

UNCOMPROMISED

THE SHIELD



FALL 2025



Cover photo: See You at the Pole 2025

Discipleship
Highlight

Annual Benefit Auction
Exceeds Goal

Veterans Day Chapel Ties
Christian Service to Patriotism

UNCOMPROMISED

Living a Life Set Apart for Christ

At Mount Calvary, we are committed to a vision of not only developing students who love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, but who are also prepared to overcome the challenges of the culture with humility, boldness, and spirit-filled joy.

Overcoming the challenges of culture is not a new concept for those who follow the Lord. In the Old Testament, we see how Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego engaged in the culture of Babylon yet remained uncompromised. Living in a land that was not their home, they held on to their convictions and remained faithful to God, who blessed them and delivered them from harm. They stood firm because it was the right thing to do, and because they knew that God would keep His promises.

In the New Testament, we see countless examples in the early church of believers who are scattered throughout Europe and the Middle East, wrestling with the very same dilemma that Daniel and his friends faced: how do we stand firm in the midst of a prevailing culture?

How do we stand firm in the midst of a prevailing culture?

This year, the secondary school at MCCS has dedicated our chapels and special programming to this very concept. Our charge to students is this: be uncompromised. Stand firm in total commitment to Biblical principles and a relationship to Jesus Christ.

This fall has already presented an opportunity for students to hear from many individuals who focused on being uncompromised. During our student development days, school leaders and the student chaplains walked the student body through evaluating their hearts and spiritual callings. Outside of special programming, our entire faculty is committed to weaving Biblical truth into their courses, with a special emphasis on being uncompromised.

Please join us in prayer as we lead our students in this charge.



Kory Pruner
Assistant Principal



Spotlight on Discipleship: Student Chaplaincy

A new class for high school students for the 2025-2026 school year is the chaplain elective. The goal of this new elective is to intentionally invest in the class chaplains, equipping them to better serve the student body, disciple their peers, and deepen their own relationship with Christ.

The course begins by going through the book *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund. Chaplains engage in a series of trainings on topics such as homiletics, hermeneutics, and spiritual discipline practices to help them gain knowledge and better communicate with their peers.

The end goal of this elective is to create a long-term sustainable program that allows the chaplains to become the most effective high school spiritual leaders they can be before graduating and passing the mantle to the classes below them.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed this class! I really love the relationships that I have been able to build with the other chaplains. The chaplain ministry class has been a great way for planning class chapels with the ability to bounce ideas off each other."



Aubrey Norman
Senior Chaplain

"We have seen the chaplains lead in incredible ways to begin the year. They are committed to their own spiritual development and in turn, can pour into the student body with more effort and effectiveness. The level of vulnerability, commitment, and honesty seen in the first eight weeks of this program has been incredible, and we are confident that the Lord is going to use this elective to work in the life of the school."

"I have absolutely loved the chaplain class MCCA added this year. It has given our high school chaplains a chance to grow in the Word and in fellowship with others. We never fail to learn more and have fun with one another!"



Kyle Lerley



Hunter Crick

High School Bible Teachers



Maggie Weigel
Senior Chaplain

By the
numbers

.....

\$374,071
raised

1,170
meal tickets

798
students
impacted

480+
items
auctioned

383
attended
Kids Fest

155+
volunteers

560
milkshakes
served

Auction Exceeds Fundraising Goal & Celebrates MCCS Community

During the weekend of September 26, MCCS held our Annual Benefit Auction with the goal of raising \$300,000 for the school. With hundreds gathered at our main campus, this Friday night and Saturday morning fundraising event featured yearly favorites including our Harvey's BBQ dinner, live and silent auctions and bake sale, while introducing new additions such as the Kids' Corner, Touch-a-Truck event, special music by Jared Erb, Charger Bowls, online bidding, and more!

At the Friday night kickoff, student Gabby Sintic prayed for the event and our school, asking the Lord to "let this place be a light for You in a world where it feels like everything may be falling apart."

Superintendent Jared Griest shared that sponsorships and lead gifts made it possible for us to enter the weekend with \$150,000 in donations. He also revealed this year's 2025 Special Project: A Space to Gather & Grow Together. Both Main and West Campus will receive outdoor upgrades with the goal of creating environments that combine classroom and community on our campuses. We will be adding outdoor tables, along with outdoor signage and other outdoor touches to bring life and purpose to these spaces.

Throughout the evening, attendees gathered and bid on hundreds of items and experiences, shopped at the school spirit wear store, and purchased baked goods. Volunteers served a variety of food items, and students enjoyed time together with their peers and teachers.

The event was marked by both generosity and joy with \$374,071 RAISED FOR MCCS!

A heartfelt thank you to the auction committee members, staff/faculty members, parents, businesses, students, and other friends of MCCS who made this year's event a huge success!

All glory to our great God!



Celebrating 50 Years of God's Faithfulness

Join us during next year's auction weekend for an extra special celebration!
September 25-26, 2026 | Annual Benefit Auction & 50th Anniversary Celebration



"Let this place be a light for You in a world where it feels like everything may be falling apart."



CHARGER OLYMPICS

Each year, we select a theme that focuses on spiritual growth, academic knowledge, and fun activities for our elementary students and staff.

As 2026 is a Winter Olympics year, we will celebrate our own Charger Olympics and learn about perseverance, endurance, and uncompromised hearts as we represent Christ and MCCS just as Olympic athletes represent their countries.

Spiritual Emphasis Week had our elementary students focused on Mark 12:30 and learning about loving the Lord with all of our HEART, SOUL, MIND, and STRENGTH. Each of these areas corresponded with a day of the week, and students participated in a number of activities, watched skits, and received prizes throughout this special week.



"I love that Spiritual Emphasis Week is a time where we can learn more about God's Word. One of the skits taught me that you should always be kind to people, no matter what their abilities are."

-Eliana Racilla
3rd Grade

"I like the Olympic theme and how the skits taught us lessons about how to treat others and be a team."

-Dylan Smith
3rd Grade



CHAPEL HIGHLIGHTS

Each month, middle and high school students are exploring a new topic aligned with our Uncompromised theme. This topic is integrated into our worship sessions, chapel time, and breakout groups led by our class chaplains.

Teachers recognize students who embody these concepts and present them with stickers as a reward (see below). These topics not only aim to enrich students' spiritual growth but also encourage them to apply biblical principles in their daily lives. Through engaging discussions, interactive activities, and reflective exercises, students have a number of opportunities to deepen their understanding and put their faith into action.

We are excited to see students grow and thrive as they embrace these monthly topics. Congratulations to the students below who were recognized for the "Stand for What is Right" theme for October!



Middle school: Josh Hein, Charles Scott, Guy Burden, Lily Clayton, Julia Fuge, Aderyn Forney, Ellie Powell, Sophia Shellenberger, Hudson Sintic, Preston Woods, Gracen Torborg, Justice Wertz, Parker Duryea, Greyson Frey, Blake Curtis, Madison Ogle, Brinton Pierce, Ava Oosting, Averie Duryea, Bennett Lane, Lydia Jones



High school: Blaze Shenk, Leah Mitchell, Gabby Olynik, Faith Littlefield, Logan Bly, Patrick Miller, Javon Zimmerman, Kate Weigel, Ava Hess, Taylor Weaver, Gabby Sintic, Macy Walter
Not pictured: Madi Sherwood, Logan Stewart, Lillian Kirsch, Alex Derr, Maggie Weigel



UNWAVERING



FAITH

This year, our 6th grade students spent a few days at Black Rock Retreat to focus on spiritual growth and team building. Similar to our theme for the school year, camp staff taught on the Book of Daniel, and our students were impacted! MCCS students learned about Daniel's unwavering faith and how we can strive to resemble that kind of faith while resisting the temptations of the world.

Here's what a few students had to say about their time at Black Rock:

"At Black Rock Retreat, we talked about Daniel. We talked about how his actions helped a bunch of people know God. We also talked about how Daniel trusted God no matter what. He stayed faithful to God even if that meant he would die. These things helped me to realize that what I do may either lead someone to God or take them away. I also need to trust God and love Him no matter the circumstances."

-Colton Blanchard

"We learned a lot of valuable lessons at Black Rock. One thing that we learned was how to pray like Daniel. This means a lot to me because it means God will always listen to me, no matter where I am in life."

-June Aument

"My time at Black Rock was so fun! I learned that small decisions can impact your whole entire life! Jesus spoke to me personally through worship and prayer. He showed me that He will help me make the right decision. I loved going to Black Rock and learning so much!"

-Brenna Jordan

"The retreat gave me a chance to strengthen friendships and make new ones. We got to work in teams with our groups, playing laser tag, fishing, and building a fire. These opportunities helped me to work with different classmates and build relationships. We attended a chapel and learned about Daniel and how he never stopped believing and trusting in God. With our cabins, we got to talk more about this and how we can apply it to our own lives.

I grew spiritually through this experience and am coming home with a desire to pray more. Just like Daniel, I know that we can't do anything without God."

-Averie Duryea



Student of the Month

Kate Weigel was recognized as the Student of the Month for October, our first of the 2025-2026 school year! Congratulations, Kate! It was encouraging to hear a little bit about her leadership and faith journey at MCCS. Read Kate's interview below.



What are your plans after graduation?

"After graduation, I plan to attend Anderson University and major in business or human resource management."

What sports, clubs, or activities have you been involved in? Any awards or special recognitions?

"While at Mount Calvary, I've had the opportunity to be soccer manager, class president, on Student Council and National Honor Society, and I'm on the track team."

What classes have helped you in your career objective?

"A class that has impacted me has been my strength training class with Mrs. Stum. It's taught me that I can push myself harder than I thought possible and achieve really great results."

How have the teachers at MCCS made an impact on your life?

"I love all of our teachers here at Mount Calvary; I really appreciate how each of them live out their call. They're not here just to work but to really serve the Lord and glorify Him. I love each and every one of them."

What special or unique opportunities has MCCS given you?

"The opportunity of being class president has allowed me to develop a love for service through leadership, and I've really enjoyed getting to work with my peers."

What has God been teaching you lately?

"One thing that the Lord has been teaching me is to really appreciate all of the little blessings in life. It gets hard to appreciate all that we have when we see the brokenness and the sin in this world, but it's truly transformative to recognize that the Lord is so good to us. He's incredibly loving, and He blesses us in so many ways."

What is something you will miss about MCCS?

"Something I'm going to miss about my time here at Mount Calvary is all of my friends, mentors, and my school family. I'm so grateful for the faith that we share and how we encourage and uplift each other as the body of Christ."

What advice would you give to younger students?

"Some advice I would give to younger students is to work hard, try your best in school, but at the end of the day, once you've done that, give it to Lord. Know that He's got you, and depend on His strength and not your own."

Student of the Month

Leah Mitchell was recognized as the Student of the Month for November. Congratulations, Leah! It was a joy to learn a little bit about Leah's time at MCCS as well as her future plans. Read Leah's interview below.

What are your plans after graduation?

"My plans are to attend Malone University for Zoo & Wildlife Biology. I will also be a part of the women's track & field team."

What sports, clubs, or activities have you been involved in? Any awards or special recognitions?

"I'm a part of National Honor Society, and I'm a part of the track team. A fun award I received was the "passion award" for gym class in 9th grade."

What classes have helped you in your career objective?

"Classes that have helped me toward my future goals have been Mrs. Risser's science classes like Biology, Anatomy & Physiology. Mrs. Aument's history class has prepared me for college by helping with tips and tricks and ways to improve our homework and classwork at college."

How have the teachers at MCCS made an impact on your life?

"The teachers here have made a huge impact in my life. They push you to do your best because they know you can. They don't only push you in your academics, but they also encourage you in your spiritual growth with God."

What has God been teaching you lately?

"Something God has been teaching me is to trust in His plan. He has a way bigger plan than anything we could ever imagine, and He helps us through the hard trials and the joyful times. He is always there to help us through anything; we just have to put our faith in Him."

What is one of your favorite memories from your time at MCCS?

"One of my favorite memories was in 10th grade during a service project. A group of us went with Mr. Etter and Mr. Lerley to Garden Chapel. We had a fun van ride, and we served at the church by cleaning it up and making it look nice. It was really fun to serve with that group of people."

What advice would you give to younger students?

"Advice I would give to younger students would be to enjoy every moment. Middle school and high school goes fast, and you need to make memories, have fun, and enjoy the time you have here."

Any closing thoughts?

"I want to thank my parents and my grandparents and my friends here, and I want to thank my teachers for pushing me through all my hard school work. It was great being here!"





TWO SHOWS, ONE STAGE

Audiences were delighted with the comical characters in the middle school play, *Big Bad* and were on the edge of their seats for the courtroom drama displayed by high school students in *12 Angry Jurors*.

Congratulations to all who brought these performances to life!



MOUNT CALVARY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Congratulations to Sophomore Daniel Hess, who achieved the honor of being selected for District Chorus!



CHARGERS Fall Highlights

Varsity Golf

District 3 qualifiers: Jonathan Hubler, Josiah Masters, Patrick Miller

Boys Varsity Soccer

All-Conference 1st Team: Logan Stewart, Isaiah Butler, Blaze Shenk, Micah Simpson

All-Conference Honorable Mention: Ryan Fortney

Girls Varsity Soccer

Made the CCAC Championship game
All-conference team: Lilah Martin, Amaya Rogers, Clara Webb

Girls Varsity Volleyball

All-conference team: Kylie Masters, Madi Sherwood

Madi Sherwood surpassed 1,000 career assists and was named District III All-Star by the Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association

Kylie Masters surpassed 1,000 career digs and was named District III All-Star by the Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association

Middle School Cross Country

First cross-country season at Mount Calvary
MS Girls won the CCAC championship
Individual CCAC MS boys champion: Brandt Rogers
Individual CCAC MS girls champion: Lily Sides



Student-athletes attended the CCAC Rise Up Sportsmanship Conference in Lancaster. The event centered around reflecting Christ in athletics through our actions and speech.



Veterans Day Chapel Highlights Christian Service

On Thursday, November 13th, middle school and high school students quietly entered the gymnasium, passing a Fallen Comrade table, symbolically set to honor our fallen heroes. Students sat and joined local veterans in attendance for a special Veterans Day program. The program opened with a welcome by Secondary Principal, Chris Etter, followed by all in attendance standing to recite the Pledge of Allegiance together (led by National Honor Society President, Sophia Bozell).

Senior Class Chaplain Patrick Miller led the program in prayer, followed by a stunning rendition of the National Anthem sung by seniors Lizzie Hess and Ava Hostetter.

Brighton Farner (6th grade) shared his Patriot's Pen VFW Essay Contest submission, highlighting his conviction to showing patriotism in many everyday ways and his dedication to being a person of character. Tenth grade finalist, Macy Walter, read her Voice of Democracy VFW Essay Contest submission and shared her thoughts on the connection between Christian servanthood and patriotism.

The MCCS high school Digital Arts class compiled a video featuring students and their family members who are veterans.

First Lieutenant Bruce Walter was the special guest and speaker who shared his military experience beginning at Fort Bliss, TX and taking him to South Vietnam.

MS/HS Music Teacher, Kyra Lancaster, led the high school band in the playing of Service Songs, calling out each military branch as the student musicians played. Veterans in attendance stood and were recognized when their branch was called.

Civil Air Patrol Students (Connor Lisco, Katelyn Kasputis, Nathan Powell, Moira Burdette), joined by Macy Walter, demonstrated the folding and presentation of the flag.

Finally, middle school musicians, Isabella Fittery, Joshua Spinney, and Ms. Lancaster closed the program with the playing of Taps, as students silently exited the gymnasium.



Semester Snapshots & Smiles





MOUNT CALVARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Mount Calvary Christian School

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MCCS exists to partner with families to provide a quality education and encourage students to grow into faithful and mature followers of Christ.

MCCS is a Ministry of Mount Calvary Church.

Mount Calvary Christian School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, or handicap to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, disability or handicap in administration of its educational policies, administration policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other school administered programs.

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LOOKING AHEAD

December

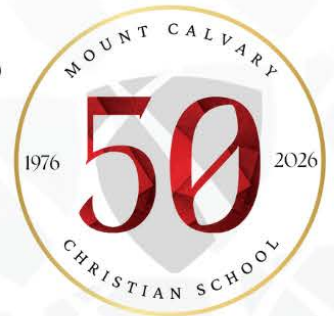
10: Christmas Program (MWF Preschool/PreK)
Christmas Program (Grades 4-5)
11: PTC Meeting
Christmas Program (T/TH PreK)
Christmas Program (Grades Kindergarten-1st)
12: NO SCHOOL (Grades Preschool-5th)
15: MS Choral Concert
16: MS Band Concert
17: Faculty Christmas Party
Weather-Related Concert Makeup Date
19: Homecoming
22-31: Christmas Break

January

1-2: NO SCHOOL
7: Moms in Prayer
8: PTC Meeting
12: Winter MAP Testing Window
15-16: Midterm Exams (Grades 8-12)
16: 11:15 Dismissal (All students/grades)
19: NO SCHOOL
26-29: Student Development Days

Upcoming Open House Events

Tuesday, January 20 (9-11AM) Saturday, February 7 (9-11AM)
Thursday, January 22 (4-6PM) Tuesday, February 10 (9-11AM)
Sunday, January 25 (2-4PM) Sunday, February 22 (2-4PM)
Tuesday, March 3 (6-8PM)



Celebrating 50 Years of God's Faithfulness