

# *the* **FLYER**



**SHEBOYGAN  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL**

Scholarship | Discipleship | Citizenship



1898-2023 | **125**  **YEARS  
FAITHFUL.**

**HE HAS DONE IT! HEB. 10:23**

FALL 2023



# In This Issue

## 2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**TJ Hendrikse**  
President - 2024

**Brittney Kramer**  
Vice President - 2025

**Jon Vrzal**  
Board Member - 2024

**Ryan Moeller**  
Board Member - 2024

**Adam Guenther**  
Board Member - 2025

**Andy Tislau**  
Board Member - 2026

**Mark VandeSlunt**  
Board Member - 2026

## ADMINISTRATION

**Ann Steenwyk**  
Head of School

**John Warmus**  
Director of Finance & Advancement

**Sierra Steuerwald**  
Director of Instruction & Learning

**Bryce DeRoos**  
Director of Student Services

**Rudi Gesch**  
Director of Marketing & Enrollment

**Greg Ingelse**  
Director of Operations & Student Safety

3. FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL
4. BOARD UPDATE
5. BUILDING HEARTS & MINDS UPDATE
8. ALUMNI PROFILE: Ralph VerVelde
11. ATHLETIC UPDATES
12. SCHOLARSHIP: New Staff
14. DISCIPLESHIP: Worship with Dillan De Jong
15. CITIZENSHIP: Teaching for Transformation

*The Flyer* is a print and digital publication of Sheboygan Christian School. The purpose of *The Flyer* is to connect our extended school community with our mission, vision, and core values.

We expect this publication to provide evidence that Sheboygan Christian School is impacting the world, both near and far, for Jesus Christ.

Please contact the SCS Advancement team if you would like to update your contact information or if you know of someone who would like to receive *The Flyer*. [advancement@sheboyganchristian.com](mailto:advancement@sheboyganchristian.com)

**Design & Layout** | Laura Hartgerink, Signify, LLC

## From the Desk of Ann Steenwyk



**125 years is a long time for anything to be in existence, let alone a Christian School.**

I have enjoyed perusing the archives of both Sheboygan Christian School and Sheboygan County Christian High School. Did you know a deer jumped through the window of Miss Leynse's room in 1963? You might also find it interesting that in

1922 Cornelius Ippel translated the constitution from Dutch to English, and a donor promised to paint the principal's chicken coop free of charge. I just love to see how God was in the details over all of these years. His sovereignty is evident in how He has sustained our school (and provided humor along the way).

I also believe that God used His people in exceptional ways to not only sustain but to also build up His school for His kingdom work. When I think of all of those involved in this work, I think of these descriptors: courage and humility. Members of the SCS community have had tremendous amounts of courage to take risks, to sacrifice so much (sometimes including friendships and family relationships), to give of their time, talent, and treasure, and to make difficult decisions. I am so thankful for all of those before us who demonstrated such godly courage because of the mission and vision they believed would make a difference in our community.

Likewise, these same community members went about their calling with gracious humility. You won't read about SCS board members, administrators, teachers, and parents in old newspapers or in our trophy cases. Many of them worked tirelessly to keep the school going - fundraising door to door, selling cows to pay teachers, and making thousands of donuts and stuffed animals to keep the heat on. These community members were "all in." They set goals, went after the goals, and praised God by singing hymns of psalms at the end of every meeting. While many of these humble SCS supporters are now gone, we have their stories and legacy to learn from and to inspire us to further the work. The best way we can honor them is by engaging in SCS RIGHT NOW.

If you haven't written your name in the SCS story, there is no better time than the present. Be a part of the next 125 years! You can engage by giving of your time, treasure, and talent in a variety of ways. Connect with us to learn how!

If you'd like a tour of the school, complete with entertaining 125 year history and trivia, please call us at (920) 458-9981. Our leadership team would love to connect with you.

**"I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself." —Psalm 89:2**

In Awe of His Faithfulness,

**Ann Steenwyk**  
Head of School



## 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



Board Strategy and Association Meeting

Did you ever wrestle with making a decision, spend a lot of time in prayer and still feel unsure of the decision you came too?

I have had this happen to me several times in my life, decisions that really should

not be that weighty and decisions that are very difficult.

After those decisions are made, it is so much easier to look back and see how God works. Matthew 17:20-21 tells us “For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.” What an amazing promise God makes to us, and it is so easy to see His leading and provisions as we look back at the past 125 years of SCS. No matter the peaks or valleys SCS has gone through over the past 125 years, God has remained faithful and He always will.

Since our first building addition (the elementary school pods and our middle school addition), we have seen tremendous growth at SCS in those levels. In fact the growth was so much that back in November of 2021, our board of trustees got together to discuss enrollment growth and how best to manage it. At that time, the board made a decision to be a two track school through elementary and middle school. Since this time, our friends at OCS have also experienced tremendous growth.

So, over the past 12-18 months, our SCS board of trustees, our Administration team and our Facilities planning team have been discussing what is next for SCS and how we can continue to grow Christian education in Sheboygan county. This past April, our board of Trustees along with our

administrative team got together for a strategic planning session to plan the future of Sheboygan Christian School. At this meeting we did come up with some new strategic goals: Spiritual Formation, Campus Safety, Social and Emotional Development and STEM/Academics. In fact, we did not include a building addition in our strategic goals, but moved over to the “just do it” category.

We are at a point now where we will begin to have larger class sizes entering our high school and we are simply running out of room. In order to accommodate for increased enrollment at the high school level, the SCS Board of Trustees will be presenting our master building plan and ask for the association’s approval of the next building phase; this meeting will take place on November 9, 2023.

This is definitely a big decision to make, but as said in Ephesians 3:20-21, “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

TJ Hendrikse  
Board President



Building  
Hearts and  
Minds

Here We Grow Again:  
Introducing Phase 3

Unprecedented enrollment growth,  
Board Strategic Plan produces our  
biggest building expansion yet – this  
time for Middle and High School!

When we built a 5 classroom middle school in 2022, we knew that we’d be back before the association to discuss plans for building expansion for the fall of 2025. In the time since we’ve built “Phase 1” (The two elementary pods), “Phase 2,” (The new middle school pod) SCS enrollment has grown from 306 to 548 students.

OUR BOARD’S STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT  
AND BUILDING PLAN INCLUDES:

- **A two-track school:** a two-section-per-grade elementary school (limiting growth to no more than two sections)
- **A partnership with Oostburg Christian School –** guaranteeing enrollment to their 8th grade graduates and applying the same multi-student discount of OCS families that SCS students receive. This means that if an OCS family has four kids (3 at OCS and 1 in highschool at SCS), their tuition is charged as if they have enrolled their fourth child in our school, not their first.
- **Expansion of academic programming** in the high school

This two-track elementary school and OCS partnership will produce the need for more space. Specifically, we plan to grow into a school of 668 students in grades P-12. This means that we will grow by 120 more students than we currently have enrolled—and that 88% of that enrollment growth will take place in the middle school (+14 students) and high school (+92 students).

Continued on pages 6 & 7

Phase 3 cont.



	Current Enrollment	2-section School Capacity	Number of available seats
Preschool	56	68	12
Elementary (K-5)	238	240	2
Middle (6-8)	106	120	14
High (9-12)	148	240	92
Totals	548	668	120

PHASE 3

The entirety of the scope of Phase 3 will take place on the south end of our existing building footprint. The creative use of the natural landscape (that hill near the JV Soccer field) will allow us to build a multi-level structure that has an “upper level” in line with the existing building and a lower level at the base of the hill- all overlooking the soccer space.

After our two public information sessions on September 25th and October 17th, we are ready to bring this plan to the Association for a vote of affirmation on November 9th at 7:00 PM. We would very much appreciate your presence and your support of our plan to invest in the next generation of Christian education at Sheboygan Christian School.

Phase 3 Features

+6 High School Classrooms  
(three upper, three lower)

+1 Middle School Classroom

Updated Cafeteria

Commercial Grade Kitchen

2 Special Ed resource rooms

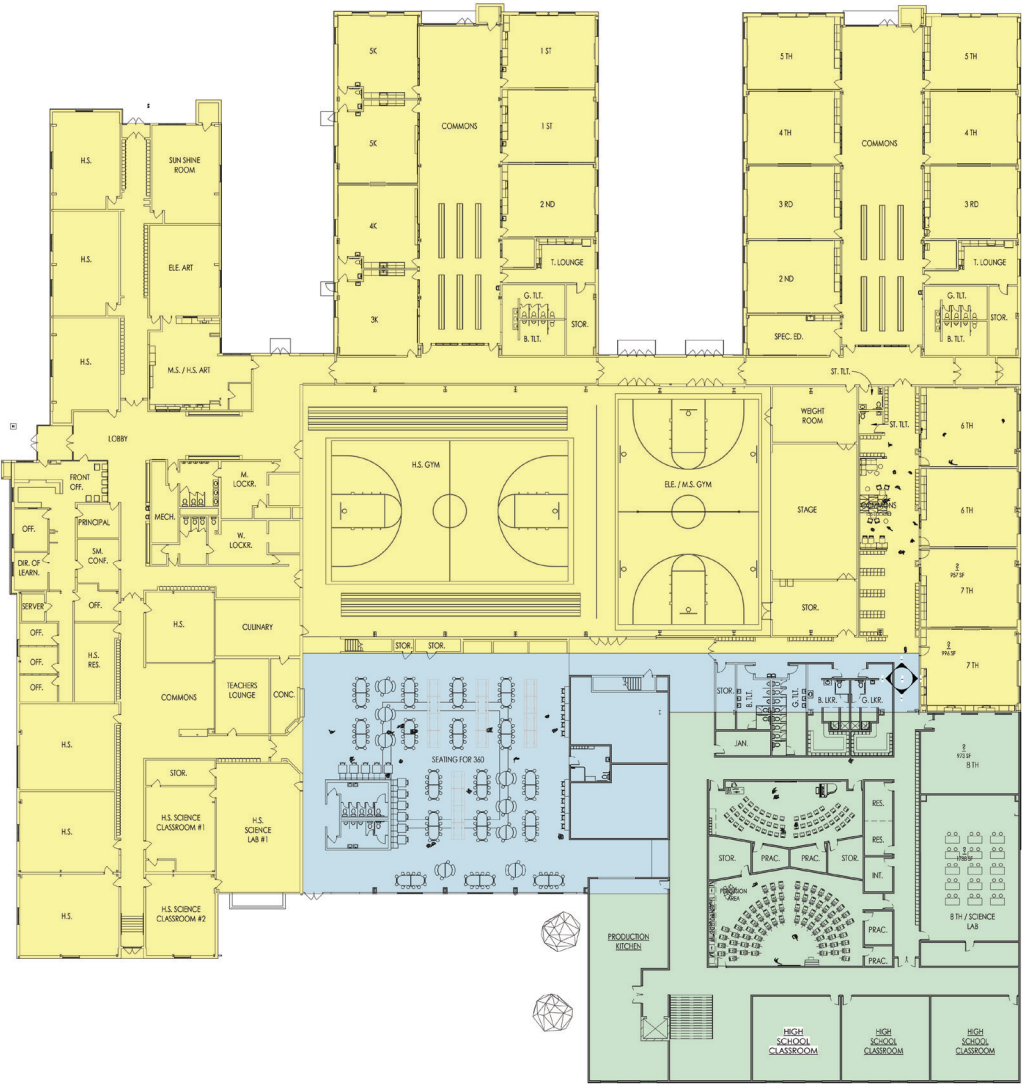
Massive Music Program  
upgrades: Brand new space  
for Band/Orchestra and Choir

Renovated HS Locker Rooms

Middle School Locker Rooms

Additional Parking

Cost: \$11M



COLOR LEGEND

- EXISTING
- REMODEL
- NEW

UPPER LEVEL

LOWER LEVEL





# Sacrifice, Service, and Shrugs

## Building a Christian High School from scratch

A Profile of Ralph VerVelde By Rudi Gesch

### THERE’S WORK TO BE DONE

It’s World War II. Twelve year-old Ralph VerVelde is in middle school at Sheboygan Christian School. When he graduates 8th grade at SCS in 1944, there’s no Christian high school, so he attends North High School like most of the SCS graduates at the time. But he never really understood why there wasn’t a Christian High School option. That always rubbed him the wrong way. It always seemed like there should have been a Christian high school. That meant there was work to be done. And Ralph VerVelde, like many from the “greatest generation,” wasn’t going to sit idly by.

### FOR US, IT JUST MADE SENSE

When you talk to Ralph today, at age 93, he has a remarkable recall of what it took to start a Christian High School from scratch. While a building itself was important, a school is much more than a building. It is a learning community with shared values. The building, while important, could come later. What this group needed first was consensus.

While sending their children to Oostburg Christian School in the 1960’s, Ralph and his wife Ginny wanted a Christian High School for their children. And they weren’t alone. There was a small, but dedicated group of Christian parents who decided to explore the beginnings of what would become Sheboygan County Christian High School.

“At that time,” Ralph said, “There were Christian grade schools. There were Christian colleges. For us, it just made sense that, if you believe in Christian education, you should be able to attend Christian schools for your full educational career.”

In the late 60’s, there were several meetings in local churches to talk about a Christian high school. The conversation lasted several years. There were some key community members leading the way, including Johny Leys and Glen Jasperse. They would meet with families in their living rooms to discuss the possibility of a Christian high school.

This small group decided, ‘If we can get 20 students, we’ll start a high school.’ They couldn’t get 20. Or even 15. When the dust settled, in the fall of 1969, they had 10 students from 9 families. But these determined folks decided it was go time. They started the Christian High School with 10 students, all graduates of Oostburg Christian School. They were grateful that OCS provided one additional classroom to start Sheboygan County Christian High School.

On the first day of High School in September, 1969, the high school had one teacher, Doris Fikkert. Her students:

- Tom VerVelde
- Dave Raih
- Jeff Smies
- Dan DeMaster
- Dale Hilbelink
- Ruth Stanton
- Sheri Van Stelle
- Susan Nyenhuis
- Jane Hilbelink
- Joan Hilbelink

The agreed upon highlight of the year was when the entire group traveled to Minnesota. They stayed in a hotel and played a basketball game.

### BATTLE BORN

Not being able to convince twenty students to enroll, and not having a facility, meant that the commitment to start a Christian High School was not always shared by friends and colleagues. Ralph recalls, “Many people asked me, “What are you doing to your kids?! They’re excited to go to high school and play sports and have all of these opportunities, but now you pull them back. They’re stuck in the school that they attended for elementary school!”

Others wondered about the financial commitment to a tuition-paying school model when there was a strong Christian presence at local public high schools. “Friends would ask, ‘Why would you pay for the exact same thing that I’m getting for free at the public school?’ I knew that it wasn’t the same. Distinctly Christian education is different.”

“I’d go to church and have friends look at me like I was crazy. There was a lot of joy around those of us who believed in the project, but a lot of criticism by others. Sometimes I felt like I was just an oddball... but a Christian High School just should BE.”

### NEXT STEPS

In September 1970, Sheboygan area students joined the school, which had now had temporary space at St. George’s Catholic church near six corners outside of Oostburg. The growing community took the leap of faith to cement the commitment to a Christian High School by putting this concept to bricks and mortar. By fall, 1971, the site at 929 Greenfield Avenue had been purchased, and a six room high school was constructed.

### SERVICE, SACRIFICE, AND SHRUGS

Beyond the time and financial commitment, you don’t build a school community from scratch without everyone pulling more than their own weight. This requires service and sacrifice.

There was the sacrifice of sports. Ralph’s son Tom wanted to play basketball – but in his freshman year, there were

#### What did the original building look like?

- Six classrooms
- Gym
- Office
- Kitchen off the gym
- Bathrooms
- A shed for the lawnmower (“It had been stored in the gym...which is not safe or legal.”)

**[RALPH] LITERALLY GAVE BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS TO THIS PLACE. BUT WHEN YOU ASK HIM ABOUT THE SACRIFICE THAT IT TOOK TO GET A HIGH SCHOOL OFF THE GROUND, THIS IS A GENERATION THAT SHRUGS. “THAT’S JUST WHAT IT TOOK.”**

literally only five boys in the entire high school. He could play on a team later in high school, but there was the immediate sacrifice of a teenage boy who loved sports.

There was the sacrifice of time and talent. Ralph served for years on the school board and worked on the building committee. He recalls going to the campus virtually every night to perform various maintenance tasks like repairing the roof, insulating the building, and performing custodial work. There was no janitorial employee early on.

There was the sacrifice of pain. Ralph tells a story about falling from a ladder while volunteering. The fall, from a significant height, required 21 stitches in his hand.

He literally gave blood, sweat and tears to this place. But when you ask him about the sacrifice that it took to get a High School off the ground, this is a generation that shrugs. “That’s just what it took.”

In talking with Ralph for this profile, that’s actually the biggest impression that I walked away with. People like Ralph VerVelde sacrificed so much so our school could even exist. But when you ask him about his sacrifice, he almost doesn’t even recognize it. The work ethic, sense of duty, and the life-long philosophical commitment made this place possible. Sheboygan County has a Christian high school because of men like this. We are standing on the shoulders of giants of Christian education like Ralph VerVelde. And Ralph’s general response as we stand on those shoulders is to shrug them. “That’s just what it took.”

### ADVICE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Today, you’ll regularly see Ralph on the sidelines of his grandson’s sporting events, cheering the Eagles on to victory. I asked Ralph what he would like to leave with the future generation of students, teachers, staff, administrators, and supporters of Christian education in Sheboygan County. Perhaps, not surprisingly, Ralph’s mind went to service. “Sometimes families expect to come into a community and expect to get. I think it’s more interesting to think about what you can give. If you see something in the school that isn’t what you think it should be, step up and help!”



1

1969

Oostburg Christian School



2

1970

St. George's Catholic Church



3

1971

First building at 929 Greenfield Avenue

## HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS JOURNEY

**1969** - The 10 first students meet in Oostburg Christian School.

**1970** - Sheboygan area students join Christian High, which has now moved to St. George's Catholic Church.

**1971** - The 929 Greenfield Site is purchased and a six room school building is constructed.



## Athletics Update

### EXCITING NEWS FOR SCS ATHLETICS



**Welcome Jason Klug, our new Athletic Director**

Jason comes to us from Winona, MN. He grew up in the church and at a Lutheran K-12 school. Then, he attended Concordia University Wisconsin and received his Bachelor's in Sports Management &

Master's in Business Administration. Jason is passionate about athletics. Some of his more notable experiences include hosting a podcast and establishing "Authentic Hoops," a basketball training enterprise.

We asked Jason why he is excited to continue building the Coaching For Transformation program at SCS. His response:

"Admittedly, Coaching For Transformation was new to me coming into SCS. However, I see tremendous value in CfT and the impact it can have on our students. CfT's 4 principles are: Competing, Encouraging, Humility and Training.

- 1) You can see the competitiveness and effort we show in games.
- 2) It's clear that our coaches motivate and encourage in positive ways.
- 3) I am excited about the ways that teaching humility can set SCS apart when competing.
- 4) Being able to train successfully allows for the other three themes to become an easier reality.

All four themes take immense focus and work ethic in creating the best experience for coaches and athletes."



"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." —1 Timothy 4:8

### Recent Athletic Program Highlights



**Sheboygan Christian School is excited to announce the addition of a cross country team!** Led by coaches Alyssa Pasiewicz, Emily Brown, Dave Veldhorst, Steve VanDrunen and Robb Steenwyk, we have been extremely proud and honored to compete in many meets already. We are looking forward to competing in sectionals next year!



**Our athletic program now has an athletic trainer on staff!** Kristi Gonzalez has been a true blessing to SCS.

You can find her at all of our home varsity events attending to any athlete who may need assistance. Her commitment to the future health of our athletes has been outstanding. Please give her a thank you the next time you see her!

**SCS Athletics now has a Facebook page and Instagram page! Give us a follow.**



scs.eagles.athletics



@scs.eagles.athletics

NEW FACULTY & STAFF

We've hired seven new faculty members this year. We asked them about their SCS experience so far. Here's what they had to say.



**Josh Schouten**  
4th Grade Teacher

Moving to a new place straight out of college was a little nerve-racking. Since starting at SCS there has been an incredible feeling of being included in the school community. There is just something so special about this community and the direction that it is heading that makes me so excited to be a part of it!



**Roshelle Doornbos**  
6th grade math, HS Health, Instructional Interventionist

My hope for this school year is that I can help my students embrace their biblical self-image.



**Dillan De Jong**  
High School Bible and Social Studies Teacher

My favorite thing about my calling at SCS is having the chance to worship, pray, and study the Bible with students on a daily basis. It has been such a blessing.



**Jessica Palmer**  
Elementary Physical Education Teacher

God had placed me here 4 years ago as a substitute teacher/interventionist. Now I get to use what I have learned over the past few years and my education in exercise science as the K-5 physical education teacher.



Not featured: Jackie Molter (maternity leave)

Welcome to the

SCS community!



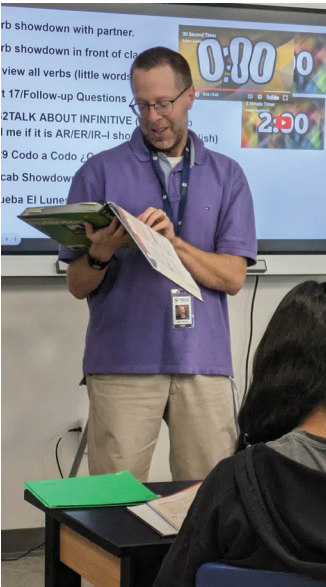
**Luke Steuerwald**  
Middle School Social Studies

As I look back, every aspect of my life, from growing up in a private Christian school, to graduation from a Bible college to teaching 12 years in a public school and life-long involvement in church has led me to confidently answer God's calling to SCS.



**Jeff Diener**  
Spanish (4th-8th)

More than teaching Spanish, my call is to Matthew 28:19-20. With Teaching for Transformation and the overall vision of SCS I'm excited to be part of a school that understands the bigger picture and purpose, beyond education, of why we are here.



Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”  
—Matthew 28:19-20

## WORSHIP CHAT WITH DILLAN DE JONG



### What does your role as Worship Coordinator entail?

My role involves supporting high school and middle school chapels. The high school chapels are student led, and I support them in organization, and asking them the right questions as they prepare. The middle school chapels are student led with the help

of Bevin Tislau, and I will be supporting them via practices and their planning meetings. At this time, I have mostly experiences with planning the high school chapels.

### How many students work alongside you to coordinate worship at SCS? Please share names and their responsibilities.

I have a variety of student leaders who rotate as the lead, selecting songs, the order of worship, scripture, etc. Additionally, there are 3 students who help me coordinate chapel during 5th period - Andrea Moriarty, Jamin Rozeboom and Hayla Besaw. I appreciate their input as I learn the best ways to communicate with students and creating structure around worship coordination.

### What are the various ways a student could be involved in worship at SCS?

Students help in the following ways: instrumentalists, singers, running the sound board, making and running slides, and setup and tear down. We also have some instrumentalists and singers take the lead on the planning of the chapels.

### What gifts or experiences have you had that helped prepare you for this?

I started getting involved with worship in high school, played on worship teams at church and school, and on praise teams at Dordt all 4 years. I had the opportunity to lead worship my junior and senior year of high school as well as college. During my Junior year of college, my team led Thursday night worship (45 min long) every other week.

During my Senior year of college, my travel team led worship in community churches every other week.

### What are some values important to you when you think about a culture for a worship team?

- **Centered on Christ** – focus is not on us, are our hearts in it?
- **Desiring to Serve** – when serving in the variety of roles in coordinating worship, we want the students to be community focused
- **Fueled by Scripture** – How are we doing this? Why are we doing this? As a worship leader, the most transformative thing we could do would be to read a passage of scripture and have His Word guide us as we select songs, pray, etc

### What is one scripture passage that is meaningful to you when you think about worship?

**Colossians 3:16** “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” This goes into the purpose of worship and the variety in psalms – from the Word of God, hymns – a deep connection to the history of church, and songs – our personal responses.

### What have you enjoyed most about coordinating worship so far?

Getting to know the students! They are talented, fun, and have great hearts.

### What are you looking forward to in looking at the future of worship at SCS?

I am excited to see students step up and be leaders, learn and grow! I look forward to seeing the growth in the whole community. I also look forward to the high school expansion and how that will impact our physical spaces and worship experiences.

### How can we pray for you this year?

Pray for all of the students, that they would see the glory of God as an important thing and reverently participate in worship. Pray for all who are involved in all aspects of worship, that we can have a servant mindset.

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” —Colossians 3:16



TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES TO HELP FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH DEDICATED TEACHERS AND STUDENTS EAGER TO SEEK AND SERVE THE LORD IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM.

## Citizenship

What an exciting time in the history of SCS. Our students have been learning about their role in God's story for 125 years, and that work still continues!

As our school has adopted the Teaching for Transformation framework, we have continued to help teach our students about the sovereignty of our God and their faithful response.

To start the year, teachers are inviting students to engage in their classroom deep hope, a hope that reflects how we want to see our students living into God's story of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. Each month, we learn about a specific role we can play in God's story.

To start the year, we have focused on being image reflectors and community builders. This is not something “in addition” or “tacked on” to our classroom learning, but rather it is embedded in the curriculum and learning each day. Students are practicing how to reflect God's image while playing at recess or practicing with the orchestra. Students are practicing how to be community builders while working collaboratively on a geography project or solving math problems in small groups.

In addition to living out their classroom deep hopes and practicing how to live out roles in God's story, teachers are

also beginning to plan for classroom FLEx, formational learning experiences. These are experiences where students engage in real work for real people with real needs. These experiences are directly aligned to classroom learning, as seen in our high school biology class that recently helped plant over 300 trees near Lake Michigan in an effort to support local environmental organizations because they will be studying connected content in their next Biology class unit.

Learning how to serve our God and faithfully respond to His call. That's been happening for 125 years. Teaching for Transformation, TfT, continues to help facilitate the work of the Holy Spirit through dedicated teachers and students eager to seek and serve the Lord in and out of the classroom.





# SHEBOYGAN CHRISTIAN S C H O O L

P-12 Campus | 929 Greenfield Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081

Address Service Requested



## UPCOMING EVENT

### *SCS is growing again!*

You're invited to our Association Meeting  
for our vote of affirmation.

**November 9, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**

See pages 5-7 to find out more about the Board  
Strategic Plan and take a peek into the project.

### Stay Connected with SCS



Like us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/sheboyganchristian](https://facebook.com/sheboyganchristian)



Follow us on Instagram  
[@sheboyganchristian](https://instagram.com/sheboyganchristian)

[www.sheboyganchristian.com](https://www.sheboyganchristian.com)