



# 20 — 21 BOARD REPORT

GRC'S

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

**Tom DeJonge, Superintendent**

MARCH  
**2021**



# 2020/2021 BOARD REPORT

MARCH 2021

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**GRAND RAPIDS  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**

*Preparing students to be effective servants of  
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## 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.

# 2020/2021 BOARD REPORT

MARCH 2021

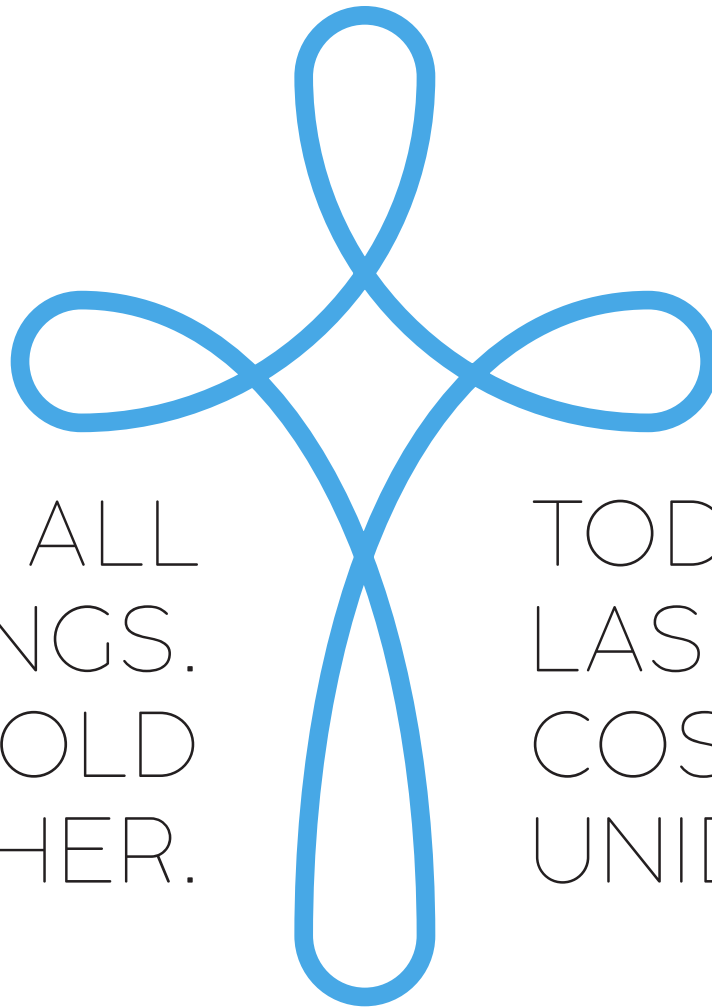
Tom DeJonge, Superintendent



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## DISTRICT THEME.



ALL  
THINGS.  
HOLD  
TOGETHER.

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

TODOS  
LAS  
COSAS.  
UNIDAS.

*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](https://grcs.org/calendar).*

### MARCH 2021

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
15	6:00 pm	GRCS Board of Trustees Meeting	HUB
17	7:00 pm	GRCS Growing Deeper: Creation Care	Virtual via Zoom
18	7:00 pm	GRCMS Showcase	Virtual via Zoom

### 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
27	7:00 am	Cultural Competence Committee	Iroquois Learning Commons

### MAY 2021

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
6	7:30 am	GRCS Finance Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
10	12:30 pm	GRCS Education Committee Meeting	HUB
24	8:30 am	Eagles Classic Golf Outing	Wuskowhan Players Club, West Olive
24 – 27		Exams	GRCHS
25	7:00 am	Cultural Competence Committee	Iroquois Learning Commons
27		Last Day of School (Half Day)	GRCMS, RCS, IQ, EV

### JUNE 2021

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
3	7:30 am	GRCS Finance Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
7	7:00 pm	GRCS Executive Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
7	6:00 pm	GRCS Board of Trustees Meeting	HUB
10	2:30 pm	Promise Zone Board of Directors	GRPS
22	10:00 am	Foundation Board Meeting	GRCS Board Room

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Board:

One year ago, our world and certainly school community was turned upside down. March 12, 2021 marks the one-year anniversary of school closures across the country and around the globe and set us down a path we had never traveled. March 17, 2021 marks the one-year anniversary of our launch of full virtual learning and the beginning of the innovative instructional delivery we comprehensively implemented throughout the year. Looking back, it has been quite a journey. Looking back, it has been a time of uncertainty along with new discoveries. Through it all, God's presence has been felt and, even through difficult times, we have each personally and as a Christian school community realized comfort in the reassurance that His hand has been at work and knowing **all things hold together through Him**.

As we look forward, we do so with confidence that He will guide our paths. As an administrative team, we continue to discuss ways we can be sources of encouragement to families and students and we seek opportunities to return to our more typical routines. Since January 1, Grand Rapids Christian Schools has seen a total of only eight (8) known positive Covid cases in grades PS-8 (none at Rockford Christian and the Evergreen Campus!). Though there has been a bit of an uptick at the high school, the majority of those cases were contained within our Boys Basketball team. Many of our faculty and staff members have been fully vaccinated and we have definitely turned a corner.

I share this to say that, as we work with the health department and follow CDC guidelines, we recognize new opportunities to slowly relax several of the restrictions that have guided our mitigation efforts since we began school last August. At the elementary level, masks will now become optional while students are outdoors at recess. Participants at meetings will no longer be required to wear masks if each participant has been fully vaccinated. We have moved to a three-foot rather than six-foot social distance rule in PS - 8th grade when identifying close contacts when a student tests positive. I continue to meet weekly with county superintendents and the health department to review health circumstances and health and safety guidelines. And we closely monitor seven-day averages throughout the county in order to track the downward trend we have been praying to see.

It has been a wonderful year in spite of the challenges we have faced. I am thankful for our faculty and staff for their incredible efforts this year. I am thankful for our parents who have persevered and supported us throughout the past 12 months. And I am thankful for you and the support and wisdom you have provided as we navigated the year together.

Monday night's board meeting will focus on looking forward. We will provide a more detailed review of Go Forth, our 100-year anniversary celebration and spend time reviewing each of the five goals of the initiative we are hoping to publicly undertake in the fall. Our meeting begins at 6:00 p.m., will be held in person, and will be in the Hub. I will send out a Zoom invite in the event board members are not able to participate in person.

Enjoy the start of the spring season! Looking forward to seeing you on Monday night.

Tom.

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## DISTRICT THEME.



CAMPUS  
THEMES  
STORIES

### **BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL**

The Student Congress Service Branch has launched a fundraiser for the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Grand Rapids Christian sophomore Isaiah Luk and his father have brought this wonderful opportunity to our school. Isaiah's father was one of the Lost Boys of Sudan and lived in the Kakuma refugee camp years ago. All money raised by third-period classes will go towards much-needed study supplies for students in the camp. The Luk family has provided us with an opportunity to be thoughtful neighbors and to be reminded that even across the globe, God holds all things together.

### **BEN BUURSMAN — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL**

Health and safety protocols limiting large group gatherings have pushed our weekly Family Time chapels to a zoom format. While we lament the loss of gathering together in our Worship Center, the virtual format has allowed us to include speakers from different parts of the country who might not have been able to attend in the past. Classes have also found creative ways to engage their peers. We praise God that Family Time continues to be a meaningful time of worship.

### **ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL**

Evergreen teachers write a litany that reflects the school theme each year. The litany is read each week during chapel. This year the team three students lead the litany each week. Chapel is on zoom rather than in person, but our team three students are still able to provide leadership.

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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**

Two new members of the board were overwhelmingly elected at the February 15, 2021 Annual Meeting. Recently, I reached out to CESA schools and requested samples of new board member onboarding policies and have received some very good information that may further strengthen what we provide for new members as well. As we plan to onboard Caleb Doezeema and Sarah Visser, as well as prepare for board nominees in future years, I plan to update our current onboarding practices and will share a draft with the Nomination and Executive Committee members for their review and feedback.

The Nomination Committee suggested at one of its final meetings this year that the Committee reconvene this spring to begin the process of identifying candidates for board term 2022-2025. This early start will provide us with the time we need to carefully consider the qualities and characteristics needed for board service going forward. We will coordinate scheduling meetings for that purpose soon after Spring Break.

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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

We normally return from Christmas break and enjoy our two-week term, *Winterim*, where students take unique courses, intern in the community, or travel the world. This year we postponed *Winterim* until the two weeks leading up to spring break in an effort to maintain more community partnerships. We are excited to see how our students discover new passions and talents over those two weeks!

After nearly one year of research, GRCHS will transition to a more robust learning management system called Canvas in the fall. We began formal training at our February 18 and 19 professional development sessions. Canvas' website summarizes their product in the following way: "Canvas LMS is an open and reliable web-based software that allows institutions to manage digital learning, educators to create and present online learning materials and assess student learning, and students to engage in courses and receive feedback about skill development and learning achievement." It is a big transition for our staff, but we are confident that it will be a good thing for our students!

Throughout the months of January and February, GRCHS students began the course selection process for 2021-2022. Our counselors meet with students both in groups and individually to consider the best courses for the following year. Our process is completely student-centered, and our master schedule will be created based on the needs of our students.

#### SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

In February, the middle school staff was blessed to attend professional development led by Dr. Mike Ruyle, who works for Solution Tree. He has served as a classroom teacher, athletic coach, school principal, program director, university professor, and professional development presenter over a 30-year career. Mike came to share with the middle school staff the philosophy around the use of proficiency scales to drive student learning. We are excited to consider how this could benefit student achievement as we move forward. Mike shared a positive mindset on teaching and learning that was welcomed by both staff and administrators. We look forward to seeing how this will impact curriculum work in the months ahead.

#### BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL

Throughout this year, teachers at Rockford Christian have implemented new ways to leverage the outdoors in teaching grade-level essential learnings. Mr. Phil Warners, our Director of Outdoor Education, has collaborated with teachers on specific lessons and units, as well as developing specific outdoor learning spaces for each grade level. During professional development in February, the Rockford Christian Staff hiked, snowshoed, and cross country skied around campus as they toured each outdoor classroom and shared ideas about how to use and improve each space.





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## STRATEGIC PLAN.

### GOAL 2 — CONTINUED

#### **ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL**

Elementary administrators and support services coordinators met with each elementary teacher to analyze and review NWEA Map data. Teachers also set goals for student growth for the remainder of the school year. These meetings were a wonderful opportunity to celebrate teaching and learning.

#### **JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL**

This February, the teachers at Iroquois spent three days in professional development. One day was dedicated to teamwork and preparations for the spring months.

The next day involved all teachers in the elementary schools, and the focus was on working to make Grand Rapids Christian Schools a “Third Space” School. A place where we can come together, listen, have conversations, and work together, where we can ward off polarization and partner regardless of our differences and opinions. Our third day of professional development consisted of time dedicated to focus and reflect on what it means to teach “Christianly.” What does it mean to be a teacher in a Christian school?

These days of professional development certainly are educational for teachers and staff on those days, and the conversations continue for days after. This time spent on really important topics shores up our foundations as Christian educators, making us think, act and present in ways that are challenging yet enhances and furthers the mission of Grand Rapids Christian Schools. There is work to continue, but I’m thrilled we are having discussions and learning that further reveals the Kingdom of God.

#### **KIM PRIMUS — INCLUSION DIRECTOR**

Navigating the playground on our Iroquois Campus can be challenging during the winter months. Snow, ice, water, and mud can make accessing the playground difficult for some of our students. It is wonderful to see students heading outside with shovels in their hands to clear paths in order that students who use wheelchairs can independently maneuver the playground. All students are learning to look beyond themselves and identify ways they can serve others. What a gift it is to observe children problem-solving and serving in this way!

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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

##### Back History Month

February was an opportunity for us to dive deeper as a Christian school into Black History as we learned together and celebrated this important part of history. We wanted to provide time and space for both lament and hope, both practices that are foundational to our faith. It was also a time to acknowledge that historical truths have not always been taught in schools. Standing on a foundation of truth allows us to move forward as we seek justice, reconciliation, and restoration.

Throughout February, students had many opportunities here at school. Many of our virtual chapels and daily devotionals incorporated Black History. We also had Focus sessions led by students and staff that gave students the opportunity to dig deeper into Black History. Our learning commons staff highlighted books written by Black authors, and we were even able to partner with Grand Rapids Christian Elementary through the reading of some of these books together. Some of our students took time out of their days to Zoom with younger students. It was a great way to partner and learn!

##### Lunar New Year

February 12 was the Lunar New Year. Our Global Ambassadors club hosted a lunchtime celebration with decorations, music, snacks, and games. Many students were able to attend and make new connections. It was a great opportunity for many of our international students to share their culture with their friends.

##### Abby Bratt

Abby Bratt is a senior student who has always dreamed of attending a formal high school dance. Our formal dances were canceled last spring, and as the year has gone on, it became apparent that this might not happen this year either. Abby is supported by Inclusion Services, and our Inclusion Coordinator, Missy Meekhoff, wanted to make sure that she did not graduate without attending a formal event at the high school.

I happened to be listening to a podcast at the end of January where Tim Tebow was talking about *Night to Shine*, an event he hosts each year. This worldwide event is a prom for individuals with special needs; it is typically hosted by local churches. The evening celebrates people with a variety of challenges and reminds them; they are amazing gifts from God. This year's event was a virtual event.

I connected with Abby's mom, and we planned a fun evening for Abby and a few of her friends. Mrs. Hoving generously allowed us to use the lower town square for the event. Abby's parents provided pizza and cake for the evening. We streamed the virtual event and had time for photos, socializing, and dancing.

Abby's mom, aunt, and I set up and decorated to create the feeling of a formal evening for the girls. The evening celebrated the girl's friendships and allowed them to have a fun evening together.

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## STRATEGIC PLAN.

### GOAL 3 — CONTINUED

#### SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

Vanessa Abreu, former 3rd grade Spanish Immersion teacher, is our new PS-8th grade Spanish Immersion Coordinator this year. Not only has she shared many resources with staff throughout the year to help educate staff and students about the Hispanic people and culture, but she also continues to plan for exciting community connections for students in the Spanish Immersion program. Her hopes are not only to make connections for students in the Immersion program but for the GRCS community as a whole. We welcome any suggestions you may have to make connections and partnerships within our community.

#### BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN PRINCIPAL

Rockford Christian School students enjoyed a “Football Takeover” in their PE classes the week following the Super Bowl. Grand Rapids Christian Varsity Football Co-Head Coaches Rueben Riley and Kirk Sundberg led students through a variety of drills and games. The classes served as a wonderful touch point and connection within our district.

#### JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

One culture or ethnic background does not fully represent the image of God. So we learn about each other and ourselves in a variety of ways. One example is spending honoring Black History Month. Each grade level spent time honoring significant African-Americans who have contributed much to our nation, and each grade did so in various ways. As we continue to dive into becoming more culturally competent, we will continue to look for ways to make sure all our kids learn about their own culture and background. We are a really diverse school and represent a variety of cultures and backgrounds, and what an honor it is to be able to spend some time learning about ourselves and each other.

#### ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Walking through the hallways at Evergreen feels like walking through an art museum. Student artwork is displayed beautifully throughout the school. Mrs. Garrod, the Evergreen art teacher, explores and learns with the students about African-American artists and artwork each February during Black History Month. This year Mrs. Garrod worked with the students to research and write reports about influential African American artists. Then, students painted portraits in the style of Amy Sherald and Kehinde Wiley. These beautiful portraits are displayed in the commons at the Evergreen Campus.



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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 March 3, 2021 is \$1,380,830

We are currently at 81% of the \$1.7M goal for the 2020 — 2021 fiscal year.

We are incredibly grateful for these contributions to date and extremely thankful for the hundreds of parents, grandparents, staff, alumni, and friends who partner with GRCS to make an investment in our students and further demonstrate their commitment to making Christian education accessible. THANK YOU!

A communication was sent to all donors who've contributed the first half of the fiscal year. This included a THANK YOU postcard and [video sent via email](#). The communication highlighted what we've been able to accomplish this school year through donor support.

Because of donor support:

- We provided \$2.9M in tuition assistance to 514 families representing 860 students, averaging \$3,375 per student.
- We added staff to provide additional instructional support for students of all learning backgrounds.
- We secured additional and innovative technologies to ensure access and deliver excellent instruction to both in-person and virtual learners.
- We increased targeted professional development for faculty and staff from 30 hours a year to 42 hours a year.

#### EVENTS

Grand Rapids Christian Schools will host the *Eagles Classic Golf Outing benefiting the Eagles Fund* on Monday, May 24, 2021. It will be held at Wuskowhan Players Club, West Olive, MI. Save the dates were sent in January, and invitations were mailed in March.

Sponsorship and additional information are available at [www.grcs.org/EaglesClassic](http://www.grcs.org/EaglesClassic).

For questions and sponsorship information, contact Dana Stenstrom, Director of Events, at 616.340.8440 or [DStenstrom@grcs.org](mailto:DStenstrom@grcs.org).

#### BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

After spring break, GRCHS plans to reinstate our 8th-grade shadow program, allowing small numbers of potential GRCHS students to visit on a Friday. These students will spend the day both in classes and in other sessions that show all that GRCHS has to offer.

#### SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

Everything seems to look a bit different this year, and Showcase is no exception. Although we cannot plan to have our middle school Showcase in person, we are excited about our virtual opportunity. Linda Vellenga and our Staff have spent much time and energy recording videos to share with those who are interested in the many awesome opportunities we have to offer here at GRCMS! If you know of anyone who may be interested in sending their child to GRCMS, please let them know to join us on March 18!

#### ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

The admissions team worked with the preschool and team one teachers to host virtual Open Houses on Thursday, January 21. Participants enjoyed a story read by Mrs. Joni Bolt, watched a video about early childhood at Evergreen, and listened to the teachers talk about the early childhood program. Participants also had the opportunity to ask questions about Evergreen. We had a good turnout for the Open Houses. The admissions team now has the video and recording, which they share with prospective families.

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## STRATEGIC PLAN.

### GOAL 4 — CONTINUED

#### **AMY ORR — EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND MARKETING**

Having hosted our preschool and kindergarten admissions events in December and January, our team's focus for early childhood shifted to registration in February. We are encouraged by the fact that preschool and kindergarten registration numbers currently meet or exceed projections. Now, our focus has turned to converting all of the registrations into Continuous Enrollment Contracts.

Upcoming admission events include four more Future Eagle Days in April and May at GRCHS, Virtual Showcase at GRCMS on March 18, and four visit days at GRCHS in April and May — two specifically for Ada Christian 8th graders.

The Continuous Enrollment opt-out deadline was February 20. To date, we have received 64 opt outs for next year as well as three contract suspensions. Admissions staff continue to follow up with families who are on suspended contracts to confirm their enrollment for 2021/22, connect with current preschool students who have not yet registered for next year, and contact current 8th grade students who have not yet submitted a course request for GRCHS.

In addition to having sent Continuous Enrollment contracts to new preschool and kindergarten students, we have also sent them to Ada Christian 8th graders who have scheduled for next year as well as to all applicants whose application for admission has been approved. To date, we have received 134 contracts for new students PS-12th grade.

Our work continues. Inquiries continue to come in at a steady pace. We expect elementary, middle, and high school inquiries to increase over the spring and summer, perhaps later than normal, as parents finish the year at their current school and look ahead to 2021/22 with a bit of a wait-and-see attitude with regard to COVID protocols. The admissions team remains committed to providing excellent customer service to all families who inquire, providing opportunities for families to see and experience our schools, and to doing all we can to achieve the projected enrollment goals set before us.



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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 eight months 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.

GRCS continues to work with Macatawa Bank, Beene Garter, and the SBA on the PPP Loan Forgiveness application. The SBA requested GRCS resubmit the Forgiveness Application without including Eagle Impact payroll costs. If the Loan is not fully forgiven, GRCS will apply for the 1st PPP Loan for Eagle Impact and apply for forgiveness of that loan at the same time.

GRCS has been working on additional funding opportunities it qualifies for as it relates to the health pandemic. GRCS qualifies for the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) and is working alongside Synergi (specializing in tax credit and incentive recovery) in the application process. Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) is available to GRCS and other non-public schools who did not apply for the 2nd PPP Loan. GRCS Business Office staff will continue to work on the application process and keep the Finance Committee, and GRCS BOT informed as it learns more.

#### TOM DEJONGE — SUPERINTENDENT

Our search for a new Chief Advancement Officer is well underway. Brian Jensen, consultant from Vanderbloemen, recently confirmed the posting is [live](#) and, while applicants were initially slow to reach out, individuals are beginning to make contact.

The position has been posted nationally, including on the CESA, CSI, LinkedIn, and Christian School Employment websites. Brian reports that he has also begun to reach out within his network to bring the position to others' attention.

Brian will travel to Grand Rapids to meet with me in person on March 29 for an update and recap of the process and his conversations up to that point. I am looking forward to connecting with him at that time and will provide additional board updates as the search proceeds throughout the spring season.

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## NEWS AND UPDATES.

### BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

We were thrilled to learn that all seven of our National Merit semifinalists were named finalists this month! No other school in West Michigan had as many students receive this award. We are proud of the hard work and dedication of these seven students and grateful that we get to be a part of their journey.

### SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

One of the highlights of the middle school experiences at GRCMS is the opportunity for iXplore week. Students have a chance to participate in something exciting they would like to learn more about that is outside of the traditional classroom (Hike & Hammock, Around the World in a Day, Equestrian, Musical Fusion, and much more!). Last year, Covid-19 and the virtual learning mandate caused us to miss this awesome opportunity. We are so excited to continue the tradition this year. We are plunging forward with plans that include safety protocols to keep students healthy and safe. Please join us in celebrating being able to reinstate this fun and rich experience for our middle school students!

### BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN PRINCIPAL

The 100th day of school this year was an even bigger deal than normal! Elementary students' fashion sense and number sense combined with special t-shirts celebrating the big event. Zero the Hero even made a guest appearance. Best of all, the day served as a reminder of God's faithfulness this year..

### ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Evergreen students were not able to go to the Van Andel Education Institute for Enrichment week this year. So, we brought VAEI to Evergreen! Staff members from VAEI met with Evergreen teachers to plan virtual science units. Then, the VAEI staff developed inquiry units of study and gathered materials. Boxes of materials were delivered to the Evergreen Campus, including materials for students to construct marble runs, plants, and animals for observation. Van Andel educators taught lessons via zoom while Evergreen teachers facilitated the work in the classrooms.

- February 23 — 26 Team Three students studied *Mystery Powders* and *What's in the Water?*
- March 2 — 5 Team One and Team Two students studied *Sensing the World* and *Stop it: Force and Motion*.

A quote from one of our kindergarten students: "This science is so fun. We are all going to be so sad when this week is over."

[Read more and see more photos on the blog.](#)

