

the **FLYER**



**SHEBOYGAN
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**

Scholarship | Discipleship | Citizenship



ANNUAL REPORT | JUNE 2020



Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates!

2019-2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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President - 2021
- Jon Vrzal**
Vice President - 2021
- Eric Grasse**
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- Mike Toerpe**
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Board Member - 2022
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Board Member - 2022
- Matthew Willsey**
Board Member - 2022

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- Ann Steenwyk**
Director of Academics
and Instruction
- Bryce DeRoos**
Assistant Principal
- John Warmus**
Director of Advancement
and Finance



WE WANT TO THANK
Melissa, Mike and Matt for their dedication and service to SCS. Each of you have been an integral part of the Board of Trustees, and your leadership will be missed!

In This Issue

Incoming 2020-2021 Board of Trustees will be determined at the June 30 Association Meeting



Mission
In partnership with the Christian community, Sheboygan Christian School uses a biblical perspective to integrate academic excellence with Christ-centered learning, preparing students’ hearts and minds for service in God’s world.



Vision
Sheboygan Christian School will impact the world, both near and far, for Jesus Christ.



- Core Values**
 - Pursues Academic Excellence
 - Develops the Christian Mind
 - Cultivates Spiritual Growth
 - Encourages Biblical Self-Image
 - Builds Strong Social Bonds
- Involves the Supporting Community
 - Serves the Greater Community

The Flyer is a quarterly publication of Sheboygan Christian School. The purpose of *The Flyer* is to keep you up to date on everything that is happening in our school and to unify our greater school community.

Please contact the SCS Development office if you would like to update your contact information or if you know of someone who would like to receive *The Flyer*.

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Design & Layout | Laura Hartgerink, Signify, LLC

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From the Desk of Ann Steenwyk



Dear Parents and Friends of SCS,

What a different time we live in since the last Flyer was sent out! Many have asked us what this interesting time in this world might mean for Christian education. Instead, we might best consider how God has remained faithful to our school over the last 122 years.

Did you know that SCS has been through a pandemic in the past? Between 1918-1920, an influenza pandemic infected 500 million people and ended the lives of 20-50 million people. That pandemic certainly had an impact across the world, and I'm sure it changed the way SCS did things for a while. Yet, God's faithfulness through that time and generations following remained intact.

Our school's response to the Covid-19 pandemic is important. We have a responsibility to maintain our school's mission and vision during this unique time. We cannot let Covid-19 define SCS; God's faithfulness defines us. He has placed us in this exact time in His story to bring about His kingdom work, despite the pandemic.

"We cannot let Covid-19 define SCS; God's faithfulness defines us. He has placed us in this exact time in His story to bring about His kingdom work, despite the pandemic."

How will you be a part of this story, even in the midst of a pandemic? How can you as parents, grandparents, alumni, and friends of SCS help us to fulfill our mission and emulate the core values that help to raise our children in the Lord? SCS will continue to "proclaim His righteousness" to many children yet to come. Join us in this important work!

In His Hands,

Ann Steenwyk – Director of Academics and Instruction

**"THEY SHALL PROCLAIM HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTO A
PEOPLE YET UNBORN - FOR
HE HAS DONE IT!"**

—Psalm 22:31

Historical photo of SCS



SCS'S REMOTE LEARNING JOURNEY



There is a scene from one of the definitive 80's movies, "Goonies," in which the main character gives a speech imploring his group of friends to stay focused on their goal and to continue their journey together. At times, that is how the

4th quarter felt at SCS. We were on a journey of remote learning that was filled with unexpected challenges as well as innumerable joys and blessings. We were repeatedly reminded of how much more we could accomplish by partnering together and relying on each other's strengths and skills in a variety of ways. Teachers collaborated on how to use technologies such

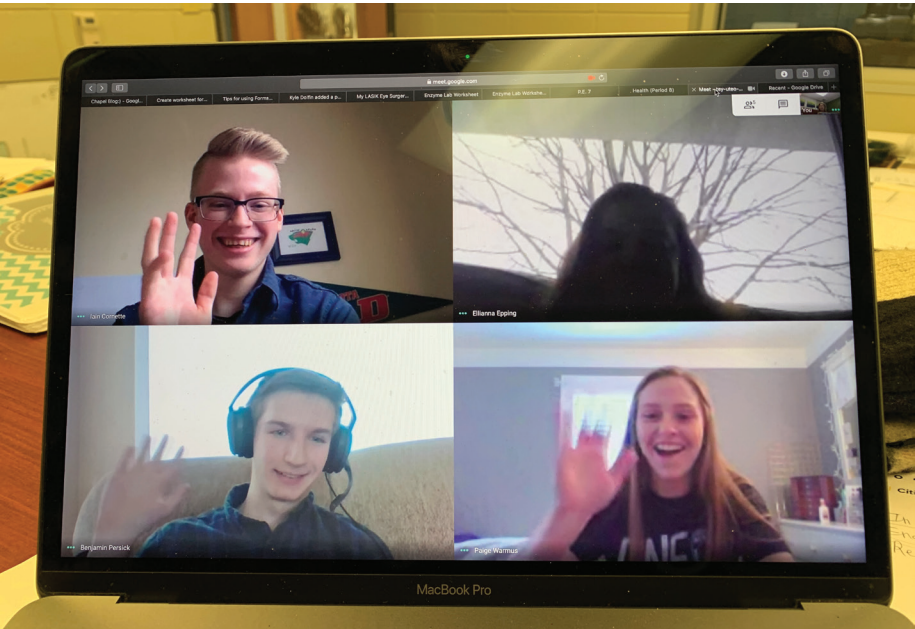


as Google Classroom or Zoom and found ways to connect with students through daily phone calls and emails. Students transitioned to remote instruction and new daily schedules as expectations were quickly adjusted. Parents navigated the responsibilities of nurturing their children while supporting them in their academic work.

Together, our community accomplished more than we could have ever imagined, carrying out our meaningful roles in the continued academic, social-emotional, and spiritual growth of our students.

Thank you for your commitment and perseverance!

Bryce DeRoos – Assistant Principal



In Memory of Carol LeMahieu

MARCH 11, 1963 - JUNE 09, 2020



“My first experience with Mrs. L was as a first grade student of hers. The days that she celebrated with the class were memorable to all, but the special day that her and I had the privilege of celebrating was our shared birthday. I already miss her welcoming presence. I and others will always remember the time she took to talk to anyone – students, parents, coworkers, grandparents, alumni, visiting families, etc.”

Rebecca Flipse – Marketing & Enrollment Coordinator

“Mrs. L was exactly what a teacher should be: passionate, caring, and willing to go the extra mile. Her students were family to her, and she cared immensely about them outside of school. She not only was my first grade teacher, but an extra parent when I needed one, and was someone who cared for me. She impacted my life since I was 6, and for that I am grateful.”

David Rasmussen – 2020 SCS Graduate

“As we were packing up our classrooms this year (for the last time), Carol was struggling a bit. How do you say good-bye to something that has defined you and consumed your life for so many years? But she knew it was God’s timing and that He had something new and exciting waiting for her. Little did we know then that His plan was to take her home, and now it truly is well with her soul, and her faith has become sight.

Carol was a dedicated and faithful teacher, who knew and understood first graders, and nurtured and tended to their growth. She was also a wonderful colleague who was always willing to give advice or a helping hand. I am thankful to God that we were able to work and share together. I will miss her.”

June VanDerPuy – Kindergarten Teacher

“I’ve been at a loss for words. This is such a huge loss. She truly changed Aiden’s outlook on school.



Gretchen Finley (1st Grader) created this picture in memory of Mrs. L. The picture is of Gretchen, Carol, and Rasheed (the 1st graders’ special stuffed animal). The bird is Eddie the Eagle. The sun, rainbow, and clouds are Carol in heaven.

Until first grade, he dreaded school. She taught him how to overcome so many obstacles. She was so patient with him, even on his bad days, quirkiness, stims, and all. Most of all, she showed him unconditional love and understanding. Heaven truly gained such an amazing angel. She will definitely be missed.”

Felicia Brant – Mom of Aiden Brant (1st Grader)

RETIREMENT RECOGNITIONS



Carol LeMahieu

34
Years

3
Schools

6
Grade Levels

over 450
Students

1985-2020



Lori TenHoor

32
Years

1
School

6
Grade Levels

over 500
Students

1980-2020



June Van Der Puy

32
Years

3
Schools

4
Grade Levels

over 487
Students

1980-2020

At the end of the school year, June, Lori, and Carol shared the following reflections and thoughts:

- Reflecting on the wonderful years we grew along with our students at SCS.
- Humbled that parents chose to place their precious children in our care.
- Honored to have partnered with them for their child’s education.
- Praising God for surrounding us with supportive parents and dedicated colleagues.
- Blessed to have worked side by side with creative, hard-working Christ-followers who pour themselves into their mission.
- Cherishing the memories of encouragement, friendship, and laughter!
- Relishing the blessing of working each day surrounded by friends.
- Praying that God will fill our retirement with more ways to serve Him.
- Thanking God for His unending faithfulness to us and to SCS!

Carol LeMahieu – 1st Grade Teacher

Lori TenHoor – 3rd Grade Teacher

June Van Der Puy – Kindergarten Teacher



Dear SCS,

THANK YOU for 28 wonderful years of allowing me to serve you. It has been a great honor to have had the opportunity to serve you and Christ in His Kingdom at SCS. The blessings are too many to list.

My greatest memories are my wonderful coworkers who made work fun, and seeing how God has worked through each of you to help each other, to make our school better, to show our community His love. As I go into a new chapter in life, not knowing where God will lead me, I will keep SCS in my prayers and cherish the memories and blessings.

Sharon Eggebeen – Finance Manager



On the last day of school, the SCS staff formed a retirement parade to visit the special retirees and thank them for their service at SCS. Pictured is Mrs. Van Der Puy and her husband enjoying the retirement parade “throne.”

School Board Update



My experience with Sheboygan Christian School began 5 years ago and was from the “outside looking in.” When our oldest daughter was entering 8th grade, Jayne and I began thinking and praying in a way that we didn’t think would need to happen. All five of our children attended Oostburg Christian School for their elementary education, a school that became our world over the past several years. But now, we had to make the decision of where to send them for their high school education. Jeremiah 29:11 reminded us often that God already had these details worked out but naturally, we would likely take the road that was most familiar to us. Jayne was home-schooled in high school and we already knew that didn’t fit our plans for Natalie and I was a 1996 graduate of Sheboygan Lutheran High School. YES, you read that correctly! I went to Sheboygan Lutheran! SCCHS was our arch rival in every sport I ever played in high school! My family was engaged and invested in that school since 1978 when my older brother began his elementary education. And so for our kids, it seemed to be a “no brainer.” It has to be Sheboygan Lutheran High. But, unknown to us, God was calling us in a different direction. After being invited to several boys basketball games at SCS by my good friend Joel (with very clear intentions I might add), it seemed that Sheboygan Christian was an option now that we may not have considered before. In time, we began to develop friendships and a sense of COMMUNITY. But there were utterings from some on the outside that would make us wonder if this school was able to sustain itself financially. Enrollment was dropping. Will it be there for years to come? These things we didn’t have answers to but we put our trust in the Lord to guide us. Through much prayer, we made the decision to enroll Natalie at Sheboygan Christian School her Freshman year.

Fast forward to today. Natalie just graduated. She will go on to study Strategic Communications at Colorado Christian University. She received several scholarships and most importantly, she has blossomed into the God-fearing woman that Jayne and I have always prayed she’d become. Because of SCS, I truly believe that Natalie will impact the world, both near and far, for Jesus Christ. I am also entering my third year as an SCS board member. This school has not only been the place of education for my children; it has been part of my daily life in thought and prayer.

So, what has happened since 5 years ago when this decision was so difficult for us to make? We have truly become a welcomed family into this school’s community. This has become like “home” for us. The SCS administration has invested their time, prayers and even tears into this school and into my children. Due to the school’s growth over the past 5 years, this leadership team has also needed to grow. We are truly blessed to have Ann, Bryce, and John. In addition, Becca has taken the marketing and promotion of the school and expanded it tremendously in the Sheboygan community. The teachers and staff have invested into our students and particularly our daughter this past four years in ways that we couldn’t and in ways that we didn’t even know were happening. The end result that we see today is nothing short of answered prayers. Two weeks ago, one of the SCS teachers sat me down and said, “I just want you to know that she’s ready. Natalie is ready to move on where the Lord is calling her and you can be assured that she is well grounded in her faith and she truly knows and loves the Lord.” If you don’t know our daughter, that

is something I could never pull out of her no matter how hard I tried, but this teacher wanted to tell us what he had seen in her. Thank you to the SCS leadership team and staff for all you’ve done this past four years! And as we have also enrolled our two sons, William (11th grade) and Andrew (10th grade), we are excited to see how the Lord will work in their lives as well. That isn’t the end for us, as we plan to enroll our last two girls, Lilly (6th grade) and Emily (5th grade), after completing their elementary education at Oostburg Christian. It’s exciting to think that one day, we’ll have shot five arrows, molded by Christian education, into the world to serve the Lord!

As a board member, I have spent the past two years observing the work of our leadership. I have been privileged to provide them with support, prayer and feedback on how to continue to serve God’s kingdom in the area of Christian education. The difference our leadership team and staff have made this past several years is truly remarkable! We are now faced with questions like: How will we accommodate this increase in enrollment? How can we modify our current facility to best educate this growing number of students? How can we continue to develop a sense of one community between campuses? How can we continue to promote community with the Oostburg Christian families? What a blessing it has been to see this SCS community grow in Scholarship, Discipleship and Citizenship. Do your family and friends in the Sheboygan community already have plans for their children’s education? Maybe they do. But like us, God’s plans are way bigger! Invite them to take a look at Sheboygan Christian School and into this partnership with the Christian community, that uses a biblical perspective to integrate academic excellence with Christ-centered learning, preparing students’ hearts and minds for service in God’s world. God’s plans are much bigger than we will ever know and He has been showing SCS just how big He truly is!

“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD, PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.”

—Jeremiah 29:11

Eric Grasse – School Board Treasurer

WHERE (OUR) LEADERS FIND THEIR MEANING/PURPOSE



The leadership team at Sheboygan Christian School has experienced important and sizable changes as of late. We have said “thank you” to Sharon Eggebeen, who retired from her career as our Finance Manager (and 38 other roles!). God answered that vacancy with Shane Hansen expanding his role on our staff to utilize more of his professional background and skill set in that field. We have also said “hello” (or welcome back!) to Rudi Gesch, who has returned to our community to offer his expertise at marketing our school to effectively reach the capacity we know God is calling us to. With this growth and expansion of our staff, I’ve been pondering more than ever the following question: what is the fundamental purpose of any leadership team? After thinking through my thoughts and opinions on the matter, I decided the answer is quite simple. The purpose of any strong leadership is to partner. Without the students, the families, and the teachers, the Sheboygan Christian School leadership team would have no purpose or drive to be leading, counseling, marketing, advancing, growing, or supporting in the ways that we strive to every day. That is our purpose, and here is our practice.

Our leadership team recently participated in a team summit to reflect on the unique school year we just completed, plan for and discuss future realities for our school, both short and long-term, and to learn more about the specific gifts and skills each member brings to the team. This meeting was noteworthy because it marked the first official gathering of our entire team. With the expansion of certain roles and the addition of new staff, we were elated to finally be in one place, ready to further the mission and vision of Sheboygan Christian School in each and every capacity possible.

As an icebreaker to our meeting, each person was asked, “Why are you here?” A simple question fielded telling answers (see above right).

Finally, why am I here? I have just completed my second school year as Director of Advancement and Finance, and my most sincere dream for Sheboygan Christian School is for it to be equipped with the tools needed to fulfill its mission. That may be a new building, minimal



Ann Steenwyk, who just completed her fourth school year as our Director of Academics & Instruction feels called to lead at our school to ensure that academic accomplishment and standards are high. She believes wholeheartedly in the ability and capacity of our student community to live up to their God-gifted potential as they grow and develop.



Bryce DeRoos, who will be entering his second school year as Assistant Principal, wants his gifts to support our teaching staff and student body to ultimately do what they need to do at their best.



Rudi Gesch will be starting his new role as Director of Marketing and Communication this summer. He moved his family back to the area for this role because his passion is to grow Christian education within Sheboygan County to unprecedented levels.



Shane Hansen agreed to expand his role from Athletic Director to also include Finance Manager because he believes so strongly in the mission of our school and the team of people in place to further it.



Rebecca Flipse has completed her second year serving as Marketing and Enrollment Coordinator, working tirelessly for our school to experience consistent growth. She desires so clearly and honestly to work for Sheboygan Christian School and its purpose in the lives of students and families in Sheboygan County.

debt to our name, expanded services or populations, and more. My dream is for this beautiful community to serve God in every way, shape, and form it CAN and SHOULD.

God has put this team of unique people with unique full and part time roles to help serve the SCS community. Our greatest purpose in showing up and striving to serve as leaders is to support, expand, and advance the beautiful work of our students, our families, and our staff. May we be partners to prepare our students’ hearts and minds for service in God’s world.

Joyfully,

John Warmus – Director of Advancement & Finance



1898 ...

information to share (we have reached new levels of financial security, our projected enrollment is showing growth far beyond last year's historic numbers, and steady steps have been made towards a unified and new campus), I'm led to discuss another facet of Sheboygan Christian School's "success." In light of everything we have gone through over the last three months at the school and across our community, I can't help but think back... all the way to 1898.

As people have referenced the Covid-19 pandemic as a “once in a lifetime” event, we see that this does not apply to SCS because our institution has been steadfast for more than a lifetime and has been through many great and trying moments in world history. Now, 122 years after being founded, we are again living through a great and trying moment.

We are here today, by God's grace, because 122 years ago a faithful group of people stood up and took action. We are

here today because each year throughout that 122-year history, God's people have continued to step up to refine, build, and invest in the present (and future) of Sheboygan Christian School (see the timeline below). We are here and standing firm because of them. We are grateful for those who came before us. We will continue to serve those who God brings to our classrooms today, tomorrow, next year, and in the decades to come. We remain rooted in Christ, and fully connected to our guiding principles.

122 years from now, it will be the year 2142. What will Sheboygan Christian School look like at that time? Will they have any old trophies or pictures from our era on display? What stories will they tell of us? Which of our future ancestors will be students, teachers and parents within that community? Those times are sure to be vastly different than they are now... but that is also true about today in 2020, when we compare ourselves to 1898.

There is, of course, one constant through all the years, and the most important 'ingredient' in the SCS story. Our eternal 'Head Master' is God. He was there in 1898. He knew then the challenges that the SCS community would face over the first 122 years of operation, just as He knew that we would be navigating through the Covid-19 period of 2020. He knows what will come in the days, weeks, months, years, decades and centuries that will follow our relatively short time in this story. And He will be there. He will be here, guiding and blessing Sheboygan Christian School for as long as He deems the school part of His plan.

Joyfully,

John Warmus – Director of Advancement & Finance

MARKETING/ ENROLLMENT/ COMMUNITY UPDATE



As you may have seen, the past few months opened up new ways for SCS to adapt to an environment in which we couldn't be together in

person. Our “In His Hands” communications gave us a framework for staying “in partnership with the Christian community” while physically apart. We were able to provide encouragement, share glimpses of SCS’s remote learning journey, and build community along the way. In this virtual time, this framework also helped create ways to share about and market SCS to the greater community.

God has SCS's enrollment in His hands.

In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are humbled to project that in the 2020-2021 school year, we will have the highest enrollment SCS has had in the last decade! We are anticipating a projection of over 15% growth in enrollment. See the chart above for a glimpse of His hands in our enrollment.

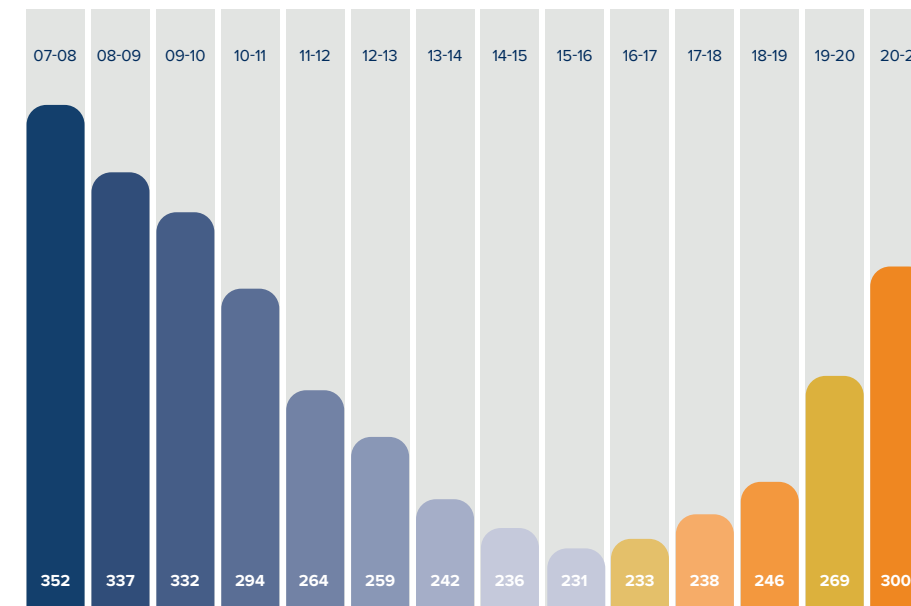
Prior to the 2016-2017 school year, SCS experienced 8 years of enrollment decline. Each year since, enrollment growth has doubled: .86% (in 16-17), 2% (in 17-18), 4% (in 18-19), 8.5% (in 19-20), and the projection of over 15% (in 20-21).

God has SCS's community in His hands.

Did community and social bonds stop when we were unable to be together in person? Certainly not! The SCS community got creative with virtual all school chapels, spirit days, grandparents week, field day, the auction, Capstone Celebration, graduations, packet pick ups with treats, and more. Finishing up this season of remote learning was no small feat for our teachers, parents, and students. Thank you all for your dedication to partner with us through thick and thin, and still make time to share God's story at SCS with others.

In His Hands,

Rebecca Flipse – Marketing & Enrollment Coordinator



SCHOOL ENROLLMENT THROUGH THE YEARS

RECEIVING OVER

175

INQUIRIES FOR THE 20-21 SCHOOL YEAR

PROJECTING OVER

75

NEW STUDENTS

ANTICIPATING OVER

15%

GROWTH IN ENROLLMENT



MORE THAN

1,500

FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK



CLOSE TO

450

FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM

This past school year, we welcomed

48 SCHOOL TRANSFERS

ALONG WITH

22

NEW STUDENTS WHO WERE NOT YET IN SCHOOL

FROM 23 DIFFERENT SCHOOLS



SHEBOYGAN CHRISTIAN S C H O O L

High School Campus | 929 Greenfield Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081

Elementary & Middle School Campus | 418 Geele Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53083

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