



**MANHATTAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Connections

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE 1

VOLUME 25

Many Members, One Body

Micah Forsythe, Spiritual Life Director

**many members,
one body**

JUST AS A BODY, THOUGH ONE, HAS MANY
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WITH CHRIST.

1 Corinthians 12:12



The Apostle Paul reminded the church in Corinth that although it was comprised of various members with different gifts, in Christ Jesus, they were still one body. Paul's words couldn't be more fitting for our context at Manhattan Christian School! This year, there are 308 students from kindergarten through high school. Our students come from over 90 families and 7 different towns. Over 70 faithful men and women invest in this ministry to make this school year happen. Over 30 different churches are represented in the halls of MCS! Many different members come together to make Manhattan Christian School happen. This is a complex body! Yet, in this complexity, at least three things unite us: 1) Our love for our kids; 2) Our commitment to a high-quality Christian education; 3) And most importantly--Our faith in the Triune God!

We are, indeed, many members. In a world that increasingly seems to want to cause division, our aim and theme this year at MCS is to focus on the unity we have in Christ!

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Why We Love Working at MCS:

I love working at Manhattan Christian because of the tightly-knit community and everyone's support of each other.

The 62nd Annual Harvest Festival

We are already gearing up for this year's Harvest Festival.
Save the date for Saturday, October 12!

The Harvest Festival is one of the school's biggest and longest running fundraisers. Join the school and community to celebrate this beautiful fall season and harvest! There is something for everyone. The kids' favorite activities at the event are the carnival games. Others come for the delicious lunch, pies, and to take home their favorite Dutch desserts, caramel apples, and other homemade treats! Men and women show their support by participating in the many auctions that take place throughout the school. And this year be sure to come by the Harvest Market (formerly Craft Room) where we will feature handmade goods made by our community and students. Whether you have been to past Harvest Festivals or this is your first one, there is something for everyone!

MCS greatly benefits from the generosity of our community, extended families, and alumni. Your support is invaluable to us. Would you consider how you can help? There are many ways you can be involved. Do you love to craft, sew, bake or create? Please think about how you can give your time and share your talents. If you are willing to bake cookies, pies, or other desserts, please don't wait for a phone call. Connect with us, as lists often change and we want and need your help! We are always grateful to any alumni, grandparents, old or new friends who can give time, talents, or donations to make this fundraiser a success!

We have been blessed to have Jodi Venema and Stephanie Venhuizen as the Heads of this festival for many years, this year Aly Feddes and Brittany Braaksma are taking over as Heads and have big shoes to fill. If you see Jodi or Stephanie please give them a big thank you for their dedication to this event and all of their hard work over the years.

For any information or questions regarding the Harvest Festival, please contact Aly Feddes (aly.ziegler7@gmail.com) or Brittany Braaksma (brittany.braaksma@gmail.com).



Manhattan Christian's
62nd Annual
HARVEST FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

- Outdoor Live Auction • 10am •
- Dutch Specialties, Desserts & Caramel Apples • 10am •
- Kids Carnival Games • 10am-Noon •
- Lunch • 11am-1pm •
- Harvest Market • 10am-1:30pm •
- Indoor Silent Auction • 10am-1pm •
- Harvest Hall Class Basket Auction • 10am-12:30pm •
- Kids Movie • 12-1:30pm •
- Touch A Tractor • 10am-1:30pm •

Admission is FREE
pay as you go for treats, auction items, and games

8000 Churchill Road, Manhattan, NY 12074 | manhattanchristian.org | (406) 282-7261



Congratulations to our Harvest Festival
Poster Art Contest Winner, first grade
student, Ezra Cok!

Thank you for this beautifully-drawn
tractor, Ezra!

Welcome

New Students and Families!

Please join us in welcoming the
following students and their families to
our Manhattan Christian School
Community! We are so glad you're
here!

Lawrence and Nicole Feuerhelm
Kindergarten Student, Sebastian

Derick and Ivy Verge
Kindergarten Student, Lyla

Nick and Amanda Massey
Kindergarten Student, Owen

Jeff and Kelsey Renevier
Kindergarten Student, Cash

Jeff and Jackie Rogers
Kindergarten Student, Ryder

Stetson and Mischelle Robinsen
Kindergarten Student, Trent

Mike and Erin Gibson
Kindergarten Student, Micaela

Donald and Alita Zignego
Kindergarten Student, Madison

Ryan and Taylor Jern
Kindergarten Student, William

Aaron and Amy Freed
Kindergarten Student, Henry

Jeremy and Becky Townsend
Kindergarten Students, Sawyer and Oliver

Jace and Claire Courage
Kindergarten Student, Waylon

Tyler and Mackenzie Smith
First Grade Student, Myles

William and Lacey Kuttylo
Second Grade Student, William

Devan and Taylor Fulfer
Second Grade Student, Derek

John and Shannon Barnard
Fourth Grade Student, Callan

Micah and Christa Forsythe
Fifth Grade Student, Tansy

Ninth Grade Student, Eden

Christopher and Rebekkah Conley
Fifth Student, Aubrey

Annabel and Zade Morgan
Sixth Grade Student, Maeme

Nathan and Ashley Daniels
Sixth Grade Student, Riley

Jimmie and Emily Bates
Eighth Grade Student, Mason

Seventh Grade Student, Decker

Eric and Alana Edwards
Seventh Grade Student, Allison

Justin and Racquel Skillman
Seventh Grade Student, Jay

Eleventh Grade Student, Finley

Michael and Joy Sander
Second Grade Student, Ben

Fourth Grade Student, Abby

Seventh Grade Student, Brielle

Edin and Melody Wells-Minthorn
Seventh Grade Student, Lucy

Hubert Sale and Eileen Thompson
Eighth Grade Student, Minnie

Daniel and Heather Ohs
Ninth Grade Student, Harper

Eleventh Grade Student, Briannah

Tucker and Nikki Edmundson
Eleventh Grade Student, Cutler

The Manhattan Christian Network: Our First Podcast

The Stewardship committee is thrilled to bring you two, soon to be three, short podcast episodes each week! Hear and share all the amazing things happening at our school. Catch Marketing and Communications Director, Lexi Glaus every Monday for a quick run down of the week so you don't miss a thing. On Wednesdays, Board member, Ben Holst, will host a variety of interviews for What's Up Wednesday to get the inside scoop on special events and activities straight from the sources. Coming soon: Faith Story Fridays with Head of School, Joel Westa, where he sits down with a number of different members of our school and community to hear how their faith has shaped their paths and how MCS fits into that.



Scan to listen!

A New Senior Rite of Passage: Painted Parking Spots

If you haven't had a chance to check out the class of 2025's freshly-painted parking spots, make sure you come by! This optional activity is one of our newest, favorite traditions.



Safety Reminder

Joel Westa, Head of School

I take the safety and security of your kids and my staff very seriously. Two years ago, the Board voted to enact a policy to allow selected and trained staff to be armed. Weapons are not carried at all times, and when they are not carried they are in biometrically activated safes.

There is a training protocol required and our ultimate goal is your child's safety. We don't announce this with signs, but as I hear discussions around town, it seems everyone knows we are an armed campus. I want anyone with evil intentions to know this will not be an easy place to attack. We have changed the entry control system to modernize and control access. Everyone seemed to have a FOB allowing them access to the school, and that has changed. We must control access to this building. That is why I tend to go ballistic when I see doors propped open with rocks and left unattended or simply left unlocked after an event. We've also had an increase in suspicious vehicles and people parking in our parking lot. I had a car towed recently after consulting with the Gallatin County Sheriff and will continue to do so as required. Please help us in this effort. Keep an eye out for the school. If something looks out of place or suspicious, please let me or anyone on our staff know immediately. Please ensure the weapons you possess are safe and secure, and if you hear of any threats to the school, let me or law enforcement know immediately.

I am a big fan of Nehemiah, who trusted the Lord when threatened but simultaneously took action to prepare for that possibility. Workers worked on the wall but were also armed and ready to respond. In these times, we must have that same mindset. Thank you for your support!

Celebrating 30 Years

Shad Van Dyken

The Class of 1994 celebrated their 30th year class reunion this summer on August 2, 2024!

We graduated with 21 students and 11 were able to attend! Most of us are local but we had two attendants, one from Texas and the other from Michigan. We were blessed to use John and Jami Visser's beautiful backyard to enjoy food, fellowship, and many great memories! We had music from the 90's and memorabilia to entertain us as well! We hope even more can attend next time.



Introducing Our New Faculty Members

Meet Shayla Van Dyken, First Grade: My parents are Shad and Crystal Van Dyken. I have three other siblings: Grant, Hailey, and Isaac. I am engaged to Michael Osgood and Lord willing I will get married next summer! I live on a farm so I have lots of animals to entertain me such as cats, dogs, cows, chickens, and lambs. I love hiking, going to the gym and being outdoors with my friends and family. If I am not outside, I enjoy reading and sipping on some coffee. Otherwise I love organizing and cleaning! I love dark chocolate, sweet potatoes, dill pickles, and salty snacks. Preferably not together ;). My favorite coffee is a honey lavender or honey coconut latte. I attended MCS k-12 and then graduated from Dordt with an Elementary Education degree and an endorsement in Special Education and coaching. I completed my student teaching in Denver, Colorado and this will be my first year having my own classroom! I love coming back to the community that raised and taught me. I look forward to learning from the amazing teachers and staff while growing in the Lord with my students. MCS has always had a special place in my heart so it is so exciting to be a part of their mission.

Deep Hope: We will build an authentic community that is empathetic and willing to SHINE FOR THE LORD while persevering on our best and worst days.



Joy Sander, K-12: I am a Montana native; born in Hamilton, MT and then grew up in Bozeman, starting in the 4th grade. I met my husband at our church youth group. We have been married for 20 years and have 5 wonderful kiddos - Katelyn, Haley, Brielle, Abigail, and Benjamin. Our oldest will be starting at MSU this fall and so that is a new thing for us! To relax, I also enjoy taking walks, reading books, playing games of any kind, and being in the mountains. During this season, one of my favorite things is cheering on my kids in their various sports and activities. When I was a kid my mom often told me to "be blessed and be a blessing!" Now I say it to my kids all the time and it's how I try to live my life! I have taught at Cottonwood Elementary and EMERGE and been a long-term sub here at MCS and at Amsterdam. From 2006 - 2011 my husband and I served with Youth With A Mission, first at the YWAM MT base in Lakeside, MT and then in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic for 2 years. While with YWAM MT we participated in missions trips to the Dominican Republic, Thailand, and Costa Rica. I have also served on trips to Venezuela and Mexico. I hope to encourage students to grow in their personal faith and to discover who the Lord has made them to be. I'm also excited to teach them Spanish and hope they'll see the relevance and potential value that speaking a second language can have in their lives. My husband grew up in Churchill. We have lived here since moving back from the DR and we dearly love this community. I am eager to get to know even more of the students and families at MCS. Go Eagles!



Josiah Amunrud, Middle School Science: Josiah, 2020 alum, is excited to be a part of the community and share with his students his love of God's creation. This is Josiah's first teaching job after receiving a Bachelor's in Biology from the University of Providence. He's also currently enrolled at Montana State University, working on his Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education. Josiah loves pizza and all coffee and spends his free time playing basketball, trail running around the beautiful state of Montana, traveling, and fishing. Welcome back, Josiah!



Carla Walhof, First Grade : I have been married to Corwin for 30 years. We have three kids: Jordan, his wife Briann, and their daughter, Rhya; Karissa who lives in Memphis, Tennessee; and Allison who is a Junior at the University of Sioux Falls, SD. I have three pets: 2 guinea pigs who stayed behind in Iowa with my daughter and an African dwarf frog named Gary. I love to read and listen to audiobooks. I love being outside, biking, taking walks, and enjoying nature. I love spending time with family and friends. I love hanging out with my granddaughter. I love to score volleyball and teach English to those who don't speak it. My favorite main dish is anything chicken or Mexican. I love chocolate and especially peanut M&Ms, but I am not a coffee drinker! I graduated from Dordt College (now University) with an Elementary Education degree, a minor in Special Education, and a reading endorsement. Since then, I have obtained my English as a Second Language endorsement, and I am trained in dyslexia and dysgraphia. I have previously taught at: New Holland Christian School in SD - grades 1/2 combined, and Kindergarten; Doon Christian School, IA - a combined classroom of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades; and Spalding Catholic School, IA - a combined classroom of 5th and 6th graders. I am excited to continue teaching in an environment where I can help students love Jesus as much as I do. I have always been part of small schools, even growing up, so being part of a much bigger school with more staff is something I look forward to. I have always taught more than one grade at a time, and I look forward to having only one grade this year.

Deep Hope: My Deep Hope is that my students will recognize who they are and Whose they are. I want them to know that they have been created on purpose and have a very important place in God's story. I want them to respond by living a life of purpose that brings glory to God.



Mariah Leum, Fifth Grade: I love all things outdoor, especially in the mountains! Riding horses, dirt biking, spending time at the lake, camping, or just being out in creation with family and friends! I love a very strong iced vanilla latte, and everything else related to coffee! I am convinced that apple pie is the only kind of pie that is needed in this world! My favorite foods involve anything pasta or a nice juicy steak and mashed potatoes! I have attended Manhattan Christian School Pre K-senior year (Go Eagles!) Then, I attended Montana State University to pursue my degree in Elementary Education. (Go Bobcats!!) Last year I completed my first year of teaching in the small town of Harrison, Montana. This year I am so excited to have the opportunity to come back home to MCS. There is something special about this school, the teachers, the students, and the families. I am excited to be able to give back to the community that helped to raise me and pour their time and effort into me. A dream of mine has always been to help point students toward Jesus and encourage them in their walk with the Lord. I can't wait to share the gifts, talents, and ideas that I have been given with my current and future students!



New Faculty Members, Cont.

Chip Callantine, Transportation Director: Chip comes to us to fill a great need in our transportation department. After much prayer and searching last year, we are fully staffed with bus drivers and running four routes! Chip has streamlined the bus request process, digitized the transportation calendar with special and athletic events, arranges drivers, and keeps our busses in great shape. Chip has six adult children, nine grandkids, three great-grandkids, and a cat. He loves food and outdoor activities, and is excited for new growth at Manhattan Christian. Welcome, Chip!



Annabel Kovacs, Early Learning Center Director: Reopening the ELC this year has already been a huge blessing for our teachers and surrounding community members and their families!

My name is Annabel Kovacs and I will be the director of the Early Learning Center this year! A little bit about me, I have been married for two years to my amazing husband, Matthew, and we recently just welcomed our first daughter, Nora to the world. We are passionate about the outdoors and love to spend our time hiking, biking and camping in the summers and in the winters you can find us skiing up at Bridger Bowl!

My last few years in education I was a third and fourth grade teacher and before that I ran the After School Program at Story Creek! I am so excited to be a part of the Manhattan Christian Family and serve many families in the years to come by reopening the ELC! I can't wait to get to know everyone.



Thank You, Twice Treasured Thrift Store!

Our annual Twice Treasured 'Thank You Celebration' for all our wonderful workers and volunteers was a hit again this summer. Thank you again to the Kimm family for their hospitality. This year's check presented to Manhattan Christian School from Twice Treasured Thrift Store was \$200,000! Thank you all for your hard work on this team!

Grace Dyk's Art and Annual Calendar

Grace Dyk's art is displayed and for sale in our main office and coffee shop. Please let the office ladies know if you are interested in purchasing one of her pieces! Grace will also have her annual calendar available for purchase at the 2024 Harvest Festival.



Dominic Holst

Senior Dominic Holst, son of head football coach, Ben Holst, will be hosting the first-ever Little Eagles Football camp for boys and girls in 3rd and 4th grade. Please note the updated dates and times (September Saturdays from 9-10am) Sign up using the QR code or email Dominic at dholst2025@manhattanchristian.org.



senior SPOTLIGHTS project

Bella Triemstra

I would like to sell MCS T-shirts to support and raise awareness of cancer during the month of October. I feel like cancer is something that is impacting so many in our community. Many others in our community have lost loved ones to this horrible disease, and there are also cancer survivors that need to be honored with our support! I will design a shirt to bring awareness to those fighting cancer with the MCS logo also incorporated. People will purchase these shirts and can also give a donation if called to do so. The shirt has the volleyball and football themes as well. The money raised from shirt sales will go towards cancer research. I have several ideas drawn up already, and will work with Jeff Bellach at Game One to get them made. I will also create posters and social media content to raise awareness for this event. I plan to have an area set up at school to display this project, as well as a banner for people to write the names of those close to them impacted by cancer and/or in need of prayers. We will also have a "pink night" at one of our October home volleyball games to raise awareness.

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Help us share OUR STORY!








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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!

Now Accepting Membership Applications!

A big welcome and thank you to our new members!

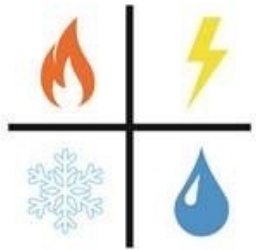
Not a member yet? Please consider

SIGNING UP NOW!

We are earnestly asking for your show of support.

The vision of your fathers needs to be picked up in the present. 90% of our current members are over the age of 70. Most people joined over 20 years ago! Our goal is 250 members; will you help us get there and make lowering tuition your mission too?

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



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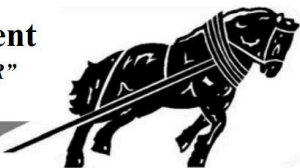
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