



MANHATTAN  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Connections

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."

John 15:4

SEPTEMBER 2023

ISSUE 1

VOLUME 24

## 2023-2024 Theme

## ABIDE IN CHRIST

Joel Westa, Head of School

Our theme this year is "Abide in Christ". This concept of abiding comes from John 15:4, and while we quote it often, I'm not sure we take into consideration what "abiding" means. Author Brian Hedges puts it this way: When Jesus talks about abiding in Him, three things are implied: connection, dependence, and continuance. These aren't successive steps but interwoven.

Abiding in Jesus means having a life-giving connection to him. A branch is connected to the vine, and a vine to the branch. This is what theologians frequently describe as "union with Christ." Notice that this connection, this union, is mutual. We abide in Him and He abides in us (v. 4). If there is no connection, there is no life, no fruit.

Abiding also implies dependence. This aspect of abiding, unlike connection, is not mutual. The branch is dependent on the vine, but the vine is not dependent on the branch. The branch derives its life and power from the vine. Without the vine, the branch is useless, lifeless, powerless. Sap flows from the vine to the branch, supplying it with water, minerals, and nutrients that make it grow. And believers receive the "sap" of Christ's grace through our life-giving connection to Him. We are completely dependent upon Jesus for everything that counts as spiritual fruit (v. 4). Apart from Him, we can do nothing (v. 5).

Lastly, abiding also involves continuance. This shows us that another aspect of abiding in Jesus is remaining in Jesus. This simply means that we go on trusting, that we keep on depending, that we never stop believing. To abide in Jesus is to persevere in Jesus and His teaching. This is what Jesus is talking about in John 8:31-32, when he says, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

The great reformed theologian, Sinclair Ferguson writes the following: In a nutshell, abiding in Christ means allowing His Word to fill our minds, direct our wills, and transform our affections. In other words, our relationship to Christ is intimately connected to what we do with our Bibles! Then, of course, as Christ's Word dwells in us and the Spirit fills us, we will begin to pray in a way consistent with the will of God and discover the truth of our Lord's often misapplied promise, "You will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7).

Finally, we are called, as part of the abiding process, to submit to the pruning knife of God in the providences by which He cuts away all disloyalty and sometimes all that is unimportant, in order that we might remain in Christ more wholeheartedly.

## September Contents

'23-'24 Theme

First-Ever MCS Football Team

Annual Golf Tournament

Welcome, New Teachers

RaiseRight

Homecoming 2023

New Families of MCS

MCS Foundation

MCS Boosters

Calendar Highlights

## Teaching for Transformation:

Each Teacher has chosen, developed, and committed to use a Deep Hope to drive their instruction. This reflects the "North Star" that guides our teaching within a Christian School. Find each teacher's Deep Hope on our website.



# R O T A R Y

## student of the month

Please join us in congratulating the first Rotary Student of the Month for the '23-'24 school year. Miranda Wyatt was chosen by her teachers because she is known to display high character, leadership, and community mindedness both at and away from school.



Meet Manhattan Christian Senior, Miranda Wyatt.

### How long have you been at MCS?

Since Kindergarten

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

Theatre, NHS, Volleyball, Basketball, and Student Council

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

Academic All-State and First Team All-Conference (VB)

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

I love choir class and having Mrs. Brewer back, calculus with Mr. Kimm, and AP lang with Mrs. Adams. All of these classes help me challenge myself and learn new things.

### What are some of your best non-academic memories?

Expedition Yellowstone in 8th Grade. I felt like I grew a lot as a person and got closer with my teachers and classmates.

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

I'm hoping to be Valedictorian if the Senoritis doesn't kick in too bad.

### What are you working on for your Senior Project?

I am renovating the area by the office to turn it into a coffee shop.

Read more on page 4 under Senior Project Spotlight.

### What are your plans for after graduation?

Next year I will attend the University of Northwestern in St. Paul to continue my volleyball career and study kinesiology. After that I am hoping to get into the Mayo Clinic's Physical Therapy program.

## Manhattan Christian's First-Ever Football Team

History was made at Manhattan Christian High School this year. Football players from Manhattan Christian have always joined the Tigers through the co-op with Manhattan, but on August 28, more than 20 of our own high school players took the field for their very first home game.

Head coach Ben Holst has chosen the Latin phrase, "Si Vis Pacem, Para Bellum" for his team's theme this year, meaning, "If you want peace, prepare for war". The team is studying through the life of King David together with a focus on the ways he pursued peace without shying away from conflict. Psalm 144 says, "Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me. O LORD, what is man that you care for him, the son of man that you think of him?"

There is still time to catch a game and get some Year One Gear!

DATE	OPPONENTS	Teams	Game Time
8/26/2023	vs Lone Peak	HS	4 pm
9/1/2023	@ Cascade	HS	7 pm
9/7/2023	vs Seeley Swan	HS	4 pm
9/11/2023	vs Cascade (JV)	HSJV	4 pm
9/15/2023	@ Flint Creek (Philipsburg)	HS	7 pm
9/18/2023	vs Lone Peak (JV)	HSJV	4 pm
9/22/2023	vs Simms	HS	4 pm
9/25/2023	JV Jamboree @ Deer Lodge	HSJV	TBD
9/29/2023	@ Sheridan	HS	7 pm
10/2/2023	JV Jamboree @ Flint Creek (Pburg)	HSJV	TBD
10/6/2023	@ Deer Lodge	HS	7 pm
10/9/2023	JV Jamboree - MCS host	HSJV	TBD
10/13/2023	@ Choteau	HS	7 pm
10/19/2023	vs Ennis	HS	3 pm



Photos courtesy of Dan Chesnet, Post Game Gallery on Facebook



## New to RaiseRight?

Welcome back to school! Want to earn tuition credit while making your regular purchases? The RaiseRight program is one of the fundraisers for MCS that also gives you tuition credit. Purchase gift cards (physical cards or ecards) at face value or reload existing RaiseRight physical gift cards with any dollar amount. Use your gift cards to make your regular purchases. For each brand, there is an assigned rebate, typically between 2% and 16%. You receive half of the rebate toward your tuition credit, and the other half goes to MCS. The tuition credit is distributed twice a year – once in the fall and once in the spring. Watch for weekly and one day bonus rebates for various brands. Questions on RaiseRight? Email Arlene at arleneroberts11@gmail.com.

# Annual MCS Golf Scramble: Thank You All!

## VOLUME 24 Welcome New 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!

**Coltor and Emily;**  
*Hudson and Bridger*

**Joshua and Lacey;**  
*Oliver*

**Joshua and Jenny;**  
*Charlotte*

**Nicholas and Kathryn;**  
*Claire*

**Bill and Julie;**  
*Amaya*

**Shaun and Caroline;**  
*Ezra*

**Denys and Laura;**  
*Daxton*

**Daniel and Corrie;**  
*Ariella and Lucas*

**Anthony and Katie;**  
*Oliver*

**Nate and Kristin;**  
*Simon*

**Britt and Sarah;**  
*Abigail*

**Jaysen and Jessica;**  
*Alvin*

**Kohlby and Megan;**  
*Blayke*

**Patrick and Jessica;**  
*Myra and Alice*

**Justin and Racquel;**  
*Madelynn*

**Duane and Heather;**  
*Zachary*

**Brian and Mysha;**  
*Anabella*

**Sheryl;**  
*Ainsley*

**Robert and Bernadette;**  
*Charlotte and Hutchinson*

**Andrew and Amy;**  
*Wesley and Samuel*

**Mark and Vonnee;**  
*Alizah*

**Corban and Sarah;**  
*Gracie, Landon, and Hudson*

**Michael and Kelsey;**  
*Leslie*

**Jeffery and Ashley;**  
*Emma*

**Austin and Trillium;**  
*Callum*

**Title Sponsor**  
Employer Flexible

**Hosting**  
Cottonwood Hills Golf Course  
Johanna Eekhoff  
Garrett Nielson

**Team and Hole Sponsors**  
Amsterdam Enterprises  
Consulting Design Solutions (CDS)  
Cook Development  
Grade A Civil  
Kenetrek Boots  
Kimm Seed Potatoes  
Spring Creek Farms  
Vellinga Real Estate

**Team Sponsors**  
Churchill Equipment  
Egbert Plumbing  
Leap Dairy  
Livingston Dental Care  
Mystery Ranch  
Opportunity Bank  
Paradigm 406  
Paradise Perk Espresso  
Stockman Bank  
TD Hamilton Excavation  
VP Construction

**Hole Sponsors**  
Andy's Glass  
Balco Uniform  
Blackfoot Communications  
Carla Schmidt - Mountain West Farm Bureau Agent  
Churchill Cattle Company  
Dan Rust - State Farm Agent  
Danhof Motors  
Dokken Nelson Funeral Services  
Droge Farms Inc.  
Gallatin Valley Malt  
Healthy Is Wellness  
Kenyon Noble  
Kredit Electric  
Manhattan Bank  
North Grounds  
PPYC Spray & Ag  
Ramirez Family  
Rayson Logging Co.  
Rocky Mountain Contractors  
Scenic City Trucking  
SCS Wraps  
Sime Construction  
Spotted Bear Marketing Co.  
Terry Sinnema Construction  
Visser Architects  
Watson Irrigation

**Food and Beverage**  
Sharon Kamps  
Brenda Asher

**Additional Donating Sponsors**  
Asher Family  
Cardinal Distributing  
Carriage House Carwash  
Cottonwood Hills Golf Course  
Cuppa Joe on the Go  
Danhof Motors  
Feddes Family Meats  
Gallatin Valley Malt Co.  
Game One (Jeff Bellach)  
Great Western Insulation  
Heavens Best Carpet Cleaning  
Inside Out Training  
Lehrkind's, Inc.  
Livingston Dental Care  
Lube Korner (Manhattan)  
Manhattan Christian School  
Manhattan Saloon  
Mazevo Coffee  
Mitch Thompson  
Mystery Ranch  
Paradigm 406  
Pepsi  
Pure Shot  
Ranch Club Golf Course  
Rocky Mountain Golf  
SCS Wraps  
Sharon Kamp  
The Brother's Gallery  
VanKirk Family  
Wandering Pine  
West Paw

## Homecoming 2023

Spirit week this year will be September 18-23; please join us for all the fun!

- Monday: JV Football vs. Lone Peak, 4pm
- Thursday: Volleyball vs. Drummond, 5:30pm JV and Varsity; He-Man Volleyball will follow
- Friday: Parade, 12pm; Football vs. Simms, 1pm Middle School, 4pm Varsity
- Saturday: Cross Country at Mountain West Classic

Any local businesses who would like to participate in the parade are invited to join us! Line up will take place in Bethel's parking lot between 11:00 and 11:30. Any questions can be emailed to [staber@manhattanchristian.org](mailto:staber@manhattanchristian.org)

## Athletic Passes: Save Money on Gate Fees

There are a number of different athletic passes available this year to help you and your family save money on gate fees! Student, adult, family game, and family season passes are available for purchase at the office. Purchase them early in the season for the most savings!

## Visit Our Twice Treasured Thrift Store

**Our Retail Store is Open**

Monday-Saturday from 10am-5pm

**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!

**Twice Treasured Thrift Store**

81680 Gallatin Rd, Bozeman, MT 59718

(406) 640-2505

Follow us on Facebook @TwiceTreasuredThrift





## We still need bus drivers!

Apply on our website at [manhattanchristian.org/employment](https://manhattanchristian.org/employment)

### 2023 Harvest Festival: Saturday, October 14

The Harvest Festival is Manhattan Christian School's and longest running fundraiser. Join the school and our wonderful community as we gather to celebrate fall and harvest. Don't forget it's earlier this year! It is truly such a fun day for all ages. MCS greatly benefits from and appreciates the generosity of our community, extended families, and alumni. Would you prayerfully consider how you can get involved? Do you love to craft, sew, bake, or create? Please think about how you can give your time or share your talents. If you are willing to bake pies, cookies, or other desserts; serve; or if you or your business would like to donate an item to the auction, please don't wait to call us! Please contact Jodi Venema or Stephanie Venhuizen for more information regarding the Harvest Festival.

### Reserve your copy of Grace Dyk's Calendar, "Mountains and Waters"

Hurry! There are only a few days left to reserve your copy of Grace Dyk's 2024 calendar for the coming year. The deadline to order is **September 15, 2023!**

Enjoy 6 views of mountain scenes and six views of various water scenes including the Pacific Ocean.

Call, text, or email Grace Dyk at 406-581-0535 / [lgdyk@yahoo.com](mailto:lgdyk@yahoo.com) to get your name on the list to have a calendar printed for you. They will be available at this year's Harvest Festival! The cost remains \$25.00.

### Curriculum Survey From Your New Curriculum Coordinator

Over the summer, MCS collected information from all teachers regarding current curriculum use. This year, we plan to revamp the elementary literacy program to create cohesiveness. If you have not yet had a chance, please take a few minutes to complete the survey to provide us with data about current curriculum use and give input into a new literacy program. This is helpful for us no matter your role (parent, guardian, alum). Scan the QR code or use <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BFLL5RC>.



# senior project

My name is Miranda Wyatt and for my senior project, I am starting a coffee shop at school. If you've been in lately, you have probably noticed some construction going on by the office. That is where it will be! I am almost finished with the renovation process, and I am hoping to have it up and running as soon as possible. There will be an area to do homework, have meetings, etc. and you can also order a nice beverage where the funds will go towards class funding for senior trips and other expenses.



# Welcome, New Teachers!

Band & Choir Director



## Anna Brewer

Welcome (back), Mrs. Brewer!

I am married to my fabulous husband of four years, Alex, and together we have two fur babies, Henry and Rosie. They are spoiled rotten and the apple of our eyes! Music making is my passion and I love sharing it at my church and by being an active member of the Montana Chamber Music board of directors. I also love to garden and enjoy caring for my perennials. I enjoy being in the kitchen, cooking and baking; my husband is my favorite food tester! I am a farm girl at heart, so my favorite food is meat! I grew up having dessert with every meal, so I am not known to turn down a sweet, either. I am so excited to be back in this amazing community and sharing my love for Christ and music with the students of Manhattan Christian.

Fifth Grade



## Halee Kukes

Welcome Mrs. Kukes (Koo-kis!)!

My husband, Kolter, and I were just married in July. I love anything outside: camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting. I also love to crochet, read, and play sports-- especially soccer and basketball. My favorite foods are sushi and I love coffee! I have taught first grade for six years in Oregon and third grade for two years in Belgrade. I am so excited to be at Manhattan Christian. It has been a dream for me to teach in a Christian school and to help guide and teach about our Lord.

Curriculum Coordinator



## Caroline Cok

A new position at MCS this year, Curriculum Coordinator, Caroline Cok!

I am wife to Shawn and mom to Ezra (5) and Theo (1). I love camping, shopping, reading, baking, and cooking. Cheesecake and lattes are my favorite treats! We recently moved to the dairy farm where our boys love riding dirt bikes, four wheelers, in the mini truck, in the discbine, and in all the tractors. I taught Preschool at MCS for three years and then stayed home with Ezra. Then I taught Special Education Preschool-third grade at Monforton for one year. I stayed home with Ezra and Theo while completing my Master's degree in Special Education. I am thrilled to begin this new position where I will be able to develop relationships with teachers and staff. I'm also excited to be at MCS while Ezra begins his school journey.

Kindergarten



## Mattie Janes

New Oklahoma State Graduate, Ms. Mattie Janes!

This will be my first year teaching after graduating! I completed a full year of student teaching for fifth grade, and then I received a position before graduating as a long-term substitute for fourth grade, both at an Elementary school in Oklahoma. I am so excited to be a part of this small community and getting to be a part of something special here with all my sweet kindergarteners. I am also very excited to experience the sporting events here! I love coffee, Coke Zero, and Smart Sweets. For fun, I love to travel, country swing dance, go antiquing and thrifting, and go on outdoor adventures.



## 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.

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 @manhattan  
christianeagles.



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](mailto: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.





1245 North 15th Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59715

www.bozemanclinic.com

Gabor Benda, M.D.  
Matthew Harrison, M.D.  
Christy Mitchell, M.D.  
Steven Roberts, D.O.  
Larry Sonnenberg, M.D.  
Sarah Watt, PA-C  
Heather Wheeler, M.D.  
Judy Douglas, Administrator

**Kenetrek Boots**  
FOR THE TRAIL LESS TRAVELED®

[WWW.KENETREK.COM](http://WWW.KENETREK.COM)  
**800-232-6064**

Check out our Visitor Center  
96 Northstar Lane Bozeman, MT

**BERKSHIRE  
HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices



**Kelley Halle, CRS® GRI® ABR®**  
Sales Associate  
REALTOR®

**Montana Properties**  
2001 Stadium Drive, Suite A  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 581-3144

kelley.halle@bhhsmt.com  
www.bhhsmt.com/kelley-halle

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

Charitable  
Remainder  
Trusts

1031  
Tax Deferred  
Exchanges



Office: 406-587-4250  
5020 Westlake Road  
[www.donvaniman.com](http://www.donvaniman.com)

Home: 406-586-6700  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
[don@donvaniman.com](mailto:don@donvaniman.com)



randy visser

(p) 282.9922

[randy@visserarchitects.net](mailto:randy@visserarchitects.net)

163 quiet water way  
manhattan, mt 59741

VOLUME 24



BOZEMAN • CHURCHILL • MANHATTAN • THREE FORKS  
406-582-0044 406-282-7175 406-284-3255 406-285-0500

Experience the Manhattan Bank Difference!

[WWW.MANHATTANBANK.BANK](http://WWW.MANHATTANBANK.BANK)

**IF YOU LIVE FOR IT,  
WE'LL HELP YOU PLAN FOR IT.**



**Andrea Wass**  
Financial Advisor  
CLU®, ChFC®, RICP®  
406-522-4745  
[andrea.wass@nm.com](mailto:andrea.wass@nm.com)  
[andrewass.nm.com](http://andrewass.nm.com)



**Churchill Equipment**  
"WE TRY HARDER"



**Kendal S. Walhof**

GM/ Co-owner  
Cell (406) 580-2282  
Store (406) 282-7252  
[kendal@churchillequipment.net](mailto:kendal@churchillequipment.net)  
[www.churchillequipment.com](http://www.churchillequipment.com)



QUALITY, PROFESSIONAL RENTAL MANAGEMENT

WEBSITE: [WWW.GALLATINVALLEYPROPERTYMANAGEMENT.COM](http://WWW.GALLATINVALLEYPROPERTYMANAGEMENT.COM)

**KEN VAN DYKEN**  
LICENSED PROPERTY MANAGER  
406.580.8383

**VANDYKEN TRUCKING &  
EXCAVATION, LLC**

"Thanks a Lot"

- Sand/Gravel
- Topsoil
- Foundations
- Roadwork
- Demolition

Reg. NorthStar, Owner  
Phone 406-282-7516 Cell 580-7605  
email: [gravel@vandyken.net](mailto:gravel@vandyken.net)  
Bret Vandyken  
Cell 580-2522  
email: [bret@vandykenllc.com](mailto:bret@vandykenllc.com)

5805 Loney Rd. Manhattan, MT 58741

**Dave Cole**  
Branch Manager,  
Financial Advisor, CFP®



1610 Ellis Street, Suite 3A | Bozeman, Montana 59715  
office: 406.582.1082 | mobile: 406.209.0649 | toll-free: 888.681.4188  
fax: 406.582.1147 | e-mail: [Dave.Cole@RaymondJames.com](mailto:Dave.Cole@RaymondJames.com)  
[www.PalisadeFinancialMT.com](http://www.PalisadeFinancialMT.com)

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.  
Member FINRA/SIPC. Palisade Financial is not a registered broker/dealer.

**bozeman  
smiles**

Dr. Fred Schwendeman  
Orthodontist

**Home for Rent  
in Three Forks**  
Completely  
Remodeled  
3 bed / 2 bath  
Fenced in yard  
Call  
**(406) 570-6452**



**Manhattan Christian School**

*Partnering with you for life!*

8000 Churchill Road  
Manhattan, MT 59741  
(406) 282-7261

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Bozeman, MT  
PERMIT NO 164

**Return Service Requested**

---

## September & October Events

**9/18** Homecoming Week  
**9/18** MSU College Fair for Juniors  
**9/21** He-Man Volleyball Game  
**9/22** Homecoming Parade, 12pm  
**9/26** Picture Retakes  
**9/28-9/29** Parent Teacher Conferences  
**9/29** Senior Drive-In Movie Night  
**9/30** MCS Volleyball Invitational  
**10/10** PSAT NMSQT for Sophomores  
**10/11** PSAT NMSQT for Juniors  
**10/14** Harvest Festival  
**10/18** End of Quarter 1  
**10/19-10/20** Fall Break  
**10/21** State Cross Country  
**10/26-10/28** District Volleyball



**SCAN HERE**

to view the MCS Google Calendar  
with all sporting events, locations,  
and times!