



20 — 21 BOARD REPORT

GRC'S

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

Tom DeJonge, Superintendent

APRIL
2021



2020/2021 BOARD REPORT

APRIL 2021

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**GRAND RAPIDS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**

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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.

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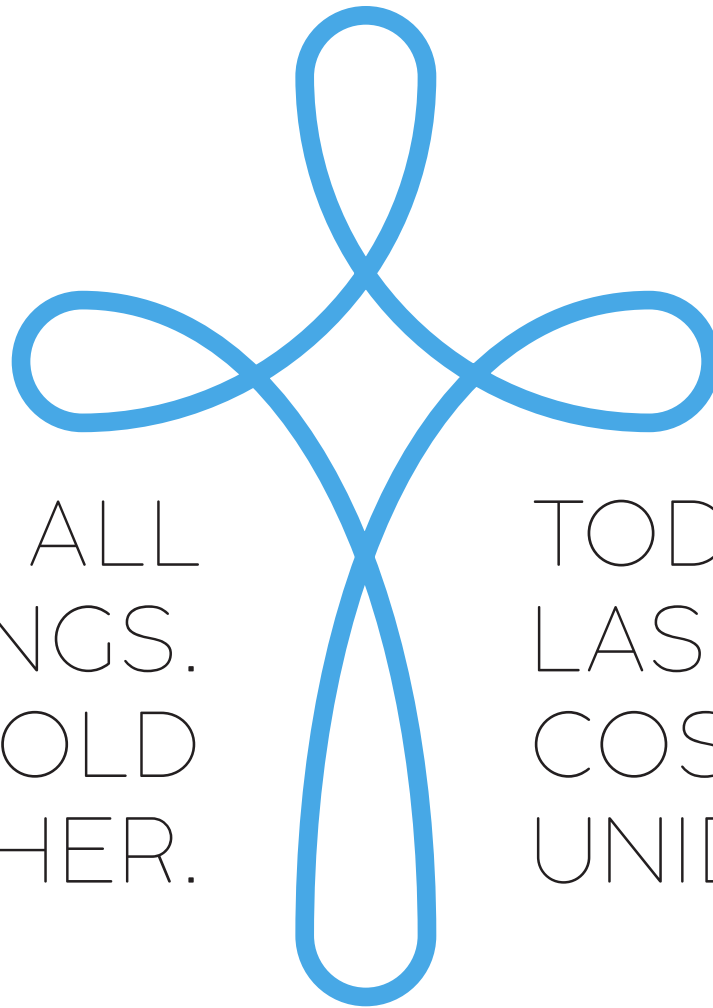
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DISTRICT THEME.



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.

APRIL 2021

DATE	TIME	WHAT	LOCATION
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
1	4:00 pm	Rockford Christian Rock 'N Soul Fundraiser	Rockford Christian School
6	7:30 am	GRCS Finance Committee Meeting	GRCS Board Room
10	12:30 pm	GRCS Education Committee Meeting	HUB
13	12:00 pm	Advancement Committee	GRCS Board Room
18	7:00 pm	GRCHS Graduation	Eagles Stadium
24	8:30 am	Eagles Classic Golf Outing	Wuskowhan Players Club, West Olive
24 — 27		Exams	GRCHS
25	7:00 pm	Rockford Christian 8th Grade Graduation	Rockford Christian School
25	7:00 am	Cultural Competence Committee	Iroquois Learning Commons
26	7:00 pm	GRCMS 8th Grade Graduation	DeVos CAW
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
22	10:00 am	Foundation Board Meeting	GRCS Board Room

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Board:

I trust you and your families enjoyed Spring Break! Though there is snow in the forecast this week, it is so refreshing to be able to experience the change in season. Warmer weather and nature coming back to life has been a joy to experience and watch unfold.

This month's Board Report replaces the scheduled April 19, 2021 meeting due to the time between today and last month's board meeting; no action needing board discussion and approval is necessary at this time. In addition to committee Minutes that are included in the board's monthly packet, below is an update on items relevant for the board's review and information in lieu of our scheduled meeting.

Admissions for 2021-2022

Amy Orr, in her update on the status of 2021-2022 admissions below, reports that admissions inquiries appear to have returned to or even in several cases surpassed 2019-2020 school-year interest, which is a great indication that we may be on track to enroll at our historical new-student levels. Though we are still in the process of moving families forward from interest to enrollment, we are certainly encouraged by the enthusiasm being expressed by a high number of families and students. As we close up the school year, we continue to monitor new student enrollments and provide much encouragement to those who desire to enroll for the fall.

The good news is that, in most cases, we have room for new students. There are several grades at specific campuses where we are closely monitoring "open seats" due to strong existing enrollment and limited space availability for new students. We will know more as we get closer to summer break.

Chief Advancement Officer Search

Brian Jensen, Vanderbloemen search consultant, traveled to Grand Rapids on March 30 to meet with me and review the status of applicants for the Chief Advancement Officer position. He reported that, to date, he had spoken to and / or received applications from 14 individuals. He and I discussed the qualities and characteristics of "ideal" applicants. Brian reported that he will continue to actively seek applicants in order to complete the search process as early as the end of April. He and I will confirm a final slate of applicants to interview, which may be as early as the second week of May.

Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS) Funds

As an update on Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS) funds and GRCS' application for those funds, GRCS submitted its application on behalf of each of the five school campuses on April 13, 2021. The funds have not yet been released at the state level due to legislative logjams. Based on information we have received from Kent Intermediate School District's legislative lobbyist and the Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools (MANS), we are hopeful that the legislative process will result in the funds being released as a part of the state budget negotiations in early June.

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Superintendent's 2020-2021 Assessment

Thank you to board members for completing the 2020-2021 superintendent assessment survey last month. Patti Harris, on behalf of the Executive Committee, compiled feedback received on this year's assessment, which was sent to all GRCS teachers, board members, direct reports, and designated business partners. The Executive Committee reviewed the data as well as received an overall summary of comments made by respondent groups. The full board will receive an executive summary of the results at its June board meeting.

The Executive Committee commended Patti for her work on this annual assessment as board secretary over the past number of years. With her board term expiring at the close of this school year, Tim requested that she walk alongside the incoming board secretary to assist with the evaluation process in the coming year.

Status of PPP Loan Forgiveness

As of April 19, 2021, we have not heard back from the SBA relative to the status of our PPP loan forgiveness. We did resubmit the application in February, per the SBA's request, and anticipate receiving a final determination in the near future. Jim Primus remains in close contact with Macatawa Bank to monitor the status of forgiveness. Hats off to the Business Department staff for outstanding work throughout the submission (and resubmission!) process.

COVID Plan — Remainder of 2020-2021 School Year

County superintendents continue to meet weekly with health department officials to review the status of the positivity test rates in Michigan and, in particular, within Kent County. Though the state continues to "strongly urge" schools to re-establish virtual learning, we have determined to move forward with in-person instruction, continue implementing the health and safety mitigation efforts the board approved in August 2020, and do all we can to finish the year strong! That determination is supported by the health department as well.

As a point of reference, we have no known active staff cases and two known active student cases as of April 19, 2021. In addition, the vast majority of our staff and faculty have now been fully vaccinated.

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DISTRICT THEME.



**CAMPUS
THEMES
STORIES**

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

One of the challenges of doing school in a global pandemic is building genuine relationships, especially for students who are new to Grand Rapids Christian. *Winterim*, or “Springterim” as some called it this year, was a great chance to build some of these relationships that we’ve been missing. Specifically, our freshmen all took Life Together, a course designed to lay the foundation for four years where our students are held together through lives of service to Christ. In this course, our freshmen learn essential skills to succeed in high school, serve in the community together, and do team-building activities that promote genuine friendships at school. Two freshmen gave these reflections on their experiences:

“I’m a new student and it helped me meet new people and learn more about what’s around me.”

“I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet new people in my grade and spend time serving with them as well.”

We are thankful for the opportunity to have our class of 2024 learn how to do “life together.” The entire course is centered around our shared belief that God holds all things together!

SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

This week at GRCMS, we excitedly are participating in a week of iXplore. Our teachers worked hard to put this in place while planning for safe social distancing as well. We feel that it is essential to give our students as much of a normal middle school experience as possible. Both teachers and students are excited about this opportunity. One thread that all students share is access to a short virtual chapel each day that Señora Wittung-Baker has put together for the week. During this time, we are focusing on a theme that includes “I Explore...” and something about God. Students and staff are part of these short times of worship to explore the amazing God we have!

- I explore who God is.
- I explore God’s creation.
- I explore God’s faithfulness.
- I explore God’s love.
- I explore how God holds all things together.

BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN PRINCIPAL

“He is before all things, **AND IN HIM**, all things hold together.” Those three little words in our theme verse “and in Him” have had a profound implication for our living and working this year. Time and again, we have had to give up our own sense of control and instead put our faith and trust in Christ. Teachers model this for their students in many ways by shifting the control in their classrooms from them themselves to their pupils. I recently popped into the first-grade classroom at Rockford Christian and saw students leading each other in a morning greeting and game. It was a beautiful picture of a classroom community holding together, and embodying the love of Christ. Everyone, especially educators, love to have control, yet shifting our focus from a teacher-centered classroom to a student-centered classroom creates opportunities for the Spirit to work.

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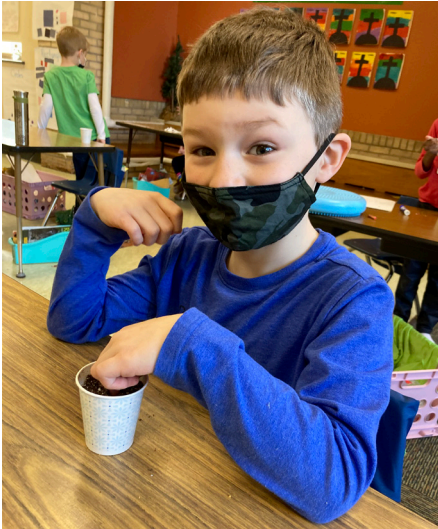
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DISTRICT THEME. THEME — CONTINUED

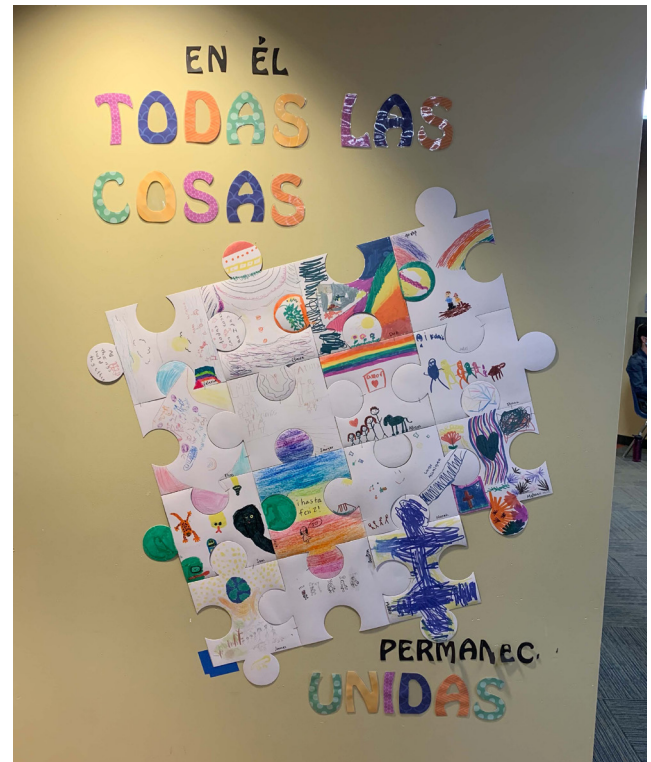
ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Mr. Nick DeKoster delivered radish seeds, soil, and cups with our theme verse to Evergreen so that elementary students had the opportunity to plant seeds. He also provided a devotional for teachers to share with their students. These activities were done in preparation for the Growing Deeper Event: Creation Care and Stewardship on March 17. Students were very excited to bring their plants home and to tell their parents about Growing Deeper.



Evergreen staff and students gathered outside in the Grove at Evergreen to worship together on Thursday, April 1 before leaving for spring break. This was the first opportunity that we had to gather as a school community this year. It was so good to be distanced together to share prayer and scripture.

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL



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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

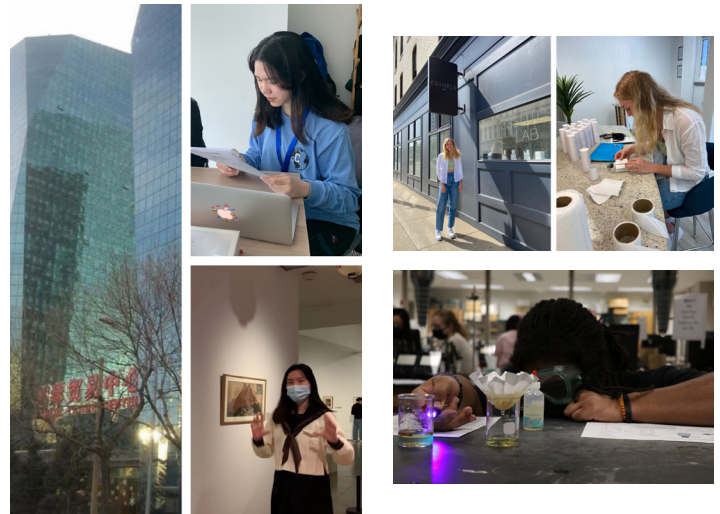
Creating powerful *Winterim* experiences for students this year was challenging. In years past, at least one-third of our students have been off-campus learning in other settings, either on a school trip or doing while interning in the community. COVID made traveling impossible and although 85 students were able to secure internships, finding placements was very difficult. For the first time, our counseling office created a college visit *Winterim* experience. Roughly 75 students visited eight colleges or universities each. With each college visit, they filled out a detailed account of their experiences and how the school potentially fits into their future plans.

Around 45 students who preferred a virtual learning option took online courses through Coursera with topics ranging from “Fashion Design” to “Using Python to Access Web Data.”

Winterim courses are a great way for students to dig deeper into areas of passion. For example, students who love science could take “Playing with Fire”, “Science in the Real World” or “CSI: Grand Rapids.” We are thankful for all these opportunities for students to explore God’s world!

Over the last few months, our students have been selecting courses for the 2021-22 school year. At GRCHS, our scheduling process is student-centered, meaning that we choose what courses to offer based on student choice. We do our best to not only provide each student with required courses for graduation but also with the opportunity to take a wide variety of elective courses that uncover gifts and passions. After students have completed course

selections, we create a master schedule and staffing plan to serve their needs. We hope to have this completed in the next few weeks!



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STRATEGIC PLAN.

GOAL 2 — CONTINUED

SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

Middle School students are gearing up for their third round of NWEA MAP testing. We feel blessed that we have been able to have students in school throughout the school year to allow for our three testing sessions (fall, winter, & spring). This information is used throughout the school year for teachers to look at student learning patterns, meet students where they are in their learning, and reflect upon their teaching strategies to understand what is best for students.

2021-2022 GRCMS schedule alignment- In October (2020), we worked closely with Mr. Simon Jaynes, co-founder and Executive Director of Christian School Management, to do a school-wide analysis of the middle school schedule. During our week with Simon Jaynes, we dove into scheduling regarding our mission as a school. Scheduling at GRCMS connects teaching that is spiritual, child-centered, holistic, and the best use of the time that God gives us with middle school students. As a result of these goals, we worked to align our schedule from 5th-8th grades while also preserving the specific needs of adolescent development at each grade level. This alignment allows us to best use our resources and space to meet the needs of as many students as possible. Much time, conversation, teacher & student input, brainstorming, and collaboration was put into revising our schedule for next year. Many elements remain the same; however, they have been carefully planned and rearranged to work together.

BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD PRINCIPAL

The week after Spring Break marks iXplore at RCMS and a chance for students to dedicate classes in areas of interest, such as photography, outdoor recreation, woodworking, and more. iXplore offers a memorable, experiential learning experience for students, as well as an opportunity to live into a variety of the Portrait of a Graduate attributes. Students get off campus and practice being thoughtful neighbors and lifelong explorers. They communicate and collaborate in new ways. Most importantly, they demonstrate the varied ways we can live as disciples of Christ.



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STRATEGIC PLAN.

GOAL 2 — CONTINUED

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

The partnership between parents and school is a critical variable in the education of each student. At Iroquois, we have developed several ways to partner with parents, one being communication regarding student academic growth. We want parents to know how their child is making academic progress, or if academic progress is not going at the pace we hope for. We talk about what is going well and dig in to learn more about each student to find the optimal level of support each student needs. This month, our ESS teams have been working hard at reviewing data and looking specifically at the growth of students. I am happy to say, our students are doing awesome! Our teachers and ESS teams are doing awesome! By collecting data and having conversations, the partnership between families and school is optimal, and our kids benefit, which is exactly what we want. Thank you to parents, teachers, and staff for working hard at cultivating positive partnerships that are what is best for our students.

One of the points of data is an assessment called AimsWeb Plus. This assessment is only given in our lower grade levels. It charts student growth and ultimately guides the instruction of our teachers. AimsWeb Plus was given to students this past month, and the data is currently being used by our teachers and ESS teams.

KIM PRIMUS — INCLUSION DIRECTOR

Under the leadership of the Director of Inclusion Services, Inclusion Coordinators plan for students receiving inclusion support as they transition from grade to grade and campus to campus. During the spring semester, goals and objectives are written for each student for the upcoming school year. When students transition from one campus to another the Inclusion Coordinators meet to discuss individual student strengths and struggle areas. We strive to ensure student learning and growth continue from year to year. Academic, spiritual, physical, social, and emotional supports are put in place to support students.

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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

February was an opportunity for us to dive deeper as a Community partnerships are a key part of *Winterim*. Our community partners host interns, welcome visitors from certain classes, and even come into our classrooms as guest instructors who share their areas of expertise. These partnerships provide us the opportunity to highlight diverse voices in our community.

GRCS strives to produce culturally competent students. One of the ways that students are exposed to different cultures is through *Winterim* travel. We are so excited to announce some amazing opportunities for travel during *Winterim 2022*!

[Check out the options here \(www.grcs.org/winterim-travel\)](http://www.grcs.org/winterim-travel).

Families will apply this month and have the opportunity to request financial assistance as they plan for travel.

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Small posters of the Portrait of a Graduate elements are posted in the hall outside the Team Two classroom. During the month of March, each of the Team Two students read a biography. They then spent time talking about and reflecting on which of the Portrait of a Graduate elements were most evident in the life of the person they read about and taped the name to the POG element poster. This was a wonderful opportunity for our second and third-grade students to learn about and reflect on what it looks like to live as communicators, collaborators, thoughtful neighbors, justice seekers, creative solution finders, lifelong explorers, culturally competent individuals, and disciples of Christ.

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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.

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.

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.

March Lead Goal Data	2019	2020	2021
Inquiries	51	15	60
Applications (1st — 12th)	31	23	41
Registrations (PreK & K)	32	12	29

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STRATEGIC PLAN.

GOAL 4 — CONTINUED

LA'LEATHA SPILLERS — DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

EAGLES FUND

Total raised as of April 5, 2021 is \$1,515,926.11.

We are currently at 89% 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 invest in our students and further demonstrate their commitment to making Christian education accessible. THANK YOU!

SPRING APPEAL AND PHONE-A-THON

The spring appeal mailing and Phone-A-Thon will begin on April 19th and run through the end of the fiscal year. These efforts will help close the fiscal year as we work to reach our Eagles Fund goal by the end of June. All funds raised will support tuition support and student support services.

EVENTS

We're excited to share that due to an overwhelming response, we have reached capacity for the 2021 Eagles Classic Golf Outing benefiting the Eagles Fund on Monday, May 24, 2021.

Thank you to all of our sponsors. If you'd like to be added to the waiting list, please contact Dana Stenstrom, Director of Events, at 616.340.8440 or DStenstrom@grcs.org. Non-golfing sponsorships are still available and would be greatly appreciated in support of the Eagles Fund.

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

We are thrilled to be able to host potential GRCHS students into the building this spring. Our 8th-grade shadow program has been on hold due to COVID, but we are now planning to welcome 8th graders into our classrooms as they discern their high school choice. Each 8th grader is assigned an "Eagle Ambassador" who walks alongside them throughout the day. They will also listen to short presentations about spiritual formation, athletics, fine arts, student life, and other exciting areas of our school.

SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Vellenga and Mrs. Seth have been busy touring new families around the middle school. Families typically come in to learn more about the school, ask questions about who we are and what we do at GRCMS. Mrs. Vellenga gives tours to show them the teachers and students in action. Some families choose to send their students for a shadow day. During a shadow day, a student comes to visit the middle school for a day. He or she is paired up with a GRCMS student who then helps the visitor see what it is like to be a student at GRCMS. Our students love to meet new people. Visiting students are welcomed with open arms! Enrollment at the middle school continues to be strong and it is a place where families feel welcomed!

BEN BUURSMA — ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN PRINCIPAL

Starting with Open House events in January, admissions work continues at a steady pace into the Spring. Director of Admissions, Linda Vellenga, has been busy touring many prospective families and sharing about the Christ-centered, nature-rich learning happening at RCS. Excitement and interest from the community remain high, especially in our younger grades.

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Not long ago, a few teachers and I met to discuss cultural heritage months and how they are celebrated here at Iroquois. I met with the representation of our Faculty Council to make sure we are celebrating these months respectfully and appropriately. I'm excited to share that a committee has been formed, and is currently working on a mission statement, and answering questions about why we should and how we should celebrate cultural heritage months. I look forward to seeing what more is developed from this committee.

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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 nine 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 if unused will be applied towards operational debt.

GRCS continues to wait to hear confirmation on the Forgiveness of the PPP Loan received in April 2020. In February 2021, the SBA requested GRCS resubmit the Forgiveness Application without including Eagle Impact payroll costs.

GRCS has been working on additional funding opportunities 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. GRCS expects to qualify for the credit in 2020 and in the 1st quarter of 2021.

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. The GRCS Business Office has completed the EANS applications for all five campuses and will submit to the MDE before the April 30 deadline.

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NEWS AND UPDATES.



NEWS AND UPDATES

BRAD MOCKABEE — GRCHS PRINCIPAL

Spring sports are rolling! As you may have heard, the MDHHS is requiring regular COVID testing for all teenage athletes. Jason Heerema and our athletic department have set up detailed systems to test all our athletes in middle school and high school. We are praying for continued opportunities for our spring athletes who missed their seasons last year!

On April 29, our theater department will premier the musical “Ranked.” Here is a summary of the storyline: “Lily is in her first semester of high school and is above the average, barely. Soon the giant, and very public, academic leaderboards will update everyone’s class rank, and ... for another day ... everyone will know their place. If you fall below the average, say goodbye to college, and pretty much everything else. Below the Average students are nothing more than social outcasts, not worth anyone’s time. In the face of an intense and perverse culture of performance, Lily must find her place in the status quo as she watches friends and enemies alike destroy themselves and each other to score their way to the top.

When an impossible-to-imagine lie is discovered, the fate of these students’ futures hangs in the balance.” We hope you can join us digitally for this performance!

SARA SETH — GRCMS PRINCIPAL

During March, middle school students have participated in the Battle of the Books in the Learning Commons. Once again, the Learning Commons hosted a Battle of the Books competition, similar to March Madness. Students submitted their favorite book titles to those who work in the Learning Commons. Mrs. DeVries seeded the books and created

a bracket. The voting all happened online. The students voted in Round 1, Round 2 (the top 32 books), then the Elite Eight, and lastly, the Final Four round of the Battle of the Books competition. We are grateful to our staff for putting the time and energy into fun competitions such as this that give students opportunities to be excited about reading. Just before spring break, the winner was announced! And the winner is “The One and Only Ivan” by Katherine Applegate! Excellent work to both teachers and students for keeping our students reading! The benefits of reading cannot be overstated!

JOHN BARKEL — IROQUOIS CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

The Iroquois campus recently received new tables and chairs that can be used as needed for social distancing. They are easy to transport from one location to another, and in the meantime, have replaced the older library furniture that has been in need of replacement. They look great and will give our kids many years of learning in comfort!



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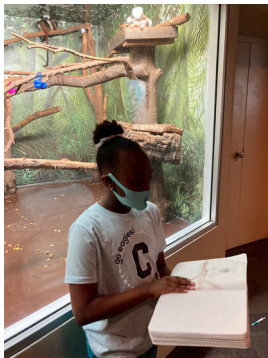
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CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**

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

NEWS AND UPDATES. NEWS — CONTINUED

ANN BAKKER — EVERGREEN CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Reading is Freaky Fun at Evergreen! We celebrated National Reading Month with Freaky Fun Fridays: Read a Shirt Day, Read in Day (yes, we read all day!), Team Day, and Shades Day. Announcements were made over the intercom to drop everything and read several times during the month of March. Classroom teachers read a book from or about a different culture each week. During library time the Team Three students competed in March Mystery Madness and Team Two students read biographies of famous women.



March 22-26 was the annual Zoo Week for Team Three students. The Evergreen fourth and fifth-grade students spent their days at the zoo doing animal observations, learning about conservation, and exploring the zoo's exhibits. It was great to be in person at the zoo this year.

The Evergreen Helping Hands group sponsored a food drive for Baxter Community Food Pantry during the month of March. The Helping Hands group comprises Team Three and Team Two students who choose to volunteer time to help others in our community. These students made posters and recorded videos to share information



about the food drive with their Evergreen classmates. Students brought food to school to share with the Baxter Community. Thank you to the Helping Hands!