



Home Communicator

HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CHALLENGING MINDS AND LIVES FOR CHRIST



May 19, 2020

Dear Parents,

You might already know from my previous writings that one of my goals as elementary principal this year was to get into a classroom each day to read a picture book. I loved spending time with the kids and helping them think about books through the eyes of a Christ follower. Every day I took a small Polaroid picture of the book cover, labeled it with the grade level and the class I read to, and clipped it to a string on the wall outside of my office. When I stopped at school the other day and saw the empty string waiting for more pictures, a little wave of sadness fell over me. It feels unfinished and not how things were supposed to end.

In past years, it was always right around this time of the year--when staff was feeling weary and the weather started getting nicer and the kids were becoming less focused and ready for summer--that Mr. Pott would remind the staff that the students followed our lead and that it was important to teach to the end and finish strong. We've all seen races where a strong finish is important. It's been a while, but I remember watching the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, where Michael Phelps won a gold medal when he pulled ahead at the end of a close race to finish *one hundredth of a second* before the silver medalist. A strong finish counts.

The way we are finishing this school year is obviously different from a typical year. It makes many of us sad, maybe even leaves us a little bit angry or questioning why things have to be this way. Class celebrations, graduations, end of year chapels, and many other events are not going to look the same this year. So how do we finish strong when everything feels so strange?

As a leadership team, we've been talking about what we want to focus on at the end of this school year and we've decided to end the year with a variety of activities. 8th graders will be working on and sharing their Faith Journey projects before they graduate. HCS families have been invited to take part in a Be the Change Family Challenge to help classes focus on this year's theme during their last virtual gatherings. Meaningful virtual chapels are already in the works to end the year and we are working on plans so that students will be able to see their teachers and say goodbye before the summer break. This is how we intend to finish strong this year, and to be honest, it looks a lot like how we finish strong every year: focusing on our relationships with each other and our relationship with Christ.

As you anticipate finishing the race that is this school year, I leave you with the verse from last year's school theme--Running the Race:

***"Let your eyes look straight ahead;
fix your gaze directly before you.
Give careful thought to the paths for your feet
and be steadfast in all your ways."
Proverbs 4:25-26***

In Him,

Tricia Kiepert
Elementary Principal

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

Enrollment for 2020 - 2021 - Planning is underway for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Although we do not yet know the details of what it will look like, school will be in session next fall! A reminder to complete and return all enrollment forms to the Administrative office in the elementary building. It is very important and helpful that enrollment forms are turned in before the end of May. If you have misplaced your forms, please contact the Administrative office (669-6689) to request another set. Thank you!

End of Year Timeline -

- The week of May 18 - 22: This will be the last week that we post on the remote learning webpage academic remote learning docs for students.
- Early Childhood Celebration - A drive-by Early Childhood Celebration will be held on Friday, May 22.
- The week of May 25 - 29: This 4-day week of Memorial Day will consist of three main events--an end of the year chapel video, a Y5s-7 'Be The Change Family Challenge', and teachers wrapping up the year with their students virtually. Mrs. Kiepert and Mr. Knot sent a video explaining the 'Be The Change Family Challenge'
- The week of June 1-4: A drive-by schedule at both the elementary and middle school buildings will be used to return library and/or borrowed books, get things from their lockers and desks, collect artwork completed during the school year, get yearbooks that have been ordered, and gather any items they may have left in the classrooms. Details regarding these schedules will be shared sometime this week.
- 8th Grade Graduation - An 8th Grade Graduation Drive-Through Cruise will take place in the Unity Christian High School parking lot on the evening of Wednesday, June 3. This will be for graduates and one car of immediate family only. Mr. Knot will share details this week.
- Report cards will be available to view on RenWeb on Friday, June 5. An email will be sent to you when they are ready.

Walkathon Update - HCS WALKATHON WAS A SUCCESS! We thank God for good weather and a safe day on Friday, May 1. We praise Him for the overwhelming support of the HCS Community in helping us raise, to date, \$67,195 at the Walkathon! We are still collecting for the Walkathon until June 15, and you can do this through your own family's Everyday Hero account or through the general [HCS Walkathon account](#). The Walkathon Committee would like to express appreciation to the following people for their help in making the event a success:

- To our great students for working hard at getting pledges.
- To our teachers for participating and encouraging kids during the virtual Walkathon.
- To our parents for supporting their kids in this event, and to many who got out and walked on May 1!
- To all the staff members who helped the committee get things ready and made the virtual experience happen.
- To our business sponsors whose support helped us make this event possible (*Bolhouse LLC, Breeze LLC, Charles Schwaab-Kurt Kammenga, DC Storage & RV Services, DeYoung Developments LLC, Dr. Brad Irving-Metro Health OB/GYN, Elite Electrical Services LLC, Fusion Properties, Grassmid Transport, Greenline Inc, Harbor Foam Inc., Hoezee Wealth Management, Hudsonville Family Dentistry, Hudsonville Trailer Co., Hurst Mechanical, Inontime, Kessel & Bouwens, Kroll Furnace Co. Inc., Kuperus Trucking, Inc, Langerak Roof Systems, MBK Corporate Promotions, Mike Karel RE/MAX of Grand Rapids, New York Life Insurance-Tim Vrieland, Quality Precast, INC., Rainbow Grill, Ralph Meyers Trucking, INC., Rohr Gasoline Equipment Inc., Royal Sheet Metal, Inc., S&G Properties, TMI Supply Company, VanTimmeren Family Dentistry P.C., West Michigan Cabinet Supply, West Michigan Community Bank, and Young Wealth Investments Group- Wells Fargo Advisors.*)
- Above all, to our Heavenly Father who has placed us in this place at this time with a wonderful community to raise our children!

2020-2021 HCS Theme T-Shirts - Each year students in 3 School - 5th Grade receive a t-shirt to wear for field trips, chapels and other activities. Your elementary child(ren) will receive a shirt in the fall, no need to order! Middle School students are given the option to order one free of charge and parents, if you want to order a Theme T-shirt for yourself, there is a cost of \$5.00 each. To order a 2020-2021 HCS Theme T-Shirt for a **middle school student or parent**, fill out this [form](#) by May 29.

Pop Can Drive - The can and bottle fundraising drive is BACK ON! You will see a new trailer (thank you, Micandy Gardens!) in the parking lot behind the elementary building where you may bring your returnables. Praise God that we are able to continue this fundraiser!

Summer Hiking Trips - Mr. Schnyders had planned on offering two hikes this summer. One to Manistee and another to the U.P. The Manistee hike was scheduled for June 25-27 and the U.P. hike was scheduled for July 15-18. At this time he is still waiting to find out where we stand after May 28. Stay tuned for further updates.

TRIP On Demand (TOD)

- Email your TOD order to triphcs@4hcs.org
- TOD orders will be filled at 10:00 am on Mondays and Thursdays
- You will receive an email confirmation when your order is ready for pick up
- Pick up TOD orders from administrative office from 9:00am – 3:00pm Monday to Friday
- Please have your check ready upon arrival
- TOD orders remaining after 7 days will be considered abandoned and returned to inventory.

Online Orders (ShopWithScrip.com)

- Deadline for ordering is 11:59pm Sunday
- Orders will be available for pick up by 9:00am on Wednesday
- Pick up Online orders from administrative office from 9:00am – 3:00pm Monday to Friday

Scheduled Orders (green paper form)

- Drop off by 3:00pm on Friday or email order to triphcs@4hcs.org
- Orders will be available for pick up by 9:00am on Wednesday
- Pick up orders from administrative office from 9:00am – 3:00pm Monday to Friday

When entering the building for TRIP pick up:

- Strict adherence to the social/physical distancing is expected
- If you have health concerns, are at risk, have been around people who may be exhibiting symptoms, and/or not feeling well, please wear a mask.

Free Meals for all Ottawa Area Students - [This link](#) will take you to a page listing the school district sites where meals can be obtained. This link is updated on a regular basis. If you don't need to take advantage of this offer but know someone who does, please pass along the information. **You can also get groceries from Love INC.** [Access this link to find the emergency food pantry locations and times they are operating.](#)

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

Kids' Corner Enrollment is Open for the 2020-2021 School Year! - [Forms](#) are available in the main office or you can sign up online using this form: [Kids' Corner Enrollment Form](#). Sign up soon to ensure availability! If you have any questions, email Julie Moes at jmoes@4hcs.org or kidscorner@4hcs.org.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Assessment/Report Cards - Elementary (3 School - 5th grade) report cards will be available on RenWeb on Friday, June 5. Students will receive credit for their participation in the 3rd and 4th quarters of the school year. Teachers will write a narrative comment in the final report card to summarize your child's progress. As usual, parents will receive an email when their child's report card is available to be viewed on RenWeb.

Summer Tutoring - A list of available teachers can be found [on our website](#). Due to the deep cleaning and disinfecting of both school buildings and some construction projects that will take place, we need to keep the traffic in and out of the building to a minimum. Therefore, summer tutoring will need to take place off campus. If you signed up for a tutor, the tutor will connect with you to work out arrangements.

Camp Crazee Fun and Private Band and Orchestra Lessons - Due to the current COVID-19 health situation, the deep cleaning and disinfecting of both school buildings and some construction projects that will take place, we need to keep the traffic in and out of the building to a minimum. Therefore, Camp Crazee Fun will not be held this summer. Private band and orchestra lessons, like summer tutoring, will need to be done off campus.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Middle School Library Summer Reading Challenge - This summer the Hudsonville Christian Middle School library is offering a Summer Reading Challenge for middle school students. Talk to your student about the details found in an email and encourage your middle schooler to join the "Hot Days, Cool Books" Summer Reading Challenge. Happy Reading!

Grade 6 and Grade 7 Parents - If you have **NOT already done so**, please take a moment to check your email and use the link to sign up your child for music programs for the 2020/2021 school year. The middle school office must have this information for scheduling. Thank you to everyone who has already completed this form!

Report Cards - Middle school report cards will be available on RenWeb on Friday, June 5. Parents will receive an email when their child's report card is available to be viewed on RenWeb. As a reminder from our previous communication the middle school will be using the following grading scale for this quarter of work. (These grades will be for any Math,

Science, Bible, Language Arts, Social Studies, Spanish, and Decisions class- all other classes will be giving comments for this quarter)

A 90%-100%

B 80%-89%

C 70%-79%

N/A 0-69%- Teachers will pass this work back and ask for it to be resubmitted to produce higher quality. The teacher and support staff will work with the student to improve the quality through specific feedback.

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

General Assembly - Due to the current pandemic and extenuating circumstances, the spring general assembly will be held virtually through Zoom. The meeting will take place May 21st at 2pm. If you would like the information to attend or have any questions you would like addressed, please email The Parents' Club Board at pcb@4hcs.org. The link and password along with current reports will be emailed back to you shortly before the meeting.

Parent Volunteers are Valuable! - We are asking all of our 400+ HCS families to prayerfully consider where and how you can volunteer to bless the HCS community. Volunteering not only helps our school, but it helps families get to know one another and creates a sense of family within our school community! The [Volunteer Catalog](#) outlines the volunteer positions available for the 2020-2021 school year. Please take a moment to read through the catalog. [Click here for a document listing the Sign-Up Genius Volunteer links.](#)

- All volunteer sign-ups will be done via Sign-Up Genius.
- Families enrolling children in Grades 1 - 8 are expected to volunteer for a minimum of 25 points from any combination of the School Volunteer Forms as well as 5 points from the Fair Volunteer Form. For single parent households, the expectation is to volunteer a minimum of 10 points from the School Volunteer Forms as well as 5 points from the Fair Volunteer Form.
- Families enrolling children in Young 5s and Kindergarten are expected to contribute 5 points from the Fair Volunteer Form and 5 points from the School Volunteer forms.
- Families enrolling children in 3 School and 4 School are exempt from these volunteer expectations, but we do encourage you to get involved. Volunteering is a great way to meet other HCS families and learn more about our school!
- All volunteers who work with children will be required to submit to a child safety screening process.
- NEW THIS YEAR-Families (adults and high school students) volunteering for more than 5 Fair Volunteer Form points may apply the additional points toward their 25 School Volunteer Forms points.
- After prayerful consideration, please sign up for your 5 Fair Volunteer Form points as well as 25 School Volunteer Forms points by JUNE 7. Be sure to include your e-mail address on the sign-up form so that you are credited for the amount of points and so that leaders and coordinators may contact you with additional information regarding your volunteer position

Room Parents Needed for Next Year - Are you interested in volunteering in your child's classroom? Consider being a Room Parent! Room Parents communicate with classroom parents and new families, plan class parties, help with field trips, help with Teacher Appreciation Week and serve the assigned teacher with their specific volunteer needs. For consideration, please fill out the [Room Parent Volunteer Form](#) 2020-2021 School Year. Room Parents will be assigned over the summer and you will be notified via email if you are selected.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Unity Summer Sports Camp Schedule for Students Age 3 – 12th Grade - Due to the current COVID-19 health situation and Governor Whitmer's executive orders, we have decided to postpone our 2020 Summer Camps. We will not offer any summer camps the weeks of June 8, 15, and 22. We are hoping to offer a revised summer camp schedule and host camps from June 29 – August 7, and will provide a schedule and link to registration starting June 15. This information will be emailed to parents whose children participated in summer camps last year, and can also be found on our website at unitychristianathletics.org under the "Camps and Clinics" tab.

Unity Christian Youth Football Registration - Unity Christian High School is excited to begin another season of Youth Football for students entering grades 3 – 8 this coming school year! The program begins for 3rd/4th and 5th/6th grade teams on August 10 at a cost of \$60, and 7th and 8th grade teams begin on August 24 at a cost of \$80 (plus \$20 for all levels if you would like to purchase a jersey). Registration is now open for youth football, but we will not be requiring payment until later this summer. Please fill out your [Registration](#) by June 30 if at all possible so we can accurately plan for teams. For full details on the program, please go to <https://unitychristianathletics.org/main/otherad/contentID/46418954>. For questions or further information, please contact youth football director Mark TeSlaa at 616-970-3154 or markteslaa@gmail.com.

Middle School Co-Ed Cross Country Team - Unity Christian High School will again sponsor a co-ed middle school cross country team this fall for students in 6th – 8th grades. This program will begin in mid to late August, and typically there are two practices a week and approximately six meets. Look for registration information and more details later this summer, and on Unity's website at unitychristianathletics.org under the "More" tab and then "Middle School Sports". Please feel free to contact Unity's Athletic Office with any questions you may have at 669-1820 or athletics@unitychristian.org.

Middle School Cross Country Coach Wanted - Unity Christian has an opening for a Co-Ed Middle School Cross Country Coach. We are searching for someone who has a passion for the Lord, enjoys working with middle school students, and can successfully lead these young runners. This program will begin in mid to late August, and typically there are two practices a week and approximately six meets. If you have any interest or know of someone who might have interest, please contact Unity Christian Athletic Director Jeff Engbers at 616-669-1820 or jengbers@unitychristian.org. Click [HERE](#) for an application.

Calvin Soccer Camp - The Calvin Soccer Camp offers an exceptional camp experience for every participant and is designed for players of various ages and ability levels. The Day Camp will run June 15-19 and the Elite Camps will run July 11-14 & July 15-18. For more information and to enroll online, visit www.calvinsoccercamp.com.

Hope College Summer Science Camps - Join us for another exciting summer of camps! Summer Science Camps started over 20 years ago with Tod Gugino's dream of sharing the love for science. ExploreHope provides innovative, fun-filled educational camps for grades K-12. For more information visit hope.edu/explore.

CALENDAR

May 21	Ascension Day
May 22	Last day of remote learning
May 22	Early Childhood Drive-by Celebration
May 25	Memorial Day
May 26 - 29	End of year wrap-up & Be The Change Family Challenge
June 1-4	End of year activities - Drive-by schedule to pick up student items
June 3	8th Grade Graduation Drive-through Cruise - Unity Christian High School
June 5	Report Cards Posted

QUICK LINKS

- [Kids' Corner Handbook](#)
- [Preschool \(3School/4School/NB 4School\) Handbook](#)
- [Middle School Handbook](#)
- [HCS Parent Handbook](#)
- [Summer Tutors](#)
- [2020-2021 Room Parent Volunteer Form](#)
- [Kids' Corner Mail-In Enrollment Form 2020-2021](#)
- [Kids' Corner Online Enrollment Form 2020-2021](#)
- [Parents' Club Volunteer Catalog](#)
- [Parents' Club Sign-Up Genius Volunteer Links](#)
- [2020-2021 Theme T- Shirt Order Form - Parents and MS Students Only](#)