



MANHATTAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Connections

"From the rising of the sun to its going down, the
Lord's name is to be praised."

Psalm 113:3

JUNE 2023 ISSUE 8 VOLUME 23

Congratulations, Class of 2023!



A bittersweet "see you later" to the graduating class of 2023 and a big congratulations to our 8th grade class who will advance to high school next year! If you missed either ceremony, view them on our website under Arts. There, you can also view the Graduation and Commencement programs with future plans, scholarship information, and more. Thank you, Oak + Fern Wedding Co. for the HS graduation photos!

8th Grade Commencement Chapel



What People are Saying About Us

"Sports are not my thing, but even I have observed an excellent program that focuses as much on character & kindness as on performance and winning." -Niche Review

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Spring Music Highlights; Well Done, MCS Musicians!

By Daniel Chaussé, High School Band and Choir

This has been the most successful year of Music Festival I have ever experienced! In April, we had the opportunity to bring our band and choir students to the District Music Festival: Bozeman for Large Ensembles, and Helena for Solos and Small Ensembles. Our small choir of ten students was so brave and did an outstanding job, receiving an Excellent score for their prepared songs of "Oh Shenandoah" and "Let Us Sing." They also received a Good score on their sight-reading, which was a new experience for almost all of them. A special shout out is in order to Oren Arthun, our only male singer, who carried his part by himself! And thank you to Faith Dyksterhouse for being our accompanist at the festival. Our band did a truly tremendous job, receiving a Superior score (the highest possible) for our prepared pieces of "Fidelity March" by Karl L. King and "Exaltation" by James Swearingen, and a Superior for their sight-reading as well. The judges had high praise for our small band of fourteen students, and remarked how good our balance and blend was. For a more in-depth look at the band's performance, see Vic Veltkamp's article below.

The results of the Solos and Small Ensembles truly blew me away. We came to Helena bright and early with thirteen entries: one vocal trio, two vocal duets, two instrumental solos, two instrumental duets, and six vocal solos. Eleven of these entries received the highest score, Superior, and two received the second highest, Excellent.

We were able to take nine of those Superior entries on to the State Music Festival in Billings in early May. The students did an incredible job, and each and every entry received another Superior, and Grace Aamot's solo even had a perfect score! She sang "If I Can Help Somebody" by Alma Androzso, and Professor Stephen Hart from Rocky Mountain College said she was the best singer he heard at the festival.

It was awesome to watch all of the adjudicators work with our students. Oren Arthun sang "O Danny Boy" as a solo, and then got to work with the five other young men that sang in his block, and Professor Bethany Smith-Jacobs of Laramie County Community College worked with all of them with their breathing, tone production, and use of vowels. Professor Brian Murray from the University of Wyoming worked with many of our singers, including Haley Sander, Kaitlyn Scott, Kyanna Hoekema, and Grace Aamot on their various solos, and small ensembles. A big thank you is in order to Julie Bussis and Vic Veltkamp, who accompanied all of our students. Tyler Menzales, principal flutist of the Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale, worked with our own flutists, Sierra Flikkema and Baylee Roberts. All told, our students had a wonderful experience and were able to get a lot of valuable feedback from experts in their fields.

I am so proud of these hardworking students and their dedication to their craft. It is so encouraging to see the next generation rising up as not only young people with a good work ethic and brilliant creativity, but also humble hearts and God-glorifying attitudes. The past three years of teaching at MCS have been the best teaching experience I have ever had, even in spite of the challenges of COVID-19 my first year! I love this community and the wonderful privilege of being able to share my faith openly with my students and encourage them spiritually. God has opened the door for me to pursue my Master's degree at The University of Idaho-Moscow with an emphasis in Choral Conducting. This is a bittersweet time for me. I am excited for what God will bring in the next chapter of my life, but I am also saddened that I won't be able to continue seeing how these amazing student musicians progress in the years to come. I will be praying for them, that they will become more like Christ as they learn and grow, becoming bright lights for His kingdom.



By Vic Veltkamp, MCS Music Accompanist

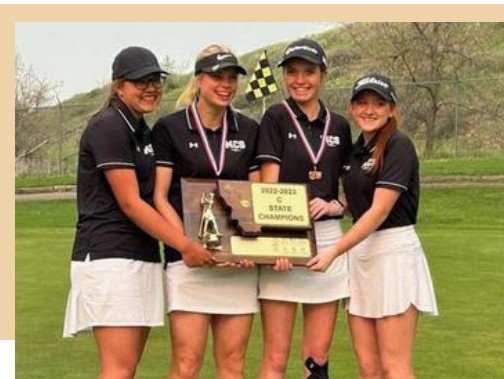
In the auditorium at Bozeman High School, the West Yellowstone High School band preceded Manhattan Christian's. They were larger, easily doubling our group, and they were very good. I understand that Nancy McPherson, their director, has been there quite a few years, but is retiring this year. She announced that they were playing a piece by Berlioz, and after that the "1812 Overture" by Tchaikovsky. My eyebrows went up; serious stuff. These pieces were no small task for a high school band. They did very, very well. A hard act to follow.

The MC band of 14 students came next. Seems like they even sat closer together, the better to hear each other and looking somewhat small on that large stage. When Mr. Chaussé got the signal to begin, he introduced himself, the band, and the pieces they would be playing. My eyes opened wide again! My first thought was that they played and sounded bigger than they looked; impressive. If a listener only heard recordings, you would not be able to tell that one band was almost twice as big as the other. First was "Fidelity March," then "Exaltation." We had every reason to be proud. I do believe there was not a weak link in that band. They also had to sight-read a piece for the adjudicators. Given a few minutes to study the music, they aced it as far as sight-reading is concerned. The final summation: a Superior rating in both categories. From what I could hear of the adjudicator's comments, he had heard hundreds of bands over the years, but he could count on one hand the bands of this size that sounded so good. Why so good? All the rehearsals, of course. But I couldn't help but think of Pep Band. Playing at numerous volleyball and basketball games is not as easy as it sounds. When the next peppy number is called, they have to find it in their folder, quickly scan for tempo and key signature, and away they go. It's not exactly sight-reading, but it certainly contributes to adaptability and competence. Last but not least, it's great fun. If you didn't get to be there, perhaps tell the band members, "Heard you did a great job at the District Festival," because they most certainly did.

Girls Golf and Boys Track Both Secure State Titles

The athletes at Manhattan Christian continue to keep the Amsterdam Fire Department busy. The boys track team took their honorary firetruck ride on Thursday, June 1 to celebrate the program's first-ever Boys State Track first place finish. A few days prior, the girls golf team took their ride to celebrate their sixth consecutive first place finish at the State C golf meet.

The girls track team also had an impressive showing at the State meet, finishing in second place with a number of new records and individual successes. The boys golf team finished fourth as a team at state, and individually, Cavan Visser placed fifth, Caleb Anderson and Carter VanDyken tied for tenth. Find @ManhattanChristianEaglesTrack&Field and @ManhattanChristianEaglesGolf on Facebook for more pictures. Check our website under Athletics and Spring Sports for individual results and new records! Well done, spring Eagle athletes!



Summer at Twice Treasured Thrift Store

Faith Dyksterhouse

It's busy at Twice Treasured! Just a few tips for those getting ready to bring us donations this summer. Go ahead and clean out all backpacks and lunch pails! Throw them, along with coats, boots, mittens, hats and snow pants in the washer before bringing them in. If any of those items have holes in them or the zippers are broken, we will let you dispose of them. Broken pencils, crayons, old markers, and school papers can also be thrown away. If your donations have been sitting in the garage for a while, please have your kids take a damp cloth and wipe the dust away. Together we can raise funds for the school. Many hands make light work; we appreciate your donations and your prayers during these busy months time at Twice Treasured!



Clean, Working, Sellable Donations are Accepted

Monday-Saturday from 10am-2pm

Pease call ahead if you are bringing a large amount of donations or furniture.

Giving us a heads up is a huge help!

Our Retail Store is Open

Monday-Saturday from 10am-5pm

See you this summer!

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Follow us on Facebook @TwiceTreasuredThrift



Thank You, Departing Teachers!

Joel Westa, Head of School; from the Annual Association Packet

This year we bid farewell to some of our faculty and staff. We are thankful for Jon VanDerLaan, Jake VanDam, Annie Moss, Rachel Doucette, and Daniel Chaussé, all of whom are moving on this upcoming year. We appreciate their service to MCS!

Introducing the Newest Eagle

Lexi Glaus, Communications Director

Layne and I want to extend a sincere thank you to the MCS community for the support and encouragement over the last month while we adjusted to life as a family of three. Grady John Glaus was born on Tuesday, May 16. He is 7 pounds 15 ounces of pure sweetness; God is so good. Thank you for the meals, prayers, gifts, texts, visits, and especially help at school as we missed out on a lot of end-of-year activities for both of our jobs. Grady is already spending lots of time in the gym; dad is convinced he will be dribbling a basketball before long.



Manhattan Christian School is **HIRING!**

- Part-Time and Full-Time Early Learning Center Caregivers •
- Teachers Aides •
- Bus drivers •
- Secondary Music Teacher •

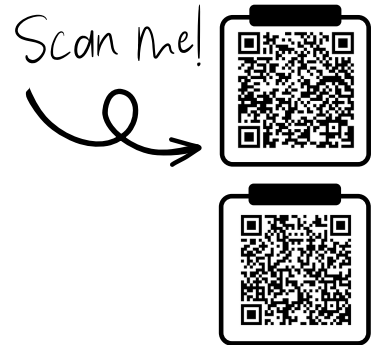
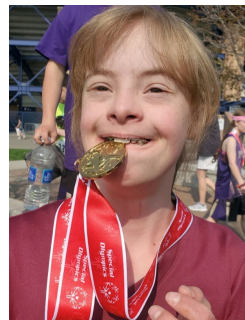
Learn more about these employment opportunities on our website at manhattanchristian.org/employment

2023 Special Olympics Montana

May 18 and 19 marked another year of Special Olympics Montana, this year held at Montana State University. We had three MCS students participate. Here are their results; way to go, girls!

- Nikki V.: 1st in softball throw and 3rd in standing long jump
- Molly H.: 1st in softball throw and 1st in standing long jump
- Sophia B.: 1st in standing long jump and 3rd in softball throw

The girls from the yearbook class decorated the white Eagle van for their trip to the Games. Scan the QR codes to see their reactions to this sweet surprise. Thank you, Mrs. Taber for making that happen! Also a big thank you to the three Unified Partners who trained with the athletes: Emily Straatman, Kyanna Hoekema, and Lindsay Cook.



Become a Manhattan Christian School Booster!

Do you own a business and want to share your support of Manhattan Christian School? MCS has a wide range of opportunities for you to help support our school by becoming an MCS Booster! Booster opportunities include advertising in our home athletic programs, in our gym, on our music and theater programs and more! Even if you don't own a business and want to show your family's support of a program, we would love that, too!

If you are interested in learning more about the Booster opportunities for the 2023-24 school year, please call Erika Kimm at 406-581-3011 or e-mail boosters@manhattanchristian.org.

"Stuff Da Bus" Collects Over a Ton of Canned Food

The juniors of Mr. TeSlaa's history class challenged the school to outdo their success of "Can Da Van" last year, which raised 2,300 pounds of food for the Headwaters Area Food Bank. Thanks to everyone for helping surpass that goal; this year, as a school and community, we raised 2,573 pounds of food! The winning class who brought in the most canned food was Mrs. Moss's fourth grade with 573 pounds. What a blessing it was to see our students being Community Builders to work together to bring the food, load it up together, and pray over the families who would receive it. Thank you, Mr. TeSlaa, Nick Albro, and Chris Dykema for heading up this effort.

*Matthew V. helps stuff the bus! (R)
A small team of juniors drop off the food
at Headwaters Area Food Bank. (B)*



Signed!



May 23 marked another exciting signing day for four of our Manhattan Christian Athletes. From top to bottom, congratulations to Dana Lerum (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, track), Reese Nieuwenhuis (Buena Vista University, volleyball), Kaitlyn Scott (Northern Arizona University, public speaking & forensics), and Grace Aamot (Masters University in Santa Clarita, golf). Ten of the 22 graduating seniors of 2023 have signed to further their academic and athletic careers next year.

Photo Credit: Dan Chesnet, The Post Game Gallery on FB

Red, White, and Blue Fun Run

Jodi Smith and Buffy Coghlin, Fun Run Co-Chairs

Thank you all for your support of this year's red, white, and blue Fun Run! The numbers are in, and we surpassed our goal of \$30,000 with a total of \$31,616.71!

The Fun Run is a fun way to raise money for our school while we also promote a healthy lifestyle to our students and the community! This year, students were raising funds to enhance their classroom furniture as well as to help make improvements in their classroom learning environments. Preschool and middle school students got to join in on the fun this year!



There were some serious prizes up for grabs for individuals, teachers, and classes who met their goals! Here's how everything ended up:

Mrs. Sinnema's Preschool class brought in the most money and received a pizza party and the honor of choosing lunch (cinnamon rolls, of course!) for the entire school! The middle school class to raise the most money was Mr. VanDam's sixth grade, so they got to bowl with Mr. Westa! Classes who met their class goal included first, second, third, and fourth grade, so those students received ice cream and an extra recess and their teachers also earned a gift card! Loads of fun individual prizes were also earned by students, one of the favorites being balls to throw at Mr. Hope in the dunk tank!

Summer RaiseRight Information

There will be no physical cards available for purchase throughout the summer. Follow "RaiseRight, formerly shopwithscrip" on Facebook and/or verify that you are getting email notifications to get notices about special bonus rebates, updates on brands, and different tips for using RaiseRight. Check out the current list of bonus rebates online or for more information on this program, visit our school website under Support MCS. Questions? Contact Arlene Roberts at areleneroberts11@gmail.com



Manhattan Christian School Foundation

Our mission is to lower tuition!

Annual Update From the 2023 Association Meeting

In the past year, your contribution to the cause totaled \$135,500 coming from a total of 11 donors and memorials received totaled \$33,445. Our thanks to those who have included us in their giving plans as well as to those that have included us as a part of their wills and estate plans. This year the Foundation has committed \$110,000 for the 2023-2024 year. Unfortunately, you will note that the contribution to the school is down significantly, in part because of a poorer economy, and partly because donations and annuities are also declining.

A few notes to encourage greater participation in a significant source for the MCS budget: We need more members!

The Foundation began in 86-87 and grew to 104 members in the first 10 years; it was up to 130 after 20 years. It reached its peak at 150, but since the end of 2022, we are now at 97 members. New membership levels were established in 2021 at \$100/year maintaining, \$500/year sustaining, and \$1,000/year embracing. Check with a board member or the school office for an application to join our mission of lowering tuition.

stay **CONNECTED**

SHARE the great things happening at MCS help us **TELL OUR STORY**



Your likes, shares, and comments help our information get to more viewers! You'll never miss an important announcement or event if you like our Facebook Page: MCEagles.



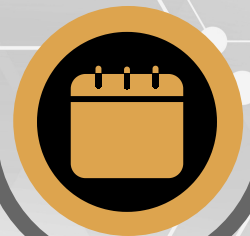
Instagram is a great way to keep up with pictures and videos of fun things happening at school, plus announcements about events on the horizon. If you share photos to your story, your followers see them too!
Find us @manhattanchristianeagles.



Twitter helps us send out quick, time-sensitive announcements about school closures, bus updates, or athletic scores. With a retweet, your followers will see our Tweets, too! Search @ChristianEagles.



Our website is mobile-friendly and designed to help prospective parents, current families, students, and alumni to browse easily. Find current events and announcements by scrolling down to the rotating quick-link banners.



Do you subscribe to our Weekly newsletter? If not, email mcscommunications@manhattanchristian.org so you never miss hot lunch updates, links to register for upcoming events, and a weekly update from our Head of School.



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randy visser

(p) 282.9922

randy@visserarchitects.net

163 quiet water way
manhattan, mt 59741

VOLUME 23

Bethel CRC is currently accepting applications for an Associate Pastor. Pastor Gil is retiring and we are looking to fill this half-time position with a person who has a heart for visiting the elderly and shut-ins. For more information please call Mike Dyksterhouse at 406-539-3224 or Dan Feddes at 406-570-1602

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