



# Society for PROTESTANT REFORMED Special Education

Dear Supporter of Protestant Reformed Special Education,

It is with great joy and thankfulness that we announce that another year of PR Special Education has begun! What a blessing from Jehovah God! It is with Him at the forefront, and with His glory in mind, that we as a board wish to update you, both society member and interested individual or family, on where the program stands as we begin the 23-24 school year.

Please note that while this update will focus on the activity of our West Michigan programs, which the Special Education board directly oversees, we are also thankful for the programs and staff at the other Protestant Reformed schools throughout the USA and Canada. While we do not have oversight of these programs, the society contributes toward 50% of Special Education budgets, and 15% of Discovery/Resource program budgets at these schools.

We would be remiss if we did not begin our update by acknowledging our outstanding teachers (2), para-pros (11), and support staff (1). They continue to develop and execute curriculums that are tailored to suit each of the 22 enrolled children's specific needs. Some children may visit the Special Education room for one class, while others may visit for multiple classes. Herein lies the beauty of the Special Education program...that the children in the program are integrated into everyday classes with their peers as much as possible. This results in a blessing not only for the children in Special Education, but for their peers who learn how to behave and interact with those in the body of Christ whom the Lord has created with special needs. We can't help but refer to I Corinthians 12 where the apostle reminds us that we are all members of the body of Christ. And even though we may consist of different parts, "members should have the same care one for another"(v25).

Behind the scenes, the board remains busy ensuring our teachers have the support they need, that their rooms are suitable for teaching, and that there are sufficient funds to support these efforts. We are also working to update our handbook and abuse policies (both physical and sexual), and get them up to date and effective. At the end of August, we were also able to host a local guest speaker who spoke to staff from all our local schools on trauma informed school support. We are thankful to report that we received positive feedback from many in attendance! We are also excited to share that Amanda Haney and Courtney Jessup, with support from current and former staff, have been working hard on developing a new website for the Special Education program. The new website will feature updates that will provide assistance, contacts, and a list of resources aimed at aiding parents with a special needs child. It will also include reference material that can be used by the Special Education programs at any of our Christian Schools. We are also excited to share that in collaboration with the Building Committee of Heritage Christian, we have added additional concrete walkways around and through the playground area, making them more accessible to wheelchairs and the like. It is our goal to stay in communication with the parents and work with them on other ways we can make the playground more accessible and user friendly. Making the playground more inclusive and a bonding experience for our students is as important to us as the classroom! Please remember us in your prayers as we require wisdom, patience, and for God to use us as instruments for the good of the program and the children involved.



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We are also pleased to report that through the generosity of our donors, and more importantly the grace of God, we received the funds needed to meet the goals of our 22-23 budget. Thank you! It is important to remember that the Special Ed program derives 82% of its annual revenue from church collections and drives. Our goals for the 23-24 budget are \$130,000 from church collections, and \$385,000 from the drive, which is currently underway. We rely on the Lord for His blessing in this regard, and ask that you would prayerfully consider this cause in your giving. ***We need your financial support!***

The other request that we ask of you, is for your time. We ask you to consider joining the Society at the next meeting, in the spring of 2024. We ask you to consider it, not only if you have a special needs child, or a child in Discovery/Resource, but out of a love and concern for other members of the body of Christ that do. By joining the Society you can express with action your care for these children of your church, to whom you have pledged your support at baptism. The theme of our Society is Psalm 139:14a, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:". It is our prayer that you will share with us, both with your gifts and time, the joy of the efforts of Protestant Reformed Special Education, for the glory of His Name!

In Christ's Service,  
The Board for Protestant Reformed Special Education