

## God's Family in Lancaster and Around the World – IVEP Spotlight on Innocent Chuma

**One of HMS's values is to encourage students to be reflective, caring and responsible servants for Christ in the global community by working together.**

To this end, HMS has partnered with Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) since 1982. IVEPers share their gifts in a variety of ways, gain new skills, and grow in their faith as they see a new culture from a different perspective.

This year HMS was blessed to welcome Innocent Chuma, an IVEP teacher all the way from Zambia! Having graduated from Eden University in 2022 with a degree in Business Studies and Education, Mr. Chuma came with vast experience working with children and youth. He previously worked for a ministry serving people with disabilities where he gained experience teaching and serving others as well.



*Service and learning is an integral part of the DNA at HMS. Innocent Chuma (2023 IVEP Teacher) and Isaiah Knowles (6th) were a great mulching team at Woodcrest Retreat during Servathon 2024!*

Mr. Chuma shared that upon first stepping through the doors at HMS, he sensed a "calmness" that made him feel he had been here much longer than he actually had! In the fall, he helped in the library and various classrooms, on field trips, and with the middle school boys' soccer team. In the spring, he also assisted with Enrichment Clusters and participated in Servathon with the 6th grade class.



*The HMS library is a great place for children to be exposed to literature, and practice their reading skills. Innocent Chuma (2023 IVEP Teacher) helped Brantley Weaver (1st) find new books to consider checking out during Library class.*

As he reflected on some educational differences between Zambia and the US, Mr. Chuma noticed how much more developed the education system in the US is. He shared, "In Zambia, classes have a ratio of about 60 students to one teacher. In the US, there are a lot of tools to help students gain more knowledge and make things easier to understand." A highlight from his time here was the opportunity to teach each

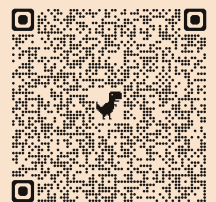
class about Zambia, and to answer students' questions about his home.

Mr. Chuma quickly became friends with students, faculty, and staff at HMS. He shared that on his birthday, students showered him with gifts and cards, and the whole school sang "Happy Birthday" to him! Since much of his time was spent in the library, Lori Quirk, (Librarian) became like another parent to him, especially when she took time to help him despite her busy schedule.

Mr. Chuma's host family was also very special to him. "I would give them [Jesse & Bethany Zimmerman and family] five stars!" he exclaimed. "I give thanks to God. They are who I prayed for, and were so supportive and kind." The Zimmermans provided him a "home away from home" as they encouraged and prayed for him often. Bethany Zimmerman shared their favorite part of hosting Innocent: "His attitude, always looking on the bright side of things; his smile and his laugh were contagious. And he would always play games with us!"

Mr. Chuma is going to be greatly missed! Thinking about leaving HMS, he shared, "I feel like I'm going to cry, because I'm going to miss the students. Every single day that I'm in this school, I have an amazing time with them." Please pray for him as he travels back to Zambia and then prepares to return for a two-year commitment with MCC's mobile meat-canning crew.

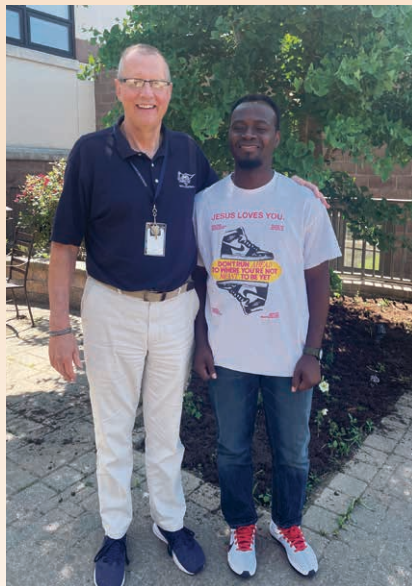
**Scan the QR code to read more of the Zimmerman family's reflections on hosting.**



# Viewing World Cultures Through Their Creator's Eyes

One of the goals of Hinkletown Mennonite school is to have students develop a Christ-centered worldview as part of the educational process. We desire students to understand other cultures and to develop an appreciation for all of God's family around the world. A Christ-centered worldview is embedded not only in our Social Studies and Bible classes but in other subject areas, as well. It is exciting to see the number of chapels focused on developing a deep appreciation for God's family around the world!

It also helps that a high percentage of HMS staff members have served or traveled extensively to other parts of the world. Teachers who have lived overseas help to reinforce the value of understanding other cultures and developing appreciation for how others live in community.



Miles Yoder (Administrator/Principal) and Innocent Chuma (2023 IVEP Teacher) on the last day of school. HMS was truly blessed by Mr. Chuma and all he contributed to HMS this year.

Through Mennonite Central Committee we have been blessed to have 38 individuals join HMS over the years in the International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP). This coming school year we look forward to welcoming Shristi Yunus from India. We are very excited to continue in this very special partnership with MCC which aids us in our aim to help students develop a Christ-centered worldview.

— Miles Yoder, Administrator/Principal



In 2012, Brian Denlinger (Venture Program Teacher) and Renita Denlinger (Third Grade Teacher) and their family spent 4 months in Cusco, Peru teaching English at PROMESA Mennonite School. Pictured here are the Denlingers with their second grade class.

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A photograph of children running a race on a grassy field. They are wearing numbered bibs. In the background, there are people and cars, suggesting an outdoor event.

## 44<sup>th</sup> Annual HinkleFEST & Benefit Auction

Friday & Saturday  
**October 11 & 12, 2024**

**FRIDAY**  
Family Fun Run  
Alumni Makers Market  
Cash & Carry Items  
Auction Item Preview  
Pork BBQ dinner

**SATURDAY**  
Live Auction  
Kids Activities  
Food and more!

See our website for complete details:  
[HinkletownSchool.org/events/HinkleFEST](http://HinkletownSchool.org/events/HinkleFEST)



Erin Lichty (Pre-K Teacher) taught her class how to say “goodbye” in different languages this year. Innocent Chuma (2024 IVEP teacher) walked by at just the right moment to hear them at the end of their day.

## “Goodbye! Adios! Tchau! Tschuss! Bye-Bye!”

The Pre-K class at HMS has a special way of saying goodbye to each other at the end of the day. We begin by singing two songs, one which includes giving our friends a “big high-five” and then saying goodbye. We start the year with a simple goodbye in English, and then we add *adios* (Spanish). As the weeks go by, we add additional languages. Each year is different. This year we learned *tchau* (French) and *tschuss* (German). Often the language of our IVEP teacher is included in the good-byes, so Innocent Chuma, this year’s IVEP teacher, shared how Zambians say goodbye – which we were surprised to learn is *bye-bye!*

Phyllis Nofziger (former Pre-K Teacher) started this tradition in 2010 and shared that she often included languages from her own background, including Amharic and Arabic. She also included Japanese so students could say goodbye to Rika Allen (Administrative Assistant) in her first language. **Our international farewells are a fun way to signal the end of our day, and remind us that not everyone in the world speaks the same language we do.**

— Erin Lichty, Pre-K Teacher & Patron



Scan the QR code to see a video!

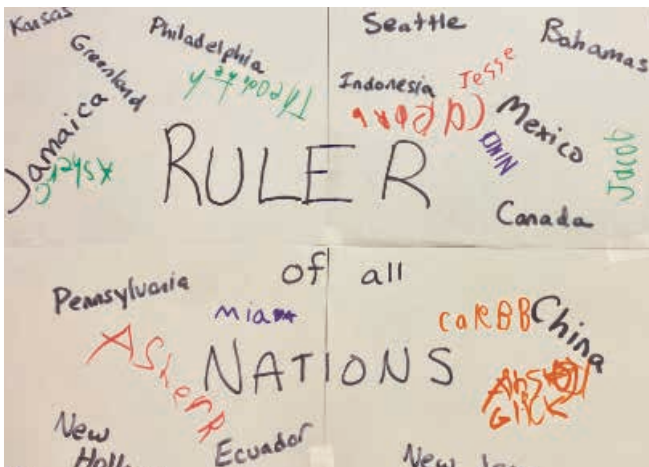
## For the Glory of God: Biblical Basis for Art Exploration

Throughout a student’s school years at HMS they learn through an “Art Survey” style that exposes them to a wide variety of artists, world cultures, styles, techniques, mediums, and the thoughts and ideas behind numerous art pieces. As we explore, we always remember Paul’s exhortation to do all for the glory of God, as working for Him. Scripture and Art go together, and biblical lessons resonate in the projects that students engage in at HMS.

— David Moore, Art Teacher & Former Patron



HMS grandparent Keiko Whalen and David Moore (Art Teacher) enjoy conversing about the Japanese script in Venture Program students’ artwork at the Secondary Fine Arts Night. Mrs. Whalen, born and raised in Japan, was impressed with their “handwriting” and artistic skill.



I’m always impressed by how quickly they catch on and repeat the Spanish phrases. **I hope they will share Jesus’ love with other Spanish-speakers through the simple phrases they have learned – as an overflow of their love for Jesus and others.**

At the end of the school year, Mrs. Myers’ Kindergarten class reflected on our Hymn of the Month from March, which focused on Jesus as “the ruler of all nations.” We discussed the word “nations,” what it implies, and how we are brothers and sisters in Jesus with believers from all over the globe. As students gave me names of cities, states, and countries around the world, we spontaneously created a poster (see photo), acknowledging that we are brothers and sisters with people who live in these places through Jesus Christ our Lord. Each of the students in Mrs. Myers’ class also signed our little poster, and we hung it on the door of the music room as a reminder to all of us that we are part of a huge body of Jesus-followers from all nations!

## Exploring the World and Building Bridges Through Song

Exploring music from different cultures and recognizing our international family in Christ Jesus is something that inspires and motivates me! On different occasions this school year, we brought “the world” into our HMS music classroom.

Because of my own background in Spanish, I enjoy exposing the younger students to the Spanish language through songs and chants.

— Janelle Cunalata, Music Teacher & Patron

## Geography Class Gets Cultured with a Taste of Central Asia

At HMS we love to expand our students' worldviews, encouraging them to see the world as Christ sees it. The seventh grade geography curriculum highlights various regions of the world. We use experiential learning to bring that knowledge to life! My husband and I lived in Central Asia for seven years, so I love the opportunity to share Central Asian culture with our HMS students.

Each year I host a Kazakh tea for the seventh graders to allow them to experience Central Asian hospitality. We begin by preparing the students with an overview of culturally-appropriate manners and what to expect. Students can wear various traditional Central Asian clothes, and enter the library as if entering a Central Asian home - which involves removing their shoes and sitting on cushions surrounding a tablecloth on the floor. We drink tea from real Central Asian tea cups and sample traditional cookies, candy, and bread.

This year we had special guests join us – friends of ours who work as missionaries in Central Asia. They cooked authentic Central Asian food for us, which we enjoyed by eating the traditional way: with our hands. **During the meal we shared stories about culture and ministry, and then ended the experience with prayer for God's work in the Central Asian region. The annual Kazakh tea party allows HMS students a fun way to "get a taste" of life in another part of God's world!**

— Lori Quirk, Librarian & Former Patron



Spreading an international tea party on the library floor! Experiential learning is an important part of the curriculum at HMS.

## Annual Service & Learning Trip Sparks Appreciation

The high school Venture Program at HMS began in 2017. Just two years later, an annual Service & Learning trip to Jamaica became part of the 11th grade curriculum, giving students the opportunity for first-hand experience in another culture. Miles Rissler, a 2024 graduate, shared the following reflections during his Capstone speech:

*Before going to Jamaica, I had never been out of the country and had never really experienced a different culture or climate. We went to a local church service, which was about four hours long, and very loud. Despite these differences, it was very interesting to see how another culture worshiped.*

*One day, we visited West Haven, a local orphanage for people with disabilities. While it was difficult at first, that was probably my favorite experience from the trip. It was really meaningful to be with people who had so little, but yet were so thankful for what they had. It showed me that there are a lot of things we take for granted, like having plenty of food, drinkable water, being able to live with family, and even the ability to walk. God has given us so much more than we realize, and we seldom thank Him for all of these blessings.*



(L-R) Matthew Tlumach '25, Evelyn Vysotsky '25, Kaitlin Baker '24, Melissa Hurst (Venture Program Teacher), and Matthew Degan '25 look on as Miles Rissler '24 tries coconut juice freshly-harvested by new friend, Letshawne, from Deaf World Jamaica.

*We also went to a local school, where we helped to teach some of the kids. They were pretty quiet during the lesson, but after class was over, every one of them wanted to talk to us. The school did not have enough teachers to have one for every classroom, so they really appreciated our help. This experience made me realize that in America we actually have a lot in terms of education, one example being the public school system.*



One of the service projects on the trip included painting a guesthouse on the YWAM Montego Bay campus. Pictured (L-R): Melissa Hurst (Venture Program Teacher), Kaitlin Baker '24, Owen Chase '25 and Miles Rissler '24.

***“God has given us so much more than we realize, and we seldom thank him for all of these blessings.”***

— Miles Rissler '24

## IVEP Through the Years

HMS's first Principal, Jon Scott Bender wanted students to get to know people from other cultures and backgrounds so he began a partnership with Mennonite Central Committee's International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) through which HMS has hosted an international teacher most years. Since 1982, HMS has hosted 38 IVEP teachers from 21 different nations! 13 from Asia, 11 from Africa, 9 from South America and 5 from Europe!



**1983-1984**

From the yearbook, "Steve Kurtz creates an art project with a helping hand from Miss Thomas." **Tabitha Thomas** from India, was HMS's third IVEP Teacher.



**2001-2002**

**Veronika Zvonarova** HMS's 19th IVEP Teacher from Czech Republic, shares her love of music with the 1st/2nd grade Multi-Aged Class (MAC).



**2008-2009**

**Solange Zuther**, HMS's 27th IVEP Teacher from Argentina, serves a cup of traditional hot tea to Amanda King '09 and the 8th grade class.



**2018-2019**

**Talento Bempo** from Mozambique, was HMS's 36th IVEP Teacher. Talento spent much of his time in the Pre-K classroom. Shown here with Aiden Zook.

## Fútbol Fanatic Fuels Passion for World Sports

Growing up as a farm kid in rural Lancaster county, my early years consisted of daily jobs, including feeding the calves and weeding the garden. Around the same time, my worldview broadened as my family welcomed various international students into our home. Thanks to the International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) partnership with HMS, I have many memories that shaped my awareness and appreciation of other cultures around the world.

My favorite memory was getting to know Hamilton Correa, a Brazilian IVEP teacher who served at HMS in 1990-1991. His love of soccer led to many backyard games, and even a few in the house - much to my mother's dismay! She couldn't say no because Hamilton was "all in" when he played. **I attribute my love of soccer to this experience with Hamilton's passion for the game. I learned early on that the world played more than just the typical American sports. I eagerly signed up for soccer in 5th grade and kept playing through college.**

Fast forward to today: I enjoy introducing new sports to students in my "International Sports" Cluster. We have fun learning and playing sports loved by millions around the globe! Throughout the world, people are brought together by their love of sports. I hope by sharing this with students at HMS, they also are encouraged to explore and enjoy the gifts of other cultures.

— **Justin Weaver, Athletic Director, Current Patron & Alumni**



HMS's 9th IVEP Teacher Hamilton Correa from Brazil, experienced an American Christmas with young Justin Weaver (Athletic Director) and his family.



Enrichment Clusters give students the opportunity to discover passions and develop skills. (L-R) Isaiah Hurst (5th), Tanner Good (4th), David Peck (7th), and Isaiah Knowles (6th) experiment playing Cricket in the International Sports Cluster taught by Justin Weaver (Athletic Director).

# Celebrating

## THE CLASSES OF 2024!



*8th Grade Graduates:*

*Back Row: (L-R) Stan Vysotsky, Austin Bauman, Riley Martin, Addie Bogedain, Annie Zimmerman, Lily Zimmerman, Cora Thomas, Malachi Knowles, Lukas Weaver, Jesse Stauffer, Elijah Zimmerman, and William Rissler.*

*Front Row: (L-R) Jaxon Yoder, Alyssa Smucker, Rylee Martin, Ava Bauman, Emma Hewitt, Jade Sauder, Katelyn Breckbill, Ashlyn Kanagy, Jenna Kurtz, Eve Martin, and Marvin Monterroso.*



*Venture Program Graduates:*

*(L-R) Jacob Smoker, Paul Hurst, Miles Rissler, Kaitlin Baker, Katie Umble, Hannah Lowenthal, Emma Musser, Caeley Zimmerman, and Hailey Powell.*

As part of the Venture Program at HMS, students have the opportunity to take enough credits to graduate at the end of their junior year. Miles Rissler and Kaitlin Baker decided to take that path this year.