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BOARD
REPORT

GRC'S

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

Tom DeJonge, Superintendent

OCTOBER
2019



2019 —2020 BOARD REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

Tom DeJonge, Superintendent



GRAND RAPIDS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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

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

OCTOBER 2019

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
21	6:00 pm	GRCS Board of Trustees Meeting	GRCS Board Room
21	7:30 pm	7th and 8th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert	DeVos CAW
22	10:00 am	Foundation Board Meeting	GRCS Board Room
23		Half Day of School (except GRCHS)	GRCS, RCS, GRCMS
24—25	All Day	PD for Staff	All Campuses
30	7:00 am	CQ Committee	Iroquois Conference Room

NOVEMBER 2019

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
4	7:00 am	GRCS Executive Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
7	7:30 am	GRCS Finance Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
7—9	7:00 pm	GRCHS Presents <i>Tarzan: The Musical</i>	DeVos CAW
11	12:30 pm	GRCS Education Committee Meeting	GRCHS Conference Room
21	8:00 am	New 2 You Board Meeting	GRCS Board Room
21	7:30 am	GRCHS Band and Orchestra Concert	DeVos CAW
27—29	All Day	Thanksgiving Break	All Campuses

DECEMBER 2019

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
2	2:30 pm	Promise Zone Board of Directors	GRPS
2	6:00 pm	GRCS Board of Trustees Meeting	GRCS Board Room
3	6:00 pm	GRCHS Showcase	GRCHS
5	6:00 pm	Expedition Kindergarten — Iroquois	GRCS Iroquois Campus
11	7:30 pm	GRCMS/GRCHS Choir Concert	DeVos CAW
14	7:30 pm	Christmas Pops —Brian Morris, Classical Guitar	DeVos CAW
16	7:00 pm	Iroquois Christmas Program (3rd & 4th Grades)	DeVos CAW



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Board:

The October board report finds its way to you as we complete the first quarter of the 2019-20 school year. It has been a fall filled with many celebrations. Our enrollment not only well-surpassed our projections, it actually increased over last year, which is a wonderful reflection of the commitment of our parents, faculty, and staff. We have hired many new teachers and staff, welcomed nearly 150 students who are new to Grand Rapids Christian Schools.

Over the past several weeks, our time has been spent in further review of the goals and strategies of the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. The board's review of our progress at its retreat in August has been followed by our administrative team's and several board committees' review and suggested revisions and additions to the Plan. I will provide a complete summary of the suggestions that have been proposed at the October meeting and will look to the board for its confirmation of the updates at that time.

This fall, I have been able to complete multiple visits to each campus. These regular visits are a personal goal of mine this year, one that I find both enjoyable and affirming. What is so very clear as I walk the hallways, visit classrooms, and converse with faculty and staff is that GRC is filled with such a great variety of students from so many backgrounds and neighborhoods from throughout the greater Grand Rapids community. The breadth of our student body and parent community is a highlight of our schools and the value of the breadth of diversity within our classrooms, on the stage, and on our athletic fields is an opportunity we embrace.

One of our priorities this year will be to seek ways to even further strengthen a community in which a rich sense of belonging to all who is fostered. As a Christian school community, we have accomplished a great deal and have learned a lot about what it means to be a community that reflects Christ and his teaching. As a school community, however, we also have a lot to learn. It is in that context that I am excited to announce a partnership with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Though all the details are not fully confirmed, I am confident that, through the Foundation's support as well as the support of our committed staff and board leadership, Grand Rapids Christian stands ready to accept the challenge of strengthening a culture and Christian community in which all are welcomed and feel as important contributors in the achievement of our mission to prepare students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society.

Thank you for playing such an important role in that journey. Thank you for your support, prayers, and love for Grand Rapids Christian Schools. As members of the board, you serve as a source of encouragement, wise counsel, and Christian example.

Tom.



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CAMPUS THEME VERSES



BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

The theme and theme verse for the 2019-2020 school year were chosen by our student congress members. Our theme, **Lead Me to the Rock**, is based on 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.

GRCHS held its senior retreat before school for the first time this fall. It was an overnight experience at Grace Adventures Camp that gave students and faculty the opportunity to worship together, deepen relationships, and set goals for the year. The class shared many hopes for their senior year, but a clear focus was the need to depend on God, their Rock, as they lead in our school and look for guidance as they plan for life after high school. We truly felt God's presence throughout the weekend. You can check out some highlights here: <https://tinyurl.com/grchs19>

GRCHS SENIOR RETREAT PHOTOS



ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

Our GRCMS school theme this year is **Dream Small: Do Small Things With Great Love**. We are focusing on our middle school students doing the little things because, as we were challenged in one chapel this year, "If you can't do the little things well, how can you do the big things?" We want our students to understand that the little things that we do are the things that add up to the big work of building God's Kingdom.

We have an opportunity each day to emphasize with our students how all of the small choices/actions of each day really do make a difference. As Mother Teresa showed us with her life: we all are able to "do small things with great love."

In our all-school chapel at the end of September, we focused on doing little things to care for the environment and how we can be "Thoughtful Neighbors" in our creation care and how we can benefit our community and neighbors by our efforts to compost and recycle at GRCMS. We want the kids to be conscious about how each individual choice to recycle or compost their waste adds up to a collective effort to be effective stewards and thoughtful neighbors

BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL

You won't find the words **Love in Action**, our theme for the year at Rockford Christian, in the verses of Romans 12: 9-21. Instead, you will find example after example of what love looks like. Pay close attention to the verbs: Honor; share; practice; bless; rejoice; overcome. We've been paying close attention to each other as well, trying to share what love in action looks like on our campus.

This lens has impacted everything from our chapels to our rules for recess. It has been a wonderful guide as we start our year and set routines and expectations.

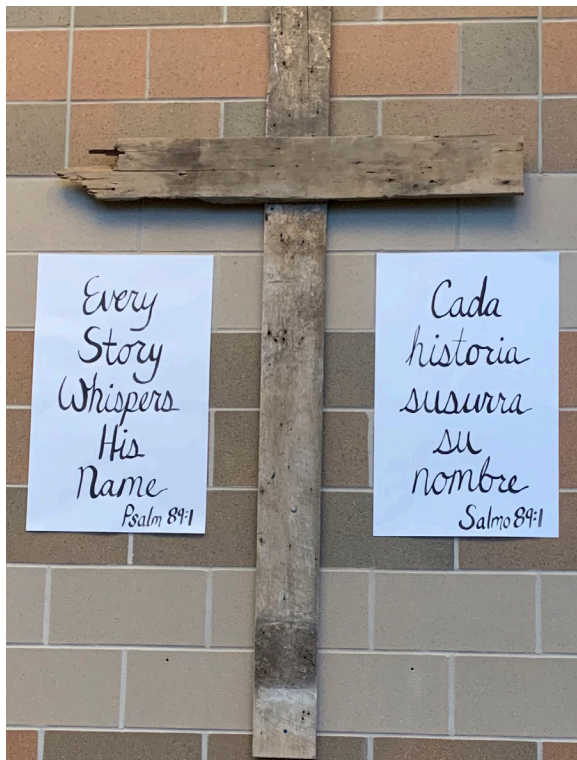


GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CAMPUS THEME VERSES

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

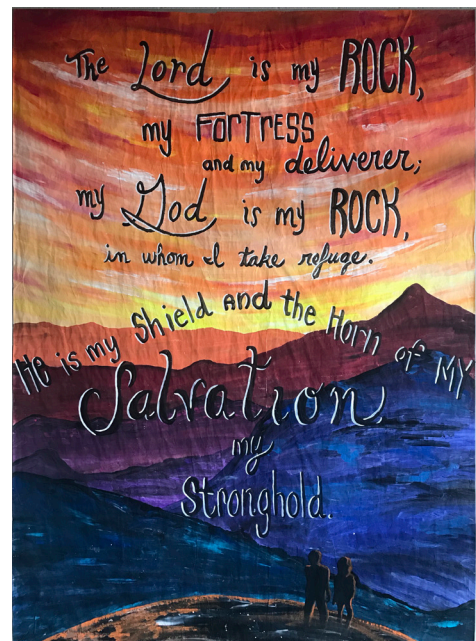
For the 2019-2020 school year, the Iroquois campus theme is ***Every Story Whispers His Name***, based on Psalm 89:1, which says, “I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth, I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.” Our Chapel Committee has worked diligently on making sure the theme imagery is evident in the building. I appreciate their efforts in promoting this theme in that it will actually be seen, used and remembered by students, staff, and visitors.

Being new in this building in a leadership role, I feel it's important to do a lot of listening. In doing so, I see and hear this theme in practice both in and out of classrooms. So many stories at Iroquois indeed whisper our Savior's name. One recurring story that certainly whispers the name of Jesus is the amount of GRACE one can experience here at Iroquois. Kids regularly helping each other out, teachers working in teams and listening, and much more.



ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

God is My Rock is the Evergreen theme this school year. There are visual representations of the theme throughout the school building. A beautiful poster created by Mary Garrod, the Evergreen art teacher, greets students and visitors when they enter the front door. Next to that poster is a showcase filled with rocks that our Evergreen students painted.



Mr. Jim Rausch from Granite City 1 brought samples of granite and spoke to the Evergreen students during Team Time on October 10. He talked about God's “art galleries” in this world reminding the students that “they too are an example of this.” He also talked about how the granite forms. Then, he spoke with the students about small business practices. Mr. Rausch left the granite samples so that the students can explore the wonder of granite.

Mr. Ashanti Bryant spoke about God being our rock in every aspect of our lives during a chapel in October. He gave each student a small rock as a reminder of God's care for us.

The theme was woven into the Evergreen enrichment week activities by the staff at Camp Roger. Students did a team challenge by building a structure that needed a solid foundation. During archery lessons, the Camp Roger staff taught the students about the rock as an arrowhead. They also taught the students that erosion changes surface, but rocks are not moved and God is even more solid than a rock on earth.



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.

TOM DEJONGE — SUPERINTENDENT

We will soon begin the work of identifying people from throughout our community for possible board service. This annual event is an important part of the board's work to ensure the Schools are governed strategically and that the goals of the strategic plan are achieved.

The Executive Committee recently reviewed the board members whose terms expire at the conclusion of the current school year, enabling the committee to identify the desired qualities and characteristics of incoming board members to serve the 2020 — 2023 board term. The Nomination Committee will meet several times over the next few months in order to bring a final list of recommended board candidates to the full board for its review and approval.

BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL

As a principal, you sometimes get invited to events that you might not normally attend. The J. Herman Fles Society Luncheon, a thank you for those folks who have designated a gift for GRCS in their estate, is a good example of such an opportunity.

Tim Alles highlighted for those present how the contributions of students, parents, teachers, staff, and board members build upon each other to strengthen the mission of Grand Rapids Christian Schools, and how the generous support of donors like them equip us to prepare the students of today and tomorrow as effective servants of Christ. Tim's message was a great example of board leadership of mission in action.

FLES SOCIETY LUNCHEON PHOTOS





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.

TOM DEJONGE — SUPERINTENDENT

A subcommittee of our Admin PLT was formed and charged to align the attributes of our Portrait of a Professional Educator with the elements of the Marzano Teacher Evaluation tool. This is to support what already exists in the Marzano tool, but also ensure the attributes of our Portrait of a Professional Educator are evident as they are central to our professional dialogue and teacher growth. I have asked the subcommittee to make a presentation to the full Admin PLT when their work is completed.

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

Spanish Immersion has arrived at GRCHS! The program is in its 10th year and our freshman class is doing amazing things. Each year, our Spanish Immersion students take two courses in the target language. This year, they are taking Spanish Immersion 9 (a year-long, Pre-AP course) along with Speech and Composition first semester, and Old Testament second semester. The program continues throughout their four years in high school, having students taking courses at Calvin University for their junior and senior years. Our immersion students will receive the Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation and even have the opportunity to complete a minor in Spanish through Calvin.

We continue to engage students in real-world experiences. This year we will have 43 student interns working in classrooms with teachers, serving with Student Support Services, helping plan chapel as worship interns, troubleshooting at our help desk as tech interns, and also branching beyond our school to serve at sites in our local community.

Advanced coursework is important too—allowing students to challenge themselves in an area of interest. This year, nearly half of our student body is enrolled in Advanced Placement or college-level courses. 47 students will be taking courses on local college and university campuses.

ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

As we continue to implement a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework at GRCMS, we have been blessed this year with a smooth start to implementing new protocols with the three tiers of support for students. Our weekly “Student Life Team” meetings on Tuesday mornings and weekly “Student Support Team” meetings on Wednesday mornings—coupled with weekly PLT meetings among the grade-level teams about student needs—have helped us to be proactive in responding to the needs of students and the requests from staff for additional support.

We have adopted more efficient protocols and better communication patterns for reviewing student needs and what we can do at tier one (classroom) and in tiers two and three to provide additional support to students to advance their learning.

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

We are underway using the Marzano teacher evaluation tool that is being used district-wide. There is a learning curve to this tool, but teachers that have gone through it to this point are receptive to the feedback and are becoming more familiar with iObservation, which is the program we use to carry out the evaluation. The Marzano tool, I feel, will be effective in ensuring and encouraging teacher growth.

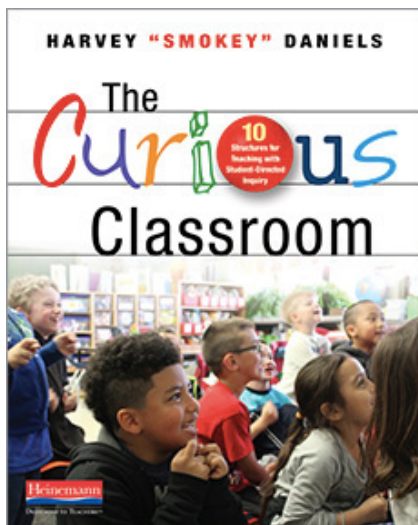


GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Two of the August professional development days were spent deepening our understanding of math curriculum and instruction. Mona Toncheff, a consultant from Solution Tree, worked with the K-4 (5th EV) teachers through the workshop Understanding the Work of a Mathematics Teacher in a PLC at Work. We focused on writing high-quality assessments, instructional shifts, high-quality math lessons, and mathematics standards.

Evergreen teachers are reading and studying *The Curious Classroom* this year to deepen our understanding of Inquiry learning, which is one of the three pillars of Evergreen. We read a chapter each month and teachers take turns leading the discussion during staff meetings.



KIM PRIMUS — DIRECTOR OF INCLUSION

As the Director of Inclusion Services for PS-12th grade, I have the privilege to oversee the support of children receiving inclusion services on each of our five campuses. GRCS has a long history of Inclusion, and I am excited to continue moving this mission forward. Each of our campuses are focused on five pillars as we strive to create interdependent communities for our students who receive inclusion services where they belong. Truly belong.

Our five pillars are:

- Parents as Partners
- Eagle Circles and Eagle Links
- Student-Centered
- Vertical Alignment
- Professional Development

Parents as Partners: Communication is so important as we work with families. We want to give parents a voice regarding how their children are being supported in the school setting. We use communication books, email, face-to-face conversations, phone calls, and texts to both share information with parents, and receive information from parents. Sending pictures of children in action gives parents a glimpse into their school days.

In September, I was invited to share an update on Inclusion with the Education Committee. I shared that Inclusion refers to services and support. It is not a place. The goal is that everyone will know and believe that all children are first and foremost general education students. Inclusion provides the services and support needed for children's success in the school setting. Great things are happening.





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

This fall, GRCHS intentionally invested a great deal of time and energy welcoming our freshmen and their families. We spent all of Friday, August 16, hosting our incoming class. High school administrators partnered with our student congress to give our class of 2023 the tools they needed to be successful. Students got to know our school better and got to know each other better. We ended the day by having a meal with students and parents. It was an opportunity for parents to make connections and begin the process of getting plugged into our school community. We hope that our students and their families felt informed, but more importantly valued as members of our community.

On September 11, the diversity/equity/inclusion staff committee hosted our first-annual "ClubFest" to give students a chance to see all the clubs and organizations offered at GRCHS. We know that when students are involved in extracurricular activities, they are more likely to have a positive experience in school. Visit grcs.org/grchsclubs to see all the clubs and organizations offered at GRCHS!

Our chaplain, Mark VanderWerf, and Bible teacher, Larry Borst, took a small group of students from the newly formed Spiritual Formation branch of Student Congress to a Colossian Forum event hosted at Calvin University. The focus of the event was on "Experiencing Christ's Transforming Presence in the Midst of Conflict." The students learned from the renowned Christian author and speaker Dr. Ruth Haley Barton as well as other experts in the field of Christian practices and interpersonal conflict.

Together, the students and teachers had fruitful conversations about how we engage conflict together as Christians and use these experiences as catalysts for growth in Christian character and virtue.

On Thursday, October 14, GRCS began a partnership with the Grand Rapids Community College Center for Equity and Inclusion. Dr. B Afeni McNeely Cobham, GRCC's chief equity and inclusion officer, will connect with our African American students over lunch to do what she describes as a "culture check-in." The purpose of the check-in is to help her better understand the experience that each student has at GRCHS. Dr. McNeely Cobham will use this information to empower small group facilitators as they lead listening circles with our students. These circles give students a safe place to share their experiences and to hear each other's stories. We believe that this step is essential in helping each student to feel valued and affirmed as they walk the hallways at GRCHS.

ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

The 7th and 8th graders at GRCMS have begun another year of meeting in their "small groups" for chapel. These mixed-grade groups are comprised of 5-6 students per group in either all-girl or all-boy groups. Mr. Jim Vos, one of our 8th-grade teachers, leads a group of 8th graders who serve as the small group leaders throughout the year.

One to two chapels per month allow the opportunity for "small groups" to meet and share times of fellowship, times of devotion and prayer, and times to build relationships across grade levels. These small groups serve to deepen relationships between students and make connections across grades as the kids form a community of faith and learning at GRCMS.

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

I have great respect for the work that has been done and continues to be done in regards to Iroquois being an inclusive school. Working beside Kim Primus as the inclusion director has been incredible. The organization, creativity, and effectiveness of the inclusion program here is top-notch.

In regards to our cultural competence and efforts to celebrate diversity, we are eager to continue and grow efforts that are underway. Our teachers were happy to hear an update from Sara Seth, Assistant Principal, on behalf of the Cultural Intelligence Committee at our back to school meeting in August. I'm currently working on how to best organize a book study with 50 teachers, focusing on the book *Waking Up White*, which tells of the author's revelation of white privilege and systemic racism. It's a fascinating book.



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Sylvan Head Start is part of the Evergreen community. This year the Evergreen preschool students share a playground with the Head Start students. Team Three Evergreen students are scheduled to go to Head Start regularly to read with and play with the preschool students. These events broaden our community.

This multifocal approach to listening and identifying actionable steps will allow for cross-department connection and demonstrate to our current families that we are focused on achieving our mission and continuing to move Grand Rapids Christian forward in a positive direction.

ERIC BURGESS — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

Thanks to the good work of Mrs. Linda Vellenga in connecting new families to GRCMS, we were blessed with a robust enrollment of 447 kids at GRCMS this year! We have a number of new students and families from around west Michigan. We have been blessed as the new students have quickly been enfolded by our returning students to form a community of faith and learning at GRCMS. Our “small groups” in 7th /8th-grade chapels is one way that new students are quickly enfolded into the community at school

BEN BUURSMAN — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL

It is always amazing how the folks in admissions and development celebrate the start of a successful school year by planning for the next one. At Rockford Christian, we’ve already begun planning for what classes and options we plan to add for parents of preschoolers. Preschool is a critically important piece of building robust enrollment. By expanding our preschool offerings, we hope even more families will benefit from the nature-based, Christ-centered, developmentally-appropriate education offered at Rockford Christian School.



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.

LINDSAY HART — DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

With the start of the new school year, our Advancement team implemented one of our strategic goals with the launch of enrollment management teams at each campus. The focus of these teams is to intentionally engage all staff in the purposeful retention and satisfaction of current families. These teams will consist of the building principal and admissions director at each campus, Amy Orr and me. Each principal also invites any other staff that they feel is vital to the purpose of the team.

At our first meeting, we discussed the results of the parent satisfaction survey that families completed last June. Analysis of these results guided the conversation about our strengths at each campus and areas on which we want to focus. As a team, we discussed survey satisfaction levels for each question posed and identified themes that arose based on parent comments. Based on the survey data and comment responses, we identified several goals for this school year that we intend to focus on as a team. The benefit of bringing a group like this together is the opportunity we have for a collaborative and engaged approach to taking intentional steps for positive change. Each team member brings a unique lens and specific insight into our students and parents.





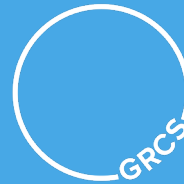
GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

The Central Office Advancement Team along with the Iroquois Admissions Director and I reviewed the results of the parent survey that was sent out this past spring. The results were overwhelmingly positive, while they also showed themes of desired growth. The most significant theme of praise was for the teachers here. Our parents really appreciate our teachers and the love they show our students. A theme of growth is communication. We will be focusing on the different aspects of communication and in what specific areas in which we need to improve. Overall, we have a great thing going here, and we need to keep it going!

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Lindsay Hart and Amy Orr met with me in September to discuss the results of the parent survey that was completed last school year. The survey results clearly show that Evergreen parents love this school. I had the opportunity to share the results with the staff, and I look forward to partnering with the admissions staff as we meet regularly to discuss how we can work together to further infuse and advance the mission of GRCS in all aspects of school life.



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

The GRCS Revised Operating Budget for the 2019-20 school year is complete and was unanimously supported by the Finance Committee at its October 3 meeting.

We are pleased to report 2019-20 K-12 enrollment at 1999 students.

Highlights of the 2019-20 Budget include:

- New 2 You Grant of \$345/student
- 1.5% wage increase for staff + Steps
- 5% increase in insurance premiums
- Eagles Fund goal of \$1.7 million
- Support for annual Technology and Capital to \$635,000
- Operating Reserve of \$503,000 (2% of Operating Expenses).

The 2018-19 Audit is complete and went very smoothly. Beene Garter Managing Partner Tom Rosenbach will meet with the GRCS Finance Committee on November 7, 2019.

BEN BUURSMAN — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL

Philanthropic support has been and continues to be a vital part of the financial health of Grand Rapids Christian Schools. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of parents and volunteers, a culture of joyful giving has been nurtured at Rockford Christian. What is more, people offer their support in the context of community at our biannual auction and annual Fun Run. This year's Fun Run raised 140% of our goal!





GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

It's been a great fall to be an Eagle! Here is a summary of our fall varsity athletic teams:

Girl's Golf: finished tied for third in a conference that sent 3 teams to State. Finished 2nd at Regionals at Railside, qualifying them for State for the first time in 3 years. Ryann Breslin was All-Conference, finishing with the top average in the conference and was also the overall individual regional champion.

Boy's Tennis: finished the regular season second in the conference and 6th in the state. GRC hosted Regionals again, and GRC won their second Regional in a row, winning 6 of 8 flights. State Finals will be in Kalamazoo Oct. 18 and 19.

Football: currently 5-2 with their only losses coming to #2 state-ranked Rockford and #6 ranked Zeeland West. GRC is currently ranked #9 in Division 4 with games at EGR and Wayland to finish the regular season and high hopes for a playoff berth.

Girls Swimming: currently ranked honorable mention in the state, this young team has battled in the toughest conference in the state. As their season continues, look for this team to continue to add more state qualifiers and the battle for new school records.

Volleyball: currently #1 in the state in Division 2 with their only match losses coming to Division 1 top ten teams. They have not dropped a set in conference play and look forward to starting the state tournament at home with Districts in the Quest Center Nov. 4, 6 and 7. Jordyn Gates is also a finalist for Miss Volleyball.

Boy's Soccer: finished a half-game out of first for the OK Gold Conference title. The Eagles are currently ranked #14 in the state in Division 2 and are in the District tournament at present. GRC will host Regionals here at Eagles Stadium.

Boy's Cross Country: currently tied for first in the OK Gold and ranked #4 in the state heading into Conference Championship week.

Girls Cross Country: currently ranked second in the most difficult girls XC conference in the state and ranked #4 in the state. Madelyn Frens has the second-fastest time in the state in Division 2.

GRCHS Homecoming week was a blast this year! Student congress and administration partnered to create a week of competition by grades and fun themes the enhanced school spirit. The week finished with the sophomores pulling out an upset and winning the homecoming week festivities!



JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Grand Friend's Day at Iroquois was exceptional! We had 750 chairs set up and not one was empty, and we had several people choosing to stand in the back. We are grateful for our Grand Friends who support and love our students.