

Cougar News

October 2025

CCS Welcomes Our New Educators!

by: Dylan Bell



Our school gained a ton of new staff this year, and I'm sure you have met most of them, but we are going to go over all the new members and what they do and teach. To start, the school has been looking very well-kept, and that is all thanks to the new janitorial staff.

The school acquired a bunch of new teachers, including a few alumni. Clayton Willbroad is teaching 8th grade Bible, high school Econ/Government, and World History. Andrea Phillips teaches 8th grade English and Junior High Boys Creative Art. Geology and Geography are being taught by Sherry Health. Corena Lemrick is teaching 8th grade Earth Science, and lastly, Lindsey Axmaker is teaching high school Forensic Science. Now for elementary, Ryleigh Mulhern is directing music for the younger age groups. We also obtained brand new 1st and 2nd grade teachers, and they are amazing. Brittany Cristofolo is the new 1st grade teacher, and the kids love her. The 2nd graders might be the happiest class because of their new teacher, Jess McGuire. I could say something great about all these new staff members, but then this article would be way too long. We are all so thankful for all the new members of this school, from the 1st grade teachers to the janitors. So if you happen to see any of these truly amazing individuals, give them a big thanks for what they are doing to keep this school an amazing place.



The Spirit of the Cougar: Bold, Brave, and Proud

by: Lukas Duckworth



The Country Christian School has been around for 55 years. The main thing that has stuck around the longest is its name. The origin of the name was actually a very funny story. Back when the school had only 60 people, Pastor Carolyn took them all across the road to the baseball and softball fields. Back then, it was just farm crops and bushes. They were walking on a path, having a great time playing around and eating strawberries from the fields. When all of a sudden, a cougar and its family started to sneak up on them. One of the kids saw it and yelled, "Cougar!" So everyone terrifyingly turned around to look and all screamed. Pastor Carolyn told everyone to run, so in a panic everyone started running, cutting their shins on the blackberry bushes. But no one was worried about it—they just wanted to get out of the field. The cougars started to catch up, trying their hardest to get them, but they weren't fast enough. All the kids made it back safely without any casualties besides the cuts on their shins. So the next day, everyone wanted to name our school the Country Christian Cougars. But unfortunately, that entire story was not true. Pastor Garylee made all that up. Pastor Carolyn originally wanted our school to be named the Country Christian Cows, but in a vote between the Cows and Cougars, the Cougars persevered to the top of the voting poll.

Fresh Vision, New Leadership: Say Hello to Our Principal

by: Savannah Viers



Mrs. Merrill—most of us know her as our principal, one of the best. But to some, she is more than that—she's also a mentor and a friend. Mrs. Merrill kindly took the time to answer some questions about CCS. She has many things that make her happy, but what brings her the most joy is her family.

She loves being a mom and having her girls around. She says, "I love to get to work and serve in the same place where we chose to have our kids in school." Mrs. Merrill's favorite Bible verse is Romans 4:20-21. She is persuaded that God has the power to fulfill all of His promises.

When asked why she became a principal, Mrs. Merrill explained that Country Christian School is one of the largest ministries of the Country Church, which has pastors and elders actively involved. Because of that, it was a natural and easy transition for her to take charge.

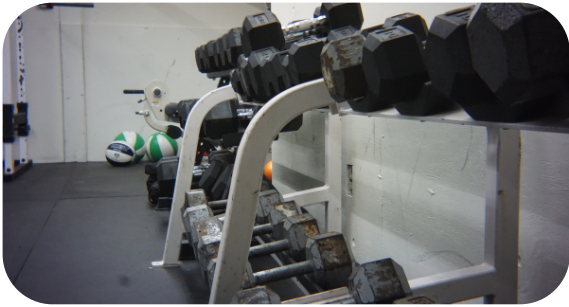
When it comes to leading CCS, Mrs. Merrill loves her job and wouldn't change it for anything. If she weren't the principal, she still sees herself being involved in the school, church, and community.

Her heart for students shows in her desire for every child to succeed, get good grades, and enjoy their school experience. When Mrs. Merrill is not at school, she enjoys spending time with her husband and daughters, especially attending all their sports events.

Mrs. Merrill's goal for CCS is to continue walking in her calling from the Lord while providing a safe place for students and families to grow and thrive.

Summer Upgrades: Check Out What's Changed at CCS

by: Gracen Colvin



This summer there was a list of improvements that were made to our school.

First of all,(and why we were delayed)the fire alarms! They are new and improved so hopefully no more “ACCIDENTAL” set offs. We also we had a fire drill on Monday September 11th and only the flashing lights went off, but then during lunch a few days later, someones lunch melted in the microwave and the alarms went off for real. Flashing lights and the alarm sounded! So they work!!!

Secondly, the floors in both the Bergstorm and Lundmark gyms are new and improved! Perfect for sports games and RECESS fun!

Third, the carpet in the Bergstorm gym! The old carpet looked old an run down, but now we have clean soft carpet which makes the gym look good as new.

Fourth, more parking places. For those who don’t know there was an old fort in the back by the dedicated place which was originally used for Sunday School. Recently it has been for storage for an assortment of items. That was torn down and gravel was put there for more teacher parking. Behind the modulars ,they have expanded the parking lot for those teachers and made more space for pick up.

Finally, the new weight room. It is perfect for people who enjoy weights, along with all the sports teams throughout the school year. They put new weights, a benchpress, and a ton of new equipment. Mr. Begley is also teaching a basketball skills class this first semester and they use it for that.



Pink Week

- Monday- Pink Pants
- Tuesday- Pink Socks
- Wednesday- Pink Accessories
- Thursday- Pink Shirts
- Friday- Pink Out



Fall Field Trips

- Oct 9th 9am-12pm Kindergarten to the French Prairie Gardens Pumpkin Patch
- Oct 10th 9am-12pm Preschool is going to Willamette Valley Melon Pumpkin Patch
- Oct 16th @ 3pm Junior High Trip to Baumans
- Oct 16th 8am-12pm 2nd grade is going to Willamette Valley Melon Pumpkin Patch
- Oct 23rd 9am-2pm 1st Grade is going to Bauman Farms
- Oct 24th @ 2pm High School Trip to Baumans

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- 1ST
- 7:00-8:30 24/7 GENERATION CHURCH @ YOUTH SANCTUARY
- 2ND
- TBD HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY @ STAYTON MIDDLE SCHOOL TRAILS
- 4:30PM JV VOLLEYBALL GAME @ GRANDVIEW
- 4:30PM JV2 VOLLEYBALL GAME @ NORTH CLACKAMAS
- 6:00PM VARSITY VOLLEYBALL GAME @ GRANDVIEW
- 3RD
- 3:30PM 5/6 GRECO VOLLEYBALL GAME @ GRANDVIEW
- 4:00PM 5/6 SCHNEIDER VOLLEYBALL GAME @ MANNAHOUSE
- 4:30PM JH SIMMONS VOLLEYBALL GAME @ GRANDVIEW
- 5:00PM JH DEARDORFF VOLLEYBALL GAME @ MANNAHOUSE
- 7PM FOOTBALL GAME @ ESTACADA HIGH
- 4TH
- YOUTH SOCCER GAMES
- 1:00PM VARSITY VOLLEYBALL @ DUFUR
- 2:30PM JV VOLLEYBALL @ DUFUR
- 6TH
- 4:00PM 5/6 GRECO VOLLEYBALL GAME @ HOME
- 5:00PM JH SIMMONS VOLLEYBALL GAME @ HOME
- 6TH-10TH
- PINK WEEK
- 7TH
- 4:00PM JH DEARDORFF VOLLEYBALL @ HOME
- 5:00PM 5/6 SCHNEIDER VOLLEYBALL @ HOME
- 5:15PM JV VOLLEYBALL GAME @ HOME
- 7:00PM VARSITY VOLLEYBALL GAME @ HOME
- 8TH
- 7:00-8:30 24/7 GENERATION CHURCH
- 9TH
- 6:00PM VARSITY VOLLEYBALL @ PORTLAND WALDORF
- 10TH
- TIAM MACHO VOLLEYBALL
- 4:00PM 5/6 GRECO VOLLEYBALL @ DAMASCUS CHRISTIAN/PORTLAND WALDORF
- 5:00PM 5/6 DEARDORFF VOLLEYBALL @ MANNAHOUSE
- 7:00PM FOOTBALL GAME @ ESTACADA HIGH
- 11TH
- YOUTH SOCCER GAMES
- 10:45AM HS CROSS COUNTRY @ RAINIER HIGH SCHOOL
- 13TH
- 4:00PM 5/6 SCHNEIDER VOLLEYBALL @ HOME
- 4:00PM JV2 VOLLEYBALL @ HOME
- 5:00PM 5/6 GRECO VOLLEYBALL @ HOME
- 6:00PM JH SIMMONS VOLLEYBALL @ HOME
- 14TH
- 6:00PM VARSITY VOLLEYBALL HOME
- 15TH
- 3:00-6:00 HS CROSS COUNTRY @ MCIVER PARK
- 7:00-8:30 24/7 GENERATION CHURCH
- 16TH
- 4:00PM - HS CROSS COUNTRY @ ANDERSON PARK
- 4:30PM- JV VOLLEYBALL @ OPEN DOOR
- 6:00PM VARSITY VOLLEYBALL @ OPEN DOOR
- 17TH
- 4:00PM - 5/6 SCHNEIDER VOLLEYBALL @ OPEN DOOR
- 4:00PM- JH SIMMONS VOLLEYBALL @ NORTH CLACKAMAS CHRISTIAN
- 5:00PM - 5/6 GRECO VOLLEYBALL @NORTH CLACKAMAS CHRISTIAN
- 5:00PM- JH DEARDORFF VOLLEYBALL @ OPEN DOOR
- 7:00PM - VARSITY FOOTBALL @ PERRYDALE
- 18TH
- YOUTH SOCCER GAMES
- 21ST
- JH VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS @ TBD
- 22ND
- HS CROSS COUNTRY @ STEWART PARK, ROSEBURG OR
- 2:00 - VARSITY GIRLS
- 2:30 - VARSITY BOYS
- 7:00-8:30 - 24/7 GENERATION CHURCH
- 24TH
- 7:00PM- FOOTBALL GAME @ YONCALLA
- 25TH
- Varsity VOLLEYBALL DISTRICT TOURNAMENT @TBD
- YOUTH SOCCER GAMES
- 28TH-30TH
- PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES EARLY DISMISSAL 11:40
- 29TH
- Varsity VOLLEYBALL 1ST ROUND STATE PLAYOFFS @ TBD
- HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY DISTRICT MEET @ RAINIER HIGH SCHOOL
- 3:45 - 1A/2A BOYS
- 4:15 - 1A/2A/3A GIRLS
- 30TH
- 7:00 - 9:00 VARSITY FOOTBALL @ESTACADA
- 31ST
- NO SCHOOL



COLOSSIANS 3:23, “WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT HEARTILY, AS TO THE LORD AND NOT TO MEN”