

Reveal

Jenison Christian School Education Foundation Newsletter

Mr. VanZytveld's Opus *The JCS Music Program*

When Jenison Christian School students transfer to Unity Christian, they comprise 16% of the entire student body. Interestingly, nearly 30% of Unity Christian's Choral Ensembles are made up of former JCS students. "This is a testimony to the superior work of Mr. David VanZytveld (current JCS Music Teacher)", says current UC Music Director, Ashton Foreman. Membership in two of the five ensembles is by audition-only. Applicants must demonstrate mastery level skills in vocal technique, musicianship, and sight reading. In Ashton's senior year at Unity, her ensemble was Choir of the Year for the state of Michigan in 2005.



David VanZytveld

Student-turned-Director has now led the Ensemble for ten years and has received 1 ratings at District and State for eight years now. Those eight years have been highlighted with a 2018 trip to Michigan Youth Arts Festival for the girls in 2018 and then the boys went for the first time in school history in 2019.

Likewise, Brian Knot leads the Concert and Symphonic Bands at Unity, of which 20% are former JCS students. "David is a consummate musician who never accepts anything less than excellence. JCS students consistently have a mastery of the fundamentals of music with a careful attention to detail." describes Brian Knot.

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November 2021

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Psalm 78:4, 6 "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done...so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born..."

A Visit to the Principal's Office *God Has Done Great Things*

My name is Joe Oosterheert and I am excited to be the new principal at Jenison Christian School. I was blessed to take over this role in June 2021. The summer months were spent getting to know the staff, the community, the vision of the school, and catching up with the construction that already started. These months flew by and August, my favorite time of year because the students return, was coming! I am thankful to have time to look back and reflect on the last few months since the 2021-22 school year has started at JCS.



Principal Joe Oosterheert

These transition months have gone by so quickly! The transition months have gone by so slowly!

Almost daily, my mind has switched back and forth between those two statements. I do know for sure that my first months at JCS have been amazing!

God was always here and knew exactly how the first three months of the school year would unfold.

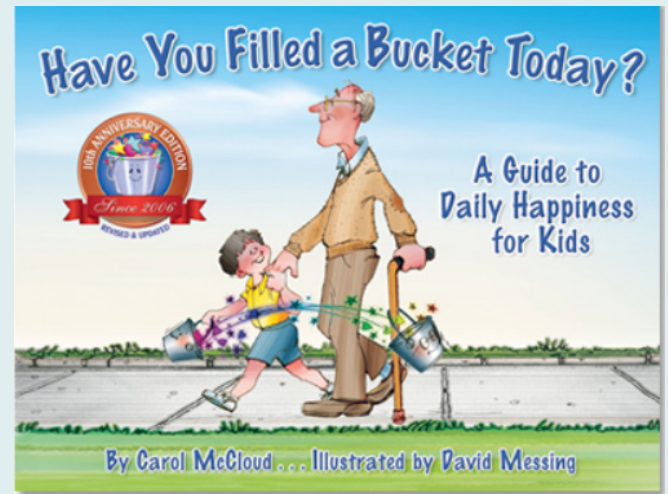
When school started in August, there were many unknowns. As a staff, we did not know how it would go with all of the students in the middle school hall as the elementary hall was being renovated. Many people wondered if the construction would get done on time. Some wondered if the heat would let up so we could be comfortable in a building with no air conditioning. Some questioned how and when moving day would go and how we

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Spiritual Emphasis Week 2021

Have You Filled Your Bucket?

Annually scheduled in September, Spiritual Emphasis Week is a week-long exercise in spiritual growth where JCS is intentional on emphasizing the tone for the year. This year's opening chapel was led by the 7th and 8th grade praise team and the idea of "bucket filling" was introduced with 8th grade skits. Jan Merz presented the author Carol McCloud's book *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* to explain and give practical application to all the students. We ended the week praising and worshipping with Unity's Praise Team and the 8th graders spoke on their commitment to the school theme Be An Example and how "bucket filling" helps to do that. **Please pray for our students that we "fill buckets" in light of our Christian walk, giving of our gifts and talents ultimately to bring glory to God.**



JCS Community Picnic

On Thursday, September 30, the Jenison Christian School community gathered for a picnic to celebrate Spiritual Emphasis Week. The kindergarten classes led everyone in The Lord's Prayer to open the evening. We were blessed with amazing weather, and it was a great night to spend time in fellowship as a community of Christ.



A Principal View

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could get all of the elementary teachers in to their new spaces in just a few days.

Even with so many questions and unknowns, God was always here and knew exactly how the first three months of the school year would unfold. **As Christians, we are thankful for that comfort, knowing God has a perfect plan and that He is in control.**



Mr. O having lunch with a group of 4th graders.

Yes, my first months at JCS have been special, unique, new, exciting, wonderful and challenging at times. Through all of that God has done great things. We have completed our elementary remodel. All staff and students have been moved back in to

new classrooms for kindergarten through 4th grade. As we met for prayer with the staff and students on our first morning in our new space, the students' eyes said it all. There was tangible wonder and amazement. Our desks came, only a week late, and with the help of our community, over 220 were assembled and installed in just two days! The new views from our large windows is amazing, and it lightens up our newly painted and decorated rooms. Our teachers have been utilizing the new technology in their rooms and our students are soaking it all in. God's plan for JCS is unfolding, and the first three months have been wonderful!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of JCS. Those have been felt every day! **Please continue to lift up our staff and students in prayer each day as new opportunities and new challenges arise.** It is an honor to lead this special community, and I appreciate your prayers for me as well. I know God had distinct plans for the start of this year, and I'm confident the rest of the school year will be just as incredible!

Mr. VanZytveld's Opus...

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Brian is equally impressed with the challenging music style and selections that David's bands play and even articulates that in all of Unity's musical offerings, JCS musicians are prominently featured.

During Spiritual Emphasis Week at JCS, members of Unity's Praise Band came to lead the worship in the Opening Chapel. Seven of the nine were former JCS students and used their talents vocally and instrumentally. One of those returning praise band members is also the leading role in Unity's upcoming fall musical "Anastasia", Anna Riemersma. She

praises her former music teacher in this way, "Going into high school I felt so prepared. I'm so thankful because it gave me confidence

trying out for the top choir and musicals". The fall musical comprises 28% of JCS alumni. She continues, "I've always appreciated the opportunities he gave us to participate in chapels as a Praise Team, it encouraged me to get more involved in chapels at Unity. I can't wait to continue praising God with the talents Mr. VanZytveld has helped me develop."

"I can't wait to continue praising God with the talents Mr. VanZytveld has helped me develop."
Anna Riemersma, former JCS student

David encourages budding musicians at school, but also helps a family of well-trained musicians at home. David and his wife Betsy have three sons who, while students at Unity, completed the AP Music Theory class, taught by Brian Knot, and he notes the characteristics of well-trained musical excellence was especially true in Andrew, Calvin and William. Betsy admits, "We moved to Michigan for the middle school position at JCS. We never imagined that he would love it so much, stay long term, and enjoy expanding in the younger direction, adding [music education to] grades Pre-K-3rd! We are grateful for all of these wonderful years, both for us and our three sons - all JCS graduates." David accepted the JCS position and started fall of 1998.

David's impact at JCS is that he teaches all third graders to play the guitar while fourth graders learn to read music with recorders. Fifth and sixth graders get their first official introduction in the band and learn woodwinds, brass, and percussion according to their ability. Concert and Jazz Band, Concert and Honors Choir, and Praise Team are available to all seventh and eighth graders that show proficiencies and skills and continue as skilled musicians. Honors Choir was invited on three separate occasions to perform at



Mr. VanZytveld at JCS. (He was asked to remove his mask for pictures.)

the Michigan Music Conference in 2002, 2007 and 2013. This is the highest honor given to middle school choirs in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association. For the selection process, schools submit choir recordings and a panel selects choirs to perform at the MMC. Principal Joe Oosterheert comments "David is here every school day morning working with different groups of middle school students from 7:30-8:00am [before school starts for the day]. He faithfully schedules all chapels and leads the praise and worship chapels for Pre-K-4th, and 5th-8th grade chapels."

Playwright Arthur Miller, when interviewed by filmmaker Ken Burns, once described performing arts in this way, "Do something that will last and be beautiful." Ashton Foreman sums it up perfectly, "Mr. VanZytveld's students learn skills that will last them the rest of their lives and influence our churches and Christian communities long after their time with him." Thank you Mr. VanZytveld for your leading influence in the arts here at JCS. It has lasted and is beautiful. The image of Christ is evident in your teaching!

**Ashton Foreman has earned a Bachelor's of Arts in Music Education and Vocal Performance from Black Hill State University and a Master's of Music in Vocal Performance from North Dakota State University.*

**Brian Knot's degrees include a Bachelor's of Music from Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and a Master's of Music from the University of Michigan. He is also the Music Director at Central Avenue CRC in Holland.*

**David VanZytveld holds a Bachelor's in Music Education from Calvin University and a Master's in Historical Musicology from UCLA.*



JCS Praise Team at Chapel

Past Publications

If you are looking for past publications of *Reveal*, please visit the JCS website under the Parents heading, Newsletter on the right side, or use the link below.

www.jenisonchristian.org/parents/newsletter

Upcoming Events

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| Dec. 2 | Middle School Christmas Concert
JCS Gymnasium, 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 6 & 7 | Preschool Christmas Programs
JCS Gymnasium, 6:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 14 | Elementary School Program
Fair Haven Church, 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 13, 2022 | Preschool Open House
JCS Preschool, 6-8 p.m. |
| April 22, 2022 | PK- 8th Grandparent's Day
JCS Gymnasium |

BE *Kind*
Faithful
Joyful

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. But set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." I Timothy 4:12

