp for 5-6th grade girls! I want to be able to be a light to younger kids as well as teach them about the sport I love!

*\*Katelyn will not be presenting on May 20.*



Mason Venerma

For my senior project, I went to Whittier elementary school and played basketball and football with the kids that are a part of the after school program.



Brenna Venhuizen

I captured, created, and posted all of the content for the MCS football Instagram and Facebook pages during the 2023/24 season.



Clark Venhuizen

My senior project is learning music theory in order to write and transcribe music for the concert and pep band.



Miranda Wyatt

I renovated the empty space by the office to make it a cozy coffee bar that can be used by anyone.

*Come Celebrate!*

Join us on Friday, May 31 at 6pm in the MEC for High School Graduation.

Can't be there in person?

Watch live from our website at [manhattanchristian.org/arts](http://manhattanchristian.org/arts)



# WE'RE HIRING!

Open Positions for the 2024-'25 School Year



- Head of Concessions
- Bus Drivers
- Janitor
- Early Learning Center Director
- Early Learning Center Staff
- Transportation Director

**Apply Now or Share These Positions with a Friend!**

Visit our website: [manhattanchristian.org/employment/](http://manhattanchristian.org/employment/)



**Manhattan Christian Gear is NOW ON HAND in the Office!**

Sweatshirts (\$30) & Hats (\$20)

*Stop by the office to get yours today!*

## Manhattan Christian School Foundation

***Our Mission is to Lower Tuition!***

**The key to the success of our Foundation is to bring our 40 & 50 year olds on board!**

Are you ready to pay your blessings forward? Please consider including MCS Foundation in Your Planning

**Pat & Stephanie: Ages 49/50**

5% Stretch-Out Deferred Payment Gift Annuity

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

**TOTAL TAX SAVINGS:**

**\$5,354\***

**"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.

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





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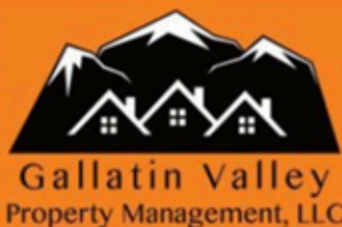
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don't miss any of the fun!  
Scan here to view the MCS  
calendar with all events, times,  
and locations.

