

Covenant Christian School
School Council Meeting Agenda
Sept 25, 2025

❖ **Introductions**

In this place and this time, and across the prairies, we acknowledge the traditional territory of the First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples upon which we gather this morning.

❖ **Devotional**

- *Candace Dreger*
- Run Your Race: on the theme of running—timely with school events like the Terry Fox Run and cross-country meets—to draw a parallel with the “race of faith.” Life can be challenging, and we may feel tempted to give up, but Hebrews 12:1 reminds us to “run with perseverance the race marked out for us,” surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who inspire us through their faithfulness.

We are called to throw off anything that hinders us—whether sin, fear, or shame—and keep moving forward with perseverance, grace, and faith. The Christian life is not a competition but a shared journey where believers encourage and support one another.

Scriptures such as Romans 15:5, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 10:24–25, and Proverbs 12:25 emphasize encouragement, unity, and speaking life to one another. The speaker urges everyone to build each other up, honour God in words and actions, and help one another finish the race well.

The devotion concludes with a prayer thanking God for His Word and asking for strength, encouragement, and love to run the race faithfully and to His glory.

❖ **Approval of May 2025 Minutes - Approved**

❖ **Introduction of current Officers:**

- A. Chair: Candace Drager
- B. Vice Chair: Shauna Balehowsky
- C. Secretary: Megan Switzer

❖ **Section of Officers (nominations)**

- A. Cindy Heber
- B. Vice Chair: Lindsay Hummel
- C. Secretary: Vicki Noble

❖ **Review of Bylaws, School Council’s Mission and Vision**

- Mission Statement: Recognizing that God is the giver of all things, the School council aims to both celebrate the blessing of the Covenant Christian School and also to intentionally foster Christian community by positively exchanging information and resources between the community at large, the Leduc Society for Christian Education (LSCE). Executive, the Black Gold School Division School Board, parents and the school staff.

- **Objectives:**
- 1. Provide advice to staff, principal, & LSCE on School discipline policies, programs & directions, budget allocations to meet student needs.
- 2. Encourage meaningful involvement of parents and the broader community.
- 3. Facilitate collaboration and communication among all members of the school community as listed in the mission statement.
- 4. Uphold and support the common vision for the school.
- 5. Develop and carry out self-evaluation of the school council's performance.
- 6. Keep LSCE executive and Black Gold School Division Board informed of school needs.
- 7. Support the school's focus on essential teaching and learning tasks.
- 8. Facilitate communication between all participants involved with the school.
- **Note:**

❖ Technology

- Brief overview of our 1 to 1 program:
- Grades 5-9 (BYOED Program):** Students are encouraged to participate in the Bring Your Own Educational Device (BYOED) program with their own Chromebook or laptop. Devices must be registered and connected to the school's secure, filtered network.
- Availability:** Chromebook laptops are available for students who cannot bring their own device.
- Grades 2-4:** Each classroom has a dedicated Chromebook cart for classroom use.
- Kindergarten & Grade 1:** These four classes share Chromebook carts, scheduling their time for access.
- Other Resources:** A cart of iPads is also available for checkout.

Screen Time and Instructional Focus:

- **No Set Limits:** The school **does not set rigid screen time limits** because technology is used purposefully as part of instruction.
- **Focus on Quality:** The emphasis is on **quality over quantity**. Teachers are encouraged to use technology to make learning **interactive, engaging, and meaningful**, viewing it as a tool to enhance and extend learning, not as entertainment or a distraction.

Key Ways Technology is Used:

- **Supporting Diverse Learners (Assistive Technology):** This is a high priority and benefits *all* students, fostering independence and confidence.
 - **Access to Text:** Tools like **Google Read & Write** and **Immersive Reader** read text aloud, provide picture dictionaries, and translate, supporting struggling readers and English language learners.
 - **Expressing Learning: Speech-to-text** and **word prediction** help students who struggle with handwriting or spelling effectively communicate their ideas.
- **Curriculum Tools:**
 - **Literacy:** Teachers in Grades K-3 use **RAZZ Plus** for leveled books, interactive features, and progress checks.

- **Math:** Students use **Reflex Math** and **Math Up** to build fluency and problem-solving skills in engaging, adaptive ways.
- **Organization and Collaboration:** Many teachers use **Google Classroom** as a primary platform for students to access materials, submit work, and receive timely feedback. This also helps develop digital organization skills.
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- **Agreement and Consequences:** Every student signs a Digital **Citizenship Agreement**. Violations lead to the suspension of their account for a determined amount of time, with a chance they may not regain access.
- **Education:** Students in Division 2 and 3 participate in the Media Smarts Digital Literacy program, actively learning about being ethical and responsible users of technology.

➤ Does CCS have screen time protocols in place?

Guidelines for Movies and Videos in the Classroom

- **Curriculum Link:** All movies and videos shown must be clearly linked to the curriculum.
- **Teacher Responsibility:** Teachers are required to **preview all material** before showing it.

Videos During Unstructured Time (Eating/Lunch)

- Discouraged for Daily Use: Teachers are generally encouraged not to have videos during eating time on a regular day-to-day basis.
- Exceptions: Videos may occasionally be used on a Friday or as a special reward for a great week, and they should ideally be a story or have curricular content.
- Videos at eating times are not to be used as a classroom management tool and should not be relied upon regularly.

Overall, the school views technology not for passive consumption, but as a tool to engage students to become **producers, not consumers**, in their learning.

JOMO Campus Program:

- **JOMO (Joy of Missing Out)** is a faith-based program being considered.
- The goal is to move students from **consumers to producers** of technology.
- The program emphasizes **discerning use** so technology is a tool, not an idol.
- A **conference call on Monday** is scheduled to decide on implementation

- JoMO: jomocampus.com

❖ **Update on new CCS Families**

- Interviews: LSCE approved society members for the families of 35 new students.
- Emails: Have been sent by Emily B.
- Back to School BBQ :The **Back-to-School BBQ** was a success, allowing the School Council to meet new families and encourage future volunteer participation

❖ **Principal Report**

- To be attached.

❖ **Questions/Comments?**

- Next school council meeting Scheduled for **October 28 @ 7pm**
- New time to make it more accessible to all.
- Looking into having a zoom link for others who cannot be present in person.

❖ **Closing Prayer**

- Jennifer Lozeau



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Principal's Report – Student Council AGM, September 25, 2025

It has been a wonderful start to the school year at Covenant Christian School. Our Back-to-School BBQ and Meet the Teacher Night was well attended and provided a strong opportunity to welcome families, build connections, and set a positive tone for the year ahead. We are currently sitting at **409 students and 41 staff members**.

This fall, we welcomed several new staff members:

- **Carrie Tolsma**, 0.5 Kindergarten Teacher
- **Hannah Warrington**, Grade 1 Teacher (covering Sharon Koopman's maternity leave)
- **Trisha Forsyth**, Grade 4 Teacher (transfer from East Elementary School)
- **Angela Hogg**, Educational Assistant (transfer), supporting Kindergarten and complex student needs

School Theme 2025–2026: *Bright Hope, Bold Joy* (Romans 15:13)

This year's theme, *Bright Hope, Bold Joy*, is already shaping the rhythm of our school year. Our **Celebration schedule** is underway, with each month highlighting a **Christ-like character trait**. Staff who are leading two Celebrations are encouraged to invite guest speakers when possible, and also to include their classes or students in the presentations.

We are also encouraging teachers to share their **Deep Hope** during weekly staff devotions each Tuesday morning. These Deep Hopes are then shared with the wider community through the weekly *Chronicle*. In this way, we are working intentionally to ensure that hope and joy are not abstract concepts, but lived practices rooted in our faith and visible throughout our school.

Our goal is to **instill hope** and to live out bold joy in a way that blesses our students, families, and staff. We pray that students experience firsthand the love of Christ through our teaching, our community gatherings, and our daily relationships. This year, our theme serves as both a reminder and an invitation to continually seek and share the bright hope and bold joy that comes from God.





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Bible Curriculum Development

A significant focus for this year is the development of a **scope and sequence for our Bible curriculum**. Our Bible Leads are working collaboratively across divisions:

- **Division 1** – Leanne Briggs
- **Division 2** – Jennifer Lozeau
- **Division 3** – Colin Ward

We are also grateful for the support of **Jeremy Horlings**, Associate Executive Director from the Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE). Jeremy brings extensive experience in working with schools to strengthen Bible programs and has expressed interest in joining us in this process. The team will begin with an initial meeting prior to midterm break to gather data and establish direction, with more focused work taking place in February and March.

This initiative reflects our commitment to providing a **Christ-centered education** that is intentional, consistent, and deeply rooted in Scripture.

Christian Teachers' Convention

Our staff is looking forward to attending the **Christian Teachers' Convention** in Lacombe on **October 23–24**.

- **TfT 101 (new teachers)** will begin on October 22 at 10:30 am, with participants departing earlier that day.
- The remainder of staff will leave on October 22 or October 23, with all staff returning October 24.

This annual gathering is a valued opportunity for **professional learning, spiritual renewal, and community building** among Christian educators in the PCCE.

In closing, I am deeply encouraged by the strong beginning to this school year. God has been faithful in providing staff, students, and opportunities to grow together in Christ. As a school community, we look forward to walking together in *Bright Hope and Bold Joy* as we teach, learn, and serve in His name.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenna Haugan
Principal

