

Handprints

HMS works alongside churches to nurture faithful leaders

"A cord of three strands is not easily broken." — Ecclesiastes 4:12

HMS believes strongly that a child's education does not happen in a vacuum. It is intricately interwoven with home and church.

The founding families of HMS desired to provide a Christian environment where children were taught academics as well as the doctrines of the Bible and the standards of the church, where children were prepared "to serve in the church [and] to contribute to society . . ." Our bylaws explain how our link to and partnership with constituent congregations (where our families attend) can help maintain our vision and mission of the school.



Weaverland Mennonite Church



Alarie Hurst & Colin Marquis share about their work on the chapel planning team at the Pastors Breakfast.

Anthony Martin, a member of the HMS Church School Relations Committee, shares, "I think it is important for HMS to maintain accountability to the local church. In a very real sense, HMS is a para-church ministry in that it comes alongside the church to help provide Christian education for children growing up in the church."

As church leaders express concerns about dwindling church attendance, particularly among young people, Christian schools can nurture a foundation for faith, leadership, and service that can help keep youth in the church. HMS students help to plan and lead worship for middle school chapels. This year's worship planning team, students Alarie Hurst and Colin Marquis, help invite speakers and give input on the themes and worship activities for students. Student Council members help organize service projects. Practices of Bible study, Scripture memorization, worship and

singing are reinforced in the classroom and in corporate chapels. Our Bible curriculum broadens and deepens what students understand from Scripture and Christ's teachings and helps them explore how to live faithfully by those teachings.

By attending to the social, emotional and spiritual growth of students, in addition to academics, Christian schools can help link faithbuilding from Sunday morning congregational worship with Tuesday afternoon study skills class. Dustin Musser, HMS alum now serving as Executive Director at Camp Hebron, shares about his HMS experience, "I was trained and mentored in a way that many of my public school peers were not, having teachers that cared not just about my education but about the development of my character as well." When young people make links between what their parents expect, what their teachers reinforce and

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WHY CHOOSE A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL?

Melissa Hurst, a parent and board member, reflects on what influenced her and her husband, Nevin, to send their children to Hinkletown.

A big influencing factor in our decision to send our four children to Hinkletown was what we saw modeled by our parents, who sent both of us to Christian schools.

We saw them model how to make Christian education a priority by making financial sacrifices. One of our sisters remembers going to the grocery store

with Mom, calculator in hand. As Mom would put the items in the cart, she would total up the prices. When the total got to the allotted amount, they stopped shopping, even if they didn't get everything on the list.

Both of our parents talk about God's faithfulness in providing for their needs during the years when they were paying for Christian education. Hearing their testimony of God's faithfulness and seeing

their example of sacrifice gives Nevin and me courage to also make financial sacrifices, believing that God will continue to provide.

I will say that we have also been extremely blessed by the Christian Education Sharing Fund that our church, Weaverland Mennonite, facilitates. We are thankful that our church partners in this way with their members who desire Christian Education for their children.

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OPEN HOUSE for Prospective Parents and Students

Thursday, February 5 & Tuesday, February 10, 2015
9 am – 8 pm



There's so much for students and families at HMS!

Come for a tour, ask your questions, and see how your family fits at HMS!

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Contact Melissa Beidler, Director of Enrollment at 717-354-7100 x1002 to set up your visit!



Children at Indiantown Mennonite Church perform *Kids Praise: An Explosion of Happiness in September*.

Sharing the costs and the benefits of Christian education

Indiantown Mennonite Church, Ephrata, Pa., is not a large congregation, compared to others in the area, but over the past decade the number of children in the congregation has really grown, to the point where about 30% of attendees are under the age of 14.

In 2011 the congregation recognized the opportunity to step up and provide solid Christian nurture and support to the children in the congregation. One way to do this was to provide financial assistance to families that choose Christian education for their children, acknowledging that “there are benefits for our children in Christian schools and that providing these benefits is the shared responsibility of the congregation and parents” (Christian Education Sharing Program of Indiantown Mennonite Church).

The program is funded by two regularly scheduled congregational offerings and other donations, and provides up to 50% of tuition expenses for each child enrolled in the program. This makes the option of Christian education more affordable and available to families who might not have considered private education a possibility. The process of collecting funds through Sunday morning offerings allows church members to participate in the funding of education for grandchildren and friends.

Though the tuition assistance program is relatively new, a number of families in the congregation are “alumni families” of local Christian schools including Ephrata Mennonite School, Lititz Area Mennonite School, as well as HMS. These families were major proponents of forming the tuition assistance program, as they desired to see more families enjoy the benefits of Christian education.

As a member at Indiantown and a parent of school-aged children, I have been grateful to see and feel the support from our congregation for families and children. The children are regularly encouraged to participate in Sunday morning services in a variety of ways. A Date Night program allows parents an evening out alone while other members of the congregation provide childcare. Perhaps the most valuable but least official support of children has been the way many members go out of their way to informally interact with the children and encourage them. The support of families has become very evident over the past few years.

— **By Lee & Lisa Zimmerman, parents of HMS students Caeley (grade 3) & Lily (pre-k)**



Pastor Bruce Sauder, Goodville Mennonite Church, took to some time to work on a project with Savannah Martin & Maggie Martin (grade 3) after Pastors Breakfast. Goodville Mennonite Church offers a Christian education tuition support plan.

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what their church teaches, they experience a cohesiveness that nurtures a deep, genuine faith of their own. Participation in God’s work and the Church becomes a natural extension of their faith.

In a devotional shared at the teachers’ first in-service this year, Earl Weaver, an HMS founding parent, set the tone for this partnership with Ecclesiastes 4:12, “A cord of three strands is not easily broken.” The partnership between home, school and church is like a three-stranded cord . . . keeping Christ at the center of what we do prepares us for what God calls us to in life. As a Christian school and partner with the Body of Christ, HMS will keep encouraging and mentoring students so that they grow as disciples of Jesus as well as develop a vision of themselves equipped and called to be leaders in the church and the ongoing mission of God’s Kingdom.

“A cord of three strands is not easily broken.”
—Ecclesiastes 4:12

DID YOU KNOW???

- HMS's 116 families attend 48 different church congregations representing 15 different denominations.
- About 72% of HMS students attend Mennonite or Anabaptist-affiliated congregations.
- A Church School Relations Committee member attends each Board meeting. The committee provides accountability to the HMS Board for how it upholds the values of the Church in governing practices and decision-making. Current members include: Brian Denlinger (Weaverland Mennonite), Glenn Hoover (Carpenter Community), Glenda Lozano (New Life Fellowship) and Anthony Martin, (Hinkletown Mennonite).



*Pastors Breakfast at HMS.
Carl Sensenig shared stories
of Christian education.*

Each year pastors from constituent congregations are invited to a Pastors Breakfast to learn more about HMS, give input into our programming and visit our students in the classrooms.



Congregations supporting families through a Christian education support plan this year:

Bethany Grace Fellowship • Bowmansville Mennonite
Carpenter Community • East Chestnut Street Mennonite
Goodville Mennonite • Hinkletown Mennonite
Indiantown Mennonite • Red Run Mennonite
Rossmere Mennonite • Weaverland Mennonite



ComingUp:

February 5 & 10 | Open House for Prospective Families 9 am–8 pm
February 27 & 28 | Middle School Drama: *Little Women*
April 23 | School-wide Academic Fair
May 4–8 | Servathon
May 21 | Fine Arts Festival



See www.hmsk8.org
for more information
about upcoming
events at HMS