

September 11, 2019

Dear Central Christian Community,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One of the joys of working at Central has been the opportunity to greet elementary students each morning as they arrive by school bus or are dropped off by parents. The drop off point near the Discovery Playground faces the rising sun across the athletic fields and the woods. This morning, I noticed two fourth grade boys who saw their teacher sweeping the playground sidewalk before school. They immediately ran to her and asked, "May we help?" Soon, six students of different grade levels swept energetically while other students walked or ran laps in the morning sunshine. I am thankful for a school culture that embraces active time in God's creation and a spirit of helping each other for the good of all.

In this beautiful September season in Ohio, Concord grapes await the harvest. As I walk through the school, I see all sorts of visual representations of the purple fruit illustrating our theme verse from 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 school community, we seek to bear fruit that will "show ourselves to be (Jesus') disciples". Central's seniors spent last week serving and learning with three non-profit organizations in Pittsburgh. The service/learning experience spanned several weeks of orientation and preparation before the trip as well as reflection time afterwards for a formational experience.

Intentional faith formation is one of four priorities in Central's Strategic Plan. Another part of the plan is to invest in capital improvements on campus. Central's board and staff are moving *Forward in Faith* on plans for renovation of the oldest parts of Central's building. We know that "apart from me you can do nothing." The renovation will be funded without long term debt and from charitable giving (not from tuition). The Renovation Committee, which includes Karen Steiner, Ken Neuenschwander, Jeremy Fry, Jennifer Hochstetler, Alex Steiner, Joyce Taylor, Eric Ramseyer, Nate Holton, and myself laid the foundation of guiding principles for the renovation:

- 1) The work must be an investment in our students; for quality education, for safety, and for comfort.
- 2) The renovation should show who we are as a school; hospitality, simplicity, and a place that is cared for.
- 3) Curb appeal and energy efficiency will guide our decisions.

Even as Central moves forward to improve the physical facilities for students, CCS continues its commitment to have variable rates of tuition based on each family's income and resources. This Fall, Central students will be raising funds to help make that possible. Children in

Preschool through grade six will be selling Butter Braids. This year, there is a low calorie option to [skip the sweets](#) by giving a direct donation to Central while your elementary salesperson gets the credit.

Please pray:

1. For students to feel safe at Central so that they can learn and grow.
2. For the speakers who share each day in Middle and High School chapel and in the Elementary chapel.
3. For all parts of the school to stay firmly connected to the Vine in planning, in learning, in serving, and in generosity.

Sincerely,

Jeanne