



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

MAY/JUNE 2026

ISSUE 8

VOLUME 26

Sweet Summertime is Here!

As we close another wonderful school year, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our school families, grandparents, supporters, volunteers, and community members who helped make this year so special. From the Fun Run and Grandparents' Day to our spring music concerts, Kindergarten Graduation, High School Awards Night, Senior Project Community Night, High School Graduation, 8th Grade Commencement Chapel, and Field Day, your presence, encouragement, and support of Christian education have blessed our students and staff in countless ways. Thank you for partnering with us as we encouraged our students and teachers to finish the year strong.

As summer begins, we pray for a season of rest, renewal, and joy for each of you. We especially lift up our 18 graduating seniors and the staff members who are stepping into new chapters, trusting that God has already prepared the path ahead of them. We are grateful for all He has done this year and look forward with excitement to another year of learning, growth, and faith together.



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Class of 2026

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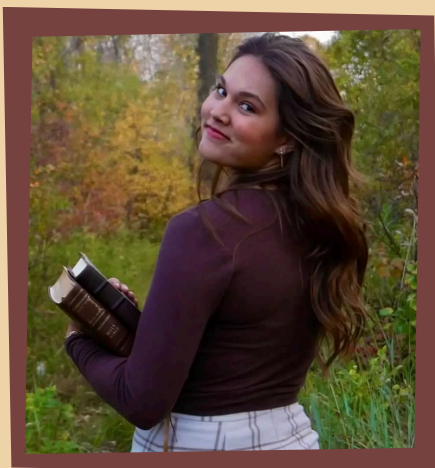
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That's a wrap on
2025-2026!
Enjoy your summer!



How long have you been at MCS?

I have attended MCS since Freshman year. In 8th grade I was at Emerge, in 7th I was at Manhattan, and in K-6 I was at Amsterdam.

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

This year, I have done theater, golf, band, and choir.

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

I have won All-state and Academic All-state awards in golf for my first three years of high school. Last year, I won 7th place at State golf. I have gotten superior scores on all of my solos for music festival throughout high school, and received 8th place at state speech and drama my junior year.

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

My favorite classes have always been English and Creative writing because I love to hear and tell stories. My favorite teacher though, is Mr. Kimm because he teaches in a way that takes the subject I hate (math) and makes it interesting.

What are some of your best non-academic memories?

My favorite memories at MCS probably come from my time as manager for the cross country team. Specifically state because I got so close to the girls on the team and the coaches that basically every moment was a favorite memory. Especially when we found an enormous leaf pile and all jumped in it.

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

Finish well. Don't fall behind or stop trying just because I'm close to being done.

What are you working on for your Senior Project?

I directed the first MCS K-8 theater production ever. We performed The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

What is one thing you think sets your education at MCS apart from at other schools?

The Christian foundation, in every way. I've learned about science from a Christian perspective, had teachers tell me they're praying for me, and had devotions opening every first period class. It has really built my faith by being in such a faith-nurturing community.

What are your plans for after graduation?

Dordt University to double major in English: Creative Writing and Literature

What is your favorite Bible Verse?

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Financial Literacy Month

Jill Ayers, High School Business and Technology

April was Financial Literacy Month in Montana; Governor Greg Gianforte declared the month at the Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC) Conference on March 24 in Helena. I attended the conference and witnessed the governor's signing.

The accounting students at MCS took part in several statewide financial events and competitions in April:

- **Big Sky Biz Sim:** The accounting class competed in the Big Sky Biz Sim, a statewide business simulation in which student teams run a virtual manufacturing company for two months and are ranked by their company's stock price. Finley Skillman and Briannah Ohs placed first in their industry with their fictitious company, Big Sky Brims, and received a cash prize sponsored by First Interstate Bank.
- **Personal Finance Challenge:** Four seniors — Blaise Bolich, Samuel O'Hara, Briannah Ohs, and Aubrey Hofman — competed in the Personal Finance Challenge. Each student answered 30 questions in 35 minutes; their combined scores produced the team result. The MCS team finished 8th out of more than 180 teams across Montana. After submission, this group received the following email: **We are pleased to share that your top-performing team will be rewarded for their outstanding achievement. We will be mailing the team a \$100 gift card in recognition of their success. Congratulations to your students for their hard work and impressive performance. For context, your team took 8th place out of 239 teams! We had a category for schools with less than 5 teams and yours had the top score in that category.**
- **Teen Teach In:** To support Financial Literacy Month, the accounting class participated in Jump\$tart's Teen Teach In program. Students visited Mrs. Brouwer's second-grade class and taught three short lessons covering saving, earning, banking, and tithing.

These activities gave students hands-on experience with budgeting, business decision-making, and teaching basic money skills to younger learners.

Epic Earth Day Book Swap



Lexi Glaus, Librarian

Inspired by an Instagram video shared by first-grade teacher Amy Freed, we hosted our very first Earth Day Book Swap this spring in the library! As part of our Teaching for Transformation throughline, Earth Keeping, K-5 students explored what it means to care for God's creation and discussed practical ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle with what we read: giving books they had outgrown or finished reading a chance to be loved by someone new. Students brought in gently used books and earned up to three "Book Bucks" to shop for new-to-them titles. More than seven tables were filled with fantastic books, and thanks to the incredible generosity of students who donated more than three books, every participant was able to take home at least one book. A few teachers, middle schoolers, and high school students even joined in on the fun! It was a wonderful way to celebrate reading, stewardship, and sharing with others.

Four MCS Seniors Sign for College Athletics

Layne Glaus, Athletic Director

We are proud to celebrate four members of the Class of 2026 who have committed to continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Blaise Bolich will compete in rodeo at Montana State University, Aubrey Hofman will play volleyball at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, Bria Ohs will continue both track and cross-country at Montana Tech, and Andrew Kimm will play basketball at the University of Northwestern–St. Paul. We congratulate these student-athletes on their hard work, dedication, and achievements, and we look forward to seeing how God continues to lead them as they begin this exciting next chapter (Photo credit: Dan Chesnet, Post Game Gallery on FB)



MCS Track: Competition and Character

Spring track had a strong season with both team and individual highlights. The boys team was small but earned several individual successes throughout the year, while the girls team finished first at Districts and second at Divisionals. Our Unified athletes, Molly, Sophia, and Nikki, along with coaches Ms. Amber and Ms. Stephanie, shined at every meet, never meeting a stranger and bringing joy wherever they went. Even more meaningful than results on the track was the way this group served others. While traveling by bus to Pony, they supported senior teammate Cutler Edmundson with a portion of his senior project, "Serve Our Seniors," by helping clean up the senior citizen center before getting their run in. The impact of that day reached far beyond the small town of Pony, whose Facebook post recognizing their efforts received over 1,200 likes and 100+ comments of appreciation. At Manhattan Christian, we are grateful for coaches (the amazing Mark, Tyler, Josiah, Ben, and Katie) and athletes who continue to prioritize service, character, and community over competition.



ROTARY

student of the month:
Cutler Edmundson



How long have you been at MCS?

I have attended MCS for two years and before that I attended Harrison.

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

Cross country, football, basketball, and track

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

All State in Track (2025)
Academic All State Football (2024)
Academic All State Cross Country (2025)
Coaches Award in Cross Country (2025)
Honor Society (2024)

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

Mr. Te Slaa - Economics/U.S. History/Government/
Study Hall/Cross Country Coach

Every single teacher at MCS stands out to me, but Mr. T in particular stands out for several reasons. First time I ever saw Mr. T he did the "griddy" in the classroom. It was hilarious, what teacher does stuff like that? None that I know of. My favorite class I ever took with him was economics class. I learned so much about investing in there. All of us seniors have had a blast with Mr. T; he is a rare rare kind of teacher. He loves us kids so much, it's pretty easy to see.

What are some of your best non-academic memories?

All the time I spent with Blaise and winning a state championship in track.

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

Have an incredible time on that senior trip

What are you working on for your Senior Project?

Serve Our Seniors

What is one thing you think sets your education at MCS apart from at other schools?

Everything: the teachers, coaches, a beautiful church right next to the school, and the best facilities in all of Montana class C.

What are your plans for after graduation?

Finance or to be an entrepreneur after I go to Australia for one year.

What is your favorite Bible Verse?

"Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance." Titus 2:2

Memorial Garden

Mrs. Leep's AgriScience class spent time this spring caring for and enhancing the Memorial Garden on the north side of the school grounds, planting a variety of shrubs and perennials to help it continue to thrive. Be sure to stop by and enjoy their work!



History Lesson Series: The MCS School Cornerstone

Don Vaniman, MCS Foundation Secretary

When the Manhattan Christian School office area and main entrance were remodeled in 1998-1999, Don and Cecilia Vaniman donated a Cornerstone for the school entrance, made by the Bozeman Granite Company. Since then, whenever a donor gives an annuity to the Manhattan Christian School Foundation, the MCS Foundation gives the donor a miniature replica of the cornerstone. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a part of the Manhattan Christian Foundation, you can read more on page 7 of the Connections every month!



Boosters at Manhattan Christian School

For more than 119 years, Manhattan Christian School has partnered with families, churches, and businesses to provide Christ-centered education that equips students to lead, serve, and impact their communities. Through athletics, fine arts, livestream events, and community gatherings, our school reaches families across Southwest and Eastern Montana year-round. By becoming a Booster sponsor, your business will not only support students and programs at MCS, but also gain valuable visibility through signage, publications, livestream advertising, and social media promotion.

This year, we are excited to welcome Nicole Feuerhelm into the role of Booster Director. As she steps into this position, she is bringing fresh ideas and new opportunities designed to add value for both new and longtime Booster sponsors.

Thank you for considering a partnership with Manhattan Christian School as we continue investing in the next generation together. For more information, please contact Nicole Feuerhelm, Booster Director, at Boosters@manhattanchristian.org or 661-505-5388.

Both Golf Teams Secure Second Place at the State Meet in Shelby

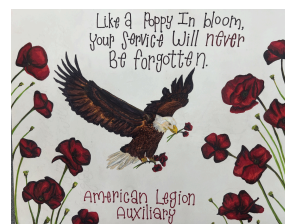
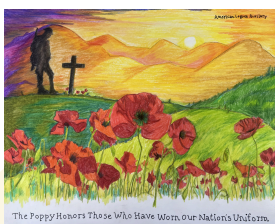


Golf season was marked by steady growth, strong finishes, and a lot of miles on the little white bus with dedicated coaches Garret Nielson and Ryan Ruffatto leading the way. The girls placed first at Divisionals, while the boys finished second, and both teams went on to earn second place at State. At Divisionals, Max, Finley, Lydia, Austyn, and Haley all finished in the top 10, with Haley earning second place overall. Max, Lydia, Haley, and Finley each earned All-State honors, and nearly the entire team was recognized as Academic All-State, maintaining a GPA above 3.5 throughout the season. A season full of early mornings, long bus rides, and clutch putts ended with plenty to be proud of!



Poppy Poster Winners

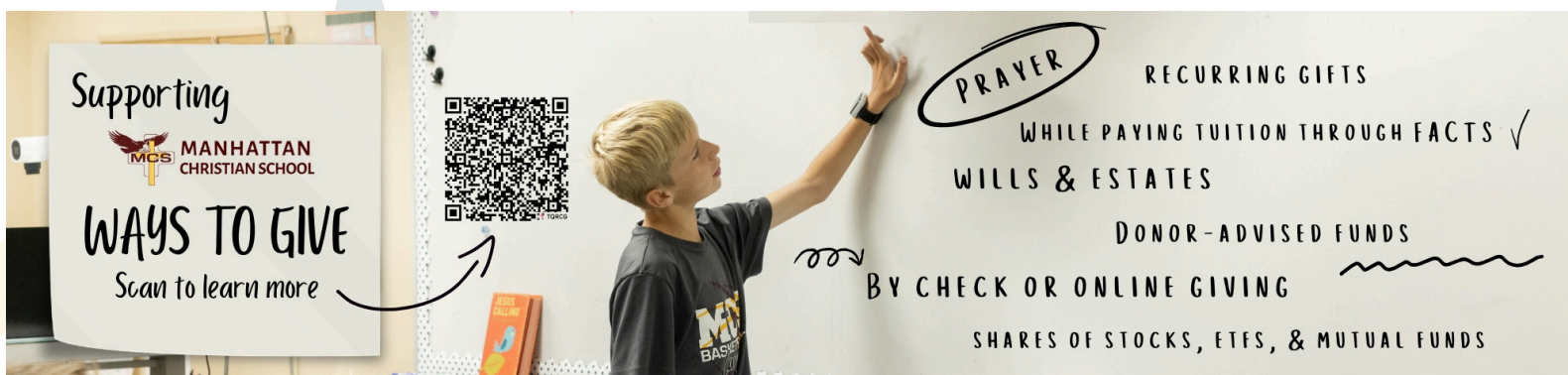
Congratulations to Tate Flikkema (grades 2-3 division), Decker Flikkema (grades 4-5 division), Teagan Flikkema (grades 6-7 division), Derk Flikkema (grades 8-9 division), Joy James (grades 10-11 division), and Nikki Vandyken, who each earned First Place honors in the American Legion Auxiliary Post #87 Annual Poppy Poster Contest. We are proud of their creativity and hard work! Photos of the winning students are shown (in order as listed) below.



Grandparents' Day

This year's event had our best turnout yet, making the day even more meaningful. Our time together was filled with worship, classroom activities, interviews, lunch, photos, and playground time, all centered on celebrating these special relationships and the joy they bring to our school community.

We were very thankful to welcome Development Director Joel Westa, as our guest speaker again this year, who shared with our grandparents and students that both generations are truly blessed to have one another. Research he shared consistently shows that strong grandparent-grandchild relationships benefit both groups; children often show fewer emotional and behavioral challenges and stronger social development, while grandparents experience improved well-being, including better memory and a stronger sense of purpose. If you would like to learn more about partnering with us as a grandparent of a student at Manhattan Christian School, please email us at development@manhattanchristian.org.



Thank You, Fun Run Supporters!

This year's Fun Run was an amazing success, raising over \$53,000 toward our \$40,000 goal, with 729 donations coming in from 31 states! Funds are going directly toward strengthening literacy in grades PK-5 by adding engaging tools like Yoto players and library cards, boosting classroom technology, and supporting teacher-selected literacy materials for next year (they've already begun their shopping!). Any additional funds will support our Building on Our Blessings campaign as we continue investing in our school's future.

A huge thank-you to Buffy and Kelly for all their hard work organizing the event and handling prize distribution each week (very exciting days in the hallways), and to Nathan Daniels for bringing the energy as emcee for both the rally and the big day. Nine students even earned more than \$1,200 to win the coveted top prize of a Nintendo Switch, so exciting!

It was a beautiful day full of sunshine, laughter, and lots of running, and we're already looking forward to next year! And to everyone reading this, many of whom were likely cheering from the sidelines or supporting as donors. Thank you for making this event possible and for helping our students thrive.





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- Manhattan Christian Lady Eagles Basketball Team
- Manhattan Christian Eagles Boys Basketball
- Manhattan Christian Eagles Track & Field
- Manhattan Christian Eagles Golf



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The Manhattan Christian Network on Spotify



Manhattan Christian School Foundation

Our mission is to lower tuition!

COMPARE

Certificate of Deposit:

- \$10,000
- 3.0% for Term
- \$300 Annual Income
- \$300 Taxable Income
- 0 Tax-Free Income
- 0 Federal Deduction
- 0 State Deduction

MCSF Gift Annuity:

- \$10,000
- 7.5% for Life
- \$750 Annual Income
- \$236 Taxable Income
- \$513 Tax-Free Income
- \$4,689 Federal Deduction
- \$1,876 State Deduction

MCSF gift annuities may offer more than money in the bank. Let's talk about the options that could work for you!

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

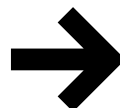
MCSF GIFT ANNUITY

Mary Jones, Age 77

Property:
\$10,000



7.0%
Annuity
Contract



MCSF

Federal Income Tax Deduction
\$4,689 (4.2%AFR)
Montana Income Tax Credit \$1,876.

Annuity of \$750 for one life.
Tax-free portion \$513.

Property passes to MCSF's
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Praying you have a wonderful summer!