



LIBERTAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

COMMUNITY UPDATE

FIRST QUARTER 2021



RUTHIE BRAND ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CHAIR



What matters in the life of a vibrant, healthy, and growing school? One might consider a blend of academic rigor, mentorship of students, or successful athletic and arts programs. Perhaps involved is a spirit of joie de vivre in the halls or active parent volunteers. While the culture of Libertas benefits from the amalgamation of these ingredients, one thing is needed above all others: prayer. Our school's founding was bathed and established in prayer and the leadership and staff recognize that dependence on God is our sustaining grace. To live a God-exalting, Christ pursuing life that is shaped by prayer may be the best thing we teach our students at Libertas.



This past summer launched our first annual student leadership training for our house program at Libertas and we longed for prayer to play a major role in how our students helped govern themselves and mentor other students. Our 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Carianne Robbins, graciously developed a workshop to teach our leadership students about ACTS prayer: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication (along with intercession). Several of the students were familiar with this method of prayer from their family devotions and prayer time at church but the method was new for many.



You may wonder how this focus on prayer has impacted our school. Each Monday morning, upper school students gather in the gym to begin the day with worship and prayer. After Mr. Nemec and the worship team lead us in song, students disperse and gather in small groups around the gym. Each group begins by adoring God, simply praising Him for His attributes and goodness. Next, students move into confession and humbly admit before God



and others how we have fallen short. Thanksgiving brings sweet and ready prayers as students offer to God their gratitude and thanks for how He answers prayer, provides, and sustains. Last, we move into intercession and

supplication. All around the gym you can hear young men and women praying for the world, their nation, their parents and families, and the needs of others in our community. Aliz Pusztai, a 10th



grade student, shares: "I have really enjoyed the bond it has created and the way it has made us be pushed out of our comfort zone. Praying properly is key and this has certainly taught every one of us how." What a blessing for our students to grow in intentional prayer!

John Piper notes that, "Prayer is the open admission that without Christ we can do nothing." We believe this at Libertas. A right understanding of God permeates a well-rounded liberal arts education and our Monday morning prayer time allows our staff and student body time to contemplate the eternal and set our hearts on Him. May it help our students grow in their desire to know, love, and serve the living God.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- February 19 · Mid-Winter Break
- March 8 · Moms and Muffins
- March 25 · Legacy Gala - A Night of Worship
- April 2-9 · Spring Break
- May 8 · Senior High Banquet
- May 17-21 · Senior Thesis Presentations
- May 19 · Grammar School Field Day
- June 1 · Graduation
- June 10 · Last Day of School

Welcome!

The Libertas community has experienced quite a bit of change in the last several months. One of those changes has been in the leadership of our school board. We have been blessed for the last two years to have had Matt Williams as the President of the Board, but as of November, 2020, Matt has stepped down from that position.

At that time, two more members have been added to the board, Pastor Ray Paget and John Bole. Both gentlemen have great interest in the success of Libertas Christian School. We would like to introduce you to John Bole in this edition.



John Bole

Greetings to the Libertas Family,

First allow me to say thanks for the privilege of joining this amazing family. Ruth and I have watched from afar for several years and marveled with you as God gathered, guarded, and guided this ministry. My commitment to Christian classical

education is one of studied conviction. That journey cannot be shared in a brief document but maybe if my service here extends beyond the current plan, I can share more of how God has moved in my personal and professional quest.

Allow me now to introduce myself and my family. Ruth and I have been married for 42 years. God has graced our family with four children. One is in heaven and three are now married and have added to our lives the excitement of ten GRANDchildren. Rebekah and Elizabeth are graduates of Freedom Christian and Jonathan is a US Army 10th Mountain Division veteran. Each brought a spouse to our family that has enriched and blessed us beyond measure. Rebekah's husband Kevin is an emergency physician in Green Bay, WI and they have two preschool sons, Cooper and Caleb. Elizabeth and her husband Jeff live in Torrington, WY where Jeff is a police officer. He serves as the SRO for the schools. They have four active children, Caden, Emmie, Gryffin, and Kipp. Elizabeth homeschools the two that are school age. Jonathan's wife, Sara, is a neonatal intensive care nurse. She serves the littlest and most vulnerable with tender hands and heart. They also have four energy-laden children, Savanna, Hadley, Weston and Nora. They reside in Billings, MT

where Jonathan continues to serve with the National Guard.

Ruth has walked with me in the journey God has set before us. We have served God together in Christian school ministry, in pastoral service, as short-term missionaries in Norway and in other ways as God has directed. During much of our 42-year excursion she had taught or been in administration. Her teaching included 5 years of classroom work while we served on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. She concluded her career teaching in a two-room (one teacher one aid) K-8 country school in rural Montana. It was a dream come true for her.

That is my family – I have been blessed beyond measure in service to our Lord. My personal journey in Christian education began before I met Ruth, before I graduated from college, before I was even sure where my life was headed. I was a student at Word of Life Bible Institute in Schroon Lake, NY. Dr. John Master took me under his wing and in study of Scripture the truth of several passages began to take up residence in my heart and mind. It was Scripture that led me to an understanding of the intent and value of “education” – education grounded in the Truth of God's Word, empowered by the Spirit of God, and made possible by the Sacrifice of Christ.

Again, maybe in the coming days I can expand on that last paragraph but please believe me when I say Christ-centered, Scripture driven education is the heartbeat of this newest board member at Libertas.

Thanks again for this incredibly special opportunity, John, for Ruth as well



LIBERTAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

DONATION FORM

☐ YES! I would like to make this a RECURRING donation and support Libertas Christian School with my gift of:

☐ \$25/month

☐ \$50/month

☐ \$100/month

☐ \$_____/monthly

☐ \$_____/annually

☐ YES! I would like to make a ONE TIME Gift to support Libertas Christian School with my gift of :

☐ \$250

☐ \$500

☐ \$1000

☐ \$2000

☐ \$_____

First Name	Last Name	Company Name	
Address	City	State	Zip
Phone	Email		

Please mail this form along with gift to: Libertas Christian School 5181 64th Ave. Hudsonville, MI 49426

To make a donation via Credit Card or ACH please visit our website @ LibertasChristianSchool.org/give or call Marissa, at 616-566-5791

What is Happening at Libertas?

Thank you for checking in with us through this Community Update Newsletter. There has been a lot going on here at Libertas. Following is a recap of events for the last couple of months.

In March of 2020, the Michigan Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, ordered all schools to be closed for two weeks due to Covid-19. We quickly made adjustments to temporary online virtual learning. Our teachers, staff, and families did an amazing job transitioning to this new method. Two weeks later, it was determined that all schools be closed through the end of the school year.

As summer progressed, our governor issued an increasing number of executive orders involving masks, social distancing, and health practices. Our school board sought counsel on best practices to address health concerns without violating the civil liberties of families who strongly disagreed with the government overreach in the matters of our health and educating our children. We started our school year with new cleaning protocols throughout our campus. Parents were given the option to sign a mask waiver or send their students masked. **100% of our parents signed the mask waiver to allow their children to attend Libertas without the use of face coverings.** We also chose to not participate with “contact tracing” per the conviction that we were a private institution that was not required to follow the same rules as public institutions.

The Michigan Supreme Court, in early October 2020, ruled that all of the executive orders that Governor Whitmer had issued since April 28, were unconstitutional. As a result, new orders of closures were issued through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. As Libertas refused to follow these unconstitutional rules, the health department proceeded with threats of closure of our school. We, therefore, filed a lawsuit against the governor, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Ottawa County Health Department for violation

of civil liberties. In retaliation, our county health department quarantined our entire school building for two weeks, citing a “Coronavirus Outbreak.” despite there being no school associated COVID-19 cases.

Libertas quickly submitted a request for an emergency injunction to the western district federal court, which was denied. We appealed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals,, which was ruled that because we complied with the closing of the school, we were in no need of an injunction.

Finally, in order to remain open to in-person instruction, Libertas chose to move forward in compliance with the rules of the governor and health department regarding masks and contact tracing. After that announcement, several families chose to withdraw. This has resulted in a considerable budget shortfall. We have been blessed with a fruitful year-end giving campaign, but are looking to see how and where the Lord will bless us as we begin our second semester of school.

The full student body has been present for in-person instruction since January 4, 2021. The students have been very thankful to be together. Just like everywhere in our culture, the mask issue has caused tension among our kids and community. Libertas faculty and staff work through these challenges by pointing the kids to God’s Word. We are all working together to learn how to honor the Lord in a time where society is wanting us to rely on manmade things to “save” us. This is a struggle all of us are trying to figure out.

Join us in prayer for the students as they work to extend grace to fellow people who may believe differently, while also standing strong in their own convictions from the Lord. Included in this newsletter are prayer calendars. Please place them on your refrigerator or in your Bible, as to be reminded to lift Libertas in prayer on a daily basis.

Thank you for your support.

HONORING THE LEGACY

Gifts were given in honor of the following

Anne Brown	Chris Feenstra	Maintenance	Ruthie Brand
Band	ACCS Conferences	Marissa Berghorst	Samuel Musser
Barb Boersen	Erin Swinger	Mark Congrove	Soccer
Becky Pusztai	Faith Hinken	Pam Wright	Sunday Wehrman
Bettie Davis	Jessica MacMaster	Rachel Smith	Teacher Compensation
Boiler System	Katrina Schumaker	Rebekah Goldberg	Tom Holt
Carianne Robbins	Legal Fees	Robert Davis	Valerie Dewey
Cheryl Gordillo	Lori Bouslog	Ruth Kaercher	Willson Nemec



LIBERTAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Legacy Gala
2021
A Night of Worship

*You are invited to an evening of
praise, passion, and preparing for our future!*

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

7:00 PM

JENISON BIBLE CHURCH

6360-14TH AVENUE, HUDSONVILLE

RESPOND BY
MONDAY, MARCH 22

LIBERTASCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG/EVENTS

COMMUNITY@LIBERTASCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG

616.669.2270

Join us for the ***Libertas Legacy Gala - Night of Worship***. We will enjoy a message from the Word of God, uplifting music, and encouraging talks from people in our community.

Our focus for fund raising this year will be on specific projects to upkeep and enhance the learning environment of our school. Come prepared to praise the Lord and support the Libertas mission in word and deed.

LIBERTAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
5181 64TH AVENUE
HUDSONVILLE, MI 49426

Legacy Partners is a Ministry of Libertas Christian School



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Health and safety for students and staff	2 That the right families will come to the open house tonight	3 Wisdom for teachers	4 That students and staff at LCS will walk in God's truth	5 Positive relationships in our student's lives	6 Wisdom and endurance for our school board
7 That students and staff will seek to honor God in all things	8 That staff and students will be patient with everyone	9 That staff and student's hearts will not be troubled.	10 Help our students to grow in their love of learning	11 For our students to be brave and stand firm in their faith	12 That our students and staff will cast all anxious thoughts on God	13 That our students will be good friends to each other
14 Pray over family relationships	15 Our students and teachers will work heartily for the Lord	16 That God will guide the leaders of the school as they make decisions	17 Kindergarten students and teachers	18 1 st grade students and teacher	19 Pre-K students and teachers	20 That our students will always remember to be kind to one another
21 Students' relations with faculty and classmates	22 2 nd grade students and teacher	23 3 rd grade students and teacher	24 4 th grade students and teacher	25 5 th grade students and teacher	26 6 th grade students and teacher	27 Family relationships of our students and staff
28 Mold our students' hearts to be ready to do good work						

P R A Y E R

ACTS

A – adoration
C – confession
T – thanksgiving
S - supplication

Philippians 4:6

In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Libertas Christian School

Pre-K through 12th grade Classical Christian Education
Intentionally Classical, Vibrantly Christian
www.libertaschristianschool.org

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pray for the families turning in enrollment applications	2 7 th grade students and teachers	3 8 th grade students and teachers	4 9 th grade students and teachers	5 10 th grade teachers and students	6 Wisdom and endurance for our school board
7 Pray over family relationships	8 11 th grade students and teachers	9 12 th grade students and teachers	10 That our students will be thankful and content	11 For parents to have wisdom and strength	12 That students will love the Lord with all their heart, soul and mind	13 For health and safety for students and staff
14 Students' relationships with faculty and classmates	15 That LCS Students apply Biblical principles as the foundation for moral and spiritual living	16 That LCS students display standards of excellence in all pursuits	17 LCS students recognize their God-given uniqueness	18 LCS students pursue a Spirit-filled life full of faith, goodness, knowledge, and self-control	19 LCS students understand that purpose in life comes from being a child of God and following His will	20 That all LCS personally know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
21 That LCS students actively use the lens of Scripture throughout their lifetime	22 That LCS students express a Biblical worldview in conduct and speech	23 That LCS students effectively explain and defend Christianity	24 LCS students possess the poise, knowledge and confidence to influence culture for Jesus Christ	25 Pray for the Legacy Gala tonight	26 LCS students enjoy God's creation and live as good stewards within it	27 LCS students understand that work has dignity and purpose
28 LCS students will become lifelong learners	29 LCS students are able to discern truth	30 LCS students are able articulate truth	31 LCS students are able to defend truth			

PRAAYER

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