



HEARTLAND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Cultivating Faith, Values & Education

OUR HEART

Mission: Heartland Christian Academy exists to provide a Christ-centered environment where our students receive a quality education based on Biblical truth that will equip them to lead a life of service to their Savior, homes, churches, vocations, and communities.

Motto: “Bearing Fruit that Remains” Heartland Christian Academy’s motto is based on John 15:1-11. Heartland seeks to train up children so they bear fruit by developing Christian character. This fruit, which is produced by remaining in Jesus, will not be fleeting, but will be that which remains throughout eternity.

May 2022

School Board Happenings

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Founded in 1980
- ADF
- ACSI
- Facilities Updates
- School Board



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Each spring as we look forward to the end of a school year and the beginning of summer fun. We as board members are already planning for your child(rens) next school year!

The best way to contact us is via email through the director of operations, Seth Van Dyke.

As always please reach out to us with any questions, concerns, &/or ideas.

Seth.VanDyke@HeartlandBemidji.org



HEARTLAND'S BEGINNINGS

Founded in 1980 and was located at the Bemidji Armory until 1981 when it was moved to its current location in Northern Township.

The land was donated and the main building was erected with nearly all volunteer labor and materials procured at cost. The school was built to accommodate 100 students kindergarten through 12th grade.

The heat source was originally a wood fired heater and families would volunteer to cut wood. Mr. Sutton who was a teacher at the time would keep the fire going overnight & through the weekends.

In 1995 the second building permit was requested for the growing school. And an additional building was built and later added onto as well.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Positions needed for 2022-2023

- Teachers
- Paras
- School Nurse
- Before & After Care
- Part-time physical education instructor

Please contact us with any recommendations for these positions and/or please have them contact Heartland via email: Office@heartlandbemidji.org or phone: 218-751-1751

ON-GOING BUSINESS

1. In order to retain the ability to operate a Christian School freely and in a way that reflects our Biblical mission.
 - The board recently became members of the **Ministry Alliance of Alliance Defending Freedom(ADF)** in order to have their legal department review and make recommendations updating our operating documents.
 - We have been and are in the process of updating these.
2. The board has committed to **increasing our staff salaries** and made some progress over the last 10 years.
 - With the success of our fundraisers, donations and increasing student enrollment we have been able to operate a balanced budget.
 - This year we recognize that we must increase staff salaries substantially in order to retain and attract qualified staff.
 - In order to accomplish this we have decided to increase the tuition rate that will help to offset this increase and the board will be aggressively pursuing on-going community donors.
 - **What you can do:** If you have a family member or friend that believes in the importance of Christian education or you would be willing to reach out to your church with a team regarding financially supporting Heartland please contact Chelsey Erickson at **chelsey.erickson@heartlandbemidji.org**
3. Have you heard our **advertisement** on Q107? We have recently increased our advertising in hopes of reaching more families in our community.
4. We have been and continue to be members of the **Association of Christian Schools** accessing resources and training for our teachers.
5. **Technology/Equipment updates:** the board recognizes the need for technology in the classroom. In the last 2 years we have added 20+ chrome books and 20+ tablets for student use in the classroom. We plan to work with staff to encourage use of technology as they see fit in their classroom, recognizing that pen and paper curriculum also provides skills necessary for brain development and knowledge retainment.

ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM

ADF is the world's largest legal organization that is committed to protecting religious freedom.

Founded in 1994.

Defend our liberties in congress, state legislatures, and courtrooms.

They have won 13 victories at the Supreme Court since 2011 & win nearly 80% of all cases.

Along with ADF, we at Heartland Christian Academy want to promote and protect Christ-centered education for today and the future.

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

ACSI was founded in 1978 with it's mission: *"to strengthen Christian schools and equip Christian educators worldwide as they prepare students academically and inspire them to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ."*

Over the past two years, ACSI has diligently sought the Lord's guidance through prayer, and is now positioning everything under three pillars: Advancing, Access and Advocacy.

ADVANCING – Leading Christ-centered education toward excellence and flourishing

ACCESS – Making Christ-centered education available and obtainable

ADVOCACY – Promoting and protecting Christ-centered education for today and tomorrow

FACILITIES UPDATES:

2013: the school received a grant to add a security system, which includes all new interior doors. The grant also provided the funds needed to update our technology, which was new computers for staff and students.

2015: A separate donation given to replace all the windows on the main building.

2021: The board designated funds to improve the parking lot, replace the exterior doors, carpet in the second building, and new paint, with 50% of labor volunteered.

2021: Received a donation in materials to re-shingle the second building, which the board designated money for the labor.

ACCOMPLISHED BUSINESS

1. Hired a full-time **Director of Operations**

2. Academic Excellence: In striving for Christ centered academic excellence we are committed to finding quality staff capable of teaching subject matter at high level. This was our first year of a rotating class environment. Each year the administration and the board takes into consideration the number of students enrolled and the gifts/talents of teaching staff to determine how classrooms will be structured. With the addition of 9th grade next year our plan is that 5th- 9th grade will rotate with specialized teachers.

- We also added a total of 55 minutes to the instructional classroom time.
- Designated Bible class for 4th—8th grade, which has made a great impact on many students' faith.
- Offered more single grade classes than ever before.

3. **PraxiSchool:** Communication & consistency

- We are excited to share that over the past school year we have been going through training and are in the process of implementing PraxiSchool, a student information program. We are looking to improve teacher-student-parent communication.
- Parental access to daily work, transcripts, report cards, online tracking of permission slips, tuition, fees, and more.

4. Curriculum: The past year we updated much of our curriculum to newer editions and our administration is committed to work closely with teachers and staff to ensure curriculum goals are met.

FUTURE GOALS...

We are striving to ensure academic excellence and financial stability before venturing onto our long term goal of a new multi-purpose building.

Short term:

1. Staffing: Increase compensation so we can attract & retain staff.
2. Facility: maintenance & improvements.
3. Academic: expand to include 10th, 11th, & 12th grades.

Long term:

1. New building: we are working on a plan for a large multi-purpose building to accommodate phy-ed in the winter, cafeteria, programming, events, auditorium. But other short term goals must be met before fundraising for this project.

Psalm 115:14

“May the Lord cause you to flourish, both you and your children.”

MEET OUR MEMBERS...

Our board consists of 6 members:

Chair: Debra Steele

Vice Chair: Jerry Vaughn

Secretary: Erin Folland

Treasurer: Paul Bishop

Member: Dan Starkenburg

Member: Chelsey Erickson

As individuals committed to Christian education we eagerly volunteer our time to serve on the board.

School Board Schedule

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, with occasional date changes due to schedule conflicts. Board meetings are held at the school.

Per our bylaws the school board calls 2 Association meetings:

- In the fall to present the amended budget
- In the spring for the upcoming fiscal/school year.

Please watch the Heartland Highlights for these dates.



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE PRAY OVER HEART- LAND'S...



Teachers: Lord God, please look upon our teachers and fill them with your spirit of wisdom, and that they may strive to share the knowledge of your truth. Grant them patience and endeavor in their daily teachings.

Families: Lord God, thank you for the families you have given us. Please watch over and protect them, strengthen them and give them your peace. Help us to keep the Church alive in our homes, so that we may bear witness to the world your glory.

Students: Lord God, we worship you as the source of all knowledge. Please fill each of our students with your spirit so that they may be filled with your truth and blessings. Help them to devote themselves to their studies and above all else draw closer to you.

AMEN

Heartland Christian Academy

Address:

9914 Heartland Circle NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Phone:

218-751-1751

Email:

office@heartlandbemidji.org



HEARTLAND
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