



VIGOROUSLY ACADEMIC 🐾 BEAUTIFULLY DIVERSE 🐾 THOROUGHLY CHRISTIAN

Fall 2023

# Amazed!

## Rehoboth Celebrates 120 Years

By Bob Ippel, Executive Director

Rehoboth Christian School has celebrated its 120th anniversary! While 1903 is a very long time ago, I recently had the opportunity to step into that history through a visit with 99-year-old Florence McGabe, whose father Henry Whipple was one of the first students to attend Rehoboth Mission School. Whipple was not his real surname. Like many Navajo children, anglicized names from prominent lead-



ers were given to Native American children. Perhaps Henry was named after Henry Benjamin Whipple who, as the first Episcopal bishop of Minnesota, gained a reputation as a humanitarian and an advocate for Native Americans.

In our conversation, Florence surmised that missionaries had offered the possibility of Henry attending Rehoboth Mission School to Henry's mother who, as a single parent, lived 20 miles south of Gallup. That year, while a student at Rehoboth, Henry met a classmate, Christine Belz, who would later become his wife.

The two attended Rehoboth Mission School through eighth grade, which at that time was the highest grade offered. Education included both an emphasis on academics as well as vocational training. During these classes, Henry discovered his ability as a carpenter. After Henry and Christine were married, they both ended up working on Rehoboth campus, Henry as a carpenter and Christine as a nurse.

One hundred twenty years of Rehoboth history! There are so many stories, so many experiences, and so many lives touched. Many stories

have been lost, but how exciting to step into the past and see how God has been shaping and continues to shape lives. And while not every experience is good, God often brings beauty out of brokenness. These stories from Rehoboth's 120-year history inspire me to be amazed and tell others of God's amazing work!

*Give praise to the Lord,  
proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations  
what he has done.  
Sing to him, sing praise to him;  
tell of all his wonderful acts.  
I Chronicles 16:8-9*



The 2023-24 Rehoboth Student Body and Staff



# So You're a Henry?

## A Rehoboth Family's Legacy Continues

“So, you're a Henry?” I often hear that question from people I meet, especially from members of the Christian Reformed Church or those associated with Rehoboth Christian School. I am a third generation graduate of Rehoboth Christian School. My great grandfather Louis Henry was a mission translator for the Christian Reformed Church. He translated several hymns, now part of the “Navajo Gospel Hymns”, from English to Navajo. He had four sons; my grandfather Ben, the eldest son, was a missionary translator for Crown Point CRC and later for Naschitti CRC. Edward Henry, the second son, attended Re-

Rapids, Michigan. After this, he became the pastor to several CRC churches on the reservation, lastly at Tohatchi CRC. Albert Henry, the youngest son, also attended Rehoboth and then Farmington Methodist Mission High School. He joined the military during World War II as a Code Talker. He didn't speak about his military experience except to share how he had saved a fellow soldier's life. After the war, Albert became an assistant missionary at Crownpoint and Naschitti CRC. He was also an Interpreter at Tohatchi CRC.

The next generation of Henrys to be connected with Rehoboth were the children of Ben and Hazel Henry. There were eight children,

pulled by two Clydesdales. In 1959, Harrison was elected to be the student council president and in that role he helped to lay the cornerstone of the newly built high school dormitory.

The “Henry Boys” all played basketball for Rehoboth in the fifties under the coaching of Roland Kamps. A force to be reckoned with, they played against many larger high schools. They were the first team to play in the Keith Kuipers Gym when it was built. They spent months raising the funds for the new gym, so that they could now play home games in front of the home school crowd.

Rehoboth has two of the Henry boys, Harrison and



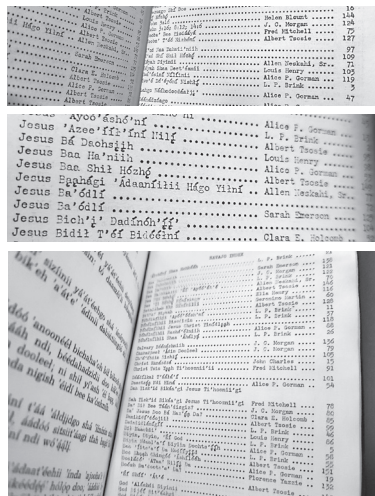
**Karen Henry is from the third generation of Henrys to attend school at Rehoboth, and now returns as a teacher, just like her father, Harrison, did. She has all the family stories from a rich time growing up.**

ing rabbits in the hogbacks behind school and came upon a lynx. After killing the lynx, Ben brought it back to school, to Roland Kamps, who took it to the taxidermist. After sixty years the

Hazel and Ben, were the next to attend Rehoboth. The first grandchild Levon graduated in 1977 from Rehoboth as a part of the famous '77 State Basketball Championship team. The Henry family



**Louis Henry, Karen's great grandfather, translated many CRC hymns into Navajo as part of the Navajo Gospel Hymnal.**



**Edward Henry: Pastor**



**Ben Henry evangelizing on the reservation.**

hoboth but graduated from Navajo Methodist Mission, in Farmington, New Mexico. He then attended Reformed Bible College in Grand

seven of which attended and graduated from Rehoboth. In the autumn of 1945 my father Harrison Henry arrived at school in a buckboard

Ben, to thank for the lynx that is presently on display in the school's trophy case. The story goes that Harrison and his brother Ben were hunt-

same mounted lynx is still displayed in the Rehoboth trophy case among all the trophies.

The third generation of Henrys, the grandchildren of

followed the Lynx team from gym to gym, cheering on their eldest grandchild. After he graduated there was a succession of Henry grandchildren graduating in 1980,



1982, 1983, 1985 and 1987. This is the generation of Henrys that I belong to.

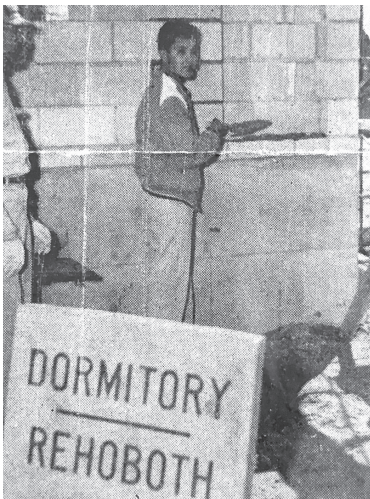
One year there were so many Henrys in one Rehoboth class that they took up an entire row of desks and their first initials all began with K. There are many Henry stories from those years. Attending the same school as our parents, we even had the same textbooks that they had used in high school. I was taking a Latin class with Coach Kuipers as my teacher. He was handing out the red threadbare Latin books. As “Coach” instructed us to open our books and fill in our names, I was so surprised to see on the top line “Harrison Henry”. Crazy that I had gotten my father’s old Latin textbook! But even crazier was that next to his name was scrib-



Stuffed lynx, shot by Ben Henry while hunting for rabbits in the hogbacks, still resides in the school trophy case.

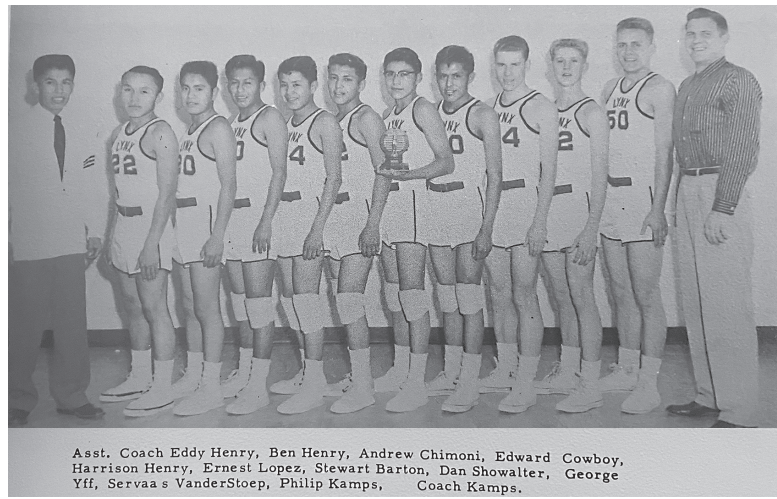
Kids” had a routine before we left for the weekend. We would say, “See you tomorrow at Grandma’s house”. To this day the “Henry kids” still look out for each other and are more siblings than cousins. We all have a deep Christian faith that came through our time attending Rehoboth. The last member of the Henry family to graduate from Rehoboth was in 1987.

Two decades would pass



Harrison Henry places the new dorm's cornerstone in 1959.

bled, “IN CASE OF FIRE, THROW IN!” So, I wonder who wrote that bit of information in the textbook. Every Friday the “Henry



The “Henry Boys” basketball team.

before another Henry would be at Rehoboth. In 2001, my father Harrison Henry would return to Rehoboth as the Navajo language teacher. As a retired principal for Gallup

Mckinley County Schools for 42 years, he made the decision to return after many insistent calls from Ron Polinder. It was time for a Henry to return to Rehoboth to serve the Lord. This time as a teacher, his philosophy on how Navajo students learn would be the focus of his lifelong theory, “Navajo Learning Styles”. In preparing to teach Navajo, he studied the requirements of the Navajo Chief Manuelito Scholarship, fluent Navajo language skills, the Navajo

tribal government, and the history of the Navajo tribe. As a result, many of his Navajo students at Rehoboth won the Chief Manuelito Scholarship.



The Henry school carpool circa 1945 was a clapboard wagon pulled by clydesdale horses.

I have followed in my father’s footsteps as an educator, retiring from Gallup Mckinley County Schools after 28 years. I was in my third year of retirement when the superintendent of Rehoboth called and asked if I was ready to work at Rehoboth Christian School as the Navajo language teacher. I had promised my father that I would return to the school that gave us so much. With

Navajo translators, and Navajo educators in my lineage it was time to return and continue with servitude. All this runs through my mind when someone asks me, “So, you’re a Henry from Naschitti?” I proudly respond, “Yes, yes, I am a Henry from Naschitti!”

## Rehoboth School Board Invites Alumni Response to Letter Addressing Past Boarding School Experiences

The Native American experience in residential schools in Canada and the United States has received a lot of attention in the last few years. While Rehoboth Christian School had made a statement in 2003 regarding Rehoboth’s past, the 2022-23 RCS Board wanted to reach out to alumni specifically about the residential school experience. A letter was sent to alumni seeking their stories recognizing that there will be a variety of experiences and perspectives on the topic.

We invite you to read this letter on the bottom of this web page: [www.rcsnm.org/advancement/alumni/](http://www.rcsnm.org/advancement/alumni/) or by scanning this QR code.



Scan the code to read the letter online



# New Schedule in High School

## Extra Hour Offers Up Interesting Alternatives By Dan Meester

For Rehoboth's 2023-24 school year, both the high school and middle school adopted new schedules. In the high school, that has meant adding an extra period into student schedules so that our learners are able to take eight classes instead of the traditional seven. One immediate benefit to this new approach has been the ability for RCHS teachers to offer new classes that couldn't fit into the master schedule previously. Likewise, students are able to take more electives and experiment with subjects that they couldn't try before. Four of these classes include: AP Precalculus, GLADS, Structural Design, and a second section of Bike Tech.

RCHS math teacher, Chris VanSlooten, is at the helm of the AP precalculus class—a new option put out by the College Board just this year. “The pacing and rigor of this course mirror those found in college level math classes, and it’s preparing our students in a way that in the past, only calculus students got in high school. Not only is AP preCalculus challenging our students, but it’s also offering them a new opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school.” The AP precalculus class is open to juniors or seniors who have completed algebra II, and 18 students signed up for the class in its first year.

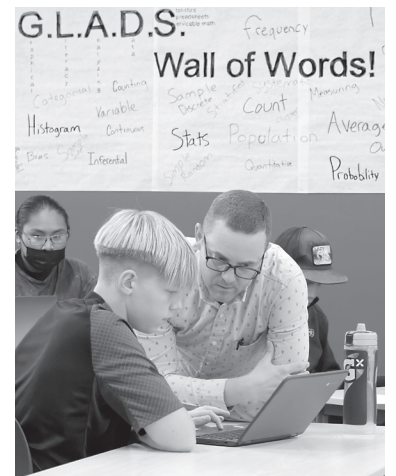
But Mr. VanSlooten's new class list doesn't stop there. GLADS is his second new offering in the Rehoboth curriculum. GLADS stands for Graphical Literacy, Analyzing Data, and Statistics, Spreadsheets, and Serviceable Math. “I've taught this class before at another school, and the topics are an absolute joy to teach!” says VanSlooten. “I believe all math can be applicable to our everyday lives. However, in reality, most students often struggle to see the application of the classes they take in high school. In GLADS, we see applications every day, all the time!” Mirroring AP precalculus, 18 students are enjoying this first-year course.

Steve Terborg typically teaches Spanish at RCHS, but he picked up skills in landscaping and basic construction during high school and college. As a result, he brainstormed and initiated a class called Structural Design in which 16 students are learning and using those same skills around campus and in the community. “I really enjoy my class, and I believe the students do too. Lots of TFT Throughlines connect to our projects. We built shelves for Ms. Gillson at her house and

designed a gate for Mr. Ruthven's wood cutting ministry. We helped Mr. Pete and Mrs. Livingston mark the campus walking trails with flags and permanent way finding posts—benefiting the community now, but also preparing us to host a biking event in the spring. We're just about to hit the High Ropes Course to fix some course elements and add signage for Mr. Meekhof. Those will all be useful as the outside groups come in to rent and use the Ropes Course.” This class has accomplished a lot during just the first quarter!

And speaking of Mr. Meekhof, his Bike Tech program has grown to two sections as a result of the new schedule. “As our PE classes get into their biking units and with the Cycle Kids Program kicking off in the elementary, our high school Bike Tech students are the backbone for keeping the other programs rolling. It's been fun but really busy. The classes lend themselves nicely to different skill levels—allowing some students to move forward with advanced techniques but also helping those who have less experience, knowledge and skill,” says Meekhof. “I'm proud to be a part of a class that connects kids to much more outside of the classroom in this area. Biking is growing in Gallup, and we are a great compliment and connection to that growth here at our shop in Rehoboth!”

The high school students and families are grateful to these teachers and the entire staff who have made more enrichment and elective classes possible in the new eight-period schedule.



**Graphical Literacy, Analyzing Data, and Statistics, Spreadsheets, and Serviceable Math class.**



**Above: Structural Design; Below left: AP Pre-Calculus; Below: Bike Tech class provides repair services to the PE biking unit.**





# Wells of Hope in a Dry Land

## Broken Arrow Bible Ranch's Connection with Rehoboth

By Nick Salazar and Ty Platero

**T**wenty-four miles southwest of Rehoboth, lies a well of hope nestled in between the Navajo Nation and Pueblo of Zuni. For fifty-six years, Broken Arrow Bible Ranch (BABR), a project of United Indian Missions International, has served the Indigenous and local youth of the southwest. Campers, staff and volunteers from different



**Counselor Emma Egan**

tribes, communities and countries make up the family at BABR, as well as members of our own Rehoboth community. This past summer, Rehoboth Christian School was well represented as a part of BABR's summer-staff: five alumni, one current senior, and an RCS middle school educational assistant. The summer staff serve as camp counselors leading a cabin group, or as "wranglers" doing service work while still engaging with campers. Jeff Irving, RCS class of '96 is the director of maintenance and facilities at BABR. Irving came to BABR as a camper and summer staff member in his youth. After a thirteen-year industrial career for the City of Gallup and McKinley County, Jeff and his family found their calling at BABR as full-time missionaries, bringing construction and discipleship to camp.

Broken Arrow's relationship with Rehoboth is not just limited to its staffing, but also with hosting many Rehoboth



**Aiden Pete '21 AJ Pete '23 Emma Egan '23 Amy Ross '23**

Christian School activities and events each year. Ann Kontz, a full-time BABR staff member and an RCS grandparent, recalls the many RCS activities hosted at BABR, including the yearly sixth grade retreat, the high school's Broken Arrow Day, and other activities, for almost 40 years. These activities continue to be great collaborations for student learning and recreation between BABR and RCS.

Newly appointed BABR Camp Director, Ty Platero, also views this good collaboration in ministry and discipleship. Platero says that his goal and vision for ministry is to forge a relationship that builds bridges from RCS and BABR to students, so

that they are receiving active discipleship from mentors and leaders who seek to pour the word of God into the students' lives. Platero's vision is for Indigenous and other local students to be able to harness their skills and talents, and become rooted in their faith through the word of God, with the goal of becoming servants for Christ. He states that this is only possible through quality Biblical education and discipleship, which students have the opportunity to receive from both Broken Arrow and Rehoboth Christian School. Both are wells of hope for our students. It is our prayer that our students and campers will become wells of hope within their communities.



**Wrangler Amy Ross helps lead worship**



**Counselor Aiden Pete interacts with a camper**

**Below: Adrianna Pete '20**





# New Staff 2023

## Amara Sherman

Amara, K-8 Counselor, credits God for her arriving at RCS. "I have seen God at work figuring out all the details and providing everything..." Having had two previous experiences



at RCS, God placed Rehoboth on her heart once again during her search for a job. A Lancaster Bible College graduate, Amara has completed the coursework to get her Master's in School Counseling. She's grateful for colleagues who have made her transition from Pennsylvania to the south-west much easier. During her free time you'll find her seeking adventure outdoors or experimenting in the kitchen with a new recipe.

## Nathaniel Feddes

Having lived and worked at Rehoboth from 2003-2006, Nathaniel and his wife Jennifer are back in a place



they love. As the Director of Operations, Nathaniel appreciates coming

alongside colleagues who are dedicated and intentional about their work. He has a Master's Degree in Community and Regional Planning and will use his construction expertise in his position at RCS. Nathaniel and his wife of 21 years have four children ranging in age from twelve to five.

## Abbi Mulder

Abbi first came to Rehoboth in 2022 as a part of the teacher education program at Taylor University. She had such a great experience that she decided to return for her student teaching semester. Now Rehoboth is glad to welcome her back in her new role as the middle school communications



teacher. She really enjoys working with middle school students and says, "I often find myself learning from the insights that my students bring to class." She and her husband Andrew moved from West Michigan to New Mexico and are enjoying being a part of the Rehoboth community as well as having access to "great running trails right in our backyard!"

## Meghan Cavanaugh

Meghan is no stranger to Rehoboth. She and her husband Greg first came to Rehoboth as a part of the Calvin College student teaching program in 2002. She will be teaching 5th grade. All four of their children have been

enrolled as students at Rehoboth since they were in pre-kindergarten. They now range in age from second to ninth grade. Meghan says, "En-



rolling our children here has made Rehoboth Christian School our home. It has always been my hope to be on the teaching staff here! I enjoy working with such a supportive and cooperative staff. It's wonderful to see all staff working together to promote student learning and well-being. It's also pretty great to share the school experience with my own children!"

## Darius Yazzie

Transportation Manager Darius Yazzie is a 2011 graduate of Rehoboth Christian High School. In contemplating job opportunities, he prayed that, "God would put



me where He would feel is best and where I can grow my skills." Darius has transitioned smoothly into his new role, enjoying the welcoming staff and feeling blessed to be back in

a Christian setting, where there is a desire to serve the Lord. He and his wife Candace have a three-year-old son Xyren E. Yazzie.

## Kaela Gaulden

Looking back on her time as a sixth grade through ninth grade student at Rehoboth, pre-kindergarten teacher Kaela Gaulden says, "Rehoboth Christian School is the place that sparked my interest in wanting an education degree, so it was a huge goal of mine to come back here as a teacher. My favorite teaching position



has always been pre-K, and this job opportunity opened up at the perfect time. I have enjoyed the welcoming and supportive staff as well as the faith-based working environment. I also love being able to give back to these students as my teachers here did for me."

## Twyla Whitehair

Twyla became aware of the SALT teaching assistant position through her church, Bethany Christian Reformed Church in Gallup. She graduated from UNM in Gallup and has been married to her husband Rex for 17 years. They have six children, four





boys and two little girls. She loves her work in the middle school, especially working with a caring staff. Twyla and her family enjoy attending athletic events together, especially those in which her boys are involved.

**Brenda Mike**

After being married to her high school sweetheart for 26 years and enrolling their children at Rehoboth



four years ago, Brenda applied for the SALT middle school teaching position. “I decided that Rehoboth would be a good place for me too, so I applied and accepted the position here. I enjoy the fact that our school offers chapel time and the Bible as a class for all students. I get to share prayers with staff and students that other schools wouldn't allow.” Brenda enjoys decorating cakes and following her husband to car shows with his low-rider 1985 Pontiac Grand Prix.

**Jamie Van Buiten**

Jamie returns to RCS having completed her master’s degree in education with a concentration in inclu-



sion. Joining the middle school SALT team was a natural fit for her. Jamie reflects on how God has led her back

to RCS, a place where “the community of people at Rehoboth is focused on bringing students to Christ.” She adds, “I previously worked at Rehoboth, but last year I saw the special education opening and was excited to apply!” Jamie loves back-packing, swimming, hiking, cross-country skiing, “really anything to get me outside!”

**Torrie James**

At the prompting of Executive Director Bob Ippel, Torrie applied for the high school SALT assistant teacher position. Having graduated from



Rehoboth Christian High School in 2020, Torrie loves the Lord and expresses that love through his hobby of music. He is glad to be back at Rehoboth and able to use his gifts to help with the SALT program. Torrie lives north of Gallup in Twin Lakes.

**Julie Wright**

Julie, the new Elementary SALT teacher, grew up in Holland, Michigan, and went to Calvin University. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education and a Master’s Degree in Literacy Studies as a Reading Specialist. Having done her stu-



dent teaching at Rehoboth in 2004, she has always wished to return to the southwest. Julie, her husband Derek, and children moved from Zeeland, Michigan, to make that dream come true. Their four children ranging in age from second to eighth grade now attend Rehoboth Christian School. Julie remarks, “The greater Rehoboth community has been so welcoming to us.” As a family the Wright’s particularly like camping and hiking.

**Francesca Chavez**

Francesca graduated from Rehoboth in 2008 and went on to receive her AA Degree in Multicultural Education, as well as a Bachelor of Liberal Arts Degree with concentrations in Family Studies, Communications, Sociology and Psychology from



UNM. Francesca reflects, “I always have good memories of being here as a student. I worked previously as a pre-K teacher and then stayed home with my daughter. After a few years I decided it was time to get back into the workforce. I prayed about the kind of job I wanted and within two weeks, the Communications & Marketing Coordinator position at Rehoboth opened up.” She thanks God for bringing her back to RCS and enjoys the kindness of the staff, the freedom to pray together, and have devotions in a school and work setting. Francesca, her husband Angel, and three children live in Gallup.

**Karen Henry**

Karen is a third-generation graduate of Rehoboth Christian School. She

has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and a Master’s Degree in Language, Literature and Science. Looking back at her time as a Rehoboth student and since,



Karen acknowledges that RCS and its broader community have always been a huge part of her life. “The friends I made as a student at Rehoboth Christian School have remained my friends throughout my adult life.” She also recognizes the lifelong commitment to love and faith of RCS. “My father was a teacher at Rehoboth, and he always said to me, ‘When you are ready, return to Rehoboth and give back what the Lord gave you.’” That’s exactly what Karen is doing now as the third grade teacher.

**Hannah Vandever**

Hannah, Early Pre-K Lead Teacher, attended Rehoboth from sixth grade to twelfth grade, graduating in 2018. She then attended the University of New Mexico and graduated with a



BA in Family and Child Studies with a concentration in Early Childhood Multicultural Education in 2022. Looking back on how God has led her to Rehoboth, Hannah says, “Rehoboth has always had a



# Real Work for a Real Need

## Rehoboth Collaborates with Local Library

by Phil Neilson, former RCS Teacher

A core ideal of the Teaching for Transformation training that Rehoboth Christian School teachers receive is that learning should involve “real work that meets a real need for real people.” One place where this real work is happening is at the Octavia Fellin Public Library in Gallup.

Rehoboth Christian School students have been serving at the library and developing skills and leadership experience. Shandiin Benson, a Rehoboth senior, is working at the Children & Youth branch of the library as part of Rehoboth’s work study program. Every other school day, she spends about an hour and a half helping to maintain and develop the book collection and will also help plan and lead preschool storytimes. A group of nine Rehoboth students--Katherine Baldonado, Duviana Sanchez, Lysie Choudhrie, Lizzy Brochey, Garrett Van Slooten, Shandiin Benson, Juliana Meester, Chloe Frederiksen, and Liam Bia--serves on the library’s Teen Advisory Board, recommending services and events for teens. The group is planning a fan party for teens who love the novel series The Hunger Games in November.



DR teen working on the library mural

The library has also been blessed by teens from other schools who came to Rehoboth to participate in the Destination Rehoboth Summer Youth Conference (DR). This past July, a group of DR teens spent a week at the library painting a mural for the library. The mural has brightened up its interior.

Rehoboth is also partnering with the library to host the Northwestern State Competition of the *New Mexico Battle of the Books*, which will take place at Rehoboth on April 27, 2024. *Battle of the Books* is a competitive reading program for students in fourth through eighth grade that provides excellent extracurricular opportunities and enrichment for students who love to read. The elementary *Battle of the Books* team, led by Title 1 reading teacher Jamie Frederiksen, and Rehoboth school librarian Duane Yazzie, and the middle school team, led by K-8th counselor Amara Sherman, have been the pioneer *Battle of the Books* team in Gallup. Now other elementary and middle schools are following suit with forming their own teams. The state competition, which will include local teams as well as teams from other schools across northwestern New Mexico, is an exciting way for students to celebrate and showcase their reading over the course of the year.

Rehoboth Christian School is having an impact on the surrounding community of Gallup, and the Octavia Fellin Public Library is one place this is happening. Future opportunities for partnership abound, including class field trips to the library or FLEx (Formative Learning Experience) projects hosted at the library, as we strengthen this great partnership.

## SALT Begins Year 3

By Emily Jeninga

We are so excited to start the third year of our SALT (Students All Learning Together) Program! Our program currently serves 57 students across all grade levels. Growing student numbers and needs have also meant the need for increased staff. Our staff this year

includes a full-time lead teacher, three other full-time teachers, five full-time assistants, and one part-time assistant.

This year, the SALT program continues to provide speech, occupational, and physical therapy to eligible students. We are also blessed to be able to continue our partnership with Calvin University’s Speech Pathology and Audiology Graduate Program which enables us to provide additional speech therapy as needed. Also, we continue with

two trained teams in crisis prevention intervention to best serve our students who have experienced trauma and have been facing a variety of behavioral and emotional challenges.

Our SALT team is working hard to implement school-wide initiatives to create an umbrella of support for all Rehoboth students. These include monthly grade-level student support meetings, access to a variety of sensory, fidget, and movement materials, and monthly “mini” professional development trainings on a range of special education topics in order to grow school-wide understanding and implementation of inclusion.

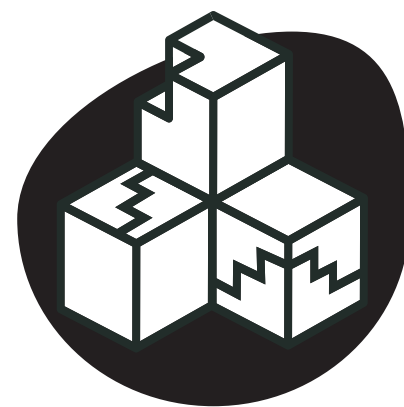
This year we have the widest range

of needs in our students. Watching students befriend our new students with diverse needs has been a glimpse into the kingdom of God. Our primary goals are having every student feel that they belong, and supporting all students in academic, emotional, and spiritual growth.

Thank you to those who continue to bless this program with their prayers and gifts!



This year's SALT staff





special place in my heart. Growing up, I was always so thankful to be able to go to school here; however, I never imagined coming to work at Rehoboth Christian School.” Hannah has always desired to serve her Indigenous people but did not think it would be at Rehoboth. “All along, the Lord knew my heart and answered my prayer. He was able to make way for me to teach at Rehoboth, and I am very grateful.”

### Eleanor Olguin

Eleanor, Elementary Assistant Teacher, has been connected to the Rehoboth Christian School community for many years. Her husband of 30 years Esidro was formerly employed by Re-



hoboth. Together they have five children (Kristen, Amber, Josh, Jacob and Anthony) and seven grandchildren some who attend RCS (Matthew, Caleb, Ezekiel, Leila, Aubrei, Bailey, and Isabella). Eleanor says, “I have always enjoyed working with students. It is awesome to serve the Lord, being part of the body of Christ at Rehoboth!” She also loves working at the school where her grandchildren are!

### Celine Bia

With her father having been a former Rehoboth Christian School teacher and her mother presently teaching math in the middle school, Celine has known Rehoboth her whole life. Graduating in 2015, she is happy to return to Rehoboth now in the role of Finance Director. She says, “I love

seeing the familiar faces and being a part of this community again. I look forward to this new work experience



and to being able to help Rehoboth to continue to be a place of flourishing.” Celine’s hobbies include reading and traveling, especially to new places. She earned her BA in Business Administration in 2019 from Concordia University.

### Drucilla Anderson

Dru graduated from Gallup High School, York Community College in Nebraska, and UNM Gallup as a Certified Nurse Assistant and Case



Coordinator. She has had many other family members, including her two children, who attended Rehoboth. She also worked in the past as a cook in the RCS food service department which has prepared her well for her new role as Food Service Manager. Dru commented on the positive work environment at Rehoboth, saying, “I appreciate working at Rehoboth because of the spiritual atmosphere and being around positive people. The staff have been very nice, and the kids are very polite when they go through

the lunch line. I love hearing their ‘Thank You!’ or ‘Food was good!’” .

### Marlene Henry

Marlene, a new Educational Teacher Assistant, graduated from Tohatchi, NM., and attended college in Gallup, NM. majoring in electronic



publishing. Marlene considers herself a simple person, enjoying painting, crafting, and spending time with her husband, and dogs. She is excited to inspire her students in learning and focus and to grow a foundation in faith and God.

### Kelly Touchine

Kelly, the new Executive Administration Assistant, graduated from Gallup High School and then went on to San Joaquin Valley College in Visalia, CA



and Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, NM. She has been married to her high school sweetheart for 23 years and has 7 children and one grandson. She loves the welcoming atmosphere at Rehoboth, the positive energy and most of all, the focus on God’s faithfulness and grace.

## Emily Lee A Life Celebrated



Last year, hundreds of staff, alumni and friends gathered to celebrate the retirements of several Rehoboth staff members including John and Emily Lee. At the celebration, former Navajo councilman and current Rehoboth board member, Edmund Yazzie, spoke lovingly of John and Emily as his former dorm parents who had guided, encouraged and challenged him to become the man of God that he is today. Emily’s life always included the nurturing of children, whether her own children and grandchildren, her dorm students at Rehoboth, or the children of Zuni Christian Reformed Church, where she was Sunday School superintendent for many years.

Emily’s life was again celebrated a year later after she went home to be with Jesus whom she loved. Even as Emily was bedridden with cancer in the last weeks of her life, she continued to welcome visitors to her home, where she would bless those who came into her presence with her humor, her questions and her stories. She passed away on May 18, 2023. Emily’s *Celebration of Life* was held at Rehoboth Church. Etched in the minds of those attending will be the video shared of Emily singing a few days before she passed away these words of faith: “Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.”



# Gifts Given in Memory & Honor

**In memory of Eli Matthew Baas**

Mrs. Joy A. DeBoer

**In memory of Pam Bolles**

Mrs. Betty A. Nikkel

**In memory of Don Braschler**

Mr. Robert Mills

**In memory of Dale Dykema**

Ms. Mary Regts  
Ms. Sally Bulthuis  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Marilyn Bergman  
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin and Sharon Van-Houten  
Mr. and Bryan and Finkbeiner  
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford & Helengene Doornbos  
Mr. James Israels  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Janet Dykema  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Mary Jo Vryhof  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth and Mary Jane Timmer

**In memory of Joyce Dykstra**

Mr. and Mrs. John and JoAnne Van'tLand

**In memory of Julia Eggebeen**

Mrs. Martha Veldstra  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Elizabeth Matthews  
Mrs. Shirley DeKoster

**In memory of Gwen Grobe**

Mr. and Mrs. Tex and Debra Pueschel

**In memory of Henry and Marian Ippel**

Mr. and Mrs. David and Barbara Ippel

**In loving memory of Johanna Kromminga and Agnes Kromminga-Steigenga**

Mrs. Mary K. Rhee

**In memory of Emily Lee**

Mrs. Violet Henry and Family  
Ms. Melvina Musket

**In memory of Joyce Meyerink**

Mr. Merle Meyerink

**In memory of Robert Onderlinde**

Mr. and Mrs. James and Wendy Onderlinde  
Ms. Ronda Engebers

**In memory of Gerald Oosterhouse**

Mr. and Mrs. John and JoAnne Van'tLand

**In memory of Colleen Polinder**

Rev. and Mrs. Jerry and Cori Vreeman

**In memory of Lorraine Tapahonso Gleason**

Ms. Sue Tapahonso

**In memory of Clara Togtman**

Miss Sandra L. Togtman

**In memory of Wilmer and Janet VandeKieft**

Mr. William VandeKieft

**In memory of Al and Penny Veen**

Mr. William VandeKieft

**In memory of Carolyn Weeda**

Mr. and Mrs. Duane and Linda Elders  
Mr. and Mrs. Willis and Janice Hilbrands  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerard and Esther Koster  
Ms. Gloria R. Fauble  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Peggy Weeda  
Mr. and Mrs. John and JoAnne Van'tLand  
Ms. Melvina Musket  
Mr. and Mrs. John and Irene Kok  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Lisa Kok  
Mr. and Mrs. James and Antoinette Willis

**In memory of Tom and Carolyn Weeda**

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest and Mary Leep

**In honor of Bob and Mary Ippel Ministry**

Mr. and Mrs. John and Ellen Nicodemus

**In honor of Bruce and Betty Matthews 65th Wedding Anniversary**

Mrs. Joyce Braschler

**In honor of Harriet VanderPloeg**

Mr. Bob Yant and Mrs. Ann E. Kenowsky Yant

## Thank you, Volunteers!

**Long Term**

Jack and Cindy Ippel  
Wes Brower

**Short Term**

Joel, Alice and Wesley Schipper  
Lauren Jongsma  
Paul Oester  
Ron and Judie Zwiers  
John and Jo Van't Land  
Mike and Krista Arendsen  
Uko and Jane Zylstra

**Volunteer Groups**

Sioux Falls Christian School Sioux Falls SD  
Hillcrest CRC Hudsonville MI  
Palos Heights CRC Palos Heights IL  
Foundations Church Loveland CO  
Kalamazoo 2 Rehoboth Kalamazoo MI  
Bethel CRC Edgerton MN  
Grace Baptist Church Santa Maria CA

**Donations and Advancement**

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## Contact Us

**Campus Hostess, Volunteer Coordinator**

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# Tuition: A Community Effort

## Advancement Items

### Endowed Scholarships

This school year, our Family Endowed Scholarship Funds will provide over \$220,000 in tuition scholarships (in addition to tuition assistance) to help families afford Christian Education at Rehoboth. Last school year over 120 families were blessed by these family scholarships as they worked to provide for their tuition obligations. Our Family Endowed Scholarship Funds will also provide \$13,500 for the SALT program, \$6,600 for our chaplaincy program, and \$2,500 for Alumni scholarships this school year. The total balance of these Family Endowed Scholarship Funds is currently over \$4,900,000. We encourage you to consider establishing an endowed scholarship as a meaningful opportunity for you to give to Rehoboth and directly support our students, families, and alumni. Please reach out to Ken Zylstra, Director of Advancement, for more information.

### Kuipers Gym Project

Progress on the Keith Kuipers Gym project continues. The final design package is complete and we are working on an updated construction budget. We look forward to sharing the remaining campaign need with you soon. After utilizing porta-potties for another fall soccer season, we are very ready to have this project completed!

### Rehoboth Solar

We are thankful to have \$50,000 raised for the new solar project so we are able to receive the matching gifts! We hope to be able to take advantage of the 30% tax credits available this year to maximize the funds given towards this project that will include installing a 48 Kilowatt system on our middle school roof (130 panels). Our electrical savings annually will be \$11,500, which is just over 10% of our annual electrical expense. Additional gifts will help us increase the size of the system that is installed and will help us to save even more on our electrical bill.

*Tuition is a word that has long been associated with the opportunity and blessing of Christian education. Rehoboth families have long taken part in the payment of tuition so their children and grandchildren can receive the Christian education that Rehoboth offers. Rehoboth tuition contracts are based on a family's income. Once the contract is issued and signed, some families need to make incredible efforts to keep their financial commitments. It often takes work on the part of every family member to meet their tuition amount.*

**Here are some unique ways that our students, family, and the broader community help to provide for tuition for Rehoboth:**

- Ninth grader Joshua has been trained as a silversmith by his Grandmother Lee and often works alongside her creating jewelry. After selling ten pieces of jewelry, they had enough money to pay for the tuition that was due for his second-grade brother and himself.
- Senior Shandiin, along with several of her classmates, has been hired to aid in the RCS after-school program as well as in the June Camp program in order to make tuition payments this school year.
- Jordyn, who is also a senior, works at City Electric Shoe Shop in Gallup selling western wear

and leather goods. She uses this income to help her mother with her tuition bill.

- Grandma Emma sells blue corn mush along the road in order to provide for her family's tuition payment.
- A community member stops by the Rehoboth business office and anonymously pays money towards the tuition account of a fellow church member.
- Grandmothers and Grandfathers regularly contribute to their grandchildren's education.
- Families at Rehoboth work together to fulfill their tuition obligations.

Making Christian education affordable for our Rehoboth families also includes our broader community of support. Each year thousands of families around the country provide gifts to our tuition assistance fund to help provide for our \$1.86 million annual need. Through October 1, 2023, we have received gifts and pledges towards our Tuition Assistance Fund totalling \$384,973. This represents 21% of our annual need. We encourage you to help provide for our families throughout this school year, and thank you for being a blessing to our community!



**Commitment:** 9th grader Joshua Christian makes and sells his own jewelry to help pay for his Rehoboth tuition.



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Today**



# Job Openings

## High School Principal

If you have a deep love for students and an unwavering commitment to Christian education, please apply. You will have the opportunity to work with 185 amazing students and 15 talented full-time and part-time staff members.

## Fulltime Bus Driver

Enjoy a scenic bus route serving students from the Navajo Nation, Zuni Pueblo, McKinley County or Gallup, New Mexico.

## More Information

about these openings can be found at [www.rcsnm.org/about/employment.cfm](http://www.rcsnm.org/about/employment.cfm) or reach out to Bob Ippel, Executive Director, at [bippel@rcsnm.org](mailto:bippel@rcsnm.org)



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During her days at Calvin University, Rehoboth music teacher, Anna Zwiers, spent a semester studying Spanish in the town of Dénia, Spain. Her host family for that semester made a strong connection with Anna, and she kept in touch over the years—especially with their daughter, Eunice. Fast forward to today, and Eunice runs the only Christian school in Spain: Colegio Alfa & Omega. Last year, thanks to that connection, Rehoboth made contact with Eunice about having some Alfa & Omega students come to Rehoboth. The first two students stayed for two months in the spring of 2023, one of them living with the Zwiers family while she was here.

This year, three more students are studying at Rehoboth from late September to late October; and while they are here, they are living with RCS host families. Franek, Sara, and Maria have enjoyed their first couple of weeks, and we're thankful for the opportunity for RCHS students to have cross-cultural experiences in this special way. Spanish teacher, Steve Terborg is hoping that these connections will allow him to do trips to Spain with Rehoboth students—maybe even as early as this spring. Time will tell, but for now we're saying "Gracias de Dios" for another special learning opportunity at RCHS.

## Spain Comes to Rehoboth

Franek, Sara, and Maria, our three exchange students from Spain (pictured in the middle of photo) surrounded by their host families.



**REHOBOTH**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
VIGOROUSLY ACADEMIC BEAUTIFULLY DIVERSE THOROUGHLY CHRISTIAN