

Hinkletown Mennonite School – A Community Built on Prayer

One of the core beliefs of Hinkletown Mennonite School is that *“we encourage students to be reflective, caring, and responsible servants for Christ in the global community.”* We do this by working together to be Christ-centered where the Bible and prayer guide our daily lives and actions. We believe it is foundational that the home, church and school work together as a three stranded cord to pass on faith values to the next generation. **Ecclesiastes 4:12** reminds us that, *“A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.”*

As a school we recognize that parents have the primary responsibility to train their children in the ways of God. We want to come alongside and partner with parents as we teach students to follow the life that Jesus modeled through service and care for others. Introducing children to Jesus and using the Bible to guide us are top priorities for HMS staff. We need the power of God in our lives to be able to live out God’s vision for the school.

Prayer is essential if we are going to have an impact on the young lives entrusted into our care. The scriptures are clear when Jesus reminds us several times in the Gospels that, *“It is*

written,” that, *“My house will be a house of prayer.”* We are reminded of the importance of developing a personal relationship with the Lord through prayer. **Ephesians 6:18** tells us to *“pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”*

At HMS prayer is practiced in many settings each day. Chapels, during devotional times and throughout the curriculum, prayer is such an important part of our community life together. Staff gather for prayer on a regular basis and many meetings also begin with a time of prayer. Parents play a vital role in praying for the school as they pray individually or in group settings. It is so important to immerse ourselves in prayer with the culture we are living in where prayer is becoming more obsolete.

Thank you for joining us as a school to pray regularly for students, staff and the ministry that happens on a daily basis. Pray that God’s peace and Shalom would be present on school grounds and that students would grow in their understanding of what it means to be a peacemaker. Pray that students would develop the gifts of the Spirit; which are love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.



Miles Yoder, HMS Administrator/Principal

Hinkletown Mennonite School has a rich tradition of passing on faith to the next generation. Working together, we can be a Christ-centered community where the Bible and prayer guide our daily lives and actions. To God be the glory!

– **Miles Yoder,**
HMS Administrator/Principal

Prayer Builds Community

Parent-led prayer group intercedes weekly for HMS students, teachers and families.

Community is a core value at HMS, and for at least one small group of parents, praying together for HMS has built community and led to wonderful ministry opportunities.

HMS has a long history of parents praying for the school. More recently, though, what began with two such parents zooming each other weekly during the pandemic slowly grew into

a handful of "Praying Moms." Now, we meet on campus most Wednesdays, and are getting to know each other better while carrying the needs of our HMS community into the throne room of our miracle-working God.

It has been faith-building to share our community's burdens together – a reminder that we are part of the larger Body of Christ as we support fellow members. What divine mystery to be invited into partnership with Jesus to intercede for our school, and what joy to celebrate answered prayers as they come!

Recently, one mom had the opportunity to share at a middle school chapel (see "Prayer in Chapel" article

on page 4) and invited the Praying Moms to come pray for her and the students while she spoke, and then pray *with* students as they shared requests and prayed in groups. This is just one more beautiful example of the power of prayer to build community as we share Christ's heart for one another!

If interested in joining a prayer group, contact the HMS Office for more information.

— **Bethany Umble,**
HMS Bus Driver
and Current
Patron



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HinkleFEST & Benefit Auction

Friday & Saturday,
October 7 & 8



See our website for complete details:
HinkletownSchool.org/events/HinkleFEST

Practicing Prayer Together

Students in Kindergarten learn to turn to God when they need help – with anything!

"There were a few days when our class projector wouldn't work properly during our Language Arts lessons. It can be challenging to keep Kindergarten students on task when something like this happens. As a class, we had also been practicing to use 'I Feel' statements and after I thanked them for their patience I said, 'I feel frustrated when the projector doesn't work.'

In response I heard one of my students, Rhett, suggest, 'Mrs. Martin, I think we should pray about it.' So, we did. We stopped and asked the Lord to help the projector work... and it did! What a simple, but powerful lesson about praying by faith."

— **Marilyn Martin, Kindergarten Teacher**



Visual reminders help first grade students remember to pray.

"First grade students practice praying through the *Journeys with God* curriculum. Each lesson is paired with a hands-on learning activity like making colorful lanterns to remind students that Jesus is the light and we can be a light to others by praying for them. When they take their creations home, parents are encouraged to ask their first grader to share with them what they learned about prayer and to pray together. Having a visual reminder helps our younger students remember how powerful prayer is in our lives."

— **Erin Lichty, First Grade Teacher and Current Patron**



Coaches and student athletes weave prayer into team values.

It has been a privilege for us to coach basketball at Hinkletown for the past few years. Having an opportunity to relate to the students and instill values that go beyond the court has been really encouraging. From praying before games and sharing devotionals together to learning how to encourage teammates and develop good overall team relationships, there have been many opportunities to experience how Jesus fits into every part of our lives.

— **Dave & Janina (Weaver) Knowles, Boys' & Girls' Basketball Coaches Alum (Janina) and Current Patrons**



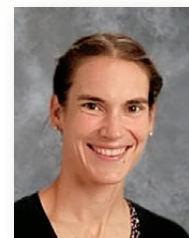
HMS teachers are privileged to minister to students through prayer.

"I used to teach in a public school and one of the things I most appreciate about teaching at HMS is the joy and freedom I have to pray out loud with students on any occasion. Most classes, I begin our time together with a time of sharing and prayer. This helps me keep life and teaching in perspective and allows me time to listen and care about our students.

On one such occasion, the third grade class eagerly shared and prayed together for at least half of our class time. We were surprised to notice that music class was almost over!

I am very grateful for the gift of prayer God has given us and that teachers at HMS are allowed and even encouraged to share that gift with students on a daily basis – what joy!"

— **Janelle Cunalata, Music Teacher and Current Patron**



Prayer has always been important at HMS.

"I was privileged to be an HMS teacher from 2006-2011! The blessing of watching students grow academically and spiritually can't be replaced. I remember different times throughout my years of teaching, where something happened in the life of a student or a situation arose in the classroom, where we simply stopped the 'academic' work to address the 'real life' situation. We prayed together, sought the truth together, and were changed."

— **Gina (Weaver) Lusk, Alum, Former Fifth Grade Teacher and Current Patron**



Serving Others Through Prayer

Chapel services encourage students to pray for each other

As part of the Middle School and Venture Program curriculum, students attend a regular chapel time. It is a dedicated time where they, and their teachers, gather to worship and receive encouragement from the Word, many times utilizing guest speakers.

I had the great joy of being a guest speaker at both chapels recently where I shared from Luke 5:17-26. In this passage, a paralyzed man is brought to Jesus by his friends in a very dramatic way. The students were asked to give 5 adjectives to describe the friends. Words like, "crazy", "determined", "bold", "caring" and "loyal" were shared. In response, Jesus attributed their faith to the paralyzed man's healing.

This is a picture of true friendship in Jesus! At their age, these students have either known someone or have themselves experienced what it feels like to be "paralyzed" by fear, confusion, disappointment, sickness tragedy, etc. In response, we can both ask for help when we need it and be crazy, determined, bold, caring and loyal in our prayers for our friends when they are in need. We then reminded ourselves who it is we were bringing our friends to and what He is capable of and willing to do. Finally, the students broke into small groups to pray for one another.



I also invited my crazy, determined, bold, caring and loyal friends – the Praying Moms (see article on page 2) – to be available to pray with students who needed help remembering who Jesus is and what He can do. It was meaningful to pray with specific students who we remember weekly in our times of prayer on behalf of the school.

— **Maria Chase, Advancement Coordinator and Current Patron**

The high school students took this time seriously. After this chapel time, two girls who had been in one of the small prayer groups really connected and started supporting each other. During study times, they would sometimes ask if they could go to a quiet place to talk and support each other. It was encouraging to see how a simple chapel time about prayer encouraged students to be intentional in how they supported and cared for each other.

— **Melissa Hurst, Venture Program Teacher and Current Patron**

High school students grow in listening prayer

The most important spiritual lesson I learned from the Venture Program's annual Service & Learning trip was how important it is to have our hearts in tune with the voice of God. I appreciated Alan's (YWAM host) teaching on hearing the voice of God, during which everyone was given time to write a letter to God, about anything on their mind, and then write down God's response. This was a new experience for me, and I was encouraged by the reminder that our Father always wants to speak to us. While He loves hearing what we want to share with Him, sometimes when we are too busy searching for the right things to say or worrying about how to pray, we end up missing what He wants to speak to us.

— **Juliana Umble, 12th Grade Venture Program Student**

Read the rest of Juliana's story at
[hinkletownschool.org/
current-families/newslink](http://hinkletownschool.org/current-families/newslink)



Morning prayer time in second grade

Please pray for...

- The HMS community: that we would continue to grow in prayer, being anchored in Christ.
- The 255+ students who will *learn & live God's purposes* this school year.
- The HMS faculty and staff: for everything we need to live out our calling.
- Miles Yoder, our new Administrator/Principal, as he enters into life at HMS.
- The HMS Board as they lead and make decisions on behalf of the school.

2022-2023 Theme Verse:

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

Hebrews 6:19

Graduates Sent Out in Prayer

Prayer traditions at HMS graduations bless students and parents.



Each 8th grade graduate prepares and gives a speech about a fellow student. In conclusion, they pray a blessing over their friend. 2021 graduate, Clark Brubacher shares about classmate, Randy Weaver.



Each high school graduate prepares and gives a Capstone speech about their time in the Venture Program. 2021 high school senior, Micah Hoover shares about how the Venture Program impacted his life.



Later in the ceremony, family members are asked to join their 8th grade graduate and then an HMS faculty member offers a prayer of blessing for the graduating class.



After giving their Capstone speeches, each high school student requests a special person in their life, often a parent or grandparent, to bless them. These special guests often end their sharing with a prayer. Here, Sherriann Welch Strauss offers words of wisdom and encouragement to daughter and 2022 senior, Reia Welch, and her classmates.



We honor the 8th grade graduating class of 2021! (From left to right) Owen Chase, Melina Beidler, Randy Weaver, Miles Rissler, Jason Cassel, Rachel Landes, Caleb Newswanger, Tyler Ringler, Kirsten Hess, Ayden Gonzalez, Maddy Hamilton, Kyle Denlinger, Kezia Burkholder, Clark Brubacher, Nicole Martin, Caleb Horning and Melissa Butler



We honor the Venture Program graduating class of 2021! (From left to right) Madalyn Hurst (graduated early), Jessica Harting (graduated early), Esther Campbell (graduated early), Kolton Martin (graduated early), Micah Hoover and Emily Zimmerman



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Celebrating

THE CLASSES OF 2022!



8th Grade Graduates: (Front Row, left to right) Devin Musser, Andy Coronado, Lucia Chase, Allysen Kalash, Katie Denlinger, Hadassah Knowles, Audrey Hoover, Katelyn Burkhart (Back Row, left to right) Jonah Zimmerman, Mason Regitz, Austin Zimmerman, Allie Murillo, Kara Burkholder, Kai Umble, Anthony Weber, Jon Trego, Madi Ament, Rose Zimmerman and Daniel Poplavskyy



2022 Venture Program Graduates: (From left to right) Sienna Smith (graduated early), Reia Welch, Davin Esbenshade, Lexi Hoover, Corbin Horst (graduated early) and Evan Morales