

SPRING 2024



TORCH

A Kalamazoo Christian Schools Publication



THE TORCH

The TORCH is published twice a year with the purpose of fostering strong ties between the school, alumni and friends in support of Christian education.

Published by Kalamazoo Christian School Association.

Please inform the Association Office of address changes.

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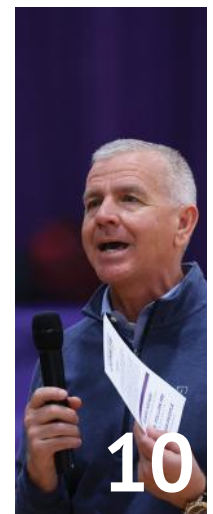
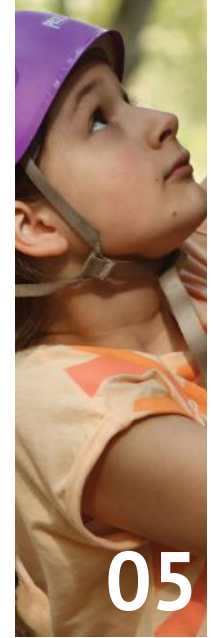
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MISSION

To be an academically excellent, Christian community equipping, inspiring and challenging students and staff to love and serve Christ in the world.



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**“DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND, THAT BY TESTING YOU MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD, WHAT IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.”
- ROMANS 12:2**



WITH MARC

I know that my children will be prepared for life. The strong expectations, character and academics that are based on faith in God will allow them to face the rewarding and challenging aspects of life outside of the walls of school or our home.

- KCS Parent/Guardian

With all of life's worries, dropping my kids off at Kalamazoo Christian is not one of them. I know they will be taught from the word of God, loved, prayed for, educated and disciplined. It is the easiest thing I do all day.

- KCS Parent/Guardian

I appreciate the teachers' involvement with the students, and obviously my own kids!! I have made friendships with several of the moms at school and can't imagine my life without them. I do feel the joy and presence of God while around the families and kids at school, and having this environment continues to be instrumental for me and my kids!

- KCS Parent/Guardian

What does it mean to be counter cultural? What does it mean to have our identity in Christ? How do we help our students understand and celebrate this uniqueness of following Christ? These are questions that we ask ourselves as we engage in the work of Christian Education. How can we be in the world but not of the world?

A Reformed world and life view says that every square inch of God's creation is His. He created everything we see, touch, experience and interact with. As a result, we study, learn, understand and reflect on how these things affect our day-to-day lives, as well as our interactions with those around us. Most of the time this is easy to do. We can interact in PE and appreciate good sportsmanship. We can sing songs of praise and know that we are honoring God.

However, there are times when behavior does not reflect the heart of Christ. We read literature where a character is not always God-fearing. We learn about our history and see where sin has affected communities. We study science and wrestle with our understanding of how the world works. It is in these tension areas that we understand the character of Christ and our role as educators.

We have been called to redeem Christ's creation from sin. We have been tasked to reclaim this world for His Kingdom. We study to learn. We learn to appreciate what the Lord has done for us. We appreciate the opportunity to play an integral role in God's story.

So, what does it mean to be counter cultural? We learn about God's creative order and see how sin has impacted the world so it can be redeemed by the work of the Holy Spirit through us. What an opportunity this is to play such an influential role in God's story! What a blessing it is to work with students to help them understand the role they can play in His Kingdom!

Marc Verkaik, Head of School

KINDNESS INITIATIVE

BY APRIL THIELEMANN, K-8 BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST

When we talk about the culture of a school, especially a Christian school, there are certain characteristics that should stand out. Here at Kalamazoo Christian we are establishing identifiable characteristics that follow our faithlines and school mission statement that we want our students and staff to exemplify.

As we look at being kind, we see in scripture that Ephesians 4:32 states, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

The Kindness Initiative was introduced at the K-8 building in January 2024 and went through the end of the school year. Each week teachers were encouraged to nominate any student they noticed being kind. At the end of the week, one student from both the middle school and elementary school was randomly chosen out of the bowl of nominees. That student received a \$10 gift card from Erbelli’s, who partnered with us in encouraging kindness among students.

The nominees for the middle school grew steadily over the semester. More and more students were being noticed for their kindness towards others. When we started the initiative, we had the middle school students write words of encouragement on cards that were then dispersed into random books in the library. Many elementary students expressed how much they loved seeing the notes when they checked out their book.

One fourth grade student loved it so much that he wanted to orchestrate more notes to be written so that more kids would find a special note inside one of the books.

Spreading a culture of kindness not only fulfills what scripture tells us, but it also aligns with the 2023-2024 school year’s Faithline of God Glorifying. When we are kind to others, we glorify God. Teaching our students kindness means we are instructing what kindness is in all areas of school life.

I personally saw this exemplified on a seventh grade field trip when one student went out of his way and offered to help a complete stranger. I happened to be standing near and saw it. I also saw it displayed when a prospective student came to shadow and two students took time to engage in a very welcoming way throughout the day.

Future plans for the Kindness Initiative are to continue the work of kindness and expand into serving. Our desire is to help our students learn to put their kindness into action by not only serving others at school, but also in our community. This past semester Meghan Van Lente, curriculum coordinator and instructional coach, taught a class for seventh graders with this concept in mind. One field trip took the class to two different sites that serve those in need in our community so that the students could see how communities benefit from these services and how they personally could get involved.



Pastors’ Chapel (above) is when we’re joined by families and local pastors to connect and worship the Lord.

WILDLIFE GO

Michigan's Congressional App Challenge is an annual event that began in 2015 to encourage middle and high school students to learn coding and computer science skills. Students compete against other students in their district to create an original app. This year, Kalamazoo Christian High School Seniors, Sahib Dhillon, Jacob Van Dyk and Jacob Williams created the app "Wildlife GO" which was selected by district representative Bill Huizenga as the winning app for Michigan's 4th Congressional District.

Van Dyk said, "In Michigan, like many other states, we have so many awesome parks and outdoor green spaces. Many people don't realize or enjoy these spaces, so we created this game/app to get people to go out, explore their surroundings and be more involved with their natural environment."

Users submit pictures of animals they find and "Wildlife GO" uses a machine learning model to identify the animals, assigning each a point value which helps the user move up the leader board.

Williams and Van Dyk started working on "Wildlife GO" during May 2023, and invited Dhillon to help them finish it. When it became time to announce the winner, the finalists were invited to Huizenga's office in Kalamazoo. Van Dyk said, "It was great to meet him and hear officially in person from our representative in Congress."

Dhillon, Van Dyk and Williams traveled to Washington D.C. to display their app at the #HouseOfCode Festival in April 2024.



Scan here or search for "Wildlife GO" in the app store.

VISION VISUAL

As part of her ceramics class, Senior Arianna Allen created a 3-dimensional, wall-mounted sculpture of KCSA's nine Faithlines. The Faithlines, which are a part of the KCSA's vision, serve as a representation of how we hope to be disciples transforming the world. Allen's art piece now hangs in the high school office.





SCIENCE CAMP

BY REBEKAH HISLE

Science camp is part of the 5th grade curriculum here at Kalamazoo Christian and has been happening for almost 30 years. Jonni Hoeksema, 5th grade teacher, said, “The purpose is to experience what they [the students] have learned in science in a new way.”

During the first week of May, students, teachers and volunteers stay at Camp Roger in Kent County, MI for three days at science camp to “interact with God’s World and each other in a unique way.” Students rotate through seven sessions of learning: art, rock climbing, compass, pond study, fishing and canoeing, an observation hike and archery. In the evenings the students play group games and take a night hike.

While science camp provides a unique opportunity to interact with nature, it also serves as a place of intentionality in God’s presence. The staff and volunteers host small group devotions and a candle light chapel for the students.

“We are showing the students how to see and experience God—taking their knowledge from their head, to their eyes, to their hearts—all through the time we are at camp.”

Hoeksema said, “We always have an amazing time of worship, feeling God’s presence and talking about how we can and should live our lives for Jesus. It is so amazing to have that time with our students!”

Hoeksema notes how this experience wouldn’t be possible without volunteers. This year the group was led by 5th grade teacher, Kim Meyer. The pond study is led by 8th grade teacher, Heather VanDyke. STEM teacher Chris Bierenga has previously

led the compass station and led worship this year while Erica VanderKooy volunteered as camp doctor.

“We depend a lot on the parents of the 5th graders,” Hoekesma said. “They volunteer to stay in student cabins, lead sessions, prepare and serve all of our food, help with games and so many other things.”

Science camp has been running since 1977 with the intention of many more years of this experience.

See more pictures from science camp on page 7.



GLORY GIRLS

BY KENDRA MULLER, CO-VOLUNTEER FOUNDER OF GGRC

Glory Girls Run Club (GGRC) was established in 2022 with the mission of creating a Christ-centered space where girls in 3rd-5th grade can develop important life skills such as confidence, character, teamwork and leadership. Most importantly, it provides a place for them to learn about who God created them to be.

Each year, a Biblically-based curriculum is designed alongside an eight-week 5k training program. “As a tenured college instructor and first-year Glory Girls coach, I was so impressed with the program and curriculum. Each activity, whether it was a devotion, game or practice run, was all centered on glorifying God. The program not only grew our girls’ faith and service in the Lord, but I am sure it also did this for everyone involved,” said Carl, one of the coaches.

A typical practice begins with a devotional and scripture that pertains to the theme of the program, discussion within small groups, goal setting for the day and prayer. The workout portion begins with a fun warm up game, and then running begins outdoors. At the end of practice, teams regroup to journal and reflect on the topic of discussion. A highlight for the girls is discovering who won “Glory Girl” for the day. A “Glory Girl” is someone who demonstrates Christ-like character toward their teammates, and is often nominated by another girl who witnesses these actions.

The girls end the season with a 5k race, complete with race bibs, medals, hair dye, glitter, temporary tattoos and a big pink finish line. “It was amazing to see all the girls at the starting line encouraging each other and smiling—ready to go. It was also amazing to see the fellowship between families and friends, even the community support, like the fire department raising their hose up high and spraying the runners with a water mist,” said Coach Carl.

The program is so much more than an athletic program. “I love Glory Girls because they include how we can do physical education for God,” said participant, Alani. “I love how they don’t just have 3rd graders doing this, but also 4th and 5th as well. I love how they don’t just have us running, but they have us stretching as well. I also love how they include Bible verses to share the word of God.”

Audrey, parent of a participant, said, “The club has been a place where our daughter not only was encouraged to grow in athletic and physical abilities, but also had opportunities to grow socially and spiritually as she met new friends, navigated challenges, and pushed herself outside of her comfort zone.”

The program could not exist without our many dedicated volunteers. We extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your incredible dedication, passion and support for the girls of GGRC.


Check out some more moments from Fifth Grade Science Camp.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION IS PART OF OUR STEM PROGRAM, GIVING STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WHAT STUDENTS LEARN IN THE CLASSROOM TO THE WORLD GOD GAVE US.

THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN WHILE SOME OF OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS PLANTED CHRISTMAS TREES.



**OUR NINTH GRADERS WATCHED THE APRIL 8, 2024 SOLAR ECLIPSE TOGETHER. IN KALAMAZOO, THE ECLIPSE WAS AT ABOUT 96% TOTALITY.**



IMPACT AWARD

KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT EARNS NATIONAL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

United Nations Association of the USA Recognizes Youth Leaders Delivering Progress Toward The UN Sustainable Development Goals

HONOR AWARDEE: LIZZY PRUIS
ZERO HERO AWARDEE: LIZZY PRUIS
MICHIGAN AWARDEE: LIZZY PRUIS

Kalamazoo Christian High School is delighted to announce Elizabeth Pruis (Lizzy) is being recognized by the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) and InnerView in the seventh Annual Community Service Impact Awards. This program, open to all U.S. students, has been designed to connect student community service activities, skill development, and commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to transform our world. The Kroger Co. is presenting the fifth annual Zero Hero Awards to students for taking action to help create communities free of hunger and waste. The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) is recognizing outstanding youth volunteers addressing community needs.

“The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework for addressing the world’s most pressing challenges. They also present a unique opportunity for UN member states, grassroots organizations and advocates to work together to create a better future for everyone,” says Rachel Bowen Pittman, Executive Director of the United Nations Association of the USA. “Youth play a pivotal role in driving change forward, now more than ever. As an intergenerational movement of dedicated Americans, UNA-USA is committed to supporting the work of the vital work of the United Nations and SDGs. We are thrilled to partner with InnerView again this year and celebrate the impact youth have made in advancing the SDGs. Congratulations to this year’s awardees for their dedication and inspired action!”

“We are so proud to recognize the efforts of the Michigan youth who chose to give their valuable time to help others,” said Michigan Community Service Commission Executive Director Ginna Holmes. “Youth understand the power of volunteering and the importance their actions have in strengthening communities. Their passion and strong desire to make an impact is inspiring.”

Students from Kalamazoo Christian High School delivered the most impact for SDG 1 - No Poverty.

“High school students have a strong perspective on the most challenging issues and needs facing our communities. These awardees exemplify young leadership, harnessing their passion and skills to enact positive change in their communities and beyond,” says Kristine Sturgeon, CEO of InnerView Technologies. “We feel privileged to work alongside these change-makers daily, supporting their journey, unlocking opportunities, and commemorating their achievements.”

A key artifact students gain through the Award Program is the development of a digital service resume for use in job and college applications to demonstrate personal commitment, 21st century skills, and key areas of interest. The three-tier award program recognizes a range of student achievement: Merit for 30 hours, Honor for 60 hours and Ambassador for 100 hours of service this school year and special recognition for a focus on Zero Hunger and Zero Waste.

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innerview.org/lizzypruis

About United Nations Association - USA

The United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) is a grassroots movement of Americans who support the vital work of the United Nations in U.S. communities, colleges, and Congress. With over 20,000 members (70% under the age of 26) and more than 200 chapters across the country, UNA-USA members are united in their commitment to global engagement and their belief that each of us can play a part in advancing the UN's mission and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

About InnerView Technologies

InnerView is the leading and most equitable youth social responsibility platform to help students, groups, and schools highlight community service impact, passion for causes, skill development, and connect local effort to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. All college and high school-aged students are welcome to join this community of compassionate youth leaders who have discovered ways to get involved and crafted dynamic visual service impact resumes through my.InnerView.org. InnerView Technologies is a social impact organization working with students, groups, schools, nonprofits, and committed & compassionate institutions. Learn more at InnerView.org

About Michigan Community Service Commission

The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) utilizes service as a strategy to address the state's most pressing issues and empowers volunteers to strengthen communities. In 2023-2024, the MCSC is granting more than \$21 million in federal funds to local communities for volunteer programs and activities. The MCSC is housed in the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/volunteer.

Printed from Press Kit Resources provided by InnerView.

LEN VANDEN BOS

Chaplain and Director of Player Development for the Buffalo Bills, NFL team, Len Vanden Bos ('82), was invited to speak to our middle and high school students with a special session for student-athletes. Vanden Bos and his wife Char (Nieboer, '82) are both alumni of Kalamazoo Christian Schools.

Vanden Bos shared a message, the "good news," about the near kingdom of God. He talked about how following Jesus leads to life and that people are the "ball game."

He shared from Mark 1:14-20 where Jesus calls his first disciples to follow him and become fishers of men.

“The time has come,’ He said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news.”

- Mark 1:15





INTRAMURAL RECESS STRUCTURE

Our middle school offers an intramural recess style.

Students automatically get to be a part of a team and stay active at recess time. During the 2023-2024 school year, middle schoolers played soccer, flag football, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, wiffle ball and softball.

KCMS also has a partnership with the Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Department that allows for after school intramural sports too. During the 2023-2024 school year this partnership offered golf, esports, bowling and archery to students.

COMET ATHLETICS

VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONS! INTERVIEW WITH HEAD COACH CARLIE SOUTHLAND

Carlie Southland has been the head coach of the Varsity Girls' Volleyball team for two years. She said, "At the beginning of this past season, we did team goals for what we wanted the season to look like. Almost every single player wrote down 'Win the State Championship'—not 'make it to the finals,' but to come back and win it.

With that goal in mind, we started the season with the mentality that it doesn't matter how far we made it the year before. We have to start over and earn every single point and every single game all over again. That starts with putting in the hard work on day one and continuing to do so throughout the whole season.

Almost all of our matches from regionals to the state finals

were against top 10 ranked teams. We came in as the underdogs and were not expected to win a majority of them. However, we prepared for

these matches by playing tough D1 and D2 teams throughout the year and then watched a lot of film so we could develop a strategy for each match.

I think the biggest factor that contributed to our state title was the motivation of each player. I feel like they were already so self-motivated and determined to win this year.

That energy is what drove us through the season and all the way to the end. The players were determined to leave an impact on the court and they succeeded in their goal. They didn't do it alone—they played not as individuals, but as a team, for each other, and most importantly, by giving all the glory to God.



FALL TEAMS



BOYS' SOCCER 16-7-1, 2ND IN CONFERENCE



UNITED FOOTBALL 5-4, PLAYOFF QUALIFIER



BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY 8TH @ REGIONALS
GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY 4TH @ REGIONALS



BOYS' TENNIS, 2ND @ REGIONAL,
STATE QUALIFIER



GIRLS' GOLF, KVA CHAMPIONS, REGIONAL CHAMPIONS, D4 STATE RUNNER-UP
Photo by Kristin Browning



VARSITY VOLLEYBALL 30-3-2, SAC VALLEY DIVISION CHAMPIONS, DISTRICT CHAMPIONS, REGIONAL CHAMPIONS, D3 STATE CHAMPIONS

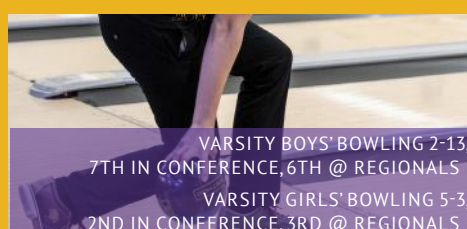
WINTER TEAMS



VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL 10-12,
4TH IN CONFERENCE



VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL 24-2,
SAC CHAMPIONS, DISTRICT CHAMPION,
2ND @ REGIONALS



VARSITY BOYS' BOWLING 2-13,
7TH IN CONFERENCE, 6TH @ REGIONALS
VARSITY GIRLS' BOWLING 5-3,
2ND IN CONFERENCE, 3RD @ REGIONALS

SPRING TEAMS



BOYS' TRACK & FIELD 6TH IN CONFERENCE
GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD 3RD IN CONFERENCE



BOYS' CLUB VOLLEYBALL 21-5, CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



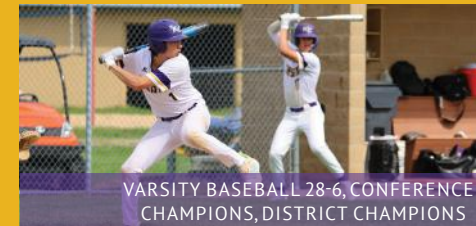
BOYS' GOLF 2ND @ CONFERENCE, 8TH @ STATE



GIRLS' TENNIS 5-6



VARSITY SOFTBALL 20-14, CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



VARSITY BASEBALL 28-6, CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



VARSITY GIRLS' SOCCER 18-5-2, CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, DISTRICT CHAMPIONS, REGIONAL CHAMPIONS, D4 STATE RUNNER UP



Scan or visit
[docs.google.com/document/
d/1ZwA2ekeMsS66G2x5j0mKV8-
8cMlkMgdoAIFDxJC9gFg](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZwA2ekeMsS66G2x5j0mKV8-8cMlkMgdoAIFDxJC9gFg)
for most recent records.



Scan or visit <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HAsHdQVUm2UrExhuj0wwSr9QOhQoY75TCjFso2XGUmw> for the Class of 2024 Senior Awards and Scholarships.



The Kalamazoo Christian High School Class of 2024 celebrated their commencement ceremony on May 22, 2024 at Centerpoint Church. Class President Thomas Batts (top right) addressed his fellow classmates with a speech reminiscing about their time at KCS. Jay Allen (middle right), soccer coach and parent of one of the graduates, gave the charge to the graduates, encouraging them to rely on God in inevitable times of uncertainty. He said, "A little bit of uncertainty is a good thing... Uncertainty can mean growth with a little preparation." Allen referred to Deuteronomy 31:8 which says "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." He left with three pieces of advice for the class of 2024: 1. Put the phones down 2. Lean into the community that shaped you and 3. Lean into God in times of uncertainty.

GRADUATION 2024



CLASS VERSE:
"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT."
- PROVERBS 3:5-6

IMPACT AND LEGACY AWARDS



In 2023, we introduced our first two alumni awards: The Kalamazoo Christian High School Impact Award and Kalamazoo Christian High School Legacy Award. This year, at high school graduation, we honored two more alumni.

2024 Alumni Impact Award: Jason Zimmer ('87)
Pictured right.

2024 Alumni Legacy Award: Melvin Klooster ('48)
Award received by his son, Mike Klooster. Pictured above.



Nominate an alumni for the 2025 awards here.



kcsa.org/advancement/alumni-awards



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS WHO WILL BE TAKING THEIR GOD-GIVEN TALENTS TO THE NEXT LEVEL BY PARTICIPATING IN COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS.



THE ALUMNI CONNECTION

Do you have story of impact to share with the KCS community?
Do you have a life update?

We want to hear it!
Email alumni@kcsa.org.

Update us on new babies born into Comet Nation and we'd love to send you a KCSA bib.

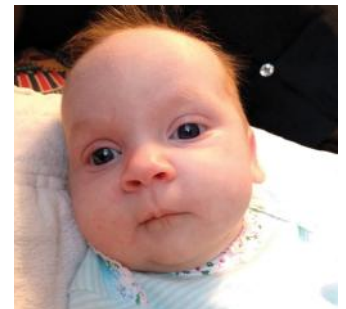


Walker
Born January 2024
to Kevin ('06)
& Alex Westrate



Smith Zachary
Born 02/22/24
to Annie (Jones) ('08)
& Zak Spangler

Wedding for Elijah ('17)
& Christian Kellar.
Baby Evangeline Josephine
Born 02/27/24.



Zoritzia Simic
Born 11-16-23
to Helen (Karsten) ('01)
& Milan Simic



Silas Yoon
Born 04/13/24
to Nathan ('03) &
Raquel Sportel



Collins Elisabeth
Born 05/19/24
to Ben ('10) & Emily Brouwer



Blakely Grace
Born to Michael &
Chelsea Visser

James E DeNooyer ('10)
married to
Kait Andrykovich,
expecting their
first baby in June 2024.

**HONORED CLASSES AT HOMECOMING 2024: 1964, 1974, 1999, 2014
HONORED CLASSES FOR HOMECOMING 2025: 1965, 1975, 2000, 2015**

MARK YOUR CALENDERS TO JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING ON FEBRUARY 7, 2025.

ALUMNI WHO HAVE PASSED

NAME, GRAD YEAR	DATE OF PASSING	NAME, GRAD YEAR	DATE OF PASSING
Marvin "George" Block, 1963	5/21/2023	Ebo E. Mejeur, 1949	12/10/2023
Thomas Buckhout, 1969	5/1/2023	H. Fred Miller, 1967	5/21/2023
Louanne (Versluis) Collins, 1970	4/18/2023	Sandra (Gruizinga) Modderman, 1955	10/19/2023
Gerald H. DeBlecourt, 1964	12/31/2023	Angela (Norman) Moore, 1991	1/20/2023
Roger W. Doorn, 1955	12/8/2023	Sucille (Mejeur) Naugle, 1949	9/9/2023
Anna Belle Engbers, 1946	3/31/2023	Gerald "Jerry" Poortenga, 1955	12/8/2023
Arlene R. Engbers, 1948	1/24/2023	Linda (Leep) Schipper, 1969	9/23/2023
Dennis Hassing, 1965	2/13/2023	Sherry (Grupp) Schuen, 1986	11/22/2023
James W. Hendriksen, 1970	1/6/2023	Phyllis (Kroeze) Smith, 1947	1/22/2023
Linda (Doorn) Hinds, 1966	10/7/2023	Kenneth Terpstra, 1958	6/24/2023
Bert Hovenkamp, 1965	3/17/2023	Carol Valkema, 1972	12/26/2023
Kathleen (Morgan) Izenbaard, 1952	1/3/2023	Kenneth VanDenBerg, 1955	7/26/2023
Lynne (Kragt) Jacobs, 1977	9/17/2023	Margaret (Mejeur) VanderPloeg, 1952	6/27/2023
Alko Jager, 1954	10/24/2023	April (Nieboer) VanDerSlik, 1992	9/20/2023
Kenneth Jager, 1966	3/19/2023	John VanLaar, 1950	12/9/2023
Melvin J. Klooster, 1948	6/30/2023	Herman L. Visker, 1946	5/12/2023
Esther (DeBree) Korzilius, 1954	5/28/2023	Harold J. Vlietstra, 1954	11/11/2023
Harriet (VanBoven) Kuilema, 1945	9/28/2023	Glenn Vlietstra, 1953	3/28/2023
Harold C. Langeland, 1949	7/15/2023	Mary (Westrate DeDoes) Vlietstra, 1950	11/11/2023
Mary (Vermeulen) Leroy, 1950	4/7/2023		



KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOUNDATION

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HOW THE KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOUNDATION SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

The Kalamazoo Christian School Foundation (KCSF) is a volunteer-based support organization that has been benefiting KCS since 1993. Donations are invested, and annual grants are distributed to KCS for the benefit of its students, building up the Kingdom of God through Christian education. Two important funds are the General Endowment Fund that reduces tuition for all and the Covenant Promise Fund, providing need-based financial assistance. In addition, KCSF has special purpose funds.

You can donate to KCSF to benefit students today or in a way that provides future support.

Donations to the KCSF are not like retirement savings because grant payments are made annually. These annual grant payments are made each school year to help support the school and its students in a perpetual method and thus, KCSF involves endowed funds– either unrestricted or with specific purpose.

As we administer endowed funds, we do not make annual grants or take on expenses that reduce our investments below the accumulated dollars contributed. That limit is called the HDA– the accumulated “historic dollar amount” contributed.

With new donations and growth of investments, we try to achieve higher values each year. KCSF’s goal is to provide \$1,000,000 of annual support to KCSA. This would take around \$20,000,000

of investments. KCSF growth comes from new donations and bequests (gifts from a will or trust). KCSF has a long way to go to reach those levels. If your heart guides you to donate to endowed funds that support KCSA in perpetuity, please consider donating to KCSF.

Sincerely in Christ’s service,

KCSF volunteer board.



Here is a snapshot of ever-changing data for the previous school year:

HDA to December 2023: \$4,300,000

Investment value December 2023: \$4,700,000

Gross income for fiscal year ending August 2023: \$126,492

Net income for year ending August 2023: \$24,385

Funds used for development partnering with KCSA: \$53,000

Potential grants this year to the school and students: \$189,000

Combined annual grants and development support could reach: \$242,000



THE COMET FUND



MAKE IT MONTHLY

Our Comet Partners are incredibly important. They believe in showing God's Kingdom through our "Undeniably Christian. Academically Excellent." mission. Would you consider joining this special group and becoming a monthly donor?



LONG-TERM IMPACT

Your monthly impact allows us to take a planned, long-term approach to making KCS the best it can be for our students and community. Your gift allows us to make long-lasting improvements.



ONGOING MISSION

The Kalamazoo Christian Schools mission is a Kingdom mission. Wherever they are, our students are encouraged to grow in character, faith, and knowledge, leaving our campus with a firm foundation upon which to build their futures.



COST-EFFECTIVE

Your monthly investment allows even more families to attain Christian education. Will you join us to accomplish our mission, and to reduce tuition cost by investing monthly?

GIVE TODAY! [KCSA.ORG/COMET-FUND](https://kcsa.org/comet-fund)

UPCOMING

AUGUST

6 Summer Fun: Sports
14 Young 4's Parent Orientation Night
15 Young 3's & 5's Parent Orientation Night
19 Family/Student Open House
20 K-12 First Day of School
21 Young 5's First Full Day
22-23 Young 3's & 4's First Full Day
25 One Worship

SEPTEMBER

7 Booster's Clay Shoot
13 Comet Nation Tailgate
20 All School Chapel
27 Women's Golf Outing

OCTOBER

10 K-8 Hispanic Heritage Celebration
12 HS Quiz Bowl White-Cloud Tournament
14 HS Band & Choir Concert

NOVEMBER

4 Blood Drive
14-16 HS Musical
16 Quiz Bowl Holland Tournament
27 HS Grandfriend's Day

DECEMBER

5 3-5 Christmas Program
7 HS Quiz Bowl Swim N'win Tournament
9 HS Choir Christmas Concert
11 HS Band Concert
13 NHS Project Day
16 PEP Movie Event

Do you have a story for The Torch?
We want to hear from you!

Email communications@kcsa.org.



**KALAMAZOO
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOLS**



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