



MANHATTAN  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Connections

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”  
Philippians 4:6

FEBRUARY 2024    ISSUE 5    VOLUME 24

## Thank You for your Generous Gifts!

Joel Westa, Head of School

Our 2023 Annual Campaign total was \$105,968.36! Thanks to all who generously gave in support of Manhattan Christian School's Annual Campaign! Your gift will be applied directly to carrying out our mission to “inspire students to live God glorifying lives by teaching Christ's lordship in faith, learning, and living!”

## Strategic Planning Over a Cup of Jo

Joel Westa, Head of School

Today we began our Tuesday morning coffee program, and I was so thankful that over a dozen of you showed up to discuss the future vision for the school. We had a great discussion of the main goals of the MCS Strategic plan, and I received some great input that will help guide its final draft which will come before the association for a vote in May.

### The five main goals of the plan are as follows:

1. **Spiritual Life:** Establish a culture that prepares students to apply a biblical framework to their academic studies, so they can thoughtfully address the important issues found in their future studies and vocations. Provide service opportunities, hire Spiritual Life Director, increase Bible curriculum offerings.
2. **Increase Academic rigor:** Assess and revamp curriculum, increase course offerings available to students, strengthen faculty development program, strengthen assessment capabilities.
3. **Facility Improvement:** Elementary/Middle school building and refurbishment project started, Revamp safety and security policy and procedures, increase staffing in key areas (janitorial/facilities).
4. **Create a financial plan** that continues to provide full funding for the school with no operating deficits, while wisely stewarding the resources of the school and school community. Create a multi year budget and streamline financial operations.
5. **Re-establish Fine Arts Excellence:** Establish excellence in the music program, while increasing the overall emphasis on music/arts and theater.

We will continue to meet on Tuesday mornings throughout this month at 8:15 in our new coffee shop area. Come, have a coffee, hot chocolate or tea and let's talk some more. We really value your inputs to the process!

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## Teaching for Transformation:

To encourage life-long learners, TFT focuses on four main Habits of Learning. The fourth being Courageous Designers: We are resilient and rigorous.

# R O T A R Y

## student of the month

Please join us in congratulating January's Rotary Student of the Month, Benjamin Kimm. Ben 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,  
Benjamin Kimm**

### 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 do Track and Field, Speech and Drama, and the yearly Spring Play.

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

I just won 1st for Impromptu Speaking at State Speech and Drama last weekend.

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

Mr. Kimm has been an unbelievable teacher and his STEM class was incredible. We had fun fixing the problems together and got to see a real reward for our work. As I am going into Mechanical Engineering, STEM class has been an excellent starting point for me.

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

Senior retreat was a lot of fun. Our entire class got to bond for a weekend just with us. We played paintball and had a really good time.

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

It was to win speech and debate, and I recently accomplished that goal. Now I'm really just looking forward to graduating.

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

I started a drama club with a group of seventh graders to teach them the basics of acting and to increase excitement for the theater program.

### What are your plans for after graduation?

I plan on going to Dordt University to study engineering.

## Coffee Break!

Joel Westa, Head of School

When you enter through the main entrance of MCS, I'm hoping you will be greeted by the pleasant aroma of freshly ground coffee and the sound of whole beans being ground.

The new coffee area is open, and so far it seems to be a big hit with students and staff! Our goal for the space is to provide a place where MCS students, groups and even the occasional class can meet and enjoy each discussions over a good cup of coffee.

As part of her senior project, Miranda Wyatt worked closely with me to help get this done, with the idea that part of the profit would go to the senior class. I also need to thank Scott Kimm for his work as well. The new floor, paint, cabinets, and coffee machine, along with a month's worth of supplies to get the operation started were provided by a private donor, who loves the school, and loves coffee! There may be an opportunity for a monthly coffee sponsor in the future, but those plans are in the works and need to flow through the proper channels. Art by Bonnie Potts is now hung, as well as some projects from our own art classes taught by Mrs. Swanson. Still to come, a flat screen TV so we can do presentations, but I would love to have you swing by for a cup of jo! Coffees and hot chocolates are \$2.00, assorted tea is \$1.00, and we now have a coffee card available for \$10: buy five, get one free! See the front desk to purchase; they're also happy to punch your card for you. Remember they are great gifts for your student and the staff/faculty as well!

Starting this month, I will be having a weekly parents/grandparents meeting to discuss the future plans and strategic vision for the school. If you are interested in spending 45 minutes discussing the future of the school over a cup of coffee, please join me starting February 6th. We'll meet in the new coffee area at the main entrance and spend some time discussing the future of the school and the strategic plan. I'd love to hear your thoughts and answer any questions you may have. Thanks for all you do to make the MCS mission happen. Remember, MCS inspires students to live God-glorifying lives by teaching Christ's lordship in faith, learning, and living.



A great gift for your student or their teacher! Available for purchase at the office.





## Speech and Drama Co-op with Manhattan: 2nd Place at the State Meet!



This year, we had three MCS students participate in the Speech and Drama Co-op with Manhattan Public School: seniors, Kyanna Hoekema and Benjamin Kimm, and sophomore, Haley Sander. All three contributed to the team's second place finish at the State Meet; Kyanna placed fifth in Informative Speaking, and Ben is the State Champion in Impromptu Speaking!

## Tulip Mania & The Dutch Supper Mark your calendars for Friday, April 5!

Our annual Tulip Mania and Dutch Supper is right around the corner! More specific times will be announced soon. Get ready to eat all the delicious stamppots, pigs in a blanket, Dutch Delicacies, enjoy some fabulous 5th Grade Dutch Dancing, and shop all the wonderful auction items in the Tulip Mania!

We can't wait to celebrate **spring** and this yearly fundraiser and time together!

**Directed by Yvonne Kimm**  
**Accompanied by Julie Bussis**



**the Musical**  
**by the MCS Theater Department**  
**MARCH 21-23**

## ROTARY

### student of the month

Please join us in congratulating February's

Rotary Student of the Month, Ryan

Schott. Ryan 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,  
Ryan Schott.**

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

Since preschool!

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

Choir

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

I've always enjoyed math classes as well as science and computer classes. I enjoy learning from all of my teachers, and it is almost impossible to choose favorites, but in middle school, Mrs. Sytsma was my favorite teacher, and if I had to pick one in high school I would have to choose Mr. Kimm.

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

Expedition Yellowstone and the Senior Retreat are both very fond memories.

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

My goal is to actually do my homework this semester.

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

I'm organizing a blood drive and knitting hats for the American Cancer Society.

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

I plan on attending MT Tech for mechanical engineering.



MS Math and Science



# Pralie Duffin

Welcome, Ms. Duffin!

Pralie joins us as an interim middle school math (7th and 8th Grade) and science (8th Grade) teacher while she also completes her student teaching in the high school under Mr. Kimm. Pralie graduated from Manhattan High School in 2020 and will graduate from the University of Montana-Western with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Secondary Education this May. In her free time she enjoys reading, hiking, spending time outdoors and at the lake, as well as helping on the family ranch. Pralie says, "I love pretty much all food, but especially chocolate! I drink a lot of coffee and will drink pretty much anything but my go to is a vanilla

latte with an extra shot of espresso. I am excited to get to know each and every student throughout the school and watch as God works in each of their lives! I am so blessed to be working in such a supportive and caring community and I cannot wait to see what the rest of the year will bring." Pictured above, Pralie with fiancé, Jake Leep (MCS Graduate of 2020)

## Thank You, Little Eagles Sponsors & Coaches: Another Great Turnout!



Eight teams, 110 players, 13 volunteer coaches, countless high school clock workers and referees. Our community loves this program! Thank you to the following local businesses for sponsoring this year's Little Eagles tshirts. We can continue to offer this program free of charge thanks to generous donors like these: **North Grounds • Montana Corn Maze • Schutter Seed Farm • Summit Energy Group • Kimm Seed • Triple C • R&R Taylor • Glacier Irrigation • Churchill Equipment**

## The Dordt Choir is Coming to MCS!



The Dordt Choir will participate with the 10am worship service at First CRC on Sunday, March 3. You are all invited!

Our Manhattan Christian School Choir will join the Dordt Choir under the direction of 1995 MCS graduate, Ryan Smit.

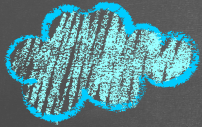
On Monday, March 4, we will have an all-school assembly at 8:30am to hear the choirs join together!

## Opportunity to Serve

The MCS Friends committee is currently searching for two people that have a heart for the Harvest Festival and who would be willing to step in as the new heads of this special annual MCS event. For more information, please email [slvenhuizen@hotmail.com](mailto:slvenhuizen@hotmail.com) and plan to attend registration night to discuss the duties involved.



# 2024-2025 Registration Dates



Thursday, March 21 from 4-7pm  
and Monday, March 25 from 5-6pm



Preschool Applications will be accepted beginning on  
Tuesday, March 19 at 8am

## Winter Alumni Night

Gloria Veltkamp, Alumni & Admissions

Thanks for joining us for Winter Alumni night! The pep band sounded incredible while playing for our high school teams, and playing the alumni basketball game after our varsity games made for a much bigger crowd! As always, please keep in touch with us: visit our website at [manhattanchristian.org/alumni/](http://manhattanchristian.org/alumni/).



## Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament Registration is Live

Game Day is March 30, 2024

Enter by March 25. \$50 late registration fee; no entries accepted after March 27 at 7pm.

Questions? Contact Kendal or Jeanette Walhof Ph.# 406-580-2282 or 406-539-9515

Email: [kendal@churchillequipment.net](mailto:kendal@churchillequipment.net)



# senior project

Aiden Flikkema: For my senior project I decided to teach a model rocket class with a few 7th and 8th graders during their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) class with Mrs. Ayers. In the class, the students learned how rockets worked, how to make effective 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. We shot the rockets off on a brisk day with lots of fellow high school and middle school students watching and cheering.



# 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.

# WE'RE HIRING!

## Open Positions for the 2024-'25 School Year

- PK-8 Principal
- Spiritual Life Director/ Chaplain
- Elementary Teachers
- Special Education Director
- Middle School Math and Science
- K-12 Spanish
- Bus Drivers
- Head of Concessions



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

Visit our website:

 [manhattanchristian.org/employment/](https://manhattanchristian.org/employment/)







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and times!