



MANHATTAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Connections

“Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23:6

JANUARY 2025

ISSUE 4

VOLUME 25

End-of-Year Campaigns: Thank You!

Joel Westa, Head of School

Thank you to all who helped us to exceed our \$120,000 Annual Campaign goal! So many generous donors stepped up to help us raise a net total of \$138,195!

An Update on the Building on Our Blessings Campaign:

Thank you to those of you who pledged or made a donation for our Building Campaign! To date, we have raised over \$590,000 and have pledges totaling another \$602,000. That is a grand total of \$1,182,368 in donations and pledges. Thank you to those who have given so far, and we ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this Campaign so we can begin building as soon as possible!

MT Tax Credit Scholarship Program

It's time to participate in the Montana Tax Credit Scholarship Program! There is \$6M in tax credits available in 2025, but you need to act before January 15! Last year we raised \$167K with this program, and this year I'd love to see us at least double that number. As Montanans, we have an incredible opportunity to redirect our 2025 estimated Montana state income tax liability to MCS Scholarships and help those who want a quality Christian Education for their kids! 90% of all we receive must go to scholarships. The Big Sky Scholarship Tax Credit Program is quite simple: you donate to MCS for scholarships, MCS secures a 100% dollar for dollar tax credit from the state on your behalf, and your state tax liability for 2025 is reduced or eliminated. You cannot deduct your gift as a charitable donation in Montana as you are receiving a dollar-for-dollar credit off your state taxes. This shouldn't be confused with your charitable donations, as this is designed to take the tax dollars you would normally pay the state and support the school with them instead. You will receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your 2025 taxes.

Read more about the Tax Credit Scholarships and how to participate on page 2.

January Contents

Campaign Thank You

2024 Volleyball Recap

Rotary Student(s) of the Month

MCS Athletes' Signing Days

Christmas at the MEC

ELC: Enrolling and Hiring

Senior Project Spotlights

Molly Hubner's Ballet Achievement

Coffee Shop Name

Follow Us on Socials

The MCS Foundation

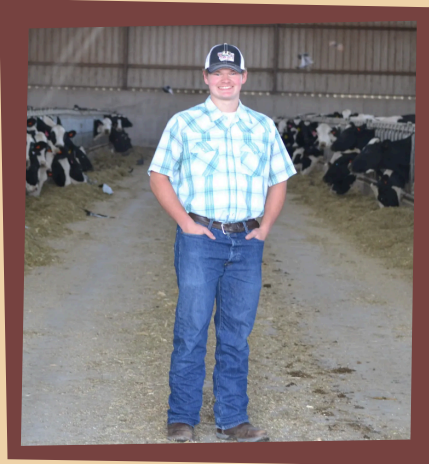
Why We Love Working at MCS:

Watching students worship and recite Scripture at weekly Chapel is truly something that brings tears to my eyes.

ROTARY

student of the month

Please join us in congratulating November's Rotary Student of the Month, Carson Heidema. Carson 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,
Carson Heidema.

How long have you been at MCS?

I have been here for 14 years!

What extracurriculars are you involved with?

Football and Track and Field

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

Football Academic All-State

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

In 2nd grade, Mrs. Brouwer was one of my favorite teachers because she made learning fun and entertaining. In Middle School I liked when we had Mrs. Sytsma because she would always joke with us and have random things in her classroom. In high school it's hard to decide on a favorite teacher. I enjoy all the high school teachers. You can tell they love their jobs and the students which makes classes enjoyable and fun. My favorite class however is definitely Plant and Animal Science. I enjoy the topics that we go over as well as the several field trips we go on.

What are some of your best non-academic memories?

My favorite memory at MCS would probably have to be when Mrs. Sytsma took some students on a week trip during the summer to D.C. We got to see a lot of historic locations while having some good laughs with friends. Even though we got stranded in Denver for a day, it was overall a trip that I won't forget anytime soon.

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

My goal for senior year is to simply graduate.

What are you working on for your Senior Project?

For my senior project I chose to take the 4th and 5th grade classes to Plain Vista Dairy to teach them how a dairy operates and where some of their food comes from. I also brought a few aspects of the farm to the school and taught the K-3rd grade classes a few things about a dairy. The main focus of my project is to teach the kids where a portion of their food comes from. Roughly 68% of Americans don't know where their food comes from and I wanted to help change that.

What are your plans for after graduation?

After high school I plan to attend Montana State University Northern for Diesel Technology and then eventually take over Plain Vista Dairy with my brother.

MT Tax Credit Scholarship Cont.

How to Participate

- Limits are \$200,000 (individual) or \$400,000 (married filing jointly).
- Individuals, estates or trusts, corporations, partnerships, and LLCs all qualify to participate!
- Tax credits can be carried forward for three years.
- To make your donation, please write your check to MCS, include the last four of your Social Security number if donating personally, or your EIN if your business is donating.
- Please bring or mail your personal or Business Check to the school prior to January 15.
- Checks should be made payable to Manhattan Christian School and must be dated January 1 or later.

Important Notes

- MCS must receive your donation BEFORE we can submit your information to the state to claim your tax credits when the program opens on January 15. MCS will begin submitting tax credit requests via the state portal the moment the program opens on January 15 and continue until the \$6M cap has been met.
- If the \$6M cap is exhausted before we can enter your check, you will receive the check back and it will not be cashed.
- If you have any questions or would like to receive the Montana Department of Treasury document outlining the program, please contact Joel Westa at jwesta@manhattanchristian.org.

2024 Volleyball: All In

Lexi Glaus, Assistant Volleyball Coach with snippets from Jeff Schlapp, Park County Dugout

Earlier this November, our volleyball girls faced a tough loss against White Sulphur Springs, placing third in the Divisional tournament, ending our season sooner than any of us hoped for since only two advance to State.



I am still so proud. Our girls were so young. We made so many changes throughout the season. Last year we graduated six seniors and this year started two, sometimes three freshmen. Our freshmen and sophomores did an incredible job of filling big shoes. Stepping straight from middle school into varsity high school volleyball is no joke. Our juniors and seniors led so well. They truly set a top notch example for our younger athletes. To make it as far as we did was quite an accomplishment in itself, but that's not even what I am most proud of. This group of girls was so full of joy, grace, and humility. The didn't lose a lot of games, but when they did, not much changed after the game. We would shake hands with the opposing team and I would watch senior, Sam Veltkamp, invite the opposing coach to pray with them. Nearly every team took them up on that offer this season; they created so many opportunities to be witnesses. They were consistently complimented on their joy, demeanor, politeness, and talent. *(Read more on page 3)*

2024 Volleyball (Cont. from page 2)

Dan Chesnet, Sports reporter from the Belgrade News, has always done an incredible job of covering our athletes: he comes to tons of games, takes and posts great pictures, and always has a great write up in the weekly issues. We are so thankful for his dedication to highlight our athletes' hard work. While we hosted Districts I met another reporter, Jeff Schlapp from the Park County Dugout. He tagged us in one of his articles, so I signed up to read it, and I legitimately cried. Throughout the postseason, he continued to write such sincere things about our girls, and I was so thankful that someone from the "outside" noticed what's even more impressive than the girls' athleticism. Here are a few quotes from his recent articles:

The Manhattan Christian volleyball team reminds me of the Chicago Bulls during their six-NBA title run... I watched the Lady Eagles get up from the stands to go to the locker room to get ready for their match against the Shields Valley Lady Rebels. As I watched the girls depart for their locker room, I thought, 'they carry themselves with such class.' Like the Chicago Bulls, who won six NBA championships between 1991 and 1998 with two three peats. Every gym they walk into, teams are gunning for them. We are talking about high school girls; their pressure must be immense. They don't gloat when they win; there is no showboating. No showing up their opponents. When they lost earlier in the season to the Rebels, they did so with class. Yet, they have fun on the court between points like everyone else. They happen to be great at volleyball. But like those Bulls teams, they were on a mission. The Bulls were on a mission to be the best, to win. I spoke with someone yesterday [It was Layne, our athletic director, but he never asked for permission to quote him so he left his name out.] who told me that the girls want to win also. If they win state, that's great, but their mission is to serve Jesus Christ, use the talents God has bestowed upon them, and serve their school and community first, doing Christ's work. That's a rare perspective. As I said a few weeks ago, I like the Eagles.

After our experiences with other reporters who have failed to print when our athletes or coaches point to God (Side note, there was recently a great article in the Madisonian about the culture of our athletic programs; it's posted on our school's Facebook: a MUST read!), I am just so thankful he was willing to include it all.

In another article, he continues about his interview with Sam after the District championship: *But the girl who impressed me the most didn't win, at least on the court. The Eagles senior libero talked briefly about the loss. She told me that she wasn't upset over the loss and that she and her teammates tried and played the best they could. It wasn't so much that the Eagles lost. Instead, the Bruins played fantastic and won, she told me it was great when the Eagles won and she and her teammates wanted to win, they were even eager for a rematch. However, her goal was to use the talent God gave her and it was important to her to live her life on and off the court, setting the example of Christ. Veltkamp seems to understand a life lesson at the young age of 18. If you look back on your life when you were 80, and the worst thing that happened to you was that your team lost a high school game, you led a pretty good life... Later he wrote, When it was all over, the Eagles gathered as they always do, near center court, as a team to say a prayer, and there in the middle was Veltkamp, smiling and motioning to Ellie Reinerston to join them in prayer. Amazing. Truly amazing.*

Schlapp recently posted a free article to our community, sharing he'd be around the MEC for basketball this season too. Subscribe to the Park County Dugout on Substack to read more!

I've decided that this season of life is too short to miss out on evenings and weekends at home. I told our girls a tearful "see you later" while I take my high school coaching "sabbatical." I also told Hanna she has to find someone who is willing to take my job only until I want it back; I am very high maintenance. What a gift it was to coach alongside Hanna and Johanna these last few years. I laughed so much, learned so much, and drank so much coffee.

There are a number of people who deserve our thanks after a jam-packed fall sports season: all of our bench workers, line judges, ticket takers, concessions workers, MEC cleaners, our athletic director, staff, and faculty of Manhattan Christian. Thank you for making sports at Manhattan Christian such a blessing!

ROTARY

student of the month

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



**Meet Manhattan Christian Senior,
Sam Veltkamp.**

How long have you been at MCS?

I have been here since kindergarten!

What extracurriculars are you involved with?

Volleyball, basketball, track, the play, and chapel band.

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

I made all-state in volleyball this past season and have made academic all state in all of my sports except for basketball my freshman year.

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

My favorite classes have been math with Mr. Kimm and any art class with Mrs. Swanson.

What are some of your best non-academic memories?

Probably on any bus ride home from a sporting event (we sing karaoke).

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

I just want to have fun.

What are you working on for your Senior Project?

For my senior project I am learning to play the guitar so I can take over leading chapels and do a youth praise night at my local youth group.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I plan to go and get a nursing degree at a college somewhere in Montana or Wyoming.


Request a Tour Today!

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

No Application Fee!
Please contact us for rates.

Now Enrolling and Hiring

Now under a new manager, Sarah Fisher, the ELC is currently a Licensed Group working towards Center Status. There is currently availability for 3-5 year olds from 7:30am-3:30pm Monday-Friday. As we find more qualified staff members, we hope to expand these hours to accommodate more families! If you or someone you know is looking for childcare and/or a full or part-time job, please share!

Care at the ELC Includes:

- CPR & First Aid Certified Staff
- Brightwheel Updates
- Secure and Loving Environment
- Developing Wonder for God's Creation
- Focus on Academic Readiness

NOW HIRING:
Part-Time Infant Teacher
Aftercare Teachers
Full-Time Summer Teachers

Competitive Pay; Fulfilling Work; and an Encouraging, Christian Environment

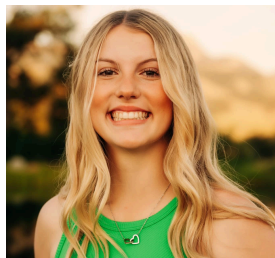
senior SPOTLIGHTS project

Christian Triemstra: Hoops for Hope

For his Senior Project, Christian Triemstra led a two-day skills camp over Christmas break for students in grades 1-5. There were over 40 kids in the gym to kick off the New Year, and Christian plans to donate all the registration fees to local organization, Love INC.

Isabelle Dawe: Pop-a-Shot for the Delaney Doherty Scholarship Foundation

Before we broke for Christmas, at home basketball against Manhattan, senior Isabelle Dawe kicked off her senior project. There were tons of kids lined up at halftime of both varsity games to shoot free throws and three pointers for Isabelle's Pop-a-Shot project. The proceeds of Isabelle's project have been thoughtfully directed towards the Delaney Doherty Scholarship Foundation. Delaney was tragically killed in a car accident in August of 2023, leading up to what would have been her senior year at Manhattan High. She was friends with Isabelle and many other Manhattan Christian students. At the game, Delaney's parents, Mark and Chantel, addressed the audience to generously extend Delaney's \$1,000 scholarship to one male and one female Manhattan Christian student at the end of this school year.



Elton Luthor: Music on the Hill, a Classical & Jazz Recital

Join Elton and a number of special guests on Thursday, February 6 at 6:30pm at Manhattan Christian Reformed Church. Free entrance with donations welcome; proceeds will go directly to the MCS Music Department.

Named: Manhattan Christian's Faithful Grounds Coffee Shop

After collecting over 80 suggestions from you and then putting the top six to a public vote, the new name of our Manhattan Christian Coffee Shop is Faithful Grounds. Fittingly, the name was entered by the coffee shop creator herself, Miranda Wyatt. Miranda worked with Mr. Westa from 2023-2024 to create the useful meeting space for her senior project.

Josiah Amunrud, Middle School Science Teacher and EY 2024 Chaperone

Psalm 46: 10-11 (NLT)

“Be still, and know that I am God!

I will be honored by every nation,

I will be honored through the world.

The Lord of Heaven’s Armies is here among us;

The God of Israel is our fortress.”

“Be still and know that I am God” and “The Lord of Heaven’s Armies is here among us”. These two verses from Psalm 46 echo what the eighth grade class was able to experience on their expedition through Yellowstone. Expedition Yellowstone was an amazing chance for the eighth graders to be completely unplugged from technology and to be fully immersed in God’s beautiful creation. Highlights included testing geothermal features around Mammoth Hot Springs and following wolf tracks on the fresh morning snow. There were times of magical stillness in the forest while snow was falling, and there were also plenty of moments of uncontrollable laughter throughout the weekend. Students learned how to work and collaborate together. They cooked, had chores, and took classes in their pods, all while being surrounded by herds of bison and snowy peaks. EY was a special weekend for the eighth grade class to come together and grow in their faith and awe of Creation.

Psalm 19:1-3

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.”

Tulip Mania and the Dutch Supper have been moved to Friday, April 11 Mark your calendars!



Molly Hubner’s Ballet Accomplishment

MCS ninth grade student, Molly Hubner is starting her 8th year of ballet at Montana Ballet Co. Since this past summer, she has been working hard on pre-pointe classes to get her ready for the most exciting accomplishment in a young ballerina's career - Pointe shoes! She attends 1.5 - 2 hour classes three times a week where they work hard on developing proper ballet technique, body alignment, core strength, balance, memorization, agility and grace. Last month she reached this pinnacle and received her first pair of Pointe shoes. She is ready and eager to start learning how to dance en pointe, or on her toes. Molly works very hard to keep up with her class. Although she loves ballet, it does not come as naturally to her as it does to the other girls because of some of the characteristics of Down syndrome. We are so proud that she doesn't let that stop her!

Two MCS Athletes Sign Letters of Intent

Congratulations to two Manhattan Christian seniors, Sierra Flikkema and Cavan Visser for committing to further their academic and sports careers at the next level! Sierra has signed to run track and field at Grace Christian University in Michigan, and Cavan signed to run cross country for Corban University in Oregon.

Christmas at the MEC

We celebrated a wonderful Christmas together at Manhattan Christian! We kicked off the Season prior to High School's finals week with an all-school Christmas Buddy Chapel at Manhattan CRC. Thank you to our Spiritual Life Director, Micah Forsythe for his planning of this event!

Under the direction of Jackie Van Dam, the elementary wowed us again this year with their presentation of *When I Think of Christmas*. Julie Bussis was a guest-director for the middle and high school concert, *Good News, Great Joy!* prepared by Mrs. Anna Brewer. Thank you to all of these ladies for their hard work in making Manhattan Christian's arts programs excellent! If you were unable to join us, please reach out to mcscommunications@manhattanchristian.org to receive the link to watch these performances!



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
- @manhattanchristianxc



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!

**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.

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



**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.



CDS
ENGINEERING
MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL CONSULTANTS

Vellinga
Real Estate

Cory Vellinga - Broker

Cell: 406.220.1900

1970 Stadium Dr. Ste. 1

Bozeman, MT 59715

vellingaRE@gmail.com

www.discoveringthebigsky.com



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices



Kelley Halle, CRS® GRI® ABR®
Sales Associate
REALTOR®

Montana Properties

2001 Stadium Drive, Suite A
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 581-3144

kelley.halle@bhhsmt.com

www.bhhsmt.com/kelley-halle

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

**Charitable
Remainder
Trusts**



DON VANIMAN
RANCH BROKER

406-580-4250

5020 Westlake Road • Bozeman, MT 59718

www.donvaniman.com • don@donvaniman.com



**1031
Tax Deferred
Exchanges**



MANHATTAN BANK

BOZEMAN • CHURCHILL • MANHATTAN • THREE FORKS 
www.manhattanbank.bank

BOZEMAN CLINIC P.L.L.C.
FAMILY PRACTICE
"It's about caring"

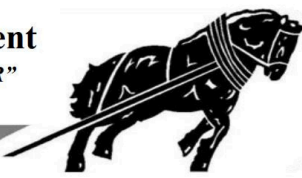
1245 North 15th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715

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

Churchill Equipment
"WE TRY HARDER"



Kendal S. Walhof

GM/ Co-owner

Cell (406)580-2282

Store (406) 282-7252

kendal@churchillequipment.net

www.churchillequipment.com



SIMKINS-HALLIN

326 N Broadway
Bozeman, MT 59771

P: 406.586.5495

www.simkins-hallin.com

Dave Cole
Branch Manager,
Financial Advisor, CFP®



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

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.
Member FINRA/SIPC. Palisade Financial is not a registered broker/dealer.



visser
architects

randy visser

(406) 202-7733

randy@visserarchitects.net

163 quiet water way
manhattan, mt 59741



Manhattan Christian School

Partnering with you for life!

8000 Churchill Road
Manhattan, MT 59741
(406) 282-7261

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bozeman, MT
PERMIT NO 164

Return Service Requested

Visit manhattanchristian.org