

**Principal's Report  
March 8, 2012**

I. Enrollment Information

A. Present Enrollment:

Threeschool	90	First	81	Fifth	67
Preschool	134	Second	67	Sixth	54
Young Fives	29	Third	87	Seventh	88
Kindergarten	79	Fourth	77	Eighth	70

B. Projected Enrollment:

Threeschool	95	First	79	Fifth	77
Preschool	200	Second	81	Sixth	67
Young Fives	40	Third	67	Seventh	54
Kindergarten	90	Fourth	87	Eighth	88

II. Facilities

Zeeland Christian has been blessed with beautiful facilities. When people come to visit, they often have two responses. One is they can't believe the school is as big as it is because it seems much smaller from the street. And secondly they comment on how good the school looks. That's a tribute to Paul Meeuwesen, our janitorial staff, and our teaching staff for making the hallways and classrooms so attractive.

As we move into the future, Zeeland Christian continues to fill all the spaces in the school building. At this point, we have two classrooms that are being used for small groups, but those will be taken up within the next year.

Zeeland Christian School began in 1915 when the School Society purchased property on the corner of Cherry and State. In the mid-fifties, the school added a building on Central Avenue, and then in 1982 moved the entire program to the Central Avenue location where it has been since then. With the new addition, Zeeland Christian will have 126,000 square feet of education space. We are also blessed with a great sledding hill in back of school. With over 250 sleds in our sled shed, we have a great time in the winter getting exercise by walking up the hill and having fun sledding down the hill. Our property also has two ball diamonds, two soccer fields, and lots of playground equipment. Zeeland Christian's property is used not only by Zeeland Christian but also by Zeeland Recreation and the rest of the community. Zeeland Christian continues to look at property for future growth. We own one of the houses to the east of school, and we are looking at property in the Drenthe area.

The halls and walls of Zeeland Christian tell the story of God's faithfulness. If you have an opportunity to walk through the school, you'll see lots of pictures and Bible verses on the walls in the hallways and in the classrooms. When people come into our building, we want not only the staff and students to tell the story of God's faithfulness, but also the walls and halls. Our educational facility reflects our belief, beginning with the standing stone in the front hallway, which reminds us to tell stories of God's greatness. There's also a stained glass window in the front hallway that shows children at Jesus' feet and reminds us that that is our goal – to bring kids to the feet of Jesus. We also have a mural that shows how the Holy Spirit needs to fill the hearts and souls of everyone in this

building. We would like to encourage you to take the opportunity to walk through our building and experience not only the education that's going on, but also the spiritual messages that come from the staff, students, and the facility.

### III. Preschool

This year there are 252 children enrolled in preschool. The Spanish Immersion Program continues to be a well-received option for parents enrolling their children in preschool. The Drenthe program is another option that serves families living in Drenthe and the surrounding rural communities. Zeeland Christian's preschool program is often a first experience with Christian education for many families. We will continue to work hard to provide an excellent program for families in the community of Zeeland.

### IV. Resource Room

The resource room program continues to meet the needs of many students, teachers, and parents through assessments, support, and direct instruction. This program, with support from the Christian Learning Center, offers help for about 40 students with learning disabilities, behavioral issues (ADD), and other related concerns. After an assessment is completed, the parents and staff generally meet with Doug Bouman, the CLC school psychologist. This program is administered by Janelle Sievert and assisted by Phyllis Patnott.

Zeeland Christian began a program for higher-level thinking students eight years ago. Phyllis Patnott staffs this program. Phyllis has experience in adapting curriculum and supporting teachers in integrating higher-level thinking activities into their classrooms so that students who are gifted are challenged to use their God-given potential. Currently, Zeeland Christian is working with other Christian schools through the Christian Learning Center to develop this program further.

### V. Reading Recovery Program

Three ZCS teachers have been trained in Reading Recovery. Currently, Sherri Tibbe is the Reading Specialist, K-2 Lead Teacher and Language Arts Curriculum chairperson. She services the first and second grade classrooms and oversees Vicki Bouman's work in grades 3-5, as well as Sarah Stinson's and Hilda Duran's work with Spanish Immersion students. Janelle Sievert is trained and applies the skills to her teaching in the Resource Room. Judy Zwiép is trained and uses her knowledge while teaching in a first grade classroom.

### VI. Counseling Program

We have been blessed with an excellent counseling program here at Zeeland Christian. Lindsey Iverson, LMSW provides counseling for students at Zeeland Christian School. Mrs. Iverson received a BS in Psychology and a Masters in Social Work, both from GVSU. She has worked as a Child and Family Therapist at Bethany Christian Services. Doug Roskamp, who is a social worker at Zeeland Public Schools, also assists our students.

### VII. Inclusive Education

Inclusive Education is a part of Zeeland Christian's educational support services. We offer programming for children who have a variety of disabilities. Children with autism, cognitive impairments, physical disabilities, emotional needs, and other developmental

delays can find a place of acceptance and belonging in the heart of the general education classrooms. Friendships and educational growth take place each day as we live together as one body in Christ.

We currently serve over 50 children as part of this program. We have well-trained staff members who daily meet their needs. In partnership with the Christian Learning Center and support services from Zeeland Public Schools, this program has shown tremendous growth over the years.

#### VIII. Spanish Immersion

Zeeland Christian has continued its Spanish Immersion Program, now in its sixth year. The program currently enrolls students in one to four classes each from three-year-old preschool to sixth grade. In a Spanish Immersion classroom, the teachers and students engage in all academic and classroom interaction in Spanish while meeting the same curriculum goals as the students in traditional classrooms. By using this educational technique, students will become fluent in Spanish by the time they reach fifth grade. Throughout middle school and high school, students receive several hours a week of curriculum instruction in Spanish to maintain their fluency and expand their vocabulary. The immersion staff is committed to immerse children in the Spanish language and its various cultures in order for them to be better equipped to demonstrate Christ's love to our increasingly global community. Our program model is being used in many other schools around the Midwest.

#### IX. Technology in Education

Over the last several years it has been the goal at ZCS to integrate technology into learning in the middle school. One major step of that goal was to put technology into the hands of the students. Giving the students devices that connect to the Internet or each other, has allowed us to incorporate technology in the regular classrooms at any time of the day. Information is now at our fingertips, and we have increased the ability for students to collaborate with each other and communicate with teachers. The goal continues to change as we look for ways in which students can reach out beyond our school walls and place their work on a larger stage. Technology is becoming a larger part of all of our lives. We want to continue to look for ways in which technology can change and reform this world for Christ. Technologies like blogs and wikis, or organizations that help classes around the world connect over the Internet are part of the vision for technology in the years to come. We want our technology to encourage the desire that teachers and students have to make those connections.

#### X. Music Education

Music education is a vital part of the ZCS student's experience. General music classes in grades K-5 meet once per week to teach students how to enjoy, understand, and explain the music they experience. Also, as part of their general music class, students in grade 4 experience playing instruments through the addition of a recorder unit. Because singing is such a natural way to express themselves, and to worship the Creator, all students in grades 1-8 are also required to have a choir experience, which is geared toward developing the singing skills they have been given. These students perform concerts throughout the year, and an elementary musical is usually a part of the yearly curriculum. Students in grades 5-8 may choose to be a part of the band program as well, receiving

weekly instruction on playing their instrument well alone and in small and large ensembles. Band students participate in several concerts throughout the year, and also march in several local parades, such as Pumpkinfest, and Tulip Festival, and Memorial Day. A spring out-of-town trip is a regular part of the 7th and 8th grade band experience. The music program is taught by Kelli Ten Haken and Kevin Schonewill.

XI. Physical Education

All the students in kindergarten through eighth grade have an opportunity to get involved in physical education on a regular basis. Lori Insley and Jen Leenstra teach kindergarten P.E. Susan Miller meets the physical education needs of students in grades 1-7 and Jon DeVries teaches eighth on a weekly basis. The P.E. teachers address areas of physical fitness, team and individual sports, and movement concepts with the P.E. classes. The “Jingle Jog” has become a P.E. highlight for elementary students. We also have health and fitness classes for middle school students.

XII. Art Education

The opportunity to be involved in art classes at Zeeland Christian is really a blessing and something the students enjoy doing. Our art classes, taught by Lynn Groothuis and Wendy Kragt, incorporate art history and problem solving. The results of this art program are proudly displayed throughout the school and really make the halls and classrooms at Zeeland Christian an enjoyable place to visit.

XIII. Academic Extracurricular Activities

Some of the examples of these programs are Destination ImagiNation, Spelling Bee, Lego Robotics, Math Pentathlon, Eighth Grade Play, Mandarin Class, and Art Club.

XIV. Athletic Activities

ZCMS students have the opportunity to participate in either intramural and/or interscholastic sports. The interscholastic sports program is a part of the A.O.K. Christian Athletic League. It includes these Christian schools: Byron Center, Legacy, Dutton, Heritage, Hope, Moline, and Zeeland. The league offers basketball, baseball, soccer, track, and volleyball. Joel Nagelkirk, the athletic director, oversees these activities. In addition, ZCS is in a cooperative athletic program with Holland Christian Middle School. This allows ZCS students to participate in football, swimming, cross-country, lacrosse, boys’ and girls’ tennis, and competitive cheer.

XV. Curriculum

Zeeland Christian continues to develop and maintain its classroom curriculum to provide a quality, well-researched, well-rounded education for its students. We continue to update our standards-based report cards, which communicate to parents specific information about what skills their child(ren) master in the content areas. We also have focused on our literacy curriculum to evaluate best practices and implement them into our classrooms. We continue to incorporate technology into our classroom learning and to review data from our students' assessments to better our instructional strategies.

XVI. Testing

Zeeland Christian uses the MEAP tests and common assessments to evaluate the general quality of our curriculum and academic program here at Zeeland Christian.

## XVII. Middle School

John Buteyn, middle school assistant administrator, is in charge of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade program. Working in grade level teams has enabled our staff to develop a progressive and effective middle school. The focus on positive relationships with students has led to the development of small group Bible study, worship class, service projects, and camp experiences. The positive attitudes of staff and students have created a Christian learning environment where education takes place in a natural yet effective way. The incorporation of the FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary School) Program, our individualized iMath Program, as well as the One to One Laptop Program illustrate the progressive nature of Zeeland Christian Middle School.

## XVIII. Media Center

The ZCS media center is a fantastic space that not only houses our school's library of books, reference materials and audio visual equipment, but also serves as a lab for our elementary computer classes to learn, a chapel for our middle school students to worship together, a stage for guest speakers and presenters to enlighten us, and a meeting center for staff, students and even members of the community to gather. Ann Hildenbrand and Keri Rees, the media center staff, provide service, maintenance and scheduling.

## XIX. Additional Information

Our motto here at Zeeland Christian is as follows:

Challenge the mind,  
Nurture the spirit,  
Encourage obedience to Jesus Christ

It is very important to all of us that everything that we do here at Zeeland Christian needs to follow this motto. To us as a staff, that means that we first dedicate everything that we think, do, and say to the honor and glory of God. We then focus on understanding our students so that we can teach them in the most effective ways possible. Much of our staff meeting time is spent on creating the best curriculum and developing the best teaching methods possible.

Last year Amanda Cooper joined our staff here at Zeeland Christian to help us not only in the area of fundraising but also in promoting our school. It's very important that we share the good news about Zeeland Christian with others around us. Our communication tools are very important in sharing this good news.

- A. Communication is very important to the staff at Zeeland Christian. Zeeland Christian communicates in the following ways:
1. The "School Bell" goes out 6-8 times a year to all parents and supporters of Zeeland Christian.
  2. The "Blue Note" goes out weekly to all families who attend Zeeland Christian and to many local churches.
  3. The staff in preschool through eighth grade sends weekly newsletters home. These are often sent electronically to email sites so that parents are sure to have an opportunity to read them.
  4. All of the staff members are using the Internet to share important

information with parents also. We'd like to encourage as many parents as possible to receive information through the Internet so that we can use less paper.

5. We begin the year with a Hillside Prayer and Praise Service. This is a great worship experience and an inspirational way to begin the new year.
  6. On the second Wednesday of our school year, all teachers in first through eighth grade have an open house. This is a great time for students to show off their classrooms and for parents to meet the teachers.
  7. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for both the fall and the spring. We encourage all parents to get involved in both sets of conferences.
  8. We encourage parents to get their Parent Portal access. This online computer access program, provided through Zeeland Public Schools, allows parents to access their students' school information such as assignments, attendance, and report cards.
  9. There's a lot of information that goes home. It's very important to us that any information that can help us as teachers comes back to school also. Communication from home to school is a very important part of the educational process, and we encourage you to contact the teachers and other staff if there are any concerns or ideas that you may have.
  10. Zeeland Christian has regular postings on Facebook also to share information with people that are on Facebook. Please become a friend of Zeeland Christian so that you get this information automatically.
- B. Please continue to check our new website at [www.zcs.org](http://www.zcs.org). We are updating our website to better reflect everything we do here at Zeeland Christian and make it easier for you to navigate through the site.
- C. Grandparents' Day is a great event here at Zeeland Christian. This year we had over 800 grandparents attend this special day. Both the students and the grandparents enjoyed the time they could spend together.
- D. The Parents' Club is an organization at Zeeland Christian that raised over \$100,000 last year. This is vital to our survival, and we certainly encourage everyone to get involved.
- E. Zeeland Christian and Holland Christian have joined forces to create a resale store called Ditto. This store is located on Eighth Street just west of US31 in Holland. So far, Ditto has raised approximately \$130 per student in both the Holland Christian and Zeeland Christian systems. Your support of Ditto both in the form of donations and purchases will guarantee its future success.
- F. Zeeland Christian is blessed with wonderful support from local churches. Last year these churches donated almost \$25,000 to the general fund budget to help defray the cost of tuition.
- G. Zeeland Christian is owned and operated by the parents who send their children here and supporters who make financial contributions. Once a year this group of supporters appoints Board members to serve on a thirteen-member Board. Please take the time to say thank you to the Board members who dedicate their time and energy to direct Zeeland Christian School.
- H. Community worship is an important part of every day at Zeeland Christian. All the classes begin the day with devotions and have an opportunity to talk to God through prayer several times a day. The middle school students also have chapel or small group Bible studies each week. We also have all-school chapels once a

month. Family groups made up of students in first through eighth grades get together for fellowship and for service activities. We praise God for these opportunities.

- I. The staff at Zeeland Christian is a group of hardworking professionals. Our teachers are leaders in their field and spend much of their personal time becoming better educated in the latest education advancements. Our teachers are often asked to be presenters at educational conferences.
- J. Education at Zeeland Christian would be impossible without the support of parents. Parents are a vital part of the program here at Zeeland Christian. By working together as a team, we can give the students the best education possible.
- K. Our T.R.I.P. (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) program continues to run very smoothly. Deb Vanden Heuvel is in charge of running the program, and it is supported by many loyal volunteers.
- L. Moms In Touch has been active this last year at Zeeland Christian. We thank them for keeping the school in their prayers.

#### XXII. Closing Comments

Our theme for this year is “Shine On”. This is a theme picked by the eighth graders from Daniel 12:3 where it says “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.” I have certainly seen the students and the staff “Shine On” this year. It has been a blessing to be the administrator of Zeeland Christian this year. The staff works incredibly hard to give the students the best education possible and the students and parents are incredibly cooperative in working with us as a staff. I praise God for this blessing and thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the opportunity to serve God in this place.

Sincerely,

Bill Van Dyk  
Principal

# BALLOT

New board members receiving a majority of votes will be selected by lot.

<b>Vote for each person you approve of</b>			
<b>Vote for at least Three</b>			
Dave Arendsen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott DeMeester	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emilie DeYoung	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Vanden Brink	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Approve budget</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			