

Nebraska Christian

IMPACT

2018

Celebrating 60 Years

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Welcome to the third issue of the NC Impact magazine.

If you trace the Colorado River all the way back its beginnings, it is just a tiny stream. At La Poudre Pass, you could put your right leg on one side of the river and your left on the other. As many tributaries combine, the river becomes an exponentially more powerful force. The Colorado River is well known for being dangerous white water rapids and is literally so powerful that it is used to power thousands of homes using hydroelectric power.

A similar synergy is produced when God's people come together to collaborate in prayer, learning, listening, living, and serving. In many ways, this is what serving Christ looks like. It is a group of tributary efforts coming together, and when they work together, they have a much stronger impact. We have chosen Mark 10:45 as our theme for the year as we work together for the good of the school and God's kingdom. It is really humbling to reflect on the Maker of the universe modeling service in this way.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45 (NIV)

It was never God's design to have his church fragmented and bickering with one another, but instead working together to disciple one another and spread the gospel. I believe that one of the reasons NC has such a magnetism is the beauty of bringing all of these tributaries together under one roof. It is an amazingly beautiful thing to have God-honoring people from a variety of gospel-preaching churches gather to assist the family and the church in equipping our youth with a biblical worldview. I pray that God will continue to bless our school as He has for the last 60 years and that the Holy Spirit will continue to work through Nebraska Christian for the next 60 years.

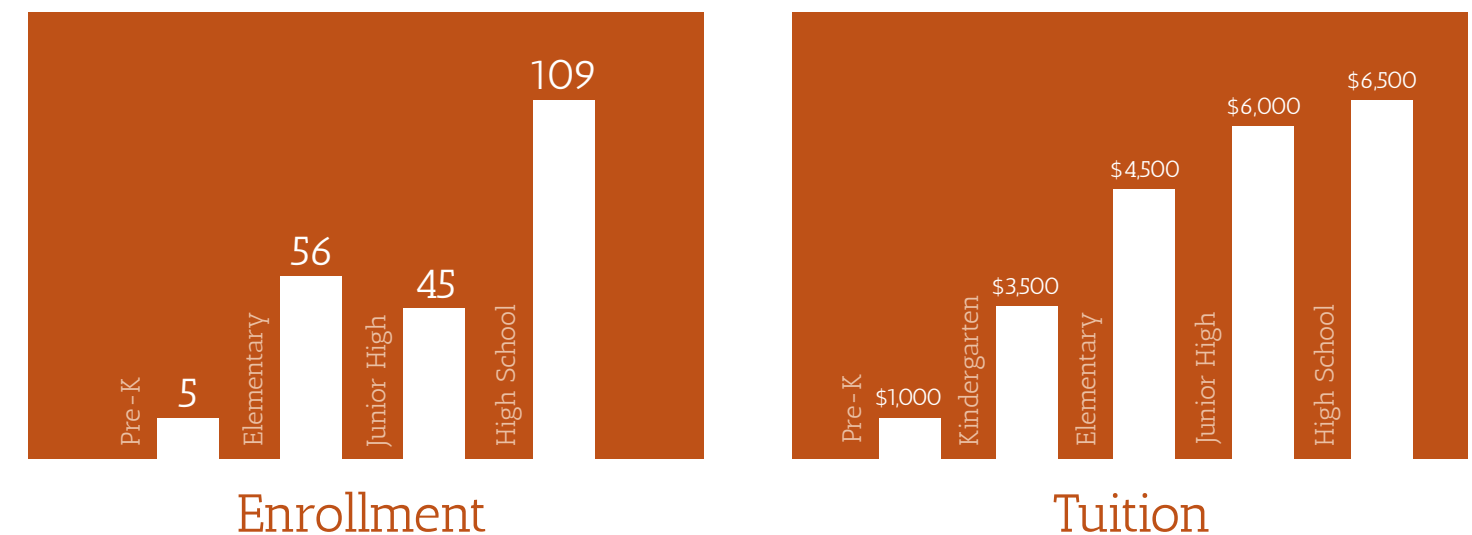
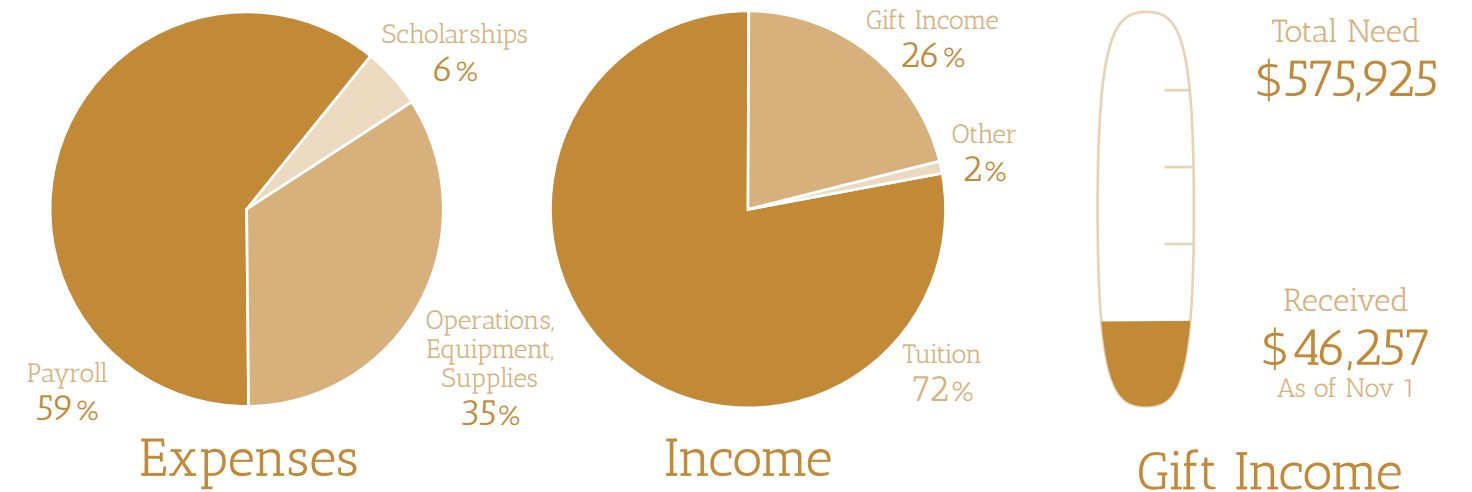
To learn more about some of the ways we are serving, I encourage you to check out our blog, our Facebook page, the *Advance*, and the rest of this *Impact* magazine.

Sincerely,

Tim Hekrdle

Tim Hekrdle, Superintendent

Annual Budget of \$2.4 Million



Superintendent Tim Hekrdle with his wife, Jessica, and three boys, Spencer (1st), Oliver (age 2), and Alexander (age 4).

Mission Statement

The mission of Nebraska Christian Schools is to assist the family and church by providing a Christ-centered education, equipping students with a Biblical worldview and encouraging a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Volume 3 Number 1. Nebraska Christian Impact is printed yearly by Nebraska Christian Schools. NC Impact contributing writers include Tim Hekrdle, Stephani Franci ('03), Becky Ritta ('99), and Kevin Yu (12th). Contributing photographers include Susanna (Weiss '99) Poeffel and the yearbook class. 1847 Inskip Avenue, Central City, Nebraska 68826. Phone: 1-308-946-3836. Fax: 1-308-946-3837. NebraskaChristian.org.



Number of countries represented

6



Number of towns represented

29



Number of families represented

119

Loving Our Community Through Service

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

At Nebraska Christian, we believe wholeheartedly that, as believers in and followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be



Cream Masatit and Jessica Hilderbrand sort clothing for Mission Heart.

actively involved in serving and bettering the communities in which we live. One way this calling manifests itself is through the annual community service day. For the last several years, all 7-12 students and staff have spent a spring afternoon serving the community in a variety of ways.



Joel Kaczor and staff sponsor Tom Dockweiler ('79) remove siding from an old shed at the Merrick County Museum.

For the 2018 service day, the majority of students were split among Bader Park, Timberlake Ranch Camps, and Covenant Cedars Bible Camp. These students did a variety of outdoor projects, ranging from general cleanup to window

washing to painting. NC alum Charissa Smith ('94), Assistant Camp Director at Timberlake, said, "The kids were great. We put them in three groups to do different jobs. They worked hard and got a lot done!"

The students not part of one of the three larger groups went to a variety of places in the surrounding area. NC's students who call Grand Island home went to the Central Nebraska Humane Society, where they were able to spend time with the animals at the shelter. A group of girls made cookies for NC's neighbors, several students picked up trash along the roads that lead to NC's campus, a few cleaned at the Widman Cinema, and others sorted clothing for Mission Heart, a local ministry that promotes the gospel by meeting the physical needs of people in the United States and around the world. Finally, a group of boys worked at the Merrick County Museum, removing shingles and siding from

an old shed the museum board plans to remove from the property.

Daurice (Pizzolato '87) Hower, NC's community service coordinator, said, "The fact that our students engage in formally organized community service activities helps, we believe, to strengthen our ties to the larger community and to teach lessons and foster habits of civic responsibility that will stay with our students for the rest of their lives. It also gives us an opportunity to represent Christ to those around us."



Sara Royle, Katelynn Halstead, and Skylar Swantek take a break from cleaning seats at the Widman Cinema.

Sharing Handiwork

You knew it as Home Ec. Today, we call it Family Consumer Science (FCS), and our students treat it as a ministry opportunity.



FCS teacher Janice Stuhmer shows Marisa Fetterley how to align the zipper on her placemat-turned-cosmetic bag project.

While FCS students make many projects that they keep for themselves, they also give away many of their creations, such as aprons, pillowcases, baby blankets, and table runners. Over the past few years, the class has donated items to Mission Heart (a local charity), Royal Family Kids Camp, and St. Francis hospital. Students have also

made meals for ailing NC staff members and cookies for community service day.

8th grader Grace Papazian loves being part of the FCS class. "Knowing the pillowcases [donated to Royal Family Kids Camp] will make a kid's day is special!" she exclaims.

That feeling is one shared by the other class members, as well. The students know they're learning valuable skills while helping others. 7th grader Grace Musgrave explains, "I love giving others things that I know will make them really happy. [Being in] FCS a great way to help others."

A Sweet Situation

When NC sophomore Grant Stuhmer was a child, his maternal grandparents had bees, which piqued his interest in beekeeping.



Grant tends to his bees to ensure their health.

That interest turned into a hobby earlier this year, when Grant was awarded a scholarship from the Nebraska Beekeepers Association. This scholarship provided Grant with everything he needed to begin beekeeping.

Grant's bees arrived in April, and beekeeping was stressful at first. "You have to babysit the bees constantly," he explains. He wasn't too concerned with honey production this first year, saying, "I just wanted to keep the bees alive because many first year beekeepers lose their hives."

Grant not only kept his bees alive, but they are thriving. In fact, his bees did so well that he had to purchase materials to make a second hive.

When it came time to process his honey, Grant asked his mentor, Brian Nilson of Marquette, for help. Together, they took Grant's frames to Nilson's extracting unit, and then Stuhmer was able to strain and bottle his honey. He took four pounds to the Nebraska State Fair (one of the requirements of the beekeeping program), and the rest he kept for his family or sold.

Bees are vitally important for agriculture because of pollination, and locally sourced honey is known to help build immunity to allergens and provide other health benefits. Grant is excited to be serving the community in this way, and he plans to continue beekeeping for the foreseeable future.



With the use of his mentor's extracting unit, Grant harvests honey from the comb.



Curt Bailey: Playwright

Across the state of Nebraska each fall, hundreds of high school students join their school's drama team. Senior Curt Bailey is one such student, but what sets him apart from his peers is that he has also written the plays used by the NC drama team for the past two seasons.

The 2017 play, *The Cycle*, began as a skit written as a group exercise in drama class by Curt and a few classmates. Once the class decided to expand it into the 15-30 minute piece for competition, the whole class made suggestions and contributed dialog. At a certain point, however, the class gave Curt the go-ahead to finish and refine the play. According to drama teacher Karmen Hamer, Curt was credited as the main playwright, but the entire class contributed.

The 2018 play, *Uugh, The Irony*, is one Curt wrote a few years ago.

"A couple friends helped me develop the characters and story, but I wrote the actual script in a burst of inspiration one night," Curt recalls.

Hamer didn't set out to have a student-written play this year; in fact, she had picked out another comedic play for the class. While the class members liked the script, they felt it wasn't quite the perfect fit. That's when someone remembered Curt's old script, and the rest is history.

Curt, who played the lead role in *The Cycle*, runs over some last-minute details prior to district competition.

While *The Cycle* was a serious play designed to get the audience to think

about the brevity of life, *Uugh, The Irony* is a comedic, lighthearted superhero story that's a lot of fun for the cast and the audience.

In competition, *The Cycle* was well received. Hamer recalls, "I don't know that any judge actually realized or commented on the fact that the playwright was listed in the cast list as well, but we were told the play was a solid script." The jury is still out on *Uugh, The Irony*; the drama team begins its competitive season in late November.

The end of Curt's NC drama career is rapidly approaching, and he isn't sure if screenwriting or professional acting is in his future. He's confident of one thing, however: "I don't intend to ever stop writing."

Share Your Story

To make an impact here at NC, we invite you to take 10 minutes to share your thoughts about your NC experience. Your response to the Vision & Values Survey now available at nebraskachristian.org/survey will help us develop action steps for NC for the next 3 to 5 years. The survey, part of the Transition Plan Mr. Hekrdle put in place (learn more at nebraskachristian.org/about-nc/transition-plan), will add tremendous value to our future planning.

Friendship and Fun After School

Each sports season, many students are involved in practices after school. But what about the students who aren't involved in extracurriculars? Seeing a need for after school activities for those students, International Program Director Gib Killion decided to start an after school program to promote friendship and connection between students while introducing them to new activities.

hopes to offer even more activities in the spring.

For the international students, especially, this program offers the opportunity for exposure to new things. Dream Tungtweegait said, "Skeet shooting is my favorite thing. Firing a gun is very satisfying!"

American students are also enjoying the benefits of the program. Savannah Thomas, who participated in archery, said, "This is my first time doing it, and I like it because it challenges me. It forces me to learn patience and concentration!"

Senior Alison Winsterman was also involved in the program, but not as a participant. An accomplished rider, she volunteered with the horsemanship training that took place at Timberlake Ranch Camps. "I knew the girls [who participated] already, but it was fun to get to know them better in a setting outside of school, and I loved being able to teach them something important to me," she said. "One girl really didn't want to participate, but in the end, she loved it! That was really fun to watch," she continued.

Each activity is led by an adult volunteer; several NC staff members, parents of students, and friends of the school have stepped into those roles. It took a lot of volunteers to pull off the fall activities; we're always looking for other adults to join who want to get involved in ministry with our students. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact Killion at gkillion@nebraskachristian.org



Horsemanship group members Michelle Huang, Charlotte Wang, Linh Nguyen, Bella Yin, Ali Winsterman, and Timberlake Ranch Camps' Amanda Gonzalez smile after successfully completing a riding lesson.

As international director, Killion has seen a trend among students toward more screen time and less real-world interaction. Killion said, "We see the internet destroying people's lives: destruction because of screen time. We want to get students off their devices and out into the real world." He continued, "We had a trend of [international] students not being involved in the activities already offered, so we felt like we needed to come up with a solution to that problem."



Kevin Yu practices his golf swing at Valley View Golf Course south of Central City.



Boxin Du, who fell in love with fishing thanks to the after school program, proudly shows off one of the fish he caught.



Celebrating 60 Years

For 60 years God has used the ministry of NC to impact lives for Christ. As we celebrate all that He's done, we look forward to the work He will do in the next 60 years.

1959

NC purchases campus, and classes for grades 9-12 commence in the fall

1962

West Hall, the girls dormitory, is built

1962

Boys and girls softball programs begin (end in 1970)

1964

East Hall, the boys dormitory, is built

1971

Grades 7-8 are added

1976

East hallway of gym building is built

1977

Grades K-6 are added

1992

Girls basketball program begins

2002

The Washington, D.C. trip tradition begins

2003

NC hosts First Annual Dinner & Benefit Auction

2005

First annual Festival of Lessons and Carols is held

2008

Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation is established

2016

Greenhouse is erected

2018-2019

NC celebrates 60 years

1960

Gymnasium building is erected

1960

Boys basketball, girls volleyball, and boys and girls track programs begin

1963

Wood floor is installed in the gym

1963

West hallway of gym building is built

1969

Boys football program begins

1973

NC Advance is first published

1973

Boys cross country program begins (ends in 1975; boys resumes and girls begins in 1998)

1986

NC holds first Homecoming

1987

Girls are first permitted to wear pants to school from Dec. 15-March 1st

1999

Boys wrestling program begins

1999

1,000th graduate walks across NC's graduation stage

2004

Elementary building is completed

2006

High school classroom building is built

2015

Elliot Hall, the girls dormitory, is built

Sept 13 & 14, 2019

Celebrate 60 years of NC with us at Homecoming Weekend

Superintendents



1959
Mr. Walter O. Ediger



1973
Mr. Glenn Davenport



1976
Mr. Donald Olson



1980
Mr. Donald Canfield



1981
Mr. Richard Musgrave



1995
Mr. Charles Ramsey



1996
Mr. Carl Ritenour



2000
Mr. David Edgren



2005
Mr. Dan Woods



2011
Mr. Josh Cumpston



2018
Mr. Tim Hekrdle

Check out this timeline on our website

Festival Inspires Local Musicians

As the lights dimmed and the children's choir filed onto the risers, Katherine clutched her music book. Anticipation filled the gym as the first notes sounded. Katherine's heart jumped inside her chest - it was beginning...



Months of preparation lead up to the breathtaking performance of choirs, orchestra, organ, piano, and audience joining as one in worship in NC's Festival of Lessons and Carols.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols, Nebraska Christian's annual Christmas event, is special. It brings together a choir of 150 area high school students and music directors who rehearse and perform with an orchestra of 45 local musicians and college students under the direction of Maestro Eric Knapp. Maestro Knapp, himself a Nebraska native, is an internationally known musician and the principal conductor of the New American Festival Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The choir and orchestra are joined by 50 elementary students in the children's choir, and for the last eight years they have been accompanied on organ and piano by Linda Sweetman-Waters.

It is a community event that involves not just local musicians, but also broad local support. The Nebraska Christian

Schools Foundation and the Merrick Foundation partner with Nebraska Christian Schools to put on the event.

The Festival has impacted countless NC students over the years, and Katherine Welk ('13) is no exception. Looking back, Katherine points to the Festival as one of the major events that shaped her experiences as a growing musician. As a small child she thought she wanted to be a ballerina or a lawyer, "but," she explains, "the more music experiences I had, the more I thought, 'Oh! This is what I want to do!'"

Katherine first experienced the Festival as a 5th grader when she participated in the children's choir. Since then, she has been a part of the Festival each year and has filled many different roles, including children's choir member, adult choir member, section leader, soloist, quartet member,

rehearsal accompanist, orchestra member, orchestra recruiter, and a festival assistant. Despite her varied involvement, Katherine points to the musical process each year as her favorite memory. "Hearing the choir at the beginning, and then seeing how things come together at the end" is the aspect she most appreciates.

Rehearsals led by Mr. Mike Flynn, NC's music director, throughout the fall prepare the NC high school choir and children's choir members for the event. Then, the week of the Festival, Maestro Knapp works with the choir to build on what Mr. Flynn has taught. Sometimes

those rehearsals the week of the Festival can seem long. Katherine reflects, "I thought we were working on things because Maestro Knapp was being picky, but having the choir well-prepared for Friday makes it easier for things to click when we come together with the orchestra on the day of the performance."

That end product - the performance when all the different pieces unite in harmony - is what makes the event so moving. It isn't the individual talent of one or even a few, but the effort of many of various levels of talent to glorify God through music.

Acclaimed area musicians and music lovers throughout central Nebraska mark their calendars so they can participate in or attend the Festival of Lessons and Carols each year. It's just one of many ways NC gets to glorify God and impact the community in a positive way.



Katherine, here pictured as a junior, rehearses in preparation for the evening's performance.



Vocal groups and soloists perform throughout each year's Festival along with the choirs and orchestra. Here, Katherine prepares for her solo.

An Historic Tradition

The tradition of the Festival of Lessons & Carols dates back to 1918 as a worship service of word and music combined to tell the Christmas Story. One hundred years ago, the King's College format was created as a response to the close of The Great War. This program is now broadcast world-wide from King's College at Cambridge, Great Britain, on Christmas morning. Millions of people around the world have embraced the music and word through the annual international broadcasts, and the program has become a significant concert of worship and outreach.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols at Nebraska Christian is modeled after the program at King's College. It is a powerful, sacred remembrance of the Christmas Story and offers a unique and inspirational celebration for the Central Nebraska community. 2018 marks NC's 13th year presenting the Festival of Lessons & Carols.

Alumni

Alumni in Numbers



NC Alumni

1,542



Classes graduated

59



US states lived in

41



Countries lived in

15



Continents lived on

6



Digging Deeper into Culture

An NFL mascot. Thai tea. Paper folding. Soccer drills. These things combined to form the 2018 "Digging Deeper," NC's annual day of learning and activities for area elementary students. Each year's event has a unique theme; in 2018, organizers decided to tap into the resources already on campus by giving the day an international flair.

As the day kicked off, students heard from Rod Handley of Character that Counts and Dan Meers, the Kansas City Chiefs' mascot KC Wolf. Following a delicious lunch provided by NC's kitchen, students were split into groups to rotate among four activity stations, each carrying a distinctly international flavor. The students were given passports that they carried to each station; they received stamps and signatures after each stop.

In the art session, led by art teacher Renate Johansen, Korean students JiHa Kim, Melinda Kim, and Clara Chon taught students how to write their names in Korean.



Vietnamese student Linh Nguyen plays the Guzheng during the music session.

Students then painted their names on construction paper, and they were able to take those home with them at the end of the day. Students also learned about origami, the art of paper folding, during this session, which was Alexis Perry's favorite part of the day. "Learning paper folding was fun!" she exclaimed.

Music teacher Mike Flynn taught students the pentatonic scale in the music session, and high school students Linh Nguyen and Michelle Huang each played the Guzheng, an Asian instrument, for the students.



KC Wolf (Dan Meers) takes a picture with NC's elementary students.

Then the students took turns playing a song using the pentatonic scale.

In the culture session, Japanese student Lydia Toshimasu performed a traditional tea ceremony, and Thai student Cream Masatit demonstrated the making of Thai tea; students were then able to sample each tea. Then other Chinese and Vietnamese students taught the elementary students how to use chopsticks. Sheridan Falk especially enjoyed learning about tea. "I loved tasting different sorts of tea," she said.



As part of the culture session, Nick Vuong and Harry Nguyen teach elementary students how to hold and use chopsticks.

enjoyed their time, as well. Kevin Yu, a student from China, was a group leader who took students from station to station. "The kids enjoyed it, and it was fun for me to learn how Thai tea was made, too. It was really good, and I think most of the kids had a lot of fun," he said.



Melinda Kim, Clara Chon, and JiHa Kim teach Korean language basics as elementary students learn how to write their names in Korean.

Finally, the sports session, led by NC's boys soccer coach Clay Mankin, taught students some of the basics of soccer. Soccer

is the most popular sport among NC's international

students, and some of the team members assisted Mankin throughout the session.

As the day concluded, students left with their passports, Korean name paintings, and new knowledge about cultures different from their own.

And the day wasn't only beneficial for the students who attended; the NC students who helped with the day



After participating in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony with Lydia Toshimasu (right), Alexandra Bruning samples the tea.

Calendar of Events

Elementary Pancake Feed

2.10.19 5pm

Elementary Musical

3.1.19 7pm

Dinner and Benefit Auction

3.23.19 5pm

Spring Concert

4.25.19 7pm

Graduation

5.11.19 10:30am

Homecoming

9.13.19 & 9.14.19



New Elementary Staff

With God's hand clearly at work, the NC elementary found the two perfect pieces to fit the needs it had this year.

Hannah Myers



After graduating from Nebraska Christian in 2014, Hannah Myers envisioned coming back for class reunions and her younger siblings' school events, but she never imagined she'd join the teaching staff.

As an NC student, Hannah thrived in her studies, activities, and friendships. She loved the exposure she got to different cultures through her relationships with peers from international countries. She also appreciated the culture that encouraged an authentic relationship with Jesus

Christ. "I was surrounded by people who truly know Christ, and I just loved that!" she explained.

After graduating from NC, Hannah attended UNK for two years and then transferred to Grace University, where she graduated in 2018. She is finishing her Nebraska teaching requirements through Doane College while she teaches kindergarten and ELL (English Language Learning) at NC.

God orchestrated her path back to NC at just the right time. With ten students enrolled in kindergarten this fall, a part-time teacher needed to be secured for the class. Additionally, NC's ELL teacher Kaity Flynn ('06) was shifting into the freshman and sophomore English role, leaving NC's ELL classes uncovered. Enter Hannah with a heart not only for young learners, but also with a desire to be involved with the international students on campus. She was the perfect fit for the kindergarten/ELL need NC had.

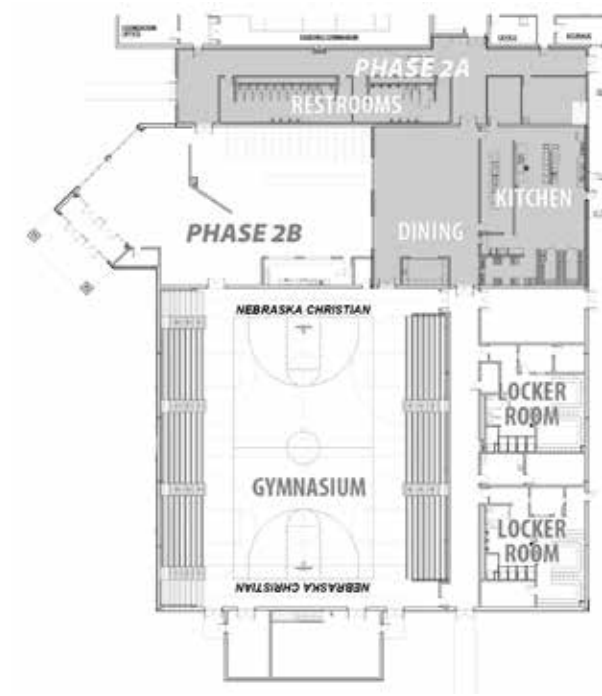
Amy Merchant



Amy Merchant knew about Nebraska Christian through her husband Ben ('95) and his brothers Josh ('98) and Caleb ('00), who all graduated from NC. "We always wanted our two boys (Zander, 6th and Truitt, 8th) to attend NC for high school, so we prayed that God would make a way," she said.

Amy attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago where she received a degree in educational ministries, and then received her teaching certificate from UNK. She taught at Grand Island Christian School for two years and then at Faith Christian School in Kearney for four years. But neither school offered a Christian education at a high school level for her growing children.

The small elementary staff of just a few very committed teachers meant that teaching positions at NC have rarely come open in recent years. But in the spring of 2018, a job opening for teaching grades 1-3 was posted. "The opening at NC was really an answer to our prayer," Amy admitted. The opening answered Amy and Ben's prayer for their family, and her hiring answered the prayers of the NC family for an experienced, committed elementary teacher for NC.



Phase 2A

\$1.9 million

- State of the Art Kitchen
- Dining Hall with seating for over 200
- ADA Restrooms/Storm Shelters

Phase 2B

\$4.1 million

- Entrance and Commons Area
- Collegiate-sized 94' Competition Gymnasium and Activity Center, with seating for over 900
- Boys and Girls Locker Rooms
- Athletic Training Room and Uniform Storage
- Athletic Storage Space
- Concession Stand for Activities and Fundraising
- Fine Arts/Programming Storage
- Exterior remodel of existing gymnasium building
- Expanded Parking Lot with convenient drop off and pickup

Leave Your Legacy - You can be part of The Next 50 Years at Nebraska Christian Schools

Your gift to the Next 50 Years Capital Campaign will touch the lives of students for decades to come. Your legacy will live on with NC alumni as they continue to become leaders in their communities around the world.

Make checks payable to
Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation

Mail to:

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Central City, NE 68826

Contact us:

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