



BACK TO CLASS

School is back in session and students, staff, and parents couldn't be happier that this time has finally arrived! It is so good to be together, being inspired to love, learn, and lead in God's world!

What does school look like right now? A mix of calm and joy is the best way to describe what we see. Students engaged in learning, teachers celebrating being able to teach to students in person rather than through a screen, and lively recess time and extra-curricular activities underway.

We did wonder how we were going to tackle this year in Smithville given the number of students enrolled, classes assembled and rooms available. After some creative juggling, we have been able to re-purpose our music portable into a classroom and engaged rotary teachers to move between classrooms. This has also enabled the use of the library once again as a place to borrow books, but more importantly to engage students in study, research, curiosity and wonder.

What's next? We need more space!

In order to be ready for 2022-23, it is critical that we build new classrooms for our early years learning and student support. We need to provide the opportunity for students currently in portables to learn inside the comforts of a building, providing productive workspaces in which to collaborate and feed curiosity. These priorities have become more relevant now more than ever in light of the changes required as a result of the pandemic.

Planning has begun for NEXT September – but we need our community. With your attention and support, we can provide an expanded facility equipped to welcome next year's students!! Please answer the call when our *Building the Way Campaign* volunteers reach out – together we can make this happen!

PRAY

GIVE

VOLUNTEER

SUPPORT

GROW

“A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.” PROVERBS 18:16



**We are grateful for our
Building the Way Campaign
Volunteers:**

Nate Anjema
Henry DeKlerk
Wendy Colyn
Bonnie Desjardins
Jessica Dreyer
Leah Haanstra
Steve Haanstra
Rob Heersink
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Kevin Huinink
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Joyce Koornneef
Andrew Lang
Wayne Schilstra
George Thies
Rob van Wely
Danielle Vandenberg
Dan VanGeest
Duane VanGeest
Steve VanLochem
Justine Wierenga
Joe Zantingh

GRATITUDE

The beginning of another school year has started and for that we are grateful! Grateful for in-person learning again, grateful for a sense of normalcy for our children and for us as parents, grateful for teachers, and grateful for our school community. After many months of remote learning, which had its challenges, it's been so good for my family to have our children back to school! It has been an adjustment for many of us, but we are moving forward with anticipation of a great (full) school year!

It is encouraging to see how the classes are continuing to grow, the many new faces in our community and to see families making the choice to invest in their children by choosing Christian education. We are excited to see things continuing to move forward on the *Building the Way Campaign*! We hope, as a community, we will soon see the projects commence once the goal of the campaign is met, so we can meet the growing needs for space in our schools and experience more thankfulness together.

CHARLENE SCHILSTRA, Current Parent

