

# THE COURIER

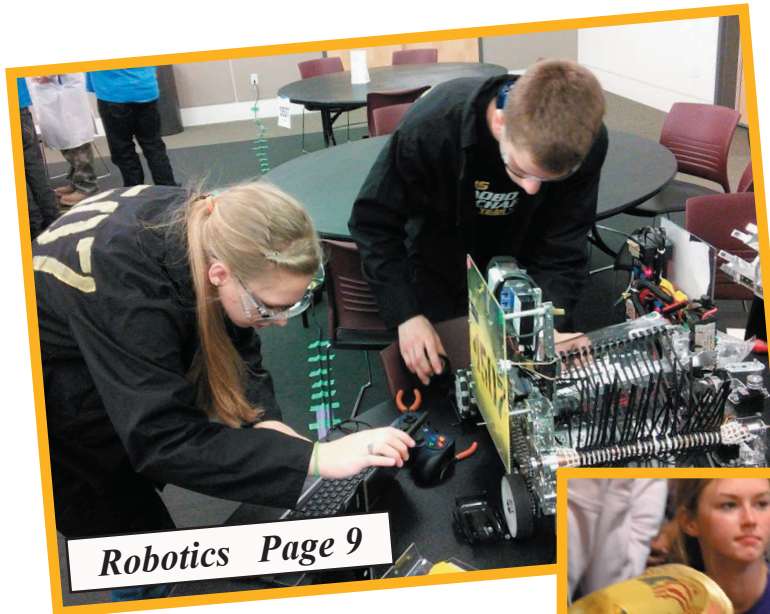
*SPRING  
2015*

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**COVENANT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL**

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*Robotics Page 9*



*Charger Camps Page 14*

## *Life at Covenant*



*Band Page 7*



*Student Council Activities Page 10*



## THE CHALLENGES

In the last issue of the Courier we began a reflection on God’s goodness to our schools and to Covenant Christian in particular. We considered especially the many gifts that He gives to us in our schools. We looked at the gift of God’s written Word that guides our work and we considered the faithful and supportive parents and church community. We also looked at the blessing of the varied and abundant talents found in our teachers, students, and school Board members.

In this issue, I would like to reflect on the some of the challenges that we face as a school. It is not possible to maintain any organization, much less a school, without facing many challenges over the course of time. Some of these challenges are the result of internal activity and the normal operations of the school. Other challenges are the result of external forces and changes in the world around us that affect what we are doing. Our focus in this issue will be on those internal challenges.

### GROWTH

We are very blessed to be able to see projections in the years ahead of an increasing number of students. Our feeder schools are growing and this will translate to more students at Covenant. Most Christian schools these days are not finding themselves in this situation. Growth within the system can be a very positive thing. Along with increased enrollment there will generally be increased opportunities for the students. One of the great challenges that comes along with growth is the need to find additional teachers for all the different subjects that must be taught.

**Teachers**—Covenant Christian has been greatly blessed over the years by being able to staff the school with competent, qualified teachers. We have had some struggles in finding staff in certain areas of the curriculum, but generally we have been able to fill the positions that were open. We have some cause for concern when we look at the demand for teachers in the future and consider the small number of young people that are pursuing the field of Education. This is true, not only for us at Covenant, but for all of our Protestant Reformed schools. It is becoming increasingly important for our high schools. Years ago, Covenant was the only high school in the denomination and there was a good supply of teachers interested in teaching high school aged students. Now we have full-fledged, growing high schools in Dyer, Indiana and Hull, Iowa. In addition to those schools, there are also newly formed Protestant Reformed high schools in Loveland, Redlands, and Randolph that are or will be expanding by one grade per year. This growth, along with impending retirements in the next 10 years and regular attrition due to those leaving the work of teaching,

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Administrator’s Report	Page 2
Education Committee Report	Page 4
Foundation Report	Page 4
Counseling Department	Page 6
Band Department	Page 7
Spanish Distance Learning	Page 8
Robotics	Page 9
Student Council Activities	Page 10
National Merit Scholarship	Page 11
CED Projects	Page 12
Charger Camps	Page 14
School Fundraisers	Page 15
Athletic Director’s Report	Page 16

points to a greater demand for new teachers in all subject areas. It is important that we encourage our high school and college aged children, to consider the work of being a teacher in our schools. It is a high calling and it is a work that is greatly rewarding. This increased need for teachers should be a concern to our school boards and our parents.

**Facilities**—Another challenge that comes with growth is the need for additional facilities. At Covenant we have been blessed with School Board members who have seen the need to plan for the long term. Our Long Range Planning Committee meets regularly and keeps the future needs of the school in mind. This committee guides the Board in its responsibility to provide adequate facilities and property to meet future demands. Our Board is currently anticipating the next phase of construction around the year 2018 or 2019.

### CURRICULUM

Another internal challenge is to maintain a curriculum that is relevant to the needs of our students as they must transition to higher education or the work force while also maintaining the distinctive Reformed worldview in all areas. Our school must continually evaluate what is being taught and how it is being taught. We must try to meet the needs of our students that enter a world that is continually changing academically, technologically, and, most important, spiritually.

**Academics**—The challenge in this area is to fight the trend to make high school education too narrow and focused on specific vocational and utilitarian goals. The trend in public education today is to focus the students in a certain subject. Currently there is an effort in West Michigan to have a K-16 school that would focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), with the goal of providing qualified workers for area industries. There are also “magnet schools” that are

focused on the arts, music, technology or the environment. The question that should be asked is, with such a focus, what is going to be left out? We desire to maintain a solid liberal arts base for our students' education so that they are well rounded, with knowledge in many areas and a broad base of basic skills that will readily transfer to many fields. The Christian liberal arts education provides a standard of measure and a point of verification for the knowledge and ideas that our students will encounter in the classroom and for the rest of their life. The acquisition of knowledge in a Christian context gives that knowledge a meaning and purpose it would not otherwise have. Our faith—our knowledge of God and His Word—provides an essential organizing and clarifying framework so that we can see every facet of truth in light of his Word.

**Technology**—In the area of technology, our challenge is to provide the devices and the supporting infrastructure along with instruction in the educational use of these technologies. Over the years we have been able to continually increase the availability of computers and other devices to our students and teachers. (Perhaps some of you still remember the first computer terminal that we had in the “computer closet” where we were allowed to play the Oregon Trail game.) We have done a good job of instructing our students in the use of these tools for their school work and for future education. Our next challenge, for many entering college and the work force, is to provide instruction in programming computers and writing code to direct the computer to do various tasks required in business, industry, and education.

**Spiritually**—The challenge here is two-fold involving the students on the one hand and the teachers on the other. We need to teach our students how to apply the Bible and Biblical truth to every subject that they are learning. We also need to teach them how to apply their knowledge of the Bible to the situations that they may face in their future. These are not new tasks for the Christian school. This has been the focus of our work for as long as we have existed. The challenge comes in teaching our youth to be able to recognize erroneous practices, beliefs, and worldviews in a world in which so many of these errors are jumbled together, often in the name of Reformed Christianity, and everyone is encouraged to be tolerant of everyone else's ways. This is true especially in the modern church world of today. Our students need to have knowledge in many areas of life and skills to be able to truly be shining lights in this world. They need to be motivated and equipped to defend the truth. Today's world does not appreciate those who have distinctive beliefs and are willing to base all of their life's decisions, without compromise, on those beliefs. As our world becomes increasingly tolerant of all beliefs and intolerant of those that stand firm, we will need to be well armed for the defense our faith and our worldview.

The other aspect of this challenge is that our teachers need to continually work to be aware of the changes that are going on around them and to keep these things in mind as they develop lessons for their classes. There are several

aspects of a teacher's world that are subject to change.

**First**, there are changes in the subject matter that occur. These developments include new discoveries and knowledge, new applications of current knowledge, new authors, and new thoughts on old ideas. Over a period of time, all teachers have to reevaluate their materials and their teaching methods.

**Second**, the students are changing. Because of the influences of the world around them and the experiences that they have in their life, the students that come into our school are not the same as those that came in ten years ago. They have benefited from new academic materials, methods, and technologies during their time in the lower grades.

**Third**, the world that we all live in is changing. Things are changing spiritually as we addressed above. But we also see changes in what our graduates will face in higher education and in the work place. As teachers, we need to be aware of these changes and prepare our students to meet the challenges that they will face.

**Finally**, the teacher is changing. All teachers go through various stages of life. The changes that they face in their lives will often greatly affect how they view the subject matter, the teaching methods that they use, and the manner in which they go about their teaching. As young teachers mature in the work, they begin to see things differently. This can occur as the family of the teacher develops and his/her children get older and share their challenges with the parent/teacher. Marital status can change bringing in new responsibilities, time commitments, and insights into the teacher's life. Along with age and experience can come a spiritual maturity which can shed new light on the work that the teacher performs and change the emphasis found in his/her teaching. As they grow in the knowledge of the Scriptures and the Reformed doctrines, they find new ways to apply these ideas to their teaching.

To help meet these challenges in the changing subject matter, in the students, in the world around us, and in the life and experience of the teacher, it is important that our teachers seek to continually develop themselves professionally. That development should take place as much in the application of spiritual principles as in the development of knowledge and teaching methods. It is important that our school boards, administrators, and teacher organizations encourage and facilitate this type of development, helping the teacher to maintain the overall quality of their work in the school. Only when the teachers are continually working to be the best teacher they can be is the school able to fully attain the goals that it sets forth on behalf of its constituents.

If we look at the challenges that we have described in a negative way we could almost fall into despair. If we see them as opportunities to continually improve what we are doing they can become very motivating. We confess every day that we could not do our jobs without God's direction and his sustaining grace. We pray that he will continue to grant these things unto us as we serve covenant parents and children at Covenant Christian High School.

**FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
Herm DeVries, Chairman



At the time of the writing of this article we are experiencing near record cold temperatures in Michigan. Graduation in June seems like such a long way away. Yet, our work on the Education committee is already beginning to focus on next school year. Budget numbers are being submitted and finalized. Teacher contracts are being offered. Curriculum committee members are considering possible new course offerings. Consideration must be given to growing enrollment and how that affects class sizes and the number of teachers needed to give our students the best education we can. It is a busy time but also a time to pause and count our blessings. What a thrill to be involved with the education of our youth at Covenant Christian. How thankful we are that our parents and supporters still count it a blessing and privilege to have an institution in which the covenant youth can be instructed as an extension of God fearing homes.

The most important part of a successful school is the teaching staff. The Education committee is thankful that we currently have talented and godly teachers to carry out this work. Although, at this time, the teacher contracts have not been signed, we are quite sure most of our teachers will be returning. It looks like we will be looking for a teacher in the math department as Eric Pols is being offered the position in Redlands CA.

The only change to our staff since the last Courier was the hiring of Ruth Brower to replace Linda Van Uffelen in the student counseling department. Although we are well into the school year, the Ed. Committee would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ruth to our staff.

One item of interest is the fact that we were still able to offer our staff Group Health insurance. Although there were increases in the premiums, the teachers did not have to apply individually as many must now do in accord with the rules of the ACA. This will carry thru until the end of November.

At this time of year, along with these necessary items of school board business, we must also solicit the society for men that are willing to take up the work of the board as the "old timers" prepare to step down from their three year terms. We are thankful that we have godly men who are willing to have their names on nomination for the Board. God's covenantal promise that He will draw His people in the line of generations makes this a very serious work indeed.

We close this article by saying on behalf of the whole Board that we covet the prayers and support of our constituency and we pray for the Lord's continued blessing on the work that goes on at Covenant Christian High with regards to the instruction of His young people.

**FROM THE FOUNDATION**  
Justin Koole, Chairman



The work of the Board of the CCHS Foundation consists of reviewing and evaluating the financial statements and investment holdings, reviewing the reports from the two fund raising committees and annually meeting with the representative from the investment broker, Barnabas Foundation.

Currently, there are seven men (six elected and one CCHS Board member representative) serving on the Foundation Board; Dan VanBaren (Trinity) – President; Jordan VanBaren (Hudsonville) – Secretary; Titus Kamps (Faith) – Vice-All; Justin Koole (Faith) – Treasurer; Jon Engelsma (Hope) – trustee; Jim Westing (Hudsonville) – trustee and Dan Bodbyl (CCHS Board liaison). Vibration Research, whose office is located in Jenison, Michigan, is gracious enough to host us six times (early mornings!) per year. The board appreciates their generosity and access to their excellent coffee! The Board thanks the retiring board members Dan VanBaren and Justin Koole for their labors the past 3 years.

The Foundation currently manages and hosts two fund raisers; a golf outing the first Saturday after Labor Day, which has been held at The Mines Golf Course in Grand Rapids, MI for the past several years and a gourmet dinner in the spring (titled the "Taste of Covenant"); usually with a speech and also showcasing the talents of many of CCHS's student body. In case you are wondering, you just missed this year's event, held Friday evening, March 20, at Hudsonville PRC. The success and enjoyment of these two fund raisers depends largely on the many volunteers assisting for each event – some behind-the-scenes and others during the event. The Board takes this opportunity to give our appreciation for the willingness of time that people are able to commit to these functions.

The Foundation comprises two separate funds, the General Fund and the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is a donation, considered a restricted fund, which was given to the Foundation in 1998. These monies are used for curriculum and teacher professional development and/or educational supplies and equipment. This fund was able to contribute \$12,323 to CCHS last calendar year. The balance of this fund as of December 31, 2014, is \$208,364, compared to a balance of \$211,429 at December 31, 2013. Since its inception, this fund has contributed a little over \$182,000 to CCHS.

The General Fund's purpose is to reduce overall tuition and can be used at the discretion of the Board of Covenant. This fund has grown from contributions, fund raising proceeds and various undesignated gifts.

To date, this fund has granted almost \$142,000 to Covenant. The balance at the end of the calendar year 2014 is \$501,782 (compared to a 2013 balance of \$476,178) and \$24,394 was granted to Covenant in 2014. In 2014, the two fund raisers combined to net almost \$30,000!

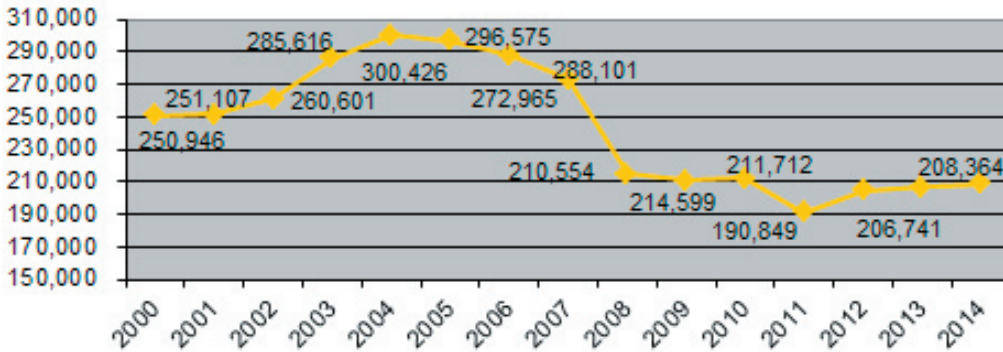
The foundation ended the calendar year with combined assets of \$710,146 and granted \$36,717, or approximately 6% of the total balance to Covenant. From the investment side, the rate of return on the investments was 4.40% for the calendar year 2014, compared to 11.45% for 2013.

The Board genuinely thanks the constituency for your generosity and support of this work.

## History of Endowment Fund Balance and Grants Given

Sept 30	Fund Balance	School Year	Grant Given	% Grant to Balance
2000	250,946	1999/2000	5,000	2.0%
2001	251,107	2000/01	10,000	4.0%
2002	260,601	2001/02	11,000	4.2%
2003	285,616	2002/03	13,000	4.6%
2004	300,426	2003/04	14,000	4.7%
2005	296,575	2004/05	14,000	4.7%
2006	288,101	2005/06	14,000	4.9%
2007	272,965	2006/07	14,000	5.1%
2008	214,599	2007/08	14,000	6.5%
2009	210,554	2008/09	7,000	3.3%
2010	211,712	2009/10	14,000	6.6%
2011	190,849	2010/11	14,375	7.5%
2012	204,737	2011/12	13,208	6.5%
2013	206,741	2012/13	12,390	6.0%
2014	208,364	2013/14	12,340	5.9%

**Endowment Fund Balance**



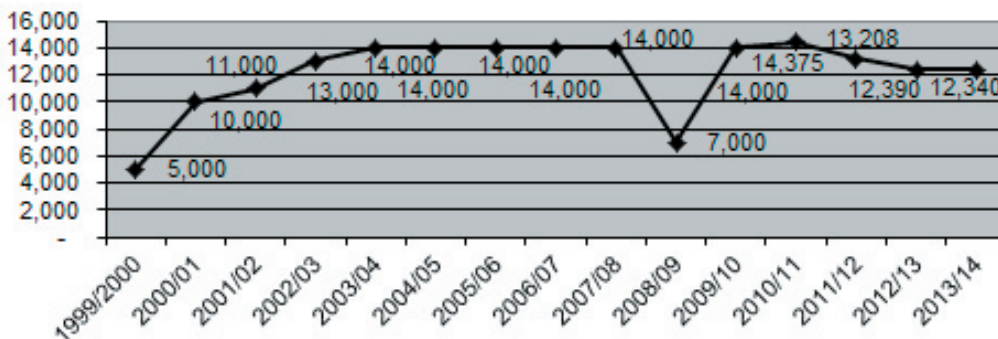
## Fundraisers Taste of Covenant



## Golf Outing



**Grants Given**



# *Biblical Counseling*



“So what do you actually do?” I cannot help but smile when I am asked this question. In this article I would like to give you a small sampling of the activity that takes place in the Guidance Center day in and day out throughout the school year.

As the school year progresses, most of my time is spent talking with students on an individual basis about a wide variety of topics and issues. I usually schedule four class periods worth of appointments a day which leaves the other three class periods available for students to drop in and for me to complete other tasks.

I start off each year meeting with the Seniors in groups and then individually. When we meet individually, we discuss very specifically the things that need to be done to be prepared for “the real world” that is awaiting them right around the corner, whether that is college or entering the workforce. This includes completing college applications for which we send in a transcript for each one, retaking the ACT, going on college visits, going on job shadows, having lunch with college admissions representatives and beginning the search for scholarships. It also includes securing a place of employment, if going straight into the working world.

I then go to the Freshmen. For the Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors there is a Pre-Appointment Checklist that must be completed before we meet to get students thinking and to keep the parents involved. When meeting with the Freshmen we discuss how to be successful in high school and how to make the most of this great opportunity they are being given to be educated in this Christian High School. We introduce Career Cruising and the tremendous tool it is when it is actually used and used properly.

After the Freshmen, I move on to the Juniors. With the Juniors we are beginning to have real life conversations about the life that is awaiting them quite soon. Juniors become very active in taking college entrance exams, going on job shadows and college visits and then they begin narrowing down specific plans for after high school including looking at the colleges they will be applying to in the fall of their Senior year or contacting possible employers.

When finished with the Juniors, the Sophomores start rolling into my office. We thoroughly work through the ever famous “S.O.D.A.” sheet which contains thought provoking questions for the student to consider and start laying the foundation for the decisions that will need to be made in the next couple of years. When finished with the Sophomores, I go back to the Seniors to make sure they have everything finalized for life after high school. And then just like that, another school year comes to a close.

In addition to the individual meetings and the work that results from them there are many things that take place in the Guidance Office. We can be found sending in transcripts or busy planning Career Day which takes place every other year. There is the Financial Aid Night that takes place each December to assist the families in planning how to pay for college. Students stop in with schedule questions and requests for different classes. We have several students each year who take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that are available at the Kent Career Technical Center. Students must have Program Visits scheduled and attended before they can attend KCTC. As the Seniors are busy applying to colleges and for scholarships they need Letters of Recommendation, most of which are written by my office. I also attend many meetings which cover a wide variety of topics ranging from college and career planning to dealing with social issues and other things that come with being a teenager.

While this explanation of activities that are taking place in the Guidance Center is brief and only touches on the surface, I hope it gives you a little taste of the work we are doing for our covenant young people.

If you are ever at school, please feel free to stop in our office and say “Hi”.

James Haveman, Counselor

***“Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.” Proverbs 19:20***



# Study of Music



On the very first day of band, I quoted a verse that rounds out what the band has been aiming for this year. In Colossians 1:9, it says “ For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not

cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,”. I have had my students really try to understand the knowledge of God that can be seen through the music that we play this year. They try to understand the will of God in the little nitpicky things that I stress and look for. We have used these little things to help us with the accomplishments of this year. The students have been working very hard and are a real joy to teach.

All of the decrescendos and crescendos that are played in this music describe some of the louds and softs of my days at Covenant. There are many “loud” days in which it seems that nothing can go wrong. Everything that we play shows this verse. There are also the “quiet” days, in which it is harder for us to remember what this verse teaches us about understanding. Each is an opportunity to play to the glory of God and to be better for the sake of His glory.

Our band has played in a pre-festival held here at Covenant on February 17. We played very well and scored all ones. We used the suggestions from the four judges to help us refine the pieces that we would perform in the District festival.

We walked into Grandville High School on February 26, prepared and ready to go. Although nervous, they played very confidently. Over all, they received a rating of a high II, which I was pleased with. They worked hard to prove that they could read this music, but also to prove that they have God’s knowledge of this music within them.

We have now been working on some new music that will be played in our next concert on April 1 at 8:00pm at Covenant. We will feature ensembles from the band in this program.

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord*



Our next big trip is to northwest Iowa in April, where we will play in a band festival at Dordt College. On Thursday, we will be spending the day at Trinity Christian High School and performing a concert with them. All day Friday we will be at Dordt College, preparing for a concert that night with all of the Christian Schools from around the region, including Dordt’s band. These trips are a great time for us to be together to enjoy fellowship, make music, and praise God.

Our final concert of the year will be with our grade school bands on May 26 at Allendale High School.

Andy Kamper, Band Director

# Spanish Distance Learning

The new distance learning program that we've implemented this year has garnered a lot of interest. Our main goal with the distance learning program was to make it as much like a regular classroom as possible. We wanted to avoid the feeling of what people typically think of with online learning -- isolated students sitting in front of a computer screen all day. I truly think we've been quite successful in making this happen! To do this we've utilized several cool technology tools and gadgets.

The first step is the visual part. We use Skype for the majority of the visual/oral portion of teacher/student communication. The classroom at CCHS is equipped with a wide-angle web camera connected to a large TV. On my end I have a HD web cam connected to a large TV as well. This allows me to see all the students and the majority of the classroom on my TV and the students to see and hear me on their end. The Skype quality does fluctuate from time to time. We joke in the class that some days it looks like a regular TV quality and other times like looking at impressionist art -- either way the kids look lovely but not always as distinct. Students are very patient with the moments of distraction, but we do not really have many big technology issues.

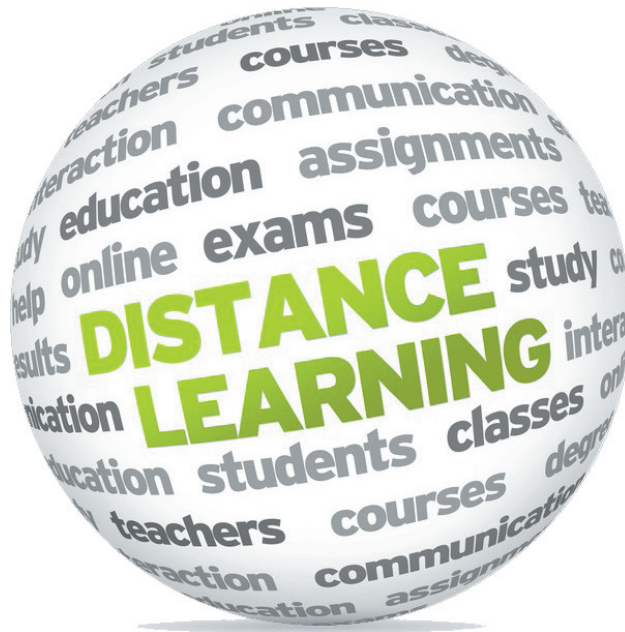
Organization and classroom procedure are especially important in the setting we have. We worked hard at the beginning of the year to teach classroom procedures so students know exactly what to expect and so that all the monitors work together consistently with the same classroom procedure. To help me keep the class organized and progressing, we use a PowerPoint presentation every day. I create these on my home computer and then access them via Google drive on the classroom computer which I control using the program, TeamViewer.

Matt Elzinga is my Spanish coordinator. He works with the classroom monitors and has all the copies of notes, handouts, and assessments they need for the day, scans quizzes and tests through to me to grade, and prints up graded work to be returned to the students. The monitors are on hand to help with things like handing out papers, monitoring tests, doing homework checks, observing classroom activities, and many other miscellaneous things throughout the day. We keep in contact with one another during class using Google Hangouts and also Gmail. Their organization, assistance, and advice have been so helpful this year so far!

Communication with students and parents is vital in a teaching setting. While this can be in some ways more difficult from a distance, we have several ways to keep things working. Since students can't stop by my class after school to ask what they missed when they were sick or away, I update our class website, [covenantspanish.weebly.com](http://covenantspanish.weebly.com), every day with what we covered, PowerPoints, and any homework assignments due the next day. Students send me emails with any questions or concerns and also set up tutoring sessions on Skype. I keep in contact with parents via email and work hard to keep RenWeb grades up to date for students and parents to reference.

At this point in the year I am very confident in calling the program a success. This is due to the work of a lot of different people -- teachers, monitors, staff, parents, students. I've been especially impressed with my students' maturity in handling the situation. As a whole they have approached the new set-up with an open mind and a willingness to learn. While it may have taken some of them a little while to get settled in, the success of the program in a large part is due to these young brothers and sisters in Christ. It is such a blessing to teach students you can trust and who are willing to take responsibility both in and outside of the classroom. I cannot express to you how blessed I truly am to be able to be a part of their education.

Kristin Crossett,  
Spanish Teacher

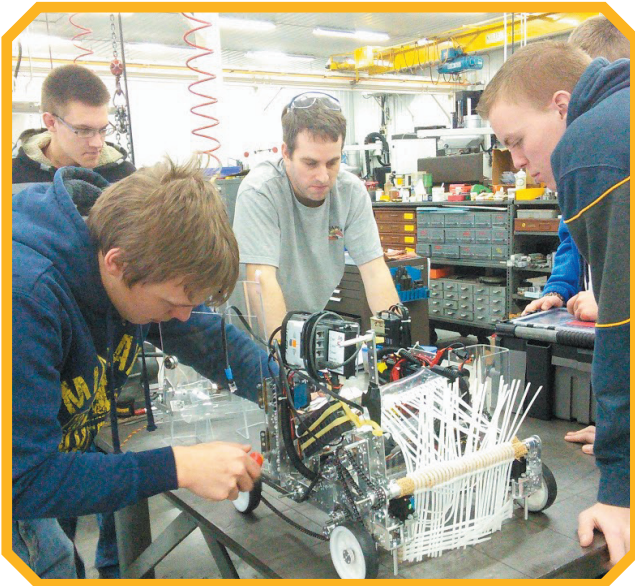
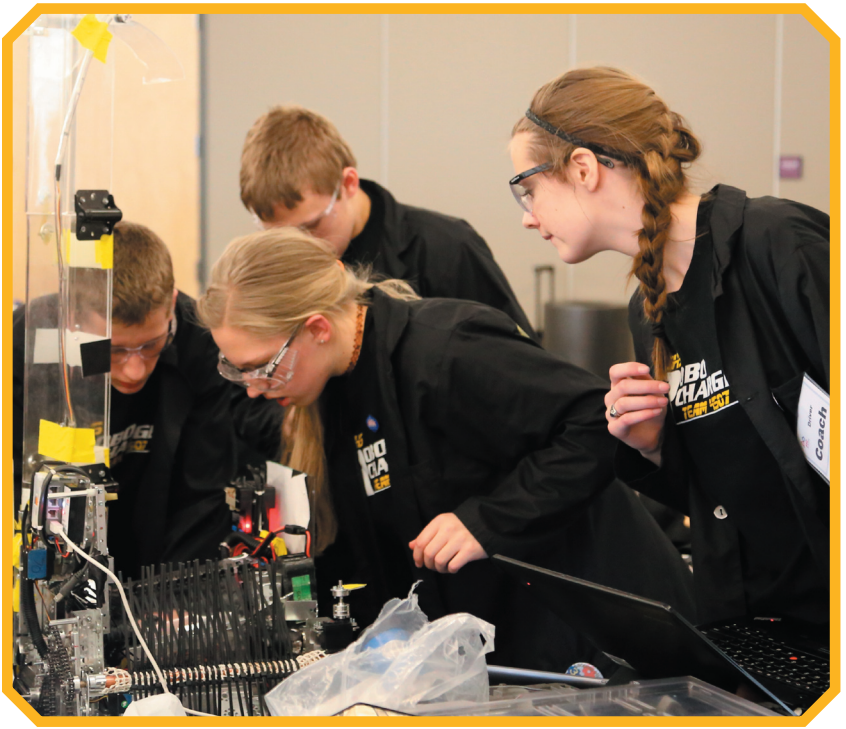




The CCHS Robotics team is nearing the end of another season of competition. The engineering challenge this year is to build a robot that scurries around a field picking up different sized whiffle balls. The goal is to score as many of these as possible in 2, 3, and 4 foot tall rolling tubes.

# Robotics

Building a robot that will do this is an achievement in itself but being able to do this under pressure with 3 other robots on a field proved to be a real challenge. At our first competition in Ohio, the varsity team was recognized as having the most innovative solution to this year's challenge. As a result they were given a trophy called the Innovate Award.



At the very next competition in Illinois, our JV team got the very same award for creative designs that they implemented in their robot.

Our most recent meet was near Detroit. The Varsity took the Innovate Award and Inspire Award from that

competition. They also were in the winning alliance and will be moving on to Super Regionals in Iowa on March 26 and 27. At super regionals, we will meet the robotics team from Trinity High School in Hull Iowa. They also have a great robot this year.



The teams thank the sponsors and mentors that make this all possible. Your generosity gives us opportunity to spend time each week developing our talents and grow in our friendships. To Him be the glory.

Jon Van Overloop, Faculty Advisor



# STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council had the busiest fall and winter we have had in a long time. We hosted the second Purple Out to raise money for the Van Andel Purple Community and help fund the fight against cancer. This event coincides with home soccer and volleyball games; it was good to see so many wearing purple to help us raise \$3800 for a cause that has touched so many.



Following that came Friendship Week, an event we have held in the spring prior to this year. This year's focus was Psalm 1:3 ("And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season...") with a special look at the "fruit," namely, the fruits of the Spirit. For a visual reminder of this truth, we have a large tree with a leaf for each student, teacher, and staff member on the wall in the hallway.

Next came our annual Gift Certificate Drive, culminating in the Christmas Chapel. The Drive was so successful that we once again exceeded our goal of \$3500 and raised around \$3900 to help the needy in our churches. The Christmas Chapel featured student talent and was a beautiful celebration of the birth of our Lord.



Not long after returning for the 2nd semester was Homecoming 2015. Despite starting off with a snow day, the week was a huge success. The students' participation in the dress up competition was beyond creative and fun. The games and competition were close, with the seniors pulling out a narrow victory over the sophomores. Fun note: this year's seniors are one of the few classes that have won homecoming twice, with a victory their sophomore year. A special thank you goes out to the student members of the Student Council who work very diligently and enthusiastically to make sure that these events are as successful as they are.

The remainder of the year will include the Blood Drive, Power Puff, and some volunteering. Thanks to everyone for contributing to another successful year!

Jennifer Knott, Faculty Advisor



We are pleased to announce that Mackenzie Kuiper has been named a Finalist for a National Merit Scholarship. Mackenzie, who is a senior, is the daughter of Brad and Lynn Kuiper of Zeeland. Also, from the senior class, Kelsey Kuiper, daughter of Gerry and Beth Kuiper of Hudsonville, was named a Commended Student.

The National Merit Scholarship competition begins in the fall of the 11th grade year when students take the PSAT/NMSQT. This is the Preliminary SAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. In the fall of 2013, 1.5 million students from across the country took this test. Of that number, the 50,000 highest scores are identified. The top 16,000 of these students are named Semi-Finalists and 34,000 are named as Commended Students. The Semi-Finalists have an opportunity to continue in the Merit Scholarship competition by taking the SAT test. Based on that test, Mackenzie is among the 8000 who are eligible to be selected to receive a National Merit Scholarship.

Congratulations to Mackenzie and Kelsey!



**NATIONAL MERIT  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

# Curriculum Enrichment and Development

In the early years of CCHS a need was identified to assist teachers with the development of curriculum material that was specific to their classes. The Curriculum Enrichment and Development Fund was set up to provide funding to the teacher as they worked to develop their current courses or new courses in the curriculum.

Originally this program was funded through annual donations. In the early 1990's, the school received a gift of approximately \$225,000 that was to be invested as an endowment with the annual proceeds to provide funding for the CED program and educational equipment or other physical needs of the school. The intention of the donor was to have a source of income that would help a teacher extend the amount of time that was worked, on behalf of the school program, into the summer months. Our CED program now provides funding to help teachers develop their courses or work on enrichment activities for their courses. These activities also then help the teacher develop in their work. In essence there are three main goals: develop curriculum materials and teaching helps for our classes, develop knowledge and skills of teachers by having them do work in their field of teaching, provide a source of income for those who would like to be more involved in the work course development at CCHS.

## Meghan Looyenga - Global Issues

July marked the beginning of my continued work on the CED projects that I was given permission to develop this summer. Last summer I began work on the base curriculum of the new Global Issues class, a course offered to seniors as a history elective. It was clear from the beginning of development that this class would need an extensive amount of work even after the initial curriculum was approved for launch this fall 2014. This development this summer pinpointed what topics we would tackle the first time, definitions of global issues, secular/nominal Christian/Reformed perspectives on global issues, Biblical connections to Revelation 6, and what a semester calendar would involve. Several discussions took place to assure us that we are headed in the right direction with this class. Final preparations for my official submission will also include end-of-semester projects as well as a report on how the class has been going thus far. It has been a challenge to bring this course to life, especially because we do not necessarily "feel" the impact of all these global issues. However, students have been very receptive of the material and the work involved.



## Dan Kuiper - Health Curriculum

This summer I spent some time writing a curriculum for the Health class taught to 9th graders. Health is a class that began to be taught when the 9th grade moved to Covenant in the Fall of 2012. It is a one semester Physical Education class. The purpose of the class is to give students an overview of the amazing body which God created and upholds and gain an understanding of ways to care properly for this gift which God has given us, including a discussion of the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Over the first two years of teaching this class it became evident that there is a tremendous amount of material that could be covered in this class.

The purpose of my work this summer was to evaluate all the possibilities and focus the class on the areas of study I felt were most important for students to learn from both a spiritual and practical point of view. I am hopeful that the work I did on this curriculum will be a benefit to the students who sit in my classroom in the coming years and also any future teachers who will teach this course.

## Sue Looyenga - English Curriculum

The English Department's curriculum development work this summer involved collaboration among the teachers of 9th and 10th grade English as well as 11th grade American Literature and 12th grade English Literature. Our intention was to fine tune the curriculum that was in place with the addition of the 9th grade to CCHS. The time for doing this was optimal since the new teachers have now had two years of experience with teaching, dialoguing with more experienced colleagues, using the new English textbooks and curriculum, and becoming more familiar with the needs of students for the next level of English instruction. Our departmental goal is to continually work to spiral students' learning of skills, concepts, and Reformed Biblical understandings in their reading, writing, speaking, and listening and we appreciate the School Board's support and encouragement of our effort from year to year.

It has been my pleasure as the department chairperson to witness the exceptional collaborative effort that the teachers, both new and experienced, have put forth in order to ensure that each section of an English course has the same overarching goals for skills, content, and essential understandings. Teachers come to their classrooms with very different personalities, abilities, and interests, and it is important to have a curriculum plan that provides the goals and objectives toward which they will work with students all year, each in his/her own unique way. May God bless the work that has been accomplished.



## Meghan Looyenga, Trisha Haak and Jennifer Knott - English Curriculum

This past spring we met as an English department to discuss changes to the English curriculum for the 2014-2015 school year. It was decided that the biggest change would be made to the freshmen curriculum to avoid excessive repetition with the sophomore curriculum. Trisha Haak and Meghan Looyenga were given the opportunity to make these changes through our summer CED project. We were both heavily involved in the original curriculum over the past two years as we grappled with the new Common Core Curriculum. We decided that a greater focus on grammar in writing, as well as reading for understanding, would be placed within the freshmen English curriculum. Over the course of a week, we discussed how to apply this to the calendar, and more specifically, what we needed to accomplish in these two areas. Trisha and Meghan held a digital (off-site) meeting with our department head, Sue Looyenga, to seek approval. It was a unique opportunity to practice on Google-Drive which we will be using more in the classroom. The transitioning curriculum has been approved and was implemented this fall.

Due to the English Department's desire to modify and update its curriculum, incorporating elements of the Common Core and chiefly our Reformed, Christian worldview, Trisha Haak and Jennifer Knott worked this summer on the English 10 curriculum. They divided the year into six main units of study that focused on both reading and studying elements and terms of language arts and utilizing that knowledge in various speaking and writing projects. They created a curriculum document presenting these changes. Jennifer also did a similar curriculum document for American Literature.



# CHARGER camps

Covenant Christian offers summer camp opportunities for children and teens who enjoy academic challenges. Taught by talented teachers who are experienced in their fields, these camps will get students excited about science, computers, language or arts in a whole new way.

Visit our website to sign up for upcoming camps.  
<https://sites.google.com/site/chargercamps>



## Upcoming Camps

### **From Cloud to Canvas**

From the wild animals of the jungle, the stillness of the clouds, to the waves of the Ocean, this art class will be focused on the beauty and awesomeness of God's creation. Each day we will be discovering a part of God's creation and then creating artwork to go along with it. This class will be focused on the artwork, along with a small Science lesson to go along with the art. Get ready to use your paint brushes and your hiking shoes as we discover and see God's creation.

Teacher: Mrs. Amy Van Putten

Grade Level: 2nd - 4th

### **Adventure Camp**

Can you survive a night in the great outdoors? Adventure campers will be off on a great adventure as they construct their own shelter to spend a night under the stars. Campers will also learn: how to use a compass, names and locations of constellations, the art of firebuilding, to identify trees and leaves native to Michigan. Let's get outside and see how neat nature is!

Teachers: Miss Amanda Haney, Miss Liz VanDrunen

Grade Level: 2nd - 6th

### **LEGO Robotics**

Explore the world of robotics using LEGO Mindstorm kits! Campers will learn to design, build, and program a working robot with motors and sensors that will perform tasks and react to its environment. In a series of activities developed for beginning robot-designers, they'll also learn valuable problem solving methods, engineering concepts, and icon-based computer programming skills. At the conclusion of the camp, they will use their newly-acquired skills to perfect their robots and compete against other robots in a final competition.

Teachers: Mr. Jason Holstege and Mr. Jon Drnek

Grade Level: 5th - 8th



# School Fundraisers!

## Booster's Help Chargers Excel

The Boosters have been helping the Chargers behind the scenes in many ways. You can find them cheering in the stands, serving in the concession stands, and selling Charger Gear at the games and from the website. Made up of parents and volunteers, the Boosters have certainly made a contribution not only to the athletics department but to the school. Not only have they helped build team spirit, but they have also been able to raise over \$10,000 through fundraising activities. The booster's latest undertaking was to install new safety netting on the soccer field and behind the baseball field.

Be sure to check out the Charger Gear Website. <http://www.cchsgear.com>



**ATHLETIC  
BOOSTER CLUB**

## \$mart Shop

Covenant Christian is now participating in the operation of Smart Shop, a resale store in Coopersville. We have three ladies representing Covenant on the "Steering Committee" of Smart Shop and nearly 40 mothers who have volunteered to work on behalf of Covenant. As of February 1, Covenant will be receiving one-fifth of the proceeds received from the store. Most of the schools are utilizing their fundraising group to handle participation and proceeds. Since we do not have a group like this we are working to manage these things through our steering committee and encouraging our mothers to help out if they are able. There are a few developments that we would like to bring to your attention:

First, the School Board of CCHS is considering the best way to utilize the funds that will be coming in because of our participation. We will keep you informed as to that decision.

Second, we have informed all of our current parents of the opportunity to volunteer. We have received a good response from our request. We realize that there are many parents who no longer have children in school and may also be willing to help out. We are hopeful that since the Courier goes to every family in our area churches that we can make more of you aware that you are welcome to help this cause by becoming a volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering, you can sign up by going to the website, [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com) and clicking on the link, "Find a signup" on the top right of the webpage. When it asks, "search by email", you type in the email address [hcsmartshop@yahoo.com](mailto:hcsmartshop@yahoo.com). This will take you to the signup page. If it is your first time signing up, you will have to create an account by entering your email address. Once logged in, you will see information describing each job. You may sign up for any position and get trained when you get there. If you have any questions you may contact our committee members, Maria Lotterman, Brenda Pastoor or Val Mulder.

Third, Smart Shop is making plans to allow high school students to volunteer also. We often encourage our students to look for opportunities to give of their time to help and support others. Volunteering at Smart Shop is certainly one of those opportunities. Beginning in April, our 11th and 12th grade students may sign up to work as "Runners" or "Product testers" on Saturdays or days that they have no school.

Finally, we encourage you to visit Smart Shop in person or online and take advantage of the great deals that are available on a wide variety of products.



## amazonsmile

Another easy way to give is through AmazonSmile. This is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. Simply add the bookmark <http://smile.amazon.com> to your bookmark folder; then, on your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will need to select a charitable organization. To search for Covenant's organization type in the name "Society for Protestant Reformed Secondary Education" to support the school or "Covenant Christian High School Foundation" to support the Foundation. Then every time you make a purchase, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase to your chosen organization from eligible AmazonSmile purchases.



## Craft Show

Formerly held at Adams Christian School, this annual craft show showcases many talented local vendors. Come join us Saturday, Oct. 31. There is bound to be a large variety of handcrafted items with over 80 local vendors to choose from. There will also be a bake sale. Lunch is available for purchase. Admission will be \$1. Visit our website at: <http://www.covenantchristiancraftshow.org>



**FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**  
Travis Van Bommel

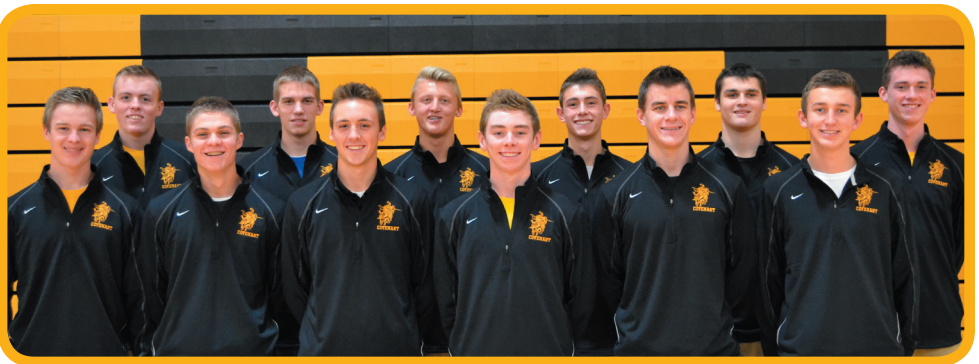
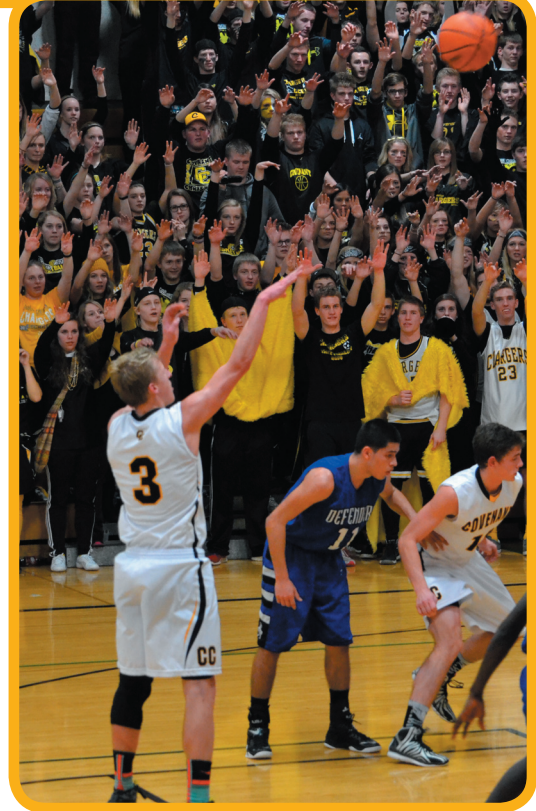


## Basketball

The basketball teams have concluded MHSAA tournament play for 2015. Both the Girls and the Boys played a tough schedule, in which both teams took on many opponents from higher classifications.

The Girls Varsity team, under the leadership of Coach Dan Kuiper, finished the season with a 12-8 record, as River Valley Conference Champs. A hard fought, four point loss in the District Semi-Finals, ended a very successful season.

In his 1st season as the Boys varsity coach, Tyler Schimmel guided the team to record of 12-9. The team had several games that were decided in the final minutes, some of them ending in a heart breaking defeat, but as the season progressed, the boys began to earn victories in these close games. Like the girls, the boys bowed out in the District Semi-finals.



## Spring

The spring sports seasons are underway for 2015. Baseball, Girls Soccer, Golf, and Softball have all begun practices, and played a few games already. Schedules can be found on the Covenant website. I encourage you to check out a game or two this Spring. Covenant will be hosting the MHSAA Baseball & Softball districts on May 30. Look for information on opportunities to volunteer at that event.

## Fifth-Third Ballpark Game

On April 24, Covenant will be taking on Kalamazoo Christian in a baseball double header at 5/3 BallPark in Grand Rapids. First pitch is at 5:00. Tickets for this event will be \$5 and can be purchased from the CCHS office, or from your favorite baseball player. Tickets will also be available on game night at 5/3 BallPark. Tickets will go on sale March 30.

