

PARENT COMMUNICATOR

COVENANT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
MR. RICHARD NOORMAN, PRINCIPAL
December 7, 2021

Dear CCHS Parents,

We have successfully made it through the first third of our school year. There have been a few bumps in the road since we got started, but overall things have gone very well. Our teachers are thankful to be able to teach in person and the students are glad to be able to come to school each day. It is our hope that we will be able to continue to operate under normal circumstances for the remainder of the school year.

COVID—We have regularly been dealing with just a few cases of COVID in the student body, the staff, or in some of our households. It appears that this issue is not going to totally go away. We continue to hear of cases within our school community. We encourage parents to continue to do a daily check for symptoms with the children and keep them home from school if symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, and extreme tiredness are present. We also remind parents that if there is any case of COVID in the household, none of the children should be coming to school. We ask that you contact Amy Mol in our office to work through the details of the quarantine period. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

REPORT CARDS AND GPA—Recently, report cards were emailed to all parents through the FACTS system. These are the grades for the first 9 week term. It is good to keep in mind that these grades alone do not affect the GPA (Grade Point Average) of the students. It is only the final semester grade that is used in the GPA calculation. The final semester grade is composed of the grades for Term 1, Term 2, and the semester exam. Since the Term 1 report card grade does not affect the GPA, all student Grade Point Averages will remain unchanged from the report given last spring. Because ninth grade students have not yet completed a semester, they do not have a GPA listed yet. Overall, our students have performed very well.

COUNSELING AND COURSES FOR NEXT YEAR—Mr. Haveman has been able to meet with each of our 9th grade students and will now begin meeting with the 11th grade students. During this meeting they will discuss scheduling options for next year. The Board has approved three new courses that will be offered in the fall. One new class will be Orchestra. This class will be offered 3 days per week. It will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to the end of first period and on Fridays during first period from 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. This class will be open to all grades. Another new class that will be available is Spanish III. This will be available to 12th grade students who have completed the first two years of Spanish. We will also be returning the Cults and Non-Christian Religions course to the

curriculum. This will be an elective course available to 12th grade students. Mr. Haveman will be discussing these possibilities with all of the students in their meetings.

COLLEGE VISITS—There has been good participation by our students at meetings with college representatives. It is also encouraging to see a large number of students taking the time to make college visits. This is a very important decision for a high school student and they should take advantage of opportunities to gather all of the necessary information that they need to make that decision. A visit to the school is often one of the most influential activities that they can use to help make that decision.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS—For many years we have had scholarships to Calvin University funded by friends of CCHS to encourage and financially assist our graduates who intend to go to Calvin. Recently a donor has made available scholarships to Covenant graduates who choose to attend Kuyper College or Cornerstone University. There are two \$3,000 dollar scholarships available for each school. Mr. Haveman will soon have more information about those scholarships. On behalf of the students who have received these scholarships in the past and those who will be helped in the future, we send a huge thank-you to the donors.

CHAPELS—We are once again enjoying our weekly Chapel programs. We have been blessed with inspirational talks by several of our ministers and professors. We have also had one chapel dedicated to singing with each grade meeting separately and one where we all sang together. Another chapel was led by Mr. Elzinga and the Band. Most students don't go home and talk about what took place in chapel. If you think about it, perhaps you could make this part of your family conversations on Wednesday evenings.

CONCERTS—We are thankful that we can begin to have music concerts with full attendance and no masks. Our fall concerts went very well. Mr. Gritters and Mr. Elzinga had their groups well prepared. The PRSO joined the choirs to perform a beautiful rendition of "My Kindness Will Not Depart From Thee." If you were not there to see it live it is worth seeing the recorded version on YouTube. All the songs from both concerts are available for viewing on YouTube. We are looking forward to our combined Christmas concert which is coming up on December 11. This concert will be held at 4:00 p.m. at Jenison Center for the Arts.

STUDENT COUNCIL—Our Student Council has been active in planning several activities for the students. The Annual Powder Puff football game and Burger Fry was a success. The senior girls were victorious in the football game and everyone was able to enjoy a grilled hamburger lunch. The week of Thanksgiving was designated as Friendship Week. This is a time when everyone is encouraged to meet new people and appreciate all of the friends that we have in this school. The Student Council led Chapel for that week was based on this theme. They are now planning the Christmas Chapel which will be held on Wednesday, December 22. Parents are invited to join us on that day at 11:15 AM. The annual Homecoming Week activities are scheduled for February 21-25.

GIFT CERTIFICATE DRIVE—The Student Council is sponsoring a Gift Certificate Drive this year. They are collecting gift cards and certificates that will be given to families in need from our area churches. We ask that you consider giving gift cards for necessities such as groceries and gas, or giving a monetary donation. These can be given to any Student Council member or sent to the attention of Miss Jori Wieringa at school.

FALL SPORTS—The Chargers Fall Sports teams had successful seasons. The Boys Soccer team and the Girls Volleyball team both advanced to the District finals. We thank Coach Mike Noorman and Coach Shon Griess for their work with the Soccer teams and also to coaches Carli Englesma, Taylor Noorman, and Lindsey Holstege for their work with the Volleyball teams. The boys and the girls cross country teams both finished second at the Regional meet which advanced them to the state meet. They both finished in 7th place out of 29 schools that competed at the State Championship which was held at Michigan International Speedway. Senior runner Meghan Beute finished in 1st place at the Regional meet and 10th place in the State Championship race which earned her All-State honors. Congratulations to Meghan for her accomplishments this year, to all the runners who developed through the season and contributed so much to the program, and to our coaches, Brian Kalsbeek, Jenn Kalsbeek, and Brantley Van Overloop for another fine season.

KHAN ACADEMY SAT TEST PREP—All of our students in grades 10 and 11 should have received feedback on the PSAT tests that were administered last spring or this fall. Mrs. Bergman will be meeting with students to review these results and talk about how to improve the scores on the tests that will be administered in April. She has already introduced them to the Khan Academy program which will assist them in the preparation for these tests. The students all have access to a program of instruction that is based on their individual results. This is especially important for our 11th grade students who are planning to continue on to college after high school. The SAT test, which will be given in April, will be a determining factor for the level of financial aid for which they qualify. Working through the test preparation programs will give them the opportunity to work on test problems and to take full practice tests.

A recent communication from Khan Academy calls attention to some programs that they are offering. They designed online challenges to keep your students engaged over the holidays. They have a “Get Ready for 2022” mastery challenge and an SAT challenge that will keep the engagement going all winter long and into new year testing. There is no charge for any of the Khan Academy programs. The only cost is the time that the students put into it.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND WEATHER DELAYS—We are approaching the time of year when the weather can start to affect the traffic patterns which in turn affects when our students arrive at school. During the morning commute, a very high percentage of our students travel on roads that are prone to traffic backups. We would really appreciate it if the students would adjust their departure times from home to compensate for expected traffic delays. It never hurts to get to school a little early and be relaxed and ready for their first class.

I will soon be considered a “weather prophet” and will have to answer the question, “Mr. Noorman, do you think we will have a snow day tomorrow?” Due to the unpredictable nature of a Michigan winter, it is not often that I am willing to answer that question with a “Yes.” Our decision to close or not to close school is closely tied to decisions of the local school districts in which our families live. These districts have transportation departments that are in tune with the conditions found on the roads in their areas and will generally make good decisions. Once this information is gathered, we will make our decision.

When school is cancelled, I will send an email to all parents through FACTS. The other way to check for a school closing is to go to the “Closings” section of www.woodtv.com or www.wzzm13.com or www.fox17online.com and look for our school or check the TV for the scrolling list. Many of the media outlets will also allow you to set up an email alert system that ties directly into the decision of your school or they may even have an “app” for your mobile device.

Please note that for families who live in outlying areas, we will honor your decision as a parent to excuse your student if you are not comfortable with putting them on the road and keep them home, or to send them in a little later. In these cases, we ask that you notify the office as soon as possible. This can be done by email to office@covenantchristianhs.org or calling 616-453-5048 to leave a message.

ROBOTICS—Our Robotics team competed at a meet at Grandville High School this past Saturday. There were a large number of schools represented and our teams were very competitive. Their next competition will be on January 8 at Jenison High School and they will travel to a competition in the Traverse City area on January 22.

SENIOR PICTURES AND YEARBOOK ORDERS—Miss Alyssa DeVries and the yearbook staff are busy putting together the 2022 yearbook. They are still waiting for a few seniors to send in their senior pictures. If you could remind them to send in their favorite head/shoulder pose by January 1, the staff would appreciate it. Please send it to adevries@covenantchristianhs.org. We also want to remind everyone that the reduced price of \$45 for a yearbook will end on December 24. Order forms are available in the office or order online at jostensyearbooks.com.

NOTE FROM THE OFFICE—When making a payment or donation, we would appreciate it if you would include a note on the check or the envelope as to what it is designated for.

NEED FOR TEACHERS—All of our Protestant Reformed Christian schools are being blessed with an increasing number of students. This fact, along with the fact that we are seeing teachers reaching retirement age and teachers leaving the work to take up responsibilities in the home, is leading to a shortage of teachers for our schools. Please discuss this need with your son or daughter. If they have questions about the work or the requirements to become a teacher, they can speak with Mr. Haveman or stop in the office and talk to me. We would also be glad to set up a job shadow with one of the teachers in our area schools.

STUDENT AND SCHOOL SAFETY—In light of the recent school tragedy in Oxford, Michigan we have reminded our teachers of our emergency procedures and we will be talking to all of our students about the general principles to follow and things regarding the specific rooms in which they may find themselves. We should all remind our kids of the mutual responsibility that we share in maintaining a safe school. We should encourage them to speak with parents or school officials if they become aware of any threat to the school or to other students, or if they have any concerns about the safety or behavior of other students. Parents are also encouraged to communicate with other parents or with the school if they have any concerns.

2021-2022 CALENDAR DATES:

December 10	Progress Report #2
December 11	Choir/Band Concert @ Jenison
December 23-Jan.2	Christmas Break
January 17-20	Exams/ End of Term 2
January 21	Records Day (No School)
February 21-25	Homecoming Week
February 25	Progress Report #3
March 8	Blood Drive
March 18	Band Trip to Wisconsin
March 18	End of Term 3
March 29	Choir Concert @ Jenison
April 1-8	Spring Break
April 13	PSAT for 9 th and 10 th
April 13-14	MSTEP Testing (SAT and Work Key) for 11 th
April 21-22	Choirs to Dordt College (Juniors and Seniors)
April 29	Progress Report #4
May 6	Career Day (a.m.)
May 6	Junior/Senior Banquet
May 19-20	Senior Class Trip
May 23	Choir Concert @ Jenison
May 25	Senior Chapel
May TBD	All Schools Band Concert @ Hudsonville at 7:00 p.m.
May TBD	Senior Honors Convocation
May 27-June 2	Exams
May 30	Memorial Day (No School)
June 3	Senior Breakfast and Graduation