



The Northern Star

Fall 2022

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It's so Simple, It's Hard

Scott Curell, Superintendent

The story is told of an old country church that needed to hire a pastor. The pastor that had been there had decided to retire. They went through the interview process and decided on their new pastor. His very first sermon was entitled "God Loves You" and the scripture reference was John 3:16. The next Sunday rolls around and he steps up to preach his second sermon. It was the exact sermon that he had preached the Sunday before entitled "God Loves You." The congregation began to worry. "Did we hire someone that was forgetful or confused?" They decided to see what would happen the next Sunday. The pastor got up to preach on the third Sunday at the church. The congregation was waiting with anticipation with what the preacher's sermon would be that day. Again, the pastor preached the same sermon that he had preached the previous two Sundays. This happened again, yet, a fourth Sunday. The congregation decided it was time to have a church meeting with the pastor. Surely something was wrong. Was the preacher sick or was he lazy? The elders of the church asked the pastor, "Why have you preached the same sermon four Sundays in a row?" They demanded an answer! The pastor meekly spoke his answer, "When we understand the basics like 'God Loves You', then we can move on to something else."

Our theme this year at Northern Michigan Christian School is "Love God, Love Others." Before we can fully understand our theme, we need to understand that God Loves us. It is something so simple, yet, for many can be so difficult to accept. How do we know that God loves us?

God Listens. In I John 5:14 it says, "And this is the confidence that we have towards him, that if we ask anything according to His will he hears us." God wants us to talk him. He wants us to share our fears, troubles, failures, and concerns with him.

God Overlooks. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrated his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." We don't deserve his love, but even before we come to him, he overlooks our sin and still love us and offers salvation.

God Values. God thinks we are valuable. So much so that he calls us a child of his in Galatians 4:7. "Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:7)

God Expressed. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but save the world through him (John 3:16-17). In His ultimate expression of love, he laid down his life for us.

That is what God wants for us as a Northern Michigan Christian School community. He wants us to understand the basics. He wants us to know that HE loves us. It is only then that we can begin to learn and understand our theme deeper:

Love God, Love Others.

Love God Love Others

Matthew 22:37-39

NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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● CHALLENGING MINDS ● NURTURING HEARTS ● DEVELOPING GIFTS

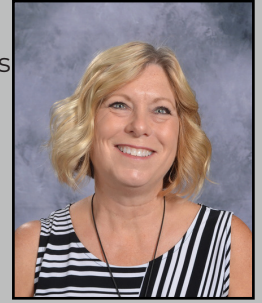




REFLECTIONS

Reflections from (PK-8) Principal Brower Why Christian Education?

When I sent my children to Christian school, it wasn't because the teachers prayed with my kids. It wasn't because the Bible was read in class and my kids attended weekly Chapels. It wasn't because all of their teachers were Christians. It wasn't because the academics were stronger than those at the public school. Were all of those things true for my kids because they attended Christian school? Absolutely yes! And, I am thankful for all of those things, but the true reason I sent my children to Christian school is because I knew school would be the place in which much of their worldview would be formed. It was so important to me that their teachers would support and help them view the world from a reformed Christian perspective.



What does it mean when we say "reformed" Christian perspective? At the most basic level, it means that we believe and ask students to consider three things as they view the world.

- 1. Where is the good?** God is sovereign and created all things good, so how can we identify and seek the good?
- 2. Where is the bad?** Sin entered the world and corrupted it, so how can we be aware of and identify those broken places?
- 3. How can we make it better?** Christ died to redeem us, so how can we work with the help of the Holy Spirit to reclaim and mend brokenness in this world?

Sending students to a Christian school does not mean they will attend a flawless place with perfect people. It means they will be taught to see the world through a God shaped lens in which they will see God's goodness, identify brokenness caused by sin, and work to make the world better through the help of the Holy Spirit.

In addition to being taught from a reformed Christian perspective, NMCS students are viewed by their teachers as image-bearers of Christ. Their teachers pray with them and for them. Learners read and memorize Scripture, attend Chapels, and are surrounded by Christian adults. Our students receive a strong education in which their minds are challenged, their hearts are nurtured, and their gifts are developed.

Christian education shapes a student's worldview as teachers educate the whole child – mind, body, and soul! Praise the Lord!

CHALLENGING MINDS

Kindergarteners Help High Schoolers Study Human Behavior

Mr. VanHaitsma's Psychology students took what they learned about human behavior and put it to the test with our kindergarten students. To help them study kids' responses to immediate verses delayed gratification, our high school students invited kindergartners to have a seat in an empty room. The Psychology students handed the student a piece of candy and informed the young learner that they had to step out of the room for a moment, but would be right back. They let the kindergarten student know they could have the piece of candy while they were away, but if they waited to eat it until they got back, the kindergartner would get two pieces of candy rather than one. The majority of Kindergarten students decided the wait was worth more candy!



High School Spiritual Retreat: Love God, Love Others

NUTURING HEARTS



Pastor Todd Kuperus led High School students in a day of prayer and spiritual reflection. Students were challenged as they talked about our school theme, *Love God, Love Others* at Lake Ann Camp.

Comets Mix It Up

Middle School students enjoyed a full afternoon of "Mix It Up" fun on Sept 15. All students in grades 6-8 were challenged to several team building activities in which they had to work together to solve problems as a team. The afternoon ended with students taking time to reflect on and set personal goals in four areas: mind, body, soul, and Christian community.





Middle School Student Council Created

Under Mrs. Bujalski's caring guidance, middle school students were invited to participate in a newly formed NMCS Student Council. Members are working together to share their ideas for Chapel, school activities, and service opportunities. They will help implement plans, gain leadership training, and (of course) have fun growing together.

DEVELOPING GIFTS

Congratulations Super Comets

Each month, elementary teachers nominate and select two students for a Super Comet award. Students are chosen for putting forth a great effort academically and socially. Congratulations goes out to our September & October winners: Addy McPherson & Eli Dodd, Bristol Hoekwater & Kaleigh Philpot.

Above and Beyond Award Winners

Beginning this school year, middle school students will be selected for monthly Above and Beyond Awards. Students who put forth a strong effort to do well in their studies, share acts of kindness, regularly demonstrate respect towards others, and share an overall positive attitude will be nominated. A big congratulations goes out to our first award winners: Maddie Martz, Elijah Meeuwenberg, Anna Cucinella & Alex Eckles.



Congratulations National Honor Society Inductees!



Our NHS will be busy this year with many service projects that include Project Christmas, Culver's Night, a Bake Sale, Shepherd's table and others! Please watch your email or Comet Connection for more information.

Current Members: (BR) Aria Cucinella, Katie Bell, Jacob Booher, Collin DeKam, Mabel Yount, Alaina Rozeveld
New Members: (FR) Kylee Winkle, Jada VanNoord, Logan Hart, Nathan Eisenga, Gideon Curell, Isaac Bowden

Kid Quotes - How do you know God loves you?

When Mrs. Brower asked K-2 students, "How do you know God loves you?" they shared the following beautiful words:

"He made us." Obediah B (K)

"He keeps his promises." Czerney Q (K)

"He created the heavens and the earth." Bryson K (2nd)

"He gives us blessings." Miley P (2nd)

"He let his son die on the cross for us." Eden B (2nd)

"He listens to my prayers." Lily D (2nd)

"His son died for us and rose again." Atalia K (1st)

Career Tech Students Excel in their trade!

September Student of the Month: Logan Hart
(Computer, Networking Electronics)

Student of the Quarter: Patience Roby (Launch)
National Technical

Honor Society: Aria Cucinella (Health Science Careers) & Logan Hart (Computer, Networking Electronics)



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

*Expecting and
Nurturing Kindness*

Since 1911, it has been the goal of NMCS to educate the whole child - mind, body, and soul. Like you, we care deeply about the academic, social, emotional, and spiritual growth and well-being of each of our students.

Because it is our desire and commitment as a school community to nurture a school culture in which we love one another (Jn. 13:34) and continually strive to live in unity as one body made up of many parts (I Cor 12:2), NMCS strategically implemented a Student Relations Initiative this fall.

Initiative goals include:
Model and foster Christ-like behaviors towards others
Enhance caring student relationships

Foster schoolwide, unified, fair and consistent approach to and follow through for unkind behaviors by "Sweating the Small Stuff".

Our students are learning the differences between unkind and annoying behaviors, being equipped to solve their own problems, receiving training on how and when to report hurtful actions, practicing ways to be good bystanders, and so much more!

³⁴ I give you a new commandment: *love one another.
As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.
³⁵ This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34

Faculty Spotlight



My name is Sarah Pluger and I teach 3rd grade and 4th grade math and language arts. NMCS has always been a special place to me since attending from preschool to 12th grade. I can personally say that NMCS helped to lay a foundation for my faith and future learning. After high school, I attended Spring Arbor University in Spring Arbor, Michigan. I graduated in 2020 with a degree in elementary education with focuses in early childhood education and reading. Before coming to NMCS, I taught 3rd grade at Forest View Elementary in Cadillac. In my free time, I love to crochet, read, kayak, and fly fish! I am thankful for the opportunity to spend my days growing and learning to be more like Jesus with students at NMCS.



Bright Spot: Our NHS students helped move a new family into the area on their day off from school! Thank you to our students for all their work. We want to welcome the Bonnes family to the McBain community!

Fundraising Fun & Success



Golf Outing 2022

This year NMCS hosted the return of the Annual Golf Outing! Not only were we able to partner with local businesses and raise support for Christian Education, but we had over 75 golfers join us for a beautiful day out on the course! Save the date for next year on Friday, July 14!



Dalmac 2022

NMCS is one of the stops on the DALMAC Bike Race across Michigan! Riders from around the globe take a break at NMCS where we serve dinner and breakfast. "This event is such a heart-warming experience as we are able to serve those around the world and truly be able to extend a hospitable hand!" shared Fundraising Executive, Miss Marks."

Fish Fry 2022

Did you know NMCS was nominated for Best Fish Fry in Northern Michigan? We are so excited to report that we received the prize for Runner Up with the Best Fish Fry, and we even competed against various local businesses and restaurants. Save the date for next year as we continue the tradition for the 2nd and 3rd Friday in September!

Building the Future & Dominican Republic Mission Trip Auction 2022

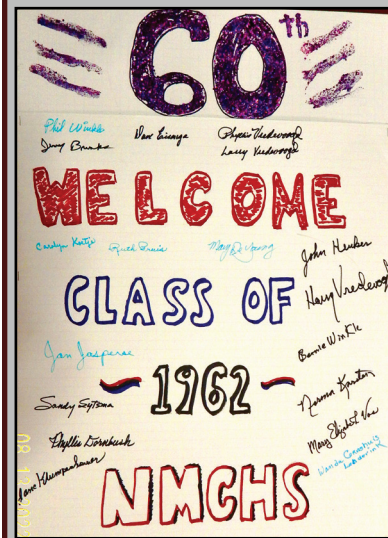
We are quickly approaching our 2022 Building the Future Auction where you can virtually participate on December 1 and 2! We are looking forward to being able to support Christian education and our students for years to come. Visit www.nmcs.us for details.



NMCS 50th Reunion

Northern Michigan Christian hosted the class of 1972 on October 29. Eighteen classmates and thirteen spouses were in attendance. "We had a great time remembering and, more importantly, appreciating the role NMC had in our early formation of faith and character. The tour was great and we thank NMC as well as Scott and Chad for hosting us. God bless." Sincerely, Gordon Baas

CHRISTIAN
JOURNEY



NMCS 60th Reunion

We had our reunion at Brann's restaurant in Grandville, MI. on August 13. One of the things we discussed was the importance of remembering NMCS in our wills/trusts. We had a great time of devotions, fellowship, and lunch. The love and respect for NMCS was very evident. We ended the gathering as we always do... by singing *The Halls of Northern*. Blessings. Bernard Winkle



CHRISTIAN
COMMITMENT

Financial Update by Chad Booher, Finance Director

Greetings from Northern Michigan Christian School. We are all happy to be back to school, and it is great to see the students together again. I can see the joy and excitement every day. Our children enjoy a safe, nurturing and Christian environment where they can learn the Truth, worship and pray in a Christian community. The world is changing daily, and we cannot lose site on how precious and valuable NMCS is to our family and community. There is no better partner than the Christian school for those who want their children to develop a Kingdom identity and purpose.

Throughout the year, I receive many requests from individuals who want to know how they can support NMCS. Below is a list of ideas, and I ask that you prayerfully consider partnering with us. We are all in this together and your investment in NMCS is very important to us.

- 1. Prayer.** We need and appreciate all the prayers of support from our community. Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
- 2. Major Drive.** Our Major Drive is crucial for us to meet the needs of the school and to continue to enhance the student experience here at NMCS. It also helps us provide funding for technology improvements, academic enhancements and tuition assistance. Without your support our financial challenges would be significant.
- 3. Endowment Fund.** Our Endowment Fund provides the long term stability and financial viability for NMCS. A donation to our Endowment Fund is a great way to partner in the longevity of the school.
- 4. Volunteer.** For the school to function fully with gratitude and the Will of the Father, we need your help. Many of our programs require volunteers and extra help. We are thankful for the community of service here at NMCS.

*The world is
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Thank you in advance for your continued support of NMCS and our worthy cause of Christian education. Every dollar counts and every donor makes a difference. None of what we do would be possible without you. With your help, we can continue to provide an education that is exceptional and Christ centered for many generations to come.

COMET COMMITMENT

NMCS Community,

We are off to a great start in the 2022-2023 school year! At NMCS our teams and coaches pursue excellence on and off the playing surface by pursuing Christ, culture, and community in all that they do. Over the past couple months, we have been working on solidifying our vision for NMCS Athletics and how that messaging expands on our themes in the classroom, the existing Christian Citizenship agreement in the handbook, and our already solid athletic/school foundation and direction. We call it our “Comet Commitment” as together in Christian Community, we display what it truly means to be a Comet through healthy athletic competition.

Our teams have been representing NMCS across the state in extraordinary ways. Let's keep that momentum going into the Winter season!

Athletic Bright Spots

Varsity Volleyball:

- Consistently ranked in the top 10 in Division 4 for the state of Michigan each week this season
- All Sports Day (NMCS Invite) Champions
- District Champions

Varsity Soccer

- Elite 8 Regional Finalists
- NMSL West Division Champions with key wins over Ogemaw Heights, Clare, and Shepherd this season
- NMSL Conference Champions
- All Sports Day (Comet Cup) Champions

Varsity Cross Country

- All Sports Day (NMCS Twilight Meet) Champions

Go Comets!

Trey Reed, Athletic Director

Fall Athletics Volleyball Soccer Cross Country





Commemorative Calendar

**THANK YOU
SPONSORS**

5-Jan	Bill & Mary Dracht	AV	29-Apr	Dawn Brinks	MM	20-Jul	Ryan & Elizabeth Hagerman	AV
6-Jan	John Borgman	MM	5-May	Celia Beerens	MM	5-Aug	Taylor & Cambria Mulder	AV
10-Jan	Hudson Koetje	BD	8-May	Roland & Julane Lamkin	AV	11-Aug	Jeff & Melanie Hildreth	AV
30-Jan	Frank Jager	MM	14-May	Bill & Jeanette Westmaas	MM	15-Aug	Elmer & Jean Doll	MM
12-Feb	Sy Buning	MM	16-May	Beckett Swanson	BD	16-Aug	Jim Beerens	MM
12-Feb	Emily Mulder	BD	27-May	Jim & Karen Pluger	AV	6-Sep	Roy M. Tacoma	MM
23-Feb	Clara Jager	MM	30-May	Alden Koetje	BD	11-Sep	Rocky & Cindy Schierbeek	AV
23-Feb	Fred Westmaas	MM	3-Jun	McKinley Swanson	BD	12-Sep	Laurie Koning	BD
1-Mar	Harvey Lutke	MM	7-Jun	Jay & Janet Jenema	MM	12-Sep	Richard & Irene VanHouten	MM
5-Mar	Boyd Allen Tacoma	MM	16-Jun	Darryl Baas	MM	17-Sep	Ed Meyering	BD
21-Mar	Maggie Koetje	BD	20-Jun	Ron Huttenga	MM	19-Sep	Tanner Mulder	BD
27-Mar	Harriet Borgman	BD	23-Jun	Brody Swanson	BD	5-Oct	Chris & Cara Kuiper	AV
2-Apr	Richard Westmaas	MM	26-Jun	Wilma Huttenga	MM	7-Oct	Mark & Rosemary Jenema	AV
7-Apr	Al & Carol Koster	AV	30-Jun	Leona Vander Meulen	MM	13-Oct	Russ Spoelma	MM
10-Apr	Harvey Winkel	MM	30-Jun	Nettie Agema	MM	13-Oct	Bill Dracht	MM
15-Apr	Nellie Tacoma	MM	3-Jul	Ken Koning	BD	3-Dec	Andrew Tacoma	MM
18-Apr	Helene Heuker	BD	5-Jul	Robert Carpenter	MM	4-Dec	Darwin Cnossen	MM
12-Apr	Dave Westmaas	MM	14-Jul	Norma Stroven	MM	4-Dec	Geneva Dodde	MM
20-Jul	Irene Westmaas	MM	26-Dec	Don & Linda Ellens	AV			

Commemorative Calendar: MM=Memoriam, AV=Anniversary, BD=Birthday

Thank You to our Sponsors!



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Rising Stars to Offer Expanded Options

Lunch Bunch

After Christmas, parents will have the option of letting their preschool students stay for lunch and some extra play time! We are excited to offer this lunch bunch option for our youngest learners. The fee is \$10/day and parents can send cold lunches or purchase hot lunch for their kids. No additional staffing needed.

Young 5's All Day Every Day

Finding part-time daycare options can be a challenge! As we work to find more ways of partnering with parents and meeting the needs of our families, we are thrilled to offer more options for our students. Beginning right after Christmas Break, NMCS will offer 2, 3, and 5 day options for Young 5's. Students will enjoy our current programming with "Enrichment Days" in-between. Staffing Needed: M/W/F Lead Teacher and T/Th Aide.



NMCS Summer Care Heading our Way

We are taking a step of faith! We have the space, we love kids, and many of our families need childcare during the summer, so we are launching a summer care program beginning in June 2023 for incoming kindergarten through incoming 6th grade students. More details will be coming soon! Staffing Needed: 2 Lead Teachers

NMCS After School Care Launch

Plans are underway for NMCS to launch an after school childcare program for Young 5 through 5th grade students. We hope to offer this program in the fall of 2023. In addition to offering after school care, we would offer care on professional development and inclement weather days, also. Staffing Needed: 2 Lead Teachers

Expanded Programming Calls for More Help

If you are interested in one of the open positions created by our programming expansions, please contact Mr. Curell, our superintendent at scurell@nmcs.us. We will be posting the positions soon.

