



MANHATTAN  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Connections

“The Lord replied, ‘My presence will go with you,  
and I will give you rest.’”  
Exodus 33:14

JUNE 2024 ISSUE 8 VOLUME 24

## Congratulations, Class of 2024!



Joel Westa, Head of School: An excerpt from his Commencement Speech to the Class of 2024

The last subject before I close with a couple of recommendations is my deep hope that you will hold God's Word in great esteem. From our studies and seeing the truth and reliability of the scriptures I hope that you will pour yourselves into it. It is not myth, it is not fable, it is not contradictory. It is God's Word to us. It is what transforms us...through the Word and the Holy Spirit our thinking is transformed. This book that so many have died for to put into our hands...it is living, and it is powerful. If we think that 5 minutes a day spent glancing at the Word or worse in a daily devotional listening to someone else's perspective or feelings on a verse will transform our mind, I'm afraid to say we are sorely mistaken. Satan, our enemy is spending the remaining 1435 minutes a day, every day to deceive you.

Memorize it, study it, obey it. May God richly bless your future endeavors and I pray you will hold on to Him dearly and treasure His Word.

8th Grade Commencement Chapel



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Class of 2024

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Little Eagles Football

## Do You Have Great Things to Say about MCS?

We're working on a super fun project to launch this fall. If you are a Manhattan Christian family, alum, grandparent, or student willing to share your experience, please reach out!



## Concessions Manager Still Needed

We are still in search of a Concessions Manager for the 2024-2025 sports seasons. Unfortunately, if the position is not filled soon, athletic fees will be forced to increase more than \$100 per athlete per sport to cover the funds that will not be made through concessions. Along with the added costs to athletes' families, we will no longer be able to serve the fans at any of the sporting events at the Memorial Events Center.

Please prayerfully consider if this is a position you would consider filling for our school and continue to share this need with anyone whom you think would be interested.

Please email [jwesta@manhattanchristian.org](mailto:jwesta@manhattanchristian.org) if you are willing to fill this role!

## 5th Grade Student Wins Most Creative Award

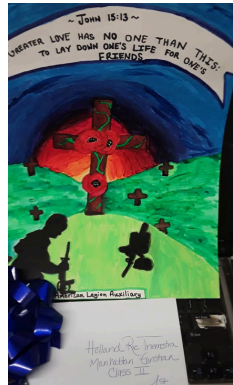


We would like to congratulate Manhattan Christian fifth grade student, Holland Triemstra, for winning Most Creative in the 2nd-8th grade division in the Museum of Rockies Dinosaur-Themed Art Contest. More than 200 pieces of art were submitted in this contest! Holland also placed first in 4th and 5th grade division in the American Legion Auxiliary-Post #87 Annual Poppy Poster Contest.

In that same Poppy Contest, Manhattan Christian students, Jenae Young (7th grade), Lena Venhuizen (7th grade), and Quincy Schutter (6th grade) placed first, second, and third, respectively, in the 6th and 7th grade age division.

Congratulations, girls!

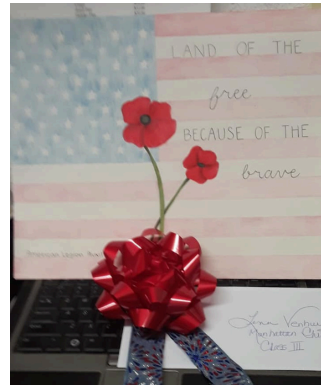
Holland Triemstra



Jenae Young



Lena Venhuizen



Quincy Schutter



## Thank You, Teachers!

As the 2023-2024 school year comes to an end, we would like to thank both the teachers who are moving on as well as acknowledge the staff members who have hit significant milestones at MCS. Farewell to Halee Kukes, Kristin Te Slaa, Hannah Brouwer, Kathryn Chausse, Lyndsey VanGelder, Heidi Kuperus, Krystal Heidema, and Maria Abad. Celebrating five years at Manhattan Christian: Robin Schutter; ten years of service: Kim Adams and Kim Flikkema; and twenty years of service: Nate Te Slaa. We appreciate the part all of you have played in our Mission at Manhattan Christian: Inspiring students to live God-glorifying lives by teaching Christ's lordship in faith, learning, and living.

## ROTARY

### Scholarship Winner

Congratulations, Miranda Wyatt, for being selected as the 2024 Manhattan Rotary Scholarship Winner!

Miranda will be attending the University of Northwestern-Saint Paul in the Fall.



### Other 2024 Award Winners

**The Citizenship Award** is given annually to a graduating senior whose life exemplifies what we hope an MCS graduate will be. They exemplify a love for Jesus, solid academic commitment and performance, responsibility, selflessness and a love for their peers, and an active involvement in a wide range of school activities. In other words, the recipient of the citizenship award is a student who represents the qualities that are embodied in the mission and vision of Manhattan Christian School. Each year the faculty meets to discuss which student is most deserving of this honor. It is often a very difficult decision and this year was no exception. This particular student possesses an excellent work ethic, a strong desire to learn, a passion for servant leadership, and a very joyful heart that imitates Christ daily.

**Congratulations, Simeon O'Hara!**

**The Christian Leadership Award** is presented annually to a graduating senior by the Manhattan Christian School Board. Seniors are presented with the opportunity to apply for this award each spring. Seniors share their accomplishments and community service with the school board as part of their application. The school board then reviews applications and selects a senior who they feel embodies the criteria of the award and who represents Manhattan Christian well both inside and outside of our community.

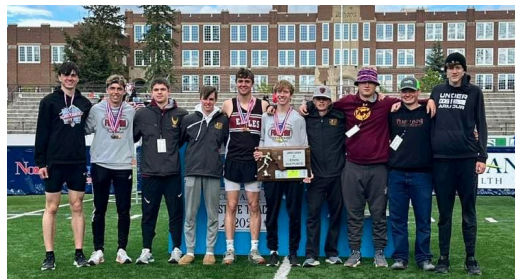
**Congratulations, Kyanna Hoekema!**

**The 2024 Senior Class collectively earned more than \$513,230 in scholarships.**



## Boys Track and Golf Teams Take Second in Class C; Girls Golf Takes Third

### Multiple Athletes Win Individual Hardware



Congratulations to all of our spring sport athletes! The Eagles had impressive showings at both the State golf and track meets in Hamilton and Great Falls, respectively. Boys golf took second by just one stroke to Scobey, but junior, Carter Van Dyken, was crowned State Champ after an impressive two-day score of 159 (83/76). Cavan Visser tied for second with an incredible day two score, shooting 161 (87/74). Other individual boys contributing to the team total of 510 (266/244) were eighth grader, Max Venhuizen (96/94) and Isaac Hoekema (112/107). The girls team placed third with a two-day total of 585. Lindsay Cook placed fifth individually, shooting 180 (89/91) and Jocee Ruffatto took eighth with a 194 (90/104). Haley Sander (105/107) and Lydia Visser (117/106) helped the Eagle ladies secure third place. Golf records are now updated on our website under Spring Sports. Well done, golfers!

On the track side, senior, Oren Arthun was named the “Triple Crown Winner” by winning the 800, 1600, and 3200 meter races. Shaphan Hubner placed second in the 800, third in the 1600, and fifth in the 400. Rance Hamilton broke the school record in the 300 hurdles placing fourth, was fifth in the 110 hurdles, and tenth in the 400. Dominic Holst was 8th in the shot put and Tate Hamilton was 9th in pole vault. These individual successes secured second place for the Eagle boys. The girls 4x400 relay with Gracie Honey, Bella Triemstra, Sierra Flikkema, and Eliza Kimm took sixth, Bella was fifth in the 300 hurdles, and Gracie placed fifth in the mile. Way to go, Eagle throwers and runners!

## Words from the 2024 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

*Livia Appleby, 2024 Valedictorian*

“...High school was an experience like no other and will be a memorable time for all of us. As Charles Dickens put it, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” But now we are finally through the stressful days of AP and ACT testing as well as the overwhelming senioritis. But whether we admit it or not, we are going to miss this someday. No doubt many of us, including myself, are nervous for the chapter ahead. To meet new people, create new memories/ have new experiences, and pursue our passions in a new way. At the same time many of us, also including myself, are excited for the chapter ahead. It’s funny how we can feel such different emotions about the same thing. That’s the beautiful part of being human though. We can experience life’s greatest and most opposite emotions simultaneously. We learn happiness through sadness. Compassion through suffering. And even love through loss. I’m saying all of this to remind everyone in the audience that life is a big game of perspective. It’s up to us to decide what kind of life we are going to live.”

*Miranda Wyatt, 2024 Salutatorian*

“...Arguably the most important is to hold fast to your faith. We have been blessed to attend a Christian school where Christianity is woven into everything we do. We are taught by Christian teachers, take Bible classes, have chapels, and meet with discipleship groups. As we step out on our own, it becomes our individual responsibility to have a relationship with God. This relationship is a solid foundation during a time of change. Leaning on faith can be a source of strength and guidance. Colossians 2:6-7 says, “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” It is important to find people around you that can support you and deepen your faith. Remember your values and hold fast to the Word of God. And know, as we so often say, “We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. After spending this portion of our lives together the end is here. We will say our goodbyes to this place, whether happy or sad, and go our separate ways. Thank you to the teachers who have put up with us along the way and our parents for always getting us where we needed to be. Thank you to my classmates for the last 13 years and the memories we have made along the way. Congratulations class of 2024! I wish you all the best. I’ll finish with this. No matter where life takes us or the challenges that are sure to come, just know from the wise words of Mr. Kimm, “It’s Do-able”. “



# Introducing New PK-8 Principal and Spiritual Life Director

**Meet Lacey Kutyllo, new PK-8 School Principal:** I am married to Billy Kutyllo and we are blessed with two boys, Will and Colt. We also have two labradors, Cooper and Maybelle. Being newer to the area, we love to try all of the different restaurants that the Gallatin Valley has to offer. During our free time, we enjoy camping, skiing, and spending time outdoors together. We also love to travel to visit out of state family members! I graduated with a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Pepperdine University. During my time there, I also completed my K-8 teaching credential. Additionally, I spent three of my years there running competitively for the women's track and cross country team. After graduating from Pepperdine University, I taught for the Newhall School District located in Southern California. During that time, we felt God calling us to Montana, and that is how we ended up here! I have spent the last three years teaching for the Belgrade School District as a fourth grade teacher. During my time with Belgrade, I was involved in standards based instruction teams and helped coach our middle school cross country and track teams. I am currently enrolled in a Masters in Educational Leadership program through Montana State University, and I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for us at Manhattan Christian! Specifically, I am excited to be a part of an educational community that is rooted in faith. I am eager to walk alongside staff parents and students in a God-glorifying way.



**Micah Forsythe, new Spiritual Life Director:** I was born and raised in colorful Colorado. I met my wife of 24 years at Bible College in Portland, Oregon, where we both graduated with bachelor's degrees from Multnomah Bible College. After a brief stint back in Colorado to complete a master's degree in education (Colorado Christian University), I moved our family to Montana in 2004 to work and teach at Bible colleges in Montana for the past 20 years. I completed a seminary degree from Western Seminary and a graduate certificate in Christian counseling from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. I love learning about almost anything and everything, especially the Bible, Church history, and biblical theology. For the last year, I have served as the interim pastor at our church. I love the outdoors: rafting, biking, hiking, and backpacking. I love hanging out with my family, reading, playing games with my kids, and learning new things. I've had the privilege of teaching at various schools/colleges in Montana, Africa, and Eastern Europe. I am excited to join the MCS family and invest in the students, faculty, staff, and families who are committed to discipling young people in the knowledge and fear of the Lord! I am looking forward to building eternal relationships with students, teaching the glories and mysteries of God's Word, and serving with faculty and staff who have given their lives to teaching God's people about God's world through Christian education! I am excited to see how the gospel is going to shape and mold young people into faithful and fruitful men and women!



# Superior Ratings for HS Band & Choir

Anna Brewer, Band and Choir Director

Both the High School Band & Choir received superior (I) ratings on their prepared pieces for District Music Festival. Bravo to all the students who performed at Solo & Ensemble. You represented yourself, school, and Savior well!



Student(s)	Entry	District Score	State Score
Baylee Roberts	Flute Solo	I	I
Sierra Flikkema	Flute Solo	II	
Sierra Flikkema & Baylee Roberts	Flute Duet	I	I
Elton Luther	Sax Solo	I	I
Samuel O'Hara	Trumpet Solo	II	
Benjamin Kimm	Euphonium Solo	I	I
Haley Sander	Piano Solo	II	
Eliza Kimm	Vocal Solo	I	I
Cecilia Morrison	Vocal Solo	I	I
Kyanna Hoekema	Vocal Solo	I	I
Haley Sander	Vocal Solo	I	I
Olivia Leep & Haley Sander	Vocal Duet	I	I
Eliza Kimm & Addie Venema	Vocal Duet	I	I
Kyanna Hoekema & Haley Sander	Vocal Duet	II	
Kyanna Hoekema, Eliza Kimm, Olivia Leep, Cecilia Morrison, Haley Sander, & Addie Venema	Women's Ensemble	I	I

# Grandparents' Day, Art Show, Spring Concerts, and More Thanks for Joining Us!

We had a jam-packed schedule for the final three weeks of May. It was a blessing to see so many of you invested in the work that the seniors completed at our Senior Awards and Presentation Night. Mrs. Swanson's art show was, as always, nothing short of impressive; the Eagle gym was filled with art of all different mediums made by proud artists in grades 1-12. Although it was a rainy day, we enjoyed seeing so many grandparents from near and far jumping into classroom fun. Our 2024 Buddies wrapped up with a rock-painting activity to say farewell for the summer. The annual fifth grade Wax Museum had a new look and was spectacularly done. We were blessed with two wonderful spring concerts, 8th Grade Projects and Commencement Chapel, and of course, High School Graduation. Mike Flikkema generously streamed some of these events; they are now available to watch back through our YouTube channel. Check them out on our website under Arts. Have a wonderful summer!



## Meet our New School Board

We want to thank Ryan Ruffatto and Beth Kamerman for their time served on the Manhattan Christian School Board. After this year's Annual Association Meeting, we are thrilled to announce that Kendal Walhof (re-elected), AnnaLynn Alberda, and Jen Scott will join the existing Board members: Travis Hamilton, Tami Leep, Ben Holst, Jason Kimm, Kevin Smith, and Jonathan Schutter. Read more about our Association and School Board on our website under About Us.

## 2024 NEON Fun Run Was a Hit!

Joel Westa, Head of School

Thank you to all of you who donated during last month's fun run! We raised over \$45,000! Thanks to Buffy Coghlin and Jodi Smith for doing all the major lifting for this event! We are looking forward to improving our playground facilities, but as you know, we have also just approved the plans for building a new elementary wing. Our Building and Operations Committee is determining the best location for the playground. We must first determine the construction flow for the new facility so that we don't inadvertently build something that will have to then be moved when we break ground. We're excited about improving our facilities and our playground, but want to do it wisely. We appreciate your patience as we make these decisions, and thank you again for your generosity!



## Little Eagles Football Program

2024 Senior, Dominic Holst, has already decided on an exciting senior project. Watch for details coming this summer on the first-ever Little Eagles Football Program. Over the course of four weeks in September, Dominic plans to run both practices and flag football games. More details will be posted on our website and social media platforms.

## Manhattan Christian's Podcast is Coming: Stay Tuned!

The Stewardship Committee excited to launch a new way to share all the great things happening at Manhattan Christian. Coming this fall: the MCS Podcast. Hear from students, teachers, coaches, alum, board members, and more! If you are a family or alum with great stories to share about our school, let us know!

senior  
project  
SPOTLIGHT

### Kyanna Hoekema



Before



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.

If you missed Kyanna's starring role as Cinderella in the Spring Play, find the YouTube video on our website under arts! We were thankful to see so many of you at this year's Senior Awards and Project Presentations. Thank you for your evident support of the class of 2024!

## Hiring: Early Learning Center Director and Caregivers

We are still searching for ELC staff, as well as a custodian for the coming school year. Find the job descriptions on our website under Employment Opportunities.



# WE'RE HIRING!

Open Positions for the 2024-'25 School Year



- Head of Concessions
- Janitor
- Early Learning Center Director
- Early Learning Center Staff

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

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



**Fall Sports Online Gear Stores Going LIVE SOON!**  
*Watch our website and social media platforms.*

## 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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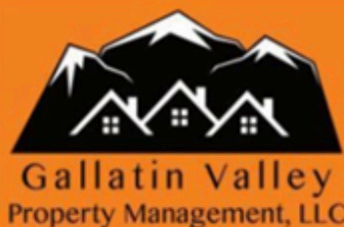
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