

August 19, 2019

Dear Central Christian Community,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Tomorrow is the first day of school for the 2019-2020 school year. Central's theme verse for the year are Jesus' words found in John 15:5.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you,  
you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

As a community centered on Jesus and growing in God's garden, we look to the year ahead with hopeful anticipation of bearing much fruit as we remain in the Vine.

The Open House on August 15 overflowed with energy. The Performing Arts Center with its balcony provided the school community space to gather all students, parents, and teachers for a welcome and updates for the coming year. We applauded the 49 new students and their families who chose to invest in their children's education at Central this year. All of these students, parents, and teachers are branches woven together as each connects to the Vine.

At the Open House, we celebrated the initial wave of progress on the physical facilities of CCS. The progress is the fruit of the generosity of the CCS community through Auction Special Project, CCS community volunteers, Boosters, \_\_\_ volunteers from the JM Smucker Corporation, and grants from the Wayne County Foundation and the Bureau of Workers Compensation. Over the summer, Gym 2 was outfitted with new bleachers, glass backboards and a repainted floor. Gym 1 has a new sound system. Central now has a new weight room, a Makerspace, the Preschool has a new fort, the courtyard was improved, outside areas mulched, and the woods paths cleared. We thank God for this fruit that will benefit Central students of all ages.

This year, Roxie Ramseyer has agreed to be the Volunteer Coordinator for Central. Teachers and staff will work with Roxie to describe the help they need, from there Roxie will work to locate willing volunteers. This kind of service has been deeply rooted in Central's culture, and I think that's why there is so much community ownership of the school. Just last Friday, I noticed so many quiet volunteers. Two volunteers helped with getting teachers set up with new computers. Parents brought in a meal for the boys soccer team. The teachers fellowship meal made use of re-usable table service for 60 that are maintained by parent volunteers. Volunteers videoed the soccer game and others took photos for the school website. A volunteer came to school to fill orders for the SCRIP program. The cross country team cleaned up the Preschool playground. Fans used the soccer field restrooms that are cleaned each week by alumni parents. An alumnus and her faculty spouse weeded the front flower beds, the concession stand was staffed by parents of athletes, and Boosters served a great meal raising funds to support the CCS athletic program. We thank God for the hands-on generosity of the Central community.

Please pray:

1. For faculty and staff as they set the tone for Christ-centered learning in the school.
2. For new international students experiencing homesickness.
3. For returning students to reach out to welcome new students to school life.
4. For safety as students travel to school, play actively, and participate in sports.
5. For Central to step *Forward in Faith* towards further waves of progress in renovating the school facilities.
6. For the CCS board and Corporation that will have its Annual General Meeting, open to the public, on September 29.

Sincerely,

Jeanne