

Advance

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Equipped in Faith: Embracing Readiness in Sports, Education, and Christianity



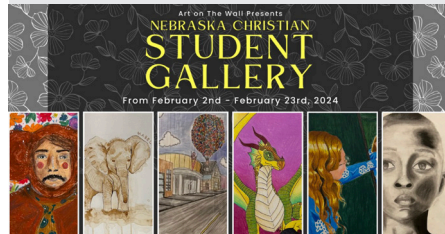
Andy Perdew
NC Dean of Students

In the intersection of sports, education, and Christianity, the wisdom of 1 Peter 3:15 rings true: "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and respect."

Peter, the author of this passage, knew the struggle of standing firm for Jesus. Despite his bold claims, he faltered in the face of adversity. Many of us can relate, having missed opportunities to share our faith in various settings, whether in the locker room, among friends, or even in discussions during class or in the workplace.

Yet, just as Jesus restored Peter after his denial, he offers us the same grace and a significant ministry ahead. Peter's advice is clear: set Christ apart as Lord in our hearts and be prepared. Being ready allows God to use us, even if we tend to be tongue-tied. As many of our winter activities, sports, and clubs come to a close and spring activities begin to ramp up, we need to remember that no matter where we are or what the circumstances are, we can show the love of Christ to everyone in action and conversations alike. Surround yourself with fellow believers and encourage one another to continue on a path that will set a solid example to our peers of what it looks like to be a follower of Christ. Through gentleness, respect, preparedness, and conversation, we can boldly proclaim Christ in every aspect of our lives, from the mat to the court to the track to the classroom and beyond.

Art Students Showcase their Works at Local Coffee House



In a vibrant celebration of local artistry, secondary students from the Nebraska Christian Art Department have graced the walls of The Leadership Center at Espressions Coffee House in Aurora throughout February with their beautiful and creative works. Espressions, a hub for creatives in the community, has opened its doors to showcase the burgeoning talents of young artists, fostering a supportive environment for their growth and recognition.

Transforming a corner of the coffee house into a gallery space, Espressions has provided a platform for emerging artists to not only exhibit but also sell their creations. Maile Ilac Boeder, Executive Director of the Leadership Center, whose son is also a student of NC, was a great source of encouragement and inspiration for these artists, teaching them that you can be successful doing what you love with art even in a small community. This collaboration between Espressions and the NC Art students underscores a shared commitment to nurturing artistic expression within our community and encouraging aspiring artists to pursue their passion.

Among the talented individuals whose work adorned the gallery walls were Lydia McKinney, Amanda Needham, Kylie Merchant, Rachel Hale, Mabel Yin, Alyssa Paul, Carly Halbewachs, Rebeca Htoo, Abby Young, Leslie Hickey, and Addie. For many of these students, showcasing their artwork in a public setting marks a

significant milestone, offering validation and exposure to their creative endeavors. The students were excited to take part in sharing their creations with the community, and it is easy to see that this is likely only the beginning of their creative pursuits.

The initiative has been met with enthusiasm from both students and the community alike. Mrs. Johansen, the dedicated NC Art Teacher, has expressed her excitement for her students' opportunity to showcase their work outside the walls of the classroom. Moreover, the Artists' Closing Reception held at the end of February provided a chance for the students to engage with the public, fostering dialogue and appreciation for their diverse creations. They also had an opportunity to receive some advice and insight from Maile as well.



Maile Ilac Boeder speaks with NC Art students Carly, Leslie, Amanda, Rachel, and Kylie during their closing reception in February.

Although this particular showcase has come to a close, the collaboration between Espressions and the artists of NC and the surrounding community will continue. With plans already in the works to have another NC student art show there again in the future, this is a wonderful opportunity for students to be inspired to pursue their creative dreams. Through initiatives like these, we reaffirm our belief in the transformative power of art to enrich lives and strengthen the fabric of our community.

Innovative Practices February SERVICE Award Recipients



Secondary students Carly Halbgewachs, Max Ye, David Carlson, and Christian Strobel stand with their certificates in the NC High School hallway.

Nebraska Christian School proudly recognizes the outstanding contributions of its February SERVICE Award recipients: David Carlson, Christian Strobel, Drew Bailey, Max Ye, and Carly Halbgewachs who regularly demonstrate and utilize Innovative Practices.

Each month, NC recognizes secondary students who exemplify the core values of SERVICE - Service Minded, Exalting Christ, Relationally Focused, Vibrant Disposition, Innovative Practices, Collaborative Approach, and Excellence - serving as shining examples within our school community.

David Carlson consistently demonstrates exceptional problem-solving skills and forward-thinking approaches in all his endeavors, from academic pursuits to innovative projects.

Carly Halbgewachs showcases her creativity across various disciplines, seamlessly blending her artistic talents with academic rigor, evident in her book reports and botany designs.

Max Ye's innate creativity shines through in his artistic endeavors, where he consistently approaches tasks with originality and flair.

Christian Strobel and Drew Bailey exhibit remarkable innovation and initiative, spearheading projects in the greenhouse that demonstrate their commitment to excellence and collaborative problem-solving.

These students not only excel academically but also embody the spirit of SERVICE in their everyday actions, inspiring their peers and enriching the Nebraska Christian experience. Their dedication to excellence and innovative thinking serves as a testament to the values upheld by our school community.

Winter Sports Wrap-Up A Season to Remember



Andy Perdue

Athletic Director

As the winter sports season comes to a close, we reflect on the highs and lows, the victories and defeats that have marked this exciting time of competition. From the thrilling moments on the mat to the intense battles on the court, our student-athletes have showcased their talent, determination, and sportsmanship throughout all while putting Christ at the center of their efforts.



One of the standout moments of the winter sports season came from our very own Zach Huenefeld, who demonstrated exceptional skill and resilience in the state competition. Despite facing fierce competition, Zach secured an impressive 4th place finish, showcasing his dedication and commitment to his sport. The entire Eagles Wrestling team fought hard all season long under the careful instruction of new head Coach, Greg Smith with many goals being met and new goals set for the next season of competition in the fall of 2024. Zach and the rest of the Eagles Wrestling team's achievements are a testament to their hard work and perseverance, and the entire NC community congratulates the Eagles on all of their accomplishments this season.



The NC girls' basketball team had an outstanding season, displaying teamwork, skill, and determination in every game they played. Their journey culminated in a strong performance in the district tournament, where they fought hard and emerged as worthy runners-up. Their dedication and passion for

the game have been truly inspiring and their joy even after a loss is something to be admired, as it is obvious where the source of their joy comes from. In the same way that the Eagle boys basketball team ends each game, all athletes from both teams joining together at half-court to pray is something truly to aspire to. It is moments like this that may be small in the moment, but have the ability to impact many who witness it.



In the 2023-24 season, the boys' basketball team experienced a rollercoaster of a schedule, with its fair share of highs and lows. While they faced challenges and setbacks along the way, they never lost sight of their goals and continued to work tirelessly to improve on the court and in the way that they honored the Lord. Towards the end of the season, the team found their stride and began playing some of their best basketball, showcasing their potential. Though the journey was not without its obstacles, the teams' perseverance and resilience, learning to lean on God even during difficult times, has been admirable.



As we put an end to the winter sports season, heartfelt congratulations go out to all of the talented NC students, athletes, coaches, and supporters for their hard work, dedication, and passion, all while making it a point to keep God in the center of their focus throughout their seasons. Their efforts have made this season one to remember, and it is exciting waiting to see what the future holds for our many talented students.



Christian Missionaries visit the NC Senior Bible Class



On Thursday, February 22nd, the senior Bible class welcomed Rod and Christiana V., international workers from China. With over three decades of service with the Christian and Missionary Alliance, they offered insights into their mission and life abroad. They shared their calling, daily routines, reliance on the Lord, and the impact of their work. This firsthand account provided our seniors with a deeper understanding of modern missionary life, fostering missions awareness and inspiring students considering a similar path.

Nebraska Christian's Second Annual Book Fair Success!

Nebraska Christian School recently concluded its second annual Book Fair, hosted by I:55 Book Fairs, from February 19-22. Led and organized by NC's Middle and High School Librarian, Mrs. Gamblin, the Ocean Expedition-themed event saw enthusiastic participation from students of all ages eager to explore hundreds of new literary treasures available for purchase. This year, students had the pleasure of purchasing and taking home

books on the same day, a change from the previous order-online model utilized last year.

The success of the Book Fair was made possible by the support of our school community, from dedicated parents and volunteers assisting with check-out throughout the week, to families and teachers encouraging a love for reading. Mrs. Gamblin expressed gratitude to everyone involved, remarking on the joy of witnessing students excited about books in an era where bookstores are increasingly scarce.

The event not only provided an opportunity for students to indulge in their love for reading with books of all literary styles and content but also fostered a deeper appreciation for literature for all reading levels with solid, faith-based books. Overwhelming

enthusiasm from students, teachers, and families after the conclusion of this year's event encourages all of the staff and faculty of Nebraska Christian to look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come.



Elementary students had an opportunity to explore the book fair with their teachers and create "wish lists" of their favorites for later



Welcome to the Team



Nebraska Christian Schools is thrilled to welcome Megan Boyd as the new Head of Kitchen. Megan brings culinary expertise and a deep-rooted faith in Christ, making her a perfect fit for our community. Reflecting on her journey, Megan shares, "Growing up, I faced challenges, but through it all, I found strength and solace in my relationship with Jesus." Her journey, marked by overcoming obstacles and deepening faith, resonates with her favorite Bible passage, Luke 15, and the quote, "Don't give the enemy a seat at your table" by Louie Giglio.

Megan's testimony is a verification of her unwavering trust in God's plan, even in the face of uncertainty. She sees her role at Nebraska Christian as a divine opportunity to serve alongside like-minded individuals who share her beliefs. "Joining Nebraska Christian is more than just a career move; it's a step towards fulfilling God's purpose for me," she says.

With Megan's dedication to her faith and her passion for serving others, we have already seen and anticipate great things to come in the NC Kitchen. Her presence is a blessing to our school community as well as the current NC Kitchen Team, and we eagerly await the impact she will make in the coming months. Welcome to the Nebraska Christian family, Megan! We're excited to journey alongside you as we continue to grow in faith and service together.

Elementary Class Highlights

A Look Behind-The-Scenes in our Elementary Classes

100th Day of School



Some of Mrs. Merchant's 1st-grade students excitedly embraced the centenarian look and lifestyle for a day.

Nebraska Christian School's elementary students marked a significant milestone

on February 9th - the 100th day of school! They celebrated in style, donning creative "100 years old" outfits, sharing 100 items, and enjoying themed games. Second graders were surprised with a special '100' shaped sweet treat and later adorned their classroom door with "100 reasons we love NC," though they had many more reasons to share although the door wasn't big enough to fit them all. It was a joyous day of festivities for students and teachers alike, marking a memorable milestone in the school year.

Story continued on page 4

NC Book Club Breakfast Nebraska Christian Club Highlight



Kali Birnie
8th Grade

On Friday, February 9th, NC hosted its monthly book club breakfast. Students and teachers gathered

before school in the library to discuss something everybody loves: books. Each meeting focuses on a different genre, like the last one, which was Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Fairy Tale. The genres can be anything book-related, ranging from chapter books to books of the Bible.

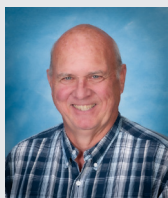
Ms. Gamblin organizes everything, ensuring we have plenty of group activities and enough food for everyone. We start by grabbing food, then sit down to discuss what we've read. Each table also does a group activity Ms. Gamblin plans, asking questions about our books and others'.

The book club is an amazing way to get book recommendations and for recommending books to others. Though I don't go often because of the early time, the few times I've been, everything was enjoyable. Plus, the food is always a highlight for me!



Mrs. Gamblin sits with students to discuss their reading from the month.

Budget Corner



Thomas Dockweiler
Business Manager

Here it is early March, and I am looking out my office window at what we are hoping will be the last snow of the season.

That window is in the newly renovated administration building. It is good to be back in familiar and yet very new surroundings. Please feel free to stop in, see the building, and visit with us. We would very much enjoy that.

I am nearing the end of my 40th year on staff at Nebraska Christian Schools, having spent a couple of years here as a student before that. I am constantly amazed at our God and His provision. I could see it as a student, as a teacher, but I can see it especially in the years I have spent as the business manager for the school.

Normally in this space, we would have a chart showing our goal for giving during the fiscal year, how much of that goal we had received so far, and how much of that goal we still needed to have come in. Because of the goodness of God, expressed generously through his people's donations at the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024, we have met the goal that we had set for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. That means, among other things, that this year's depreciation expense, which our original budget did not account for, can be covered; that budgeting for next year may be able to take a serious run at trying to catch up to what the latest rates of inflation have done to the expenses of the school and to the expenses of the employees that work at the school; that our reserves, for the time being at least, can be put back to what financial advisors would recommend for an organization our size; and that our foundation can move forward with raising funds for the cafeteria project without having to be as concerned about competing with general budget needs. Please pray, as always, that we will be wise in how we use the resources that God gives us to accomplish the mission that God has given us.

To be sure the future will bring new needs, and, if the past is any indicator of the future, I like the Israelites of old, will be tempted to wonder how and if God will find a way to meet them. In His perfect timing, God will meet them in ways that I never would have imagined. I will be amazed that God did what God always does, and God will be amazed that I ever doubted that He would. It is part of a longer set of promises in Paul's instructions to Timothy from II Timothy 4, but I think about it often in this context: "If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. Remind them of these things." Consider yourself reminded.

Until next time, may God bless you and yours.

Continued from page 3

100th Day of School



Mrs. Hixson's Kindergarteners pose with their newly made 100-piece snack necklaces.



The 1st-grade class opens their Valentine's treats



(middle photo) Ms. Myers' 2nd-grade class poses with their 100-shaped class treat!
(bottom photo) Some of the 2nd-graders' '100 reasons that they love NC'.

Valentine's Day Parties

On Valentine's Day, the elementary students celebrated the day in their classrooms, spreading love through the exchanging of valentines, playing games, and engaging in arts and crafts. Many even partook in fun and tasty heart-themed snacks and goodies. Amidst the festivities, they learned about the greatest love of all - the love of Jesus.



The kindergarten class shows off their beautifully decorated Valentine's boxes.

Through stories and activities, they

discovered that His love surpasses any other. With hearts full of joy, laughter, and the warmth of friendship of their classmates, the students experienced the true essence of love on this special day.



The 1st-grade class opens their Valentine's treats



The 6th-grade class pauses mid-party for a picture.

Preschoolers Learn About Teeth and Dental Hygiene

In early March, the preschool class had a special visit from a local 'tooth expert' from The Dentist in Central City, who emphasized the importance of dental hygiene. The students learned about proper brushing techniques, the importance of regular brushing, and the role of healthy food choices in maintaining strong teeth. Through engaging discussions and hands-on examples, they gained valuable insights into dental care, setting the foundation for lifelong oral health habits.



The eager preschool class learn about their teeth.

Memorial Gifts

For: Alan Heuermann
From: Mike Fuehrer

For: Scott Johnson
From: Becky Deichmann
Doug & Lori Peters
Paul & Anna McHargue

For: Ruth Rowse
From: Dan Rowse
Galynn & Carilyn Dexter
Devyn & Tiffany Ballagh
Melvin & Shirley Lowery
Diana & Lonny Maxson
Spelts Lumber Company

Give to NC

You can help Nebraska Christian Schools continue the mission of assisting the family and church by providing a Christ-centered education and encouraging a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Scan the code or follow the link to give to our General Giving Fund and give where it's needed most!

General Giving Fund:
<https://t.ly/zdjF6>



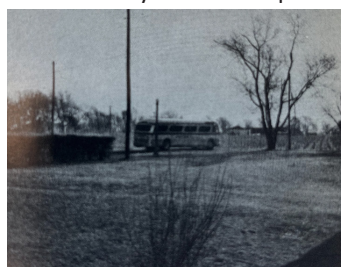
Alumni Flashback | Class of 1968

(Text and photos taken from the 1968 Reflector Yearbook)

The school choir performs at important occasions on campus throughout the year and at the district music contest in April. The highlight of this group's work each year is the presentation of

a "choir program" in various churches and auditoriums throughout the state during the spring semester. This program includes a variety of sacred music, student testimonies, and a Scriptural challenge involving songs, poems, and narration. Emphasis is placed on musical quality, but more important than that is the emphasis on serving the Lord through a life that is clean and yielded to Him.

NC has scheduled choir programs in churches across the state the past two years. The choir travels by chartered bus during which time the young people have a chance to sleep, sing, and play games. Each choir program is preceded by prayer. This requires both time and effort on the part of the choir, but they feel that it is worthwhile.



Top left and center photos: Students get on the bus and begin the journey to their performance venues.

Top right photo: Mr. H. Kay Sawyer, vocal instructor, rests on the bus.

Bottom left photo: Senior Girls' Sextet - Left to right: P. Paxton, C. Ehrenberg, L. Rowse, M. Pennington, L. LeBar, E. Krause, M. Binder

Bottom right photo: Senior Boys' Quartet - Left to right: D. Cutbirth, W. Constable, T. Martin, S. Anderson, J. McClenahan.



Upcoming Dates

March 11

- District Speech @ Twin River

March 13

- Chapel

March 15

- 10:00 START
- Varsity Girls Track Invite @ Concordia U.
- Varsity Boys Track Invite @ Concordia U.

March 16

- Junior Trip Begins!

March 19

- Varsity Girls Track @ CCHS
- Varsity Boys Track @ CCHS

March 20

- Chapel

March 21

- Robotics @ Iowa West Field House

March 22

- NO SCHOOL
- Silent Auction
- Robotics @ Iowa West Field House

March 23

- Dinner and Benefit Auction
- Robotics @ Iowa West Field House

March 25

- 10:00 START

March 26

- Varsity Girls Track @ Boone Central
- Varsity Boys Track @ Boone Central

March 27

- Chapel
- Conference Music Contest

March 28

- HALF DAY

March 29

- NO SCHOOL - Easter Break

April 1

- NO SCHOOL - Easter Break

April 2

- Varsity Girls Track @ Wood River
- Varsity Boys Track @ Wood River

Stay Connected with NC!

Stay connected, be a part of the legacy, and stay informed on the latest updates and events. Join the Nebraska Christian Schools Alumni Facebook page today and become a part of this incredible network by following the link below or scanning the QR code. Go Eagles!

NC Alumni FB Page: <https://rb.gy/kyky9y>



Scan the code above to join our NC Alumni Facebook Group!