



**Nebraska
Christian**
SCHOOLS

Building Lives For Eternity

Advance

God is doing exciting things here at NC as we make an impact around the globe. We invite you to be a part of this movement in providing the next generation with a Christ-centered education. Together, we can equip students with a Biblical worldview that helps to foster a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Nebraska Christian Classical Academy



Tim Hekrdle, Head of Schools

As many of you have heard, the Lord has been at work in the hearts of board members and school leadership in recent years. There have been formal and informal conversations, conferences attended, groups of people demonstrating interest, and several other factors that have pushed the board to conclude that the Lord is in a move to provide Christian Education in the Grand Island area. Board and school leadership certainly did not rush into this decision; there has been much prayer, conversation, and weighing of pros and cons. Still, we continue to pray that the Lord would open and close doors in the Grand Island area in

accordance with His will.

Here is a bit more background. Last fall, the board authorized school leadership to post an online survey and carry out some face-to-face meetings around Grand Island. Part of that process included garnering market research and parent feedback regarding various educational models. Included in those educational philosophies were a) traditional Christian education (expanding the current model), b) Spanish immersion programming, and c) a Classical Christian collaborative model. While there was great interest in all three models, there has been a growing interest in the Classical Christian collaborative model. In fact, the Nebraska Christian Board of Directors has recently approved the start-up of such in the Grand Island area.

The first question that the board and school leadership rightfully wrestled with was ‘Does this model fit the mission and vision of the school’. As board and school leadership learned more about this Classical Christian model of education, it became obvious that this model does fit who we are as a school. In addition to the philosophy of education being a fit, it will be a hybrid collaborative model. We are currently planning for school to be ‘in session’ for only two days per week on average. The parent will be very involved in the education of their child as they will be responsible for carrying out the education for their child on the other days of the week. For these reasons, and more, the leadership of the school has come to the conclusion that this model of education most certainly aligns with the mission and vision of the ministry of Nebraska Christian Schools.

While we believe that the Lord will bless this endeavor, it is an accurate assessment to cite that a second reason this model of education has won the day for NC leadership is that there is limited risk. For example, we believe that we will be able to use a church facility rather than building or leasing a facility at market rates. We also do not plan to enter into any long-term agreements for ministry provision. Finally, we feel some security in partnering with an already existing homeschool co-op. We are optimistic that a majority of those constituents will participate in

collaborative ministry operated under the leadership of Nebraska Christian Schools. We also believe there is a reasonable chance that this will increase our 7-12 enrollment and activity participation at our primary campus here in Central City. As parents desire to lean on the school for more specialized academics or activity participation, there will be a thriving school at the ready.

Please join us in praying that...

1. This ministry will be God honoring and thrive in equipping students to stand on Truth
2. The right leadership and teaching additions to our staff and faculty might take place
3. We will be offered facility use agreements that allow the ministry to take place at a reasonable cost to families
4. Stirring of hearts and desire for Christian equipping in the people of Grand Island
5. The curriculum, policy, and planning work can be completed in a way that honors those that are on the current campus, honors those that will be joining the family, and is honoring and glorifying to the Lord.

We invite you to attend an informational meeting on Jan. 17 at the E Free Church in Grand Island at 6:30 pm. You can also check out our [NCCA Frequently Asked Questions](#) link to learn more. Please contact the school with additional questions that you might have about the Nebraska Christian Classical Academy (NCCA) start-up. Thank you for your prayer and support.



The Return of the Festival of Lessons & Carols



“I’ll happily give the performance six, seven,... ten out of five stars!” “Amazing.” “Like nothing I had ever expected or experienced before.” “This concert continues to be my favorite way to bring in the Christmas season.” These are just a small fraction of the comments that were expressed by nearly every attendee, performer, and student after the conclusion of the 2022 Festival of Lessons & Carols on Friday, December 9.

This performance marked the fifteenth Season for the Festival which has taken place at Nebraska Christian Schools since 2008. The event included nearly one hundred thirty choir members. The choir consisted of high school students from three area schools, plus adults and children, who accompanied a nearly thirty-piece orchestra. The children's choir was led by NC's skilled music and band instructor Mike Flynn. The orchestra, vocal ensembles, and choir were led by the incredibly gifted Maestro Eric Dale Knapp from New York, NY. Maestro Knapp has conducted the Festival for all fifteen performances.

"The Festival transports you from a gym with decoration to an atmosphere of worship, with a dedication to excellence and a presentation of the Christmas story and more. Having a live orchestra from different towns in the Midwest; organ; children's choir; high school choir; and involving members of the community makes it truly a wonderful event to attend or be a part of!" - Katherine Welk (singer and musician at the Festival)

The Festival of Lessons & Carols actually has a great amount of historical significance. The Service of Nine Lessons & Carols was first held on Christmas Eve in 1918 at King's College, Cambridge, England. In 1919, a revision of the Order of Service was made involving rearrangement of the lessons where the hymn "Once in Royal David's City" led the service. In 1928, the service was first broadcast, and with the exception of 1930, the service has been broadcast every year since, including the years during the Second World War. In the early 1930s, the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programs. Since 1963, a shorter service has been filmed periodically for television. "Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service derive from the lessons and not the music." - Dean Milner-White, Dean of York.

Katherine Welk, mezzo-soprano and percussionist for the event, was very happy to be a part of this time-honored tradition. She, like Maestro Knapp, has also been a part of the Festival of Lessons & Carols since the beginning. As an NC graduate (class of '13), Katherine has had the unique opportunity to be a part of this program as both a student and a professional.

"It is definitely my favorite Christmas event", says Welk. In her first Festival performance, she had the opportunity to be the second soloist of "Once in Royal David's City," and this was the first year that she was a member of the NC Honor Choir. Katherine stated, "I loved music and singing. The opportunity to learn from both Mr. Flynn and Maestro Knapp was an important part of my choosing a music career." She went on to say, "The Festival gave me many great opportunities from being a choir member, section leader, orchestra member, soloist, and rehearsal accompanist to helping behind the scenes with things in high school. I have learned a lot and loved all of it. I am always happy to be back each year!"

"I am rejoicing in God's goodness in allowing the tremendous support in our faculty and staff in bringing forth a God-glorifying celebration of the birth of our Savior this Christmas season," stated Jody Heuermann, NCS Foundation Director. "We rejoice that so many hearts were touched by this Christmas celebration. It was a fulfilling fifteenth season of our Festival of Lessons & Carols."

On behalf of the entire Festival Committee, thank you all for your commitment in helping to make the 15th Season of The Festival of Lessons & Carols one of the best Festival performances in NC history. All of the help and support from each and every one of you has not gone unnoticed. Thank you all, and we pray you had a magnificent Christmas season.

Mark your calendars. **The sixteenth Season of The Festival of Lessons & Carols is set to take place on Friday, December 8, 2023.**



Great Success at Midwest Chess Competition

In November of 2022, NC junior classman Prisca Mbutshitshi traveled to Lincoln to compete in a chess competition, which brought together competitors from all across the Midwest. In his first ever official competition, he took on 5 different individuals, whose ages ranged from teenagers to grandfathers and everywhere in-between. He was able to show off his skills by defeating four out of five contestants, which allowed him to return to campus a champion. Throughout the interview, it was impossible to ignore the joy, excitement, and humility that exuded from Prisca while speaking about chess. It is very easy to see that he is deeply passionate about the game.

Prisca stated, “Chess is a challenge, but it helps me think, calms me down, and makes me happy.” Prisca only learned how to play chess between five and six years ago. He first developed a love for the game when his sister, Presilia (also a student at NC), took the time to teach him. “She still plays some,” says Prisca, “but I now play more than her.”

Although he may be rather new to the game, he never misses the opportunity to play, practice, and hone his skills. In the last few years, due to the pandemic, he traded out his board for a mouse, embracing the online platform. This proved to be effective for him in that in this way he was able to make new friends and play often with old friends from South Africa who also enjoy the game. Since his journey to NC, he has been able to connect with other students here who may just love the game as much as he does. Although Prisca states that he does not do anything special in order to train, he simply plays whenever, wherever, and with whomever he can.

In the time leading up to the competition Prisca was a bit nervous, but when asked what he does in situations such as that, he just simply stated “I pray.” He went on to say, “God was able to give me the confidence that I needed.” After winning, he was very happy and a little surprised that he had won, but was excited that he had earned a trophy too. “All of the glory goes to God.”

Prisca believes that chess is not just a game, but also a highly important skill. In his opinion, chess “should be made a priority for all schools, classes, and students.” He states that chess should be a game that more people know how to play. “Not everyone is athletically inclined,” he states, “It helps you to compete without needing to be athletic. This challenges your mind, and involves strategy. It is more fun than sports.” He hopes that in the future NC is able to establish a chess club where others can learn to play, and maybe even eventually travel to competitions with him.

Although this was his first official competition, it seems to be a pretty safe bet that this will be far from his last. Congratulations, Prisca on your accomplishments.



December Service Awards



“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” - Mark 10:45

Monthly awards go to secondary students who exemplify our NC Core Values: Service-Minded; Exalting Christ; Relationally Focused; Vibrant Disposition; Innovative Practices; Collaborative Approach; and Excellence. Students are nominated by their teachers.

December’s core value was

“Relationally Focused.” Students who our faculty and staff agreed have displayed relationally focused qualities are Addy, Caitlin Chiles, Adam Carlson, Vendell Juzyk, Truitt Merchant, Zander Merchant, Marlie Mundt, Drew Perdew, and Maryah Wheeler.

Addy

Addy is a friend to all. She is a great encourager and cheers equally for those around her. Addy demonstrates openness and transparency in relationships—being both honest and caring with others. In addition, Addy has a bubbly personality that is infectious to those around her.

Caitlin Chiles

People are important to Caitlin. She befriends many, tries to include everyone, and goes out of her way to connect with others. She invites dorm students to come over to her house and to go on trips to Grand Island. During conditioning week, she got out of her comfort zone to encourage younger girls.

Adam Carlson, Vendell Juzyk, Truitt Merchant, and Zander Merchant

Adam, Vendell, Truitt, and Zander are four individuals who take time to ensure that students in the dorm feel connected and included. They build meaningful relationships with the boys who live on campus by putting in effort to know them well and to be a part of their lives. Each of these four students is genuine and authentic, and each, in their own way, simply strives to be a good friend to those who may be living far from home.

Marlie Mundt

Marlie demonstrates relational focus through her day-to-day interactions with others. She tries to include everyone in discussions and makes sure that new students feel welcome. She demonstrates character and has positive interactions with teachers. In general, Marlie builds and maintains good relationships.

Drew Perdew

Drew prioritizes individuals with his time and attention. He shows courtesy to other students, his peers, and to teachers. He takes time to talk with younger kids and to greet them around campus. He

reaches out to younger students on his team to encourage them in their endeavors. Drew genuinely values those around him and demonstrates this through daily interactions.

Maryah Wheeler

Maryah is a ray of sunshine, friendly and outgoing, but with a wonderful quiet side. She has emotional acuity that lends itself to a deep care and genuine concern for others. She invests into relationships and demonstrates the importance of maintaining them.

Congratulations students! Thank you for all that you do and for being such strong examples of moral character and spiritual strength for your peers.

First Annual International Students Day



NC had the unique opportunity of celebrating our diverse student culture at the first Annual Nebraska Christian Schools International Students' Day celebration, which took place on Thursday, November 17, the official International Students' Day. Held at the Merrick County Fairgrounds, all twenty-three of our international students had the opportunity to take the spotlight by showing the community the different foods, clothing, and cultural norms of their home countries.

Six different countries were represented this year: China, Thailand, Vietnam, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and India. Each country had its own displays, which included food(s), decorations, and fun facts about the country. Some even had their own visual slideshow displays highlighting more areas of the country.

Hundreds of individuals and families from Central City and the surrounding areas were able to come and experience this unique event. The turnout was far greater than originally anticipated. It was a great night highlighting our students and honoring their heritage. Already, the students are looking forward to and making plans for next year's celebration. The students and staff who helped to pull off this event are so thankful for all of the support from the individuals and families who were able to come out and partake in the fun.



Elementary Service Project 2022

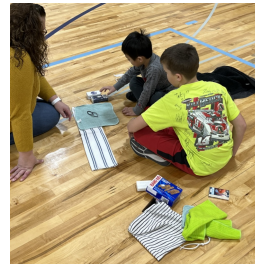
During the month of November, the elementary classes were busy collecting items to help make

personal hygiene kits for Mission Heart. Each year, around the time of Thanksgiving, our elementary paraeducators organize some sort of a giving or service project for the students to take part in. This year, NC partnered with Mission Heart in order to help provide products for, and fill, hygiene bags, which were sent to Liberia and to Ukrainian refugees. Students and their families were charged with collecting hand towels, wash cloths, tooth brushes, hair picks or combs, band aids, bar soap, nail clippers, hair ties, and purse-size Kleenex to be placed into a hand-made drawstring bag.

The goal was to collect enough items to fill one hundred bags to send overseas. Thanks to the generosity of NC families and community members alike, that number was exceeded with a grand total of one hundred twenty bags packed! On Wednesday, November 23, 2022 the entire elementary gathered in the gymnasium and paired up with their Chapel Buddies to help assemble the bags. There was so much excitement from the students and teachers alike.

After all of the bags were filled, and the students returned to their classrooms, the bags were picked up and taken directly to Mission Heart with the help of wonderful volunteers, where they were boxed up and loaded onto a trailer to begin their long journey.

What a great way to show kindness and exhibit the spirit of the season. It's easy to take for granted some of the everyday items that many, from every corner of the world, may not have the ability to access. Sometimes, even the smallest acts of kindness can make the largest impact. Thank you to all that were able to make this event possible!



Eighth-Graders Plan for the Future



On November 16, the entire eighth-grade class received the opportunity to get out of the classroom and look toward the future by taking part in a campus tour at Central Community College (CCC) and Titan Machinery in Grand Island. These opportunities were made possible by an incredible grant offered by the EducationQuest Foundation. This grant allows for the cost of a college visit and related activities to be covered in full, in order to help students get on the path to college.

According to the EducationQuest website, “taking eighth-graders on a campus visit can help them realize college is possible and get them excited about the possibilities college can offer.” This statement proved to be true. By the end of the day, all of the students were very energetic and

inspired about all of the different career fields and technology they had the chance to view and experience up-close and personal.

First, at CCC, students went on a guided tour of the campus and its facilities. They were able to see several different programs and career opportunities including welding and machine technology, nursing, physical therapy, law, education, CAD, and EMT services. The students even had the opportunity to meet “Goose” and “Maverick,” the EMT programs’ fully articulating patient simulators, which are also known as simulation mannequins. Many of the students were surprised at all of the different options that were available. Several of the students are hoping to pursue a career in healthcare or medicine and they are incredibly interested in all of the technology and different platforms that are available.

After concluding the time at the college, the next stop was Titan Machinery. Here, the employees split the class into small groups, which were led around and shown every part and aspect of the store and shop. While a few of the students had some farming background or knowledge, many others did not, which proved to be quite exciting. The employees of Titan Machinery took students to see combines that were in the shop, taught them how a combine works, showed them what it takes to keep a combine and other large farm machinery functioning, the science behind a fully autonomous tractor, and showed off a new leveling system available for harvest equipment, complete with demonstration.

It was clear that the students were quite excited about the chance to see how the equipment works from that close of a perspective. They were thankful to have been invited to the facility to look at different job opportunities and to see what the men and women employed with Titan Machinery do on a daily basis. The overall highlight of this visit was by far the autonomous tractor ride.

Thank you to Titan Machinery of Grand Island and Central Community College Grand Island campus for hosting the class and showing them all that you do and all of the classes that you offer. There is no doubt that this was an eye-opening experience for the students who joined in on the field trip.



Jr. High Scholastic Competition

Nebraska Christian Schools *Impact* magazine highlighting school and student events throughout 2022 has been published and distributed. It has recently come to our attention that there was an error within an article. In October 2022, junior high students took part in the annual Our Lady of Lourdes National Honor Society Scholastic Contest. It was recorded within the article that eighth-grade student Haddie Rankin placed second in the science content area test. That information, however, was incorrect. In fact, Miss Rankin actually placed first in eighth-grade science!



Congratulations to all of our junior high students who had the opportunity to compete, and thank you for representing Nebraska Christian Schools with such dignity and grace.

Foundation Update



It's a new year, and we need a new kitchen and dining hall! This is one singular new year's resolution that can bless all NCS community members and ensure our food service viability into the future!

But firstly, thank you for all your support in moving the Administration Building renovation forward! As this project is well on its way to completion, the NCS Foundation focuses on securing funding for a new kitchen and dining hall.

While some new year's resolutions are for aesthetics or enjoyment, a new kitchen and dining hall are essential to the school in 2023 and well into the future. Praise the Lord that our student population continues to swell, but as it does, our dated and undersized kitchen equipment is beyond its retirement date and straining to keep up. Our fantastic kitchen staff works wonders, but could be even more effective if adequately equipped. Furthermore, a new dining space would eliminate crowding and provide a modern, spacious, and efficient area for our community members to dine and fellowship.

Please consider how you may contribute to the most crucial endeavor. If you have any questions, please reach out, and we can further discuss this fantastic opportunity to ring in the new year with generosity and prayer for this vital project. God's faithfulness over 2022 shines as bright as ever, and I can't wait to see what he has in store for 2023!

Make checks payable to Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation.

Checks can be mailed to Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation at PO Box 222, Central City, Nebraska 68826.

The Next 50 Years Capital Campaign

Phase 2: New Kitchen, Commons Area & Gymnasium

Phase 2A \$2.3 million

- ADA Restrooms *Completed*
Utility and Fire Suppression Control Room
- State of the Art Kitchen
- Dining Hall with Seating for Over 200

Phase 2B \$4.5 million

- Collegiate Sized 94' Competition Gymnasium & Activity Center with Seating for Over 900
- Concession Stand for Activities & Fundraising
- Boys & Girls Locker Rooms
- Athletic Training Room & Uniform Storage
- Athletic Storage Space
- Fine Arts/Programming Storage
- Entrance & Commons Area
- Expanded Parking Lot with Convenient Drop Off & Pick Up

Phase 2A
\$2.3 million

\$1,425,000

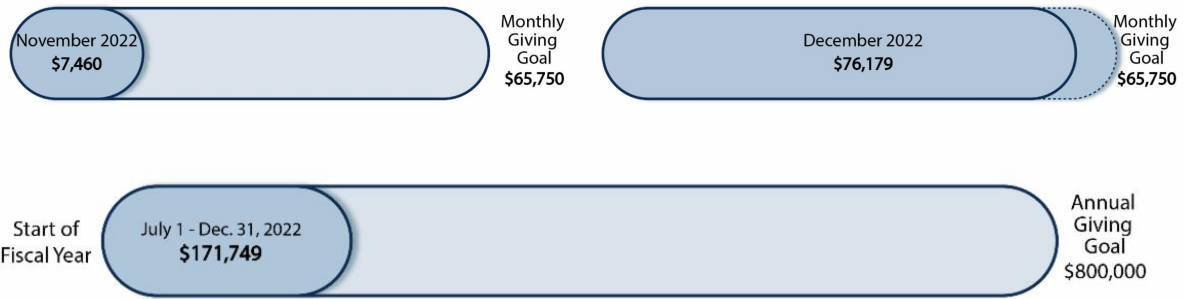
\$950,000

\$900,000
Received

Make checks payable to Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation

Memo line: Phase 2A

<p>Mail to: NCS Foundation PO Box 222, Central City, NE 68826</p>	<p>EIN: 45-1300291 foundation@nebraskachristian.org nebraskachristian.org/foundation</p>	<p>Contact Jody: 308.940.0249 / NC: 308.946.3836 Jody Heuermann, Foundation Director</p>
---	--	--



As this semester at NC begins, we are grateful for the work the Lord has done. We were so pleased to baptize two of our graduating international students this last spring; our athletic programs continue to compete for an audience of One; we have increased our dual credit (NC & college credit) opportunities; we continued our expository teaching in chapels as we preach through the gospel of Mark; and we have taken steps toward a biblical discipleship model matching up mature Christian adults with our student Discipleship Group leaders. Our elementary school continues to increase in numbers, doubling in size over the past few years, and we have the highest overall enrollment in school history with two hundred fifty-two students currently enrolled. The Lord has blessed us greatly with the right staff and faculty for this juncture at our school, but we need faithful prayer and financial supporters like you to help us continue our mission.

Our annual Gift Income need is \$800,000 for this fiscal year, and I encourage you to prayerfully consider if the Lord is leading you to help meet this need. Gift income provides lights, books, teachers' salaries, and all other resources while keeping tuition costs reasonable. Our ministry is growing both in programming and the number of students and families who benefit from our mission to partner with the family and the church to provide a Christian education and foster a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. The spiritual battle is ever-present and this is the time for Christian education to thrive. We must work to equip students to stand on Truth, that they may make a difference for the Kingdom.

As we celebrate the coming of Jesus this season, may the hope He brings shine from us like a light in the darkness. Thank you for partnering with us through your prayers and support as we serve the Lord together in *Building Lives for Eternity*.

Memorial Gifts

For: Ruben Ruybalid
From: Lowell & Shannon Siebert
Suzanne Wendorff

For: Russell Barber
From: Mary Reisinger

For: Bruce Coleman
From: Donald & Kayleen Riley

Upcoming Dates

January 14

- Varsity Wrestling @ Cross County

January 16

- NC Quiz Bowl Invitational

January 17

- Secondary MAP Testing Begins

January 21

- Speech @ Doniphan-Trumbull

January 24

- Basketball vs. Heartland Community School

January 28

- Robotics Meet @ St. Paul

Alumni News

Birth Announcements



Curtis ('13) and Joanna ('12) (Stuhmer) Heuermann welcomed their first child, baby girl Jessie Ann Heuermann on November 16, 2022. She was born at 6:05 p.m., weighed 6 lbs. 1oz., and measured 18.5 inches long.

Congratulations on your new, sweet little bundle of joy.

If you, or someone you know is an NC Alum and has exciting news that you would like shared with the Nebraska Christian community, let us know!

You can email Rachel at rblair@nebraskachristian.org and your news will be published in the next Advance. We can't wait to hear from you!

Core Value Highlights

OUR VISION

We aspire to equip students with a **Biblical Worldview** that **empowers** them to stand on **Truth**.

OUR MISSION

We assist the family and church by providing a **Christ-centered** education and encouraging a **love relationship** with the **Lord Jesus Christ**.

OUR CORE VALUES

- S**ervice Minded
- E**xalting Christ
- R**elationally Focused
- V**ibrant Disposition
- I**nnovative Practices
- C**ollaborative Approach
- E**xcellence



At Nebraska Christian, there are a set of values that staff and students strive to exemplify each and every day. These values are arranged as an acrostic poem and posted in every classroom on campus, and moving forward The Advance will look to highlight one of these attributes through the telling of it being lived out by a member of the NC Family. With this in mind, please feel free to share your stories of how you see the vision, mission, or core values being lived out by emailing Rachel Blair at rblair@nebraskachristian.org. Thank you in advance for being a part of telling the ongoing story at Nebraska Christian and stay tuned for the stories of the NC family being the hands and feet of Jesus in Nebraska, the United States, and possibly the world!

