



MANHATTAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Connections

Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in
his deeds toward the children of man.
Psalm 66:5

SEPTEMBER 2026

ISSUE 1

VOLUME 27

Come & See

Nathanael Hope, Head of School

Each school year, we have a theme for the year that acts as the heartbeat of what we do as a school. Our themes for the last few years have been “The Lord Builds the House” (Psalm 127:1-2), “Many Members, One Body” (1 Corinthians 12:12-20), and “Abide in Christ” (John 15:1-5). These themes help focus what we hear in chapels and discipleship groups throughout the year. They help focus our academics, arts, and athletics in what is of greater importance and how we can see and glorify our God through all of these areas.

Throughout each school year, I keep a running note on my phone of ideas for the upcoming year’s theme. Last year, I had a handful of ideas and thoughts jotted down but nothing was really standing out to me. Then, during an elementary chapel in April, Pastor Steve Bussis was teaching our students from John 1:43-51. The text contains the story of Phillip going to his brother Nathanael and saying, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael, in true sceptic form responds, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” to which Phillip responds: “COME AND SEE!”

The moment Pastor Steve read that line, it was as if God almost audibly said, “here is your theme for next year!” I sat stunned on the bench in the Eagle gym. There was no question as to what our theme was going to be this year! The more I thought about it, the more excited I grew about the statement “Come and See.” It is precisely what we are doing as Christian parents, educators, and church communities. We are saying to our children and to the world, “come and see our God!” As our teachers and coaches have students in the classrooms, the music rooms, the athletic fields and courts, we get to say “come and see the design, beauty, structure, creativity, and delight of our amazing God.” Our athletes get to demonstrate to their opponents and fans, “come and see that there is something greater than what we are doing here.” As a school, we get to say to the community we are in, “come and see what God is doing at Manhattan Christian!”

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NEW Signing Days

Like, Follow, &
Subscribe to all our MCS
Platforms!

The MCS Foundation

NEWS WORTH SHARING:
Manhattan Christian added 47 new
students from 29 new families this year.
Help give them a warm welcome to our MCS
family!

A Warm Welcome to our New Staff



Madison Davis joins MCS as our new Art Teacher. Her college journey began at Dawson Community College, where she spent two years on a softball scholarship while exploring her passion for the arts. She later transferred to the University of Montana Western, earning a degree in K-12 Art Education with a minor in Business and Computer Applications. Before coming to MCS, Ms. Davis taught elementary art in Great Falls, traveling between five different schools and teaching over 2,600 students in grades K-6. She loves helping students discover their creativity and confidence through hands-on art experiences. Outside the classroom, Madison enjoys fishing, hiking, camping, and hunting and finds much of her artistic inspiration in the beauty of God's creation. She is excited to build relationships at MCS, make memories with students, and see where the Lord leads this year!



Sophia Hahner joins MCS as the new MS/HS Band and Choir Director. She earned her bachelor's degree in Music Education from Montana State University and completed her student teaching in Big Timber. Sophia loves traveling, playing instruments, and line and swing dancing. Sophia is especially excited to join a community where she can work alongside fellow believers and freely share the Gospel. She looks forward to using music as a way to connect with students, encourage their gifts, and help them grow both musically and spiritually.



Andrew Cantley joins Manhattan Christian School as our Elementary Music and Middle School Bible teacher. He earned his BA in Music Education from Montana State University and brings four years of teaching experience to MCS, including three years teaching K-12 music in Belt, Montana, and one year teaching high school and middle school choir in Cut Bank, Montana. Andrew and his wife, Emma, have a six-month-old daughter, Juniper. Outside of school, he enjoys hiking, music, fishing, hunting, and playing board games. Some of his favorite local spots include Seven Sushi and Storehouse Coffee in Manhattan. After teaching exclusively in public schools before joining MCS, Andrew is especially excited for the opportunity to teach in a Christ-centered environment and share his faith with his students. He looks forward to building relationships with students while helping them grow in both their musical abilities and their understanding of God's Word.



Jake Unke joins MCS as our new Spiritual Life Director, bringing extensive experience in Christian education, administration, coaching, and ministry. He earned degrees in Elementary Education and Secondary Physical Education from Martin Luther College, along with master's degrees in Physical Education from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and Educational Administration from Martin Luther College. Jake has served in a variety of roles at Christian schools across the country, including teacher, coach, dorm supervisor, and principal in California, Nebraska, Illinois, and Texas. He and his wife, Jenna, have three children—Hawkins, Josie, and Colt—and two dogs, Juma and Kenai. Jake enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking, traveling, concerts, sports, and playing guitar and accompanying worship. He is excited to invest in MCS students and be part of a community where faith is not simply talked about, but lived out together as we prepare the Christian leaders of tomorrow.



Nicole Feuerhelm joins MCS as our Development Coordinator, bringing a strong background in business, leadership, and community involvement. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Business and has spent 15 years working in business, including serving as a COO. She has also been involved with MCS as a Booster, substitute, and volunteer. Nicole and her husband, Laurent, have two children, Sebastian and Eleanor. Outside of MCS, she enjoys crafting, interior design, graphic design, puzzling, organizing, traveling, and baking. She is also a fan of a crisp Diet Coke and white chocolate pistachio iced coffee! Nicole is excited to help strengthen the incredible community at MCS. Her deep hope is to create, inspire, and foster relationships that enhance the school and honor God for many generations to come.



Luke Roberts joins MCS as a high school science and math teacher after earning his B.S. in Biophysics from Whitworth University, where he also played college football. While this is his first official teaching position, Luke has previously worked as a physics tutor and taught science classes to elementary and middle school students. Luke recently moved to Montana with his wife, Cassidy, and their Golden Retriever, Opal. He enjoys just about anything outdoors, especially fishing, hunting, hiking, and exploring new places. He is also an avid reader and loves learning, particularly when it comes to theology. Luke is excited to become part of the MCS community and has already been encouraged by how welcoming everyone has been. Most of all, he looks forward to teaching at a Christian school where he can help students grow in their faith and have meaningful conversations about Jesus.

Come and See / Cont. from page 1

I still struggled with the passage for the theme as it would take some explanation. Then, in July, I was at a conference and a John Piper article was mentioned and I was intrigued by the topic so I quickly jotted down the title to look it up later. Later that day I looked up the article and was again taken aback as in bold writing were the words “COME AND SEE.” The passage attached to that statement was Psalm 66:5.

“Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.”

Again, it was as if God said, “here is the verse for your theme!” I am so excited for our theme this year as we get the distinct honor of saying to everyone we interact with “Come and see what God has done!”

May it be that everything that happens at Manhattan Christian School during this school year and beyond proclaims to a watching world, “Come and See what God has done and is doing!”

Harvest Festival 2026: You Don’t Want to Miss It!

The excitement is building for the 64th MCS Harvest Festival, happening on the morning of Saturday, October 24th! Mark your calendars; this is one event you won’t want to miss. Come out and join us for a wonderful day of fall festivities! Celebrate the season with your MCS family and enjoy an array of activities for all ages. Kids can look forward to exciting carnival games, while adults can indulge in delicious Dutch treats, shop handmade goods, and participate in both live and silent auctions. Of course, there will be plenty of tasty food, coffee, and fellowship to go around. It’s the perfect way to celebrate fall with the whole family.

As one of MCS’s most significant and long-standing fundraisers, the Harvest Festival plays a vital role in supporting our school. Its success depends on the generous donations, time, and hard work of our MCS community! Be sure to watch for opportunities in the Weekly to get involved. Right now, we are especially looking for volunteers to help make handmade goods, cookies, and Dutch specialties for this year’s Harvest Festival. We are also hoping to expand our squad of bakers to help lighten the load for those who faithfully bake for us each year. We are also looking for five businesses or individuals to serve as Harvest Hall Class Craft Sponsors for \$100 each. Class Crafts in the Harvest Market have been a new favorite and a fun way for students and families to participate in the Festival. Your sponsorship will cover the cost of supplies for a class craft that students will create and sell in the Harvest Market. Any funds not needed for supplies will be donated back to MCS through the Harvest Festival. Sponsors will be recognized with a thank-you displayed in the Harvest Market. A sponsorship form will be available in the MCS office, where payment can also be dropped off. Thank you for helping make this possible for our students!

Students, we are so excited to invite YOU to be vendors at the Harvest Festival again this year! The Harvest Market (formerly the Craft Room) will focus on your usable handmade goods such as jewelry, beauty products, dish towels, spices, and more. We have space for eight vendors, available first come, first served upon approval.

Vendors will set their own prices, provide and set up their own table, and receive 60% of sales, with 40% going to MCS. Vendors may sell from their space but are not required to be present for the entire market. All vendors must follow Montana Cottage Food and Farmers Market laws. Interested? Fill out the vendor form found in the Weekly or contact Brittany at Brittany.braaksma@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, need more information, or want to get involved with this year’s Harvest Festival, please reach out to Brittany Braaksma or Jackie Rogers.

We look forward to seeing you there!

VOLUME 27

WELCOME

New Students & Families!

- Chris and Molly G:**
Oliver, Tenth Grade
- Chris and Rebecca L:**
Roquet, Fifth Grade
- Kit and Brooke D:**
Jane, Kindergarten
- Dylan and Sarah V:**
Trevon, Kindergarten
- Steve and Melissa W:**
Natalie, Eleventh Grade
- Christopher and Anika Y:**
Evan, Eighth Grade
Adele, Sixth Grade
Avery, Fourth Grade
- Allyson W:**
Kara C., Fourth Grade
Dawson C., Fifth Grade
- Trenton and Lori Jo B:**
Hazel, Seventh Grade
Dakota, Kindergarten
- Crutiss and LeeAnna A:**
Mark, Seventh Grade
Shelby, Fourth Grade
Jakob, Second Grade
Oliver, First Grade
- Joseph and Corrie O:**
Jacob, Second Grade
Jane, Kindergarten
- Levi and Vanessa C:**
Dora, Ninth Grade
- Tim and Amy A:**
Neyla, Fifth Grade
- Reuben and Val S:**
Zoe, Kindergarten
- Ken and Trish D:**
Oliver, Kindergarten
- Braydon and Brittany R:**
Eila, Kindergarten
- Lucas and Alishia Z:**
Payten, Kindergarten
- Brandon and Susan A:**
Maxine, Eighth Grade
- Justin and Amanda H:**
Tigris, Kindergarten
Henry, Kindergarten
- Chad and Sharayah I:**
Amara, Kindergarten
- Edward and Anne H:**
Ryan, Seventh Grade
Audrey, Fifth Grade
Vivian, Fifth Grade
- Jon and Mary E:**
Ryleigh, Kindergarten
- Scott and Brooke V:**
Finn, Kindergarten
- Spencer and Chrissie T:**
Cecilia, Kindergarten
- Jordan and Morgan S:**
Gideon, Fourth Grade
- Coty and Brittani C:**
Nathaniel, Eighth Grade
- Daniel and Myra H:**
Kora, Ninth Grade
- Becky H:**
Vann, Kindergarten
- Jacob and Jenna U:**
Hawkins, Second Grade
Josie, Kindergarten
- Ken and Debbie M:**
Raelynn C., Kindergarten

Also welcoming six new students from existing MCS Families!
Adelynn (seventh) and Everly (fifth) D.
Seth N. (sixth)
Walter S. (first)
Kaycee (fourth) and Stevie (sixth) E.

Sponsors and Volunteers Make Annual Golf Tournament a Huge Success



Ryan Ruffatto and Tom Hubers, Tournament Co-Heads

We are incredibly grateful to the businesses, families, and organizations who helped make the MCS Golf Tournament a success! As our largest athletic fundraiser of the year, this event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and the many volunteers who give their time and talents. Your investment in MCS athletics directly impacts our students and helps provide opportunities for our Eagles to grow, compete, and thrive. We encourage our MCS families and community members to support these businesses and organizations who so generously support our school! Thank you for believing in our students and partnering with Manhattan Christian School.

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Thank you to every sponsor and volunteer who helped make this year's tournament possible. We are so thankful for your support of MCS!

Manhattanchristian.org for Fall Schedules, Rosters, and Team Pictures

Looking for fall athletic schedules? Visit our website and head to Athletics for everything you need! Our Master Google Calendar is updated whenever schedules change, so it's the best place to find the most current game and meet information. You can also explore individual pages for Football, Volleyball, and Cross Country (both high school and middle school), featuring team rosters, team photos, and school records. Come cheer on our Eagles this fall!

Little Fans, Big Eagles: NEW Signing Days

Our youngest Eagle fans are getting a chance to get a little closer to the action! Little Fans, Big Eagles gives our younger students the opportunity to meet our high school athletes, get a team poster signed, snap a picture, and spend a few minutes visiting with the Eagles they cheer for. Only 75 posters will be available at each event—first come, first served! Football: After the October 3 home game vs. Lane Deer. Volleyball & Cross Country: After the October 22 home volleyball games vs. Twin Bridges. *Signing Nights are generously sponsored by Kenyon Noble, Saddle Peak Storage, and Churchill Equipment. Team banners are sponsored by Wild Embers and TD Hamilton Excavation.*

Like, Follow, Comment, Share, and Subscribe!

COME and SEE what God is doing at Manhattan Christian!



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-  Manhattan Christian Football
-  Manhattan Christian Cross Country Teams
-  Manhattan Christian Eagles Volleyball
-  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

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- ☐ \$100 Maintaining Level
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Manhattan Christian School Foundation

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Become a member today by filling out the form to the left or visiting our webpage at Manhattanchristian.org/support-mcs/mcs-foundation.

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

Want more information on the Foundation?
Scan the QR code to hear all about it on our school's podcast!



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THANK YOU, 2026-2027 MCS BOOSTERS!

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We encourage you to show your support for these businesses whenever you can, and let them know how much we appreciate their partnership with MCS!

Interested in becoming an MCS Booster sponsor?

We'd love to have you join us! For more information, please contact Nicole Feuerhelm, Booster Director, at boosters@manhattanchristian.org or 406-551-0497.



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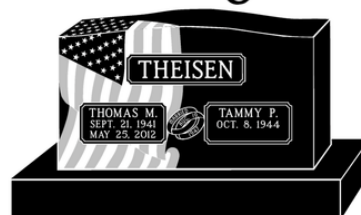
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