



CCSIGNAL

A publication of Community Christian School

"Educational Excellence through Christ"

November 2023



Some CCS upperclassmen huddled around the flagpole for this photo on the first day of school. Clockwise from bottom center are Mya Zdrzil, Laina Christensen, Camila Guitron, Sylvia Hagar, Bella Hill, Sadie Shields, Lexie Grim, Isaiah Grim, Caleb Heath, Sawyer Evans and Kaylee King.

Enrollment up 26% thanks to ESAs

Wow! What an amazing start to a new school year. We are so blessed to have the building filled with wonderful students, teachers and staff. We started the year with 83 students in K-8 – up from 66 at the beginning of last year. That’s an increase of 26 percent and is the highest enrollment since CCS moved into its current building in 2013. The previous high was 78 in the 2015-16 school year.

Student First Education Savings Account (ESA) passed in Iowa January 2023, and this was a large contributor to the increase of student enrollment. Of the 83 students, 78 percent of them



Coble-Day Comments

qualified for ESA to pay their tuition, so we have welcomed 26 new CCS students thanks to ESA in kindergarten through 8th grade. We are so blessed that ESA passed by Governor Reynolds and the state legislators, allowing parents to choose where their children are educated.

Halbach, Larson return

Other blessings this year include welcoming back Mrs. Marsha Halbach as our 5th/6th grade year. After three years away Marsha has returned to teach our biggest classroom this year of 23 students. We are so happy she has returned to help lead this amazing group of students. Her creative ideas and past knowledge of CCS are helping her make a smooth transition back to the building.

We are also happy to welcome Mrs. Chrissy Larson as our 7th/8th-grade teacher. Chrissy served as the long-term

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substitute teacher in 7th/8th last spring for Mrs. Barton, so she is very familiar with our curriculum and many of the students. She is dynamic, caring and full of energy that supports all the needs of our students. We are pleased to have both of these talented teachers on staff.

STEAM is gaining steam

The whole teaching staff is excited to share the many new things they learned over the summer – especially in the areas of computer science with a lot of new unplugged and plugged activities. In June, three teachers and I attended a week-long Computer Science Professional Development on the University of Northern Iowa campus where we wanted to learn all we could to prepare for the coming school year. We are so fortunate our teachers have a passion for teaching STEAM lessons to engage all students with many new activities this year utilizing the STEAM cart we received with a STEM grant. BTW, the acronym stands for science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

We love our sports

Volleyball was back with a vengeance for the second year after a long absence. The growth and development of the 17 players have been huge and fun to watch on the court under the direction of coaches Magan Becker and Andrea Krog.

Their schedule included seven matches and the team showed high levels of success during every match.

Now it's time for cheer, pep and basketball. Amanda Slife and Kylee Hayek will be our cheer and pep coaches while Brent Heath and Bethany Heath will be leading the coaching staff for both the boys' and girls' basketball teams. It is sure to be another exciting year for all of the students involved.

For Such a Time as This

As in many past years, the first Thursday and Friday in October the teachers and I attended the Heartland Christian Convention at Dordt College in Sioux Center to engage in professional development and fellowship. The theme of the convention was 'Flourishing: For Such a Time as This.' And that is what we hope for everyone at Community Christian School. To flourish to the fullest, knowing our students have a calling from God with a purpose to flourish. It is our job to protect our students and help them flourish in the midst of challenges. (Dr. Lynn Swaner) So, as we are in the midst of a wonderful year full of growth, promise and flourishing, we are blessed to know in John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Blessings.

*'Comments' is a column written by
CCS Principal Stephanie Coble-Day*

CCS Faculty/Staff 2023-24

Administrators:

Stephanie Coble-Day

School Principal/Daycare Director

Lauri Wendell

Administrative Asst.

Teachers:

Mary Powell

4PS Lead, 17 students

Ruth Tomlinson

Preschool Aide

Rachel Butler

Kindergarten, 16 students

Colleen Hansen

1st grade, 10 students

Rebecca Munsterman

2nd grade, 7 students

Jeannette Larrabee

3rd/4th grade, 7 in 3rd/6 in 4th

Marsha Halbach

5th/6th grade, 12 in 5th/11 in 6th

Christine Larson

7th/8th grade, 4 in 7th/10 in 8th

Kristin Bodholdt

Vocal Music/Band

Lindsey Stephan

Art

Support:

Nathan Lawrence

Chapel Leader (PT)

Sheila Huebsch

Title One Reading (PT)

Kayla Marvin

Kitchen Mgr./Food Service Director

Vicky Maas

Kitchen Asst./Daycare Janitor

Sarah Butterfield-Diaz

Bookkeeper (PT)

Mary Bowser

Library Volunteer (PT)

Ruth McCullough

Classroom Associate/Library (PT)

Daycare:

Lindsay Shekey

*Asst. Daycare Dir./3PS Lead
(16 students)*

Keli Studyvin

3PS Assistant (PT)

Amia Sheffield

Daycare Associate (FT)

Shannon Hartman

Daycare Associate (PT)

Kate Maggio

*Lifeworks Assisted Work Program
(PT)*

Cynthia Clause-Rawson

National Able Volunteer (PT)

Substitute Teachers:

Janie Jones-Remsburg

Mary Bowser

Jennifer Schild

Kristi Bruen

Tawny Anderson

Lindsey Stephan

Community Christian School

"Educational Excellence through Christ"

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Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/CommunityChristianSchoolFortDodge

Principal: Stephanie Coble-Day

School Board: Clayton Anderson, Colin Brown, Brittany Grim, Jon Janssen, Samantha Kuhn, Nathan Lawrence, Fonda Nelson, Joyce Nerhus and Jason Ribbens.

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Let's get to know our 'new' teachers

Chrissy Larson 7th-8th grade

Mrs. Larson was a long-term substitute with our 7th-8th graders last year when regular teacher Sarah Barton was having a baby. Chrissy has returned to teach 7th-8th grade this year after Sarah 'retired' to become a full-time stay-at-home mom.



College: Air Force Academy and Webster University. Master's Degree. Human Resources Development.

Some favorite college memories: Being a member of the Air Academy's Drum and Bugle Corps; getting my expert marksman ribbon; and getting to escape and evade in combat survival training.

Fun facts about me: When I was younger my family had three pet skunks. I have jumped from an airplane, have flown a glider and have performed in NFL halftime shows. The most amazing thing I have ever done was to give my life to Christ and get baptized at age 13.

Marsha Halbach 5th-6th grade

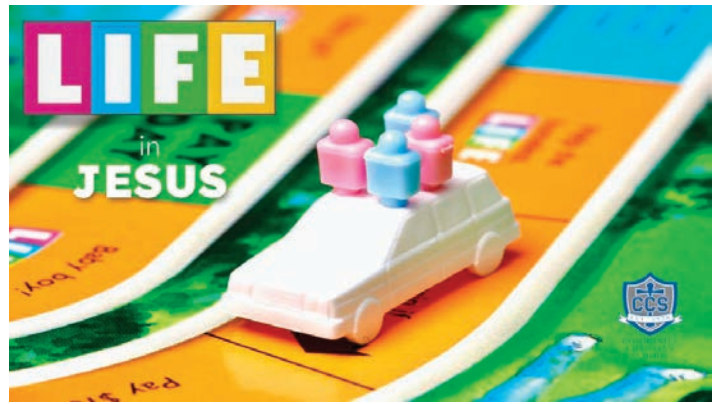
Mrs. Halbach is back in our 5th-6th grade classroom after a 3-year absence. She taught three years here from fall 2016 through spring 2019 – when her youngest child Sam finished 8th-grade at CCS.



College: Buena Vista University. Bachelor of Arts Degree. Elementary Education/English Language Arts.

Some favorite college memories: Staying with college friends during holidays and summer because my home was 3000 miles away. Also, when my literature instructor gave us a quiz on the top 20 misspelled words, I got extra credit points because after the quiz I immediately pulled out the pocket dictionary in my backpack and checked my answers. Only two of us in the class were carrying a dictionary.

Fun facts about me: I drive a rally car. I have won several writing contests. I have been the commissioner of my fantasy football league. I love to bike, grow plants and read. I enjoy music and play the cajon. My husband and I have totally remodeled four homes, we have six kids, and we love to travel.



Chapel leader Nathan Lawrence

Chapel theme 'Life in Jesus' features popular family games

Have you ever played the game 'Apples to Apples' or 'Twister' or 'Battleship' or 'Trivial Pursuit' or good old-fashioned Checkers? If so, you'd enjoy this year's chapel theme 'Life in Jesus.' It uses popular family games as a springboard from which students can dive into God's Word and find memorable applications in their lives.

Chapel leader Nathan Lawrence tailored the curriculum to fit Community Christian's weekly chapel schedule at 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday. Family members and other visitors are always welcome to attend and enjoy the music, special speakers and fun skits. Each classroom is responsible to present the chapel lesson periodically throughout the year and many speakers from outside the school are also on the schedule.

So, what was the lesson using 'Apples to Apples?' Try Adam and Eve in the garden from Gen. 3. Or how about 'Taboo?' Try the 10 commandments from Ex. 20. Or 'Chutes and Ladders?' Try Jacob's ladder from Gen. 28. And on, and on continues the list of games and scripture lessons. Drop in whenever you can to see if it'll be Trouble, or Pictionary, or Family Feud, or Monopoly, or Yahtzee, or.....

Learning, serving, growing ...



The fifth-sixth graders gather at the nearby hospice house for a service project.



Eighth-graders Lexie Grim, Sawyer Evans, Micah Larson and Laina Christensen interact with 4-year preschoolers by helping them make slime.



Kaylee King shows off the rubber band powered car she made as part of a classroom STEAM project.



Local firefighters show students the inner workings of a fire truck during Fire Prevention Month.



Students take turns serving their fellow students all year long during chapel. Some are singers (at left), some demonstrate actions (front), and others help with technology (far right).



Max Guitron, left, and Annabelle Krog work on a third-fourth grade balance project.

inside the classroom and out



In case you wondered...or in case you didn't know...computers are a HUGE part of the learning process at CCS. In this photo, students in Jeannette Larrabee's 3rd/4th-grade class are using the program 'Scratch' to do computer coding.

Kuhn, Janssen, Nelson join CCS board

Samantha (Sam) Kuhn, Jon Janssen and Fonda Nelson were elected to the CCS school board at the annual CCS Association meeting Oct. 23. Each will serve a three-year term on the nine-member board. They replace outgoing president Dan Jacobson and secretary Nancy Ann Thompson, who each served the maximum of six years (two 3-year terms), and Austin Hayek, who served three years. Other current board members are Clayton Anderson, Colin Brown, Brittany Grim, Nathan Lawrence, Joyce Nerhus and Jason Ribbens.

Kuhn is a member of CrossWay Evangelical Free Church where she is involved in small groups, women's Bible study and VBS. She is employed at Georgia Pacific Gypsum as a logistics coordinator. Married to Mat, she is mother to Kennedy (5), Lucas (3) and Rowan (2). Kennedy is a CCS kindergartener. Sam currently serves as president of the CCS PTF/Booster Club and hopes to engage more families in volunteering. Sam says she has a strong belief that a Christian education is essential in helping shape a child's upbringing.

Janssen attends Prairie Lakes Church where he has served in a variety of volunteer and leadership roles. He and his wife of 13 years have a blended family of six children ranging in age from 12 to 25. Their youngest son, Rowan, is a sixth grader at CCS. After years in the corrections field, Jon is now the security and IT supervisor at CJ Bio. Outside of work he enjoys drawing, traveling, kayaking, spending time in nature and with his friends and family. "Our family loves CCS and we are so thankful to have this as an opportunity in our community," he said.

Nelson attends CrossWay Evangelical Free Church and has had a wide-ranging career from working as a dispatcher for a sod company, a bank teller, bookkeeper at her family business and as a personal trainer for the past 11 years. Her husband Dave was a CCS student growing up and the couple's three children Morgan (19), Tyson (17) and Mason (11) all attended CCS. Mason currently is a sixth-grader. "We all have different strengths and weaknesses," she said. "Loving and caring for others with passion is a strength of mine."



Newly-elected school board members are, from left, Samantha (Sam) Kuhn, Jon Janssen and Fonda Nelson.



At left, Tracy Bachman of Fort Dodge prays with a group of CCS students whose hearts were touched by Jesus as a result of Bachman's gospel presentation. Many young Crusaders have professed faith in Christ through the years as a result of his motorcycle ministry. At right, Bachman takes Mrs. Coble-Day for a brief thrill ride in front of the student body.



Members of the Crusader volleyball team are, front from left, Olivia Clausen, Leah Fisher, Hannah Heath, Kaylee King, Annabelle Krog, Lydia Baluczynski, Bella Hill, Logan McDuffey and Fia Hill. In back, from left, are assistant coach Andrea Krog, Raelynn Brady, Micah Larson, Lexie Grim, Sadie Shields, Lyla Seward, Mya Zdrzil, Camila Guitron, Laina Christensen and head coach Magen Becker.



Mya Zdrzil hits a strong overhand serve.



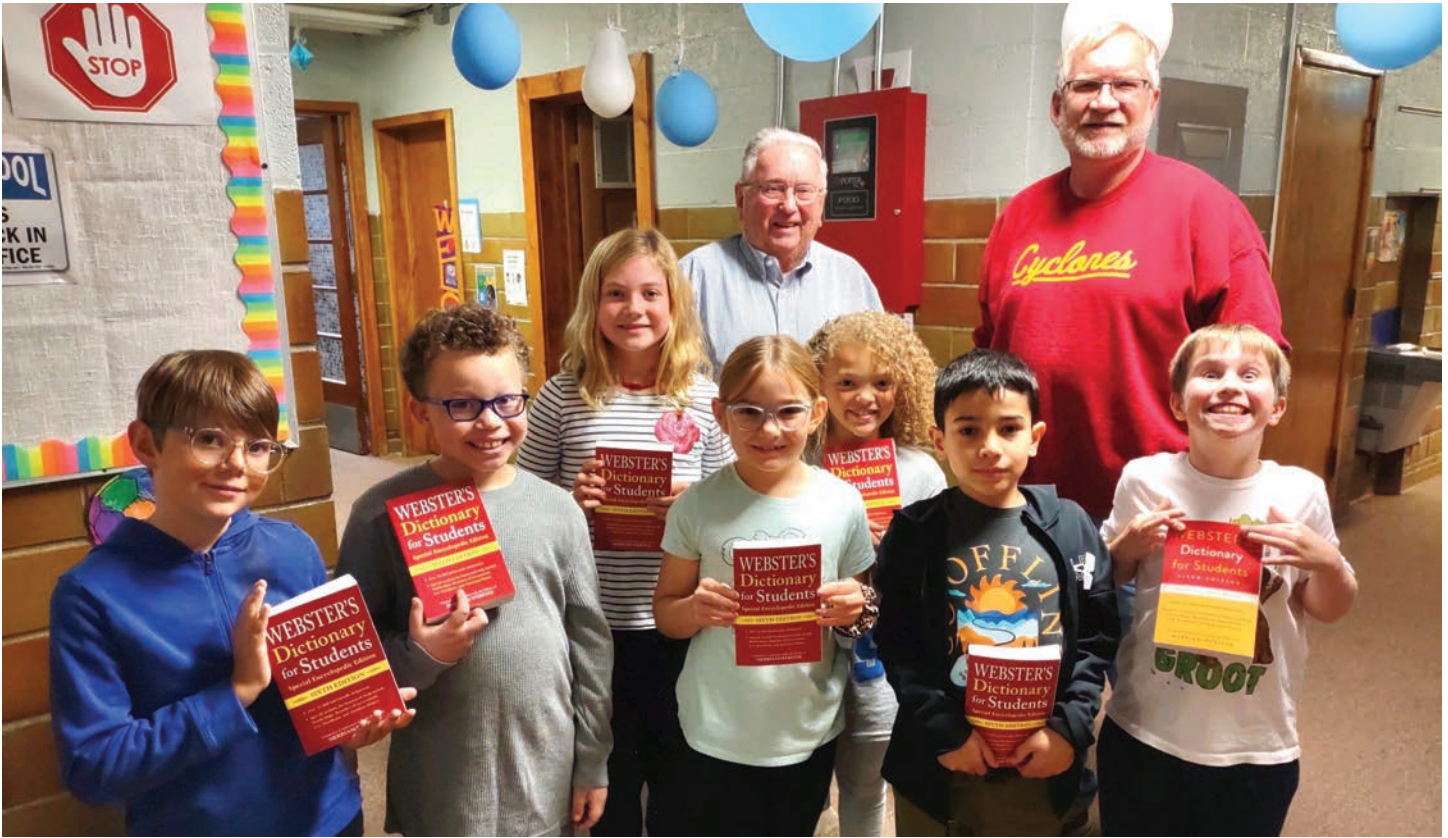
Ready to receive the opponent's serve, from left, are Fia Hill, Lyla Seward, Mya Zdrzil and Bella Hill.



Team members gather around coach Magen Becker during a time out.



Preparing to swap positions in the front line are Hannah Heath (19) and Bella Hill.



The CCS third-graders were excited to receive dictionaries presented by the Fort Dodge Noon Kiwanis. The students, from left, are Gideon Heath, Elijah Reese, Claire Anderson, Elyn Slife, Noel Altman, Max Guitron and Callen Evans. The Kiwanis representatives are Dennis Johnson, left, and Dana Lantz.

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