

HILITES

SUMMER 2023

HERE I AM



www.schs.org



Community Night of
WORSHIP
"Here I Am"

@ South Christian's
Amphitheater

8.27.23 / 6:30 PM

All are welcome
to worship and
pray blessings on
the start of a new
school year.



STRONG
FOUNDATIONS

5K RUN
WALK

10.14.23 / 10:00 AM
@ SCHS Cross Country Course

The South Suburban Christian Schools are hosting the first annual *Strong Foundations 5K*. This family event is to raise funds for the schools' Foundations, which reduce the overall tuition costs for all students.



The community is invited to participate in the race or donate.

There are also several sponsorship opportunities available.




VETERANS DAY
ASSEMBLY

11.10.23 / 9:00 AM
@ SCHS Gymnasium

South Christian, along with the South Suburban Christian middle schools, will be honoring those who have served in the armed forces during a Veterans Day special assembly. The community is invited to join us.

Calendar News

Please refer to the 2023-24 Events School Calendar on our website for more information.
www.schs.org

AUGUST

- 21 First Day of School
- 27 Night of Worship - Amphitheater @ 6:30 PM
- 29 Parent Back-to-School Night @ 7:00 PM

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Sailor Night Community Tailgate - Falcon Stadium
- 12 Women's Golf Outing - StoneWater Country Club
- 23 Victory Day @ 3:00 PM

OCTOBER

- 14 *Strong Foundations 5K* @ 10:00 AM
- 25 Orchestra Concert @ 6:30 PM

NOVEMBER

- 9 - 11 Fall Drama
- 10 Veterans Day Assembly
- 20 Blood Drive

DECEMBER

- 2 Student Council Stage Show @ 7:00 PM
- 3 All Choirs Concert @ 7:00 PM
- 13 Band & Orchestra Concert @ 8:00 PM

*On the Cover: SCHS students from the graduating class of 2023.
Photo by Sarah Vierzen.*

The South Christian HiLites publication is produced two times per year.

SCHS is an equal opportunity institution. SCHS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, sex, or physical/mental handicap in its educational programming and activities, including enrollment, employment, and contracting.

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E. office@schs.org

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER HILITES

HERE I AM

There's a familiar story in Exodus 3 where God calls out of a burning bush to Moses, to which Moses responds "Here I Am." I think we often underestimate the boldness of this response. As readers of the text, we have the benefit of hindsight. I sometimes wonder if Moses would have had the same response at the moment if he knew what saying yes to God's call actually meant.

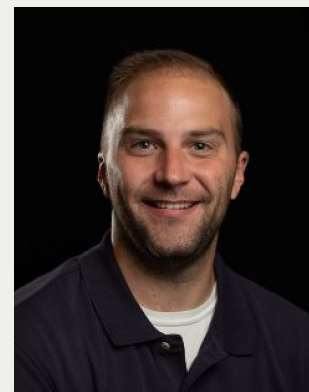
Like Moses, we're called to obedience, even when we lack clarity and understanding. It is indeed a bold way to live. At South Christian, we aim to equip students to live Christ-centered lives and serve God to their greatest potential - a bold mission. As you'll read in this issue of *HiLites*, students are being equipped to live bold, Christ-centered lives in all areas of their education, in and out of the classroom. I am grateful for your partnership in this work.

You'll also be introduced to some new faculty and staff who are excited to join us in this important kingdom work. You'll hear of some retirements and departures of wonderful people who have made this place so special for so many. You'll also get to celebrate some of the accomplishments of the Class of 2023.

Finally, you'll be introduced to our new strategic plan, *Grounded*, which gives direction to the school. While being grounded is something a Sailor never wants to be, it's something we aim for our graduates to be: followers grounded in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. It is grounded, resilient disciples of Jesus who will be able to respond to God's call with a bold "Here I Am!"

Thank you for your partnership in Christian education.

Aaron Meckes
Head of School



STAFF UPDATES

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Brady Howe	ESS Teacher
Sadie Niewiek	ESS Teacher
Gideon Sall (PT)	Industrial Technology Assistant
Josh Sterenberg	Bible Teacher
Marc VanderMaas (PT)	Auditorium Manager
Abby Weaver	Science Teacher
Mike Wolthuis (PT)	Industrial Technology Assistant
Krista Wright	Principal
Betsy Zeerip (PT)	Accompanist

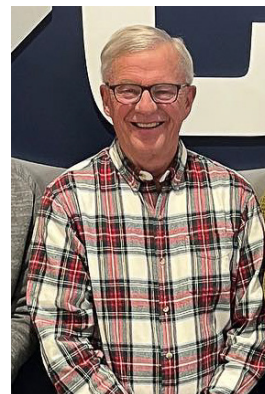
With expanding enrollment, comes the need for additional faculty. It is exciting to welcome our new staff members.

RETIRING STAFF MEMBER

Thank you for your 53 years of service with South Christian High School! May you be blessed in your retirement.

Curt Brinks

Teacher, Coach, and Maintenance



STAFF IN MEMORIAM

Orville Pasma

Teacher (1964 - 1996)

Passed away on January 15, 2023.

BOARD MEMBERS 2023-24

We are pleased to welcome Ryan Bennink, Kim DeVries, Jason Maas, and Sara VanGrouw as newly elected board members beginning this fall. Thank you for your willingness to serve our South Christian community.

South Christian would also like to thank the following retiring board members for all their hard work over the last three years: Glenn Carlson, Deb Dykema, Steve Ritsema, and Amy Schaaf.

PRINCIPAL UPDATE

We hit the road to start our journey toward Michigan the first week of July and were so eager to start this next chapter in our little part of God's story that we left straight from church, even with my husband preaching the sermon that day. I might even have asked him to pick short hymns!

In preparation for writing this introduction, I dug into my first email to Aaron Meckes where I inquired about the high school principal position at South Christian High School. On January 27th I wrote,

"I am reaching out to you to express some interest in the high school principal position at South Christian. Full transparency, I'm not sure this is the right opportunity but I have full respect for your institution and I believe I would enjoy working for you. I am also drawn to the emphasis of the curriculum aspect of the position as you described it. I think you will find that passion for curriculum and instruction to shine through in my materials. So I am loosely throwing my hat in the ring."

That email is surely in strong contrast to my current enthusiasm for being the next principal at South Christian High School. Those underlined phrases are full of doubt and uncertainty but over two months, the Holy Spirit used Zoom interviews, phone calls, emails, a campus visit, and hundreds (maybe thousands) of prayers to reveal God's plans. He made it abundantly clear that Byron Center, Michigan is where He needed me to go and I am overjoyed and honored to accept this call.

Now that you know how I got here, I think it's important that you know more about me and my background. I grew up in a Christian home in the southwest suburbs of Chicago. Some of my strongest childhood memories are of hours and hours of exploring the nearby forest preserves looking for insects, rocks, small animals, and wildflowers. I would bring them home and try to identify the species in my Golden Book Field Guides. Early on God was developing this passion for biology, which eventually led me to Indiana University to pursue a degree in secondary science education. After graduation, I enjoyed many years of teaching science in middle school and high school.

God also introduced me to the wonderful man I was to marry while at IU. This summer Matt and I will celebrate our 29th anniversary. During our marriage, we have aimed to remain faithful to God's direction. He has led us to new places and careers beyond what we ever might have imagined. In me, He developed and honed skills in academic leadership, which I used at Grand Rapids Christian High School as a teacher and Winterim coordinator and most recently, as the high school principal at Central Valley Christian in Visalia, California. Matt is an ordained pastor at Visalia Christian Reformed Church and is currently seeking a new pastoral call in West Michigan.

God has blessed us with two amazing daughters, Morgan and Hannah. Morgan is an urban planner based in Fresno, California and Hannah is the marketing director at Central Valley Christian. Together as a family, we enjoy going for long walks and attending a variety of sporting events. We are on a long and slow quest to make it to every major league baseball stadium so we like to plan road trips to take in a few games a year. While it is tough to move away from our girls, we accept that that's "part of the deal" when remaining faithful to God's calling.

I am looking forward to returning to the South Christian campus. I felt so welcomed by the staff, students, and board members. I was impressed by the quality of the staff, facilities, and programs but most importantly, by the deep foundation of faith that was apparent in every conversation and space. God continues to reveal His plans as He turns the pages of His story at South Christian. I am eager to meet the South Christian community and am excited to collaborate with the staff and dig into the important work of equipping students to live Christ-centered lives and serve God to their greatest potential.

Your partner in
Christian Education,

Krista
Wright
Principal





Celebrati CLASS

"I have told you these things, so
world you will have trouble. But t
Jo



ing the S of 2023

that in me you may have peace. In this
take heart! I have overcome this world."
John 16:33



Honors Department Awards

ART

Megan DeVries, Skylar Raak,
Joseph VanderKooi, Grace Wang

ENGLISH

Emily Vierzen

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Levi DeWeerd

KENT CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER

Shai Meh Karenni

MATHEMATICS

Alea Winkle

MUSIC-BAND

John Green

MUSIC-CHOIR

Elijah VandenHeuvel

MUSIC-ORCHESTRA

Brianna Koetje, Elijah Pleune

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Gina Boomsma, Ethan Nyenhuis

SCIENCE

Ava Timmer

SOCIAL STUDIES

Emily Vierzen

SPANISH

Ava Timmer

TECHNOLOGY

Kaira Maley

— “ —
We know not what the
future holds, but *who*
holds the future.
— ” —

A CAREER'S BRIEF REPRISE

Reprise (noun): “A recurrence, renewal or resumption of an action.” (Merriam-Webster)

This year I've enjoyed a brief reprise of my career. Recently retired from 39 years of Christian school administration, last spring I was invited to wash my khakis, iron my dress shirts, and come to work at South Christian for the '22-'23 school year. It has been a wonderful experience, one that has deepened my faith in God and my commitment to Christian education.

I've learned that a career reprise is a very unique opportunity. After all, you are no longer diligently working with one eye trained on your professional future; rather, you are focused on resuming tasks and actions that you love to do... simply because you love to do them. Most duties that come your way are very familiar, perhaps even predictable, and, as a result, you have the time to look around carefully, listen intently to others, and help out whenever and wherever you can. The reprise of your career is actually quite enjoyable!

After my experiences this past year I've never been more encouraged about Christian education in general and South Christian in particular! Let me tell you why.

Our school is thriving. The future is bright. Enrollment is strong, and interest in our school seems to be quite contagious. Finances, never easy for Christian schools, are sufficient. After so much uncertainty in our world in recent years, the strength of our institution can only be explained in one way: it is an absolute testimony to God's care and provision!

Our school is constantly striving to be better. People around here spend quite a bit of time discussing ways that we can be stronger and better. “How can I improve my teaching skills?” “What programs or courses do our students need?” “How can we best utilize all of our gifts?” “How can we further our school's mission?” These questions, so abundant, lead to actions. Those actions lead to improvement.

South Christian teachers are more in tune with “teaching Christianity” than we were at the beginning of my career 40 years ago. It's true! Remember, I've had both of my eyes wide open this year. At South Christian, our teachers are responding to their call to offer a quality Christian education in all of our classes, extracurriculars, and interactions with students. That fact alone makes the price of admission (tuition) totally worthwhile!

Our support staff keeps the school's wheels turning. These employees are proud to work at our school, and they do their work with servant hearts! Having had the opportunity to look behind the scenes this year, I quickly realized that our support staff's quality work and dedication greatly contribute to our overall success!

Finally, we have fantastic leadership at South Christian! From the committed oversight of our school board and committees to the wise day-to-day leadership of our Head of School and his leadership team, we have been blessed. Continue to pray for wisdom and discernment for these servant leaders, and show them your support.

South Christian graduates are well-positioned for the next stage of their life. They have been provided with a wonderful foundation that is so important for their future. They leave our school with our prayers and our best wishes!

Thank you for our parents' commitment to providing a Christian home for your children. Thank you for recognizing the importance of your family's close involvement with your Christian church. And especially, thank you for choosing South Christian for your child's high school experience! We are humbled by your support.

A brief reprise has provided me with a lasting impression of much that is South Christian. What a gift that has been!

Vince Bonnema
2022-23 Interim Principal

TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION



This year, the Inclusive Education department approached me and asked if we could make a space more beautiful for one of their students. It was a natural step to ask two Drawing and Painting classes if they would invest in that work. Their answer was a hearty 'yes.' The project was huge and stretched each of us in different ways! We were faced with a white-painted storage closet that would become a useful room. Thankfully, the end product turned out well and brought deep satisfaction to my art classes in taking care of our community.

**Roberta
VanHaitsma**
Art Teacher



Gwen Sikkema and her SCHS sewing class collaborated with Moline Christian School kindergartners to create pillowcases to cover the small mattresses in the NICU unit at Corewell Health.

"We are so thankful for the fun pillowcases that helped brighten up our room! Thanks for contributing to that and giving parents something fun to enjoy during a rough season".

~ A NICU-Grad Mom



ATHLETICS



Boys Basketball:

The Sailor Boys Basketball program started the Coach Johnson era in style this past winter. The Sailors won the OK Gold Championship and went on to finish as the Division 2 State Runners-Up with a final record of 25-4. Jake DeHaan, Sam Medendorp, Jake Vermaas, and Carson Vis were all named All Conference performers for their efforts on the court.

Girls Basketball:

The Sailor Girls Basketball program was once again led by Coach Legge who finished her 28th season in the program. The Sailors finished the season with a 16-8 overall record which was second in the OK Gold. Ashley Raredon, Ashley Thomasma, and Lizzie Wolhuis were all named First Team All Conference.

Baseball:

The South Christian Baseball team was led under the guidance of first-year Head Coach, Mike Mokma. The Sailors finished the season with an overall record of 23-13 and a second-place finish in the OK Gold with the season ending in the District Final contest. Leading the way were All Conference performers: Jake DeHaan, Aidan Fennema, Cam Post, and Seth Ritsema.



Bowling:

Boys and Girls Bowling led under the guidance of Coach Gaskell, had a fun winter season. The Sailors continued to work hard and show steady progress throughout the season. The season concluded with junior, Annika Hendrickson, competing at the Individual State Finals in Jackson.

Boys Lacrosse:

The Boys Lacrosse team joined a Co-Op this spring with Grand Rapids Christian and enjoyed some nice success on the field. The boys finished strong by defeating Holt in their first Regional contest before losing a tight game to Rockford in the Regional Semifinals. Caleb Morrison was named First Team All Conference for his efforts this spring.

Boys Golf:

The South Christian Boys Golf team had a memorable season this spring under the guidance of Coach VanStee. The Sailors finished third overall in the OK Gold. SC finished second at the Regionals and qualified for the D2 State Tournament at The Fortress in Frankenmuth. The Sailors had a very solid showing at the State Finals and took home 9th overall in Division 2. Jack Vining led the Sailors this season as he was named First Team All Conference in the OK Gold.



Softball:

Coach Schreur and the Sailor Softball team had an exciting spring. The Sailors battled a lot of early weather and hit their stride as the season progressed. The Sailors finished second in a competitive OK Gold and finished with an overall record of 18-18 before ending the season in the District Final contest. All Conference performers included Dana Langdon, Evie Pylman, Ashley Raredon, and Alyssa VanderMolen.





Girls Soccer:

Coach Broekhuizen and the Sailor Girls Soccer team enjoyed a memorable season this spring. The Sailors finished the home part of the schedule undefeated in 2023. SC won the OK Gold in dominating fashion by defeating Catholic Central 7-1 in the Title game and finished with a 9-0-1 record in the conference. The Sailors went on to win the District Championship on their home turf by defeating West Michigan Aviation 2-0 and advanced to the Regional Semifinals before ending their campaign with an overall record of 16-3-2. The Sailors were led by Alexa Boersma, Delaney Bosselaar, Malia Kits, Jaideyn Koster, and Katelyn VanderArk who were all named First Team All Conference.



Track and Field:

The South Christian Track and Field team had another solid spring. The Sailors had many successes, which included numerous PRs as the season moved along and sent six athletes to the Individual State Finals. Jake Cashen broke the school record in the Discus with a throw of 163'2". Jake Cashen, Mallory Huttenga, and Chloe Rinzema were all named to the All Conference team in the OK Gold.



Boys Swimming:

The Boys Swimming program, a Co-Op with Caledonia and Lowell, had another good winter season. The CLS squad was led by Coach Todd DeJong and experienced growth and success as the season went along. Many PRs occurred until the end of the season at the OK Red Conference Meet.

Girls Tennis:

Coach Stulp and the Varsity Girls Tennis team enjoyed another successful spring. The Sailors finished 9-2 overall in dual matches and 6-1 in the OK Gold, which gave them a second-place finish in the conference. The Sailors missed out on the State Finals by one point with a fantastic effort at Portland in the Regionals. Olivia Koeman, Isabelle Klaasen, Kayla Pruim, and Sophie VanWieren were all named All Conference for their efforts this spring.



Hockey:

The Hockey Team, a Co-Op with Byron Center, had a memorable and historic season this winter. The Bulldogs won their third consecutive Conference Championship and their 5th consecutive Regional Title. The Bulldogs finished as Division 2 Runners Up with a final record of 28-2.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023
5:00 - 7:00 PM
EAST KENTWOOD - FALCON STADIUM

VICTORY DAY 2023

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023
SOUTH CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Thank you to our community for supporting athletics this summer by sponsoring and/or attending the Rod VanDyke Memorial Golf Outing and the Sporting Clay Shoot.

FINE ARTS



The SCHS Choirs competed at the MSVMA State Choral Festival at Hope College. Congratulations to the Women's Choir, Madrigals, and Concert Choir for earning a top rating of a "1" on the State level.

Our Men's Choir had the privilege of performing in concert with The King's Choraliers and the Unity Christian High School's Men's Choir. The Women's Choir also performed with them in the winter.

Congratulations to several members from the South Christian Band who participated in the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble. Thirteen students qualified for the State Level Competition. Jaxon Palmbos, Katelyn VanderArk, and Brooke Loveless earned a Division I rating at State Solo & Ensemble.

The SCHS Jazz Band had a great performance and earned a "1" rating at the District 10 MSBOA Jazz Festival.





"Oompa Loompa, do-ba-dee-doo," we are so proud of the cast and crew. "Oompa Loompa, do-ba-dee-dee," for putting on a great show for the community!



“ We are the
MUSIC MAKERS,
and we are the
DREAMERS of DREAMS. ”

TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION



This past school year, Legacy and South connected over a shared need. South Christian High School – Industrial Technology teaches construction skills while addressing real needs in our community. Legacy had a need and desire to make their playground more inclusive.

Violet Jansen, a sophomore, chose to lead the fabricating of an adaptive swing for one of her projects in her Advanced Metals class. With the help of other classmates and instructors, the adaptive swing was made for Charlie, a Legacy student, who uses a wheelchair. The swing provides adaptive play equipment for Charlie and the opportunity for more peer play on the playground!

At South Christian High School and Legacy Christian School, it is our shared desire to mirror Jesus' heart for inclusion and belonging. We are thrilled with how SCHS and LCS worked together to reach one goal! And Charlie is happy too!



Scan the QR Code
to hear more about
Charlie's story.



DEVELOPMENT

It has been an amazing year at South Christian High School. The shop classroom is paid for and the tuition assistance goal has been met. As we look ahead, one word comes to mind – collaboration. The *Strong Foundations* 5K is a collaborative effort of the South Suburban Christian Schools raising friends and funds, for the foundations of each school. The Women's Golf Outing is another collaborative effort, which raises funds for tuition assistance. Check out the articles below and please join me in giving thanks to God.

~Sandy Dobbs, Development Director



SCHS is hosting the 5th annual SCHS Women's Golf Outing in September. This is a fun-filled day with friends on the golf course and the proceeds benefit the SCHS Tuition Assistance Fund. This 32-team event is sold out, but we still have sponsorship opportunities available or the opportunities to donate a raffle prize.

Sponsorship Opportunities:



The South Suburban Christian Schools is hosting the first annual *Strong Foundations* 5K this fall at SCHS. The goal of this community event is to raise funds for the five schools' Foundations, which reduces the overall tuition costs for all students.

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2023 @ 10:00 AM
Where: South Christian's Cross Country Course

Registration:



Sponsorship Opportunities:



Equipping Hands & Hearts Campaign Update

Praise the Lord – the shop classroom is paid for. It is with joy and thanksgiving that South Christian celebrates this milestone and gives gratitude to God. Thank you to this phenomenal community and the companies who donated gift-in-kind work to fund this space.

The Industrial Arts program continues to grow. This semester, with the help of an assistant, the number of students taking Industrial Technology courses can increase to 30. With the expansion, Mr. Klomp and his students were able to design and build an adaptive swing for a young student at Legacy Christian (see story on page 14). This would not have been possible due to the lack of space in the former classroom. The increased space has improved the instruction and capabilities.

Tuition Assistance

Thank you to all who responded to the tuition assistance request this spring. Over \$400,000 was raised to help families in need for the 2023-24 school year. A majority of these funds were received from the tuition assistance appeal, the year-end appeal, and the Women's Golf Outing. Also due to the generosity of the community, the Scrap Metal Drive raised \$30,418 and the Speyer's Farm Market gift card sale brought in another \$1,185. What an incredible blessing to those needing financial assistance.

Memorial Gifts Winter/Spring 2023

Anna Mae Cook
Marvin Gortsema
Thomas Holden
Robert Hollemans

Charlie Jansen
Ruth Meyer
Marcia Miedema
Kaye Noorman

Orville Pasma
Ernie Scheltema
Gary Tromp
David Zylstra

GROUND

A Strategic Plan for South Christian High School
2023-2026



GROWING TOGETHER IN
GRACE AND TRUTH



GLORIFYING GOD
IN ALL THINGS



GIVING
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

Scan the QR code to view the complete Strategic Plan



Exodus 3:4 says, “When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

“Here I am!” These words were uttered by many throughout Scripture including Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Isaiah, and Samuel. “Here I am” was a response to God’s call, but it was more than letting God know where they were located physically. This response was an indication that spiritually they were all in. God’s call is rarely convenient and is often full of unknowns. However, Moses and others not fully knowing what was to come and certainly struggling with the brokenness of this world said, “Here I am.” This showed a willingness to serve and to be obedient to God no matter where He would take them and no matter what they were dealing with. God is calling out to us to work through us to bring about His Kingdom.

We want to learn to say “Here I am” meaning: God I am here and I am in for whatever you have planned. At South Christian, we are going to explore what it means to respond to God with “Here I am.” We will learn from the life of Moses and others what it is to have servant hearts and an attitude of obedience even when it is not convenient. That no matter what the future holds and no matter the circumstances, we are going to lean into what God’s will is for our lives. We will be all in, and bring that attitude into every aspect of our lives. Students and staff join together to step further into a relationship with God. And whether we are in the classroom, hanging out with our friends, relaxing at home with family, or playing sports, we strive to respond with “Here I am.”

Ben Kroeze
Religion Teacher & Chaplain



ALUMNI BEACON



1950s

Alvin Post ('57) passed away
February 5, 2023.

Eleanor (Spee, '58) Boersma passed
away March 2, 2022.

Marlene (VanGoor '58) Veldhouse
passed away January 13, 2023.

1960s

Charles Buist ('60) passed away
January 8, 2023.

Sherlene (Dykhouse, '60) Diekevers
passed away February 24, 2023.

Joanne DeLange ('60) passed away
April 27, 2023.

Diane (Sakkers, '61) Anderson
passed away December 26, 2022.

Ronald Spoelhof ('61) passed away
March 5, 2023.

David Engels ('61) passed away
January 28, 2023.

Larry Bartels ('63) passed away
January 16, 2022.

Gordon Hulst ('64) passed away
March 6, 2023.

Norman Curtiss ('64) passed away
April 27, 2023.

Edna (Koetje, '65) Fennema passed
away February 22, 2023.

Roger Veldhouse ('69) passed away
May 11, 2023.

1970s

Marc DeRuiter ('72) passed away
April 17, 2023.

Byron Brink ('75) passed away
January 10, 2023.

Doreen (Bonnema, '77) Gunnink
passed away March 12, 2023.

2000s

William Gadzinski ('10) passed away
January 14, 2023.

SCHS Class Reunions

Class of 1962

Date: Friday, Sept. 15, 2023
Heritage CRC in the ARK

Contact:
Betty Veldhouse
bettyv39@gmail.com

Class of 1973

Date: Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023
StoneWater Country Club

Contact:
Pat Burgess
patburgess714@gmail.com

Class of 1976

Date: Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023
6:00 - 10:00 PM
Douglas Walker Park

Contacts:
Pat (Smith) Geelhoed
616.304.1114
patgeelhoed3@gmail.com
Sue (Los) Warsen
sswarzen@aol.com
616.240.8253
Doug Mingerink
dougi@mingerink.com
616.366.2765

Reunion Website:
www.sailors1976.com

Class of 1969



Stay Connected

Visit our Alumni page at
www.schs.org/alumni/
or, contact Kerri Holbrook
at kholbrook@schs.org.

HONORING OUR VETERANS



1st Lt. John H. VanderLaan **Class of 1959**

John was the son of Howard and Clara VanderLaan. He graduated from SCHS and Calvin College and entered the Marine Officers' flight training in August of 1966. During training, he was fatally injured when he bailed out of his disabled jet on May 28, 1968.

Carl Kikstra **Class of 1965**

After graduating from South Christian High School, Carl enlisted in the U.S. Navy and proudly served in the Vietnam War for two years on the USS Okanogan. He passed away in May of 2019 in Marne, Michigan.

Thomas Bolt **Class of 1964**

I was drafted into the US Army in January 1966 and was trained as a helicopter mechanic, crew chief, and door gunner during the Vietnam War. I was very worried about being sent to Vietnam because helicopters were very active during this war. One morning, our commanding officer said that they were looking for a volunteer to type correspondence. Because I had taken one typing class at South, I raised my hand to volunteer. That resulted in me becoming a typist for the rest of my military career – never once getting placed on a roster to be sent to Vietnam. That one typing class may have saved my life.

So never forget that small decisions you make in life may have a major impact on your future – and you probably won't realize it until you look back over your lifetime.

Philip J. Arendsen II **Class of 1988**

I just received my most recent issue of the SCHS HILITES. I was especially drawn to the Veterans Recognition page and the story of Mr. John Hendriske. I am a graduate of the class of 1988 and to my knowledge, the only one from the class to join the military. What is even more ironic is that I was voted by my class to have the longest hair. I left for the Army on the 21st of July, 1988, very shortly after graduation. I attended basic training and AIT training as a Military Police Officer (none of my classmates would believe this) at Fort McClellan, Alabama before being sent to Baumholder, Germany. While in Germany my unit was deployed to Operation Desert Shield and what followed, Operation Desert Storm. These were hard times for a sheltered SCHS boy back in the day but my faith in God helped me through the hard times in combat and the things that I have seen. I served 24 years in the military and continue to serve as Department of the Army civilian at Fort Lee, VA.

We would like to hear more of your stories! Please visit our Alumni page at www.schs.org/alumni/



**SOUTH
CHRISTIAN**
HIGH SCHOOL

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