



20 — 21 BOARD REPORT

GRC'S

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

Tom DeJonge, Superintendent

JANUARY
2021



2020/2021 BOARD REPORT

JANUARY 2021

Tom DeJonge, Superintendent



**GRAND RAPIDS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**

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

MISSION

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

CORE VALUES



ROOTED IN CHRIST



EDUCATED FOR LIFE



CALLED TO SERVE



**CONNECTED THROUGH
RELATIONSHIPS**



**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.

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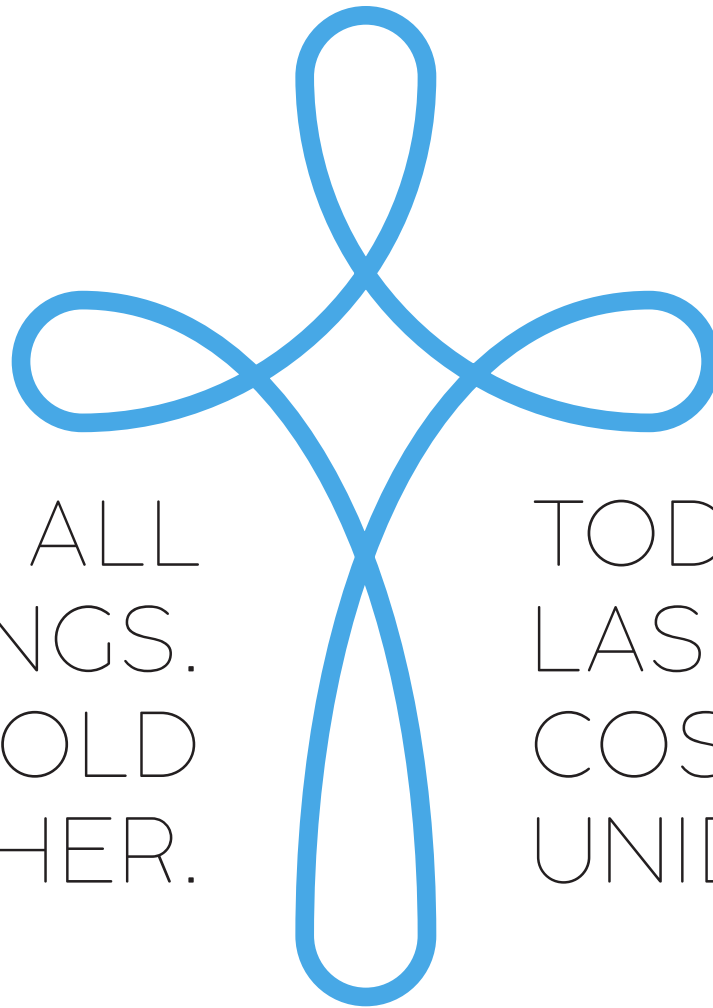
Tom DeJonge, Superintendent



**GRAND RAPIDS
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DISTRICT THEME.



ALL
THINGS.
HOLD
TOGETHER.

TODOS
LAS
COSAS.
UNIDAS.

*He is before all things, and in Him,
all things hold together.
— COLOSSIANS 1:17*

*Él ya existía antes de todas las cosas
y mantiene unida toda la creación.
— COLOSENSES 1:17*

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

JANUARY 2021

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
20	6:00 pm	GRCS Board of Trustees Meeting	HUB
26	7:00 am	Cultural Competence Committee	Iroquois Learning Commons

FEBRUARY 2021

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
1	7:00 am	GRCS Executive Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
4	7:30 am	GRCS Finance Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
11	12:00 pm	GRCS Advancement Committee Meeting	HUB
15	6:00 pm	GRCS Board Annual Meeting	
18	8:00 am	New 2 You Board Meeting	GRCS Board Room
18-19	All Day	PD for Staff	All Campuses
23	7:00 am	Cultural Competence Committee	Iroquois Learning Commons

MARCH 2021

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
1	7:00 am	GRCS Executive Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
8	12:30 pm	GRCS Education Committee Meeting	HUB
11	2:30 pm	Promise Zone Board of Directors Meeting	GRPS
15	6:00 pm	GRCS Board of Trustees Meeting	HUB
23	7:00 am	Cultural Competence Committee	Iroquois Learning Commons

APRIL 2021

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
2-9		Spring Break — No School	All Campuses
14	7:00 am	GRCS Executive Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
15	8:00 am	New 2 You Board Meeting	HUB
19	6:00 pm	GRCS Board of Trustees Meeting	HUB
20	10:00 am	Foundation Board Meeting	GRCS Board Room
23	7:00 am	Cultural Competence Committee	Iroquois Learning Commons

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Board:

The January board meeting brings us to an important milestone in the school- and fiscal-year calendar. It culminates several months of careful planning and preparation for the coming school year. In addition to several other business items, the board will be asked to take action on two important motions:

1. Review and approve the proposed budget and corresponding rates of tuition for the 2021-2022 school year that have been thoroughly reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee, and
2. Review and approve board nominees to fill two vacant board positions for board term 2021-2024. In all, more than twenty individuals have been carefully vetted by the Nomination Committee and two final nominees — Caleb Doezeema and Sarah Visser - will be presented to the full board for approval.

Once action has been taken by the full board, the information above will be sent out to the GRCS Membership for its review and approval. Each of these two annual tasks are important and reflect the board's support of the strategic operation and governance of the Schools.

As we plan for next year, there are a number of very important events and activities that are in full swing, including:

- Showcases, enrollment registrations, and admissions events at each of our five campuses being spearheaded by our Admissions team members, and
- Fundraising efforts, analysis of fundraising data and future strategies, and planning for fundraising events being spearheaded by Development team members designed to do all we can to end the year strong.

Thank you for your engagement in and support of our mission to prepare students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society. As board members, you are called to be “keepers of the mission” and your understanding of that is seen in all that you do. Thank you for being encouragers, strategic thinkers, supporters, and prayer warriors. It is an honor and privilege to work alongside and on behalf of you day in and day out.

I am looking forward to greeting you in person on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. We will meet at the Hub and anticipate an approximately 90 minute meeting that night. If you would like to meet virtually, please do not hesitate to let me know; I will send the appropriate link at your request.

Tom.

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DISTRICT THEME.



CAMPUS THEMES STORIES

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

On Wednesday, January 6, we all watched as our nation's Capitol Building was assaulted. January 7 became an important and difficult day for teachers to provide a safe space and to listen well to students' questions and concerns. We opened our day together with a prayer as a school that can be found [here](#), and teachers opened up their classrooms for students to dialogue and ask questions. We are thankful that we can profess to our students that all things hold together through our Savior, Jesus Christ. In chapel last week, we reminded each other that Jesus is the center of our lives and that our identity is in him, not a political party or any other area of our lives.

SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

At GRCMS, Mr. Vos plans for and orchestrates small group gatherings for our 7th & 8th grade students. He meets with the 8th grade leaders of the small groups and prepares them to facilitate a lesson. In our 1st chapel of 2021, our small groups got the opportunity to reflect on passages from Habbakuk and 1 Thessalonians. Both of these passages teach us to be thankful and joyful to God for the blessings he bestows upon us even in the midst of turmoil and disappointment. Students then viewed a short video from a missionary who traveled to China and opened the word of God to leaders there. The video was quite impactful for the students as their eyes were opened to how many of us in America take too many things for granted. Small group leaders then led their groups in creating a list of all the things in their lives during 2020 to be thankful for. It was great to see young people smiling and being positive about 2020 for a change.

BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL

Our theme for this year has become more than a slogan, but a daily prayer — a mantra or reminder which grounds us in Christ's truth. From mask mandates to social justice protests to election uncertainty, each upheaval from our expected and familiar way of being pushes us individually and collectively to rely on Him. In our classrooms, teachers create developmentally-appropriate opportunities for students to process what they are seeing and hearing through the lens of Colossians 1:17.

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Although we aren't able to gather in the worship center for chapel at Evergreen, we continue to gather on zoom each Friday morning for worship. Mr. Tom DeJonge was our special chapel speaker on Friday, January 8. Mr. DeJonge used a picture book to share with the students the importance of understanding that God made all of us different and that we should celebrate that. He then spent time praying with our students.



JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Although our chapels this year look different, the Iroquois campus continues to carry out virtual chapels in each classroom at the same time of day. We are thrilled to continue with worship experiences for kids, with each chapel beginning with a focus on our district theme, "All Things. Hold Together." This month, the verse was led by Sr. Huisman, one of our Kindergarten Spanish Immersion teachers. He led kids in our theme verse in both English and Spanish. To have this dedicated time to recite and reflect on our district theme is a precious time for our students and staff, reminding all of us of the blessed assurance that God is in control, and his plan is good.

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STRATEGIC PLAN.



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

There are a number of ways the board has demonstrated and will continue to demonstrate its strategic leadership. They have been reflected this year in a variety of ways, including:

- The Executive Committee's approval of launching a search for a new Director of Advancement. We have signed a contract with VanderBloemen, and the search will begin very soon. During the week of January 11, several board and administrative team members met the Brian Jensen, VanderBloemen search consultant, to begin this important process.
- Reviewing and bringing to the full board's attention to the recommendations found within CESA's Institutional Review Report, including the importance of planning for anticipated future transitions in senior leadership and reviewing current GRCS Bylaws relative to board nominees and operational budget approvals.
- The board's recognition that its budget responsibilities and board nominee processes are multi-year in nature. As an institution, GRCS' financial health is strong, largely due to the board's focus as seen through its current and recent strategic plan goals and the careful leadership Jim Primus and others in the Business Office have provided.

As we conclude the current school year and continue with our planning for the year to come, the board will begin the planning process for the goals and strategies that will inform the next five-year strategic plan (2022 —2027).

As we already know, and what was further emphasized in CESAS's Institutional Review Report, strategic planning has been and must continue to be a foundation of our work and a basis for how decisions are made.

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STRATEGIC PLAN.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2

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

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

When Governor Whitmer and MDHHS announced before Thanksgiving that we would make a shift to virtual learning, the faculty and staff here at GRCHS were more than prepared. Our daily schedule took into consideration the need for direct instruction while also considering the research on healthy screen time and the increased responsibilities of our students when parents may be working outside the home. Our Student Intervention Team (SIT) met often to discuss students who would likely struggle in a virtual learning platform. We were thankful that the state permitted us to bring select students into the building if they needed that support. They received breakfast and lunch each day as well as the academic and emotional support they needed to succeed. The end of the semester went really well as students continued to learn at a high level. Our student attendance was strong throughout our virtual period, many days even better than normal in-person attendance.

Normally, we would be wrapping up *Winterim* at this time. It was very strange to return from Christmas break to second semester rather than the excitement of students traveling, interning, and taking unique classes. *Winterim* 2021 has been postponed to the two weeks leading up to spring break. Although students won't be able to travel, we are excited to offer some new and unique opportunities in addition to classes and internships. This year, students can complete a series of college visits which are supervised by their counselor. We also have a number of online courses available for students who desire to continue learning virtually. Like always, *Winterim* will be a time for students to discover their gifts and passions!

SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

As we continue down the road of both in-seat and virtual learning at GRCMS, we are constantly working to learn how to make improvements on our virtual teaching and learning. An example of this is the virtual learning is something Mrs. Kristi VanderWoude and the 6th grade team have piloted since Christmas break. They have consolidated virtual learners to follow similar schedules and have more class time together. This has allowed for unique grouping experiences for the virtual students as well as adaptations for the virtual learners that Mrs. VanderWoude can focus on with them one class at a time. After just a couple of weeks, students have reported positive experiences in working virtually with other students as well as less technical difficulties.

BEN BUURSMAN — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL

Students, families, and staff did an excellent job managing and maintaining high-quality teaching and learning before and after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Time away from school provides rest and a needed change of pace, but it also requires extra energy to reset expectations and reestablish routines. The partnership between home and school, along with our vibrant classroom communities, have enabled us to meet the unique challenges of this past month and year.

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Grades K-4 (and 5th grade at Evergreen) teachers will be working with a new, updated report card this January. A committee of elementary school teachers from all three campuses and from each grade level met regularly last school year to rewrite and refine the elementary report card so that it reflects the essential standards in each subject area. As a regular item on monthly PLT agendas, all elementary teachers had opportunities throughout the school year to give input as the report card was developed.

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STRATEGIC PLAN.

GOAL 2 — CONTINUED

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

At Iroquois, we are currently implementing the NWEA MAP assessment with kids in grades 1 through 4. This assessment is a great tool that provides teachers with information that will guide their instruction. Student learning data is a pivotal component of how teachers plan what they teach, how they teach, what pace they should be teaching, and this information helps identify potential gaps in teaching or in student learning that need to be addressed. Although this assessment is a tool for instruction, Iroquois teachers are skilled at blending this necessary assessment with making sure students are comfortable and confident in the process. Assessments can be daunting for kids, but I'm so glad to share that the manner in which our teachers implement MAP assessments are done so in a way that is in the best interest of students both emotionally and academically.

KIM PRIMUS — INCLUSION DIRECTOR

Missy Meekhof, Inclusion Coordinator at the high school, and Kim Primus, Director of Inclusion Services had the opportunity to talk with a couple of researchers about inclusion in schools. They are researching inclusion in Christian schools. There are many schools that do not practice inclusion and these researchers are focused on sharing how it can be done and why it is important. It was so touching and meaningful to share examples of our students on various campuses as they display inclusion in their actions and learn how to view people using an inclusion lens. Holding a door open for a peer, taking the elevator with a student who uses a wheelchair, being part of an Eagle circle, and playing with a peer on the playground are a few examples of living inclusion. Our prayer continues to be that all students leave our schools knowing that each person is a gift from God and is created fearfully and wonderfully by God. They know that all have gifts to share with others. It is amazing to think about the impact of living inclusion in our school communities, city, country, and the world as our students leave GRCS and serve God wherever they go.

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STRATEGIC PLAN.



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

On Monday, January 18, GRCHS will host its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion staff committee planned for the day in partnership with Julian Newman. The day's focus is on "Loving Our Neighbor" and what Dr. Martin Luther King Junior's dream means for us moving forward. GRCHS staff and guest presenters will lead students through four different sessions on this day. We pray that it will be a unifying and uplifting experience for our school community!

As we strive to be a more inclusive school, we are seeking to build authentic relationships between all our students. One strategy to build these relationships is to lean on students instead of staff aides to provide support. Under the leadership of Nick DeKoster, director of academic and innovative programs, and Missy Meekhoff, inclusion coordinator, we have 15 students interning in various classrooms with the goal of providing support to students who receive inclusion services. These interns are providing support for classmates and teachers, but they are also growing in their leadership skills.

SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

On February 18, Martin Luther King Jr Day, each grade level is planning a special focus on the life and accomplishments of MLK. Teachers will integrate lessons in various content areas, such as Bible and English Language Arts. They will discuss how MLK started as a preacher and had a pattern of themes of peace and forgiveness. Students will even write their own Biblical speeches. In other grade levels, students will have the opportunity to illustrate a powerful quote from MLK's famous speech. All students will be given the opportunity to dig a little deeper and learn a little more about how Martin Luther King Jr. played an important role in a movement toward a peaceful solution for racial oppression.

I recently received an email from a new GRCMS parent. She had asked her daughter how she was feeling about being at GRCS for a semester now. She replied that it was easier than her previous school. This was a surprise to her parents. The student went on to explain that it was because her teachers explained things in a way she understood and did not feel like she had to ask questions for deeper understanding. She came from a very high performing district that placed a lot of emphasis on test scores and stats in general outward performance. The parent then shared that her experience as a parent thus far, watching her student thrive, has been a testament to one of the core beliefs that GRCS stands on,

"Our passionate and dedicated teachers prepare students to enter today's world through effective and relevant methods that engage students and instill a love for learning that is life-long. Our goal is that all students will learn and grow to their full potential as they prepare to transition to be effective servants of Christ in today's society."

Her daughter enjoys school. She even looks forward to it. Her spirit of defeat has been replaced with encouragement. Her initiative has grown, her confidence has grown. She is loving her new school! I have utter confidence that she will continue to soar.

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STRATEGIC PLAN.

GOAL 3 — CONTINUED

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Julian Newman met with the Evergreen staff during the month of November and again in December. During our December meeting, Julian brainstormed with the staff ways to celebrate Dr. King. As a result of that conversation, each teacher at Evergreen will spend time talking with students and learning with students about Dr. King's legacy.

During library time in the month of February, Mrs. Bolt will be working with students to look at innovations and inventions. They will begin by looking at contributions made specifically by black inventors and innovators.

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

The Iroquois staff is preparing to spend significant time on Monday, January 18, to focus on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This is done in a variety of ways in each grade level. In earlier grades, teachers spend time teaching kids about who he was, and why we spend time talking about him. Several books are read about Martin Luther King Jr's life, as there are many available. Kids know him well, which is so great! In later grades, students spend time thinking and reflecting on the actions and words of MLK. Specifically, the action of what does it mean to do the right thing? With so much racial tension in the past and present, these experiences for our kids are critical if we are to have unity and inclusion in the future. Dr. King's legacy certainly lives on here at Iroquois, and we are blessed to dedicate time to his life and what he did for God's world, so our students can be culturally competent, justice-seeking, thoughtful neighbors.

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STRATEGIC PLAN.



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.

LA'LEATHA SPILLERS — DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

EAGLES FUND

Total raised as of January 8, 2021 is \$1,223,947

In the last 6 years, this is the most we've had in contributions at this point in the fiscal year with the exception of 2018 — 2019. We are currently at 77% of the \$1.575M goal for the 2020 — 2021 fiscal year.

We are incredibly grateful for these contributions to date and extremely thankful for Grand Rapids Christian Schools' community partnership. Through these contributions, hundreds of parents, grandparents, staff, alumni, and friends partner to make an investment in our students and further demonstrate their commitment to making Christian education accessible. THANK YOU!

EVENTS

Given the remaining risk of COVID-19 and limitations for indoor events, the development and events team has revisited the launch of a golf outing. In the spring of 2021, Grand Rapids Christian Schools will host an Eagles Classic Golf Outing benefiting the Eagles Fund.

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, May 24, 2021 — Eagles Classic Golf Outing

Location: Wuskowhan Players Club, West Olive, MI.

Save the dates were sent in early January and sponsorship information will also be available at the end of January.

For questions and sponsorship information, contact Dana Stenstrom, Director of Events, at 616.340.8440 or DStenstrom@grcs.org.



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STRATEGIC PLAN.

GOAL 4 — CONTINUED

AMY ORR — EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND MARKETING

In November and December, the Admissions team held **Showcase** at the high school and **Expedition Kindergarten** at all three elementary campuses. These were all virtual events and were very well received by prospective students and families.

The follow up to **Showcase** gave families over [30 videos](#) to explore many aspects of GRCHS.



Expedition Kindergarten showed current four and five-year-old GRCS preschool students and their parents what they can look forward to in kindergarten next year.



In all cases, the passion our staff has and the incredible opportunities our schools offer were on full display.

January's primary focus is early childhood, with **Preschool and Kindergarten Open Houses** at all three campuses.

These will be all virtual events. The kindergarten open houses will 're-purpose' the video and presentation

created for Expedition Kindergarten, but will present it to an audience of new families.

The audience for the preschool open houses will be a mix of current and new families.

The preschool staff have risen to the occasion and created wonderful videos that share not only the heart and soul of the amazing programs we offer but also the passion and love each of the teachers have for Jesus and His children. We are truly blessed with an amazing staff.

Preschool and kindergarten registration opened up to current families and staff in late December and is coming in steady.

Current preschool registration is at about half of projections for next year, and kindergarten registration is at about 80% of projections.

We are encouraged by the results thus far and look forward to those numbers rising after the open houses when registration opens to new families.

High school events in January are focusing on Ada Christian and Rockford Christian eighth-graders and will turn to GRCMS eighth-graders in February.

The goal is to offer safe ways for students and parents to get on campus at GRCHS in small groups and complement those offerings with virtual ones as well.

At all levels, the admissions team continues to respond to inquiries, give tours, and meet with families. This is a busy time of year as we promote and show our schools to hundreds of prospective families. While COVID makes this work challenging, with the support of GRCS staff, the admissions team is rising to meet that challenge head-on.

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STRATEGIC PLAN.

GOAL 4 — CONTINUED

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

Typically we have a small number of mid-year transfers at the high school. Under the leadership of our Director of Admissions, Vickie Fischer, we were able to welcome eight new students as we start the second semester! All these students go through an orientation with Vickie, Eric Taylor, Dean of Student life, our administrative team, and others who can help provide them with a smooth transition. Our hospitality and inclusion branch of student congress also works to provide student mentors so that each new student has another student to check in with as needed. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve eight new students and their families!

SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

There is much thought and planning that our admissions team puts into helping students get to know our schools and what they offer! Two of these events are in the works and soon approaching are the 8th grade visit to the high school and the GRCMS participation in events for students at other schools who are interested in attending GRCS. The 8th graders have been invited to tour the high school to learn about the many offerings and exciting opportunities ahead of them at the high school. They will get a tour of the building as well as lunch! Our 8th graders are already looking forward to becoming high school students!

Another admissions opportunity is a virtual meeting with the students and parents of Living Stones Academy. Sara Seth will share highlights of the middle school experience at GRCMS with the graduating students of LSA as they look forward to the possibility of attending GRCMS next year!

BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN PRINCIPAL

As a preschool through 8th-grade school, we have the unique opportunity at Rockford Christian to share our mission with 3 to 13-year-olds all in the same building. We pay special care to welcome the youngest among us to our school community. The Admissions team has done an incredible job organizing our Expedition Kindergarten event, along with our upcoming Preschool Open House, to answer families' questions about Christ-centered and nature-rich education available to our earliest learners. We have also provided opportunities for our oldest students to hear more about the transition to high school and the many ways GRCHS builds and expands on our Portrait of a Graduate work. Yet this month, 8th graders will visit the high school and begin scheduling courses for next year.

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

The admissions team is now conducting tours of the Evergreen building after school and on Saturdays so that prospective families can see the school and learn more about the program at Evergreen.

Preschool and Team One teachers are working with the admissions team to plan virtual open houses for prospective preschool and kindergarten families.

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STRATEGIC PLAN.



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

Through the first half of the 2020-21 fiscal year, the GRCS Operating Budget continues to track well with respect to both budgeted Revenues and Expenses. The budget includes an Operating Reserve of \$1,700,000, which we hope to use only to address surprise expenses that sometimes occur.

The GRCS Operating Budget for the 2021-22 school year is complete, has been presented and approved by the GRCS Finance Committee at its January meeting, and will be presented to the GRCS BOT at the January 20, 2021 board meeting for final approval.

If approved, the GRCS constituency will vote to approve the budget at the annual meeting in February 2021.

Highlights of the Proposed Budget include a K-12 budgeted enrollment of 1978 students, New2You grant of \$375/student (up from \$360 in 2020-21), a 1.5% wage increase for staff, steps for eligible faculty, an Eagles Fund goal of \$1.70 million, a CSI Pension obligation of \$1.1 MM, and a Variable tuition range which includes a maximum increase of \$230/student for full-time students.

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NEWS AND UPDATES.

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

COVID-19 has presented a challenge for many aspects of student life. One of those departments that has been greatly impacted is the theater department. They have done a great job being flexible and innovative as they continue to provide opportunities for students. Here are some details about the next event:

The Stage Company of Grand Rapids Christian High School presents: **UNSEEN TALENT.**

In the style of The Voice and American Idol comes Unseen Talent, a singing competition starring the students of Grand Rapids Christian High School.

Students will audition for a neutral panel of judges, and will never be seen during the audition process or the live performance segments. The judges will select 12 people to perform with a band during live sing-offs! Again, the singers will not be seen by the streaming audience.

The streaming audience (Grand Rapids Christian School families) will be able to vote for their favorite singers! They will decide who stays and who will move on to the next round.

This will be a free event to the GRCS community, and all those watching will simply need to do is log onto a computer or streaming device. More details coming soon!

SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

Many of our “extra activities” have been put on hold over the past 10 months due to Covid. iXplore is one of those fun activities that middle schoolers had to do without last spring. iXplore takes place immediately following spring break where middle schoolers have the opportunity to take non-traditional classes such as photography, backpacking, clay animation, and much more! It gives students the chance to turn their focus to other God-given abilities that have been afforded to us. This year we are planning to go ahead with iXplore. The teachers are busy planning ways to safely offer these courses to our middle school students. Our students need this! It will be exciting to have a sense of normalcy to the school year as we experience iXplore together.

BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN PRINCIPAL

It was so exciting to return to school in January to a campus covered in snow! Thanks to this year’s new health and safety protocols, as well as a renewed focus on outdoor education, students at Rockford Christian have been spending more time outside than ever before. In the first few weeks of January, students have gone cross-country skiing, built snow shelters, tracked animals, and broken-in our new sledding hill.

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

It has been so great to be in school this year. There is now a lot of activity across the street from us at Mulick Park Elementary School as they look forward to welcoming students back to

in-person learning. Evergreen teachers wrote personal notes to each of the Mulick Park classroom teachers to encourage them as they anticipate the return to in-person learning. And, Evergreen students made signs for the front lawn at Mulick Park to welcome the students back.

Evergreen Staff and Families gathered in their homes on December 10 for the annual Cookies and Carols event. It was a virtual event this year sponsored by the PTO. The evening started with storytime led by Evergreen teachers followed by a video of Christmas Carols which families could sing along with. The evening ended with families baking Christmas cookies using the recipes that families submitted which were compiled into an Evergreen online recipe book. It was fun to continue this Evergreen tradition in a new way.

