November 2023

The Grapevine

I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit: apart from Me you can do nothing.
John 15:5

God's Direction

By Debbie Kenney
Middle School Principal

It is amazing that this is the 30th anniversary of Bradshaw Christian School. I have been blessed to have been part of watching the growth of our school for almost 22 years. When I first began my career here at Bradshaw, I was hired to teach fifth grade. I remained in fifth grade for 10 wonderful years, until I heard God's calling to go to Middle School.

Twenty-five years ago, the gym building at the current elementary campus, housed high school, middle school and 5th grade classrooms. I was blessed to get to follow my 5th graders as they entered into middle and then high school. Then, God again blessed Bradshaw as growth continued and the Larson Hall was built and the high school students moved to the high school campus. The next time I saw my prior students, the boys had long hair and beards!

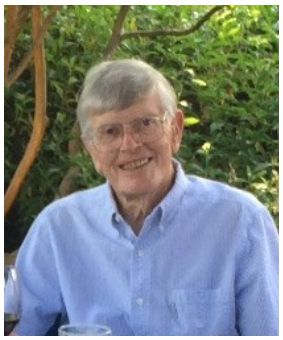
Five years after moving into middle school I was asked to move into the position of Principal. My love for teaching will always be in my heart, but I felt that God again had another calling for me. I have been the Principal for seven years now. My heart is to help raise these teenagers into respectful and helpful young people! Being a principal as COVID set in had many challenges for me. The part of not actually seeing my teachers or students was extremely hard. I was so proud of our Middle School teachers during this time. They were very present to their students even during the remote learning time, making both fun and academic videos for them. Many of them made home visits when the calling came.

> ***"My heart is to help raise these teenagers into respectful and helpful young people!"***

Coming out of COVID meant moving our Middle School Campus to be side by side with the High School campus. This was a time of extreme prayer for me and all of us. Again, my teachers took the move with open hearts of what that meant to them and their students. Three years later we are still here and thriving! Everyone has let God direct, with schedules, classrooms, bathrooms and space challenges. I am very proud of my middle school students and how quickly they adapted to all the challenges. That could only have happened because of the wholehearted leadership of our teachers.

Looking over the last 22 years of my tenure here, there are many touchpoints of blessing. But seeing former students moving on in their life's journeys brings the greatest joy. The last class that I taught in middle school graduated high school last year and I was able to reconnect with some former 5th grade students at this year's homecoming who are 2013 alumnae. Being able to watch these students overcome hard places, grow up and follow God's direction in their lives, is just another piece of being part of the Bradshaw Family. I've always said, once I have a student in my care they will always belong to me!

School Founder Highlight: Bob Larson (1931-2017)



- Raised in a Christian home, son of a Lutheran pastor
- Attended Luther College
- Served in lay ministry and small group ministry as a Sunday School teacher and Bible Study leader all his adult life
- Taught junior high/middle school science for more than 30 years
- As active member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Bob shared in the vision of Carl Eastvold and the other founders to establish a Christian school
- Both granddaughters attended BCHS
- Served as BCS School Board President from inception until retirement in 2016
- Worked in the BCS Business Office until his death in 2017
- A high school building is named after him to honor his service and dedication - Larson Hall.

Did You Know...the school's scripture verse?

The scripture verse for our school, John 15:5, is within the heading of this newsletter. The Message Bible version says, "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing."

We began this school venture understanding if we are united to Christ, anything is possible, but if left to ourselves, we have nothing to offer. The Lord's fruit has not been in the building of a school, but through Christ using a school to build Himself in us. Lord, may there be an abundant harvest of your fruit, which is Christ in us. "This is my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit..."

> ***"This is my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit..."***
>
> *John 15:8*

Bradshaw Family Reflections: The Herberts

Bill, Karen, & Liam Herbert

Our relationship with BCS began in 1993 when my first child started preschool in the one room facility. In fact, Debi Corbella was the preschool director, Maureen Eastvold taught my child how to read (she even ate a worm when she challenged the group to read a certain amount of books - of course they did!), Brett Mowery was the MS principal who cared deeply during a moment of struggle in the life of my child. Every administrator, teacher, daycare aide - they all care so very much for the development of a child both in education and as a child of God. I will be forever grateful to them all. It was my pleasure to watch BCS grow into an amazing school; albeit just through middle school for me at that time. Fast forward to 2006 when Bill and I married. Then in 2007 we were pleasantly surprised to be told "you're pregnant" - definitely not something Bill and I planned but God always has a better plan. I told Bill there was only one school Liam will attend and in 2011 we enrolled him in preschool. He just began 10th grade this year. I have been so blessed to have all the time in the world with Liam and in turn for BCS. I worked in the daycare department during Liam's 2nd grade year and I LOVED being on the blacktop during recess. When Bill retired he quickly joined me in the parking lot volunteer job and most of you will see us every morning in the elementary parking lot keeping kids & pedestrians safe while keeping traffic flowing. Bill loves having fun with the fourth and fifth graders every morning. He values his time with the kids as well as taking his job serious. We do have the advantage being retired but we have found getting involved with the school is the best way to build relationships with administration, teachers, parents and the children. It is such a blessing to us and we are so grateful for all that BCS has done for our family.

Alumni Feature: Looking Forward Looking Back

Class of 2011
Jake Adkins

I began my journey at Bradshaw Christian in the 8th grade and fell in love with the school immediately. The intimate setting that Bradshaw offered was a stark contrast to the larger public schools in Elk Grove. This environment allowed me to form deep-rooted relationships with not only my classmates, but also with coaches and teachers, many of whom remain important parts of my life. My stint in the sports program at BCS—boasting 3 Section Championships, twice in Baseball and once in Basketball—instilled in me a resilient mindset. This winning and professional culture created by our coaches, later influenced my approach in the business realm. Post high school, my passion for baseball took me to several colleges in search of the right opportunity. When the baseball path didn't open up as anticipated, I leaned towards sales and marketing and found out exactly where God wanted me to be. Then, shortly after went on to meet my beautiful wife of 7 years, Shelby. Today, I play a pivotal role in our family ventures, namely The Sheldon Inn Restaurant, Adkins Family Vineyards, The Velvet Martini Lounge, and Future Energy Savers. My key responsibilities include management, customer experience, networking, branding, and sales. In addition to these, I have a video production company, and I'm also gearing up to launch a golf brand in Spring 2024. Along this journey, I've had the privilege of collaborating with some of the brightest minds, ensuring smooth sailing in all our businesses. Looking back, I genuinely believe that the foundation laid during my time at Bradshaw has been instrumental in the successes I've experienced. Go Pride!

We're still growing! A look to the future.

FFA and Agricultural Education GROWS at BCS

Bradshaw has its first FFA chapter which began with the 2022-23 school year. As part of the larger program that is now called agricultural education, FFA members are encouraged to participate in all three components of the program:

1. Classroom/laboratory work (through enrollment in agriculture classes).
2. Membership in FFA
3. Hands-on work experience through the supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program

Within only one year, the BCS Ag program has; 4 Ag-science offerings, a thriving FFA Chapter, rejuvenated an on-site barn and pens to house pigs, sheep, goats, and cattle and has introduced Bradshaw's first ever crop-PUMPKINS. And what would a first pumpkin patch be without its first ever Harvest Festival?

The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The future of our FFA program and these students looks bright and ever GROWING!

A big **THANK YOU** to the Lion's Club for donating and preparing food at our first Harvest Festival!

REMINDER! ALL SCHOOL IS CLOSED 10th, 23rd, 24th for Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving.