



MANHATTAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Connections

“But the angel said to them, ‘I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today a Savior has been born to you.’”
Luke 2:10-11

DECEMBER 23-JANUARY 24 — ISSUE 4 VOLUME 24

Year-End Giving Campaign

Joel Westa, Head of School

We are filled with gratitude for the Lord's provision and excitement for what is ahead. I love this time of year as we pause to celebrate the birth of our Savior, and also look forward in eager anticipation of what is to come.

2 Corinthians 9:8 declares that “God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” I'm so thankful for how the Lord continues to use Manhattan Christian to be a shining light in our community. With His guidance, we work diligently to live out our mission to “...inspire students to live God-glorifying lives by teaching Christ's lordship in faith, learning, and living.”

Our end-of-year Giving Campaign is coming to a close on December 31st! This campaign is about strengthening our commitment to our mission and vision as we continue to move Manhattan Christian forward. Our dedication to faith-based education remains at the core of our mission and partnership with Christian families and the church. It is the essence of what we do here at MCS.

You should have received a letter which includes a stamped return gift envelope. I'd ask you to prayerfully consider making a generous tax-deductible end of year donation to MCS. If for some reason you did not receive a letter, please use the QR code below to take you to our online giving page. Your gift will have an immediate impact on the day-to-day student experience here at Manhattan Christian as we provide tuition assistance to worthy families who desire a Christian education for their children. We will also be raising money for campus improvement projects, and finally, we will designate a portion of the funds to address unexpected needs that may arise over the coming months here at MCS.

Please follow Manhattan Christian School on Instagram and Facebook, and check back here for updates on our year-end giving campaign.

Your generosity not only empowers our school but also touches the lives of generations to come. Together, we can take our vision to new heights through the power of generosity. Thank you for your faithful support of Manhattan Christian School.

Scan here to
donate now



Teaching for Transformation:

To encourage life-long learners, TFT focuses on four main Habits of Learning. The third being Joy-Filled Collaborators: We are grateful, playful, and reflective.

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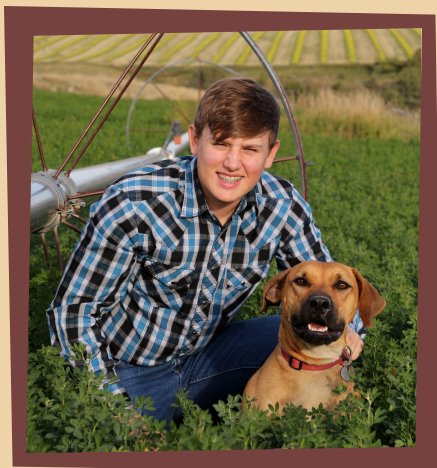
MCS Foundation

New Website: LIVE

R O T A R Y

student of the month

Please join us in congratulating December's Rotary Student of the Month , Simeon O'Hara. Simeon was chosen by his teachers because he is known to display high character, leadership, and community mindedness both at and away from school.



**Meet Manhattan Christian Senior,
Simeon O'Hara.**

How long have you been at MCS?

I have attended MCS from preschool to 3rd grade, then I went to Amsterdam Elementary from 4th until 6th grade, and then I returned to MCS in 7th grade.

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

Golf, Cross Country (2021-2022), and Track (2017-2021)

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

I have earned Academic All-State in every high school sport that I have participated in.

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

That's hard to pick. I enjoyed STEM, Accounting, and US History.

What are some of your best non-academic memories?

One of my favorite memories at MCS was the senior retreat this fall when we played paintball, and we had a really fun time together as a class.

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

Finish strong and be prepared for what is in store next year.

What are you working on for your Senior Project?

I am serving once a month at the Love INC. Car Clinic. There I am learning about mechanics to help me in my career, and it allows me to help others.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I plan on going to college at either MSU Northern, or at Wyotech, and getting a degree in Diesel Technology. I plan to be a mechanic after I graduate.

Preseason Reminder

Kendal Walhof, Board Member

This article was written and published a few years ago, but is worth sharing again as we enter another winter sports season here at MCS. Thank you, Kendal!

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16 ESV.

As we enter the winter sports season, it's important to remember that our basketball players, our coaches, our parents, and our fans all have the same goal. We are all on the same team and our goal is to glorify God through our words and actions on and off the court. We want others to be directed toward Christ by the way we all act.

So, how do our basketball players do that? It could be as simple as leaving the locker rooms cleaner than upon arrival. It could be by helping opponents up after they hit the floor. It could be by showing all-out effort and an intense desire to win. It could be by showing respect to officials, opponents, and to coaches. It could be by emotionally lifting up a dejected teammate. It could be by cleaning up the bus after a road trip. It could be by befriending someone on the other side of the gym. It could be by complementing an opponent on social media rather than tearing them down. It could be by giving full effort and focus whether it's in a November practice or in the State championship game. It could be by showing humility after a comfortable victory or showing an opponent respect after a close loss.

How do we as coaches glorify God? We treat each each player with dignity and respect. We diligently work to bring about improvement, intensity, and dedication on our teams. We do our best to treat officials, opposing players, coaches, and fans with respect and honor their efforts. We lead, discipline, encourage, and correct our players in the game of basketball and in the game of life. We maintain a line of communication with our players and respect their effort and determination. We support the principles of Manhattan Christian School. We strongly promote academic success as well as athletic success. We show more interest in your child being successful in life and in their walk with the Lord than successful in basketball.

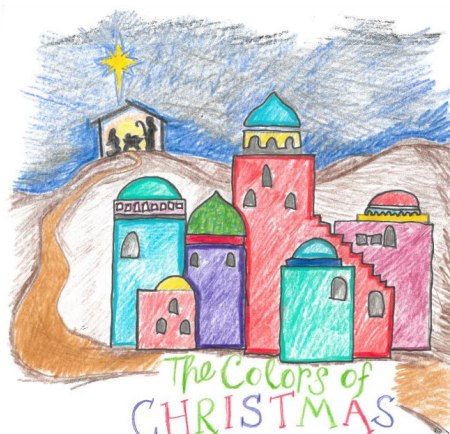
How can parents direct others toward Christ? They encourage their son or daughter. They focus on ways they can help the team, regardless of playing time. They cheer everybody on the team, not just their child. They are good listeners and great encouragers. They support the coaches instead of tearing them down. They thank and appreciate game officials for their willingness to serve even if they don't appreciate the quality of the officiating.

How can fans direct others toward Christ? Break down barriers that may have been created between our community and our opponents' fan base. Develop relationships and complement opponents. Start a conversation with someone from a visiting team, someone you've never met before. Be positive. Model appropriate behavior. Be welcoming and hospitable to those entering our amazing athletic complex and if you're at another facility, clean up your area before heading home.

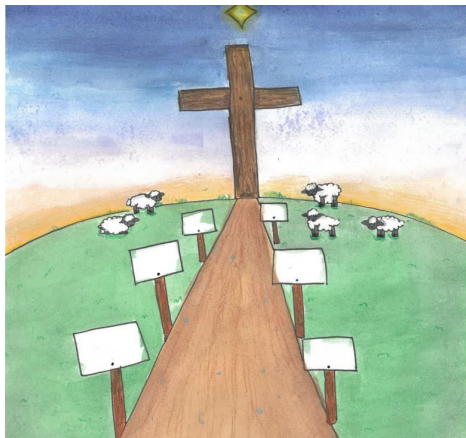
As Christians, we are not doing this to draw attention to ourselves. We want to be a light on the Hill so that it draws others to the body of Christ. We have a tremendous opportunity as a community to show Christ's love to others. Let's work together to do this as a community that loves the game of basketball.

New Notes: The Happenings of the Music Department

We enjoyed two lovely Christmas concerts this month! Thank you to Mrs. Brewer and Mrs. Van Dam for their tireless work preparing our students to share the gift of music with our community during this holiday season! If you were unable to catch either concert, they are viewable using the QR code below. A special thanks to our student artists, Teegan F., Emily S., and Austyn S. for designing our program covers!



Couldn't join us?
Watch them here!



Twice Treasured Thrift Store Holiday Hours

The Thrift Store will not be taking donations December 18 through the 26. The store will be closed December 23-26 and January 1 and 2, so will not be accepting donations during that time either. As always, we accept *clean, working, and sellable* items. We ask that you do not leave donations when the store is not open. Please call if you have a special request. During this season as we celebrate Christ's birth, we give thanks for the volunteers and how they show Christ's love in the way they serve our community through Twice Treasured. Stop by and tell the volunteers and staff how valued they are by the school. Treats are always accepted! Merry Christmas from all of us at Twice Treasured.

New Water Bottles

A big thank you to MCS sophomore, Sophia Beiswanger, and her family's business, Gallatin Valley Carpet One, for the gift of two pallets of custom-labeled waters to be sold at concessions! What a generous way to bless our school and a fun way to get our 2023-2024 school year theme into the hands of both local folks and fans from other schools.



**MANHATTAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself,
unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.



ABIDE IN CHRIST

Visit manhattanchristian.org

JOHN 15:4

From the Manhattan Christian School Board

The MCS board is deeply appreciative of the involvement of our community in this endeavor we call Manhattan Christian School. The Vision of this community is to: cultivate growth within our students in knowledge, conviction, and maturity; create a dynamic vision of Christ's Lordship; nurture a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that develops a Christ-like love demonstrated to all people; and inspire each other to strive for His glory in all of life.

As truth remains under attack: walking down the street, entering a library, glancing at our phones, seeking news, and interacting with our world, each requires a great amount of wisdom and discernment. So also in education we must remain vigilant and aware as the godless agendas of our day become mainstreamed in the secular education system. We are grateful to have the 100+ year history of doing that at MCS and will continue to hold to our Reformed faith that confronts our culture with the truth of sin, God's sovereignty and His gracious redemptive plan. Although the world around us may be in crisis, His Kingdom is not!

There are many things here at MCS that are important to carrying out our purpose and we seek to foster a culture of growth in quality. None is more important than our staff. As a board we are extremely thankful for their love for God, the calling he has given each of them here at MCS, and their diligence in pursuit of that calling. Although not perfect, they are committed, invested, and discerning as they teach and interact with our kids each and every day. Supporting, encouraging, teaming with, and trusting our teachers is implicit as we pursue our mission. A culture of quality means that when you do have questions or concerns, bringing them to your children's teachers in a 'speaking the truth in love' manner will enable us to grow together.

MCS' policy holds us accountable to our mission and vision, and to our Association. That policy speaks to our curriculum. It provides for a 5 year cycle that ensures each of our curriculums are reviewed on a regular basis. In addition, this year we have added a part time curriculum coordinator and moved our counselor position from half time to full time to help in this effort. Although this cycle doesn't always result in a new curriculum, this year it has brought about the implementation of a new math curriculum, and currently we are reviewing our English Language Arts, Bible, and Social Emotional Learning(SEL) curricula. As noted in previous communications, we have been analyzing our current SEL and investigating other options in pursuit of a tool that aligns with our mission and vision, recognizing Christ's Lordship over 'every square inch' of who we, as created in God's image, are. The board has mandated this to be completed before next school year. SEL will continue to be used only in grades K-5, as it has been in the past. It would be wonderful if a rigorous Christian curriculum existed for every area of education, unfortunately this is often not the case. Our policy ensures we will continue to evaluate and pursue God glorifying tools for our faculty to implement.

We acknowledge there may still be some confusion generated over what SEL is. If that is you, we encourage you to talk to your children's teacher or MCS administration if you haven't already. Although this terminology is somewhat newer (in the last 20 years). The practice has been around as long as teaching and is simply "whole person" education. This is at the core of what we pursue at MCS. A seasoned teacher with years of experience likely does this very naturally and may not need or use a curriculum, while a younger teacher may benefit greatly from some tools that help them work through specific behavioral lessons or situations. Often this can be implemented to enable the application of a Bible lesson. It does not, nor will it ever, take precedence over God's word, rather, like Algebra, may grow out of our understanding of His world and what it means to be human. Regardless of experience or youth, as noted above, we aim to give our teachers access to tools they find useful and appropriate and trust they will continue to discerningly utilize them in the education of the hearts and minds of our students living and learning in a fallen world.

We understand that in our polarized and hyper politicized age there will be varied views and opinions on many curriculum choices. We ask that you continue to partner with us in a spirit of trust and teamwork and not a spirit of fear. It is implicit in the Biblical worldview that results in schools like MCS, that first and foremost, parents are given the responsibility for their children's education; second, schools can assist in providing vocationally appropriate teachers of technical and complex subject matter and, corporately, other important resources and assets; and third, that this dance between parents and schools occurs inside the understanding that God's covenant people educate their children, heart, soul, mind and strength, in a way that recognizes Christ's Lordship over all. In that understanding, we welcome future conversations and pledge to listen to you and ask that before reaching a conclusion, you will also listen in return. As members of the body of Christ we are commanded to speak the truth. We are also commanded to do so in love. Communications that seek to undermine the school as a whole or the personhood of our staff are not appropriate. While we will disagree about many things along the way, we must continue to keep at our center Christ. On a more micro level, our center may be defined as: MCS inspires students to live God-glorifying lives by teaching Christ's lordship in faith, learning and living. Let's continue the messy calling to Glorify God, pursue excellence and provide correction, reproof and training in righteousness TOGETHER as His body.

The Kitchen is Hiring!

The kitchen is hiring two individuals to start after Christmas Break (January 3).

Salad Bar Set Up, Food Prep, and Cleaning Help

Monday-Friday

8:30am-2pm

(or until finished)

Lunch Time Clerk

Monday-Friday

10am-2pm

(These hours could vary)

This position will also consist of some food prep and clean up as needed.

These positions can be full or part time if you or anyone you know is interested in some or all days.

manhattanchristian.org/employment/



New Eagle Baby!

Congratulations to Resource Room Director, Hannah Brouwer, and her husband, Neil, on the birth of their daughter, Cora Dani. Cora was born on November 5 and joins big sisters, Bria and Andi.



'23-'24 Yearbooks

Purchase before March 8th to get them for \$50!

If you missed out on last year's copy, there are extras available!

Email

staber@manhattanchristian.org

Winter Alumni Night

Join us for basketball and pep band: Saturday, January 6

High school basketball games against West Yellowstone begin at 2:30pm. Free admission and free popcorn for all Manhattan Christian alum. Graduates from any year are also invited to bring their instrument to join the pep band for the varsity games at 4 and 5:30pm. Plan to stay after the conclusion of the boys game for an alumni basketball game; all players, both men and women, are welcome to join! Email admissions@manhattanchristian.org if you have any questions about Winter Alumni Night.



WINTER ALUMNI NIGHT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

free admission & popcorn
alumni pep band
alumni basketball

JOIN US!

senior project

Lindsay Cook is bringing back a classic high school tradition: Letterman Jackets! These jackets are a fun, memorable way to help showcase students' athletic, academic, and extracurricular accomplishments. More details will be coming soon! If you wish to kindly sponsor a student who needs assistance with purchasing a jacket please contact Lindsay at 406-595-9035.

Manhattan Christian School Foundation

Our Mission is to Lower Tuition!

What Can YOU DO for the Manhattan Christian School Foundation?

- You can make an annual cash contribution (dues).
- You can make a bequest in your will.
- You can give a memorial gift.
- You can give stocks, bonds, & securities.
- You can give real estate or an interest in real estate.
- You can give life insurance proceeds.
- You can give cash, antiques, automobiles, or any item with determinable value.

What can the Manhattan Christian Foundation Do FOR YOU?

- Give you the satisfaction of knowing you have assisted in strengthening the cause of Christian Education at Manhattan Christian School as a result of your contribution.
- Provide a reduction in your taxable income.
- Eliminate or reduce your estate tax at little or no loss to other beneficiaries.
- Receive confidential counsel on estate planning and general contributions.

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

The screenshot shows the website's layout with several annotations. At the top, a dark red banner contains the text "Calendar, lunch, support MCS, and parent login quick links!". Below this is the navigation bar with the MCS logo and the text "MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL". To the right of the logo are icons for a calendar, a fork and knife, a gift, a right arrow, an information icon, and a search icon. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with links: "ABOUT US", "ACADEMICS", "ADMISSIONS", "ARTS", "ATHLETICS", and "SUPPORT MCS". On the left side, a large grey box contains the text "Our New Website is LIVE" with a magnifying glass icon and the URL "manhattanchristian.org". Below this is a section titled "Why Manhattan Christian?" with the text "Weekly chapel, discipleship groups, and worship". To the right of this section is a large photo of children in a gymnasium with their hands raised. Below the photo is a callout box that says "Same areas to find what you need!". On the bottom left, a callout box points to the "Upcoming Events" section, which lists dates for Thanksgiving Break: Nov 20, Nov 21, Nov 22, and Nov 23. Below this are four boxes for "Prospective Families", "Parents", "Students", and "Alumni", each with a brief description and a "Read More" link. The "Prospective Families" box says "Learn more about Manhattan Christian. Read More". The "Parents" box says "Everything you need from FSO to PowerSchool. Read More". The "Students" box says "Library catalog, Google Classroom, Scholarships, and More! Read More". The "Alumni" box says "Let's stay in touch! Read More".

Calendar, lunch, support MCS, and parent login quick links!

MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ABOUT US ACADEMICS ADMISSIONS ARTS ATHLETICS SUPPORT MCS

Our New Website is LIVE
manhattanchristian.org

Why Manhattan Christian?
Weekly chapel, discipleship groups, and worship

Upcoming events linked to our all-school calendar!

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Nov 20	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 21	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Break

Prospective Families
Learn more about Manhattan Christian. [Read More](#)

Parents
Everything you need from FSO to PowerSchool. [Read More](#)

Students
Library catalog, Google Classroom, Scholarships, and More! [Read More](#)

Alumni
Let's stay in touch! [Read More](#)



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SCAN HERE

to view the MCS Google Calendar
with all sporting events, locations,
and times!



From everyone at Manhattan Christian School