

Alumni Echo

News and updates from Belleville Mennonite School - January 2022

Our hearts are sad at the passing of beloved, long-time teacher and librarian, Miss Brenda Kauffman. Miss Kauffman, class of 1958, touched generations of students who walked the halls of BMS during her 33 years of teaching and 14 additional years dedicated to the school library. We celebrate her life, the lasting impact on us all, and rejoice that she is in the presence of the Author of History!



1969-70 Yearbook Dedication:

Miss Brenda,

For four years you laughed with us, wept with us, dreamt with us, and worked with us. You have proved to us that books are exciting friends, that learning, even of subjects we dislike, can be fun; that the finer things of life are worth working for. To you, Miss Brenda Kauffman, because of your dedication to the school and your friendship to us, we, the senior class, with deep appreciation, dedicate this yearbook.



Remembering Ms. Brenda Kauffman

1982-83 Yearbook Dedication:

*We, the Senior class, dedicate the 1983 yearbook to a cheerful, dedicated teacher.
She has her own way of marking hard, boring classes more enjoyable with her many films.
A hard-working librarian who has established our library into a pleasant and informative atmosphere.
Who used her original ideas to help us create a beautiful banquet.
Shows concerns for each individual student.
Although her classes may be rowdy at times, she never raises her voice.
Gives better understanding of other cultures by speakers and meals.
A very supportive Senate advisor; we couldn't do it without her!
Always seen with a friendly smile.
Never hesitates to help, when you have a problem.
Know for using Sir names when she is perturbed with students.*

Miss Kauffman, with the love and admiration, we dedicate to you the 1983 Kish-O-Vale. We sincerely thank you for helping us as we strive toward our life goal. May God continue to watch over you and bless you abundantly as you continue to walk in His light.



1986-87 Yearbook dedication:

*We, the senior class of 1987, dedicate this yearbook to a very special teacher who, in the past four years, has enriched our lives in a very unique way.
She has always seen through our flaws and made us realize that we are each a special individual. And she has always been able to accept the unique originality of our class, as no other teacher could.
We will always remember the fun we had putting the junior-senior banquet together and how she so calmly put up with our paint battles, cart races, and disagreements.
She has so patiently waited for us to grow up; though in the beginning, many had doubts.
Even though we are going our separate ways, we will always cherish the memories we had with you. You have been more than a teacher to us – you have been our friend.
We love you, Miss Kauffman, and may God richly bless you as you continue to serve Him.*



Remembering Ms. Brenda Kauffman

2005-06 Yearbook Acknowledgement:

Miss Brenda A. Kauffman has made a lasting impact on the school as well as her students for over 30 years. However, she had walked the halls of BMS even before her teaching debut in 1966. Miss Kauffman graduated from BMS in 1958. When she returned to BMS in 1966, she took over the high school history teaching position.

Regrettably, she left BMS in 1971 and pursued a teaching position in Florida. She worked as a nurse's aide in a hospital before she returned to Pennsylvania to teach at Kraybill Mennonite for 3 years. After that, she attended Millersville University where she received her Library of Science degree in 1978. Thankfully, in the fall of 1978, Miss Kauffman returned to BMS and has continued to work here ever since. Miss Kauffman, we will all miss your quirky sense of humor, your never-ending "commandments", and those crazy map quizzes! Happy Retirement!

"Thou shalt not talk without raising your hand."

"Thou shalt not throw things in the classroom."

"Thou shall keep your eyes on your own paper."

"Thou shall sit up straight at your desk."

"Thou shalt not sleep in my class."

"Thou shall be in your seat before the bell rings."

"Ten lashings with a wet, soggy noodle."

"Today's prayer focus is ... "



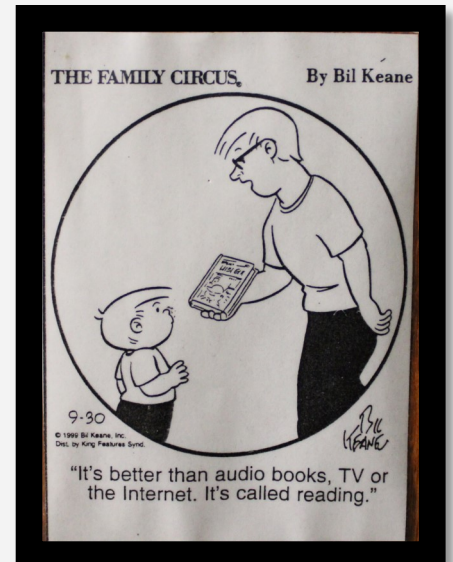
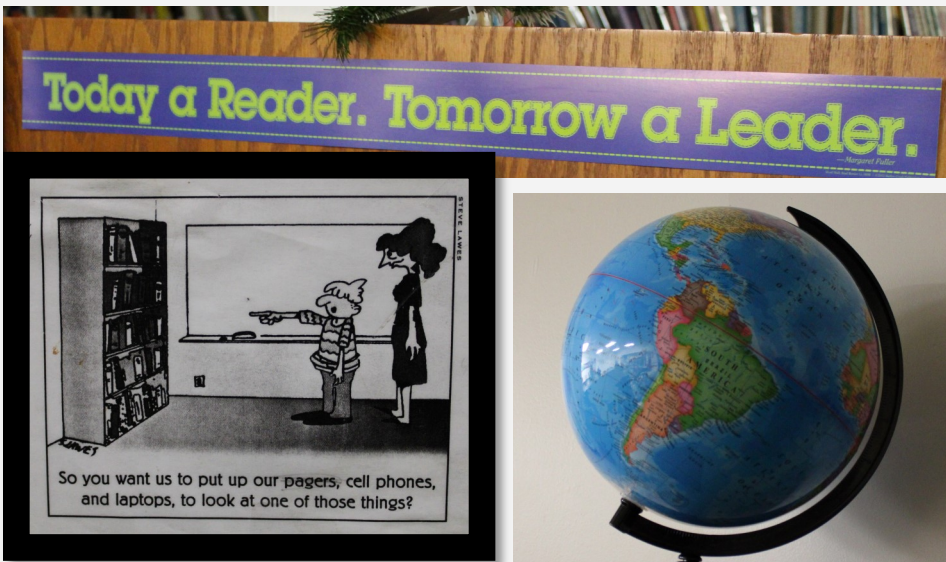
(Above) Dustin Kauffman, class of 2006, with Miss Kauffman at the end of the 2005-06 school year when she retired from teaching.

(Below) Miss Brenda was a featured guest at the 2006 Junior-Senior Banquet!



Honoring Ms. Brenda Kauffman

In honor of her outstanding dedication to BMS and her students, we plan to enhance the high school library throughout the summer months and dedicate it as "The Kauffman Library" during Homecoming this fall. Contributions for this project in honor of Miss Brenda can be sent to the school office. In addition, any memories you'd like to share with fellow alumni can be sent to Gwen, rennogk@bmsprek12.org.



Brenda had an extensive set of Christmas tree ornaments related to her special love of books which she displayed in the library each year. She left this treasured collection to the school and we look forward to featuring it in the library every Christmas as a way of honoring her legacy and the value of books!



Basketball ... Then & Now



Joseph Kanagy, Wayne Yoder, Jonathan Byler, Roy Bender, Mr. Kaufmann, Coach; Frank Peachey, Charles Hartzler, Marvin Yoder, Gary Yoder



STANDING: Sharon Yoder, Manager; Jane Yoder, Manager; Andrea Yoder, Marie Zook, Jenny Yoder, Virginia Peachey, Susan Byler, Adella Kanagy, Miss Garcia, Coach; KNEELING: Darlis Hartzler, Carol Yoder, Teena Werner, Annette Yoder, Ruth Spicer, Nancy Yoder



Standing L. to R.: Herb Zook, coach; Tom Shoop, Max Peachey, Jerry Kanagy, Con Kanagy, Boyd Byler. Kneeling: Henry Werner Rudy Yoder, Darren Peachey, Stan King, Rod Yoder.



Front Row, L. to R.: Lisa French; Regina French; captain, Jill Kauffman; captain, Cecilia Peachey; Second Row: Loretta Peachey, Loretta Mullen; Amy Hartley; Anne Lehman, coach, Sheri Hopple; Angie Miller; Julie Kurtz; manager.



Seated: Co-captain Chris Hartzler, Co-captain Mike Hartzler. Kneeling: Jeremy Peachey, Rod Hartzler, Neil Renno, Dan Hartzler. Standing: Eric Byler, Rich Peachey, Eric Yoder, Ryan Hostetler, and Coach Alan Miller.



Front Row - Heather Hartzler, Emily Yoder, Juli Yoder, Lena Suydam, and Colette Espigh. Back Row - Coach Dave Bechler, Karla Byler, Lori Hostetler, Tracey Bohn, Kim Hartzler, Sharon Miller, and Asst. Coach Alan Miller.

SERVE only the Lord your God
FEAR him alone
OBEY his commands
LISTEN to his voice
CLING to him.
Deuteronomy 13:4

Pictured above: Guys & Girls Varsity teams from 1972, 1982, and 1992. We're thankful for the learning experiences that continue on the court in 2022!

Basketball ... Then & Now

Current basketball players who are children (and grandchildren!) of BMS alumni include:

JH Guys & Girls (l-r): Dakota Gibbons, 8th grade (Rhonda Harshbarger Gibbons, '84); Grant Yoder, 7th grade (Michael Yoder, '96), Ethan Renno, 7th grade (Neil Renno, '94); Devin Yoder, 6th grade (Andrew Yoder, '01); Katelyn Renno, 6th grade (Neil Renno, '94); Leah Reed, 7th grade (Valerie Kanagy Reed, '01)



JH Girls (left): Zoe Thompson, 7th grade (Terri Zook Thompson, '96); Emma Kauffman, 6th grade (Colette Espigh Kauffman, '94); Elaina Peachey, 8th grade (Daniel Peachey, '98)

Other children of alumni not included in these photos:

Lilly Yoder, 8th grade (Andrew Yoder, '01); Bailey Armstrong, 6th grade (Mike Armstrong, '02); Ian Kauffman, 6th grade (Colette Espigh Kauffman, '94); Landon Yoder, 6th grade (Matt Yoder, '02); Collin Hartzler, 7th grade (Dustin Hartzler, '02); Bryson Peachey, 8th grade (Lavern & Jewel Peachey, '00); Paul Yoder, 9th grade (Michael Yoder, '96); Miquel Interiano, 9th grade (Christen Bailey Interiano, '98); Quinn Renno, 10th grade (Brian & Gwen Renno, '96)

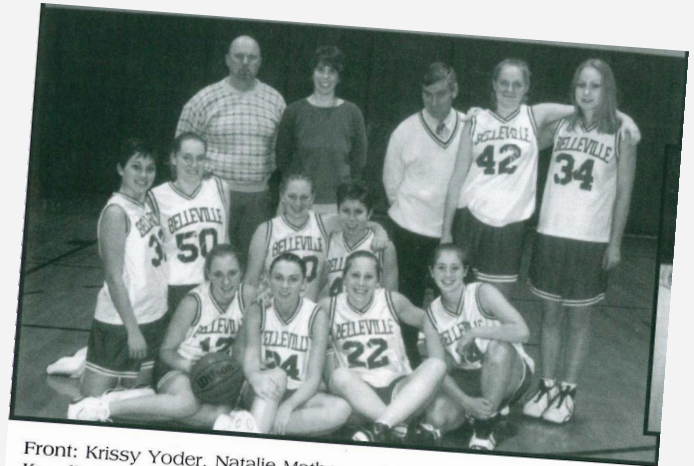
Varsity Guys & Girls (l-r): Christopher Stoltzfus, 10th grade (Kevin Stoltzfus, '78); Chloe Renno, 12th grade (Brian & Gwen Renno, '96); Natalie Yoder, 11th grade (Michael Yoder, '96), Sonya Yoder, 11th grade (Shawn & Emily Yoder, '95); Karina Renno, 9th grade (Brian & Gwen Renno, '96)



Basketball ... Then & Now



Standing: Josh Byler, Josh Neff, Jeff Zook, Curtis Yoder, Philip Kauffman, Coach Elwood Byler Kneeling: Matt Yoder, Aaron Hutton, John Mathews Seated: Tyler Kauffman, Kendall Kauffman



Front: Krissy Yoder, Natalie Mathews, Ashley Byler, Steph Strausser Kneeling: Lauren Byler, Emily Baker, Monica Hutton, Megan Long Standing: Coach Don Mathews, Manager Michelle Hartzler, Coach Herb Zook, Jessica Baker, Sarah Harvey



Guys & Girls Varsity teams from 2002 & 2012.

BMS Alumni, we continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. (Colossians 1:9-12)

We are grateful for your prayers and financial gifts, which enable us to provide a Christ-centered education for the next generation. Thank you for your support!

Empowering students to cultivate academic excellence and a passion for Christ.

