

# THE COURIER

2022  
SUMMER

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**COVENANT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL**

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Field trips are an integral part of the learning experience at Covenant. Inside you will find pictures and articles of the trips the students went on this year. (pages 12-15)

Trips included a Church History trip exploring the PRC's beginnings, a Choir trip to Dordt University for the Midwest choral festival, a Band trip to Randolph, WI, with the students at Faith Christian School which included a fun stay at the Wilderness Resort, a Pigeon River Science trip which involved rustic camping, researching, and testing, and, last but not least, the senior class went white water rafting for their class trip.



"We spent the entire Pigeon River Field trip outdoors enjoying the most elegant book of God's creation." (page 12)  
- Dan Kuiper



## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Rick Noorman



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### NEW STAFF

This year we welcome Mr. Eric Pols back to a Covenant Christian classroom. Mr. Pols first came to Covenant from Heritage Christian in 2011. After teaching here in the Math department for 4 years and earning his Master's Degree in School Administration, he decided to head west and take a position as teacher and administrator at Hope Christian School in Redlands, California. After working at that position for 3 years, he returned to West Michigan and took up work in the greenhouses and fields of Brower Greenhouses and J&J Farms. It is a great blessing to be able to have Mr. Pols back at CCHS. He is a very competent mathematician and he understands how to help students grow in their ability to work with numbers and to see how math applies to life. During his time in Redlands he gained an appreciation for teaching classes other than Mathematics. We are going to use that interest to help cover some needs in our Social Studies Department by having him teach two sections of 9th grade World History in addition to three Math classes. He has a heart for teaching and has always been able to develop good relationships with students. Mr. Pols is married to Katherine and they have four children and are members of Georgetown PRC. Welcome back Mr. Pols!

Mr. David Mahtani will be joining our staff as our new Guidance Counselor. Mr. Mahtani has teaching experience in the middle grades at Eastside Christian for 6 years and, most recently, at Adams Christian for 2 years. He also taught high school level courses for one year in Bloomington, Illinois. Beside his work in the schools, he spent 3 years away from the classroom working in the painting trade. This wide range of experience, along with a sincere desire to help students develop to their full potential will help him to be of great assistance to our students. Through his educational experience and life path, it appears that God has been preparing Mr. Mahtani to take this position in our Guidance office. He will be able to use all of this to help our students use their high school time wisely so they can be prepared to take the next step in their life. This is a challenging position to walk into without knowing the students or having knowledge of their plans. There is much to learn and most of it can only be learned by working through things the first time. We ask for patience on the part of parents and students and pray for God's grace to give Mr. Mahtani what he stands in need of. Mr. Mahtani and his wife, Madri, have four children and are members of First PRC.

### NEW AND EXCITING THINGS AT CCHS

Any organization that has been in existence for over 50 years is likely to experience moments that involve some rather monumental changes. In the last few years we have seen changes that involved major building projects, the addition of 9th grade students to the educational program, and expansion of our course offerings. This year we will be completing the first phase of our three phase plan and starting to move forward with the rest of the expansion. These changes are being brought about, in part, by the increased enrollment projections for the next few years and a desire to expand our curriculum to meet the students' needs and interests. A larger student body brings with it increased demands on the school for additional faculty and staff. More course offerings will often have to be accommodated with additional facilities. This article is intended to give you a glimpse of a few things that are new this year or that are on the horizon in the next few years.

Another new instructor to Covenant will allow for a new curriculum offering. After much consideration over the last couple of years, the Education Committee has decided to make Orchestra an official part of the school's curriculum. We could not do this without having a competent teacher of stringed instruments and director for this class. We are thankful that Mr. Eric Phelps has been able to make adjustments to his work schedule to spend three mornings a week working with our Orchestra students. Our students have been actively involved in the Protestant Reformed Student Orchestra (PRSO) since their elementary days and will take those skills directly into our music room. Mr. Phelps has many years of experience with leading the PRSO, teaching students on stringed instruments, and performing on the cello. We look forward to having him on our staff. It will be interesting to watch the development of this program at the high school level. Mr. Phelps and his wife, Crista, have 6 children and attend First PRC.

Mrs. Anne Deemter will be joining our Music Department as the accompanist for our three choirs. Working with Mr. Gritters, she will lead our 225 students in daily praise to our Lord as they sing in choir each day. Mrs. Deemter is a 1999 CCHS graduate and is married to Kent. They attend Faith PRC and have five children, two of whom will be attending Covenant this year.

Miss Brittany Bylsma will be taking over the operation of our library this year. She is a 2018 CCHS alumna and recently graduated from Kuyper College with a degree in Social Work. She has a great interest in books and reading and has had good exposure to research skills during her time at Kuyper. She is looking forward to working with our students and teachers to help them utilize the resources of our library.

We welcome a new aide to our Academic Support Program. Miss Lindsey Holstege will be joining Mrs. Caitlyn Miedema and Miss Ella Pipe to support the educational needs of our students who need extra help outside the classroom. Miss Holstege is a 2020 CCHS graduate and is currently our freshman volleyball coach.

## **FAREWELL AND THANKS**

We bid farewell and say thanks to those who have served us so well over the years. Mrs. Ria Faber will be retiring this year so that she is able to give more time to her aging parents and her grandchildren. She has been an important member of our team here at CCHS for 22 years. She will be greatly missed due to her involvement in so many areas of our school. Her many duties included managing the library books and periodical collections and supervising the students who visit the library on a daily basis. She was also a member of our Technology Committee and was very active in the daily management of our technology.

Mrs. Faber was often the first stop for students or staff who had technology issues. She also managed our textbook system by keeping track of where all the books were as well as keeping them in good repair. In addition, she supervised the publishing of the Courier. We give a hearty thank you to Mrs. Faber for her dedicated service to Covenant.

Mrs. Sarah Van Dyke has been with us for 3 years. Mrs. Van Dyke is married to Seminarian Aaron Van Dyke and they were recently blessed with a daughter, Olive. She has worked all three years in the Music Department as the Choir accompanist. This past year, she also worked part-time in our Academic Support Program. It would take daily observation of our Choir rehearsals to fully appreciate the contribution that she has made to our music program. Her amazing keyboard skills, her heart for excellence in her work, and her patience made her a perfect fit for the work that she did with Mr. Gritters and the Choirs. Best wishes to Sarah and Aaron as they begin this next chapter of their life together.

Both of these ladies have contributed to making CCHS a great place. They have capably and unselfishly served the students, staff, and parents and will be greatly missed.

## **NEW WORK**

Mr. James Haveman will be serving in a new role at CCHS this year. He first came to Covenant in 2008 as a teacher and part-time guidance counselor. As the student body grew, so did the desire of the School Board to give more time to assisting our students with planning for their future. In the fall of 2012, at the same time that we welcomed our first 9th grade class, Mr. Haveman left the classroom to work full-time in the Guidance office. He has been a great asset to parents, students, and teachers over the past 10 years. Mr. Haveman expressed a desire to return to the classroom where he can focus his time with fewer kids and impact their life in new ways. He will be teaching all of our 9th grade students in both Health and Physical Education. He will also be teaching some of our seniors in the Cults and Non-Christian Religions class which is returning to our curriculum as an elective. Mr. Haveman is excited about getting back to teaching and working with students in a classroom setting. We owe him a great deal of thanks for his guidance of our students over the years and for competently handling many of the other duties that go along with that position.

There are three other teachers who are making significant changes in their teaching assignments. Mr. Dan Kuiper will be giving up the 9th grade Health class to Mr. Haveman and he will continue to teach the Advanced Biology classes.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Miss Kristen Pawloski, who took on the Anatomy and Physiology classes last year, will continue to teach those classes but will also be teaching two sections of 10th grade Biology. Mr. Travis Van Bommel will be turning over the Physical Education classes to Mr. Haveman and will use his carpentry skills to help us add two sections of Woodworking classes. One additional change will be the return of one of our teachers with a new name! Miss Jori Wieringa is now Mrs. Jori Yeong. She was married this summer to Mr. Eliezer Yeong. We express our congratulations and pray for God's blessing as they continue their life together.

## **CURRICULUM**

In addition to having a competent and dedicated teaching staff, it is the curriculum of the school that leads to the accomplishment of the school's mission. Mr. Kyle Bruinooge continues his diligent work in the area of curriculum development. He has been directing our academic departments in reviewing the goals, objectives, and content of the courses that are taught. This information is then documented in the online program "Curriculum Trak." This is the online program in which we store the information so that any of our staff can access it to help with planning for their own courses. Each year our staff is able to provide more details about the courses that they teach, thus ensuring that the curriculum will be able to persevere through the inevitable transition of teaching staff.

Mr. Bruinooge has also been instrumental in working with our staff to update our textbooks. Many of our textbooks are between 10 and 20 years old. As we have been replacing them over the last few years, we have been moving toward the use of more faith-based textbooks. Textbooks from secular publishers are becoming more prone to the liberal influences of today's society and the educational environment. The content of the text, the graphics, and the pictures that are used openly promote the anti-Christian lifestyle. Selecting sound textbooks that do not compromise the belief system that we are committed to preserving is an important work. Having textbooks that give consideration to the Christian perspective can assist the teachers in having discussions that contribute to shaping the Christian minds of our young people in the classrooms. The goal of the teacher is to use all of the resources to develop the distinctiveness of the Reformed faith no matter what materials are used in the classroom.

## **NEW FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The construction of the Phase 1 outdoor athletic complex is nearly completed. There are just a few more details that need to be finished up this summer.

We have already used the new baseball field for the 2022 spring season. We were able to play one game in late May on the Varsity softball field. Both softball fields will be completely ready to go for the 2023 season. The turf on the new soccer field is finally starting to fill in and it will be ready for play this fall. We are looking forward to being able to play some night games under the lights! The track facility is now complete with all lanes and markings painted and ready for runners. This will be used by the Cross Country team in the fall and the Track team in the spring. The new restroom/concession building is fully operational and the Athletic Boosters are looking forward to serving the fans who attend the games.

The use of all of these new facilities will open up many new opportunities for parents and supporters to be involved with the athletic program. We will need volunteers to work at the concessions stand and the ticket booth, to help with running some of the events, and to help with the maintenance of the facilities. Look for announcements in the next couple of months seeking help in these areas.

## **EXPANSION PLANS**

With work nearly complete on Phase I of our expansion plan, the School Board is actively working on the next phases. Because of the pressing need for classrooms, the Board is working on a proposal for the Society that would make additional classrooms be the next step. Please stay tuned for an announcement regarding an early fall meeting to present this proposal.

## **CHANGE**

Managing change in an organization is a challenging task. Years ago, when taking graduate classes in school administration, I remember that a great emphasis was given on viewing the school as a system with many contributing parts that all need to be monitored and adjusted. When the changes that occur in a school involve teachers, curriculum content, facilities, processes, and governance (school boards) there is so much to consider. Yet each of these aspects are only individual parts of the overall system of the school and therefore change can be managed to work for the best possible school. Our hope is always that we can build on the positive work of those who have contributed to the success in the past and continue to move toward the goals that will benefit students, parents, teachers and our community of church families. We pray for God's grace to guide us in the use of all of our resources toward the end goal of bringing glory to His Name through the lives of everyone involved in our school as they serve Him in the use of their gifts. Please continue to give God thanks for the blessings of the school in the past and pray for His continued grace in the future.

## BOARD PRESIDENT

Dr. Brian Decker



What follows are the comments I made at the 2022 graduation ceremony, so that's why it's written in the first person and not entirely in sentences. It's not an exact transcript, but it's close. I hope it was an encouraging message to the graduates, and I hope it's a reminder to us all of the power and necessity of finding our identity in Christ.

I'm standing here tonight as a member of the Board, and I'm supposed to make comments in that regard. But I'm not going to do that, because more importantly, tonight I stand up here as Leah's dad. I can't miss out on the opportunity to speak as a dad talking to his daughter, and I hope all of you graduates would hear this as something your dad would say to you. So, I ask for just three minutes of your time to make a few comments.

As I looked back on your high school career I was struck by the fact that it was marked by capital letters and identity. Let me explain. Four years ago you started at Covenant Christian High School - CCHS - and immediately you identified as a Charger. I know this is true because I've seen many of you jumping up and down at sporting events chanting "We are the CHARGERS, we are the CHARGERS!" Capital letters and identity.

Shortly after you began high school, another set of capital letters came along - C,O,V,I,D - and your identity was wrapped up in that. Were you positive; were you negative? Were you a close contact or weren't you? Were you vaccinated; were you not? Thankfully, that source of identity seems to have faded into the background a little.

The world also has its capital letters, and they've been saying them to you in a volume that has been getting louder and louder — LGBTQ — and they are convinced that there is no more important identity than that. Hopefully in your time here you've learned how to think about this because unlike COVID, this is not going away. Even the church world got into the act and the letters P and R and R and P and the order you put them became very important.

Well, you are going to leave the constraints of Covenant tonight and you'll join the world. You'll go on to college or the workforce or you'll travel or you'll visit other churches when you are on vacation and you'll start to have interactions with other people. And then

you'll start to make judgments about their identity. You'll be sitting at home after some of these interactions and say, "That was a Christian. Those were Christians. I know they are. I'm certain of it." You won't need to know the letters after the name of their church to know. You'll be able to tell from their walk, how they talk, how they worship. And then, you'll more fully understand and more fully experience the fact that the church is catholic. You've confessed this every Sunday for years. When you have these interactions, it's a marvelous experience. It's absolutely wonderful to realize that the world is full of Christians!

Well all that is true, and it would give me joy if that was to happen. But there is one thing that would give me the greatest joy. And that is this — that all those other Christians out there....find you. It's that simple. There is no more basic identity. You know what this means. You know how to live. It's why we've been doing this for thirteen years. To get you to this point — so that you live and walk as a Christian. Nothing would give this dad or your parents greater joy!

So, as you leave tonight, diploma in hand, smile on your face, and you walk up that aisle, remember that you leave as a Covenant Christian Charger.



# Curriculum Department

## Biblical Worldview in the Curriculum

Mr. Kyle Bruinooge, Curriculum Director

For the past two years, our teachers have been using an online curriculum mapping program called Curriculum Trak, a faith-based organization used by 1,000+ Christian schools internationally. Curriculum mapping is essentially the process of diagramming a particular course into what is taught and how it's taught, demonstrating how the mission statement of the school fits with the course being taught. In this regard, Curriculum Trak helps schools organize their curriculum in an efficient way where there is transparency and everyone is working towards being on the same page. The ultimate goal is to help each individual teacher evaluate and reflect on the work they are doing in the classroom.

During the past school year, two curriculum in-service days were scheduled to give teachers an opportunity to work on their curriculum maps. Some of this work was done in groups on various projects, but the majority of it was done individually.

More specifically within the mapping process, teachers have been working on expressing and documenting how they apply the biblical worldview to the subjects that they teach. It is important to note that our teachers are extremely thoughtful in this regard. Teachers have been working on this not because there is some deficiency; rather, the main purpose is to have teachers reflecting on their work and examining if they are being intentional about being distinctively biblical in their instruction day-to-day. You can be confident that they are!

Our teachers that have been teaching 20+ years will readily testify that they have found this work to be profitable as they are in constant need of reflecting on their work. In talking with teachers at Covenant, I am amazed at the thoughtfulness that goes in to teaching from a biblical perspective.

At the in-service in April, Mr. Jon Van Overloop addressed the faculty on the topic of Biblical Worldview Integration. In his speech he defined a worldview as "a set of assumptions about life," and applied the biblical story of creation-fall-redemption to the different areas that students study in school. The main point was that the Fall has corrupted each subject that is taught, and that the work of the Christian school teacher is to show the truth of scripture applied to each subject. Needless to say, the teachers were very appreciative to our work



of integrating the biblical worldview in our classes, of his thought-provoking speech and how it applied.

As you can see from the examples on the following page, we have diverse departments and units on different subjects that students take while at Covenant. In spite of this diversity, there is unity in how each teacher is drawing out the biblical worldview, striving to apply attributes of God, holy living, witnessing, stewardship, providence, etc. These samples are just barely scratching the surface of the amazing biblical application and connections that our teachers are making each day with our covenant children!

Why is this emphasis on applying the biblical worldview so important? Because our Christian schools must be the standard and not merely a preferred alternative to the public schools<sup>1</sup>. Something must be different about our high school, and not merely that there are classroom devotions and weekly chapels. I would dare say most Christian schools have these good practices in their school day. However, the Christian school as standard begins when the classroom doors are closed, the teacher is engaged with the curriculum, and God's Word is used as the lens by which everything is studied.

By God's grace, our Christian young people are brought the beautiful realities of God's world each day. Through this they are encouraged to be standard bearers of the life of Jesus Christ who dwells within their regenerated hearts.

Parents and supporters, you can be confident that teachers at Covenant Christian High School are intentional about applying God's Word and the biblical worldview to every subject.

<sup>1</sup> Rick Mingerink. Christian Education: An Alternative or Standard? <https://www.curriculumtrak.com/blog/christian-education-an-alternative-or-a-standard>, May 19, 2022. This blog post through Curriculum Trak was originally published in the Adams Announcer in the April 2022 issue.

<b>Department</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Biblical Worldview Application</b>
Mathematics	Algebra I	Fractions and Basic Operations	God as a covenant God: the maintaining of God's covenant with creation is a witness to the consistency of His covenant with us (Jer. 33)
English	Senior Writing	Literary Analysis	Writing to a public audience while still reflecting Christian values
Science	Physical Science	Energy Resources	God has called his people to be stewards of the creation. Students will consider various energy resources and evaluate how they can be used in a stewardly fashion in this life.
Social Studies	World History	Ancient India and China	Christian response to the Caste System of Indian culture – love your neighbor, let each esteem other better than themselves
Religion	Church History I	The Age of the Early Church (100-313)	The purpose of God in persecution (John 15:18-20, I Peter 1:6-7, Acts 8:1-4, Rev. 14:15)
Business	Computer Apps	Computers 101	Appropriate use of time, resources, and skills to bring glory to God
Foreign Language	Spanish II	La Vida	Students will create a poster about a fictional friend from a Spanish speaking country, research an actual Reformed church in that country which this friend would attend, and in so doing promote the catholicity of the church and the compassion we must have for other Christians.
Fine Arts	Art I	Contour	When contour drawing, every detail is seen and observed in its purpose/function/relation to the whole. When we look at ourselves as a miraculous creation of our God, how should this impact our view of ourselves?
Applied Arts	Woodworking	Working with Wood and Safety	To appreciate the amazing natural resources of trees and how important it is to conserve and properly manage our forests so that we can preserve and protect a renewable resource that God has provided for us.

# CAREER DAY

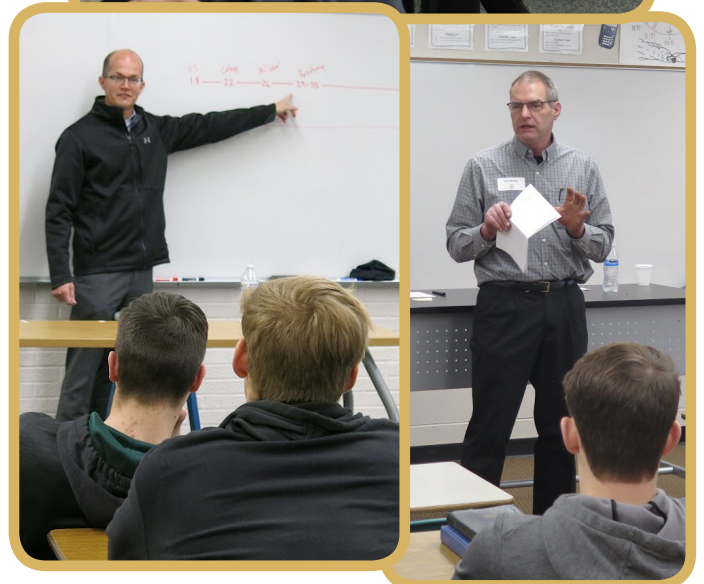
## Career Day By the Numbers

Mrs. Mindy Bergman

- 363: number of students that attended CCHS last year
- 128,693: approximate number of papers, sticky notes, spreadsheets, phone calls, announcements, and emails required for planning this event
- 44: number of presenters
- 58: number of different career sessions offered (due to duplicate sessions of those in high demand)
- 30: number of minutes the presenters had to present their information
- 3: number of career sessions each student attended
- 2: number of speeches made to the entire student body (Rev. Jon Mahtani and Mr. Nate Holstege)
- 0: number of dollars each presenter was paid for his/her time and effort (payment was in the form of coffee, snacks, and gratitude)

When James Haveman and I sat down to make a plan for Career Day 2022, we decided that this year, we especially wanted to stress to students that plans can change, and that's ok. So we looked for speakers who had arrived at their occupation of choice by more roundabout routes. We had a nurse practitioner, for example, who poured concrete for years before going into several different medical jobs. One of our main speakers worked for and owned several different businesses before hitting on the successful businesses he currently owns. We wanted students to feel less stress about their future decisions, since career switches have become far more common today than they were 30 years ago. Try something. If it's not a good fit, that's not a failure—it's a learning experience and God will use it to shape you. Try something else. Just keep doing something, keep your eyes open for opportunities, and keep praying for guidance.

We hosted presenters from a wide variety of occupations, from those that require no additional formal education to those that require much additional education. A few examples include child care, electrician, dental hygienist, computer programmer, elementary teacher, interior design, nurse, business, accountant, and doctor. Each presenter was asked to share how he/she arrived in their current occupation. Ask your favorite CCHS student(s) what sessions they attended and what they learned from the sessions and the main speeches!





## Career Day Session Schedule May 6, 2022

Room	9:15-9:45	10:05-10:35	10:40-11:10
Music Room EG	Nurse (peds, hospital), Pam Dykstra	Welding, Nate Holstege	Interior Design/decor, Rachel Jewell
Room 1- TVB		Lawyer, Jim DeVries	Physical Therapy, Christine Burke
Room 2- KP	Finance, Tyler Schimmel	Nurse (EMT, Emergency), Nadine Boven	Welding, Nate Holstege
Room 4- JaN	Mechanic (cars), Ken Elzinga	Mechanic (cars), Ken Elzinga	Machining/CNC, Mitch Zuverink
Room 5- TH	Real Estate, John DeVries	Special Ed, Amanda Haney, Grace Kaptein	
Room 6- JVO	Mechanic, Diesel, Joe Kleyn	Elementary teacher, Erika Aalsma	Elementary teacher, Erika Aalsma
Room 8- JVD			Graphic Design, Erika Kiel
Room 10- JoN		Child Care, Katy Urquhart	Child Care, Katy Urquhart
Room 11- SVU	Chemistry, Dr Brendan Looyenga	Architect, Mike Lotterman	Architect, Mike Lotterman
Room 12- DVU		Culinary, Bill Gayle	Secretary/Administrative Assist, Amy Mol
Room 13- MS	Dental, Taylor Noorman, Jocelyn Holstege	Electrician, Brian Koole	
Room 15- BVO	Cosmetology, Chris Poppema	Cosmetology, Chris Poppema	Doctor, Dr. Brian Decker
Room 16- DK	Computers, Derek VanOverloop	Computers (IT), Jon Bult	
Room 17- JM	Medical Assortment, Alex Bylsma	Medical assortment, Alex Bylsma	
Room 19- KD	Business, Jared VanBaren	Business, Jared VanBaren	Business, Jared VanBaren
Room 20- TB	Counseling, Dr. Eric Dykstra	Counseling, Dr. Eric Dykstra	
Room 21-EM	Landscaping, Kregel		Vet/Vet Tech, Lisa Meyer
Room 22-BP	Plumber, Chad Wassink	Athletic Trainer, Abbie Miedema	Athletic Trainer, Abbie Miedema
Room 26- ADV	Photographer, Tricia Brummel	Accountant, Kevin VanOverloop	Accountant, Kevin VanOverloop
Room 27- DVD	Minister, Rev. J. Mahtani	Minister, Rev. J. Mahtani	
Room 28- KB	Teacher, secondary (KB)	Teacher, secondary (KB)	Medical Assistant, Lindsey Kamps
Room 29- JW	Builder, Herman Hanko	Law enforcement, Alex DeJong	
Room 30- RDV	Engineer, Tyler Pipe	Engineer, Tyler Pipe	Engineer, Tyler Pipe





## Class Text

*“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed,  
because his compassions fail not.*

*They are new every morning:  
great is thy faithfulness”*

*Lamentations 3:22-23*

We thank Miss Decker and Miss Ensink for sharing with us excerpts from their Valedictorian speeches given at this year's Commencement on June 3, 2022.

### Miss Leah Decker, Valedictorian

For my speech I have chosen to talk about service. As former students of Covenant Christian High School, we have been given a tremendous example of what biblical service and selflessness looks like. A summary of our last four years could easily and shortly be defined by the fact that others were constantly giving for us.

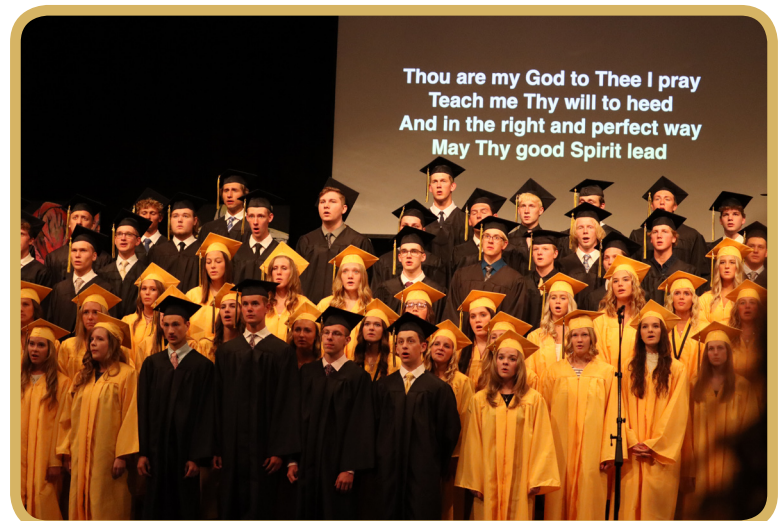
Let's pause and think about that for a moment. We can start with our parents. Besides the thousands of tuition dollars they paid each year, they've given up so much of their time. They've driven us to countless sporting events, edited endless essays, and volunteered at numerous fundraisers, just to give a few examples. They did all of that (and so much more) for us. Time that could've been spent doing other, perhaps more enjoyable, things was willingly given up for our benefit and nurture.

What about our teachers? They have made a life calling out of selflessly serving their students. They gave of themselves constantly in organizing lesson plans, grading assignments, and in chatting with us in the halls. Daily they encouraged us in our walk of faith and sent continual prayers on our behalf. None of that for themselves, but for our blessing and welfare. And there are many more who continue this pattern: grandparents, coaches, staff, friends, and numerous others have in a variety of capacities shown loving service for all for us. They worked so that we could thrive and flourish, expecting nothing in return. This example of service which we've received throughout our education is truly a priceless and valuable gift.

However, it is imperative that we not leave this reflection as just that - a nice and appreciative

thought. It is true that we are incredibly thankful to all who have made this amazing day possible, but as adults now moving on to our next stages of life, we must take this example to heart. We are entering a community where we will, so to speak, have to pull our own weight. No longer will we be almost solely on the receiving end of service, but we will now transition into an adult life of service to others. Following the examples of those who served us throughout our high school experience, we are called to begin consistently giving of our time for the good of our brothers and sisters in Christ. For each person this will look a little different. Some may serve in the way of becoming leaders of various clubs and fundraisers, and others will lead Bible studies. Some will become ministers, or still others may follow in the footsteps of our teachers. Yet, no matter what this means for each of us individually, we must be doing something actively in the realm of serving others.

So, at the end of our high school education and in conclusion to this graduation ceremony, I pose one final question: in what way will you choose to serve?



## Miss Victoria Ensink, Valedictorian

Tonight, two things happen. We look forward to what comes next, which is very exciting and a little scary, and we look back to see how in the world we made it to this point.

Two weeks ago, we went on our class trip. While on our class trip, I was walking around the campground, as one does, and I walked into a stick. Would not recommend this. It left a pretty big scratch and a decent sized bruise for about five days. Last week, as I was sitting in church for Ascension Day, I happened to look down at said scratch and noticed it was about gone. I can remember thinking "Is this it? Is this the last mark Covenant will leave on me?" And then it hit me: the mark that Covenant leaves on me, and on all of us, is so much more than one scratch.

There's a poem that came to my mind, called "Footprints in the Sand," where the speaker is walking along the beach and turns around to look at the footprints. When he does this, he sees more than just his own footprints, he sees the footprints of His heavenly Father walking next to him. Tonight, as we look back at the footprints in our lives, we do not see only our own footprints, but the footprints of all of those who walked alongside us.

We see the footprints of our teachers first of all. Their tireless work to incorporate a Christian perspective into every class is truly very impressive. You will not be able to take a class at Covenant that does not at some point incorporate Christianity into it, and yes, that includes PE. For this, we stand in thankfulness to each and every teacher here. Not only have you shown us how Christianity applies to every realm of life, you've lived it for us as well. You've shown us how to be patient, kind, and selfless, and we didn't always make that easy. You really have gone above and beyond for us, whether that meant responding to late night emails, meeting with us outside of class, or learning how to smile with your eyes because the rest of your face is covered. We've been through a lot together, from surprise online learning, to surprise morning assemblies and their consequences, to normal days when it's just hard to put on a smile. We've learned many valuable life lessons, like how to write an essay in a class period, and that "we're all on the same team." You truly have seen us at our best and at our worst, and have come alongside us and left your mark in the best, clearest way possible.

If I had to give one summary statement for what Covenant is as an institution, it would be this: Covenant is a Christian High School. That name is taken very seriously. As students we experienced this in the day to day activities. From the weekly chapels, to the daily announcements, to fun dress up days, and even to the atmosphere in the hallways, Covenant truly is a unique place. I think I speak for all of us when I say it's been a pleasure to walk the halls there for four years. Every classroom, every lesson is a treasure that can be found nowhere else.

I also want to take a moment to thank my classmates for the mark they have left on me. Each and every one of you has impacted me in a different way, and I want to thank you for helping me become the person I am today. As a class, we've been through a lot too, and I couldn't be more grateful to be able to do it with you guys. It's been a pleasure to grow alongside you and to watch you grow too, and I want to personally congratulate each one of you for your success that is celebrated tonight. Together, we form Covenant Christian High School's graduating class of 2022. Covenant has left its mark on us, and we've left our mark on Covenant.

And so tonight, as we transition into adulthood and all its adventures, let us also take the time to look back and appreciate not just the footprints we can see, but the people who made them.

### Academic Awards

Highest Honor  
4.0 GPA

Gideon Bosman  
Kaylie DeBoer  
Leah Decker  
Callie DeVries  
Victoria Ensink  
Grace Kalsbeek  
Lydia Meulenberg  
Emma Minderhoud  
Lydia VandenBerg

# FIELD TRIPS

## Church History Field Trip: Our Protestant Reformed Heritage Mr. Karl Dykstra

As a capstone to our church history curriculum, the Juniors visit landmarks significant to the heritage of the PRC. Our first stop is Eastern Ave. CRC, the birthplace of the PRC. From there it's on to the old First Church, the flagship of our denomination during the pastorate of Herman Hoeksema. At each of these locations, Prof. Engelsma dons his tour guide hat, capturing both the attention and hearts of the young people as he walks them through the history of 1924 and following. The final exciting destination is Seminary Hill, a first-time visit for most of our young people. Professors, staff, and seminarians provide instruction on the work and life of the seminary.

For the serious minded young person (and most of them are exactly that) this field trip is as thrilling as it is instructive. Let's hear a handful of their reflections:

### **Aubrey Hoekstra -**

I personally loved sitting in Eastern Ave CRC and thinking, "Wow, I'm sitting in the same church where my denomination was born." I also enjoyed hearing Prof. Engelsma talk to us on the steps of the Old First Church. Hearing how Hoeksema influenced Prof. Engelsma's life and preaching, and how he could then share that to his congregation and denomination was really amazing.

### **Trevor Elzinga -**

On the field trip, there were many things I found interesting, but what I found most significant was the archives at the seminary. I did not know there were so many artifacts and documents kept at the seminary, and that they are kept in a fire-proof room. I was amazed at how I could see all of these items and documents point toward the same thing, which is God's glory. [The archives] showed me how important it is that history be preserved...and how we can see a faithful God preserving his church. As I remember the rows and rows of archives, I think about this and pray that God will continue to preserve his church in a world that grows more wicked.

### **Larissa Brands -**

On our trip, we got to see where our denomination began and where the seminary first existed. The seminary from its beginning has trained ministers and prepared them to serve as shepherds of a congregation. And from professor to professor, it has taught the same truth throughout its history. We can often take for granted that we have a seminary like this....I left the place so happy.

### **Westen Meulenber -**

I especially appreciated Prof. Engelsma going out of his way to tell us memories of Rev. Herman Hoeksema and about his early years in seminary. I could clearly see how God has used Prof. Engelsma throughout the years to teach proficiently our denomination as a whole, but also to instruct the young people. I could tell that the younger generation means a lot to him as he taught us about our history. The seminary was the highlight of the trip for me as it was my first time being there. The seriousness and importance of the work of the seminary was clearly shown to me when talking to each of the professors and students. This trip showed me how good God has been to us. We have a lot to be thankful for in the PRC.



## Choir Trip Eric Gritters

It was shortly before midnight when 120 rambunctious singers loaded onto two coach buses and two vans to make the trip to the Midwest choral festival at Dordt University this past April. More coaches, buses, vans, and airplanes brought the PRC choirs from Redlands, Loveland, Randolph, and Dyer. We all met at Trinity PRC school in Hull. It took a couple pizzas from Pizza Ranch (and quite a few dessert pizzas) to feed the whole gang (around 350 singers!) as new friendships were made and old ones were rekindled. After a busy day of rehearsing and reacquainting, we came back together at night to give our concert. Each choir performed on their own before combining together for the final pieces - what a beautiful noise it was!

Friday brought the awaited festival at Dordt - over 800 singers came to the campus for a jam-packed day of master-classes, long rehearsals, and finally the concert at night. Few things could have prepared us for the sound of 800 voices filling the university's gymnasium and flooding out the doors into the warm and windy spring night in Iowa. Before we knew it, the whirlwind of busyness was over, the busses were loaded, and .....eventually....became quiet as we headed home through the night - with the memories of singing playing through our heads:

"Surely grace and loving kindness shall forever follow me. Till, my days of life all ended, evermore my song shall be. O Jehovah, in thy holy house with Thee."



## Band Trip Matt Elzinga

In March 2022, the CCHS band was privileged to visit with the saints at Faith Christian School in Randolph, WI. We arrived on Friday afternoon in time to perform an assembly for the students in the school's common area. After school, we played games and had supper with the Randolph students. That night, we performed a concert at the Hostess Supper, a fundraising dinner for Faith Christian School. Our hosts were very accommodating, and we enjoyed our time of fellowship with them. After the concert, we stayed overnight at the Wilderness Resort in nearby Wisconsin Dells before returning home on Saturday night.

This was a trip that the band had intended to take in March of 2020, but it was cancelled due to the COVID restrictions in place at that time. We are thankful that we were able to take this trip in 2022. It was a great opportunity to meet fellow believers in

another state and share the gift of music with them.

The band students were also blessed to spend time together in fellowship and conversation with one another. Next year, Lord willing, we will get to return to the Dordt band festival in Iowa.



## Pigeon River Trip Dan Kuiper

"I think this is the coolest lake I've ever been on!" This was a comment made by a student this year as we explored and performed testing on West Lost Lake in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. The Pigeon River trip has become a staple of our Advanced Biology class and one that students look forward to with great anticipation. In a world that is constantly connected, one of the greatest benefits of the trip is that students learn the joy of being disconnected from technology and developing real connection with one another as they engage in ecological research and face-to-face conversation.

The trip is a two day, one night camping adventure. We stay in a rustic campground on Round Lake. It's a beautiful setting and it's the first time most of our students have stayed in a rustic campground. Sleeping in tents, pumping water from the hand-pump well, and cooking over the campfire are all part of the adventure. The star-filled sky and near-deafening sounds of the night creatures are a treat to experience. We spend the entire trip outdoors enjoying the most elegant book of God's creation.

Although our time spent in camp is enjoyable, most of our time is spent performing research in the surrounding area. This includes the chemical and biological testing of two lakes, the collection and identification of aquatic insect larvae in Pigeon River, the exploration of a bog habitat, and the identification of various plants and trees as we take a few hikes through the area. Students really enjoy this aspect of the trip as well. It provides a great opportunity for students to take what they've learned in the classroom and put it into practice in the field. Students leave the trip with a greater appreciation for the wonder and beauty of the creation and a deeper understanding of the wisdom and glory of our God.



# 2022 SENIOR CLASS TRIP



**FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**  
Travis Van Bommel



All areas of the new Athletic Complex are ready. The fences are up, bleachers are in, concrete (a lot of concrete) is poured, the grass is green, and the track surface has been applied and painted. The baseball field was used for the entire 2022 season, and the softball team got to play one game on the new field this past spring. The track team practiced on the asphalt oval. The boys soccer team will be playing on their new field for the 2022 season. We are excited to play under the lights!! If you haven't been out there yet, I encourage you to attend a game this fall. Check out the new



concession building, and all of the great aspects of this new facility. Feel free to explore when you are here! Thank you to everyone who played a part in the construction and financing of this facility. It's ready to go – we hope to see you there. **"WE ARE THE CHARGERS!"**

