Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN

Bethany
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Summer 2021
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Cover photo:

Class of 2021 listen in as commencement speaker Daniel Nafziger, M.D., Infections Disease Specialist, at Goshen Health shares his ten tips to live by.

Inquiries about joining the Bethany community can be directed to admissions@bethanycs.net.

CHANGING SCHEDULES, MASK-WEARING, QUARANTINING - OH MY!

"We made it!" That was a refrain I heard over and over as the 2020-21 school year came to a close. For most of us, 20-21 will always be known as the COVID year. We all dealt with changing schedules, remote instruction, 6-foot social distancing, mask-wearing, disinfecting, temperature checking, and quarantining. Though they contributed to a general feeling of angst, these were ultimately things we could control or learn to accommodate.

Despite all the disruption caused by COVID-19, we did not lose sight of the simple truths of education: **Children need to be known, loved, and nurtured; learning can be joyful, even when it is hard; a strong community fosters strength and resiliency.** Because our sights were set on our clear mission, much of school proceeded as normal. Teachers taught, students learned, and thankfully no one became seriously ill.

In the midst of adversity, we discovered Bethany can really knock our socks off. This is evident in the senior faith statements (pp 4-5), in the creative interterm courses that teachers put together (pp 6-7), and in the love we felt from our community (pp 8-9). I am extremely proud of our school community and feel blessed to be a part of such a committed and dedicated group of people working to prepare students to participate in God's work in the world.

I am looking forward to seeing how Bethany continues to transform over the coming years as we live into our vision of becoming a comprehensive k-12 school. We are so excited to add a third grade in 2021-22 and have already begun planning for the addition of first and second grades in 2022-23.

This year we are recommitting ourselves to engaging with BCS alumni. Among the staff changes happening this year is a new position filled by Eric Dyck Hilty, who will focus most of his work on alumni– no matter where you live. In the coming months, expect a couple of surveys. The first one is about the Bulletin. We are interested in learning what you actually need and want from this publication. The link for this survey is on the back page; please take a few moments to respond. This will help us better understand and serve you.



Tim Lehman, Ed. D
Head of School

DEATHS

Raymond Yoder ('66)
Auburn, Ind., Jan. 26, 2021
Don Newcomer ('57)
Shipshewana, Ind., Feb. 4, 2021
Leonard Ropp ('57)
Simpsonville, S.C., Feb. 28, 2021
Malinda Yoder ('66)
Indianapolis, Ind., Mar. 18, 2021
Sandra Kauffman ('62)
Middlebury, Ind., Mar. 24, 2021
John Paul Wenger ('59)
Detroit, Mich., May 18, 2021

BiRTHS

Kaila (Swartley) Martin ('06) and Brian Martin celebrated the birth of Cayden Jacob Martin on June 7, 2020, in Harrisonburg, Va.

Laura Rheinheimer ('01) and Pedro de Leon celebrate the birth of Rolondo de Leon Rheinheimer in May 2020.

Anna Ruth Hershberger ('00) and Darren Miller celebrated the birth of Iona Arlettamay Hershberger Miller on April 2, 2021, in Goshen, Ind.

MARRIAGES

Ian Bomberger ('16) and **Abbi Hawkins ('16)**, Columbia City, May 8, 2021.

Ryan Miller ('14) and **Carolyn Saylor ('15)**, Goshen, June 19, 2021.

NOTES

Trevor Daugherty ('07) and his wife Breanna are now the owners and publishers of *Edible Michiana*, an award-winning regional food and culture magazine. Additionally, Trevor has a production ceramics studio in Goshen, Ind.

Elijah Lora ('16) is an intern for the Indiana House of Representatives. He is working for Republican Joanna King, House District 49 Representative.

BCS Alumni SEND US YOUR NEWS
We are interested in hearing about your engagements, weddings, children, jobs/promotions, and awards/recognition.
We'd love to share your news! Email: alumni@bethanycs.net

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COMMENCEMENT 2021

"The complexity of the world is increasing, so it is important to know what you believe and have rules to live out those beliefs." Dr. Daniel Nafziger gave a message of faith and work in his address to the class of 2021 at Bethany Christian High School's 67th commencement on May 30.

Dr. Nafziger, Chief Medical Officer at Goshen Health and a specialist in infectious diseases, described ten rules that guided him in his work over the past year. He told the graduates, "It helps to know your values in uncertain times and an uncertain future. Knowing your values as you choose your life's work can make your work a joy and not a chore."

"Hopefully because of the last year when so many social relationships have been disrupted, you have a clearer understanding of the importance of those relationships," said Dr. Nafziger

A limited number of family and friends gathered for the in-person commencement in the high school gym, while sitting socially distanced and masked due to local COVID-19 practices. Fortunately, extended family and friends were able to join via live-stream.

Senior class speakers Naomi Lapp Klassen and Kameron Branum reflected on their past four years in high school and recognized their class was not perfect but was "jam packed with creativity, determination, and joy." The speakers thanked each classmate for their rich, diverse and authentic contribution to their



community. Naomi ended by saying, "We're not perfect, but we're trying. And whatever the future holds — **we will never forget the foundation and community Bethany has provided us.** Here's to imperfection! …

Let's go change the world."

Class officers presented the class gift to Board Chair Rex Hochstedler: money to be used towards landscaping the new athletic complex that is now underway. To end the ceremony class sponsors Elizabeth Franks-North and Aaron Johnson handed each graduate a ceramic mug made by retiring art teacher Eric Kaufmann.

Of the 35 graduates, 21 plan to attend Christian colleges (16 Mennonite), 11 plan to attend public/private colleges/universities. One is planning a 9 month mission trip with World Race and two are undecided or planning to work.







SENIOR FAITH STATEMENTS

The final assignment for the senior Bible class, Christian Faith Journey, is for each senior to share his or her faith journey, present beliefs, and future dreams and/or plans with their community. Students share their presentations in class, during chapel, or in a small group setting usually outside of school. The following excerpts are from presentations given during chapels.

Trami Nguyen



I grew up never going to church. Some of my neighbors did and I always wondered what it would be like, but I only went once or twice. What I knew of church as a child was "the place where we pick up eggs" on Easter. Other than the fact that my parents are Buddhists, I didn't really have a religious background. Coming to Bethany, I didn't know much about Christianity. I had multiple encounters where friends would ask me if I believe in God, or what my religion was, and I never knew how to answer it. I would just say "I don't know, my parents are Buddhists but I don't think I am" and leave it at that.

The verse that is one of the most important ones in my life is in 1 Corinthians 12:12-14: "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many." I chose this verse because it represents diversity in the world, but it's mostly a reminder that diversity is important in all of our lives.

Growing up as a person of color in a predominantly white community, it was difficult for me to "fit in" with the rest of my friends. I felt different than them and I didn't really have a place. I was constantly comparing myself and had self doubt. All because of cultural differences and the fact that I looked different. There are still things that happen that hurt me to this day and that I will continue to struggle with. Through it all, this verse reminds me that we are all equal and we are all on the same Earth.

Trami plans to attend Purdue University and study user-experience-design with a minor in computer science or product life-cycle management. She is hopeful that during the next four years she will build on her beliefs and learn to connect spiritually with the world around her.

Ana Yoder



I've always struggled with faith growing up. I went to a very Christian elementary school where we recited the books of the Bible and their chapter headings from memory. As an elementary student, I grew frustrated with all the limitations that were set on me. I began to grow frustrated with the word "God" and its connotations that had been established in my tiny, very conservative school.

God's word on love is actually what I have based my life around since I was little. 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7, also known as the love chapter.

While carrying this frustration with God into high school, I found that if I replace the word "God" with "life", the whole connotation of the passage changes. When I hear scripture and replace the word "god" with life, I find it more calming and relatable because for me, I feel like I have explicitly experienced life, whereas I have usually felt alienated from God.

When times are hard and bad things happen, I hope I have a community that lifts me up. I probably will gravitate towards a Mennonite community, simply because it's what I'm familiar with and I have similar values. I was raised to believe that community is the most important part of the church. If you don't go to church for God, then you go for the community. I hope to be a part of a community that welcomes questions and frustrations about God, and life.

Love is what has gotten me this far: the love I have received from my friends and family, my teachers and even some strangers. The love that I give has also carried me on my journey, because you can't receive love, if you don't give love. I think it is my understanding of love that has allowed me to forge meaningful relationships that have helped me through hard times. It's that same, deep love that I carry with me that I want to share with my community now and in the future.

Ana Yoder plans to attend Goshen College and further her journey of Christian faith in the form of psychology and theology classes. She thinks it's important to obtain knowledge from different backgrounds, especially religious backgrounds.

Tyson Miller



As long as I can remember faith has been a part of my schooling. The Bethany community has especially been ingrained in my life with my parents, a grandparent, several aunts and uncles, a cousin and a sibling all Bethany grads. Obviously attending a private Christian school has shaped how I think about faith. I've gone to church my whole life. For the most part my relationship with faith and the Church has mostly been one of community.

One verse that I like is 1 Thessalonians 5:14: "And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone." I like it because it makes me think of sports. I try to be a good teammate but I'm not usually the most patient person in the world. I like this verse because it reminds me that not only do I need to make an effort to pick up my teammates and help them be as good as they can be but I also need to have some grace, both for myself and with others, something I struggle with from time to time.

I have so many relationships with people from my church. The community I have got from going to church my whole life and growing up around all these people is so valuable. I have come to the conclusion that one needs two communities in their life, one bigger and one smaller. One is a church community. There is value in being a part of a church. The community and support can be insane and I have seen it in action enough to recognize that. The other community is one that is smaller, friends that I can hang out with and be close with. I think that both are necessary to being happy and cared for in life. Missing one would feel incomplete as they both kind of take care of different aspects of life.

Tyson Miller will be attending Goshen College. He plans to study communications with a minor in business. He would like to use his skills producing media to help people and to bring awareness to issues.

Isabella Hartzler



I moved from Brownsville, Texas, to Goshen the summer before my 6th grade year. I've gone to church my whole life. I have attended Spanish Mennonite churches, Assembly of God, and multiple non-denominational churches influenced by Baptist, Protestant, and evangelical beliefs. At one point, I went to a Pentecostal church. I'm glad to say that after I moved to Indiana, my family finally settled down at Waterford Mennonite Church.

My relationship with God and faith has always been a little rocky and that's not easy for me to admit. I was so wrapped up in the fact that my faith journey wasn't conventional to realize that it wasn't supposed to be. Everyone's faith journey looks different and there is no perfect cookie cutter way for it to look like.

A Bible passage that has had an extreme impact on my life is 2 Corinthians 4:8-9: "We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed." Through my darkest times this verse has been my companion. It's a reminder that no matter what comes my way, the good or the bad, I am never abandoned by God. Sure there have been plenty of times where it's felt like I have been abandoned by God. But then there are days where someone says something kind, shares a small smile with me, gives me a hug, or I feel a moment of peace. Then I know, God is right there. I know that I am never truly alone.

I want a community that cares for each other, one that relies and supports each other. I believe that community isn't something that should be forced. I think that many of my friendships have been something I didn't expect. My friend group has a lot of common ground in some areas but in others not so much. Yet something I love about my friends is that we let each other shine in our own way. No one is forced to conform or be something that they are not. We love each other—ugly parts and all. I hope to continue to find more communities and experience friendships with different people in college.

I would like to share a quote that my cousin shared with me from Mariane Williamson: "As we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence actually liberates others."

Isabella Hartzler is planning to attend Goshen College and majoring in social work with a minor in American Sign Language. She is passionate about helping others, which wakes her up and fills her with joy. She has prayed to God early in her life to give her purpose and to use her to do good. She is ready to see what God has in store for her.

INTERTERM 2021



4th and 5th grade create their own super hero costumes.

Interterm looked a little different this year, but it still had a mix of the old and new that is familiar with Bethany interterm experiences. Due to the prevailing pandemic concerns, several adaptations were made for this year's classes. First, interterm was moved from March to late April with limited travel, allowing athletes to participate in afternoon matches. And second, seniors joined interterm classes since their class trip was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

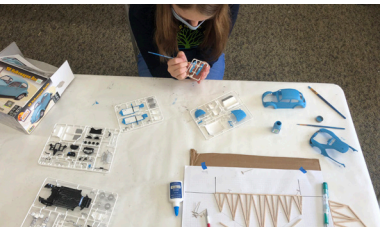
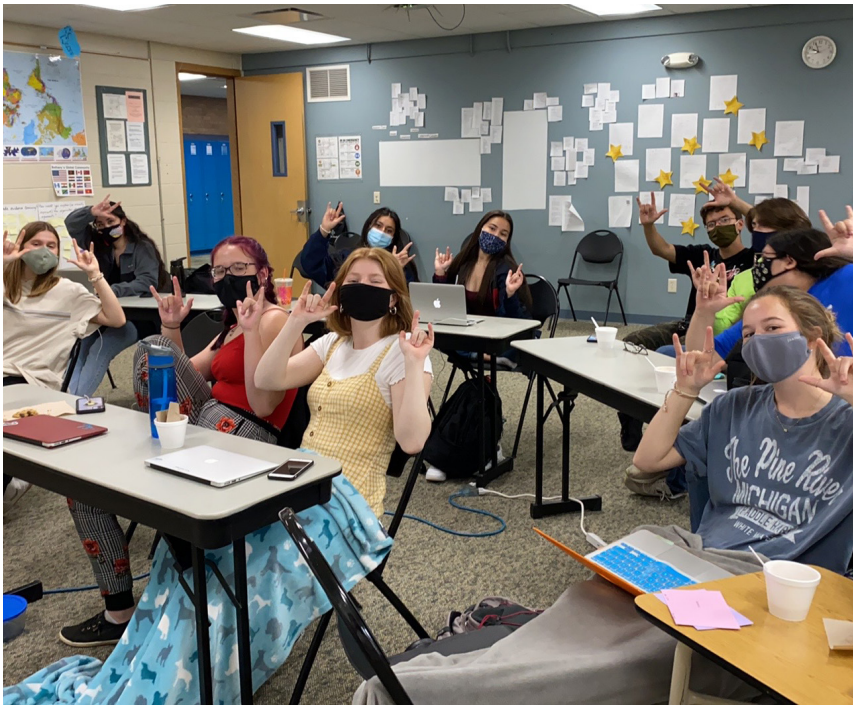
There were a total of 24 different interterm classes. High school had one class while lower and middle school students rotated through 2-3 classes each day. Fortunately, with warmer temperatures in April, interterm classes like Soccer, Cycling, Being Well, and the Farm and Forest found time to enjoy the outdoors.

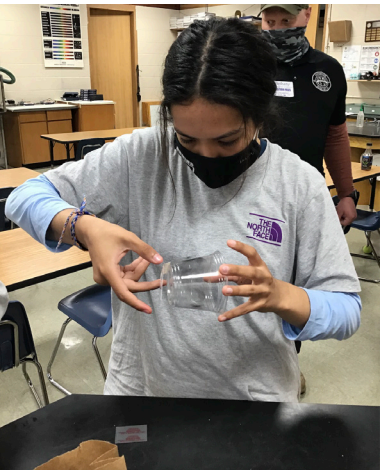
Highlights from this year's high school interterm experience included: planting 500 trees on a farm in Michigan, constructing a chicken coop, cycling into headwinds on a return outing from Elkhart, learning power chords on electric guitars, using a PCR thermo-cycler to conduct DNA fingerprinting, starting the morning with tea and yoga stretches, winning a game of Mahjong, understanding a conversation in American Sign Language, producing a short film using key elements of feature films, and visiting the South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center.

Lower and middle school interterm highlights included: pricing rookie baseball cards, practicing the art of felting, designing and wiring an architectural model home, modeling the digestive system, making superhero costumes, painting model car parts, baking bread, writing poetry, composing songs, creating up-cycled bags, and determining "whodunit" during a mystery meal.

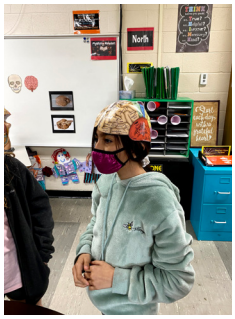




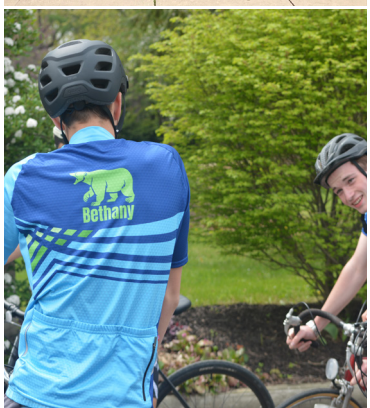









Bethany



BETHANY

GROUNDBREAKING FOR ATHLETIC COMPLEX



"Our mission at Bethany is to prepare students to participate in God's work in the world."

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new athletic complex was held on May 15. This event marks the successful completion of the Great Strides Capital Campaign, a $2.08 million project to build a track and upgrade safety and accessibility of the complex. In April 2020, Bethany received a grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, which allowed Bethany's plans to accommodate an expansion of the Winona Trail bicycle and pedestrian path for the City of Goshen.

During the ceremony, Jeremy Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen said, "It is an exciting day and exciting moment to see Bethany Christian Schools continue to expand and offer more to our youth." He added, "A lot happens in the community due to partnerships and I'm proud to say the community of Goshen and Bethany Christian Schools have been great partners for a long time."

Tim Lehman, Bethany Head of School, thanked the many people who assisted, organized and brought this project together including the mayor of Goshen, staff, board members, foundations and businesses. "The track is the centerpiece of the project… and the pedestrian entrance will be the 'new front door' of the athletic complex."

"Our mission at Bethany is to prepare students to participate in God's work in the world, and we love the way this project has allowed us to work with our neighbors and partners—the City of Goshen and Winchester Trails—to improve the health and safety of future students and visitors to our campus."

Sarah Lind, Bethany's Advancement Director, ended the ceremony by thanking the many donors for their contributions to the Great Strides Campaign and offering a slice of cake to celebrate the beginning of the transformation.







OFFICIAL TOTALS FOR ATHLETIC MATCHES

As part of the Great Strides campaign, our Bruin Blue campaigns were a great success this spring. We raised more than $50,000 over the three week-long campaigns, thanks to generous match funds offered as a challenge by alumni and coaches. We are so grateful for the many alumni athletes, current parents and grandparents, and Bruin fans from all over who sent in funds during the match challenges. We are making that new track BRUIN BLUE and we can't wait to welcome you to our newly updated fields, bleachers and wheelchair accessible paths in 2022. The diggers have arrived!





$21,575



$18,067



$10,730



NEW ADDITIONS TO THE BETHANY FACULTY AND STAFF COMMUNITY



Karin Fast will be Bethany's first third-grade teacher. She comes to Bethany after 7 years at the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh. She graduated from Rockway Mennonite Collegiate and Goshen College with a BA in elementary and special education. Karin's interests include the arts, directing school plays and incorporating singing into her lessons. Karin and her husband David will move to Goshen this summer.

Jared Leaman will be the middle school Language Arts teacher. He was a mentor teacher and taught language arts and social studies at Goshen Middle School. He earned his Master of Arts in Education from Indiana Wesleyan and is a graduate of Eastern Mennonite High School, Hesston College, and Eastern Mennonite University. Jared and his wife Addie ('05) attend College Mennonite Church and have three children Sophi, Ryne and Brooklyn. The oldest children will attend Bethany in 6th and 3rd grades.





Vanessa Adcock is joining Bethany as the Enrollment Director. She is a graduate of Bethany ('02) and Goshen College. Her experience includes admissions work at Rhinelander Children's Center in New York City. Vanessa serves on the board of Eighth Street Preschool and volunteers with Model Elementary PTO and in Bethany's advancement office. She is an active member of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Church. Vanessa and her husband Dan have two children, Olivia will be a 5th grader at Bethany and Elliot in Kindergarten.

Christa Janzen will be the grade 3-12 art teacher. Christa comes from Heartland Community Schools in Henderson, Nebraska. She has helped students display and organize their work for art shows and festivals. Active in her church and community, she was the chair of her congregation's Bible school committee. She is a graduate of Central Christian High School (OH) and Bethel College (KS) and majored in art education with certification in special education. Christa and her husband Scott, and daughters Norah and Sadie, will move to Goshen this summer.





Eric Dyck Hilty began as Advancement Associate for Bethany in April. His primary responsibilities are alumni relations and annual fundraising. Eric and his wife Heidi are members at Sunnyside Mennonite. A graduate of Goshen College, he has extensive teaching and administrator experience at international schools in Burkina Faso, India and Russia. He enjoys trying new cuisines, traveling, gardening and walking. He is excited to hear stories from the past and share stories of the present with the growing Bethany community.

Sumer Schlabach joined Bethany as the Marketing and Communication Manager in May. She has several years of experience in graphic design, photography and videography and worked in marketing at Lippert Components and Nuway Construction. Sumer and her husband Jared attend First Baptist Church of Goshen and have three children attending Bethany, Josiah finished grade 11, Jayden grade 9, and Saghan grade 5. Sumer enjoys gardening and spending time with family.



GRAND FRIENDS DAY



On May 7, grandparents and grand friends of Bethany's 4th, 5th and 6th graders spent a morning on campus with their special child. Amidst the pandemic, a record number of grand friends enjoyed a time together, listening to the lower school orchestra, high school choir and a trio of saxophonists. Among the grandparents, Don and Alice Imbur traveled all the way from Virginia to spend time with their granddaughter Natalie. They said this was their first trip to see family since the pandemic.

After the ceremony, grand friends toured the school and then had a photo taken with their grandchild.

Love is the greatest gift that one generation can leave to another.

~Richard Garnett









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DATES TO KNOW

JULY
SPORTS CAMPS all through July - More Details at bethanycs.net/bruinssportscamps
AUGUST
August 3 - New Student & Family Orientation
August 10 - First Day of School
August 12 - Frosh Retreat
August 13 - HS Day Away
August 13 - BCS Kickoff Night
SEPTEMBER
Sept. 17 - Music on the Lawn
Sept. 25 - Alumni Class Reunions
OCTOBER
Oct. 29 - Senior Class Fish Fry
NOVEMBER
Nov. 7 - Drop-In Open House for Prospective Families
Nov. 15 - Visit Day for Prospective Students 6-10 Grade
Nov. 18 - Visit Morning for grades 3-5
Nov. 20 - Donor Appreciation Event
DECEMBER
Dec. 10 - Christmas Gala

BCS Alumni
WE NEED YOU!

We are very interested in your feedback about The Bulletin. We want to ensure it has the topics and interests that appeal to you. Please take our short survey and give us your opinion about the look, topics, what's missing, etc.

Please visit bethanycs.net/bulletinsurvey/



To stay connected with all the latest happenings at Bethany, follow us on