



"The plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations." ~ Psalm 33:11

With Appreciation



PRE-K PLAYGROUND

SPECIAL THANKS!

Generous donations given at the Annual Auction provided the funds needed to begin the relocation of the PreK playground and updates to our outdoor recreational spaces. Equipment, expertise, and supplies provided by Zook's Masonry, Big Valley Concrete, Belleville Industries, MKB, and Metzler Forest Products, along with grant funding and the diligent work of Maintenance Director Dave Kanagy and volunteers are transforming the playgrounds!

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INDUSTRIES**



BIG VALLEY CONCRETE, INC.



MKB
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My Firm Foundation

shared by Anne Fisher-Henson at the Fall Fellowship Dinner during Homecoming Weekend

While this is my first year serving as the high school English teacher, BMS has been a part of my life - and a firm foundation for me - for much longer than that. I was in 6th grade when I started attending BMS, and I graduated from here in 2020. During that time, I developed lasting relationships with my classmates and teachers, both of whom taught me much about matters of academics and faith.

When I was asked to share, I wrote down the theme verse and set it on my desk here at school, where I could read it

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We welcome several new faculty and staff to BMS for the 24-25 school year!

Mrs. Casey Alexander, PE & Health; Mr. Scott Falkner, Director of Technology; Ms. Anne Fisher-Henson, HS English; Mrs. Sierra Grove, Middle School; Mrs. Chris Laughlin, Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Evelyn Suydam, Interim HS Science; Ms. Savannah Harman, HS Science



Expanded Learning Opportunities

As seniors, Gracie Civitts and Julia Baker are excited about their final year at BMS. They dream about the possibilities ahead and have plans to continue their education following graduation. Because BMS can offer individualized educational paths to high school students, these young ladies have also embraced a new opportunity to explore their interest in the healthcare profession this year!

Geisinger Network offers a unique clinical partnership for high school students who are considering a career in healthcare. Each morning, their school day begins with several hours of direct patient care at Geisinger Lewistown Hospital prior to arriving at BMS. Julia, who plans to begin nursing school after graduation shared, “It’s a great opportunity for someone my age to learn the profession and see direct change instead of just having conceptual experience from classroom instruction.”

Checking vitals, assisting with breakfast, changing sheets and bathing patients has been an incredibly meaningful



experience for both young ladies. Gracie, who also intends to pursue a career as a nurse stated, “It is so exciting to learn hands-on at this point in our education!”

My Firm Foundation cont.

regularly leading up to this time of fellowship. But between then and now, I became more attuned to the second part of this verse, which references “the purposes of His heart through all generations.”

When I think of BMS, I think of discipleship. As a student here, the BMS community showed me how to walk closely with Christ. I still remember stories of faith that my teachers shared in Monday morning chapels that have become part of my foundation in the Lord, the things that I recall as reminders of what it looks like to live in daily devotion to the Lord. And because BMS showed me that spiritual discipline and academic rigor can go hand-in-hand, I was prepared to stand on this foundation when I started college in 2020. My four years of college happened to coincide with what felt like tumultuous seasons on the national and global level and

that intimately affected our college campus. In a season that could have easily unmoored me, my faith actually became more refined, in large part because of their example.

As I prepared to graduate from college this past spring and was considering what my next step would be, my main priority was to walk into a place where I would receive Christian mentorship. And teaching at BMS has multiplied whatever I thought that could be. I now get to be in the room with my former teachers and ongoing mentors and new members of the BMS community as they lead in the prayers and spiritual disciplines that meant so much to me as a student. I’m not sure that they realized it, but the very people who disciplined me are now teaching me how to offer that to others and to our current students.

Earlier this school year, we were asked to consider what has been entrusted to us. I immediately thought of the students that I now teach and the things that I want them to learn from me, the intentional steps that I’m trying to take so that they can see what it looks like to live a life of faith from someone a few steps ahead of them. And then I thought of how many times my own teachers must have done the exact same thing. This is a new season for me, and I know that every school year brings a new season for BMS and for the people here, but these disciplines that the Lord grows in and through us are not. They are, and more accurately, Christ is the firm foundation that guides us in the purposes of His heart through all generations. I have loved every opportunity to get to know the students here and truly to learn alongside them. It is a blessing to be a part of the stories of discipleship that God has written.

Growing our Giving

Gwen Renno, Director of Development

We celebrate enrollment at a 20 year high as we settle into the 2024-25 school year, with over 250 students representing 156 families and 40 different congregations! We are thrilled to welcome more than 20 new families to the BMS community, but we are also facing a major budget shortfall.

The cost of educating students in a different and deeper way continues to increase rapidly. We are committed to filling classrooms with dedicated and gifted faculty and offering curriculum that is grounded in a biblical worldview. However, the income from our major annual fundraisers has not grown at the same rate as our expenses. In fact, it has declined in recent years.

This revenue is a vital part of offsetting the actual cost of education so the tuition amount that families are asked to pay remains reasonable. It’s a sobering reality, but we are not without hope! We are actively pursuing a variety of initiatives to expand what we offer students, our reach throughout the community, and new ways to support the cost of providing an education grounded in truth.

Whether you are a recent alumnus, a grandparent watching your grandchildren thrive, or anywhere in between, we invite you to join others in continuing to empower students to cultivate academic excellence and a passion for Christ. Supporting the BMS student experience has never been easier!

Gifts to the Faith Promise Annual Fund through automated monthly giving or by becoming an Annual Fund Partner go to work immediately and are essential to fulfill the school’s mission! Scan the code or visit our website to give today.



Additionally, BMS is delighted to continue to receive generous gifts of appreciated assets – such as stocks or securities, farm commodities, and real estate – to benefit our school in making an immediate impact through sound curriculum and competitive salaries. Donor advised funds – often referred to as a “charitable checking account” are

Wish List

As we steward our growing campus facilities, consider donating gently used items to match a need or contribute funds to underwrite the estimated cost of the following:

- Teacher desks (5 @ \$250 each)
- Restocking of paper supplies (paper plates, plasticware, napkins) for faculty lounges (\$100)
- 36-in. Blackstone 4-Burner Propane Gas Hard-Top Griddle for Athletic Concession use (\$280)
- Refrigerator for Elementary Faculty Lounge (\$1,000)
- Shop Maintenance DeWalt 20 volt cordless tool set (\$1,500)
- Light snow plow to fit Ford F150 (\$3,000)
- Chain link fence for expanded elementary playground (\$3,000)
- 3hp Sawstop Professional Table Saw (\$3,800)
- 32x32x4 concrete slab to create a base for pavilion purchased with grant funds for outdoor educational space (\$10,000)
- New stage flooring and curtains (\$12,000)
- Black top on stone parking lot (\$75,000)

becoming one of the fastest growing tools for making these types of gifts. There are many benefits to gifting in this way – including avoiding capital gains tax.

Another opportunity to financially support the School is through your financial institution. For those 70 ½ or older, a qualified charitable distribution - or sometimes referred to as the IRA Charitable Rollover - allows you to reduce your taxable income by choosing to gift to BMS directly from your traditional IRA account.

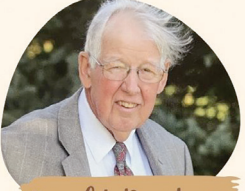
One couple who supports BMS in this way shared, “It’s a creative and easy way to give and avoid taxes on those minimum required distributions!”




HOMEcoming WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS



2024 Alumni Awards



Gerald Peachey
Class of 1966



Adam Peachey
Class of 2007

Honoring the ways your work, service & ministry has impacted others and encouraged discipleship.

Alumni Awards

Learn more about this year's award recipients and nominate others for next year by visiting:
<https://www.bmsprek12.org/resources/alumni.cfm>

Grandparent's Day at BMS

More than 230 special guests joined us for a delightful morning on October 22. Thank you, grandparents, for the tremendous gift of your presence. We are so grateful for the treasures you share with us!



Save the Date!

Visit our website calendar or follow us on Facebook to learn more about special activities and stay up to date on athletic events and student achievements!

›Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 12, 1:00PM and 6:30PM

›First Home Basketball Games

Friday, December 13 vs. Juniata Christian School
4:00, 5:00, 6:00 & 7:00PM



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