

# THE COURIER

## *Anniversary Issue*



*“Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.” Deuteronomy 7:9*



## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Rick Noorman



### “A Goodly Heritage is Mine, Marked out with Gracious Care”

This is a personal reflection of my experiences with Covenant Christian High School over the past 50 years. I share this with the hope that in each of the roles considered there are those who can relate to these experiences and testify to the gracious care of God over these years.

#### As a Kid/Observer

Growing up as a young boy in the mid 1960's, I lived just a few blocks from Adams St. Christian School. I was aware that some of the older kids from our church either attended GR Central Christian or GR East Christian High School. I had always looked up to these kids when they were in Junior High at Adams. I'm not sure how I got the message but as I got into Junior High, I knew that I would not be attending those high schools but I would be riding the bus across town to go to Covenant Christian High School.

I remember attending the Covenant dedication in 1968. We were able to walk through the hallway, see all the classrooms, try out the state of the art German language lab, and hear the choir sing in the main entry. My parents helped me get excited about Covenant by taking me to basketball games and choir concerts. Coming to this school became part of my dream for the future and it could not come soon enough. I remember going to basketball games at Grandville Junior High to watch the Chargers. Then we followed the first exciting tournament run as the 1971 team made it to the Regional finals and got to play in the huge Ferris State gym.

Back then most of the kids from Adams and Hope really looked forward to the day when they would get to Covenant. As I meet with 8th grade students prior to their arrival at Covenant, I'm thankful that there is this same excitement and anticipation today.

#### As a Student

That young boy's dream soon became reality. In September of 1971, I walked up the hill toward Adams St. School to catch the bus to Covenant. All of us on the Adams bus stop were welcomed on board by Mr. Huber, driver of the morning route. After the long trip zig-zagging through town, we were dropped off at the front door for the start of our three years at Covenant.

It seemed like those three years went very fast. Our class of 33 students, Class of '74, grew close as we spent much time together.

In the winter of 1972 the core group of basketball

## Board Members

- Nicholas Kleyn, President
- Dr. Doug Bleyenbug, Vice President
- Dave Meulenberg, Secretary
- Tim Kaiser, Treasurer
- Tim Pipe, Vice Secretary
- Brad Dykstra, Vice Treasurer
- Al Van Dyke
- Mark Ophoff
- Mike Rau

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players from Adams and Hope put together a good season for the Chargers but were knocked out of the Districts by St. Joseph's Seminary. This set the stage for the 1973 Chargers, from a school without its own gym, who were able to win the Class D State Championship.

### **As a Teacher/Coach**

My dream about CCHS expanded to someday being able to teach and coach here. This dream began to unfold while in college and upon graduating from Calvin, I accepted a contract to teach at Covenant. Working with colleagues who were my former teachers was a wonderful experience. It was rewarding to be able to teach in sharing insights to subjects that I had a passion for and applying a Christian perspective to the various topics that were covered. The late 1970's and early 80's were rebellious and turbulent times in our society and the affects were seen in our student body as well. Frustrated with this, along with feeling that after four years of teaching I was not growing and developing in my work, I was led to the decision to leave Covenant and the field of education. As with many jobs, the rewards of the work are not always immediately apparent. Sometimes it takes many years to see the effect of the work that is done. Those early years of teaching led to many positive interactions and friendships with those students, even the difficult ones, later in life. In fact, many of these men have returned to give of their time to serve on the School Board. It continues to be a fact that the rewards of teaching are not always apparent for many years.

### **As a Parent**

As parents of seven children it was a blessing for my wife and me to be able to entrust these young souls to a Christian school that was staffed with faithful, God fearing teachers who were standing in our place. As our children approached high school age, I was excited to see them enter Covenant Christian High School. Here they would have opportunities to be involved in learning and school activities with those of the same faith. As parents, we had a great deal of trust in the school and the teachers. Being a parent/principal had its challenges for us and our children, but it was also a great blessing to have a part in both aspects of their life. As parents, we did not send our children off each day wondering if this was going to be a good thing for them. We knew that it was. This is the same feeling that I get now as administrator. I sense the trust of our parents. And, I sense the openness that they have to communicate with the school if they have concerns. This sense of trust on the part of parents is still very evident in our school community today. It must remain as a foundation for our work as a parental school in the future.

### **As a Society/Board Member**

It was a privilege for me, soon after graduating from high school, to become a member of the School Society. It was impressed upon us then that all men, young and old, had a responsibility to have a part in the support, the decision making, and the operations of our schools. Society members are also eligible to become Board members if nominated and elected by the Society. This responsibility came my way in the years between 1991 and 1993. This was a critical time in my life as God led me to once again become intimately involved with the operation of the school. Appointment to the Education Committee led to close contact with the teachers and Miss Agatha Lubbers who was capably managing the school on our behalf. The men that I served with were a mixture of early CCHS graduates and those that were involved in the origination of the school. It was a great blessing to be a part of that group and to grow from seeing those two perspectives in operation. It was most impressive to see how this body held to the important principles of parental, Reformed, Christian education as they made their decisions on matters pertaining to the school. Over the years there have been difficulties to face and tough decisions to be made. This is bound to be the case as we move forward. It is important that those who serve on the School Boards continue to operate and make decisions in accordance with the established mission statement and policies that were established at the formation of the school and have been thoughtfully crafted over the years.

### **As Administrator**

During my time on the School Board, Miss Lubbers had expressed her intention to retire as Administrator within the next couple of years. As I left the board room after the final meeting of my term I had little idea that I would soon be back. God had other, and better plans, as He soon worked it in my heart to consider using the gifts that He had given me and that had been developed in the various phases of my life to go back to the field of education. Since then, over the past 21 years, it has been such a blessing to work each day for parents and with teachers and children who all share the same confession and view life the same way. As Administrator, I am privileged to work alongside hard working teachers who show their love for the students as they instruct them about God and His works in this world. It is also wonderful to be able to be with students who show their love for God and for each other as they go through each day.

I trust that most of you reading this article can relate to one or more of these perspectives. It is my hope that it is evident to you that a great blessing is ours in Covenant Christian High School. God has faithfully led us through these years, provided for all of our needs, and given grace sufficient for the trials that we have faced. Our testimony certainly can be "A goodly heritage is mine, marked out with gracious care."



## **A Brief History of the School Board's Work from 1959 to 1968 to Start Covenant Christian High School**

This article is about the work that went on from 1959 to 1968 by our fathers and grandfathers who had the vision to start our own Christian high school in the Grand Rapids area. There were already two elementary schools in the Grand Rapids area, Adams and Hope, so starting a new school was not something completely out of the ordinary, but it would require a lot of patience, planning, work and commitment.

It all started in September of 1959. There was a steering committee of men who wanted to start a high school. On September 15, 1959, a meeting was held at Southwest PR Church to organize the Society for Protestant Reformed Secondary Education. Here is the first Article recorded in the minutes.

*"Article #1: We sang from Psalter #325 verses 1-4, after which the chairman of the steering committee, Mr. J. Swart, reads Deuteronomy 4:1-4 and leads in opening prayer. "*

And thus was the beginnings of our own Christian high school.

At this same meeting, Rev C. Hanko gave a speech on "Our Own High School," calling attention to the need, possibility, and procedure for this new school and endeavor. Also at this meeting it was decided that the steering committee would act as the temporary School Board, Their first order of business would be to draw up a constitution and by-laws and organize a School Board election. These men were J. Swart, C. Kuiper, C. Jonker, C. Westra, H. Schipper, O. Kamminga, J. King, and R. Bloem. The chairman elected to lead these men was Mr. C. Jonker. Many of us know these men and we give thanks to God for their vision and leadership these many years ago.

These men met for a few months. They then called for a Society Meeting on March 31, 1960, at which the constitution and bylaws were adopted and new School Board members were elected. The men elected at this meeting were Don Lotterman, Jay Bomers, Henry Velthouse, Herman Kuiper, John Buitter, James Lanning, Gerrit Bylisma, John Dykstra and Richard Bos. Don Lotterman was then elected to be the chairman at the next Board meeting.

Over the next nine years, these men and the other men that were elected to the Board, labored to organize and begin a new school, not an easy feat. They had to raise money, buy land, gain support, get people excited about it, hire teachers, set up

a curriculum, and build a school. Finally, after nine years of hard work and determination, in the fall of 1968, they opened the doors of Covenant Christian High School.

From reading the recorded minutes of the School Board over these nine years, we can get a glimpse into the different aspects of their work.

### **Finance Committee:**

The first record of money the school received was reported at the December 3, 1959, Board meeting.

*"Article #5: We received a report from Mr. R. Bloem that the Hope (PR Church) male octet had taken a collection of \$115.00 at their program for our society."*

It was given to the Board and deposited in a new savings account at Old Kent Bank. The balance slowly rose. By February 23, 1961, there was \$1,468.37. By December of 1962, it was at \$4,246.45. June 1964, it was \$6,907.00. From reading through the minutes, the Board spent a lot of time writing letters to the local PR Churches and to the members of these churches to try to get them to support the school financially. It seems, from the reading of the School Board minutes, that it was a struggle to get the support they wanted. May 26, 1966, the balance was \$26,154.00. March 23, 1967 the balance was \$40,072.00. The School Board continued to conduct drives and the balance steadily increased. May 24th, 1967, the balance was \$51,497.63. Over the next year, the Finance Committee set up a budget to run the school, borrowed money to build a school, helped set tuition rates, hired a bookkeeper and bought many supplies and books to get the school started.



### **2018 School Board**

Front Row: Brad Dykstra, Mike Rau, Tim Kaiser, Al Van Dyke

Back Row: Dr. Doug Bleyenburgh, Tim Pipe, Nick Kleyn, Dave Meulenbergh, Mark Ophoff

## **Building Committee:**

The work of the Building Committee the first few years was to find land to build a school. In the early minutes, it was reported that they even considered using the former Adams PR school location in SE Grand Rapids for the high school by subdividing a part of it off for a high school. They also looked at land on Kalamazoo Ave, Burlingame Ave, 52nd St., Ivanrest, 36th Street and many other locations. A lot of these properties were investigated and even offers made on some of them, but they did not materialize.

Then in August of 1963, the following was voted on at the School Board:

*“Article #2: A motion was made and supported that the following proposal be presented to the society. That the Board be authorized to purchase 10 acres of land on the north half of section 6 in Walker from James and Bertha Niewenhuis for \$12,000 of which there is to be \$3,000 down payment and \$3,000 to be paid annually in 1964, 1965 and 1966 and 6% interest on the balance of the principal in 1967.”*

This proposal carried at a special society meeting held September 6, 1963, and thus the location of CCHS was determined. At the April 3, 1964, meeting they hired an architect, and he helped determine how big the new school should be. He suggested five classrooms, one library, one chemistry lab, a general office area for administration and supplies, and a teacher’s lounge. By July 23, 1964, Mr. T. Newhof had completed site plans for our building site, and it was reported at the August 25, 1966, meeting that the Architect estimated the cost to build a 9,900 sq. ft. building was \$148,500. Plans were completed shortly thereafter, ready for construction and bids. In February of 1968, the work to construct the school was awarded jointly to Sidney Newhof, Thomas Newhof, and Case Lubbers. They had around six months to build the school, which they managed to do, and school opened on time. A dedication ceremony for the new school was held the third week of September 1968.

## **Education Committee:**

The Education Committee work seemed slow at the beginning and there were very few reports to the Board in the first few years of their work. On June 30, 1960, the Ed Committee contacted former students of Hope and Adams PR Schools to determine what subjects they had taken in high school. But in 1964 their work began in earnest.

Jan 30th, 1964. *“Article 3. The Education Committee reported they had met with Dale Kuiper and John Buiter to discuss curriculum and room requirements for our high school.”* *“Article 4: The Education Committee recommends that work begin on a course of study and the basic principles of teaching the various courses for our high school.”*

The next meeting they reported they were looking into state requirements for teacher certification and

curriculum. In April of 1965, they adopted the statement of Christian principles that are the basis for our proposed high school. But they were facing some problems as reported to the Board on July 29, 1965.

*“Article 6: The Education Committee presented three main problems that must be faced in developing a curriculum. a. Necessity of obtaining qualified persons to investigate our various curriculum needs. b. The development of unique approaches to be used in specific course. c. The place of the Bible in the Curriculum.”*

A curriculum was adopted in January of 1966 with the goal in mind of starting a school in 1967.

July 21, 1966: The Education committee recommended opening our school with 10th and 11th grades. The enrollment should range from 45 to 55 pupils. Four teachers would be required.

But a major decision was made at the July 21, 1966, board meeting to start school in 1968.

*“Article 16. A motion is made, supported and passed to set the opening date of our school in Sep. 1968.”*

Grounds. 1. More support and backing for our high school is needed. 2. It will be much easier financially to open then. 3. More students will be available in 1968. 4. More time will provide greater teacher availability. 5. There is insufficient time to open in 1967.

Then started the task of finding teachers. October 27, 1966, the Education committee advised that ads had been placed in the “Standard Bearer” regarding principal and teacher’s positions.

At the March 28, 1967, meeting the Board made a motion to hire its first principal. *“Article 18: A motion is made and supported to engage Mr R Petersen as principle of the High School from September 1967 to September of 1968.”* He accepted this position in the following weeks.

At the January 1968 meeting it was reported there were 36 prospective students for 10th grade and 26 for the 11th grade.

During the next months the Board worked on adopting policies regarding teachers, such as salary and benefits. In February of 1968, they offered contracts to teachers and in the coming months received signed contracts. Now that they had teachers lined up, they were ready for school to start in September of 1968.

It is fascinating to read these old minutes and see how our forefathers did their work. It is also very interesting to see the discussions and decisions they had to make to start a high school. From reading the minutes, you can tell that it was not always easy and that there was often different opinions on things. Often the board would go back to a previous decision and rescind it to determine the best course of action.

In conclusion, it is amazing to see that the Lord prospered this work. We can look back with thanks for the work God did through these men to start our own Protestant Reformed High School.

## REFLECTIONS by Vern Huber

It was my privilege to teach at CCHS from 1968-2011. While at Covenant, I taught mathematics, physics, computer programming, bookkeeping, and, for one semester, shorthand! I also served as assistant principal and student council advisor. I thank God for the opportunity to have served in this capacity at Covenant Christian HS. (I believe that the name for our high school was suggested by Rev. Homer Hoeksema).

If I were asked to characterize my experiences at and observations of Covenant Christian High School with one word, my immediate answer would be "growth." I believe that this is an accurate characterization for a number of reasons. Of course, it is obvious to all, that CCHS has grown with respect to enrollment. There were sixty-plus students in attendance in the tenth and eleventh grades during the first year (1968-1969). The next year the twelfth grade was added and also one new faculty member (Harry Langerak). In 2011 the ninth grade was included in the high school. Next year the enrollment is expected to be 385 students in grades nine through twelve. The building also grew to accommodate the increasing enrollment, and also to make room for additional course offerings. After much discussion, a major decision in our early years was to add a gym, which meant that we no longer had to walk over to Hope Church to attend chapel. Also some of the physical education classes, which had been strictly outside activities, could now be held in the gym. This made it possible to include new activities in the P.E. curriculum. Extracurricular activities were introduced. These included various student organizations and sports teams that competed with other schools. In addition to teams involved with sports, Covenant now has two robotics teams that compete with other teams in Michigan and also teams from other states.

I alluded to the fact that the number of course offerings were part of the growth at CCHS. We began introduction to computers early in the history of our school. We purchased a keyboard-printer combination. This apparatus allowed us to connect to mainframe computers in the Kent Intermediate system. I used this to teach computer programming for a time. The Board decided that rather than teach programming, we should teach students how to use certain computer software, such as word processing.

There was evidently no money budgeted to purchase the needed software, nor a printer. I eventually received the "Word Perfect" word processing software from Rev. Woudenberg, who



was updating his computer capabilities. I called around and located a mathematics professor at Hope College who claimed that he could program our TRS 80 computer so that it would work with our keyboard-printer apparatus described above. I loaded the entire apparatus onto a trailer and towed it over to Hope College. As it turned out, he was no more successful than I in his effort. Also I found that the "Word Perfect" software that we got from Rev. Woudenberg did not work well with our TRS 80. We did eventually purchase the necessary equipment and software so that we could begin the envisioned computer classes in the next school term. Thus began our technology efforts at CCHS.

CCHS now has three teaching areas with over 70 computers plus students have access to a great number of tablet devices in the classrooms. Overhead projectors are now obsolete with every classroom having a digital projector which projects images from the computer onto a screen or whiteboard.

On my occasional visits to Covenant, I am especially pleased to see the growth in spiritual maturity that is evidenced by the student's behavior. I would encourage you to attend Covenant's annual Christmas chapel led by the Student Council. Many individual students and groups of students willingly participate, using their considerable God-given talents to praise our Lord. A special thanks to Jennifer Knott who has done a superb job advising the student council for many years. Jennifer is a Covenant graduate, as are a number of the teaching staff and the office staff. We are now blessed with excellent teachers who demonstrate love and concern for our young people, and who work hard to give Christ-centered instruction in their various subjects.

Our God has been faithful to us in giving us School Boards that have worked hard to provide thoughtful and spiritual leadership so that CCHS has grown and flourished under their direction. We are thankful for these men. The same can be said of the leadership provided by our principals past and present: Roland Petersen, a man of many talents who undertook the difficult task of transitioning from a grade school and middle school principal to a high school administrator. He was required to make many adjustments. He established a standard of excellence for our high school choir program. Don Doezema, a scholarly, thoughtful, and deeply spiritual man, became our next principal. He provided sound leadership during a somewhat difficult time in the history of CCHS. It was a privilege to serve under his leadership. Agatha Lubbers cared deeply for all students, including students who were troubled or those who had a tendency to create problems. Her concern for all students and her demand for good scholarship made a significant contribution to CCHS and to our community. Rick Noorman, a Covenant graduate, assumed the duties as principal in 1997. Rick works tirelessly for the school. In addition to his work as administrator at school, he attends most extracurricular activities. We are blessed to have him as the current principal at Covenant Christian High School.

CCHS has been a precious gift to our community. For this we thank our God.



### Faithful Covenant God

Into God's house we have arrived for generations now,  
 Drawn by our faith- His precious gift- and lifting  
 These, our little ones, before Him  
 To be sprinkled with the waters signifying  
 Cleansing for His sons, His daughters,  
 Who, even unaware, share in His promise:  
 They shall live forever, by His dying.

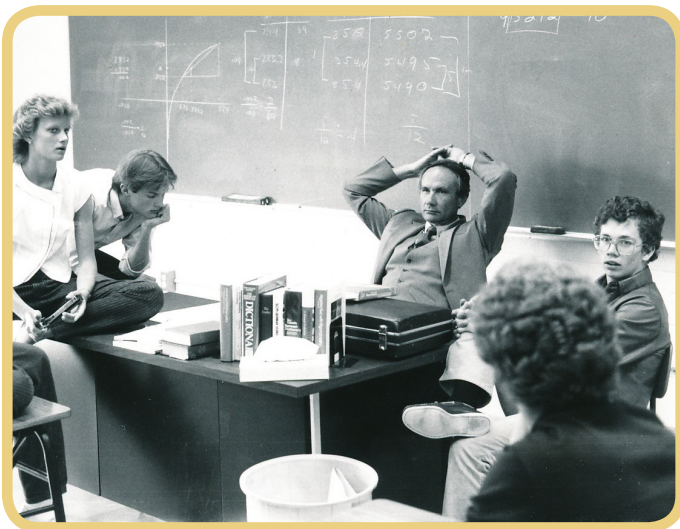
His grace supplying, we have made our vows  
 Before His face, and in the presence of His saints,  
 That in their coming to discretion, we will not  
 Abandon them to willful, wayward wandering,  
 But will lead them to the pondering of their God,  
 Who gives new life, forgives transgression,  
 Calls all His own to holiness in wisdom's way.

As we have promised, so we have obeyed  
 This, His command- all by His strength and His providing,  
 And stand amazed by our God's faithfulness.  
 For though our efforts have been stained by sin and weakness,  
 His love has proved abiding and has laid  
 For fifty years a strong foundation  
 For children of the Covenant that He has maintained.

Not unto us, then, Lord of our salvation,  
 Be any glory, nor be any praise.  
 All is of Thee; all of thy doing; all of grace.  
 With joy we thank Thee now, for this, the fruit  
 Of Covenant promise to believers and their seed.  
 We pray thy blessing on us as we celebrate the filling  
 Of all needs for generations who have filled this place.

Jehovah, be our hope for years to come-  
 Ours and our children's- unto that bright coming we await,  
 When covenant finds completion in Thy dwelling place;  
 Where sin and sorrow's night will fade away, as we abide  
 Before the brightness of Thy face in perfect understanding.  
 Give us wisdom, Father, though we see but darkly now,  
 And grant Thy faithfulness to those who seek thy grace.

Suzanne Looyenga, Class of 1972



## **SUMMING UP REMEMBRANCES:**

**1968-1997** by *Agatha Lubbers*

September, 1968, the beginning of Covenant Christian High School, and my years there from 1968-1997 coincide. The beginning of CCHS in 1968 and earlier planning has brought us, who were part of these earliest days of this significant enterprise, to see and experience the results of fifty years of history. We can exclaim with thankfulness and joy, "What God hath wrought."

A request came to me to stir up and reflect on remembrances of the first three decades of the events of CCHS. These were the times in the providence of God that I served as a teacher and administrator, 1968-1997.

These were the years of beginnings. The idea of a Protestant Reformed Christian High School had often been proposed but this was a time of origins. A school society was established, a board was elected, and a society of interested ladies to help in the process was established. The school was constructed during the spring and summer of 1968 and the first Tuesday of September 1968 arrived. A dedicatory service had preceded this day, but today was the day for the three score students to begin classes.

I believe my memory is correct when I say that a small parking lot near the front of the early building contained the six vehicles of the six faculty members. Our parking lot was like a postage stamp compared to the present parking lots. I can remember only two students of the Class of 1970, the first graduating class, who drove cars to school.

I don't know why students were standing outside the school waiting for the bell to ring. I assume this was because the schools in which we formerly taught, grade schools K-9, followed this practice. Students on future days came into school as they arrived. This was more like high school. The six members of the faculty perhaps had forgotten in



their planning to remember that little practices like this needed to be adjusted for high school students. This was certainly one of the minor changes and practices that had to occur.

The first day began and ended for the junior and sophomore classes – the classes of 1970 and 1971. September of 1969 marked the beginning of the Class of 1972. This class was the first class of students that would attend a Protestant Reformed Christian High School during the first thirteen years of their education.

A first day is followed by a second day, and I recall that a young man appeared in my class that had not been there the first day. Although this is a minor incident in the 6000 days of teaching at CCHS, it is memorable. I asked the young man where he had been the first day. He politely informed me that he had attended class at the Grand Rapids Christian High School (East). He said that his first day at the other school told him he had to transfer to CCHS. He saw none of his friends there. He conferred with his father and he was transferred to CCHS.

School loyalty and allegiance had not yet developed in the minds, thoughts, and hearts of many students and even parents. It was all new and we have seen the incredible and rewarding growth in support, allegiance, and loyalty in the years since 1968.

Development in these areas and love for the school must grow so that all will sincerely desire to support CCHS and everything for which it stands. Fifty years have passed, and we have seen the blessings of God and experienced a breath-taking development of "the love for the cause." "A goodly





heritage is ours marked out with gracious care” (Psalm 16).

Students of the early 1970’s have become the parents and grandparents today. Gratitude to our covenant God and obedience to promises made to God, our part in the covenant of grace, have shown us the promise of God that He will be faithful to us to the third and fourth generations. Our prayer is that this may continue because of God’s faithfulness and the obedience of parents into further generations.

As I sum up remembrances, I remember the calling and desire of the faculty in those early three decades to commit themselves to good Reformed Christian education in all areas of the educational system and process. Every teacher came with a scriptural view of life, but much of the actual development for work in the classroom had to be more carefully thought out and implemented. This was a holy and awesome task, and it remains such a responsibility and privilege.

To assist in the implementation of this responsibility, significant efforts were made to encourage and provide for distinctively Reformed education from a Christ-centered perspective. Nothing would be taught from the viewpoint of Common Grace but it would include a strong emphasis on the theology of sin and grace. To assist in this important task, teachers founded the P.R. Teachers’ Institute, and the Boards of P.R. schools developed the Federation of P.R.C. schools. CCHS faculty could utilize funds made available for individual or group teacher projects that would develop and improve curriculum.

During the years of my teaching and administration significant efforts were expended to produce and frame courses that would promote instruction from a biblical, confessional and distinctively Reformed and Christ-centered perspective. This desire continues in CCHS.

The first three decades were years of “first time” and in many cases they were years of “last times”. We have come to the time called the “present” and look forward to “future times”.

“Last times” can best be reviewed and remembered by scanning the 49 yearbooks – one for each of the 49 years of school. Here you will reflect on the early faculty, students, school boards, athletic activities, academic activities and scores of other activities.

As you review these yearbooks, you will observe and remember some successes and changes in the school since its inception of 1968. Those who have attended and enrolled young Christians in CCHS have experienced or observed these massive

changes in many areas of the education program.

The original six-room school served the purposes well in the very early years of the existence. Since its inception 50 years ago, the school building has gone through many changes as the result of six or more building programs. In the providence of God building changes continue to occur.

Class reunions have become excellent opportunities for alumni and faculty to assemble, to reflect, to smile, to laugh and sometimes cry. We recall and reflect on the good old times, the failures, and the successes.

I remember several of the 1970 Class Reunions (the first class to graduate.) It is a rarity when students don’t remember with regrets their thoughtless teasing of one student in their class. The student has now passed away, and there is no time for her to hear those regrets.

In 1968 the school chose a name for its athletic teams. Several suggestions were made and the name that we have lived with since that day has been the Chargers of CCHS.

In 1979 the gymnasium was completed. Prior to those days P.E. classes were outdoor activities. Our sports teams did not have their own gymnasium during the first decade of the school. In spite of this the Classes of 1973-1975 were blessed with athletes who were able to bring home a basketball championship trophy from Ann Arbor in 1973.

Alumni, faculty and students celebrate CCHS, a gift of God, to instruct young people to be academically trained, to be biblically trained, to be able to go out into the world, prepared to be in the world but not of the world, and hold truth as with an iron grip. Let your families be trained in the fear of the Lord. In this way, you stand like rocks surrounded by surging waves of error and the ungodliness that wages around you.

I have often been approached by former students who have related a tale from the past. Some I remember, and many I have forgotten. Those I remember bring one to the astounding reality of the goodness and saving grace of God. We have learned so profoundly that Christian education is necessary and beautiful.

“Oh the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! From Him and through Him are all things. To Him be glory forever.” Romans 8:33-34

## **DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN...**

by Don Doezema

Ah yes, an anniversary that is the fiftieth can be an occasion for recalling days that were quite dramatically different from today!

Do you remember when...one could walk in the front door at Covenant, head north some twenty paces, stop, look to the right and to the left—and see the whole of the school except for the furnace room and a storage room?

Do you remember when...a spirit duplicator was state of the art for making copies of material to be distributed in the classroom? Who, for that matter, even remembers what spirit duplicators are?

Do you remember when...Covenant got its first computer?

Do you remember when...student chapels were held in Hope Church, pep assemblies in the study hall, band and choirs in a classroom, and phys ed in Hope's gymnasium? And when the library was moved into Room 6, making for a combined study-hall/school library, so as to free up space for another teaching station? And when basketball practice was held at Hope School, or Cummings, or Riverbend, or Rosewood Reformed Church, whatever was available at who-knows-what hour of the day?

And when the proposed budget for the school year (1976-1977) was...\$157,500? Indeed, the differences between what was and what is is quite dramatic!

I thought of that when Rick Noorman gave me a quick tour of the current facilities a couple of weeks ago. Left on my own for a bit I got 'lost' and had to ask one of the Support Staff to point me back to the front door. A far cry from the days when I was part of the school back in the '70s and early '80s and could look to the left and to the right and see the whole school.

I thought of it, too, when I was shown the Music Room, and was able to reminisce for a minute with Mr. Kamper about the days when he had to begin each band practice by overseeing the stacking of desks on one side of a classroom and the carting-in of folding chairs, stands, and percussion instruments from elsewhere in the building.

And when I was shown a room full of tables, on each of which rested a computer—and thought back on the day when we picked up ten used manual typewriters for typing class—at 30 bucks a piece. And then the day we received our first computer terminal—and for a couple of months had to restrict its use so as not to tie up the school telephone line for any prolonged period of time. And when Mr. Huber was granted permission by the School Board to take the computer home during the summer to prepare to teach a computer programming class in the fall.

One cannot help but note differences also when

comparing a couple of yearbooks: 1977 and 2017. The "Faculty" page of the former pictured, in black and white of course, eight full-timers. No page devoted to support staff because they numbered, then, just two—one secretary and one part-time custodian. The 2017 book has pictures, in full vibrant colors, of a faculty of twenty-eight and a support staff of no fewer than twelve. One of which, I couldn't help but notice, there was a Guidance Counselor, who has an assistant. This made me think of the days when, back in August of 1981 we reported to the Board on our "first, tentative step in the direction of a part-time counselor." This would be one of the teachers, one hour of the day. So much more could be said by way of comparison (think library, and science lab), but...space constrains.

What we've noted so far pertains mainly to facilities, numbers, even dollars. But what about the school's mission, its reason for existence? Teachers and administrators of the last forty years would be able, I'm sure, to point to refinements in that regard, as there should be. But as to the heart of it, I'm happy to say that the evidence is clear that it has held fast.

What is that evidence? Well, here too, more could be said, but we content ourselves with the testimony of the students themselves. An excerpt, first, from one of the student-addresses at the graduation of the class of 1977. "We were given," the salutatorian said, "a unique Christian education." How so? "The focus is on God in every class." She thanked the teachers for that, of course, but then also, appropriately, the parents "for sending us to Covenant Christian High School," and thus having "kept your promise to God at baptism to instruct and train us in the doctrines of the Scriptures."

Now fast-forward to 2017—to testimonies from last year's eighty-five seniors as recorded in the 2017 *Heritage*. There were, in those testimonies, two recurrent themes. First this: "Throughout the past four years I have been challenged to connect every area of academics to a Reformed worldview. Over time this has changed how I view the world around me and see God's works in creation. All the classes at Covenant made me grow closer in my walk with God." Read that twice. And then this: "It has been a blessing to walk the hallways with friends, teachers, and faculty of like faith..." A blessing indeed. Maybe especially because some of those friendships have been known to develop into something more intimate. Young people who, back in the '70s, found their life mates in the halls of Covenant have long since seen their children do the same. Now it's their grandkids. So much reason for gratitude to the God who gave us that school.

About the numbers? In 1976-1977: 141 in three grades. In 2017-2018: 380 in four grades. More reason to praise the Lord.

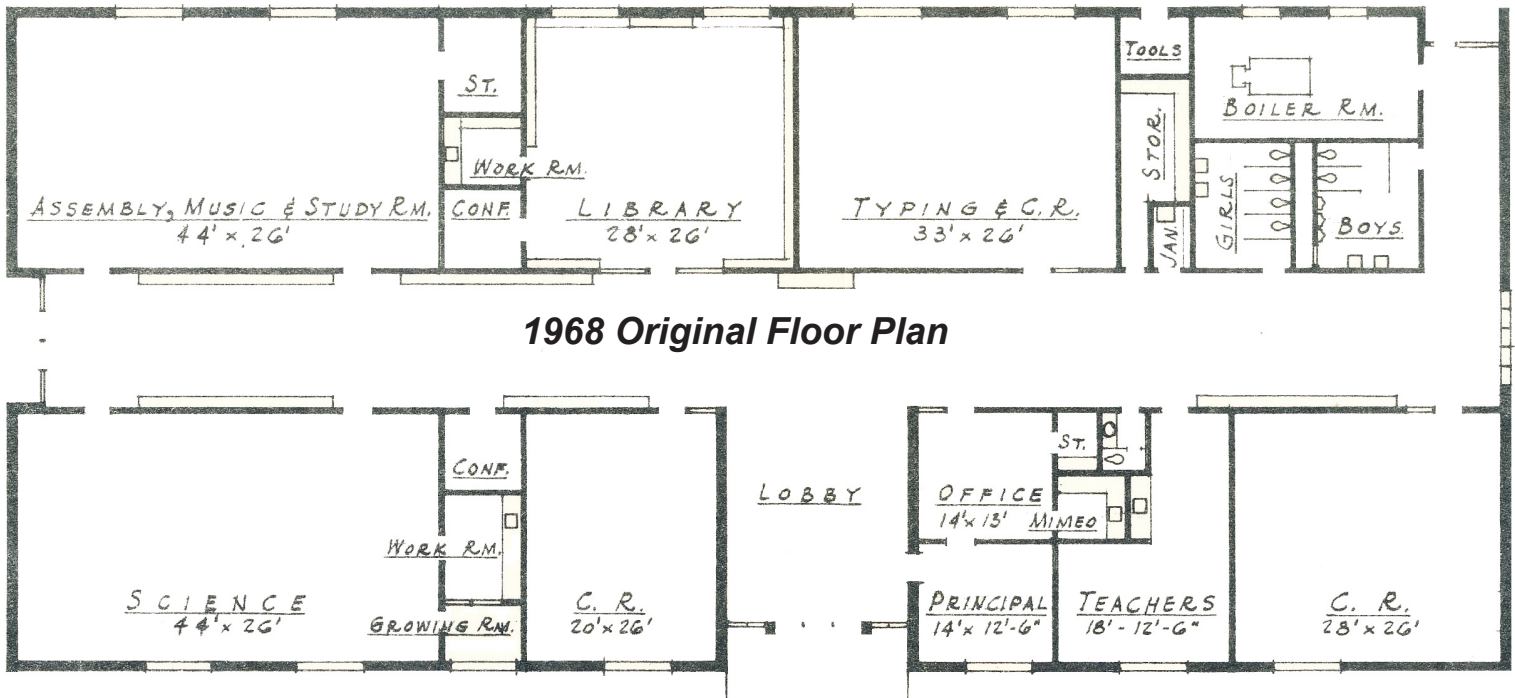
And the dollars? Actual expenses for 2016-2017: \$2,623,682. Worth every penny of it.

## FACULTY HISTORY

Mindy Bergman	1998-2002	Gary Lanning	1982-
Thomas Bergman	1997-	Suzanne Looyenga	2007-2018
Michelle Bodbyl	2000-2002	Agatha Lubbers	1968-1997
Emily Boersen	2017-	Fran Lubbers	1995-2000
Linda Breen	1994	Thad Lubbers	1991-1998
Kyle Bruinooge	2012-	Mary Mahtani	2017-
Lorlei Burgers	1987-1988	Joshua Meurer	2005-2007
Anne Crans	1972-1977	Joel Minderhoud	1995-
Kristin Crossett	2012-2013, 2014-2018	Ethan Mingerink	2016-
Richard DeVries	1997-	Tina Mingerink	2007-2008
Donald Doezeema	1976-1982	Joel Noorman	2012-
Karl Dykstra	2016-	Richard Noorman	1978-1982, 1997-
Matthew Elzinga	2014-	Roland Petersen	1968-1977, 1986-1987
Kenneth Feenstra	1981-1982	Briana Prins	2015-
Tara Flikkema	2002-2006	Antoinette Quenga	1968-1977
Eric Gritters	2008-	Enrique Pappalardo	2007
Keri Haak	2006-2007	Eric Pols	2011-2015
Trisha Haak	2012-	Briana Prins	2015-
Amanda Haney (Spec. Ed)	2013-	Calvin Reitsma	1968-1981
James Haveman	2008-	Elizabeth Thompson	2013-2016
Henry T. Heemstra	1970-1971	Laurie Vanden Heuvel	1985-1986
Stacey Heemstra	1994-1998	Dorothy Vander Schaaf	1997-
Doris Huber	1976-1977	Peter Vander Schaaf	1976-1984
Vern Huber	1968-1970, 1971-2011	Travis Van Bommel	1998-
Virginia Hugg	1993-1996	Jon Van Dyk	2012-
Darrel Huiskens	1982-2007	Kevin Van Engen	1988-1998
James Huizenga	1971-2012	Jon Van Overloop	1998-
Barbara Jansma (Spec. Ed.)	1994-1998	Meghan Van Overloop	2012-
Calvin Kalsbeek	1982-2011	Dan Van Uffelen	2011-
Jason Kalsbeek (Spec. Ed.)	2001-2004	Scott Van Uffelen	1998-
Andrew Kamper	1977-	Robert Vermeer	1985-2002
Jennifer Knott	2002-2018	John Zandstra	1976-1978, 1983-1984
Sarah Kooienga	2007-2009	Lindsay Boverhof	2002-2012
David Korhorn	1968-1976		
Eunice Kuiper	1988-1990	<b>ADMINISTRATORS</b>	
Daniel Kuiper	2012-	Roland Petersen	1967-1976
Gerald Kuiper	1977-1983, 2007-2008	Donald Doezeema	1976-1982
Kimberly Kuiper	2009-2017	Agatha Lubbers	1982-1997
Paula Kuiper	2014-	Richard Noorman	1997-
Harry Langerak	1969-2009		



## CCHS BUILDING HISTORY by Rick Noorman



**1968 Original Floor Plan**

### Property Acquisition

Over the years, adjacent property has been acquired and the initial land made more usable. This brings the total property area to approximately 36 acres. For the past few years we have been budgeting funds for our Property Acquisition Fund to assist with the purchase of land in the future.

1. 1963—Initial 10 acre parcel purchased from James Niewenhuis for \$10,000.
2. August 1983—CCHS purchased 2.5 acres from the DeYoung family directly to the north of the school for \$12,500.
3. 1990—CCHS purchased 2.86 acres from Cal and Linda Kalsbeek directly to the north of the DeYoung property. Purchase price: \$15,000  
Note: Purchases #1 and #2 now contain the soccer field and baseball field.
4. October 2000 — CCHS purchased Oom property (South of existing driveway where sign and parking lot are now located). Purchase price: \$113,000
5. May 2007 — CCHS Purchased the Maas Property (this was the eastern portion of the original DeYoung property in # 2 above) located east of the soccer field between the Tanis property and the Kalsbeek property and extending to Wilson Ave. Purchase price: \$133,000.

6. March 2009—CCHS purchased the property located at 1434 Ferndale, directly south of the school. Purchase price: \$135,000 .
7. August 2014 Purchased Lewis property—Log house, storage garage on 11 Acres for \$315,000  
Note: Adjacent to CCHS property was the expansion of the Hope school property in December of 2001. Hope purchased the two houses and barns on the property located between Hope and CCHS. This property has now been developed into athletic fields for Hope School. CCHS south boundary is currently at the edge of the parking lot. Purchase price \$250,000 for the 2 parcels



**1968** was a great year for all of us. Our school was built in record time. We had a complete teaching staff of well qualified educators and an excellent administrator. We also had a goodly number of students enrolled. This dream of our own high school was promoted over 30 years before by many of our church leaders, especially by Prof. H. Hoeksema.

The Society for Protestant Reformed Secondary Education was organized a few years before we had our first School Board. These men, who started what we now have, made decisions that resulted in Covenant Christian High School. They gave of their time and talents to select a proper building site and helped raise money for the school. They also promoted the idea of our own high school to our people. The building was erected in record time. Thus classes could start in the fall of 1968.

Dr. Dwight Monsma



**1969-70 School Board**

Front Row: D. Lotterman, C. Westra, C. Jonker, P. Zandstra  
 Back Row: B. Windemuller, G. Van Overloop, H. P. Meulenber, I. Korhorn, C. Lubbers

Not pictured, Retiring:  
 J. Bomers, D. Engelsma, D. Monsma



## **ONE EVENT IN THE BUILDING HISTORY OF CCHS** **Construction of the Gymnasium by Case Lubbers**

In 1971, we added the locker rooms to the existing building. This addition took care of the need of an area where the students could shower and change their clothes after participating in the Physical Education program that we had in the curriculum. The Board felt that this was an important start toward the development of a gym that should be built. The Board realized that this addition did not take care of the need for a facility where teams could practice and not have to travel to gyms when they were not in use by their own student body.

The Building Committees of 1975 and 1976 spent many hours researching what would be best suited for our use. There were the concerns that the gym would not be big enough, that it would not be high enough, or that we would build a gym that was too large for our needs. Additional study was needed when the original plan was presented to the society and we had to return to the drawing board. Again we met as a society and decided that we should add on the existing locker rooms and build a 100 x 110 foot gym.

After years of planning and discussion, the gym project became a reality. Construction began and the supporters were excited. When volunteers were called upon to help, they came willingly. This was a project where many of us could be involved. After the gym was closed in and painted, we were ready for the basketball backdrops and the flooring. These were two areas of retrofitting the gym where volunteers could be involved.

The six basketball backboards and steelwork were ordered with a delivery date that had to be met before we could install the gym flooring. The schedule was to install these fixtures starting on a Saturday with delivery of the product early in the week of installation. By Wednesday of said week, it was apparent that we would not be getting delivery in time, so we informed the supplier that we would be picking up the shipment on Friday morning. They were surprised that we were willing to pick them up and gave us a factory location in St. Louis, Missouri. We rented a truck from Atlas Rental, and Doug Griffioen and I left to pick up the backboards on Thursday afternoon. We were at their dock Friday morning and picked up our order, which had been freshly painted during the evening. On Saturday morning, we were back at the gym and with the help of many hands, had much of the installation done by the end of the next week.

Now that the baskets were hanging, it was time to start on the gym floor. During the planning, discussion was given to the type of floor that we would install. Vinyl gym floors were being installed, but the committee decided that we would install a wood floor. At the time that we poured the gym concrete, we took into account that we would have to be 2 ¼ inches lower than the connecting floors to accommodate the new floor. In our explorations on wood floors we came in contact with a company in Houghton, Michigan that installed floors around the country. We were able to purchase from them, at a more reasonable cost, maple flooring that was 2 inches wide because it was not as popular as it had been. This product came with an aged working gentleman that advised us and showed us how to install the flooring which he later sanded and finished. This is the product that you see when you walk into the gym today. With the help of many volunteers, we installed 66 thousand lineal feet or 12 ½ miles of flooring .



**2007**



**2008**



**2011**



**2018**

# CONSTRUCTION PICTURES FROM 2008-2018



## TIMELINE OF CONSTRUCTION

by Rick Noorman

The formation of the Society for Protestant Reformed Secondary Education took place nearly 60 years ago in 1959. Four years later, in 1963 they approved the purchase of 10 acres of land in Walker near to Hope Protestant Reformed Church from James Niewenhuis for \$12,000. In 1967 the School Board was authorized to begin plans for the construction of the building that would house the new high school. On March 8, 1968, the Society approved the opening of the school and construction began. The initial building project, under the guidance of Mr. Case Lubbers was completed in the fall of 1968 just in time to begin the new school year.

The original building, which was just under 11,000 square feet, consisted of a small office and six classrooms including a science lab, assembly room, library, business machines, and language lab. Each room served as both general classroom and fulfilled some other special purpose such as Choir room, Library or Language Lab. The Society authorized \$180,000 for this construction.

Over the past 50 years, our School Boards have acted prudently to continue to acquire land adjacent to our property and expand our building and support infrastructure to accommodate an ever growing student population. The growth of the school and property has been guided by the work of the Long Range Planning Committee. Mr. Tom Newhof has been an instrumental member of this committee since its formation many years ago.

As the enrollment and the educational program grew over the years, the initial building was expanded by the following additions:

**1971**—2 classrooms and locker rooms (\$75,000)

**1978**—Built the gymnasium and expanded the locker rooms (\$260,000)

**1988-89**—Extension of the main hall to the west that included science lab, computer lab, bathrooms and one classroom (Cost of \$429,000, addition of 6000 sq. ft.)

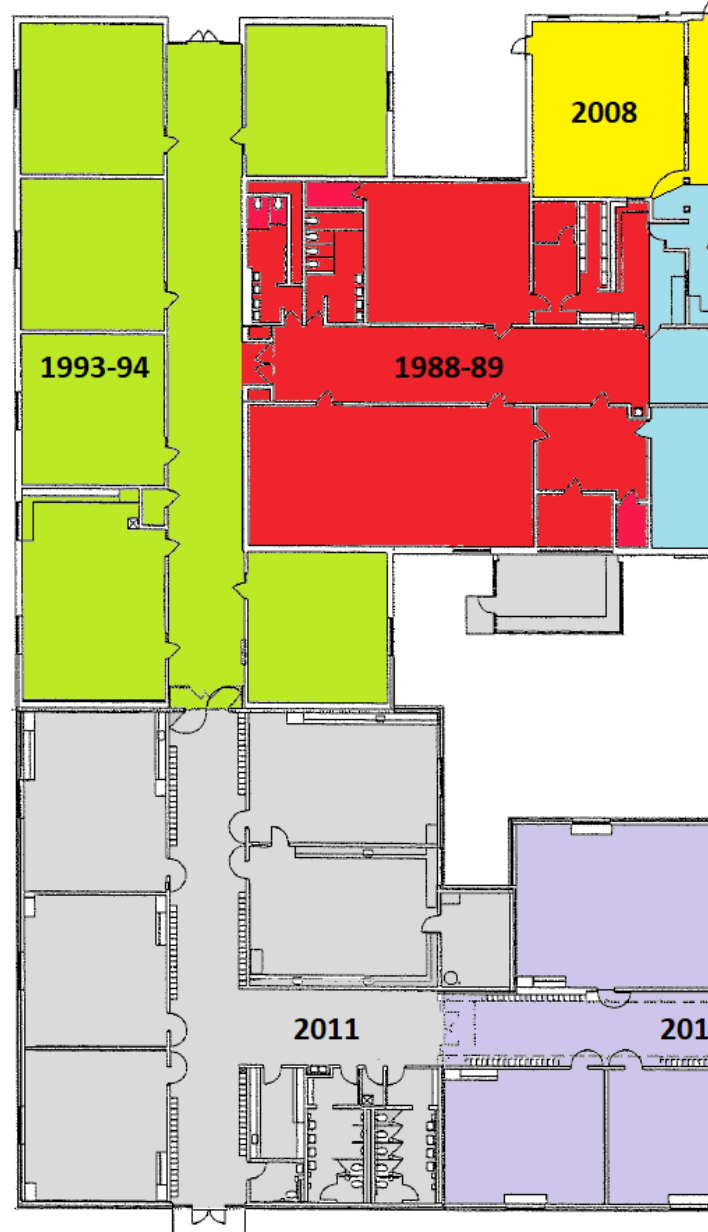
**1993-94**—Music room and five west wing classrooms, parking, driveway to Wilson Ave. and improved athletic fields (\$1,140,000)

**2008**—Expansion of the library and addition of media lab and technology service room. (\$700,000)

**2011**—Addition of 9th grade required adding two wings going south from the original building which included new office space, bathrooms, teacher workrooms, 9 classrooms and a science lab. Also added were new locker rooms east of the gym, a mezzanine for weights and training, an expanded lobby for the gym and storage to the north of the gym. (\$3,000,000)

**2018**—Addition of a five classroom addition that connected the south ends of the previous addition. (\$590,000 + \$180,000 for full school fire sprinkling.)

## Current Floor Plan Additions by Year







## **FINE ARTS PROGRAM AT CCHS by Eric Gritters**

1968 – Sept. 19 – Dedication

Choirs sang at the dedication under Roland Petersen

1970 – Anne Crans began directing the band in a classroom

1977 – Andy Kamper began directing the band, Jerry Kuiper the choir

Band rehearsed in a classroom with 25-30 students

Band then moved to rehearse in a corner of the gym.

1985-1986 – Lori Vanden Heuvel directed the choir

1986-1994 – Andy Kamper directed the choir as well as band

1994-1995 – Linda Breen took over choir

1995-2000 – Fran Lubbers began directing now 2 choirs.

Rick Noorman helped as an associate director.

2000-2005 – Andy Kamper began directing 1 choir of 90-100 singers.

2005-2007 – Josh Meurer was the choir director

2007-2008 – Jerry Kuiper came back for a year to direct the choirs

2008-present – Eric Gritters directed the choirs.

Movement was made to 3 choirs



The choirs and bands have traveled often throughout the years, giving concerts every other year at the Dordt College Band and Choir Festival since the 1990's. Trips have been made to Canada, Pittsburgh, PA, Loveland, CO, Randolph, WI, Dyer, IN, and Hull IA,. We had many clinicals with colleges in those areas. Remember all the cathedrals and beautiful concert venues we played and sang in?

Head to our YouTube pages to hear the current bands and choirs and even recordings from the choir of 1976-1977 under Roland Petersen at St. Alphonsus. Much has changed throughout the years, but one thing is certain: music has played an integral part in the education at CCHS. Memories to last a lifetime.



Memory by Valerie (Klamer) Van Baren (1978)

Mr. Roland Petersen was the choir director while I was in 10th and 11th grades at Covenant. He had a way of showing us we could sing some pretty tough music and sing it well! He made sure we enunciated the words so those who listened could understand what we sang. I really appreciated his choice of music and his enthusiasm the more I got to know him. The older I became, I realized how he was gifted in music and taught the choir how we could use our voices to God's glory. Many of the songs we sang still come back to me. We always started our concerts with "Introit" based on Psalm 122. That song stands out as the best!

## **A CAMEO PERSPECTIVE ON THE VALUE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

by Prof. Russell Dykstra

At the baptism of their children, believing parents promise before God and His church that they “intend to see [their] children instructed and brought up in the aforesaid doctrine, or help or cause them to be instructed therein, to the utmost of [their] power.” Parents do not always grasp the monumental task that they promised to perform. In the performance of their vows, they become increasingly grateful for the assistance of the good Christian school, and more and more recognize its tremendous value. This value of Christian education cannot be adequately presented in a page or two. Therefore, we focus on just one aspect of the marvelous benefits of the education here at Covenant Christian High School, namely, guided classroom discussions.

The first purpose of education is to impart knowledge. This is the goal of American Literature and American History, of Algebra and Spanish alike, of Chemistry and the Cults. The “information” of the course, in all instances, must be presented in the light of Scripture where Christ is central. Christ is the One executing God’s counsel, and He maintains the order of the universe. He ordained language for the spread of the gospel, for covenant fellowship, and for describing God’s glory. Christ maintains the marvelous intricacies of the creation He formed. This is woven into the instruction in the Christian school. And because the students belong to Christ, the result of Christ’s saving work for them and in them, they are able to grasp the truth of Christ in every subject.

Thorough research, careful preparation of the material, combined with effective delivery (actual teaching) will impart this knowledge to the covenant youth. At the same time, the broader goal is that this instruction will help form in the students of CCHS the Reformed worldview.

Guided classroom discussion of the material taught is a tremendous benefit for all areas of instruction. By that term we refer to a discussion purposefully planned and led by the teacher, based on or related to the instruction given. Obviously, every teacher is open to questions on the instruction, questions that may well bring out additional worthwhile treatment of the lesson – provided it is not an obvious attempt to sidetrack the instruction. Such questions can lead to profitable discussions not foreseen by the teacher. In addition to those questions, there are planned classroom discussions.

The teacher is wise to seek a discussion of the lesson. By means of this, the teacher has opportunity to lay out (again) the importance of the material and the main points. Such a discussion can bring out significant implications of the instruction and how it affects Christians. It will also help the instructor to know whether or not the students grasped the material, as well as giving an indication of how they think in this area and what is important to them. Good discussion can outline the Christian’s proper response to or use of the knowledge. In addition, students have opportunity to express their views and hear the thinking of others. Their own ideas may well be challenged, and their understanding broadened. Last, but certainly not least, classroom dialogue can help teach young people to think – to think biblically, to be sure, but simply to teach them to use their minds to dissect, to evaluate, and to discern. These are vital, lifelong skills.

All this discussion is led by a mature, Protestant Reformed teacher, well prepared to guide the discussion in a good direction, within the bounds of Scripture and the Reformed confessions. The teacher knows the goal, and leads the class to a profitable, and one hopes, memorable wrap-up of the material.

It should be obvious that certain subjects will profit more than others in this endeavor. One certainly can have a classroom discussion on both the beauty and the uses of the quadratic equation in Algebra, on the principle parts of the Spanish verb, on the chemical reactions of various materials and the spiritual pictures that should be observed. More extensive will be discussions in history, literature, government, psychology, and such like subjects. Then teaching history is more than giving events, names, and dates. Literature is more than who is the author and what the story is about. These discussions can make mere information not only come alive, but also become very relevant to the Christian for life.

To be sure, the content of the classroom instruction is first in importance, and no teacher may do shoddy and incomplete preparation for a class, and then attempt to cover those deficiencies with a classroom discussion. Yet, at CCHS, an exciting aspect of the instruction, and a vitally important one, is guided discussions. We thank God for giving us the schools that, in this way and many others, continue to assist believing parents in their high calling of rearing covenant children.

*The following pages will provide a glimpse of God's faithfulness throughout the decades.*



*When you think of*

*Memories*

*You've made with*

*Friends*

*Those memories become*

*Treasures*



Donna (Haveman) Wassink (1977)

I loved my years at Covenant. They were years filled with encouragement and sweet friendships with teachers as well as fellow students. What a blessing it was to be able to share life's joys and disappointments with fellow believers.



Valerie (Klamer) Van Baren (1978)

The years at Covenant didn't seem as important then as they do now for my spiritual growth. I do believe that everything we were taught was in the light of God's inspired word! Teachers in high school have such a huge influence on the young people they instruct, the kind of attitudes they develop and the godly examples that are nurtured in the future men and women of the Church. The ideas teachers put into your head and the friends you make at that critical time have a tremendous impact on the rest of your life



Carol (Dykstra) Schimmel (1970)

A favorite memory of mine: Sitting in algebra class on a lovely sunny day, and we're all rather sleepy, Vern Huber exclaims, "let's race around the school!!!!" It was much smaller back then. I won. I think he let me.





James Schimmel (1970)

English Literature with Agatha Lubbers was always an enlightening and entertaining class. Over the years, Ag and I have formed a very special friendship, for which I am very thankful.

Having the privilege of attending Covenant Christian and the honor of being one of the first students to receive a diploma, was a significant blessing not fully appreciated at the time.



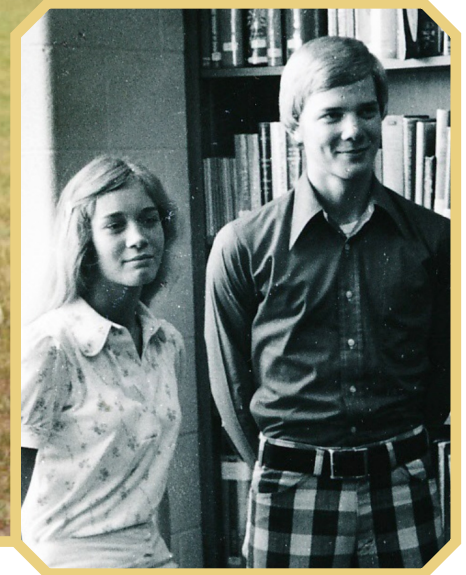
Sandra (Kamps) Westing (1977)

I really enjoyed high school and how the teachers were there to help students, either with studies or with questions not related to studies.

Mr Huber's Algebra class was always so much fun, he would tell us something humorous, or that he forgot his lunch again on the kitchen counter or that he went down the wrong off ramp to get to Covenant. But he explained Algebra and made sure you understood it before moving on.



## 1970's



Valerie (Klamer) Van Baren (1978)

Favorite memory: I think the "Pep Rally" in the "large" assembly room at Covenant was a great memory. The whole school would meet the afternoon of a big game in the assembly room and we would be cheered into excitement for the basketball game to be played that evening. The cheerleaders would always get it started and Miss Lubbers would join in for some loud excitement and cheers. Those were fun times!

# 1980's

*Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings  
in heavenly places in Christ:  
Ephesians 1:3*



Brian Kuiper (1984)  
Science classes with Mr. Lanning were at the top of my list of high school classes. He always made learning real by his hands-on approaches to labs and learning opportunities.



Vonda (Klamer) Jessup (1983)  
When I look back on my years at CCHS, I can't help but remember how much fun we had! But I also remember a feeling of safety. It wasn't until after I graduated and started working out in the 'real world' that I realized how protected we were at Covenant. We were able to make friends and learn in a safe environment with others who shared the same beliefs and doctrine. I'm so thankful that God has preserved our school so that my children are able to experience the same things. I encourage our young people to make the most of their high school years. It goes by so fast – treasure it!





Dianne (Van Dyke) Van Putten (1983)

My best memories at Covenant are of being a member of the choir under Mr. Gerald Kuiper. His love of music, as an instrument of praise and as a gift to be enjoyed, gave me a greater appreciation for music. Mr. Kuiper's genuine care for each of his students was evident in all of the classes I had with him. His patience, although we often tried it dearly, was an example of godly character that I have never forgotten.

Suzanne (Ondersma) Dykstra (1986)

In the 80's, we had 37 classmates. From daily devotions to pep assemblies, we bonded and formed relationships with each other in a covenant of grace.



*Some Memories are Unforgettable  
Remaining ever Vivid and Heartwarming!*



# 1990's

Tim Pipe (1991)

I remember Advanced Biology and Anatomy as my favorites. Gary Lanning reinforced my love for sciences especially life sciences and confirmed my decision to go into medicine. Who wouldn't love dissecting cats in the early morning hours!



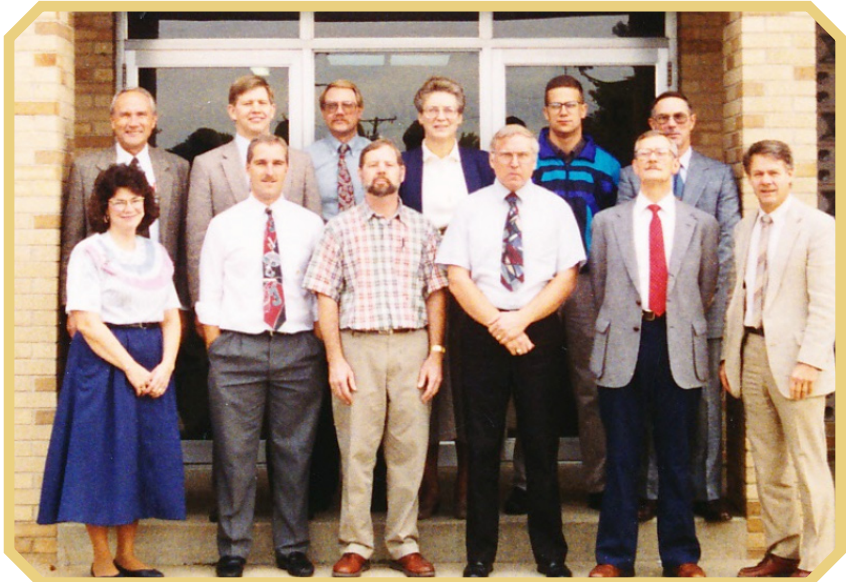
Eric Van Dyke (1992)

My years at Covenant have affected my spiritual growth in the following way: I was blessed by friendships formed with students and teachers. These friendships continue to benefit our children into the next generation by affecting the friendships they make.

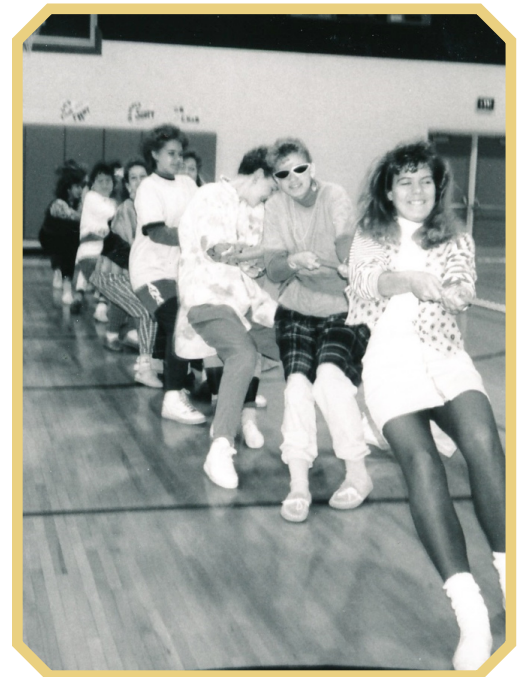
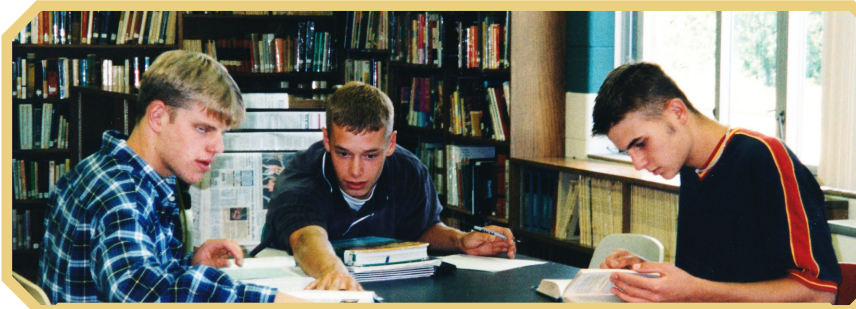


Dan Kalsbeek (1994)

My favorite teacher during my high school years was Mr. Vermeer. He demonstrated a love for his work and a love for the students.







Jennifer Knott (1995)

My favorite memories all involve the friends I made then with, friends I still have to this day. So my favorite memories are these friendships. Well, those, and when Mr. Huber (now my dear friend Vern) tripped over his desk drawer during Algebra.

Kristina Moelker (1991)

Due to my physical challenges, graduating from Covenant was an answer to prayers and a very momentous occasion for me, my family and friends.



Eric Mowery (1997)

Who can forget Mr. Huber's floating hat trick?



Allisa (Ophoff) Snippe (1996)

Favorite memory: Meeting my future husband is one of my best memories. Many happy, godly marriages were born of friendships made at Covenant. What a blessing!

*"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee."*

## 2000's

Tyler Schimmel (2004)  
The one thing that really sticks out to me in regards to spiritual growth at Covenant were the chapel speeches. I still remember them and the impact they had on me at the time. I am thankful for the Godly teachers and ministers that give their time and effort during the chapel speeches to help encourage the youth in their daily walk as Christians.



Gracia (Kamps) Schipper (2001)

Among several highlights at Covenant, I fondly remember advancing to Quarterfinals in basketball. Valuable lessons in friendship, team work, and passing physical limitations were applied.

I grew spiritually; meaningful comparisons to our earthly pilgrimage and seeds of denying myself were planted.





Tyler Schimmel (2004)

My favorite teacher was Joel Minderhoud. At the time, I didn't like his classes because he challenged me as a student by giving lots of homework and difficult tests. But after going to college, I appreciated what he did as a teacher. He did a great job of teaching his classes and preparing the students for college and the real world. He had high expectations for all his students and I am thankful now for his work.

Rachel Dykstra (2003)

Looking back, I am so thankful for those years at Covenant. It was the place where lasting, godly friendships took root in my life.



Laurel Lotterman (2004)

The education I received at Covenant served to engrave the truth of God's word in my heart while surrounding me with a community of Christian love and fellowship.



Hillary (Van Overloop) Lotterman (2005)

My most favorite memory is during my senior year. We had quite the year with many deaths and during our senior class trip, I felt like our class really came together to support each other. Definitely blessed to have been taught in a Christian school and to know God is in control of all things.



*Train up a child in the way he should go:  
and when he is old,  
he will not depart from it.  
Proverbs 22:6*



Elliot Ensink (2012)

I particularly enjoyed Advanced Biology with Mr. Lanning, I have many fond memories with my classmates growing plants, cloning genes, and camping at Pigeon River

Covenant equipped me with a strong foundation in my faith and love of God to help navigate the challenges of a worldly college environment.



Kara Minderhoud 2016

My favorite memory is the covenant community in which we were daily immersed. It was a blessing to be surrounded by those of like faith. Through the love and care of teachers, coaches, and peers, Covenant has provided me with a firm spiritual foundation and a desire to grow.



Abbie (Eriks) Kooienga (2014)

My favorite memory from Covenant is the choir trips we got to take, but especially the one where we were able to sing in 4th Presbyterian Church in downtown Chicago and then went to Crete, and Randolph, afterwards. Those trips always seemed to make friendships stronger, not to mention how awesome it was to be able to sing in new places!

I think Covenant prepared me well to go out into college and the workplace with a strong foundation. Obviously there were things I had to learn on my own, and things I have to keep learning, but I have received a strong foundation of a Reformed Christian education, which is such a blessing!



Carli (Gritters) Engelsma (2013)

A favorite memory is choir-- there are very few things that affected my spiritual growth more than what we learned in choir. I'm sure this is a "cliché" answer but it's true. If you were having a good day or a horrible day, choir was always the best place to be. Praising God in good times and bad!!

Mary Mahtani (2014)

I really enjoyed the atmosphere of mutual respect between teachers and students, allowing us to learn and grow at the same time as making friendships and feeling comfortable in the classroom.

I also appreciated Mr. Minderhoud's excitement about the subjects he taught and his ability to make class interesting and fun even though it was difficult material.



Abbie (Eriks) Kooienga (2014)

I honestly couldn't choose one favorite class but a few that still stand out to me are Mr. Minderhoud's Chemistry class, which was the class I learned the most in; Mr. Haveman's cults class, which was just so interesting; Mr. Bruinooge's Worldviews class, which I found during college was the most practical class I took at Covenant; and pretty much all of Miss Knott's classes, which I would retake today if I could!



2010's

Kara Minderhoud (2016)

My favorite class was Anatomy and Physiology, because the intricacies of the human body and its systems fascinated me.



Titus Mahtani (2013)

I loved Church History with Dan Van Uffelen. Dan's passion for church history along with the subject matter itself made learning easy.



**FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**  
**Travis Van Bommel**



## ***WE ARE THE CHARGERS!!***

A look at the trophy case in the entrance to the gym, or a study of the banners hanging on the wall in the gym, will give a very good indication of the success of Covenant's teams throughout its history. District, Regional, and even the State Championship trophies are on display, from the 1970's to 2018. I'm sure that just about everyone has their own favorite memory, either as a player, or as a fan. Maybe it's that State Championship game from 1973, 1992, 1993, 1994, 2012, 2013, 2014, or 2017. Maybe it's cheering for your classmates at a big game against Allendale, Calvin, or Tri-unity. Maybe it's watching your children or grandchildren step on the field, representing Covenant Christian High School in a tournament game, as you nervously hope that their season will continue. The Coach that pushed you to be your best, and be the best team mate that you could be, may be a favorite memory for some. We ran races at Michigan International Speedway, we played baseball at 5/3 Ballpark, we shot hoops at The Breslin Center and The Palace, and we played volleyball at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. We won a few, we lost a few. We forged friendships and shared experiences that we will never forget.

Not everyone that plays here wins a trophy or a medal, but everyone leaves their mark in some way. You were the loudest fan. You never missed a game. You were the best shortstop that ever played here – but you didn't win a medal. You encouraged a team mate when they were struggling. You kept the stats for the team. You never let your team quit. You ran with someone when they couldn't go any further – and you finished together. Here at Covenant, we have a rich tradition that is not defined by trophies, championships, wins, or losses.

Championships are nice to have, but they do not define our athletic program or its philosophy. Our programs strive for excellence, and to be the best we can be. However, our greatest goal as athletes, coaches, fans, parents, and students must be that God is glorified by our actions, that we let our light shine, and that we properly represent Covenant Christian High School.



**James Schimmel**  
**(1970)**

Watching the 2018 basketball team brings back memories of our first team in 1969/70. I am impressed with how the sport has evolved and how our Christian sportsmanship continues.





Tyler Schimmel (2004)  
I really enjoyed my time as an athlete at Covenant. I had good experiences and bad experiences but they all helped me grow as a person and as a Christian young man. I look back and I see that I learned so many valuable lessons that one cannot learn in the classroom.



Ruth Miedema Brower (1986)  
Going through every season with the same coach. Miss Lubbers coached basketball, softball, and volleyball. An “extra parent” away from home.



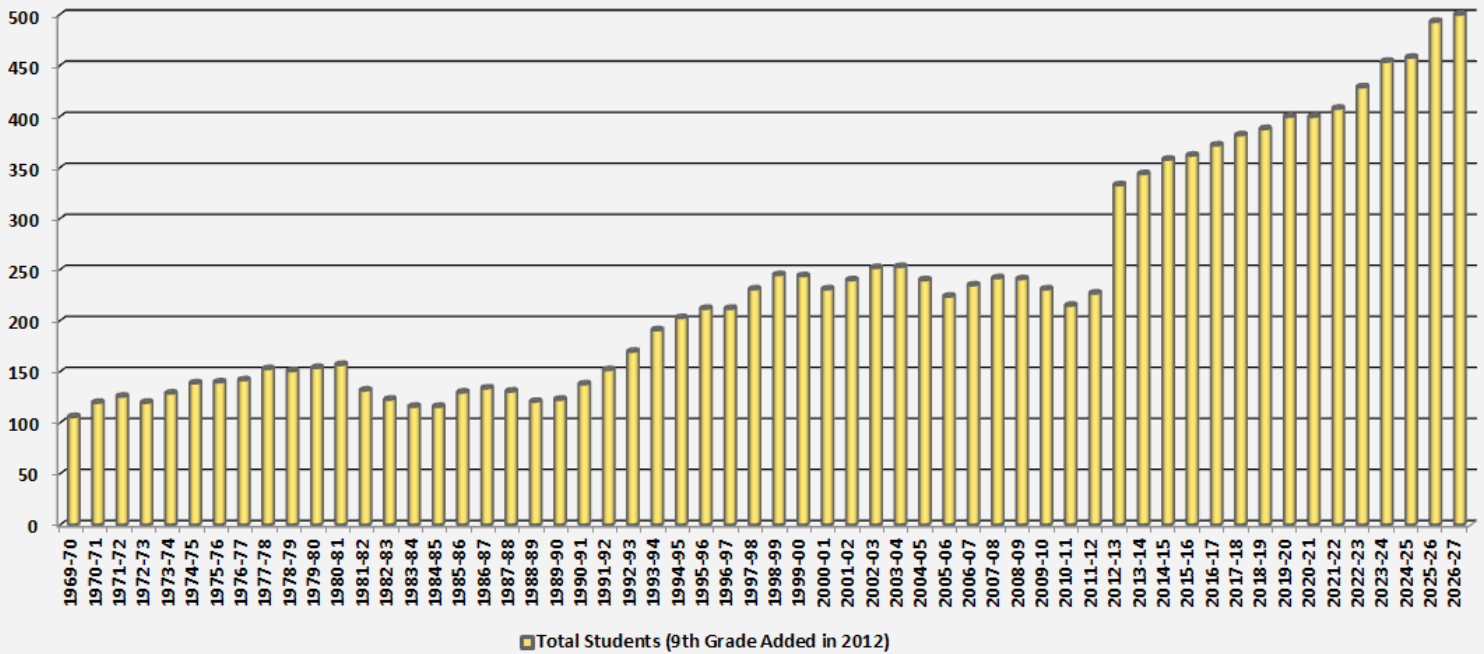
Carli (Gritters) Engelsma (2013)  
One of my favorite memories from Covenant is playing sports. Rushing to the locker room after the last bell to get ready for games and road trips to away games are some of my favorite memories! I learned so much from my coaches and playing other schools.

Eric Van Dyke (1992)  
My favorite memory from my years at Covenant:  
Watching '93 and '94 Chargers basketball as juniors and seniors in the stands with friends.



*I have fought a good fight,  
I have finished my course. I  
have kept the faith: Henceforth  
there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the  
righteous judge, shall give me at that day: 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

## Enrollment History and Projected



Our design is basically a cross. In the cross of Christ we glory. This cross is divided into two parts. Vertically the color black comes first. We, by nature, exist first in a state of darkness or sin. Gold, which is used to signify purity or perfection comes next. God rescues His church from its first sinful state. By that, we are made new, perfect creatures in Christ. Horizontally, the black is underneath to indicate the lowness of our first state. The gold on top shows how God lifts us up through redemptive love.

In the focal point of the cross is an inscribed square. Squares, unlike circles, have beginnings and ends. The square stands for the finiteness of man. On the black background representing man's old nature that he must always fight on earth, we have a set of gold intertwined letters. They are not separable. C – The Covenant that God made to be a God unto His people and their generations. C – We are Christians striving to live in newness of life. H. S. – This is a place of learning. To best glorify our Lord, we are called to learn as much as we can about Him and His marvelous creation.

In all of this He will always help and keep us. He will never forsake us. This truth is signified by the golden strip that completely outlines the black square.

Design and Explanation by Doris Huber