



THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL **SATELLITE**



MIKE YOUNT AND BLAIR DEZEEUW LEARN FROM A NEW FRIEND FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DURING THE RECENT MISSION TRIP

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE: PAGE 2

HAPPENINGS: PAGE 3 AND 4

ATHLETICS: PAGE 5

CONNECTIONS: PAGE 6

BEHIND THE TASSEL: PAGE 4

GOLF CHAMPIONS: PAGE 5

FLOURISH WEEK : PAGE 6



CURELL'S CORNER: PRACTICING THE DISCIPLINES

By: Scott Curell

I played football in high school. I loved the games. There was nothing like Friday nights under the lights with the crowd cheering. The anticipation of finally seeing the results of the hours you put into practicing. I also remember practices. There were hours of running and conditioning for those games on Friday nights. When learning the plays, we would practice the same plays over and over and over. We would focus on the small details of footwork and where and when people needed to be at certain times. The same play over and over and over again. Why? We did it to build the muscle memory. We did it so that later it would become a natural thing that we just did when it was time.

We try to do that with our spiritual walk with Christ. We practice disciplines like reading scripture, prayer, church attendance and being involved in your church, fasting, praising, giving thanks, and serving others. Why do we do those things? We practice those spiritual disciplines so that they become natural to us. We practice them so they instinctively become who we are as a Child of God. James 5: 13-14 says, "Is anyone

among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord." We instinctively know what to do and when to do it because we have practiced it.

Northern Michigan Christian School is a Christian school. We have strong academic programming and we certainly teach from a Christian perspective in every subject. In addition, we are a school that teaches our students the spiritual practices and disciplines. We have daily devotions each morning at the beginning of the school day to help the students practice doing devotions and getting into God's Word on a daily basis. We pray together as a class, or as a school, so that we get into the habit of staying connected to Christ through prayer. We have chapel every week so that students learn the importance of corporate worship with fellow believers. We give the students opportunities to not only serve one another but to also serve our surrounding communities. We do this so that students develop the discipline of being the "hands and feet" of Jesus. We do these things

not because of ritual or tradition at Northern Michigan Christian School. We do these things so that our students have the opportunity to be reflections of Jesus to those around them. We do these things so that when they leave our school as seniors, it will be a natural thing to them. It will be who they are as a followers of Christ.

Sometimes it is hard to pray. Sometimes I just don't feel like reading my Bible. Sometimes I do not feel very thankful. Sometimes I just do not feel like lifting my voice in praise to Jesus. By teaching, modeling and practicing these spiritual disciplines we are teaching them that during the moments when we don't "feel" like doing them might be one the most important times that we do. The Pulpit commentary says, "The more special and public acts and events of a man's life gain place in his biography, but the commonplace, everyday associations of a man give the true impression of him. The routine life of a man should be the best revelation of the man." May we all practice these spiritual disciplines so that they become routine to us and are part of our DNA of who we are as believers.



COMET CALENDAR

AUG. 20: MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT
AUG. 25: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
SEPT. 11 AND 18: FISH FRY
OCT. 2: PASTOR'S BREAKFAST



SUPPORT NMCS

GIVING BACK TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Northern Michigan Christian School would like to share that Carrie Stahl was awarded the Tom and Reca Scholarship this past year. Mrs. Stahl is using this scholarship to increase the subject areas she is able to teach for NMCS in the areas of PE and Health. Both Tom and Reca Winkle were born in the McBain area and were married in 1940. They

were active members in Vogel Center Christian Reformed Church while operating a dairy farm near Vogel Center into the mid-1960s and later moving to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Reca died in 2003 at the age of 86; Tom died in 2014 at age 99. Tom and Reca Winkle were life-long, enthusiastic supporters of Christian education, and they always had a special

place in their hearts for Northern Michigan Christian School (NMCS). It is with gratitude in their hearts for the special part that NMCS has played in their lives, and the lives of their children, that they give this legacy gift to encourage and support Christian teacher education.

Make a JOYFUL noise



Each spring the sounds of joyful noise and music can be heard filling the halls at NMCS as students prepare for the spring musical and concert.

The theme of the musical centered around the Agape League of superheroes. The spring concert focused on the songs from the big screen as many of our favorite

movies were represented.

Under the direction of Mrs. Erin McPherson, our music department has reached new heights and has helped our students develop their musical gifts.

Thank you to Mrs. McPherson for her years of dedication to our music program. We wish her the best in her next adventure!



NMCS RANGE DAY

FUN ON THE RANGE



Range Day was hosted again this year in early May. Participants were able to shoot one of two courses between the clay targets at the Marion Rod and Gun Club or the archery course at Expedition Untamed. Lunch was provided by Dawn Fresh Catering and Ebels General Store.

Once teams completed their course in the early morning hours, they met together back at school for a meal and to hand out prizes ranging from meat bundles to practice targets.

The event brought in over \$10,000 for Christian education. Thank you Diane Eisenga for her vision behind the event!



GRADUATION: THE NMCS DIFFERENCE

By: Katelyn Richard

Graduation season is a time to reflect on all that God has done for one's academic journey and to get excited about what God has in store for the future. At Northern Michigan Christian, we have the unique opportunity to personalize graduation and the weeks leading up to that big moment on stage. With the "Behind the Tassel" series, we highlight each graduate individually to showcase who they are, what they have accomplished and where God is taking them next. We promote our students to the greater community through our social platforms, allowing others to see a glimpse of what God is doing in and amongst our senior class.

We carry the same personalization into our graduation ceremony as each

graduate has a moment in the spotlight. Faculty, staff and administration have the opportunity to write personalized comments about each senior, speaking to the impact they have on the school, the student body and the community as they end their senior year and become alumni of Northern Michigan Christian. It is a privilege to be a graduate of NMCS and this is highlighted through our alumni speaker who welcomes seniors to the alumni association. Alumni from past graduating classes also join seniors up front to sing the "Halls of Northern." This unique opportunity allows generations of NMCS alumni to come together and reflect on their time here.

God has been good to Northern Michigan Christian and we sing of His goodness as all join in singing "The Goodness of God."

His goodness is evident through all the people in our school community who pour into our students to get them to this point. We recognize the parents of graduates who get a "front row seat" - behind the graduates - to commemorate this milestone. Parents are presented with a rose and welcomed up front by their seniors for a circle of prayer. The uniqueness of graduation at Northern Michigan Christian is not lost on us. We believe it is a special time to give God glory and celebrate our seniors in a personal way. This is what it means to be NMCS. This is the NMCS Difference!





By: Trey Reed

The spring athletic season was filled with stories of growth, perseverance, and success - all focused on Christ.

Our boys golf programs just concluded their most historic and successful season in school history. Not only did they claim the Highland Conference championship, they also brought home the first ever regional championship for the program with an impressive win over Western Michigan Christian at Crystal Mountain. Dries VanNoord was the individual regional champion.

At the state match in East Lansing on the campus of Michigan State University, our team represented well and finished third overall - the highest finish in school history. Blair DeZeeuw finished at 7th individually.

Our lone senior in the program, Emmitt Baas, led the team throughout the season and committed to Cornerstone University to continue his career as a student athlete. He also shot the school record of 70 for 18 holes

at the Cadillac Country Club early in the season. In stunning fashion, all 5 of the NMCS top golfers claimed all conference honors.

In varsity girls soccer, the Comets finished the season with a record of 5-5-6 and saw tremendous growth as a team and individually. The season concluded by hosting the district tournament for the first time in 5 years. With only one senior on the team, the majority of this youthful and talented lineup will be back next season with big goals in sight.

Overall, we have a lot to be thankful this season and we have a lot to be excited about in the years to come. The dedication of our student athletes and their work ethic this year has been contagious and will pay off in the future as we continue to look at new and healthy ways to support our student athletes on and off the playing surface.

As we transition to the fall, you will see additional recourses available for our students to train and improve their physical and mental strength as we raise them up to pursue excellence for Christ. Big things are ahead for NMCS athletics and it's always a great day to be a Comet!



REGIONAL CHAMPIONS



Ebels
HARDWARE

 **GreenStone**
FARM CREDIT SERVICES

JARED HUTTENGA
ELECTRIC, INC.

• Commercial • Residential
• Industrial • Agricultural

231-779-4699
Emergency No. 231-920-1461

Licensed & Insured



FLOURISH WEEK

Each spring the High School Student Council hosts a week of spiritual growth and development appropriately entitled: Flourish Week. Each day students take time out of classes to explore how to grow our relationship with Christ. This year's theme was "Made New in Christ" based on 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

On Monday and Tuesday, students met in small groups to study the lives of men & women like Saul, Jonah, Sampson, the woman at the well, Rahab, Moses and Peter; each of whom were flawed men and women who chose to follow Jesus and were consequently made "new." Our chapel speaker, Emily, shared her personal testimony of hardship and fear and how God rescued her both physically and spiritually. She challenged our students to place their faith in a loving God who has the ability to transform lives.

On Thursday, students broke up into small groups to do service projects in the area: cleaning up McBain and Richland cemeteries, doing roadside clean-up on McBain and Cadillac roads, helping with the Rehoboth food drive, cleaning at Northland and Lucas CRC, and helping do yard work for elderly people in the area. On Friday, the high school finished the week with a time of student led praise and worship followed by ice cream.



ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

What is it?

According to the by-laws, the Northern Michigan Christian School Association Endowment Fund was established in 1984 for the purpose of receiving, managing and administering funds and properties for the exclusive use and benefit of Northern Michigan Christian School Association. Members of the endowment fund are those who contribute at least \$50 in each calendar year to the endowment.

What does it do?

The contributions to the endowment fund, along with estate giving, are invested and guided by the Board of Directors of the fund, five people appointed by the NMCS Board of Directors. One of the five is a member of the NMCS Finance Committee and serves on a one-year term basis, and

the other four members each serve on a three-year term basis. All members of the Endowment Fund Board serve without compensation. Our current Endowment Fund Board Members are: President - Dan Villwock; Vice-President - Tod Winkle; Secretary - Donna Lutke; Treasurer - Cari Gommesen; Trustee - Tom Ebels.

While the fund continues to grow, investment growth and gains become available for transfer from the endowment fund to NMCS Budget needs. We are pleased to announce that for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the endowment fund has transferred \$65,000 to assist in the NMCS budgeting process. We give thanks to God for all of you who are such faithful contributors to the endowment fund!

How can you become a part of it?

If you have contributed to the endowment fund in the past and would like to contribute again, or if you would like to be a first-time contributor to the endowment fund, it is as easy as going to the NMCS website. Click on *Support*, then select *Pay*, and then select *Other (specify below)*, enter *endowment fund* and continue completing your donation. Or, if you would like to write a check and drop it off or mail it to school, just make the check out to NMCS endowment fund and transmit it to the school as you wish.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the endowment Board of Directors members.

By: Donna Lutke



Thank you

We are grateful that God has gifted us with so many talented and educated teachers and community members. We send our heartfelt appreciation to the following individuals and wish them the best in their new adventures.

Dave VanHaitsma
Garrett Langton
Erin McPherson
Katie Koetje
Megan Pluger
Tyler Gernaat



The NMCS and McBain clay target club team competed at the state championship meet in Mason on June 19. Congrats to Zach Eisenga on placing third overall in the entire state!

ZACH EISENGA THIRD AT STATE

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP

Students, parents, staff, and faculty members kept the Dominican Republic mission trip tradition alive. The focus was to help a local school and family through building and painting projects. Some students even got to serve in a local health clinic.

In addition to service, students widened their worldview through sharing the love of Jesus Christ, exploring the country, worshiping in another culture, and building relationships with their classmates through new experiences.



APPLY TODAY!

WWW.NMCS.US/ADMISSIONS



PLUGER MECHANICAL
HEATING - AIR CONDITIONING - PLUMBING
231-282-3194 - aaron@plugermechanical.com



NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
128 S. MARTIN ST. MCBAIN, MI. 49657

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
MCBAIN, MI.
PERMIT #4



THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
SATELLITE

THE SATELLITE IS A TWICE A YEAR PUBLICATION BY NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL WHICH STRIVES TO CONNECT, ENGAGE, RETAIN, AND TRANSMIT MESSAGES TO THE GREATER COMET AND REGIONAL COMMUNITY JUST AS A SATELLITE WOULD DO. COPIES OF THE CURRENT SATELLITE CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND ONLINE AT NMCS.US UNDER THE "COMET NEWS" TAB.



FOLLOW ALONG
ONLINE AT
NMCS.US

**CONGRATS
GRADUATES!**

