



# Anchor

Hebrews 6:19



## November 2021

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: A SENSE OF PURPOSE

Time flies. We are already into year two in the story of Taber Christian High school. To be certain, this entire process requires a great deal of preparation. Long before students enter the school, teaching staff have spent significant time preparing. As we have progressed through the fall, the work has continued, yet with all this work, comes a sense of energy and a sense of purpose.

In planning and preparing for a school year (and in our case, growing a new school), many different groups are involved in building our community. Board members, committee members, Joyful Servers, parents, teaching staff, students and more have contributed to the start of Taber Christian High School (TCHS). While a school revolves around student learning, the common interests of these various groups involve a desire for purposeful, transformative education.

In the book "[A Purpose Driven Life](#)", Rick Warren states that "knowing our purpose, gives meaning to our life." (p.30). The lives of human beings are driven by something. There have been many examples in history of people surmounting incredible odds, because of a profound sense of purpose. Warren goes on to suggest that we were made to have meaning, but without God, life has no purpose, and without purpose, life has no meaning. Unfortunately, things like anger, guilt, materialism, fear of failure, need for approval etc. can be made into a substitute purpose in a person's life. None of these "forces" offer much in terms of meaning. They are merely ends unto themselves. Given this, the question needs to be asked "what is our school's purpose?"

At TCHS we acknowledge that the time spent busily preparing for lesson plans, learning activities, assemblies and chapels etc. means little unless it is embedded in a desire to honor God and to share with/invite others to do the same. Psalm 73:26, Psalm 138:8, Romans 8:28 and many other Bible verses remind us of this.

Our Taber Christian schools mission statement reads as follows: ***"To provide a Christian educational environment in the community of Taber, which uses biblical teaching to prepare all students to reach their full potential, so they can serve God and others with a Christ-like attitude"***.

Within the pages of this newsletter and future newsletters, the reader will see program announcements, educational highlights and other things. Some of these directly relate to the mission statement, whereas others are more peripheral. All of these things have their place, but what really makes them significant in a school context is the fact that they are all parts of a holistic Christian education.

We are never finished learning. On this side of eternity, we will never fully comprehend all of God's workmanship no matter how good our education is. Nevertheless our charge is growth. We want to grow as a Christian learning community. We want to grow as a community of grace. In this endeavor, we trust in God's guidance and we also ask for your prayers and support. Thank you for your support of Taber Christian High School!

Jason Visser, Principal, Taber Christian High School

# Meet Our Staff!



I think it goes without saying that we are all excited to be a part of this new venture that is Taber Christian high school. I am originally from Taber (attended TCS) and have lived in places such as Sioux Centre, Iowa (Dordt College), Edmonton, AB (Kings College)

and Notogawa, Japan (teaching English). I am also married and my wife Danielle and I have 4 beautiful kids (she did most of the work :)). Through everything I am extremely blessed to be a part of Christian education both as a principal and a father. My deep hope is that students will be empowered to engage in the compelling story of God's plan for our world. I love the opportunity to be involved in Christian education and especially the opportunity to be involved in starting and growing a new high school! We want to build flourishing relationships, engaging learning opportunities and a sense of excitement about engaging with God's world.



Hi. My name is Nikki Ohlmann and I am very excited to be teaching at Taber Christian High School. I grew up in the small town of Bow Island, but currently live in Coaldale with my husband Randy and our children Karli, Audra and Nevan. My spare time is filled with visiting family and friends, playing with my kids, playing games, getting ready for the next triathlon or running race.

I also enjoy watching sports, camping, or enjoying the beautiful outdoors. My teaching career started off in the fall of 2009 at Magrath Jr./Sr. High School. Since then, I have taught at Jennie Emery Elementary School in Coaldale, Crescent Heights High School in Medicine Hat, Vauxhall High School, Taber Mennonite School, Enchant School, and Taber Christian School. I have taught a variety of courses over the years but the majority have been math courses (my favourite). My deep hope is that my students will discover what their unique God given gifts and abilities are and will be inspired to use them passionately to connect, love and serve God and others. I look forward to being a part of such a wonderful school community and getting to know you and your families. I can already tell that this is a great community to be a part of.



My name is Miriam Bekkering. I am the Science teacher and Learning Support Teacher here at TCHS. I grew up on a farm near Standard, Alberta, and then moved to Lethbridge to get my Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education.

After graduating I taught in the Strathmore area before getting married and moving to Taber in 2013. I currently live in Taber with my husband James and our 2 daughters, Lauren (5) and Elise (3). We love hiking, biking, skiing, and generally spending time outside with friends and family.

I am excited to add the role of Learning Support teacher to my job, this year, and to work with and support all of our students in their time at TCHS. We've had a fantastic start, and there is much that God has in store for our school and community. I am so excited to be a part of this!

My Deep Hope is that students will use the knowledge they gain to worship God, steward creation, and serve in their communities.



Hello, my name is Philip Vriend, and I am excited to be a part of the staff at Taber Christian High School. It is my seventh year in Taber, and this community has been a huge blessing to me. Prior to coming to Taber, I studied at the University of Alberta receiving both a degree in Physical Education and Education.

It was in that time that I found my love of teaching and coaching.

Growing up on a family owned and operated tree nursery on the outskirts of Edmonton, I had the opportunity to work, learn, and experience the many blessings and challenges that agriculture and farming can bring. The agricultural roots and the strong education that I received gave me a strong upbringing. I believe that Taber is a unique community where students can receive a well rounded education, gaining many opportunities to learn about a variety of different occupations and industries. It is exciting to be a part of a school that is able to offer such a vast depth of programs and studies because of its strong community connections. In my summers, I often spend a significant amount of my time back on the farm, landscaping, or traveling. I love to be outdoors, and playing sports and being active is a passion of mine. I love being able to visit my family on long weekends and holidays. Being part of a school that is early in setting foundation and building is a huge honour, and I am excited to see the ways that God works in our school and community.

# Meet Our Staff!



Hi my name is Trudy Neufeld. I was born in Edmonton but grew up in Mexico, Saskatchewan and Taber. I have been married to my amazing husband, John for just over a year now. This is my second year working at Taber Christian High school as a support staff, and I am thoroughly enjoying my job and looking forward to the rest of the school year!



Hello! My name is Krizia Vyne Bonthuis, but you can call me "Vyne". I was born and raised in the Philippines. I'm married to Tim and this is my 1st year working at TCHS as a support staff. When I was in University in the Philippines, I volunteered in a school organization leading people to Christ. Working with young people is my passion. I'm excited to see what God is going to unfold in the future!



Hello my name is Rhodina Duggan. I'm from Prince Rupert BC and have lived in Taber for 14 years. This is my first year working as a custodian at TCHS. I have two children ages 7 and 14, and I love being a mom. I also love crafting and crocheting! I'm enjoying my time here at TCHS!



Hi my name is Deb Henry and this is my 2nd year as Educational Assistant at TCHS. I'm from Cape Breton Island and lived in Prince Rupert BC before moving to Taber 18 years ago. I love cooking, baking, swimming sledding, long walks and making memories with my grandchildren. My deepest love is Jesus and family. I am honored to be here and am excited about the new high school and what God has in store for us!



My name is Tanya Hoekstra and this is my 2nd year working as Secretary at TCHS. I'm originally from Chatham, ON and studied music and psychology at Redeemer University. I'm married to Klaas, and we have four awesome kids that all attend TCS. As a family, we love to hike, bike, camp and travel. Next year, our oldest will be in the high school! I love Christian education and can't wait to see what God has in store for TCHS!



My name is Kim Scheurkogel. I am the Business Manager for Taber Society for Christian Education. My role involves managing the finances for both TCS and TCHS, overseeing the buildings and custodians and organizing transportation (bussing). My family and I have been part of the Taber Christian community for 7 years. I absolutely love being able to serve this community, and I'm incredibly excited with the High School build! My door is always open if you ever have any question or concerns!

# TCHS Learning



Our Science classes have included topics in Chemistry and Physics this fall. (Left) Jake Wiebe is determining the ideal concentration of Koolaid.



The Grade 10 class has been using the Multipurpose room in the church building for their classes. There are 27 students in grade 10 this year!

At TCHS, we strive to offer quality education in a variety of courses. Grade 10 courses this semester include Christian Studies 15; PE 10; Science 10 and 14; and Math 10C, 10-3, and Math 10-4. Grade 11 courses have included PE 20; English 20 and 20-2; Social Studies 20 and 20-2; Physics 20; and Science 24. We have also offered a variety of options courses, including Foods, Construction, Psychology, Spanish, Health Foundations and Sketch, draw and design .

In all that we teach, we strive to view concepts through a Christian lens, and consider how we can use our learning to serve our communities and steward God's creation.



(Left) The PE 20 class has been able to have two bouldering sessions at Coulee Climbing in Lethbridge. This class will also be participating in Swimming, Curling and Taekwondo.



(Left) Remembrance Day Poster Entries for the Royal Canadian Legion.



Spanish Class is one of the Options Classes being offered this semester. Next semester we will be offering Music, Drama and Art with more CTS classes.

¡En la clase de español del viernes, nuestros estudiantes tuvieron la oportunidad de comer auténtica comida mexicana! ¡Gracias al 'Rancho Viejo' por los fantásticos tacos! In Friday's Spanish class, our students had the opportunity to eat some authentic Mexican food! Thanks to the 'Old Ranch' for the fantastic tacos!



(Above) Nellie Klassen is working on making Pin-wheel Cinnamon cookies as part of her Baking CTS class. (Right) Rebecca Loewen and Nancy Wiens are enjoying some authentic Mexican food in Spanish class.



# TCHS CREW



## **We are CREW and not passengers!**

CREW is a way of meeting as a school community to discuss, reflect and share thoughts reflections, joys and challenges. Discussion can range from goofy to serious, from academic to something less than that :) The purpose of CREW is to create a community that includes everyone!

At TCHS, all staff and students are split into 3 CREW groups. While discussions are facilitated by staff, students are encourage to take leadership in this area. We are seated in a circle, as a way of ensuring we are all equal and that everyone has equal opportunity to contribute.

This year in Crew we are looking at and exploring the theme 'The Way'. In the gospel of John, Jesus says to his disciples, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". In reflection of this verse, we often look at, analyze and discuss how Jesus is the 'truth and the life', but we don't always always reflect on what 'The Way' means.

In looking at the stage of where we are at with our school, our staff and students decided that it would be fitting to discuss what 'The Way' means during Crew. We as a school are in a certain sense, on the way to a new school facility and building. Even though we are on a journey heading to our new location, we recognize the importance of the stage of the journey that we are on now.

We have explored questions such as, "Can a person know about Jesus without really knowing him?", "What is the Beauty of Uncertainty?", and "What does the biblical phrase, 'perfect love casts out all fear' mean?"

CREW challenges one CREW group against the others in fun challenges. To date, this has involved wrapping a classmate in toilet paper, relay races involving raw eggs and a cardboard boat race.

The objective is for us to grow together closer together as a school family and in our relationship in Christ. The different games, activities and challenges help us get to know other members of our school community better.

# Student Voice



## **Describe what CREW is to someone who would have no idea what CREW is!**

*"CREW is where we can discuss about Christian and life phrases and how we can imply this to our lives. Just talking to each other and helping each other understand what we are discussing."*

*"It's kind of like a bunch of icebreakers at first to get to know everyone. It ranges from silly, to fun, to confusing, to philosophical".*

*"Crew is 30 minutes between classes where we can relax and talk with our peers. We have time to have fun and then we get serious and discuss different topics that relate to our theme this year: The Way"*

## **Describe the Work Experience Program and what you did.**

*"I worked in concrete. At the end of the month, I submitted my hours and got school credits. It was a fun experience and a good way to earn credits and get into the work world."*

*"I did the RAP Program as a heavy duty mechanic for the MD of Taber. It was a great experience, and I learned a lot!"*

## **What do you enjoy about CREW?**

*"I enjoy how your opinion is taken in and considered rather than cast aside or thrown back at you."*

*"Just the conversations we have between each other. The stories we tell each other and just laughing and having a good time".*

*"I love that we can all be open and have fun but also talk about important things."*

## **What keeps you going in your work?**

*"God. In order to go out and be able to steward the earth, we have to become familiar with it and know it. It keeps me going in the hopes that it will prepare me for the future."*

## **What highlights do you have from this year's volleyball season and what are your hopes for next year?**

*"Getting to go to zones!"*

*"Going to zones and competing with some of the best teams in Southern Alberta. I hope we continue to grow as a school!"*

*"I liked that the whole team was close, and we created a community where everyone felt encouraged! I hope that TCHS sports will always remain a high priority. Next season, we will make it to zones and further!"*



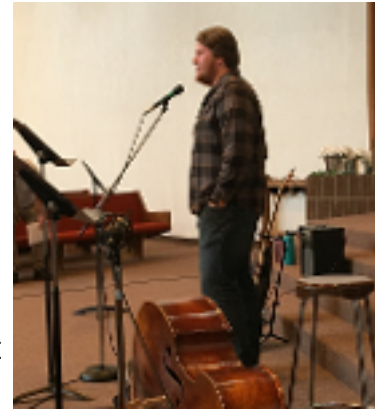
# Chapel & Community



TCHS students and staff meet for regular chapels throughout the school year. It's a time where we can reflect on our identity with Christ, bring praise to God and be challenged to live out our faith in love.

We have been blessed by the various speakers who have enabled us to grow in areas referenced above. This has included Pastors from local churches, Anna Braun for Prison Ministry, Leslee Oudman from La Semilla Ministries in Nicaragua and more.

Aaryn Vloo (right picture), alumni from Taber Christian School and current student at Redeemer University, spoke at our first chapel in August as a kick-off to our 2nd year of TCHS.



Students are involved in helping with praise and help provide ideas for chapel planning. A special thanks to Jennifer Giesbrecht, Anna Unger, Katharina Wiebe and Desiree Duggan -Trowsdale for their leadership in this area.

A important goal for our TCHS students and staff is to get out into our community to serve others. We have been able to get involved with the Taber Food Bank, "Door to the World - Art, Culture and Cuisine", Streets Alive and plan to write letters for Prison Ministry again this year. Anna Braun (right picture), chaplain at the Lethbridge Correctional Center, recently expressed how appreciated the letters from students were last year and encouraged our students to continue to serve.



(Below, left) Aaryn Vloo speaking at our opening chapel August 31. (Below, middle) Dick Visser playing guitar and singing for Rosela. (Bottom, right) Students setting up at the Civic Center for "Door to the world - Art, Culture and Cuisine".





# Lion's Athletics



## Athletics update

In its second year of school operation, Taber Christian High School is proud to announce that it was able to offer both a Men and Women's volleyball program this fall. Students competed through scheduled exhibition games and tournament play. One of the highlights for both our Men and Women's program was the first annual TCHS volleyball invitational tournament hosted on October 15 and 16 at Taber Christian School.

To end the season, both of our teams competed in South Zone play. Taber Christian High School competed in the 1A (high schools below 100 students) South Zone Volleyball Competition, with the Men's team advancing to the zone tournament held in Bow Island by Senator Gershaw School. Throughout the season, both our Men and Women's programs grew significantly in both their individual and team play. We are looking forward to the future of our volleyball programs and are excited to see the progress that they will make. Some of the goals that we have is for our student athletes to develop character, perseverance and team work in competition. We also want to develop into a very strong 1A program at the zone and provincial level. In hopes of achieving this goal, students will be offered opportunities throughout the school year to improve their athleticism, individual and team play. After a good start, we are certainly excited for the 2022-2023 Volleyball Season.

Basketball season is underway, and we are excited to be able to offer our athletes another opportunity to enhance their overall educational experience at TCHS. For the 2021-2022 season, a few of our female athletes are competing with a joint St. Mary's - TCHS team. On the Men's side, we are excited to have our own team which is competing in the River Ridge Basketball League. We have a few students from Hope Christian School and ACE Place Learning Center joining our Men's program for this season to ensure that we have a full number of players. TCHS is very excited about where we currently are with our athletics program, and are looking forward to also being able to use the new school gym when it is ready!

With the input from four of our students, Taber Christian High School has developed four Core Values to help shape our school culture and athletics program. The four Core Values are captured in the acronym, **BOLD**, in which all students, staff, and community members are encouraged to Brace in the Face of Adversity, Obedient to God's Call, Love Unconditionally, and to be Devoted to One Another.





# New TCHS Building Progress!



***A Message from the Board Chair: Hello TCHS Community! What a great start to our second season of this high school! It is exciting to see the classes fill up and the great programs that follow. Thanks for being willing to see the vision for this new adventure and working out the new plans with the staff. It is super exciting to see the new building going up! It will be a great space to see this program expand to its full potential! Thanks be to God and pray for continued blessing and that we continue to grow with his will.***



# TCS/TCHS Golf Tournament



Taber Christian Schools had its first annual golf tournament on Saturday, September 11, 2021. We raised \$25,000 with registration and sponsoring. Golfers were put into "best-ball scramble" teams of 4, attempted to post a low score and participated in contests on every hole along the way. Thanks to all our generous sponsors: Westco, Summit Motors, C and L Auto, Chinook Equipment, Taber Home & Farm Centre, VHL, Avail CPA, Home Hardware, Brett & Heather McCoy, Rocky Mountain Equipment, D & W Construction, Palliser Ag, Taber Towing and Jiffy Lube, DT van Haarst, River's Electric, Pinnacle Sod, Lamb Weston, Gouw Onions, Potato Growers of Alberta, PGS Equipment, Stolk Farms, Gravity AG, ATB, TFS, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Taber IGA, Western Financial Group, Independent Crop Inputs, Gateway Livestock, Bangas Equipment and Taber Ford. All funds went to the new building of the high school. Also, a big thanks to all who came out to golf for the day and to our volunteers!!



**Stay tuned for our 2nd annual Golf Tournament coming up in May, 2022!**

Questions? Email: [tchsgolftournament@gmail.com](mailto:tchsgolftournament@gmail.com)

## **Stay Connected!!**

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