

Alumni Echo

News and updates from Belleville Mennonite School - December 2022



Crystal (Kauffman) Yoder, class of 2005, joined the staff in the BMS Café this year as one of the new assistant cooks. Since graduating, Crystal has worked in a variety of public settings, however she has been involved as a volunteer at BMS with banquets, fundraisers, and the annual auction over the years. She enjoys being around people and is passionate about encouraging others in their walk with the Lord. Her engaging personality and many fond memories from her time as a student and athlete make her a great addition to the staff!

Crystal and her husband, David, have two children - Drew, who is in 5th grade, and Natalie, 2nd grade. The family enjoys being in the outdoors together and often spends time camping. Crystal is excited about her new role at BMS and shares, "Not only do I get to interact with the staff and children who my own children know, but I also get to be involved in their lives during the school year in a way that I was unable to at my other job. God works in amazing ways and answering his

call to be a part of BMS has been more than a blessing."

"I enjoy the atmosphere at BMS and it's nice to work in a setting where you can relate to each other in faith. We love, forgive, and realize that we are in this together and no one is perfect. The best part about working in the Cafe is interacting with the children. It brings me joy being able to prepare their meal, have them be satisfied and leave with a smile on their face! I get to be a part of that smile and there is nothing better than being the hands and feet of Jesus! It is hard work somedays but it is also refreshing once a meal is served, to know that almost 200 people were fed because of the team of ladies that I get to be a part of!"



Marv & Avonelle Peachey have experienced many special events at BMS over the years. After graduating in 1960, they continued to be actively involved in the school, walking through challenges and triumphs



with others in their various roles as parents, volunteers, grandparents, and supporters. Marv served on the board for several terms and later worked as Maintenance Director from 2003-15. Recently, after enjoying Grandparent's Day with their great-grandchildren, they reminisced for a few moments as they watched nearly 100 elementary students joyfully playing together. Marv shared, "You know, as I stand here, I am reminded of the fire in 1977. The bank recommended that we just close the school." With tears in his eyes, he added, "Now look at us! I stand here and see all these children from different churches and families and I'm so thankful that we didn't close our doors. How wonderful it is to see the ways BMS continues to grow. The Lord has been so faithful!"



“The teachers at BMS are working alongside my husband and I and our church to lay bricks in our kids’ foundation.”



BMS alumnus, parent, and board member Katelin Kramm shared a powerful & challenging testimony at our annual Fellowship Dinner.

Do we all attend the same church? No. Do we all live in the same community? No. Do we all interpret every single scripture verse in exactly the same way? No. But we are not in this room tonight because we agree on everything. We are here because we agree on Him. And we don’t come together over agreement; we come together over Jesus. **So, I am standing for Jesus and if BMS is standing for Jesus, then I will stand with BMS and I will build and I will defend with them.**

The verse for this weekend is Philippians 1:9. It reads, “I pray that your love will overflow more and more and that you will keep growing in knowledge and understanding. And if we read on to verse 10, it says, “For I want you to understand what really matters so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return.”

I believe that what should really matter to us are the things that really matter to Him. As we live out of the overflow of His love, we get to see the truth in love; the truth of His word; the truth of his heart. As a parent, thank you for partnering with me and my family. When Nehemiah was working in Jerusalem, each family only built a section, so if the families hadn’t all been working together, none of them and none of their children would have had a safe place to live.

Thank you for helping my family build and defend. And I am honored to do the same for you and your family. But also, as a fellow believer and follower of Christ, thanks for standing with me for Jesus; for His truth, for His heart. Thank you for being here, because honestly guys, it can feel very lonely to stand on truth when we have a very loud crowd going the other way. But tonight, I am reminded that I am not standing alone. Thanks for getting behind what the Lord is doing, and thanks for making what is important to Him, important to you.

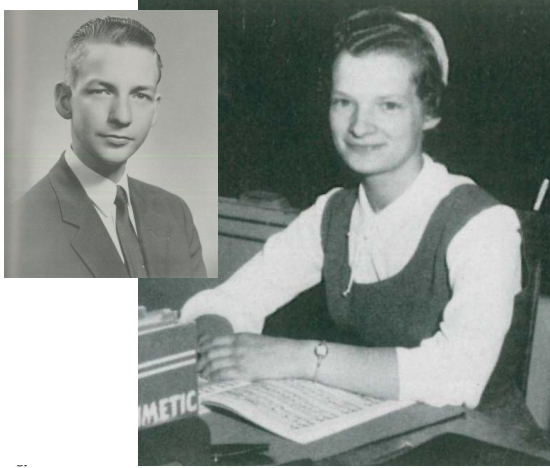
*To listen to or read the entirety of what Kate shared, visit:
<https://www.bmsprek12.org/admissions/testimonies.cfm>*



It wasn’t just about BMS. It was so much bigger than that, because my husband and I see that it is vital to take a clear stand and get behind what the Lord is doing; to make what is important to Him important to us and join with his vision.” - Kate Kramm, class of 2008

Passionate educator, LaVerne (Zehr) Yoder, who profoundly touched the lives of elementary students at BMS for two years, passed away on December 14, 2022. Ms. Zehr taught a combined class of 2nd & 3rd grades from 1958 to 1960 at the beginning of her career as an educator. LaVerne is remembered fondly by these students as one of the most engaging and encouraging teachers from their elementary years.

During her time in Belleville, she met Lee Yoder, class of 1958, who became her husband of 62 years. After they moved from Belleville, Lee & LaVerne worked as teachers and educational leaders in the United States and around the world, continuing to impact students and fellow teachers throughout their careers. A special reception for friends, family, and former students from BMS and beyond is planned for 7:00 pm on January 13th, 2023 at the Kyger Funeral Home in Harrisonburg, VA.



GRADE TWO



Grade Three

ROW ONE: Ralph Hostetler, Donna Kauffman, Edith Spicher, Joan Byler, Mary Ellen Yoder. ROW TWO: James Yoder, Sharon Kanagy, Rhoda Hartzler, Lois Ann Zook, Victor Yoder, John Hartzler.

ROW ONE: Benny Lee Zook, Jerold Yoder, Jonathan Yoder, Marlin Byler, Delmar King, Floyd Kanagy, Vernon Kauffman, Roger Zook, Abie Spicher. ROW TWO: Ray Yoder, Dennis Peachey, Mary Ellen Spicher, Lynda Jean Byler, Mildred Renno, Marilyn Kanagy, Ethel Hartzler, Arlene Hartzler, Carolyn Kanagy, Barbara Brenneman, Helen Kauffman, Christina Stuter, Miss Zehr - Teacher. NOT ON PICTURE: Jay Irvin Byler.

WILL'S GENERAL STORE



GRADE THREE



ROW ONE: John Sharp, Joseph Byler, Glen Byler, John Yoder, Freddie Kanagy, Paul Yoder, John Peachey, J. Irvin Zook. ROW TWO: Marlene Peachey, Irene Kanagy, Gladys Peachey, Miss Zehr - Teacher, Rhoda Spicher, Mary Ellen Zook, Phyllis Kanagy, June Peachey. NOT ON PICTURE: Vera Mae Peachey.



2018 BMS Homecoming: Lee & LaVerne are pictured with nephew, Jonathan Yoder (class of 1970), Lee's brother John L. Yoder, and great niece Amanda Yoder (class of 2003), BMS Kindergarten teacher.



***I pray that your hearts
will be flooded with light
so that you can understand the
confident hope he has given
to those he called
—his holy people
who are his rich
and glorious inheritance.***

Ephesians 1:18

We're Hiring!

For some time, we have been creatively evaluating various roles and responsibilities among our office staff to ensure we are serving our families, faculty and students in the most efficient way. As a result of this collaborative process and the shifting of personnel, we are excited to share that we are currently accepting applications for two full-time positions – Director of Finance and Administrative Assistant. Additionally, we are looking for a passionate and highly qualified individual to teach High School Science beginning in the 2023-24 school year.

Full job descriptions and applications are listed on our website: www.bmsprek12.org/about/employment.cfm



Colette (Espigh) Kauffman, class of 1994, has also joined the BMS Café staff this year. Colette and her husband, Joe, a chiropractor in the Lewistown area, have 13 year old twins, Emma and Ian, who have been attending BMS since preschool. Colette has been an active volunteer at BMS for several years, previously serving in the Café and as the Dining Room Coordinator for banquets, and currently as the coordinator for chef salad fundraisers. Those various volunteer experiences have been a valuable asset in her new position!

Colette's most memorable experiences from her time at BMS include playing sports, being able to win some championship games in basketball and lots of laughs and good times with friends and classmates. As she reflects on how others invested in her during her time as a student at BMS, Colette shares, "I can't say enough how thankful I am to my parents who sacrificially chose to make sending my siblings and I to BMS a priority. Being older, as well as a parent who currently sends their children to BMS, I now see and am overwhelmed by all who were involved and had a part in my daily schedule when I attended school—and that includes everyone who had any part of doing anything at the school whether it was teaching, office assistance, café workers, administration, the board, coaches, other patrons, volunteers, prayer partners, giving financially, etc! They all took pride in doing their very best for all of us students! And it's neat how some alumni that I went to school with are there now pouring into the lives of my kids!"

"I enjoy being involved with the school because I like interacting with and getting to know other patrons, teachers, and students who my kids are around every day. Volunteering in the Café was a great start for me to do that. I have really enjoyed getting to meet and know the ladies who regularly work in there. The atmosphere has always been welcoming and fun. In this new role, I love that I'm able to see my kids during the school day! My coworkers are great ladies who are fun to work with!"



THANK YOU to the many individuals and businesses who have blessed BMS by contributing to the 2022-23 Faith Promise Annual Fund so far this fiscal year. We are grateful for those who continue to partner with us and support our mission, vision, and purpose for serving our students and community in new and beneficial ways! With the generous donations and pledges already received, the Annual Fund is currently at 82% of the budgeted amount. We greatly appreciate your consideration of ways you can further support the growth and development happening here at BMS! Will you stand with us and join others in getting behind what the Lord is doing?

Mike & Jill Ammon
 William & Helen Ammon
 Larry & Brenda Aumiller
 Ruth Baker
 Keith & Deidra Baker
 David & Sharon Bookamer
 John & Brenda Boring
 Burnham OIP
 J. Mark & Beryl Brubaker
 Elwood & Suzanne Byler
 Donald & Brenda Crosson
 Steve & Aimee Dillon
 Micah & Hattie Doggett
 JB & Heather Eby
 David & Ruth Emswiler
 Clyde & Carolyn Espigh
 George & Sally Farley
 David Fisher, II
 Fred & Cindy Fortney
 Matt & Jessica Geissinger
 Connie Hartzler
 Irv & Sara Hartzler
 Neil & Lena Hartzler
 Scott & Ruth Hays
 David & Hilary Hearn
 Brad & Stacey Herman
 Dorothy Henderson
 Ralph & Mary Hostetler
 John & Wanda Jurasz
 Aquilla & Ann Kanagy
 David & Carrie Kanagy
 Davida Kanagy
 Glen & Donna Kanagy
 Marv & Jayne Kanagy
 Jerald & Mary Kauffman
 Rod & Gloria Kauffman
 Lloyd & Ethel Kaufman

“When I come here and see teachers who are willing to pray for and with my kids. When I come here and see a school who has a Biblical Statement of Faith and Biblical Statement of Marriage & Sexuality on a public facing website, who will unashamedly and unapologetically stand for and teach a Biblical Worldview and Christian values, I will get behind that every time.”

- Katelin Kramm, Class of 2002

Sanford & Mildred King
 Andrew & Kate Kramm
 Steve & Karen Kramm
 Nancy Marsh
 Don & Brenda Mathews
 David & Sonia McCubbins
 Elmer & Violet Metzler
 Leon & Lynda Miller
 Mike & Susan Mowery
 Lawrence & Sheryl Mummau
 Joan Patterson
 Allen Peachey
 Darren & Caryn Peachey
 Dennis & Rebecca Peachey
 Marvin & Avonelle Peachey
 Max & Tambra Peachey
 Nathan & Tamela Peachey
 Rich & Bethany Peachey
 Trent & Danielle Peachey
 Willard & Esther Peachey
 Brian & Gwen Renno
 Robert & Virginia Renno
 Mahlon & Irene Shrock
 John & Virginia Spicher

Tom & Sharon Spicher
 Ken & Bonnie Stoltzfus
 Lee Stoner
 Patricia Sunderland
 Rachel Sunderland
 Randy & Juli Sunderland
 Bill & Evelyn Suydam
 Trevor & Lauren Weaver
 Donald & Linda Wise
 Allen Yoder
 Elsie Yoder
 Gary & Beth Yoder
 J Lester & Margaret Yoder
 John A & Arlene Yoder
 Marjorie Yoder
 Marlin & Mary Yoder
 Paul & Sherryl Yoder
 R. Glenn & Karen Yoder
 Ralph Yoder
 Ray & Dar Yoder
 Victor Yoder
 Tom & Glenna Young
 Byron & Zelda Zook
 Robert & Ethel Zook

Contributions to the Faith Promise Annual Fund can be made at any time online through our website or by mail: 4105 Front Mountain Rd, Belleville, PA 17004.

