



Upcoming Events:

- **February 28:**
1st-5th Elementary Speech Meet
Open House & Community Event
- **March 5:**
Kindergarten Round-up
- **March 7:**
Calvary Coffee House
- **March 13:**
All School Worship
- **March 18 & 19:**
CCS Presents at Showcase
- **March 20:**
Half Day of School
- **March 27:**
K-5 Musical
- **April 2:**
Spiritual Emphasis Day
- **April 3:**
Half Day of School
- **April 6-10:**
Spring Break
- **April 20-23:**
Spring Conf. by appointment
- **April 24:**
Prospective Students Day
CCS Carnival
- **April 30 & May 1:**
6-12 Musical
- **May 1:**
All School Worship
- **May 2:**
Annual Meeting for CCS Parents
and Stakeholders
- **May 4:**
Faculty/Staff Appreciation Week
- **May 7:**
MS/HS Spring Concert
- **May 9:**
Jr./Sr. Banquet
- **May 12:**
CCS Sports Awards
- **May 14:**
Senior Chapel
- **May 15:**
Last day of Preschool
- **May 15-21:**
Senior Trip
- **May 22:**
Kindergarten Graduation
- **May 25:**
No School; Memorial Day Parade
- **May 26-28:**
5th Grade Overnight Camp
- **May 27-28:**
8th Grade Chicago Trip
- **May 27:**
Field Day; MS Fun Day
- **May 29:**
H.S. Graduation
- **June 1:**
Last Day of School

To Begin With: FYI...ESO...FOR...CCS

The name of this blog implies the foundational nature of topics we address here. Most home-owners have never seen the *foundation* of their house. It's deep underground, and if all goes well--if it's holding firm--you don't think much about it. When building a house, you "begin with" that unseen foundation. The same is true with a school.



In Matthew 7, Jesus is wrapping up the "Sermon on the Mount," which outlines foundational truths for Christ followers, and He reminds His large audience that heeding these truths will make them like the "wise man who built his house on the rock." Later in the 22nd chapter of Matthew, Jesus is asked which is the greatest commandment (of the 10). His answer reflects first man's need for a vertical relationship (love God) and second for lateral relationships (love people).

These thoughts came to mind last August (2019) when a committee met as part of our ACSI accreditation process. Shelley Watkins has played a key role in five accreditation

and re-accreditation processes since 1998. She led the meeting. The topic? ACSI had asked us to outline ESO's for CCS. Wait. What?

Like all industries, education thrives on cycles of jargon. ESO's are Expected Student Outcomes. ACSI is asking its accredited schools to describe what their graduates would ideally "be like" after spending formative years in their program.

We looked at some samples from other ACSI schools, and we agreed with most of their "outcomes," but our group also felt like the lists were a bit random and over-complicated. So we posed this question: Shouldn't our ESO's reflect the way Jesus himself summed up all His teachings? In other words, if Christian education is built upon "the solid Rock," won't our "outcomes" reflect first a spiritual/vertical relationship with God? And secondly, won't it sharpen human interactions? In fact, don't all other "learning" categories simply maximize the loving, respectful ways we interact with our world and those with whom we share it? (Science, language, math, the arts, etc.. Do not these disciplines help us better love and serve others?) Once we agreed on this foundational premise, the ESOs fell into two distinct categories.

Does having published ESO's mean that all CCS graduates

will be cookie-cutter models of those outcomes? Of course not. Education is a process not a product. CCS is a life-prep setting not an assembly line. This is especially true of spiritual matters, and much of the New Testament underscores the steps of spiritual maturation and the fact that we all fall short in that process. Those same pages, however, do tell us "by their fruits you will know them," and what is fruit but the "expected outcome" of being part of the Vine. (John 15:5). Even so, we realize that Biblical ESO's are not earned like merit badges; they are focal points that we strive toward in our K-12 program. We define success as helping each student to grow and make progress in the pursuit of God's purpose for their lives. (Proverbs 27:17)

Tom Kapanka
CCS Administrator

See if your expected "student outcomes" are in the document by clicking here: [Expected Student Outcomes](#).

Or type the link: <https://www.calvaryeagles.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Final-CCS-Stmt-of-ESO-9-16-19.pdf>



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We have gone digital!

We will now be sending
out the CCS newsletter via
email!

If you would like to add
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MISSION DOES MATTER!

You may be aware that CCS is once again engaged in renewing our dual accreditation status with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Cognia (formerly NCA/AdvancEd). These organizations are well known and respected within the educational community. ACSI puts its emphasis on Christian schools in the USA and abroad, and Cognia has a focus on public and private schools and universities across the USA. This task is a tremendous undertaking and is again championed by Shelley Watkins and Julie Kapanka. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to these two stalwarts of accreditation. If all goes well, we will again receive a five-

year accreditation in 2021. CCS is the only school in Muskegon County that has achieved this dual accreditation.

But WHY do we even bother with this consuming process every five years and WHAT does it really matter? The first answer is that it gives CCS credibility with our school families, stakeholders and community. It shows that we have undergone rigorous examination and can prove that we offer a quality education and are committed to integrity and excellence. But, the second answer to the question is far more important. This process ensures that we are committed to improvement in all facets of our organization (leadership, curriculum, communication, safety, technology, and Christian walk), and to STAY ON MISSION! The accreditation process keeps our focus on our mission: "Partnering with parents to equip students toward personal excellence and the pursuit of God's purpose for their lives." We must never drift from our mission and must always be steadfast in our resolve to this. Accountability through the accreditation process helps insure that we will stay laser focused on this target, as we have for 40 years. It helps insure that we will develop new strategies, including the Expected Student Outcomes (ESO) document that helps us fulfill our school mission, in practical ways, with everything we do. The School Improvement Plan, generated as a result of our last accreditation process, serves as a template for every board committee this year. **Mission does matter** and we again commit ourselves to this!

Many of us could name formerly Christian organizations that look much different from their original status (Harvard and Yale Universities and YMCA to name a few) as their mission drifted from the founders' original intent. It will always be our mission to stand for the truth and honor God in everything we do. It is His school and we must always have Jesus Christ and His Gospel at the heart of our mission. Without careful attention to this, we too, could drift away from our original founding mission, because mission drift is a danger facing all faith-based organizations. Our school board is committed to never "tone down" our Christian distinctive for any reason: whether financial or cultural acceptance. That is why **MISSION MATTERS**. So, we will continue, as Paul stated, to "...stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (I Corinthians 15:58) We pursue accreditation to ensure educational excellence and that our mission will remain as God intended until He calls us home.

Thank you for helping to ensure that our Mission Matters,

Thomas L. Watkins, CCS School Board President



High School Retreat at Spring Hill Camp
2019-20 School Year Theme...Never Alone; I Chronicles 28:20

Spreading the Light of Calvary! - Thank You Donors!

It is exciting to see so many people jumping in to help Calvary Christian Schools reach more and more families in the West Michigan community! Recently, the school was the recipient of a \$20,000 gift to pay for a beautiful new LED light sign which is clearly visible from the highway. Another family generously gifted a \$15,000+ school bus to Calvary. Yet another family donated \$20,000 towards a beautiful new trophy case professionally installed by the gymnasium for all our athletic trophies and awards so the classroom display cases can display our academic, fine arts, and other CCS club awards. We also had a generous gift establishing a fund for the upkeep of band instruments. The Christmas offering gave a big boost to the Calvary Drama production efforts. Many of you have given to the donor tree that will be displayed in the foyer. God is greatly blessing CCS, and it's obvious to all that the enthusiasm and momentum of CCS is growing! If you have any questions or ideas for future donations, please contact Brad Richards via the school office.



*Calvary Christian Schools LED sign shining bright
for all to see from the highway.*



*CCS High School loading our new
bus for the Homecoming Banquet
and activities.*



*Trophy Case installed by the gym
to display all the athletic trophies
and awards.*

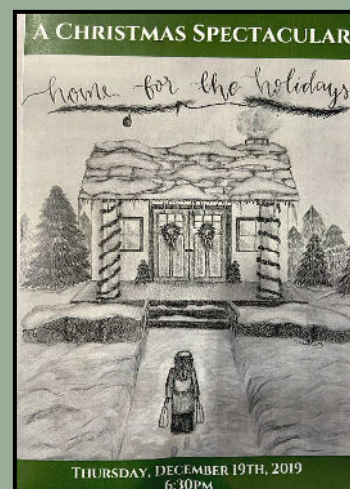
A Year of Fine Arts at CCS



Calvary Christian Schools K-5 Celebrates Veterans Day Along With Our CCS Grandparents on Grandparents Day!



K-12 Christmas Program: A Christmas Spectacular



Jordan Miller, a junior at CCS, designed this wonderful artwork piece for the cover of the Christmas Program.

Join us at CCS for our upcoming performances!

**Calvary
Coffee
House**

Saturday, March 7th
6:30pm
6-12th Variety Show
& Art Exhibition
Fine Arts Fundraiser

**Disney
FROZEN
KIDS**

Friday, March 27th
6:30 PM
K-5 Musical

**Disney
BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST
JR**

Thursday - Friday,
April 30 - May 1st
6:30 PM
6-12 Musical

**SPRING
POPS
CONCERT**

Thursday, May 7
6:30 PM
6-12th Choir and Band
concert, featuring
pop music hits!

Our Fine Arts Department at CCS had a wonderful first half of the school year! We kicked off our season in November with our first annual Veteran's Day Program, coordinating the performance with our annual Grandparents' Day celebration. The performance featured our K-5 vocal music program, enthusiastically lead by Mrs. Heather McCallum. The students shared several exciting new patriotic songs written just for elementary school singers. Our Middle and High School bands were also featured (directed by Mr. Ed Cohea), as well as several solo instrumentalists entertaining our audience with traditional patriotic tunes. Additionally, our Calvary Players Drama Club (directed by Mrs. Amanda Boothe) added to the show's narrative nature with a "reader's theater" piece about Francis Scott Key and a "Wartime Pantomime," depicting the harsh realities of soldiers and their loved ones coping with wartime. A highlight of the program was the 5th graders' recitation of "The Gettysburg Address," taught by their teacher, Mrs. Melissa Nousain. In addition to the concert, our visual arts students (taught by Mrs. Susan Baker, Mrs. Laura Lockwood, and Mrs. Nousain) created meaningful, patriotic-themed works of art to adorn every empty wall in the building, from soldiers to stars and stripes. We look

forward to promoting patriotism among our students and honoring our veterans and grandparents with this special celebration for years to come! On December 19th, our whole school family came together for our annual "Christmas Spectacular Program," featuring K-5 vocal music, Middle and High School choirs, Middle and High School bands, the 6-12th grade Calvary Players Drama Club, and our K-12 visual arts students. This year's theme was "Home for the Holidays." The program featured several songs by each group, interspersed among scenes by the Calvary Players. The story depicted a family awaiting their daughter's miraculous arrival home on Christmas Eve and spoke of the importance of exercising our faith and loving those in need, especially during the holiday season. All of the beautiful costumes, props and set pieces were created by our "Backstage Wonder," Mrs. Kelly Walker. A highlight of the program was the Kindergarten class' recitation of Luke 2, lead by their teacher Mrs. Sarah VanTine. How precious to plant the Word of God in the hearts of our littlest angels every year! Once again, our talented visual arts students created countless festive works of art that were proudly displayed throughout the building! We can't wait to create another entertaining CCS family Christmas Program next year!

Homecoming Week 2020



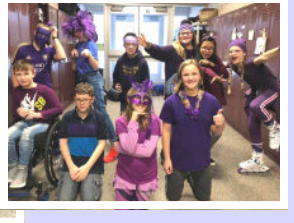
2020 King and Queen: Ben Zelenka and Lizzie Cammenga

Homecoming Court Representatives:
Freshmen Anna Childerhose & Royce Freiburger; Sophomores Cate Anhalt & Ethan Cammenga; Juniors Rebekah Dukes & Jacob Schuitema; Seniors Alex Assaad, Kelsey Richards, Matthew Anderson, Enoch Li, & Tyler McKee

Alumni Return for Homecoming Events



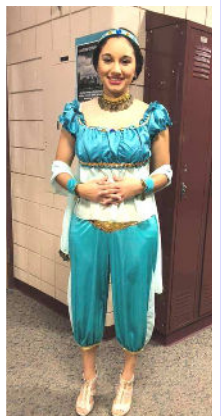
Be sure to check out the Calvary Christian Schools / CBA alumni page on Facebook! Search: Calvary Christian Schools Alumni (Formerly CBA), it is a public group. We would love to keep in touch!



HOMECOMING 2020

Princesses
VILLAINS
AND
SUPERHEROES

Monday- College or Pro Sports Team
Tuesday- Princess, Villain, or Superhero
Wednesday- Color Wars
Thursday- On the Beach or Under the Sea
Friday- Blue and Gold Spirit Day



CCS Fall & Winter Sports Teams

Boys Varsity Soccer



Boys MS Soccer



MS Volleyball



JV Volleyball



Varsity Volleyball



Varsity Boys Basketball



Varsity Girls Basketball



Alliance Conference Champions!

Girls Cross Country Team Finishes Third in Regionals Advancing to State Finals!

The women's varsity Cross Country team at Fruitport Calvary Christian Schools is the Little Engine That Could.

There are bigger teams and bigger programs, but CCS accomplished a lot this season for a school with just six girls running this year. Instead of being overwhelmed by the odds against them, the girls team, comprised of Senior Lizzie Cammenga, 8th grader Tatum Dykstra, Sophomore Cate Anhalt and Juniors Kyra Hamilton, Lindi Myers, and Allison Beals took to their training in earnest.

Under the eye of head coach Brendan Hamilton and assistant coaches Ruth Kramer and Carrie Hamilton, tough workouts became great races and led to a championship win at the October 12 Pentwater Falcon Invitational. The boost to morale carried over to the MHSAA LP Region 31-4 races held Saturday, October 26 at Allendale High School.



There, it was the 'I think I can' mindset that led the 6-member squad to a 3rd place finish at Regionals, earning them a team spot at the November 2 MHSAA State Finals at the MIS Speedway in Brooklyn, MI.

In Regionals, Dykstra and Cammenga worked together and finished 5th and 8th respectively. Dykstra ran a personal record in a time of 21:05.9. Cammenga ran a season best with a time of 21:08.3. The other Lady Eagles also posted either personal or season best times. Anhalt finished 22nd (23:05.0), Meyers finished 25th (23:08.8), Hamilton finished 31st (23:21.6) and Beals finished 32nd (23:26.9).

The Lady Eagles were led by Cammenga, a seasoned runner in big meets. Cammenga has competed in the State Finals individually four out of the last five years.

JV Boys Basketball



JV Girls Basketball



MS Boys Basketball



Conference Champions!

MS Girls Basketball



4-6 Boys Basketball



4-6 Girls Basketball



5th Grade League Champions!



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Follow Us!



We have gone digital!

We will now be sending the CCS newsletter via email!

If you would like to add someone to our email list to receive the newsletter only, please call the office at 231-865-2141 or email Julie Beals at beals@calvaryeagles.org.

Hard copies of the newsletter will be available outside the school office.

Come See the Difference!

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- ✓ Diverse Student Body
- ✓ Academic Rigor and Excellence
- ✓ Teaching Christian Worldview
- ✓ PreK-12th Under One Roof
- ✓ Secure Building
- ✓ Life Prep



Our Mission:
*Partnering with parents
to equip students
for personal excellence
and the pursuit
of God's purpose
for their lives.*



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