

Good Shepherd Lutheran School

2021 State-of-the-School Report

September - 2021

From the Principal

As we begin the 2021-2022 school year, it isn't unusual to have everyone's blood pressure rise just a little bit. After the previous year's COVID issues, many parents are anxious about approaching another school year. The teachers were certainly worn out from the previous year, so making preparations for a new school year was somewhat overwhelming for all involved. We are all tired of hearing about COVID; we are all ready to move on. And yet the topic is still part of our daily routine. Will the students still have to wear masks? Will the school year be more "back to normal" this year? What will things look like a couple of months from now? The reality is that we don't know the future. The comforting fact is that we don't need to.

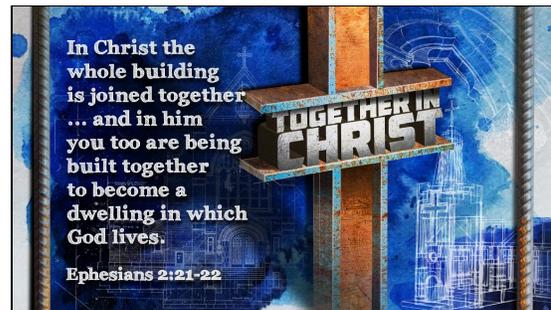
What a blessing it is to know that all things are in God's hands. He already has our upcoming school year under his care. He already has blessings planned for each family and their children. We are assured that he will guide our teachers and watch over their classrooms as they interact with the students. And if that isn't enough, God gives us other Christians to help and support us as we face whatever challenges may lie ahead.

Our theme for this year, *Together in Christ*, reminds us that we are not going through the issues of this earthly life or the challenges of our spiritual lives alone. As Ephesians says, "We are being built together to become a dwelling in



which God lives by His Spirit". We are all here to help and encourage one another. But this is not just a temporary, "feel good" encouragement. We focus all our encouragement on Jesus, who is the foundation of all that we do throughout the coming school year. Ephesians also reminds us that "In Christ the whole building is joined together". That building refers to us, Christ's children. It is our focus on God's Word and the message of our Savior that helps us unite and face whatever comes our way.

We will strive to remember this message as we go throughout the 2021-2022 school year. We don't truly know what will happen with COVID issues. We don't know what challenges the Lord may place in the path of individuals or families. But we do know that each day we will have God's Word as our foundation. We do know that God gives us fellow Christians to lean on for support. We do know that God will use us and whatever circumstances may arise to help carry out his will. May we all find comfort in that as go through another school year!



Our 2021-2022 Faculty

Chery Streckert

Part-time Preschool Teacher
Preschool Director

Teri Redders

Preschool Teacher

Joanie Arndt

Part-time Preschool Teacher

Rachel Hansen

Kindergarten Teacher

Mary Story

Kindergarten Teacher

Jodeen Britton

1st-Grade Teacher

Becky Birr

2nd-Grade Teacher

Jeanine Heller

3rd-Grade Teacher
Music Coordinator

Justin Hansen

4th-Grade Teacher

Tracy Birkholz

Part-time 5th-6th Grade Teacher

Bill Arndt

5th-6th Grade Teacher
Athletic Director

David Retzlaff

7th-8th Grade Teacher
Principal

In the spring, Leah Samuelson accepted a divine call to Christ Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids, MN. We are very thankful for Leah's years of faithful service to Good Shepherd and wish her God's blessings as she begins her new position in Coon Rapids.

As our school year came to a close, we called Teri Redders to fill Leah's position as our preschool teacher of the 3-year-olds. We are thankful that Teri accepted that call and is beginning her work at Good Shepherd this fall.

The congregation also called Tracy Birkholz to a 1/4-time position to help provide some administrative-release time for the principal. She will plan to teach grades 5-6 while Bill Arndt

goes into the 7th-8th grade classroom for three afternoons each week.

Due to a higher than anticipated enrollment in this year's Kindergarten class, the congregation also requested a graduate from MLC to teach a second Kindergarten classroom. Mary Story was assigned to us, and we now have two separate Kindergarten classrooms for the first time in our school's history. We are thankful to have Mary join our faculty and help us in this important aspect of our school's ministry.

Meet the 2021 Board

Corey Schmiedeberg

Chairman/Finances/Scholarships

BJ Anderson

Grades 1-8 Promotion
Accreditation

Brian Davis

Preschool/Kindergarten Promotion
Accreditation

Nate Owens

Kidz Club
PTO
Athletics

Dan Ludwig

Sunday School / Youth Group
Pioneers

Standardized Testing

Each year the students in grades 4-8 take the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) standardized test. Listed below are the accumulated results over the last two years. We are thankful for such high scores over two school years that were greatly affected by COVID.

Area / Grade	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Math	73	71	75	84	93
Reading	66	66	66	70	67
Language	71	70	73	78	75

National Percentiles (Average Nation Percentile = 50)
Average of winter scores from 2020 and 2021

Accreditation

Our school is accredited through the Minnesota Non-Public School Accreditation Association (MNSAA). COVID threw a wrench into our accreditation cycle, but in January of 2021, a visiting team was able to carry out their work and validate our self-study report. The accreditation renewal is annual, but in 6 years, we will be scheduled for another self-study and visitation. Part of the overall process is to create a new strategic plan that helps guide our future efforts. **That updated plan containing specific goals and progress can be found on our school's website (www.gsburnsville.com).**

Why do we seek accreditation?

Credibility

It delivers recognized credibility of the quality of the school's program in the eyes of stakeholders and the public.

Validation of Excellence

It offers objective, outside validation that a school has met high standards of excellence and is actively seeking a quality education program

Continuous Improvement

It provides for long-range, strategic planning focused on student achievement and ongoing school improvements.

Accountability

It provides local and ongoing accountability as schools provide reports identifying progress, achieving goals, facing opportunities or obstacles to growth, communicating with stakeholders, and monitoring the progress of its learners.

Tuition Rates

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
GS	\$2862	\$3070	\$3270	\$3600	\$3780
Other	\$5150	\$5400	\$5650	\$6200	\$6386

Future Opportunities

- Determine the future impact of COVID on our school's enrollment
- Evaluate enrollment trends and adjust staffing and physical plant needs accordingly
- Maintain a focus on God's Word in a world that is pushing critical race theory and gender identity issues

Enrollment Statistics

<i>(September 2021)</i>	
Kindergarten	15
Kindergarten	16
Grade 1	15
Grade 2	17
Grade 3	15
Grade 4	14
Grade 5	10
Grade 6	8
Grade 7	16
Grade 8	10
Total	136
Church Background	
GOOD SHEPHERD	59
% of Enrollment	43%
WELS/ELS	16
% of Enrollment	12%
OTHER CHRISTIAN	37
% of Enrollment	27%
NO CHURCH HOME	24
% of Enrollment	18%

Start children off in the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.
-Proverbs 22:6

