



KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Undeniably Christian. Academically Excellent.

“How are things going?”

It’s a question I get asked often these last few weeks as I settle into the role of Elementary Principal. It’s not an easy question to answer anyway, and in moving to a new school and area, there are a variety of ways the question could be answered.

For our family, there are all the new rhythms of life that we are beginning to get used to, and those are to be expected when moving to a new area. From new faces, to new routes to the grocery store, to new walking paths in the neighborhood, there is much change that is occurring right now as we get used to a new location.

Despite the newness of these items, among many others, one item that has not changed is the familiarity and commitment to Christian education at Kalamazoo Christian. I did not attend Kalamazoo Christian nor am I from the area, but in the time I have had here thus far, the common bond I share in the commitment of Christian education has proved to be a constant item for me amidst the changes that do come with a move. For that, I am extremely grateful.

For those who do not know, my roots are in Edgerton, MN, a small, rural Dutch community in SW Minnesota where I went through Christian school during my K-12 years. From there, I attended Dordt University for my degree in Elementary Education and later on completed my Master’s degree in School Leadership. It was at Dordt that my wife Heather and I met, getting married shortly after graduation. After my first teaching position at Pella Christian Grade School in Pella, IA, we moved to Michigan where I held the role of Superintendent and MS/HS Principal at Traverse City Christian the last 5 years.

As we continue to settle in, you can be sure to find our family biking on the Kal-Haven trail along with finding other hiking trails and spaces to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. Trips out to South Haven are also sure to be a frequent route for us. If you have outdoor places that are on the top of your list to enjoy, we would love to hear them and enjoy them as well.

We look forward to connecting with many of you over the next few weeks and months ahead, and when you pop in the 12th Street campus, please don't hesitate to stop in and say "Hi", I'd love to meet you and your family!

- **Tyler Van Schepen, Elementary Principal**

