

Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN

Summer 2023, vol. 68, no. 2



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Cover photo:

Lena Osborne, 5th grader
at Bethany, running in the
Bright Future Color Run.

Inquiries about joining the
Bethany community
can be directed to
admissions@bethanycs.net.

Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN

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2 SUMMER 2023

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will succeed. *Proverbs 16:3*

Dear Friends,

When we face pivotal decisions, we listen to the still small voice inside each of us, seek wise counsel from friends, and reach out in prayer hoping for direction. Bethany's Board of Trustees faced a pivotal decision this February as our agenda called for a motion to sign a construction contract for a new elementary wing.

Though we have confidence in our strategic direction of becoming a K-12 school and feel the support of our community, it can be hard to move forward in faith. I appreciated the words of a loyal Bethany supporter earlier that week who reminded me, "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will succeed." Interestingly, when I shared that verse with the board in our meeting, I learned that Board Chair Bob Yoder had the same verse that day on his daily scripture app. With this discovery, board member Marisa Smucker invited us to pray together. After our prayer, a motion was made, and the board unanimously approved signing our construction contract to build the elementary wing.

At Bethany, our mission is to prepare students to participate in God's work in the world. We can do this in two ways: improving how we do it, and increasing the number of children and families

we serve. The Bright Future campaign accomplishes both of these goals—the new wing will include the necessary space and accommodations for young children, allowing us to offer kindergarten for the first time. It will be incredibly beneficial for students and Bethany to welcome families at the beginning of their educational journey.

The beautiful new space will allow us to teach in new ways. Our visual arts program will move out of the art barn and into the new wing temporarily. We will have gathering and multipurpose areas inside, and a new amphitheater outdoors. Our playgrounds will be inspired by the character of young children—a little wild, and with a lot of room for imagination and muddy clothes.

The future is bright at Bethany, and you are part of it. Please join us in making this project a success. We appreciate your prayers and your gifts, and we also appreciate you spreading the word that we will offer kindergarten a year from now—in the fall of 2024!

Sincerely,



Tim Lehman
Head of School



DEATHS

Suzanne (Johnson) Breniser ('59)
Glendale, AZ, Feb. 15, 2023
Howard C. Birky ('59)
Hesston, KS, Feb. 6, 2023
Helen Good ('59)
Goshen, IN, Jan. 28, 2023
Sylvia (Steiner) Miller ('56)
Goshen, IN, May 21, 2023
Truman Good ('60)
Spencer, TN, Feb. 28, 2023
Lauretta (Ramer) Hoover ('61)
Goshen, IN, Apr. 27, 2023
Edith (Good) Kanagy ('61)
Chambersburg, PA, Jan. 20, 2023
Phill Kilmer ('64)
Goshen, IN, Feb. 2, 2023
Marvin Cross ('65)
Jacksons Gap, AL, Jan. 10, 2022
Marvin J. Yoder ('69)
Bedford, PA, Dec. 20, 2022

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

MARRIAGES

Allen Bontrager ('66) and
Jacqueline Silverhorn
Casa Grande, AZ, Mar. 4, 2021
Elizabeth King ('08) and Sam
Lima; Goshen, IN, Apr. 1, 2023
Kory Kern ('18) and Madysen
Beaver; Goshen, IN, Jan. 28, 2023
Skylar Yoder ('18) and Tyler
Carnefix; Kansas City, MO,
Oct. 2, 2022
BIRTHS
Breanna and Trevor Daugherty
(**'07**) Goshen, IN, daughter
Georgia Lucille, Mar. 6, 2023
Sara Alvarez Waugh ('08)
and Adam Waugh Goshen, IN,
daughter Juliana Bea,
Mar. 12, 2023

NOTES

Fran Hassencahl ('59) is working full-time at Old Dominion University. She recently received a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Grant and will be presenting "Middle Eastern Christianity: A Historic and Living Tradition." The summer institute was at Bradley University.
Allen Bontrager ('66) published *Jesus and You* in 2022 (Dorrance Publishing Co., Pittsburgh, PA). The book developed from his devotional time and is "to encourage people to have a personal relationship with their creator."
Cindy (Sommers) Huss ('79) is celebrating her first grandchild. Daughter Ahna and husband Ryan McDonald rejoice in the birth of their son Rowan James McDonald on Feb. 12, 2023, in Pottsville, PA. Great-grandparents are Verna Yoder Trautman ('59) and the late Elson Sommers ('58).
Trevor Daugherty ('07) is a member of the 2023 Michiana 40 under 40 presented by the South Bend Regional Chamber. He and his wife, Breanna, own and publish the award-winning *Edible Michiana*. Trevor also serves as the Executive Director of the Northern Indiana Clay Alliance.

The Future is

Bright at Bethany

We are excited to share progress on our Bright Future Campaign, which was announced publicly in late May. By expanding our school building to include a new wing for elementary grades, the Bright Future Campaign allows more children to benefit from Bethany's holistic education... right from the start!

So far, the Bright Future Campaign has raised over \$4 million towards its anticipated \$7.5 million construction budget, while meeting \$500,000 annual fundraising goals for student programs. Scheduled to open in the fall of 2024, the new wing will allow Bethany to offer kindergarten for the first time and relocate grades 1-3 into the new classrooms.



Bethany broke ground Saturday, May 26, for the new elementary wing, celebrating with a color fun run event hosting over 200 people. We loved spotting some 3-generation Bethany families among the runners/walkers present for the celebration. This event drew current students, parents, grandparents, alumni, and Bruin supporters, helping us get the word out about the Bright Future project and our future kindergarten.

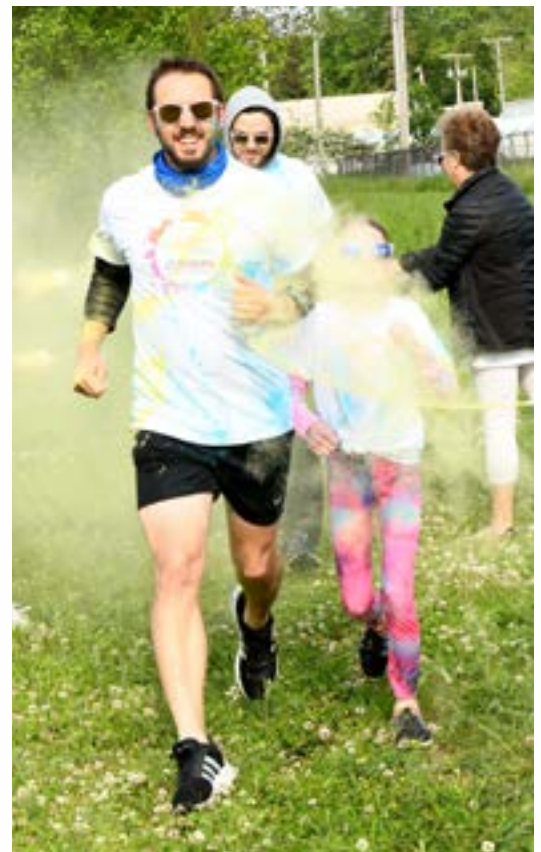


The Bright Future campaign will make possible Bethany's strategic goal of becoming a comprehensive K-12 school.



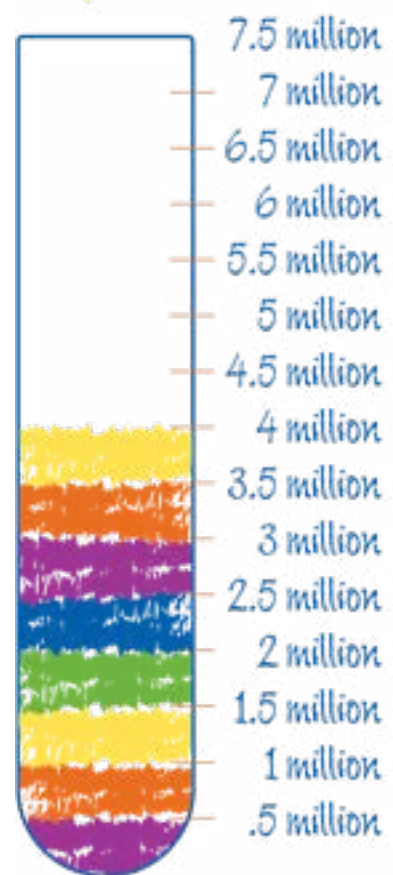
AMDG Architects based in Grand Rapids, MI, designed the new wing, and E.F. Hooley Construction is building it.

"We are thrilled with AMDG's building design, and so glad to have our own alumnus, Eric Hooley, from the class of 1975, overseeing the project for us," said Head of School Tim Lehman. "We are looking forward to meeting the new students who will be able to attend Bethany because of this project and are grateful to the many donors who are making it possible."





A water retention basin will double as a natural amphitheater for performances and outdoor gatherings.



Watch aerial video online!

The elementary wing construction has moved into high gear, taking shape before our eyes! Find drone footage and updates at bethanycs.net/brightfuture.



Grandfriends Day



Our annual Grandfriends Day filled the school with smiles and high spirits again this year. With the addition of first and second grades to our lower school, we welcomed a record number of grandfriends (100+!!) for an assembly, muffins & coffee, special photos, and school tours. All students in grades 1-5 shared during our assembly, then took charge of the remainder of the morning—showing and telling their guests what makes Bethany special to them. Grandfriends traveled from as far as Virginia, Nebraska, and Iowa to spend the morning with us, and we can't wait to host them again next year!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Literary Food Trucks



Sixth-grade students took a challenge; they chose a book to read during the school year and created a food truck and menu that aligned with the characters or setting in the book.

Sixth-grade teacher Linda Hochstetler said, "The students wrote about why they chose the foods

and decorated their food trucks in specific ways." Student groups decided on which book to represent, were given a budget of \$40 to order all food and supply items online, and then prepped the food.

Katelyn Hochstetler, Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) and sixth-grade teacher, said, "The students needed to budget for 50 people and think about presentation and plating the food." The students invited the lower school students to visit the 'trucks' and try the menu. The students



answered questions related to the plot and characters.

One student group created a pretzel food truck with different sauces to represent Alan Gratz's book, *Second Degree*, a story about the connection between four kids and three climate crises. Student Olivia Adcock said, "A highlight was we got a ton of people to come to our truck and explained that each sauce represented a natural disaster."

Regarding her group's truck based on James Ponti's book *City Spies*, student Hannah Claassen said, "We had fun making the food." In this story, five kids join forces to become real spies in France, so their group made chicken with a French sauce.

Linda Hochstetler said, "It was a fun project to do with the students—blending language arts, math, and FACS."

Walking Humbly with the Class of 2023

Commencement 2023

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but to the interests of the others.” Head of School, Tim Lehman used these verses from Philippians 2 as a welcome to the graduates, family, faculty, friends, and staff attending Bethany’s 69th commencement on Sunday, May 28, 2023. He said, “It has been a tough year. These verses have provided comfort and a reminder to think not of our own needs but that of others.”

Senior Senper Solomon, who joined Bethany in the fall of 2022 gave the invocation as her parents watched via live-stream in her home country of Ethiopia. Senper, who is being hosted by the family of Jan and the late Peter Shetler, prayed “We give thanks that we are known and loved by you, that you have been present every step of the way. We pray for your continued presence and guidance as we graduate and leave this place. May we continue to live lives of learning and discovery, while sharing your love with the world.”

In the student address, seniors Jessa Caffee and Cameron Heinisch shared class memories and hopes for the future. Cameron spoke of the loss of fellow classmate Richard Rios, “He was such a caring young man, and our class has suffered greatly without him. I know for many of us, there’s not a day that goes by where we don’t miss his laugh and his love... He has inspired many of us to live lives full of the love that he so effortlessly spread around us. We will always remember Richard.”

Dr. Gilberto Pérez, Jr., Goshen City Council member, Vice President for Student Life, and Dean of Students at Goshen College, gave a heartfelt commencement address. Recounting stories of student passion and purpose, he challenged the graduates, “Go and find people who want to do justice, show mercy to others, and want to walk humbly with God, for they will help you find your purpose, passion, and calling.”



Of the 34 graduates, 15 graduated with honors: magna cum laude (A+ average), summa cum laude (A average), cum laude (A- average), and 10 received Indiana academic honors. A total of 29 students will be heading to college in the fall, and 4 will either take a gap year or work.

Senior class officers Ethan Lopez and Rebekah Youngberg presented a gift to Bob Yoder, chair of Bethany’s trustee board, for landscaping in the athletic complex and the future elementary wing playgrounds. Additional senior class officers include Breece Erickson, Lucca Kauffman, and Samuel Klopfenstein.

To end the ceremony, class sponsors Josh Weaver and Renae Yoder, together with the class officers, presented each graduate with a ceramic mug and white carnation. In memory of Richard Rios, the same gift was given to his family during the presentation.

Read Dr. Gilberto Pérez Jr. commencement address [here](#) and the student speech [here](#).



Lead Donors Share Why They Support the Bright Future Campaign

Alumni Profile Ron Gingerich '64



Ron and Liz Gingerich are the lead donors to the Bright Future Campaign, being the first to make a commitment of \$1 million to the project. They participated in the architectural committee that developed the design concept for the new elementary wing and have walked alongside the campaign from its inception through fundraising and recent public announcement.

In the four years he attended Bethany through to his graduation in 1964, Ron Gingerich developed an educational foundation critical to his later academic and career success.

From Bethany Ron went on to earn a BA degree in Natural Sciences from Goshen College, followed by a PhD degree in Pharmacology from Indiana University. He next accepted a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO, where he continued his training and studies in the areas of diabetes and obesity. These years of training led him to a full-time faculty teaching and research position at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

During more than 25 years while on staff at Washington University, Ron was awarded several million dollars of government research grants and published over 300 scientific publications mostly related to pancreatic endocrinology, obesity, and the biological sciences.

During those years at the University, Ron found that he, along with many of his colleagues, were conducting basic research studies hampered by a lack of appropriate testing materials, especially in animal testing models. In an effort to address this need, he started a small biotech company, Linco Research, Inc, with the goal to provide research scientists the unique biologic tools needed to obtain more accurate experimental results.

In a second phase of his life, Ron left the university after 25 years to devote full-time energy to his business. Over the next 20 years the company grew to more than 120 employees and provided critical analytical services and biological reagents to universities, biotech, and pharmaceutical companies world-wide. Many of Linco's specialized reagents were critical in the early development and clinical trial testing of important drugs on the market today. Ron sold Linco in 2006.

Ron believes that with God's leading the four years at Bethany provided the critical foundation that started a cascade of events leading to a career he could not have imagined as a young boy growing up on a farm near Goshen. Classes in science, biology, and chemistry, taught by caring and inspiring teachers, fostered his life-long quest of both scientific discovery and love of business. The many hours spent driving to and from Bethany and the sacrifices his parents made to send him to a Christian school were truly a blessing. These early experiences Ron had at Bethany led him and his wife Liz to support Bethany's growth so that other children could experience a Christian-based education.

There are several reasons Ron and Liz dramatically increased their giving to Bethany at this particular time.

The first is legacy. There is nothing like facing one's mortality to focus our minds on legacy. In the fall of 2018, Ron received a diagnosis of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, a rare, incurable disease of the lung for which the only "treatment" was a lung transplant that could extend life by 5-10 years. Fortunately he was blessed to receive a successful transplant in November 2018. Experiences like this can cause one to reflect on how best to leave a meaningful legacy. Ron and Liz hope their contribution,



in combination with many others, will enhance the lives of countless young students.

Second is impact. In Ron and Liz's judgment, a single gift to Bethany will have an immediate and meaningful impact, in contrast to spreading a similar amount to several other very deserving, but larger, non-profit organizations. They feel that by focusing their giving to the ***Bright Future Campaign***, Bethany can move to quickly benefit more children during the most impressionable period of their lives.

Third is their heart for Christian-based education. Christian education is extremely important to them.

Government-run educational systems are constrained in that they are not allowed to teach based on Christian principles. Bethany's elementary expansion makes it possible to bring more children onto a stable, Christian educational path. If they can get that start, they have a better chance of staying the course.

Ron and Liz's invitation to other alumni: *We invite you to join us to help Bethany prepare for an exciting and bright future. Whatever the size of your gift, you will be part of the alumni team that will make it possible for many more young children to attend Bethany and get a head start on a faith-based, quality education. Together we can make this happen.*

WAYS TO GIVE

Become a Bruin Pride Sustainer with Recurring Donations

Alumna Malaina Weldy '12 encourages you to join her as a Bruin Pride Sustainer—set up recurring donations online!



"When I think about the experience I had at Bethany, I wish that more students could have that," said Malaina in a recent interview available on our alumni blog.

In the spirit of supporting such experiences, Malaina began regularly donating to Bethany quite soon after high school graduation. "It's easy to kick the can down the road," she said. "There's always something to save your money for



Bruin Pride Sustainers

You can make a habit of generosity to Bethany students by setting up quarterly, monthly, or weekly gifts through your credit/debit card or electronic funds transfer from your checking account at bethanycs.net/donate

or something to upgrade or fix, but if I really want to be who I say I am—someone who values philanthropy and volunteerism—then I need to develop those habits NOW."

Malaina encourages other young alum to consider the ways they've benefited from their Bethany educational experience and find ways to pay that forward—either in their own communities or to future generations of Bethany Bruins. Malaina Weldy '12 has practiced business law in Grand Rapids with Warner Norcross + Judd for the past three years and volunteers as a mentor for a girl in her community. You can read more about Malaina's career, life, and reflections on her Bethany experience in our full interview online at bethanycs.net/alumniblog

This year, Bethany's recently-created Alumni Council attended various events to build connections, represent alumni, and support Bethany. Eric Dyck Hilty oversees alumni relations and says, "It is wonderful to have a group of volunteers here to assist and engage Bethany alum. The group is small for now, but I hope it will grow as they interact more with fellow alumni."

'Community and Constituent Engagement' is a goal in Bethany's strategic plan. The advancement office created a task group in January 2022 to look at ways to engage Bethany alum. Members of the group reflected on Bethany traditions and current communication with alumni. Using models from other schools, the group created a mission statement and provided the initial structure for Bethany's Alumni Council.

The Alumni Council's mission is to promote fellowship and loyalty to Bethany among alumni while supporting the school's mission and vision. We strive to deepen Bethany's history by highlighting and celebrating diverse alumni stories and achievements.

The current council is led by: Chair Laura (Yoder) Moshier ('92), Co-chair Alisha (Snyder) Johnston ('09), and Secretary

ALUMNI

Council Takes Action

Elizabeth King ('08). Executive committee members are Bob Brenneman ('61), Carol (Hartzler) Grieser ('61), and Madison Swartzendruber ('18).

The Alumni Council helped with Homecoming 2022 by assisting guests at the welcome table and taking pictures at the photo booth. During the recent Bright Future Campaign Launch and Color Run, they helped at the refreshment table and stations along the run, spraying color on the runners going past.

Madison Swartzendruber says, "I became a member of the alumni council to help Bethany stay an amazing place for other alumni, current and future students, and their families!" Madison's favorite memories of Bethany include interterm, choir trips, and performing with Emmaus, Bethany's performing arts troupe.

To become a member or learn more about Bethany's Alumni Council, contact Eric Dyck Hilty at alumni@bethanycs.net.



Alumni Challenge

Bethany's Future is Bright, and your gifts can make it even brighter. Bethany alumni number approximately 3,500. On average 300 alumni give

to Bethany annually. This year the goal is to increase that number by 200! Will you join us in support of your alma mater? We aim to reach \$50,000 by Homecoming. Look for the coming challenges!

BRUIN Athletics

WINTER AND SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

It was a banner year for Bruin Athletics. Since joining the Hoosier Plains Conference three years ago, this is the first year Bethany was named champion in 8 of 11 high school sports (boys cross country, boys soccer, girls soccer, girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys baseball, and girls track & field).

Highlights from the winter season included both boys and girls basketball teams winning sectional titles. The girls finished their wins with a program record 22-4 season, including a class 1A state runner-up basketball title. Many alum and Bruin fans supported the girls at their state finals in Indianapolis. Individual highlights for the season included juniors Tyson Chupp and Zoe Willems reaching 1,000 career point milestones.



Highlights from the spring season included individual girls track and field records, with Kolette Kern in the discus and Bailee Brown's school records in the 100 m hurdles and 300 m hurdles.

The 2023 Athletes of the Year were Breece Erickson and Kolette Kern. Dan Bodiker Loyalty award recipients were Kolette Kern and Julia Moser. This awards athletes who play a sport each season for all four high school years.



2023 SENIOR Awards

For the first time, one student—Rebekah Youngberg—received Bethany's Art Purchase Award and the Cup of Kindness Award. Sunflower, her acrylic canvas painting, was inspired by flowers in her backyard. Rebekah said, "I wanted to fill a big canvas with bright yellow and gold of the sunflowers."

Bethany faculty give The Cup of Kindness Award to a student demonstrating exceptional kindness by helping and showing compassion to others. During the presentation, Hank Willems, upper school principal, said, "She is helpful when her peers are working on projects, and she takes the time to not only praise their hard work but also give thoughtful feedback."



SENIOR

Faith Statements



Senper Solomon

My father, Solomon Teferi, has a strong desire to share his faith journey with others. During his college years, he was exposed to negative influences that led him to consume Khat, a stimulant derived from a local plant. My father was the only student from his small

rural town in northern Ethiopia to pass college entrance exams and pursue higher education. Despite graduating with a degree in psychology, he found himself unsatisfied, confused, and suicidal. In search of answers, he turned to religion and approached a priest in the Orthodox Church, but was unsatisfied with the priest's response. An encounter with a colleague speaking about the transformative power of God's word resulted in a leap of faith and surrendering his life to Jesus Christ. My father's testimony has greatly influenced my own spiritual beliefs.

It is through the actions, words, and love displayed by those who strive to live God's love that I see the tangible expression of God's presence. One person God brought into my life was my host father, Peter Shetler. He was truly the most loving, caring, selfless, hardworking, warm, kind, and giving person I ever met. Whenever I did the dishes, he would come up to me, give me a side hug, and tell me, "We really appreciate you doing this, Senper." Nothing went unappreciated.

Matthew 11:28-30 says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." This verse captures the essence of a loving God who recognizes our imperfections. It shows that God is willing to come to our aid, knowing that we carry our own weaknesses and struggles. All we need to do is come to Him.

Senper will be attending Goshen College and studying nursing and music. She feels blessed to have been a part of the Bethany community and hopes to find a similar community during college.



Jessa Caffee

My mother was diagnosed with stage 3 metastatic melanoma cancer in December 2020. I was devastated and didn't talk to people at school about it. I sobbed and asked for God to heal my mom. It was in remission

but has come back. Fortunately, her last report is positive and hopeful.

Psalm 23 are verses that provide steadfast comfort amongst anxiety. I am extremely grateful that I am part of a church community (Maple City Chapel) that engages my wonderings, does not shame me for doubt, and asks us to understand the Bible for ourselves.

I believe it is the church's responsibility to pour love, truth, and action into the world and do our best to stand up for what is right in our community. One verse that encapsulates my faith is Ephesians 5:2 "Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God."

Jessa will be attending Purdue University, where she plans to study media and mass communications. She will be living in a Christian women's cooperative house, and she looks forward to making lifelong relationships, growing deeper in faith, and serving the community.



Breece Erickson

April 19, 2014, is a day I will remember as if it was tattooed on my body. My dad, who was my baseball coach, received a phone call and walked away from the game. The assistant coach didn't know why but was asked to take over the game. When Dad returned, he was stone cold and said he would tell me what happened when we returned home. At home, he sat me down and said, "Grandma Judie died." I couldn't think, scream, or move; I just embraced my dad and sobbed.

During the funeral, I remember one of the family saying, Judie always said, 'If you could be anything in the world, be nice.' Right then and there, that's how I chose to live my life. My family is the backbone of who I am, and I would not be the person I am today without them. They have been there for me more than anyone ever has; I love them so much.

Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call to me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know." God is guiding me, and I don't need to worry about anything that happens in my life because it is a part of God's plan.

Breece will attend Alfred University, study business analytics, and play tennis. Meeting people during a college visit, he hopes they will become part of his inner circle. He says, "My journey is about to begin, and I look forward to where God will guide me."

Reflections on the Musical by Director Talashia Keim Yoder



Elephant & Piggie's

“We Are
In a Play!”

Thirty-one high school students came together to explore friendship in this year's musical, *Elephant and Piggie We're in a Play!* The musical was light-hearted and energetic and contained all kinds of beautiful nuggets about what true friendship means. The cast and crew particularly loved bringing a theater experience to young children. Highlights were a matinee dress rehearsal for the Bethany lower school and Waterford Elementary Kindergarten students and a Saturday morning performance packed with toddlers and preschoolers, many experiencing live theater for the first time. To cap it all off, the cast and crew ran a 4-session theater club for lower school children as part of the rehearsal process, teaching them everything from improvisation to costume design to choreography. Students learned that when we help others grow, we learn a lot ourselves!



Reflections on the Middle School Play from Director Evie Nafziger

This year's middle school play, *Camelot and Camelittle*, was about Ruth, a young girl who gets laughed out of the king's court when she declares that she wants to be a knight of the round table. She and her friends decide to create their own kingdom (or rather, “queendom”). Of course, complications ensue, with a little magic and Ruth's ingenuity saving the day in the end.



We had a large cast of 30 playing the parts of 59 characters including knights, water sprites, trolls, sparrows, and many more. It was exciting to see the growth in both the experienced and the

inexperienced actors as most of them played the roles of two or three characters. The crew also learned a lot as they built props, created costumes, and ran the lights and sound. Students completely run the show backstage in Bethany middle school productions; they run the backstage, lights, and sound without adults which is a huge responsibility.

A unique aspect of Bethany middle school theater is the number of high school students who volunteer their time to help with acting, costumes, props, lights, sound, and makeup. It's a great opportunity for them to be leaders, building their skills as coaches, customers, etc. For example, leading 30 middle school actors in warmups isn't easy; high schoolers learned to be assertive, teach the games, and explain why we take time to do them.



Welcome NEW FACULTY AND STAFF!



Adam Friesen is transitioning from teaching fourth grade to the new role of outdoor education teacher. He will lead the outdoor education program and collaborate with Director of Food Services Tara Swartzendruber Landis to grow cafeteria vegetables on campus as part of the Farm-to-School program. Adam has

a passion for alternative outdoor nature and play-based learning.



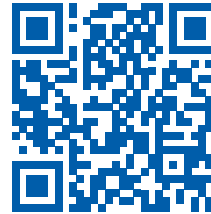
Andrew Lanctot ('00) is Bethany's new fourth-grade teacher. He has a BA in elementary education from Goshen College and 2009 completed his Master's of Education from Indiana Wesleyan University. Andrew taught in public schools for 15 years and was a Master Teacher in Goshen

Community Schools. He likes reading, watching and playing sports, and being with family. Andrew and Caitlin have three children attending Bethany: Lily in eighth grade, Jack in sixth grade, and Henry in third grade.



Daniel Yoder is Bethany's Facilities Generalist with duties primarily in maintenance and custodial and grounds support. He is an accomplished home handyman and problem solver and brings various technical and mechanical skills from growing up on a farm in Missouri. Daniel was the pastor of Christian Formation

at College Mennonite Church and is known amongst the Bethany community for building sets for theater productions. Daniel and Talashia Keim Yoder have two children attending Bethany: Malachi, in ninth grade, and Zephaniah, in grade five.



To stay up to date with Bethany news visit bethanycs.net/bcsnews or scan the QR code.

Outstanding Service Awards 2023

Congratulations to Edgar Silva and Robin Yoder as the recipients of Bethany's 2023 Outstanding Service Awards. Edgar received the Excellence in Teaching award, and Robin received the Community Contribution Award.



Edgar is Bethany's Spanish teacher. He has significantly impacted the Bethany community in just one year. Students have gravitated to Edgar's warm caring spirit. One student said, "Edgar has been a blessing in my life. He has shown support when I needed it in difficult moments and lets me know that he is praying for me."



Robin has been at Bethany since 2007. She was the receptionist for 13 years and has served as the executive assistant for the past three years. Colleagues said, "Robin does so many things behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly at Bethany. She encourages and tells people what she specifically appreciates about them."

A Bethany family originally funded this award to affirm and recognize dedicated teachers. In 2019, a new tradition recognized two employees for outstanding service. The same family that funded the original award has generously offered to fund both of these awards.






New Program Builds on the

FARM-to-SCHOOL

Initiative

Beginning this fall, Bethany Christian Schools will launch a curriculum initiative to further enhance outdoor education for lower school students. This comprehensive outdoor learning program will integrate with Bethany's exceptional farm-to-school program.

In this program, students will:

-  Consistently spend time outside during ALL seasons of the year
-  Gain an increased appreciation for nature
-  Better understand their connectedness to nature and one another
-  Experience practical learning through strong interdisciplinary content
-  Practice theological concepts such as servanthood, stewardship, and creation care

In the lower grades, Bethany students will spend several hours per week with focused learning in and about nature. As they age, they will move from exploration and harvesting to farming and building, to plant biology and life cycles—all with a dedicated outdoor education teacher who is passionate about learning in nature. Bethany's longtime fourth-grade teacher, Adam Friesen, will transition into leading this new program.



"I saw students, especially during the Covid years, losing touch with each other, struggling more to retain their learning, and spending a lot of time on screens. Our outdoor classes during Covid brought new energy to their relationships and school work. And I thought—how can we have this every day, or at least a taste of it?" said Friesen.

Food Service Director Tara Swartzendruber Landis is particularly excited about the further integration with the great



things already happening around the school. "This program will enhance what we already do in the cafeteria as part of our farm-to-school program," she said. "Students enjoy eating the fresh produce we already grow, but now they will gain a deeper understanding of how it grows and how they can be involved in their meals."

To learn more about Bethany's outdoor education program, visit bethanycs.net/outdoored



DATES TO KNOW

AUGUST

Aug. 10 - First Day of School

Aug. 15 - Soccer/Volleyball Alumni Night

SEPTEMBER

Sep. 15-16 - [Homecoming Weekend](#)

NOVEMBER

Nov. 3 - Fish Fry

Nov. 17-19 - HS Play-*The Curious Savage*

Nov. 28 - Giving Tuesday

DECEMBER

Dec. 8 - Christmas Gala

JANUARY

Jan. 5 - Basketball Alumni Night

Field Day Fun

Ready, set, go!! The lower school added amazing energy to Bethany this year, so it was time to burn OFF some of that remaining energy during the last week of school with a field day! After donning their special t-shirts and grade-level-color-coded bandanas, students enjoyed tug-of-war, relay races, water games, and even a treat from Kona Ice. What a great way to end a fantastic year with our lower school students!



BCS Alumni

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 facebook.com/groups/bethanycsalumni

To stay connected with all the latest happenings at Bethany, follow us on 