

18 19

BOARD
REPORT

GRCs

Tom DeJonge, Superintendent

June 3,
2019



THEME



2018-2019 BOARD REPORT

JUNE 3, 2019

Tom DeJonge, Superintendent

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

JUNE 2019			
3	7:00 am	Executive Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
3	6:00 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	GRCS Board Room
4	5:30 pm	Evergreen End of Year Picnic and Art Show	Evergreen Campus
5	7:00 pm	GRCMS 8th Grade Graduation	DeVos CAW
6	7:30 am	Finance Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
6	7:00 pm	Rockford Christian 8th Grade Graduation	Rockford Campus
7		Last Day of School (Half Day)	GRCMS, Rockford, Iroquois
14		Evergreen (No School)	Evergreen
19		Last Day of School (Half Day)	Evergreen

JULY 2019			
3 — 23		Sara in Germany visiting children & grandchildren	
8 — 20		Tom on vacation	

AUGUST 2019			
5	7:30 am	New Staff Orientation	GRCS Board Room
6	7:30 am	Reading Horizons Training for Staff	GRCS HUB
7	7:30 am	Title 1 Staff Meeting	GRCS HUB
7	7:30 am	Executive Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
12	8:00 am	All Staff Welcome Back Worship	DeVos CAW
14		GRCMS Open Houses	GRCMS,
15	7:30 am	Finance Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
15		Evergreen, Rockford, Iroquois Open Houses	Evergreen Rockford, Iroquois
19	8:00 am	First Day of School	All Campuses
20		GRCHS Open House	GRCHS
21	8:00 am	Board of Trustees Retreat	GRCS Board Room / HUB



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

MISSION

VISION

VALUES

GOALS

GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS MISSION

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

GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CORE VALUES

Rooted In
Christ

Connected Through
Relationships

Called to
Serve

Educated
for Life

United with Home
and Church

GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS 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.



2018-2019 BOARD REPORT

JUNE 3, 2019

Tom DeJonge, Superintendent

GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Board,

The 2018-19 school year is nearly complete for 2,300 Preschool - 12th grade students! On May 28, the graduating class of 2019 celebrated - along with nearly 2,000 parents, friends, and family members that filled Calvary Church - the culmination of their K-12 journey at Grand Rapids Christian Schools. This week Wednesday and Thursday, more than 130 Grand Rapids Christian Middle School and Rockford Christian School students will graduate from 8th grade excited to begin their high school experiences.

In each case, they will do so prepared to live a life of discovery and wonder in God's world.

Surrounded by the prayers of parents and staff, our students' graduations represent a time of God's faithfulness. Graduation reflects new opportunities and is an answer to prayers from parents, grandparents, and staff. It is our most visible reminder of the importance of being thankful for the many people that have teamed together to get these wonderful young people ready to reach this significant milestone in their lives. Graduation fills each of with excitement for what God has planned for these image bearers as they take the next step on the paths God has laid before them.

This month's portrait theme is a most fitting theme for our June board report. Not only is it a reminder of the hard work of staff and support of loving parents throughout a student's educational experience, it reminds us of the important work of the Board and its charge to ensure our mission of preparing students to be Christ's effective servants in contemporary society. 97% of our Seniors will move on to colleges and universities locally, throughout Michigan, and across the country; the remaining students will enter the world of work or service throughout and well beyond their local community. No matter where they will attend or the work God has called them to accomplish, it will continue to be our prayer that these students will reflect Christ in their lives and make meaningful differences as young Christians who belong to their Heavenly Father.

Ours is an important task, one that we embrace and one in which we will continue to seek God's guidance as we look forward to beginning again on August 19. As Christian educators, we recognize our role in nurturing the faith of students is done through opening students' eyes and hearts to realize the power of God's handiwork in every lesson in our classrooms, through hundreds of performances on stage, and while competing on athletic fields across the state. It is and will continue to be our prayer that it is through and because of Him that we have been called to this work for nearly 100 years. And it is through and because of His faithfulness that we will continue to be called to this work for generations of students to come.

Thanks be to Him for He is good.

tdj





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GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE STORIES

JUSTICES SEEKERS

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

GRCS

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

Part of our end-of-year celebration includes senior department awards. It's always amazing to reflect on our senior's growth and the impact they have made on our community. These seniors' desire to explore and learn more about God's world has paid off and led their teachers to celebrate them. [Check out our award recipients here!](#)

We celebrate God's faithfulness to all our seniors and know that He goes with them no matter what their next step may be. See our seniors' current post-high school plans [here](#).

Our band and orchestra concerts are always special, but our final production of the year highlighted two seniors who have explored their talents in music over their high school careers. Seniors [Sam Fyneweaver](#) and [Sam Ivory](#) worked tirelessly to arrange their own pieces this spring. As you can see in the videos, Sam Ivory even directed his arrangement!

This past week our Social Studies department presented the 3rd annual Contemporary Global Issues Exhibition Night. From late April to May, our World History students researched and learned about contemporary issues that exist in our world today, everything from water shortages around the world to nuclear proliferation. On May 23, our students gathered in the Town Square to have an exhibition night where they shared about how the topics they

researched impact our world today. The event was very well attended by parents, grandparents, faculty, and staff.

ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

Exploring is a big part of what learning and life are all about. In middle school, in particular, students are exploring not only in their learning but are also discovering their own identities in the sometimes turbulent period of adolescence. In our Christian learning community at GRCMS, students have the opportunity to explore alongside Christian role models in teachers, support staff, and coaches who help them to understand their individual gifts to use for the collective good of Kingdom service.

The annual iXplore Week that I wrote about in a previous Board report is one example of the ways we give students a chance to explore and understand a myriad of facets of God's creation through the intentional study of many different topics.

Another example of how we continue to develop "lifelong explorers" right into the final week of school is the class trips for 5th and 6th grades. The 5th graders will spend two days and one night at Camp Roger next week, and the 6th graders will spend three days and two nights at Sleeping Bear Dunes. Both of these trips carry on year-long themes of investigation and stewardship as our students explore and marvel in the wonder of God's creation. They continue to build community with friends and enjoy the outdoors as they finish up their respective school years doing outdoor activities, team-building, and community service.

We are blessed to have the opportunity in our GRC schools to give students multiple opportunities to discover and explore God's creation in classrooms and in His creation so that they not only develop a sense of wonder but also develop skills of investigation and inquiry to continue to grow as effective Kingdom builders.

HARRY KNOL — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL

At Rockford Christian, the 5th and 6th graders actively engage in an Outdoor Education Program and experience. In May, the students presented an informational assembly to all the parents and students at RCS. Their teachers, Julie Barrett and Phil Warners, had small groups of students come up front and, month by month, provide examples of the outdoor activities in which they engaged and how they saw God in that activity. Their writings and oral presentations were examples of essential competencies being learned while recognizing God as the creator of all.

During the month of May, different groups of students experience end-of-year outings. One outing I was privileged to

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GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE STORIES

join was the 8th grade trip to Mackinac City and Island. Their teacher, Sara Oren, had them engaged throughout the days in learnings and social times. It was a wonderful experience with the students interacting in many positive ways. One young man walked beside me and let me know that not having his personal technology device along really was not all that bad! Every evening, they shared examples on how they saw God at work in others throughout the day. There were learnings that happen along with writing and speaking but there also were opportunities to learn and experience being part of a community rooted in God and meant to care for one another.

MARK KROMMENDYK — GRCS IROQUOIS PRINCIPAL

Step one in preparing children to live lives of discovery and wonder in God's world is to share the wonder and diversity of the world God has given them. Service projects are a great way to do this. When we share the lives and needs of people that live far away, we nurture wonder and a thirst for justice at the same time. Our end of the year service project is a wonderful example. We are in the middle of a fund-raising project for the library in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. This refugee camp is home to thousands of Sudanese refugees. The refugees have fled from the violence and famine that has gripped their homes in South Sudan for the last 25 years.

The project was presented to us by GRCS parent, Simon Luk, and his GRCS middle school son, Isaiah. Simon and his wife, Rebecca, spent a number of years in the camp as refugees themselves so the camp's needs are their needs. The Luk family has been raising money that is used to purchase books in Kenya for the camp library for a number of years and came to us asking if we would like to help early this year. We all loved the idea and, early this month, Simon and Isaiah came to chapel and introduced the students to Kakuma Camp and the library.

They shared how much the library meant to the people in the camp and how we can help. They challenged the students to raise money by doing things rather than by just asking. To date, we have collected more than \$1,500. Our goal is to raise \$2,000, and we are confident we will exceed our goal.

ANN BAKKER — GRCS EVERGREEN PRINCIPAL

Team Time is an important and unique part of the school week at Evergreen. Students form bonds with students from other grades by meeting in multi-age groups each Thursday afternoon to learn about and explore the school theme. The friendships formed in Team Time strengthen the Evergreen community and provide opportunities for students to learn with and from each other.



During the months of April and May, the Evergreen Team Time groups have focused on communicating through art. Students in grades K-5 had the opportunity to visit Meijer Gardens. While at the gardens students observed and sketched some of the sculptures. Since then students have been creating paper sculptures during Team Time. It's been exciting to work with Evergreen students this year as they've learned about different ways to communicate.



An Evergreen parent spent a day at school working with students to clean the garden space in front of the school. Then, they worked together to plant a vegetable garden. One of the Team One students stated, "This is the best school day ever!" Students are taking turns watering and weeding the garden. They will have the opportunity to harvest the produce this summer and next fall.



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discovery and wonder in
God's world.*

GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1

Strengthen the Board of Trustees' strategic role to ensure its leadership of the institution in order to advance Grand Rapids Christian Schools' mission for future generations of students.

GRCS

TOM DEJONGE — SUPERINTENDENT

One of the most important tasks for which the board is responsible is the selection of board members that possess the qualities and skills needed to carry out the work of the board and achieve the goals of the strategic plan. Each year, 2-3 board members' terms expire, which means that this annual process is very critically important. The board's Nomination Committee, comprised of current and former board members and me, is the board committee charged with this work.

In June 2019, we bid farewell to two board members whose work has been highly respected and strategically insightful. Candace Smith King has served since 2013 and Paul DeVries since 2014. Each has offered wise counsel, and their dedication to the work of the board has been deeply appreciated. They will be replaced by Debbye Turner Bell and Rebecca Jordan Heys. Like Candace and Paul, Debbye and Rebecca bring passion, dedication, and qualities necessary for the board to ensure its leadership and advancement of Grand Rapids Christian Schools' mission for future generations.

I am thankful to Candace and Paul for their support of Grand Rapids Christian's mission for these past two board terms and am looking forward to Debbye's and Rebecca's leadership in the years to come. This fall, once we are settled and school is underway, the Nomination Committee will begin the process of identifying and seeking board members for future board positions. Please pray that God will provide wisdom and discernment to the Committee and lead high-quality individuals to desire to serve GRCS students for the 2020-2023 board term!

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.

GRCS

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

GRCHS is committed to providing an environment in which all students have access to a rigorous academic curriculum, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses. We currently offer 14 Advanced Placement courses at GRCHS, and next year we will offer 16. This spring we had 346 students take a total of 651 AP exams! Students will receive their scores later this summer.

We are also excited about some slight changes to our daily schedule that will better serve our students. To better infuse our faith into our daily schedule, we will have two shorter chapels each week. The first chapel will likely be a traditional chapel with a short message and some worship. The second chapel will be called “community time” and will rotate between small group time, praise and worship, and any necessary assemblies. We also will have two shorter late starts to give teachers more frequent opportunities to analyze student data in their teams. Check out the new schedule [here](#)!

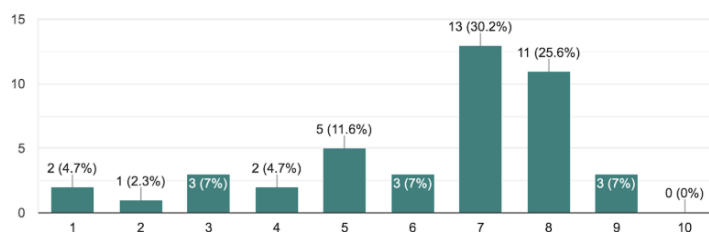
At the high school, we have two technology integration coaches that are charged with walking alongside staff and students as they use technology to deepen their learning and teaching. To end the year, teachers were surveyed to report the impact that the coaches had on their student learning and teaching practices. The results are encouraging!

Impact on Student Learning:

- 82 percent of teachers reported that their tech goals had an impact on student learning.
- 63 percent of teachers reported that their tech goals had a high level of impact on student learning.

How would you rate the impact this goal had on student learning?

43 responses

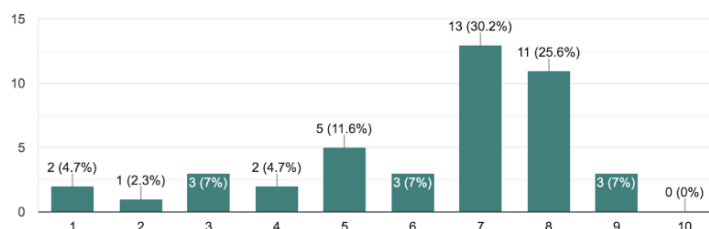


Impact on Teaching Practice:

- 95 percent of teachers reported that their tech goal will have an impact on their future teaching practice.
- 70 percent of teachers reported that their tech goal will have a high level of impact on their future teaching practice.

How would you rate the impact this goal had on student learning?

43 responses



ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

GRCMS On Thursday, May 16, all six of our 5th–8th-grade math teachers at GRCMS met together with Lynnette Kooienga, Academic Program Coordinator, and me for a vertical math conversation to ensure continuity of math standards at each grade level and to ensure that the eight math practices emphasized in the Common Core Math Standards are being intentionally integrated in each math classroom at GRCMS. It was a blessing to have this time to talk together, to share teaching ideas, and to decide on some next steps together as we discussed how all four grades work together to prepare students for high school math.

The conversation with our math teachers will continue on Monday, June 10, as we have a final day of middle school Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) meeting throughout the day to reflect on the past school year and to look ahead to the



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GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

next. Middle school teachers from Rockford Christian and GRCMS will meet together on this day to collaborate and to finalize the documentation of 5th—8th-grade curriculum in Curriculum Trak.

By June 10, 2019, all of the 5th through 8th-grade GRCS curriculum will be documented in Curriculum Trak, per the GRCS Strategic Plan goal to have elementary curriculum documented by 2018, middle school by 2019, and high school by 2020. This will help to ensure a “guaranteed and viable” curriculum that is taught and that is easily and consistently shared between teachers using the Curriculum Trak tool. Middle school teachers have been working hard on this goal for the past two years, and we appreciate all of the time they have invested in order to document the curricular information in a tool that is able to be used by teachers both now and into the future for our students.

As of May 17, all teachers who participated in the pilot of the Marzano Teacher Evaluation Tool have been formally evaluated. This was the first year that GRCS administrators used the Marzano Tool for teacher evaluation and, throughout the year, the Administrative Professional Learning Team spent two meetings per month discussing the Tool and its protocols with one another as they also carried out the formal evaluations with teaching staff. This year of learning together will be debriefed at our administrator retreat on June 12, and we will continue to utilize the Tool into 2019-2020 in order to give our teachers specific feedback to help our teachers to grow as effective Christian educators.

HARRY KNOL — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL

This year, two teachers at RCS were part of a pilot teacher evaluation protocol. This follows the work of Robert Marzano and is built around the book, *The Art and Science of Teaching*. Going forward, when implemented with fidelity, this will be a valuable tool and process to not only evaluate teacher performance but more importantly provide a process to assist teachers in personal and professional growth.

MARK KROMMENDYK — GRCS IROQUOIS PRINCIPAL

The teachers and administrators at GRCS embrace their responsibility for the learning of each child. We expect children to grow emotionally, spiritually, socially, physically and academically. Academic growth is constantly monitored and individual needs are met. We are committed to communicating the status of growth in all areas with parents. When a child is not growing as expected, we

partner with parents to identify what we see and then take appropriate actions as a team. This kind of individual attention is a hallmark of GRCS' Iroquois Campus.

Here are a couple of places we can see this happening and can cite as evidence that we are practicing what we say we are doing.

- By the end of May, three formal MAP assessments were complete. We gave all students in 1st-4th grades the MAPS assessments for reading, math and language usage. These tests measure each student's growth over the year and provide a comparison of:
 - students' actual learning, and
 - learning that is expected of a student of the same age.
- We also measure the level at which each student is reading. We look at student growth and compare where each student is to the norm for his/her age. Test results are communicated with parents.

The second place you can see individual attention happening is in parent meetings we host in May. These meetings are attended by teachers, student support and inclusion coordinators, and administrators. Needs are detailed and determined. Plans to address needs are made. Our process is collaborative. We look at the whole child. Parents and staff have equal parts in every plan we develop. Parents and staff listen to each other and agree on needs and ways each need will be addressed. Right now, we are at 45 meetings and counting throughout the month of May.

Monitoring progress, looking at data results, partnering with parents and using a team approach together add up a make Iroquois a place that is committed to learning and growth for all children.

ANN BAKKER — GRCS EVERGREEN PRINCIPAL

June 20 is a professional development day for Evergreen teachers. On that day, we will have a consultant from the Great Books Foundation spend the day with us to lead us in Shared Inquiry Training. This is a great opportunity for us to deepen our knowledge of Inquiry-Based Learning, which is one of three foundational pillars of Evergreen.

GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 3

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

GRCS

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

A number of GRCHS students and staff attended an anti-racism event at Calvin College last month. The featured speakers were members of Truth's Table who focused their conversation on the unique role of African American women in the United States. We were blessed and challenged by their talk!

GRCHS partnered with the local organization, Protecting Young Eyes, to educate roughly 75 parents on the realities of technology in our students' lives. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents of students of a wide variety of ages. We will continue this partnership and provide more opportunities in the upcoming school year for parents to learn about this incredibly relevant topic.

We are excited to begin a partnership with Safe Haven Ministries, a local nonprofit organization that offers an emergency shelter for women and children in abusive situations, non-residential services such as support groups and case management, and prevention and education programs. Safe Haven will provide training for our entire staff in the fall to help us guide students as they learn to create healthy relationships. They will also provide more intensive training to our administrative and counseling

teams. This training with adults will lead to conversations with students about topics related to healthy relationships such as healthy social norms, bystander intervention, identifying warning signs, accountability in peers, and healthy self-esteem. We are also excited to invite our parents into the conversation later in the school year.

ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

This year, GRCMS established a Student Advisory Board (SAB), made up of representatives from the 7th and 8th grades. The group is led by Mr. Rueben Riley, Student Life Coordinator, and Mrs. Sara Seth, Assistant Principal. Our plan is for this group to expand into next year as it seeks to be a student voice for all students and a conduit of information to the staff at GRCMS.

One of their final projects this year is a donation drive in May for two global causes connected to 8th graders at GRCMS: a shoe drive for a summer mission trip to the Dominican Republic and a "dollar donation drive" for books for a library at a school in Kenya. The SAB members have been promoting these causes with their friends over the last month of school.

ANN BAKKER — GRCS EVERGREEN PRINCIPAL

The STEAM Museum came to Evergreen on Monday, April 22, 2019. Evergreen students in grades K-5 had the opportunity to participate in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math activities through

a variety of fun activities such as STEAM Pinball, the Music Machine, Structures and Gears, and Robotics. It was exciting to watch students actively participate in these activities.



Three things really stood out:

- Evergreen students love to learn! The children eagerly engaged in activities and explored new ways to do things at the various stations.
- Evergreen parents are quick to volunteer! Six parents spent the day at Evergreen interacting with students as they worked at the various STEAM stations.
- We are part of a neighborhood community! Students, teachers, and the principal from Mulick Park School came to Evergreen to participate in the STEAM Museum.



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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.

GRCS

We are in the beginning stages of planning for the 100-year celebration for GRCS, which will publically take place during the 2020-2021 school year. One hundred years is a significant milestone and Grand Rapids Christian has much to celebrate. We are excited to roll out to the community the history of GRCS, countless examples of God's faithfulness throughout the years, and the vision for what lies ahead.

MARK KROMMENDYK — GRCS IROQUOIS PRINCIPAL

During this time of the year, we get a lot of enrollment inquiries from parents for their children that have been experiencing some kind of difficulty in their previous school. This presents us with a bit of a dilemma.

On the one hand, we want to be a school home for each and every family that wants Christian Education for their child(ren). We have a robust support services program that parents hear about and desire for their children.

On the other hand, we must be sure to enroll students for whom we have the services to serve successfully.

Often, we have the ability and expertise to serve a child that comes with higher needs but we may not have the capacity. We may not have the capacity because our classes are full or we may not have the capacity because we do not have the additional staffing needs to meet a particular child's academic or emotional needs well.

At Iroquois, we work through each new student application as a team. Admissions people always gather records and share them with the administration and support staff. If there is any indication that a new student may need extra support, we talk as a team and meet with parents. Inquiring parents know that we want their children here and they also recognize that we are able to enroll them if we can give them the necessary supports they will need to be successful.

ANN BAKKER — GRCS EVERGREEN PRINCIPAL

May 30 was Moving Up/Visiting Day at Evergreen. On that afternoon, students visit the classroom that they will be in next school year. This gives current students an opportunity to visit their new classroom. It also gives new students an opportunity to visit Evergreen to learn about their new classrooms.

LINDSAY HART — DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

As the school year draws to a close, the Advancement team is taking some time to reflect on 2018-19. It was a busy and productive year that welcomed new team members and new strategies. Here are a few highlights from 2018-2019:

- Launched a new website
- Moved to Continuous Enrollment
- Implemented Variable Tuition
- Anticipated enrollment for 2019-2020 is the largest PS-4 enrollment at our Iroquois Campus since it opened in 2010
- Continued growth and retention in preschool resulting in high Kindergarten enrollment
- Reached or exceeded projections for the 2019-20 school year at most campuses as of the end of May 2019
- Met our annual Eagles Fund goal of raising 1.7 million for tuition assistance, Student Support Services, and fine arts programming

This summer, we will gather to plan for upcoming Advancement events.

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Tom DeJonge, Superintendent

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.

GRCS

JIM PRIMUS — CFO

Through the first 10 months of the 2018-19 fiscal year (year-end June 30), the GRCS Operating Budget is tracking well with respect to both Revenues and Expenses. The budget includes a contingency of \$244,000, which is used only to address surprise expenses and/or revenue shortfalls. The unspent contingency is used to reduce GRCS Operating debt.

The CSRIC (Christian School Retirement Investment Consortium) Board has been meeting regularly this spring, led by CSRIC Board President Tom DeJonge. Tom and I have met with staff at each of our five GRCS campuses to review details of the plan, which is set to launch in September 2019. Investment providers Midwest Capital and GLP are scheduled to individually meet with staff at each of the five campuses before June 7, 2019.

Beene Garter representatives will be in the office during the last week of June for a Pre-Audit review of the 2018-2019 school year. The full audit will occur over the first 3 weeks of September 2019.



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and middle school Spanish at Grandville Christian, was a graduate assistant at MSU, and even had a long-term substitute teaching position here at GRCHS in the spring of 2010. For the last nine years, Kate has been teaching at South Christian High School in Grand Rapids. Kate and Mariano, her husband of 12 years, are members of Boston Square CRC. They live in Grand Rapids with their two children, Isabel (6) and Mariano (2). Isabel is a student at the Iroquois Campus. Kate's love of the Spanish language came from traveling and meeting new people. She spent two semesters studying in Spain and then continued to learn with her Avila family.

Raquel Rodriguez will be teaching Spanish 3 and 4 as well as Spanish Immersion Speech and Bible classes. Previously, Raquel taught Spanish 2, 3, and AP Spanish Literature and Culture at the high school level. Most recently, she taught Spanish Immersion 6th grade Bible, Social Studies, and Spanish at our very own GRCMS! Raquel and her husband, Ronald, have two daughters, Aurora Camille (2), and Lyla Evelyn (1). Raquel was born in Puerto Rico and spent most of her childhood there. She studied at Western Michigan University and spent a semester studying abroad in Burgos, Spain. She loves cooking and learning about different cultures!

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

New Additions to the GRCHS Faculty & Staff

Inclusion Coordinator

We are excited to welcome **Missy Meekhof** as our next Inclusion Coordinator. Missy has 10 years of experience working with students who have learning differences. Her most recent experience has been with the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District where she served in a variety of capacities. Missy has already started to transition to her new role and will be in the office full time starting August 12. Missy and her family are members of Harvest Bible Chapel, where she has served as Special Needs Coordinator for several years. She and her husband Adrian have been married for 15 years and have two children, Caitalyn (9) and Easton (8).

Spanish Teachers: We welcome two new Spanish Teachers to our world language department!

Kate Avila will be teaching Spanish 2 and 4 as well as the 9th grade Spanish Immersion course. Before coming to GRCHS, Kate taught three years of elementary

Forensics State Champs!



GRCHS has a wonderful forensics program and competes with the best in the state each year. This year's team was no different, featuring 71 9th - 12th graders. On Friday, May 3, 35 members of the team traveled to Oakland University where they competed against the top 325 Class A competitors in the state. 32 of these students were semi-finalists in their events, and 15 advanced to the state finals.

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Tom DeJonge, Superintendent

GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES

After two busy days of speaking and acting, our team finished first in Class A for the first time in school history! Additionally, there were three individual state championships: Ben Swedberg in Impromptu Speaking, Isaiah TenHuisen and Caleb Bauman in Duo Interpretation, and James VanAntwerp in Extemporaneous Speaking (which also came with a \$1000 scholarship). All of these students showcased their ability to be communicators and collaborators as they represented our school and the gifts God has given them.

On April 30, we celebrated a number of seniors who signed letters of intent to participate in collegiate athletics! Here are the students who signed:

- Joshua Gray: Spring Arbor University, Golf
- Rachael Muir: Bethel University, Golf
- Elijah Heerema: Cornerstone University, Bowling
- George Bolt: Bethel University, Football
- Luke Elzinga: Central Michigan University, Football
- Jorden Howe: Hope College, Football
- Jaidyn Kuiken: Otterbein University, Soccer
- Trey McBride: Cedarville University, Soccer
- Hunter Ruiter: Calvin College, Soccer
- Christopher Schau: Calvin College, Soccer
- Tommy Visser: Butler University, Soccer
- Daniel Wunder: Calvin College, Soccer
- Julien Camy: Calvin College, Swimming
- Mary Grace Doyle: Albion College, Swimming
- Anna Haaksma: Biola University, Swimming
- Claire Sytsma: Calvin College, Swimming
- Andre Baez.: Cornerstone University, Baseball
- Maria Bos: Calvin College, Volleyball
- Jack Zwiers: Hope College, Hockey
- Kate DeYoung: Grand Valley State University, Lacrosse
- Lydia Phelps: Loras College, Lacrosse
- Abigail Roossien: Calvin College, Lacrosse
- Graham Kormash: Calvin College, Hockey and Lacrosse
- Christian Voetberg: Wheaton College, Cross-Country and Track

HARRY KNOL — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL Monthly Multi-Grade Community Groups



Thanks to the planning and work of the Rockford PTO and the generous donations of Friends of RCS, the **Auction for the Ages** fundraiser was able to raise nearly \$70,000 this spring! The money assists the school in enhancements to our programming and facilities.

6th Grade Play



Service-Learning can be fun!





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

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MARK KROMMENDYK — GRCS IROQUOIS PRINCIPAL

Here is a summary of the staffing moves that have been made for the 2019-2020 school year.

We say hello to...

Susan VerWys — Preschool teacher. Susan is currently serving as an associate professor of Education at Calvin where she is the Early Childhood Program Advisor.

Abigail Hendriksen — 2nd grade Spanish Immersion teacher. Abigail graduated from Calvin in December and has filled in for two maternity leaves here this year.

Eena Wright — 3rd Grade teacher. Eena has taught at Holland Christian for the last 4 years.

Anna Minnema (soon to be Mrs. Boice) — 3rd grade. Anna has worked in our Kids Care program for the last 4 years. She graduated from Calvin this May.

Taylor Asfour — 4th grade teacher. Taylor has been the technology aide here for the last 2 years.

John Barkel — Principal. John has been at Fremont Christian for the last 13 years, seven as principal.

We are making some moves...

Sheryl Rozendal is moving from 1st grade to Kindergarten.

Rachel Bardolph is moving from Preschool to Kindergarten.

Sue Pluymert will move from 3rd to 4th grade.

Jenna Jansen is adding a section of preschool.

We also say goodbye to...

Jim Koop, Judy Rooy and **Mark Krommendyk** who will retire at the close of the year.

Meghan Eames who will transfer to be middle school Inclusion Coordinator at GRCMS.

Allison Weingarden who has resigned in order to teach Spanish Immersion at Redlands Christian School in California.

Kristen VandenBosch who has been granted a one-year Leave of Absence for next year. She will be living in Germany with her husband during much of the school year.

ANN BAKKER — GRCS EVERGREEN PRINCIPAL

On Thursday, May 23, we had the opportunity to honor Mary Witteveen and Holly Haan for their years of service at GRCS. These excellent educators will both retire from their current positions at Evergreen at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Hannah Rush will join the staff at Evergreen next fall as a Team One teacher. Hannah graduated from Calvin College two years ago and has been teaching in Byron Center for two years. Welcome, Hannah!



GRAND RAPIDS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS