

# Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN

Winter 2023, vol. 68, no. 1



A time for  
*everything*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1a*



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how to build a fire.

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Seniors soccer team  
members pose with  
sectional trophy.

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to cut a kiwi.

Purple Row Right:  
Middle school students  
build the hoop house  
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Yellow Row Left:  
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gives a smile during art  
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Yellow Row Right:  
Senior Sam checks his fluid  
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Bottom Center:  
Middle school girls pose for  
a picture.

Bottom Right:  
Spanish teacher, Edgar,  
takes a selfie with a student  
during the World Cup  
interterm.

Inquiries about joining the  
Bethany community  
can be directed to  
[admissions@bethanycs.net](mailto:admissions@bethanycs.net).

Bethany Christian Schools  
**BULLETIN**

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# A time for everything

A new year provides time and space for introspection – reflecting on the year behind us and looking to what lies ahead. This past year, 2022, held many good moments and exciting experiences for us as a Bethany community: playing our first seasons in the newly-renovated athletic complex, welcoming two new lower grades into our community, and reimagining what a Bethany education can be. The past year also held some incredibly hard, sad times, most significantly the series of tragic deaths in our school community.

I'm reminded of the first four verses in Ecclesiastes 3:

*There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance.*

Our earth, our work, our hopes and dreams, our lives – all have seasons. And God is in them all. We watch the youngest Bruins planting seeds in our school hoop house and

hope with them for a plentiful harvest. We share in the life of our rich community, and with that comes both joy and sorrow. We work to honor the rich legacy of education at Bethany, while also imagining what will best serve our next generation of graduates as they join God at work in our community and our world.

As you read through this edition of the Bulletin, I hope you'll reflect on the way Bethany has been a part of different seasons in your life. You'll be inspired by the harvest being reaped in the fertile soils of our community.

May God feel near to you this year, whatever season you are in!

Sincerely,

Tim Lehman, Ed. D.  
Head of School



## DEATHS

**Marilyn (Hostetler) Friesen ('56)**  
Westminster, SC, Dec. 1, 2022  
**Richard Carpenter ('59)**  
Elkhart, IN, Aug. 29, 2022  
**Benjamin Graber ('61)**  
Winter Garden, FL, Dec. 18, 2022  
**Darrel Sommers ('64)**  
Goshen, IN, Sep. 24, 2022  
**Elizabeth Wenger ('64)**  
Goshen, IN, July 9, 2022  
**Joseph Christophel ('65)**  
Granger, IN, Nov. 11, 2022  
**Vic Hooley ('70)**  
Elkhart, IN, Sep. 21, 2022  
**Lynn J. Miller ('72)**  
LaGrange, IN, Nov. 5, 2022  
**Jonathan Brenneman ('78)**  
Wadsworth, OH, July 12, 2022  
**Rita (Burkholder) Greger ('84)**  
Denver, CO, July 26, 2022  
**John Moyer ('88)**  
Goshen, IN, Oct. 18, 2022  
**Benjamin Rutt ('93)**  
New York, NY, Aug. 18, 2022  
**Lisa (Guengerich) Detweiler ('93)**  
New Castle, CO, Nov. 10, 2022  
**Bethany Brugh ('12)**  
Indianapolis, IN, Oct. 2, 2022  
**Logan Nussbaum ('22)**  
Elkhart, IN, Oct. 15, 2022  
**A. Don Augsburg ('65-70)**  
Harrisonburg, VA, Nov. 27, 2022  
**Wade Bollinger ('70-73)**  
North Manchester, IN, Aug. 1, 2022

**Peter Shetler ('00-22)**  
Goshen, IN, Sep. 26, 2022  
**Mary Bontrager ('81-84)**  
Goshen, IN, July 24, 2022

## BIRTHS

Michelle and **David Snider ('99)**  
Goshen, IN, daughter Madilynn  
Rose, Jun. 24, 2022

Jerica and **Femi Hollinger-Janzen ('12)**  
Indianapolis, IN, daughter  
Genesis Joy, July 28, 2022

Brianne Brenneman and **Kyle Stocksedale ('20-)**  
Goshen, IN, son Emmett,  
Sep. 18, 2022

## MARRIAGES

**Justin Ramer ('01) and Urnya Gerber ('03)**, Goshen, IN,  
Aug. 20, 2022

**Alisha Snyder ('07)** and  
Christopher Johnston,  
Goshen, IN, June 18, 2022

**Mark DeLeeuw ('09) and Brooke Hershberger ('14)**,  
Elkhart, IN, July 16, 2022

**Alicia Thomas ('16)** and Chris  
Holston, South Bend, IN,  
Dec. 20, 2022

**Simon Hurst ('17)** and Madeline  
Smith Kauffman,  
Goshen, IN, Oct. 8, 2022

**Melina Liras ('18)** and Jeyson  
Argueta, Nappanee, IN,  
Jun. 12, 2021

## NOTES

**Jonathon Bornman ('85)** founded [Dove Tale Productions](#) in 2021 and partnered with Canadian filmmaker, Michael Hostetler, and Palestinian cinematographer, Ehab Assal. *Their first full-length production, Unexpected Peace*, explores the theme of nonviolence, peacemaking, and reconciliation. As host, Jonathan invites viewers to join him on a quest to find out if and how nonviolence works in the real world. The full-length documentary, is slated for release later in 2023.

**Laura Rheinheimer ('01)** is living in Guatemala with her family. She volunteers at Hogar de niños Fátima children's home where her husband is the director, serves as a Guatemala liaison for a non-profit located in Massachusetts, works as a paralegal for an immigration attorney from Boulder, Colorado, and contracts with other U.S. organizations working with unaccompanied immigrant children.

**Maryls Weaver ('06)** graduated in December 2022, completing a MA degree in professional writing from Northern Arizona University. She is currently the communications director for the Arizona K12 Center in Phoenix, an agency that supports preK-12 educators across the state.

Keep in touch with Bethany and share your news.  
Give us an update by using the link  
<https://www.bethanycs.net/apps/form/alumni>



...a time  
to build



# HOMECOMING 2022

*Doing Something New with Old Friends*

Bethany celebrated its first annual homecoming over the weekend of September 23-24. The expanded format of what was formerly known as “Alumni Reunion” included class reunion gatherings, while also inviting all alumni along with current students, families, and friends to enjoy the festivities. Class reunion gatherings took place for classes with years ending in 2 and 7. Bethany students dressed up for spirit week during the preceding week, and high school students created parade floats and held a homecoming dance.

To start the weekend, Ben Hartman '97 spoke at the alumni chapel about his work at Clay Bottom Farm and his lean farming techniques. In the afternoon, the Class of 1972 gathered at the Goshen Brewing Company for a FaceTime chat with Jan Unoson, a classmate and exchange student from Sweden. That evening the class gathered informally for a dinner at Grace Community Church.



*The junior class designed their float with the theme 24K gold for being the class of 2024.*





Saturday began with a Bruin Spirit Parade, showcasing the high school floats. Tim Lehman, head of school, gave a State of the School Address, followed by a hymn sing led by Diane Yoder '77 and Lee Leatherman '82 and accompanied by Diane Schrock Hertzler, faculty '75-87. During the afternoon, faculty and trustees conducted tours.



A heritage dinner was held in the cafeteria for the classes of 1957, 1962, and 1967. After the meal, Tim Lehman shared news from Bethany. The classes ended their evening with individual meetings to share updates

with one another. Meanwhile, the Class of 1972 celebrated its 50th reunion with a formal dinner at Das Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury, IN.

Before the evening boys and girls soccer matches, attendees purchased meals from food trucks in the parking lot and then ate together in the Friendship Garden. Many classes celebrating reunions ate and visited with one another during this time.

Both the girls and boys soccer teams hosted the Westview Warriors, with the girls losing 1-3 and the boys 0-3. However, the new athletic complex was crowded with fans spilling out of the stands.



Between the varsity games, donors, alumni, and friends gathered in the new entry plaza for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Director of Advancement Sarah Lind publicly recognized the Bontrager family for their role in making the athletic facility renovations possible. Student athletes assisted Athletic Director Gary Chupp as he cut the ribbon, and a plaque was unveiled on our Memorial Plaza in memory of Wendall and Lloyd Bontrager, who died in a plane crash in 1985.

Finally, alumni, friends, students, and families gathered around a bonfire and enjoyed the warmth of the fire to end a wonderful homecoming weekend.

**Join the Bethany Christian Schools Alumni Group on Facebook. Stay connected with your classmates while keeping up-to-date with what is happening at Bethany. Use the following link to join the group [www.facebook.com/groups/bethanycsalumni](https://www.facebook.com/groups/bethanycsalumni)**





**SAVE THE DATE**  
**HOMECOMING 2023**  
Sept. 15-16, 2023





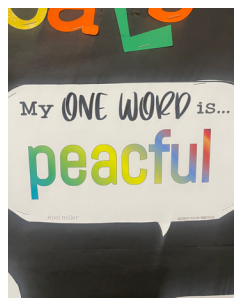


There's nothing like a new year to remind us that the world is full of possibilities, opportunities, and excitement. Upon returning to school, our youngest Bruins took time to set their intentions for 2023. Second grade students each chose a "Word of the Year" to help them focus, such as progress, patience, calm, and courage. Each first grade student completed the statement "My New Year's Goal is...", and did so with phrases like:

- "...to wak up erler."
- "...to read hardr books."
- "...to clean my room mor and be nis to my mom."

# Little Bruins set big GOALS

Setting intentions can help students stay focused, highlight smaller day-to-day achievements, and build confidence. We can't wait to celebrate all that our youngest Bruins accomplish this year!



## Have fun with food



Thanks to our family and consumer science (FACS) curriculum, our farm-to-table program, and lots of creative faculty, food is becoming a prominent – and fun! – part of Bethany school culture.

Middle school students have many opportunities to study, grow, and prepare food in the course of their days. Sixth grade students partner with the cafeteria by cultivating mushrooms and microgreens in their classrooms, as well as gathering eggs each morning with our youngest students. This fall, a middle school interterm group built raised beds in the school hoop house so that we can grow more of our own food during the cold weather months.



"The hoop house has been an amazing addition to our campus! Having the middle school students build the beds gives them ownership in a space that

...a time to plant  
and a time  
to harvest



will benefit our student community for years to come," said Tara Swartzendruber Landis, Bethany's Director of Food Services.

Eighth grade FACS students created business plans, aesthetics, models, and menus for a food truck business, then executed their concept during a mini food truck roundup. Each group and their "trucks" fed crowds of students and staff to test how well their plans and their menu held up to demand.

We give thanks for all the fun ways we are able to sow, harvest, and break bread together!





Bethany Christian High School Presents

UPPER  
SCHOOL

# The LARAMIE PROJECT



*...a time to heal*



In November, Bethany's high school cast skillfully and thoughtfully performed "The Laramie Project." This poignant play focuses on the aftermath of the now infamous hate crime in 1998 that resulted in the death of a young man named Matthew Shepard. Laramie is a small, interconnected college town where everyone is linked, yet their daily lives contain significant differences of experience and viewpoint. This rang true for our theater students as they compared small-town Laramie to their own experience in small-town Goshen. An unusual connection between Laramie and Bethany was learning that Shepard's body was found a half mile from the home of 1960 Bethany alum Arn Willems and his wife Wanda, who are also uncle and aunt to Bethany principal Hank Willems. The Willems zoomed with the cast and crew to share their personal story of this tragedy, making the students' experience of the play even more meaningful.

This play brought up feelings and topics we don't always want to wrestle with. But we hope that this story reminded us that we are all human beings, created in God's image.

Watch a video interview with director Talashia Keim Yoder here [bethanycs.net/bcsnews](http://bethanycs.net/bcsnews).





# “You are a *writer*.”

**Screenwriter/Director James Strouse '95** describes the origin of his writing career, beginning at Bethany with English teacher Devon Schrock's encouragement. Strouse has written and directed 6 films, most recently *The Incredible Jessica James*, which aired on Netflix. His seventh film, *Love Again*, is scheduled for release by Sony Pictures on May 12, 2023.

## When did your interest in writing start?

I've always loved writing. I've been lucky throughout my whole childhood and young adulthood to have teachers who took an interest in me, who saw something and encouraged it. So I knew I wanted to make a career of writing even while I was at Bethany. My parents were so nervous. They said, “We don't know any writers!” They were supportive, but also scared for me.

At Bethany, my English teacher Devon Schrock was like my hero. I really, really respected him and his thoughts on what makes good literature and good writing. Devon came to me one day in the library, put his hand on my shoulder, looked me in the eye and said, “You are a writer.” I didn't know what to do – I was embarrassed. I said, “What do you mean?” He said “You have a gift. You are a writer.” It really stuck with me, that moment in which this man I deeply liked and respected noticed me. To this day, when I turn in a piece of writing, it feels the same as it did in high school when I was writing for Devon – I want it to be good.

## Where did your career path take you?

At first, my goal in moving to New York was to get my Masters of Fine Arts in creative writing, but I had trouble – I just couldn't get into any degree programs. My former wife was a producer at the time and she said, “I can't do anything to get you an MFA, but I can get someone to read a screenplay if you want to write one.” I wrote *Lonesome Jim*, and we sent it off

to people she knew, and within three months I was offered the opportunity to make the film. It was unheard of, how fast that happened! I got really lucky my career in film launched so quickly. I still love writing literary fiction, but it seems that every fiction writer now wants to be in movies! Every day I feel so grateful that I get to do this.

## Your new movie will be released this spring. Tell us how you ended up adapting and directing *Love Again*?

An executive at Screen Gems (Sony Pictures) liked my earlier films *People, Places and Things* and *Jessica James* and he contacted me and said, “I have some other projects I think you'd like.” It's been a fun job since I don't have to create the story – I can just focus on the characters. This is an opportunity to make a film on a bigger scale. Working with a big studio means everything is just more...there's more of everything.

## How did your film end up featuring Celine Dion?

First, I adapted the script from the German film *Text fuer Dich (Text for You)*. In the German film, there's a fictional character named Henrietta Boote who wears her heart on her sleeve and is just really larger than life. The studio always wanted that role to be a real star. As we were thinking about who would be good for the role, someone thought of Celine Dion, and then we felt it had to be her.



To read more of our interview with James – including humorous anecdotes and where he finds community – visit the Bethany Alumni Blog at [bethanycs.net/alumniblog](https://bethanycs.net/alumniblog) or scan the QR code.





# Crafting Entrances to Sacred Places



Verlin Miller '64 is a custom craftsman whose work makes a grand impression all over the University of Notre Dame campus. For the past 30 years, Verlin has produced more than 300 custom doors at Notre Dame, including the doors to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, which serves as the University church and the mother church for the Congregation of the Holy Cross in the United States.

Verlin's work with Notre Dame began in the late 1990s when a friend at a local lumber yard asked him to replace a few doors at St. Paul's Methodist Church. This led to connections with door distributors working for contractors at Notre Dame. After replacing a few doors there, he was encouraged to bid on replacing the Basilica doors.

Verlin, who produced the Basilica doors in his home-based shop, said, "The doors were probably my biggest challenge and a highlight of my work. The doors are made of walnut and are ten feet tall, four feet wide, and three inches thick."

After working on those doors, his name and reputation was established at Notre Dame. As he worked at Notre Dame and the adjacent St. Mary's College, he pondered how the doors he created opened into chapels and other sacred places. **"I see my work as a spiritual practice because I know the people who enter through these doors will be using the space for worship. In making these doors, I see my craftsmanship as an extension of the welcome to worship."**



Verlin grew up on a dairy farm and wanted to become an engineer with General Motors when he was young. During his two years at Bethany, he remembers having great teachers. The three with profound influence were Dean Hartman (math and physics); Delmar Miller (English), who nurtured his love of reading; and Leonard Gross (Bible). Though Verlin did not study woodworking in school, his interest began shortly after college. Verlin graduated from Goshen College with an English degree and then headed to seminary, where he remembers telling seminary friends, "I think I want to be a cabinet maker."

Dissatisfied with options for making cabinets locally, he worked with a carpenter, building custom residential homes, which greatly developed his craftsmanship. During this time following seminary, he also lived in a communal home connected with the Fellowship of Hope in Elkhart, Indiana. As the congregation and its outreach ministry grew, they needed assistance renovating additional homes in the neighborhood. So Verlin began leading a crew of remodelers who eventually became Hope Builders. Hope Builders worked on community and private renovation jobs in the Elkhart area at that time and still exists now under new management.



Verlin is retired and is no longer taking new jobs, but is still working in his shop. "I have a few projects to work on and some things for my home." In his retirement, he was honored by the University of Notre Dame in a short video celebrating his work. You can view the video at <https://stories.nd.edu/stories/verlin-miller-the-door-maker-of-notre-dame/>.



# Hope in the Wind

...a time  
to dance



The song “There’s a Wild Hope in the Wind” inspired the theme of Bethany’s annual All-School Christmas Gala, performed at Sauder Concert Hall on December 9. This performance invited and encouraged us to reorient ourselves toward hope, which draws us beyond our own limited imagination. We spotted hope in the seventh graders’ 1,000 folded paper cranes; in the art-filled lobby; in the voices raised in song and in spoken word; in the playfulness and laughter that mingled with all of our preparation, and above all in the

wonderful audience that packed the concert hall and spilled out into the lobby to view on screens. The God of Hope is active and free in this school and in this community. Thanks be to God!





# Renae's a Keeper

During our January alumni basketball night, Athletic Director Gary Chupp led the crowd in recognizing Renae Yoder for her 25 years of service to Bethany's athletic department. Having taught high school math at Bethany since 1996, Renae has also served as Bethany's scorekeeper for high school volleyball and basketball since 1998. During the halftime ceremony, Gary presented her with a plaque, and the girls basketball team gave her 25 flowers — one for each year of her service.

*"Renae is widely considered to be one of the best official scorers in the northern part of the state," says Gary. "Her attention to detail, command of the table, and communication skills earn her high praise from her colleagues, coaches, and officials."*



Renae began her scorekeeping career here at Bethany at the invitation of then athletic director Dan Bodiker (Bod). When Bod learned that Renae had played volleyball in high school, he thought she'd be a good candidate to operate the clock and keep the scorebook for a volleyball game. He showed her the ropes during her lunch period and she scored her first game that night — and has never stopped!

*Varsity Girls Basketball Coach Krysten Parson says, "Renae is an ambassador for Bethany athletics, dedicating hundreds of hours to our basketball and volleyball programs the past 25 years. Renae, you are a class act, and you represent our Bethany community with great pride and service."*



## BRUINS Athletics FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Bethany sports teams celebrated an eventful fall season. Bethany had 37 athletes who received outstanding academic achievements. Athletes hosted matches in a newly renovated athletic facility, scored hard-earned victories, learned from losses, and grew as individuals and teams through practices, games, and in the classroom. Highlights from the season include sectional championships for girls and boys soccer teams, conference championships for the girls volleyball, girls soccer, and boys soccer teams. Boys tennis reached

the finals in sectionals and junior Jesse Bontrager advanced to semi-state for cross country.





# Remembering PETER SHETLER

Technology Director Peter Shetler touched many lives through his caring and helpful spirit, leaving a profound void in the Bethany community when he died as the result of a tragic accident in September. Many around the world grieve Peter's loss along with the school community. Peter began working for Bethany in 2000, where he oversaw facilities and technology. Although Peter's role changed over the years, you could always rely on his genuine care for those around him and the twinkle in his eyes.

Bethany staff fondly remember Peter:

- *Peter was the best storyteller and always surprised me at how casually he mentioned all of the amazing things he had done in his life, the places he had lived, and the people he had helped. He was a constant reminder of how to live life well. I will especially miss his smile and warm greeting every day. — Christa Janzen, art teacher*
- *“Good morning, Sunshine!” This was Peter's normal greeting to me, and it was usually accompanied by a huge hug. Even on days when I wasn't feeling so cheerful, this greeting and hug could always bring a smile to my face. I will miss those hugs, along with Peter's smile and the twinkle in his eyes that came with that greeting. Peter was a great listener and was willing to help anyone. Even though he always had a long list of personal and work projects, if I came to Peter with a question, needed help with technology, or just needed to talk, he always made time for me. —Renae Yoder, high school math teacher*
- *Peter was my hero. I can fix a lot of things, but he could fix everything. He was always up for hearing a good 'fix-it' story and had lots of his own. Sometimes it seemed like a competition to see how long we could go topping each other's stories. Eventually, we knew we had to get back to work. In addition to his superpower, he was a deep thinker about many things and knew how and when to care for everyone — I really enjoyed his prayers. I appreciated Peter a lot and will miss him greatly. — Brent Miller, Facilities Director*



- *I loved his compassionate heart for the marginalized students at Bethany. He was genuine and kind to EVERYONE. There was never a task too big for Peter — technology, life, Powerschool, cars — he could do it all. I always felt like Peter knew exactly what I needed, even when I didn't know. He showed up for his people and is one of the most loyal men I know. — Krysten 'KP' Parson, school counselor*

In honor of Peter's love of Bethany and his many connections throughout the world, the Shetler family directed memorial gifts toward international student tuition support at Bethany. Nearly a hundred people have donated to Bethany in memory of Peter.

...a time to  
mourn





# Legacy Providers

## New Scholarship Funds Support Student Financial Aid

Each year, around 80% of students receive Indiana Choice Scholarships and/or additional financial aid to attend Bethany. To help fund this additional need-based financial aid not covered by Indiana Choice Scholarships, a generous community of donors provides hundreds of thousands of dollars in gifts to the Bethany Fund each year. Endowed scholarship funds are another way donors can support Bethany students and families who need help making a Bethany education affordable.

Endowed Named Scholarships allow a donor to recognize their organization or honor loved ones through a gift to Bethany that keeps on giving. Endowed Named Scholarships are held in Bethany's endowment, allowing Bethany to draw from these funds to provide annual scholarships to students who meet the scholarship criteria.

All scholarship recipients qualify first based on need. Additional criteria might reflect donor interest or recognize a worthy character trait in the recipient. Endowed Named Scholarships are awarded to students in the spring of their 8th grade year as part of their tuition aid announcement for their 9th grade year. They receive a letter about the award that explains its origin and why they were selected recipients. Awards are distributed annually throughout the students' four years of high school.

### Bethany's Endowed Named Scholarships:

**Anna Barnard Scholarship:** In memory of former Bethany student Anna Barnard, who was a member of the class of 2017. This scholarship honors Anna's passion for building connections and celebrating the wonderful variety of cultures in the world and is awarded to a student who brings experience of a different country and/or culture.

**AMDG Architects Scholarship:** AMDG Architects is a Christian architectural firm in Grand Rapids, MI, that is designing the plans for Bethany's upcoming capital project. This fund was established by Peter Baldwin of AMDG Architects to create an annual scholarship award for a

student entering high school at Bethany, with priority given to Latino/Hispanic students.

**Benjamin G. Rutt Scholarship:** The Rutt family created this scholarship in memory of Ben ('93), with his impressive computer skills in mind. Priority is given to students who demonstrate an interest and/or aptitude for class work or projects related to information technology, such as coding, robotics, statistics, or mathematical algorithms.

**Lisa Wengerd Stauffer Scholarship:** Established in honor of 1990 grad Lisa and her diverse and varied interests, the recipient of this scholarship must demonstrate a zest for living and learning with a broad range of interests, ideally including music.

**Marlin Miller Scholarship:** First created in 1998 as a prize for a graduating Bethany senior, this award transitioned to an endowed scholarship in 2020. The scholarship goals remain tied to its inspiration – Marlin Miller, who graduated in 1957 and spent a career in service to the church. This award recognizes a Bethany student who displays gifts and strong interests in preparing for Christian service or church leadership.

If you would like to learn more about establishing an Endowed Named Scholarship at Bethany, contact Sarah Lind, Advancement Director, by emailing [sklind@bethanycs.net](mailto:sklind@bethanycs.net) or calling 574 534-2567.





# Welcome NEW FACULTY AND STAFF!



**Juanita Hershberger** is Bethany's lower school principal. Juanita taught 6th grade at Bethany from 2008-22. She earned an MEd Administration degree from Lamar University. She joins principal Hank Willems, who continues on as upper school principal.



**Danielle Svonavec** is Bethany's choral and general music teacher. She previously taught choir and music in South Bend. She and her husband, Jon Wingard, have three daughters. Danielle attends St. Johns Catholic Church.

**Ashton Cluts** is Bethany's first-grade teacher. She is from Bluffton, Ohio, and taught in Goshen Community Schools. In 2020, she completed an MEd degree from Baldwin Wallace University. Ashton loves to read, listen to podcasts, and be outside. She attends Silverwood Mennonite Church.



**Sarah Yoder** ('01) is Bethany's intervention and special services teacher. She has an MA from Indiana University in K-12 Special Education. Sarah was a special education teacher in Goshen and Middlebury schools. Sarah and Seth ('01) have three children at Bethany: Lewis, in fifth grade, Elliot, in third grade, and Ava, in first grade. They attend College Mennonite Church.



**Jen Bontrager** is Bethany's second-grade teacher. She is a Bethel College (Mishawaka, IN) graduate with 11 years of teaching experience in local public schools. Jen and her husband Ben have three boys: Isaac, a Goshen College sophomore; Jesse, a Bethany junior; and Jacob, a Bethany eighth grader.



**Bianca May** is an instructional aide working with Sarah Yoder in special services. She attends the First Baptist Church of Newberg Township in Jones, Michigan. Bianca and her husband are co-founders of Our Father's Family Keeper Ministries, a nonprofit organization with a mission to develop and strengthen families.

**Eliza Stoltzfus** returned to the Bethany community as a fifth-grade teacher. She was part of Bethany's first middle school faculty, teaching sixth grade from 1996-2001. She was a teacher in Goshen and Elkhart schools. Eliza is also the mother of Mariah, a junior at Bethany.



**Judith Hernandez Castano** volunteers at Bethany through MCC's International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP). She is from Masaya, Nicaragua, and attends Nueva Jerusalén Mennonite Church. Judith is currently helping with supervision, assisting teachers in grades 1-5, and teaching Spanish to grades 1-3.



**Edgar Silva** is Bethany's high school Spanish teacher. A native of Guatemala, Edgar taught Spanish language and Hispanic culture at CASAS, a Spanish school that is part of SEMILLA, the Anabaptist Seminary in Guatemala City, and more recently he taught in Spanish in North Carolina. Edgar and Ericka Smoker ('95) have two children at Bethany: Eliana, in third grade, and Emilio, in first grade.



**Heidi Birky Sawatzky** ('98) is Bethany's long-term substitute librarian and is also Bethany's PTO president. She has a BA in Art from Goshen College. Heidi and Tyler ('90) have three children: Jack, grade 10, and Alice, grade 2, both at Bethany, and Abigail, kindergarten, and future Bruin. They attend Belmont Mennonite Church in Elkhart.

**Brook and Jessie Bennett** are Bethany's string instructors for the orchestra programs. Brook and Jessie are professional musicians and instructors. They continue to work in the Goshen community providing private lessons and directing youth orchestras. Brook and Jessie have two children, Eliza and James.



To learn more about our new faculty and staff visit [bethanycs.net/bcsnews](https://bethanycs.net/bcsnews) or scan the QR code.



# #BCSHappyEveryDay

## Now accepting applications for the 2023-24 school year!

### Visit Mornings

K-5 students 9:30-11:00 am.

**Parents must be in attendance.**

- February 16, 2023
- March 16, 2023
- April 20, 2023

### Open House

Financial Aid & Indiana School Choice Information, tour of the school, & meet some teachers.

- February 19, 2023 1:00-2:30 pm
- April 23, 2023 2:00-4:00 pm

### Visit Day

Rising 6th-10th graders 8:30-3:30 pm.

- February 21, 2023

### Individual Visit

Call 574 534-2567 or visit [bethanycs.net/visitbcs](https://bethanycs.net/visitbcs) to schedule your individual visit.



The image shows two young students, a girl and a boy, working together on a science project. They are using a balance scale to measure a small object. The girl is wearing a blue and white t-shirt with a graphic, and the boy is wearing a black t-shirt and glasses. They are both looking intently at the scale. The background is white with various educational icons and text.

**VALUED**

*encouraged*

**CREATIVE**

*challenged*

**PREPARED**

*lasting friendships*

**PRACTICAL learning**

*curious*

**Known**

*excited*

**Confident**

*recognized*



## DATES TO KNOW

### FEBRUARY

Feb. 10 - Bruin Club

register at [bethanycs.net/bruinclub](http://bethanycs.net/bruinclub)

Feb. 16 - Visit Morning for grades K-5

register at [bethanycs.net/visitbcs](http://bethanycs.net/visitbcs)

Feb. 19 - Open House

register at [bethanycs.net/visitbcs](http://bethanycs.net/visitbcs)

Feb. 21 - Visit Day for grades 6-10

register at [bethanycs.net/visitbcs](http://bethanycs.net/visitbcs)

### MARCH

Mar. 2-5 - HS Musical - *Elephant and Piggie's We're in a Play*

Mar. 5 - Bruin Club

register at [bethanycs.net/bruinclub](http://bethanycs.net/bruinclub)

Mar. 16 - Visit Morning for grades K-5

register at [bethanycs.net/visitbcs](http://bethanycs.net/visitbcs)

Mar. 30-April 7 - Spring Break

### APRIL

April 20 - Visit Morning for grades K-5

register at [bethanycs.net/visitbcs](http://bethanycs.net/visitbcs)

April 21 - Junior Class Fish Fry

April 23 - Open House

register at [bethanycs.net/visitbcs](http://bethanycs.net/visitbcs)

### MAY

May 5 - GrandFriends Day

May 5 - Bruin Club

register at [bethanycs.net/bruinclub](http://bethanycs.net/bruinclub)

May 5-6 - MS Play - *Camelot and Camelittle*

May 26 - Last day of School

May 28 - Commencement

### JUNE

June 5-9 - Bright Time Camp

early bird registration opens in April at  
[bethanycs.net/brighttime23](http://bethanycs.net/brighttime23)

...a season for  
every activity  
under the *heavens*.



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the latest happenings at  
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