

19 20

BOARD
REPORT

GRC'S

Preparing students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society.

Tom DeJonge, Superintendent

M A Y
2020
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MISSION

VISION

VALUES

GOALS

MISSION

Preparing students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society.

CORE VALUES

Rooted In
Christ

Connected Through
Relationships

Called to
Serve

Educated
for Life

United with Home
and Church

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

*By using their unique gifts to glorify God, pursue personal faith, and bring about shalom in the world,
graduates of Grand Rapids Christian Schools will be...*

CULTURALLY COMPETENT

Prepared to engage with a diverse range of people and ideologies.

COMMUNICATORS AND COLLABORATORS

Prepared to work in a team environment, articulate ideas, and consider multiple viewpoints.

THOUGHTFUL NEIGHBORS

Prepared to practice hospitality, compassion, service, and empathy for those around them.

JUSTICE SEEKERS

Prepared to actively pursue greater wholeness in the world by working for justice and practicing stewardship.

CREATIVE SOLUTION FINDERS

Prepared to identify issues, engage in critical thinking, and persistently work toward solutions.

LIFELONG EXPLORERS

Prepared to live a life of discovery and wonder in God's world.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Prepared to follow Christ with faithfulness, resilience, and humility in a broken but hopeful world.





GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CAMPUS THEME VERSES

EVERY STORY WHISPERS HIS NAME

GRCES IROQUOIS
PSALM 89:1

*I will sing of the Lord's
great love forever; with
my mouth, I will make your
faithfulness known through
all generations.*

GOD IS MY ROCK

GRCES EVERGREEN
PSALM 18:2

*The Lord is my rock, my
fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock,
in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my
salvation, my stronghold.*

LOVE IN ACTION

ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN
ROMANS 12:9-12

*Be joyful in hope, patient in
affliction, faithful in prayer.
Share with the Lord's people
who are in need.
Practice hospitality.*

DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE

GRCMS
ROMANS 12:9-10

*Love must be sincere.
Hate what is evil;
cling to what is good.
Be devoted to one
another in love.
Honor one another
above yourselves.*

LEAD ME TO THE ROCK

GRCHS
PSALM 61:2-3

*From the ends of the earth,
I call to you,
I call as my heart grows faint;
lead me to the rock that is
higher than I.
For you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the foe.*



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS — LOOKING AHEAD

Below is a brief summary of our school schedule and upcoming events where you are either scheduled, or may wish to attend. For a full list of Grand Rapids Christian Schools event options, please visit grcs.org/calendar

MAY 2020

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
Monday, May 4	6:00 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	GRCS HUB (ZOOM)
Thursday, May 7		Finance Committee Meeting	Zoom (TBD)
Monday, May 11		Executive Committee Meeting	Zoom (TBD)
Monday, May 11		Education Committee Meeting (tentative)	Zoom (TBD)
Friday, May 29		Last day of Off-Campus Learning	HS, MS, RCS, IQ

JUNE 2020

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
Monday, June 8	6:00 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	GRCS HUB
Thursday, June 11		Last day of Off-Campus Learning	Evergreen

JULY 2020

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
Monday, July 21	8:00 am	High School Graduation (tentative)	Calvary Church

AUGUST 2020

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
Wednesday, Aug 5	7:00 am	Executive Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
Thursday, Aug 13	7:30 am	Finance Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
Monday, Aug 17	8:00 am 3:00 pm	Board	



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Board:

To say these days are unprecedented is certainly an understatement. Our staff have gone the extra mile to ensure learning continues and the educational program remains strong for students PS-12. I have been impressed by the positive response of parents and students throughout these weeks of off-campus instruction. As we near the end of our academic year, student learning has continued, and they have engaged with teachers and classmates with enthusiasm.

In addition to completing the year for students, our administrative team is teed up to plan for an interesting fall! Last week, I charged a small group of administrators and operations staff to join me to begin our planning for welcoming students back to school within the context of social distancing and the possibility of additional school closures as we progress through the fall season.

The group has been tasked with considering multiple scenarios with a focus on strategies for students to be in attendance while also honoring any restrictions that may exist or be reinstated. Several ideas—including attending on an every-other-day basis, utilizing empty classrooms at the Evergreen Campus, assigning instructional aids to support instruction in order to reduce class size, utilizing existing student desks/tables in ways that honor distancing, and strengthening existing technology tools as meaningfully as possible—are examples of some of the things we will consider. One thing is for certain—maximizing direct instruction at school will be a priority of our work.

As we close the year, I want to thank you for your tremendous support of our work during a time none of us could have expected. I am thankful we were prepared to hit-the-ground running on March 17 and that we have been blessed with the human and technology resources necessary to advance learning as we have done.

Thank you, too, for your patience as we launched our off-campus learning platform, supporting our work with others throughout the community, and encouraging others to remain steadfast. The current health crisis has provided us with many opportunities to educate our nearly 2300 students in ways that, while not the norm, have been both creative and meaningful. Through your strategic leadership, you and others that served before you have positioned GRCS to live out its mission to prepare effective servants of Christ in contemporary society with distinction. And through ongoing prayer, we have been strengthened to respond to God's call to educate and nurture the faith of His children.

Tom



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CAMPUS THEME VERSES



CAMPUS THEMES VERSE STORIES

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

During this time of uncertainty, our view of God's place in our world is so important. Our theme of Lead Me To the Rock has provided us with the opportunity all year to discuss that God is active and present, yet never changing. He is powerful and mighty, yet full of grace and sacrificial love. We are thankful that our faculty and staff have been able to continue this focus as we attend class online.

The spiritual formation branch of our student congress has worked closely with our chaplain, Mark VanderWerf, to provide weekly chapels and daily devotionals that encourage our community and remind us of God's promises.

ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

In these unusual times we find ourselves living in, I am so thankful to see our school theme, ***Dream Small: Do Small Things With Great Love***, being lived out in so many tangible ways by our GRCMS staff. As they do when we are in the halls at school, the staff are looking out not only for the academic growth of our students but also for their socio-emotional health and well-being. Teachers and support staff are reaching out to families to check-in, setting up one-on-one Zoom meetings to engage with students, and calling or texting families regularly just to make sure everyone is doing well at home.

These little actions that may take 5-10 minutes, but they help remind students and their families that we are a faith community together and that we are looking out for one another in these unprecedented times.

BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL

Throughout this year, Rockford Christian teachers, students, and families have been living into the theme ***Love in Action*** from Romans 12:9-21. While we mourn the loss of face-to-face interactions and in-person interactions, our physical distance is a tangible way to put our love into action. Staying home

doesn't feel like action, but it is helping to flatten the curve and save lives. Despite the distance, our community has remained connected through countless emails, phone calls, hand-written notes, and zoom calls. As we have transitioned to off-campus learning, teachers have truly embodied Paul's words in verses 10 and 11, "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

The Evergreen community gathered at the DeVos Center for Arts and Worship on Thursday, March 5 for a program presented by the Kindergarten through fifth grade students to celebrate our 2019-2020 theme, ***God is my Rock***.

Evergreen students shared songs, scripture, and art focused on Psalm 18:2. The Evergreen students closed the school program by singing I Go the Rock by Dottie Rambo:

Where do I go when there's nobody else to turn to?
Who do I turn to when nobody wants to listen?
Who do I lean on when there's no foundation stable?
I go to the Rock, I know He's able, I go to the Rock
I go to The Rock for my salvation
I go to the stone that the builders rejected
I run to the mountain and the mountain stands by me
When the earth all around me is sinking sand
On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand
When I need a shelter, when I need a friend, I go to the Rock.

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

The Iroquois theme this year is ***Every Story Whispers Your Name***. There have been so many stories shared about Zoom meetings, teachers dropping packets off on porches, email, phone calls that whisper the name of our Savior. Our Savior who personified faith, hope, and love. The stories of faith development through prayer and devotion times have been amazing to hear. The hope we have in seeing each other again in person is evident.

Our physical presence of each other is something we are all longing for. The love from our Father that is being shared between teachers, students, and parents is real and growing. Our theme of every story whispering the name of Jesus is incredibly appropriate. This is not a story we are desiring to be part of right now, but in this story, the blessings of Jesus Christ are as abundant as ever.



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2

Ensure exemplary and aligned PS-12th grade Christian education across all schools that is taught by teachers who embrace mastery and productive Christian citizenship for all students.

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

When we met as a faculty and staff on the morning of March 13, there was a great deal of uncertainty about how long the stay-at-home order would be in place. There were of course, a variety of ideas and opinions about how and when online instruction should be delivered. I have been so impressed and thankful for the flexibility and commitment of our faculty and staff to work collaboratively to implement a plan that:

- Considers each student's spiritual, emotional, physical, and academic needs
- Focuses on essential content and skills, providing a strong foundation for future courses
- Provides structure and routine for students and families
- Acknowledges the need for flexibility as students find increased responsibilities and distractions
- Maintains "live contact" between students and staff

Our tech coaches and administrators worked tirelessly to ensure that each teacher would be prepared to deliver online instruction over Zoom. Our teacher teams spent hours together altering their spring instructional plans to focus on essential content and skills as well as online instructional methods.

We created a [spring schedule](#) and instructional plan that would best serve the needs of our students. There are clearly many variables in how we assess students' learning and assign accurate grades during this time. You can find those communicated details in a [letter to all students and families](#).

ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

The GRCMS staff have collaborated well throughout this time of off-campus learning and meet regularly with their grade-level teams to coordinate curriculum and to talk about supporting students. Since Spring Break--in response to the

survey that was sent to parents and the conversations among teachers evaluating the first weeks of off-campus learning--the teachers have implemented more structured schedules for their classes. We have received positive feedback on these changes from students and parents as it has helped the routines at home to be more consistent.

The GRCMS Student Life and Student Support Teams, made up of the administrative and student support leaders, also meet regularly each week to follow up on interventions with students and families as they are referred by the GRCMS teachers. We are trying to keep all of our systems in place to encourage and support our students at this time.

The GRCMS staff have also taken the time to connect socially as staff to support and encourage one another. Here is one of our Friday afternoon social Zoom times for the staff to see one another; as you can see, they are enjoying sharing stories about what their families have been doing during this time apart:



BEN BUURSA — ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN PRINCIPAL

From Preschool to Eighth Grade, Rockford Christian teachers at every grade have developed plans for continued learning and student growth throughout off-campus learning. Daily and weekly schedules have offered key structure and routine for students and families, and regular communication between home and school has highlighted the strength of this important partnership.

Beyond essential learnings in core subjects, some of the most important lessons now being learned get to the heart of our Portrait of a Graduate.

New problems abound — how will we find creative solutions? In times of crisis, what does it look like to be a thoughtful neighbor? As Disciples of Christ, how do we move forward in hope and faith? The challenges brought about by COVID19 are shaping our students into effective servants of Christ.



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2, CONT'D

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Evergreen teachers moved swiftly to transition to online learning for students.

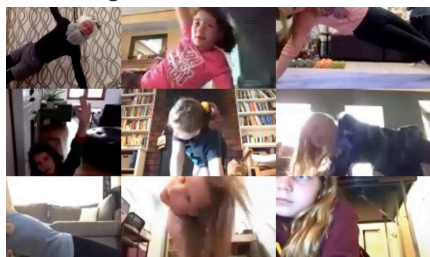
- On March 13 and March 16 teachers prepared packets of materials for their students, met with their grade level professional learning teams, and participated in professional development focused on online learning.
- Teachers prioritize Bible, Math, and Reading lessons each week with specific lessons to move students forward in learning the essential standards.
- Students are engaged and students are learning.

Evergreen teachers continue to build community and keep students engaged in their learning.

- Team one teachers challenged each of their students to log into specific online programs by the Friday after spring break.
- Each team one student met that goal so Mrs. Warren dyed her hair pink as promised!



- Team two parents report that students race to a comfortable chair when it's read-aloud time for team two students.
- And, team three students exercise weekly with Mr. McFiddlegarden.



- Students are engaged and students are learning.

Co-curricular teachers provide weekly lessons for students.

- During a recent week of learning, Evergreen students listened to spring music, learned about the artist Yayoi Kusama, created storyboards, and listened to picture books from the Eagle Book Award list.
- Students are engaged and students are learning.

Student Support Services Staff members continue to provide daily and weekly support for our students.

Teachers continue to meet regularly with their grade level professional learning teams to collaborate and to plan.

Administrators continue to meet regularly to collaborate and to plan.

We want students to continue to be engaged and continue to learn.

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Given the current stay-at-home orders, elementary principals have spent significantly more time together mapping out how we continue the excellent programs GRCS provides our students via remote instruction. We continue to have discussions with each other and our building administrative teams to continuously review and evaluate what we are currently doing realizing this is not a typical situation for elementary students and their parents. It's not a typical situation for our teachers either.

I can say with confidence that our teachers are doing an exceptional job with this reality. I am also incredibly proud of our parents as they work hard with their kids. The partnership between teachers and parents has reached a new and wonderful level.

The elementary principals are well on their way for planning for the 20-21 school year. We are looking at adjusting our assessment calendar to be as appropriate as we can so we can be sure we are able to provide the best services we can to all our students who need them. Our ESS, Inclusion, and support teams continue to be committed to excellence in learning for our kids.

KIM PRIMUS — DIRECTOR OF INCLUSION

The fourth pillar for Inclusion Services is Vertical Alignment. Vertical alignment from campus to campus is critically important. As Director of Inclusion Services, I coordinate and oversee Inclusion Services in partnership with the Inclusion Coordinators on all five campuses. We must strive to have a common mindset.

One-on-one meetings and the Inclusion PLT provide opportunities to continue the efforts to align and strengthen the work on each campus. It is important to me that all of the Inclusion Coordinators receive the support that they need as well as scheduled time to connect with each other. This is an area that I am dedicated to strengthening.



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 3

Establish a Christian learning institution that is reflective of, demonstrates respect for, and supportive of deepened relationships within Grand Rapids Christian Schools' increasingly diverse student body and the broader community.

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

God has called us to support and serve all learners at GRCHS. Off-campus learning presents many variables and challenges in providing the support that each student needs. Our school intervention team, made up of administrators, program coordinators, counselors, and our social worker have created a referral process to ensure that no student falls through the cracks.

Teachers immediately submit the names of students who are not attending online classes, completing work, or who are showing signs that they are struggling academically, physically, emotionally, or spiritually. The team responds by contacting the home and creating a plan of support. This plan is reviewed and modified regularly to provide the best possible path to success.

During this global pandemic, we desire to both maintain high standards of academic rigor and to show grace and compassion for all our students and their families.

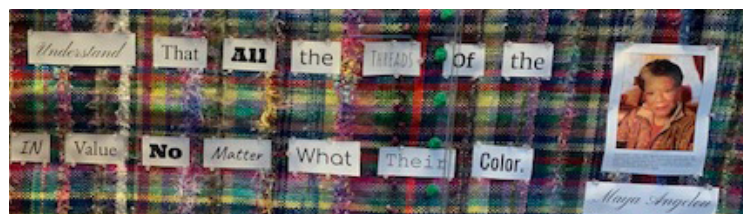
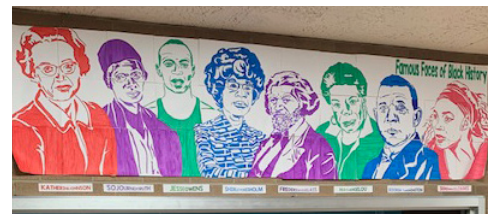
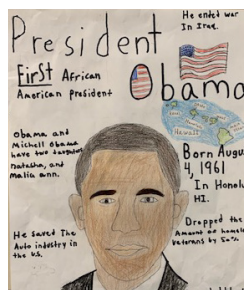
In February, we had a day of professional development with GRCS friend and consultant, Julian Newman. Julian focused on "expanding our cultural bandwidth." Our faculty responded with great reviews, many saying that it was amongst the best professional development that they have experienced. We are thankful for Julian's continued partnership and look forward to many great opportunities for community growth in the upcoming year.

Each summer, the GRCHS faculty and staff select books to read and discuss when we return in the fall. This year, our books focus on diversity and inclusion. The books are *White Fragility*, *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain*, *Waking up White*, *Color of Compromise*, and *Just Mercy*.

ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

In February, the students at GRCMS celebrated Black History Month through a number of class activities, conversations, and class projects. Just a few examples of the projects are as follows:

- 6th grade watched and discussed the film *Hidden Figures* as part of their space unit and discussed the role of African-Americans in the space program
- Mr. Greidanus led Focus Time conversations throughout the month about famous African-Americans
- 7th graders each made a poster highlighting a famous African-American figure and hung them around the halls in school.
- These and many more activities allowed us to celebrate the contributions of African-Americans not only to our country's history but to the world today.



If the school hadn't closed due to Coronavirus, Julian was planning to come back to lead Focus Time conversations on this topic with small groups of students; we hope to be able to do this in the fall semester.

Another chapel in February was led by Chante and Otis Smith, parents of Alex Smith (12th grader at GRCHS). Chante is a surgeon and Otis is a former NBA player who is now an executive in the NBA. Alex joined his mom and dad to share their family's testimony about God's work in their lives and about how each of us needs to find the gifts God has given us and then to follow His plan for our lives. We were blessed to have our students have the opportunity to hear from and learn from these individuals sharing their testimonies of faith!



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 3, CONT'D

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

The Evergreen PTO sponsors several family events each year. Families gathered in the Evergreen Commons for the annual Movie Night on Friday, January 24 to watch *Peter Rabbit*. Team three students organized and ran the concession stand to raise money for Haiti Organization Against Poverty.



JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

The Iroquois teachers are currently in the middle of a small group book study. The book we are all reading together is called, *Waking Up White*. The author shares her life experiences as an upper-middle-class white person and her awakening to systemic racism throughout our nation's history and today. This book study will carry us into the summer.

Three Iroquois staff members and I attended CORR (Congregations Organizing for Racial Reconciliation) training this past month. CORR is a powerful two-day training that provided an experience to learn with and others from a variety of cultural backgrounds. The goal of attending this training is to grow in our understanding of other perspectives and experiences so we, as a school and personally, can work towards being more inclusive and fair.



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 4

Implement a comprehensive advancement model where admissions, development, marketing, and communications, and database management work cohesively to advance Grand Rapids Christian Schools' mission.

AMY ORR — DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS & MARKETING

Over the last six weeks, communications, marketing, and admissions have had a two-fold focus: keep our current GRCS community informed and connected and continue to reach out to prospective families in a diligent but appropriate way.

Communicating regularly with our current families has been our first priority, making sure parents and students are supported and connected through social media, emails, devotionals, story-time, and various other ways.

One highlight was our Off-Campus learning video that featured a variety of GRCS staff and thanked our community (parents, students, staff) for rising to the unprecedented challenges we have faced together.

In addition to posting it on social media, the video was sent to parents with an Off-Campus Learning Survey asking them to evaluate the first three weeks of OCL for each of their children and provide input for how we can make it better for the remainder of the school year.

- We received a nearly 20% response rate. 90% of parents were either satisfied or very satisfied with OCL and 64% thought that the workload was “just right.” They also identified the pieces of OCL that were most helpful and which resources should be increased.
- Each campus received a summary report of the responses for their students, including all comments. The principals reviewed the data with their staff, made adjustments accordingly, and emailed parents on the Friday of Spring Break as to the plan they could expect to see moving forward.
- All parents who requested additional devices or help with internet access were contacted by the IT department, and principals coordinated follow up with all parents who requested a call from an administrator, social worker, or

chaplain.

- It was a strong team effort that stretched across all GRCS departments. Parents noticed and expressed their gratitude.

We are also working with the high school staff to make sure our seniors are recognized and celebrated. From special gifts to a yard sign ambush and special features on social media, our seniors will know just how important they are to GRCS.

Under normal circumstances, our admissions efforts are all about getting prospective parents into our buildings because experiencing GRCS in action is a powerful tool to generate enrollment. While we are not able to do that right now, the admissions team continues to work diligently to respond to inquiries and follow up with applicants to move them through the admissions process. New Continuous Enrollment contracts are coming in.

On April 23 and 24, the admissions directors worked with a videographer to film virtual tours of each campus. When finished, we will share these videos with inquiries and post them on our website. We also hope to create virtual events to pull more prospects into the admissions funnel.

Looking toward 2020-21, we have also launched the annual ParentVUE verification process and worked with the business office to communicate changes to the default monthly payment plan.

LA'LEATHA SPILLERS — DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Black Tie Blue Jeans

- Due to COVID-19, our annual fundraiser was shifted to a virtual day of giving and was launched on April 15, 2020, via our website and Facebook. Tom Welch, the inaugural Eagle Impact Award recipient, and Olivia Haverkamp, '19, the 2020 Richard M. DeVos Distinguished Alumni award recipient, were honored through video.
- If you have not had an opportunity yet, please check out these videos at grcs.org/virtualbtbj
- Of the original goal to raise \$600,000 for the Eagles Fund, as of April 20, 2020, \$368,800 has been raised representing 61% of the goal.

Spring Appeal

- We are moving forward with the spring appeal mailing and phone-a-thon but this year have removed current parents from the list.
- The mailing launched to 300+ supporters on April 27th



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 4, CONT'D

and the phone-a-thon will begin on May 5 and run until June 27th and reach nearly 1300 supporters who have given in the last 3 years. This includes alumni and grandparents.

- Messaging has been tailored to be sensitive and acknowledge current events and those who are impacted by COVID-19 while also providing an opportunity for those who feel led to support Grand Rapids Christian Schools at this time the opportunity to do so.

Donor Calls

- I have been making calls to donors as a general touch-point and wellness check and to answer any questions about Grand Rapids Christian Schools' response during these times.
- Donors have appreciated the call and have provided a positive response and applaud how GRCS has responded given the significance of schools' provision of online learning.

Major Donor Proposals

- I am drafting major donor proposals to share with a small handful of donors in hopes of securing matching gifts for the last 30 days of the fiscal year.
- The goal would be to leverage matching gifts in the final push to double the impact of any Eagles Funds gifts that come in before the end of the fiscal year.

Eagles Fund

- Total raised as of April 20, 2020, is \$1.3M, 77% of the 2019-2020 goal.

ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

Just prior to the schools being closed, we were able to host two important events at GRCMS: a new event called "5th Avenue" on March 5 for our incoming 4th graders from GRCS-Iroquois and the annual GRCMS Showcase for new families on March 10. Our attendance at both events was very positive!

The decision to host the "5th Avenue" event was made to give more dedicated attention to our 4th grade families coming into 5th grade next year (they used to come to the annual Showcase). By holding these two events separately, we could meet the unique needs of each audience and could give them the appropriate attention each deserves. I am thankful for Linda's help in planning these two events and to all of the GRCMS staff who attended to welcome these families to our school!

In addition, Linda Vellenga continues to work diligently connecting with and enrolling new families. Linda and I communicate every week, have meetings with families by phone or Zoom, and continue the work of enrolling new students for 2020-2021.

BEN BUURSMAN — ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN PRINCIPAL

COVID19 has closed our school building and altered planned events, yet the folks in admissions, development, marketing, and communications have worked tirelessly to ensure Grand Rapids Christian Schools continue to effectively support our community and share our mission.

Parent surveys have offered valuable feedback as we refine off-campus learning. Communication across the district has been carefully coordinated in order to provide consistent, timely information.



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 5

Ensure a business model for financial sustainability that supports the educational program and advances the mission of Grand Rapids Christian Schools.

JIM PRIMUS — CFO

It's been quite an interesting time in the business office over the last month. We've been able to do much of the work at home, with payables and deposits handled on Mondays and Thursdays. The application for the Small Business loan was completed and submitted, with funds received on April 14, 2020.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to get that completed in a timely fashion.

We continue to work closely with families who are dealing with economic hardship as a result of the Health Crisis.

A more detailed review of the economic impact on GRCS as a result of the coronavirus pandemic will be included in a memo for further discussion.



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES

NEWS

TOM DEJONGE — SUPERINTENDENT



I am pleased to report that Nicki Tardy has been hired as Executive Secretary to the Superintendent, replacing Sara Buchholz who will retire at the close of the current school year.

Nicki comes to Grand Rapids Christian Schools following her extensive experience at Grand Rapids Public Schools, where she served in multiple capacities as head secretary and, most recently, in the position of Generalist at GRPS' central administrative offices.

Nicki is very excited to transition to GRC and become an integral part of our Christian school community. She already knows us well, as her grandson attends the Iroquois Campus. She is committed to Christian education and has learned firsthand how we educate His image-bearers and partner with parents in nurturing the faith of their children.

Nicki will begin to work with Sara in the weeks ahead to learn the many duties and details of her new position. She will officially begin those duties on July 1, 2020. Please join me in celebrating Sara's long career and her outstanding work and welcoming Nicki to GRC.

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

In March, GRCHS hosted Carolyn Chaudhary, Michigan Public Health consultant, as part of our Growing Deeper series that invites parents into a closer partnership. Carolyn presented on the dangers of e-cigarettes, also known as vapes. You can [find her presentation here](#).

One priority of our administrative team during off-campus learning is to continue student life activities that unite our community. Specifically, we are trying to focus on opportunities for our senior class as they mourn the loss

of their last semester in their classrooms, on the stage, on the athletic field, and simply hanging out with their friends. Highlights of our student life plan are:

- Weekly chapels led by our chaplain, Mark VanderWerf, and his worship class interns
- Regular devotionals written by students in the spiritual life branch of our student government
- Weekly Bible studies for each grade
- Weekly challenges and events held by student congress and the admin team that include: photo contests, cooking online together, book club, teacher bingo, Kahoot (trivia) challenges, and virtual spirit weeks featuring different dress themes on each day
- Senior college decision day where students post pictures in their gear on social media
- Senior athlete spotlight — GRCHS athletic department posts information on social media about each senior who missed her/his spring sport experience
- Senior spotlight — GRCS posts our seniors' pictures and facts on social media
- Yard sign "ambush" where GRCHS faculty deliver yard signs to seniors
- Drive-thru cap and gown pick-up where faculty and staff cheer for seniors as they pull up in their cars to get their caps, gowns, and a senior gift (pending health department approval and following social distancing guidelines)
- Virtual senior chapel
- Virtual senior academic awards night
- Virtual senior open mic night

We have reserved July 18 and 21 for our rescheduled senior banquet and graduation ceremony

GRCHS Bible teacher, Larry Borst, has spent many hours this year working in our greenhouse with members of our "E Club" (Environment Club). Although they haven't been able to gather together recently, Larry Borst was able to deliver 60 flats of native plants to Plaster Creek Stewards to be transplanted.

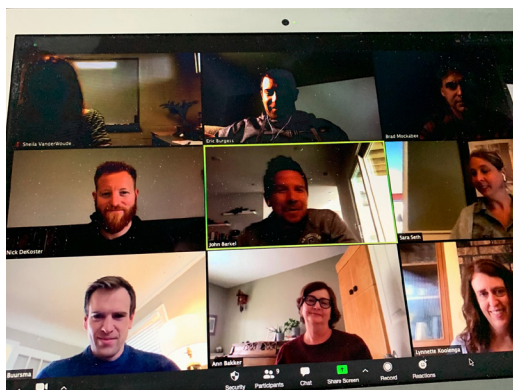


GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES

NEWS CONT'D

ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

The GRCS Admin. PLT has continued to meet regularly in this time apart to continue forward the initiatives in the Strategic Plan related to curriculum alignment, MTSS implementation and student support, and teacher and staff evaluation. We were also able to finish the annual CSI Accreditation Report to update our on-going accreditation. This team loves working together and has been a great support to one another in this time.



JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

I am excited and proud to share our Inclusion and ESS teams have scheduled online meetings with kids and groups who need the support these instructors provide. I greatly appreciate Kim Primus, Jenny Marsh, and Ronda Pifer for coordinating these times of support. A big thank you to their teams who are meeting with students each day of the week to provide kids with the support and instruction that is best.

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Evergreen has two enrichment weeks each school year.

- During the winter enrichment week, Evergreen offered preschool programming for the first time. Preschool students participated in S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities on the Evergreen Campus during this exciting week of learning.
- Students in grades K-5 traveled to the VanAndel Education Institute each day to learn and work as scientists.
- They worked with Lego Robotics materials, built water filtration devices, and created PSAs (public service announcements).



Parents and families have been incredibly supportive during this time of online learning.

- Evergreen teachers cleared out desks and lockers and prepared packets of materials for parents to pick up on Wednesday, April 24.
- Every packet was picked up on that Wednesday afternoon.
- The level of commitment from the teachers and parents is amazing.