



Fall Auction - Save the Date!!!

This year marks the fifth year of our annual fall auction, and we're excited to announce some major changes.

Our auction will take place on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30**. We know your weekends are precious, so this year we're leaving your Saturday evening open!

Our location will also be different. The auction will be held at the Cheney Place on Monroe Avenue NE. We're excited to have the event in our own neighborhood this year.

Set aside the date for what will be an awesome night of celebrating God's goodness, stay tuned for more information, and think about items you could donate!



Stories

"What If These Turn Out?" - Eric Schalk

Five weeks ago we dove into another summer of Breaktime and the Breaktime Bakery. I absolutely love summer and hanging out with kids every day.

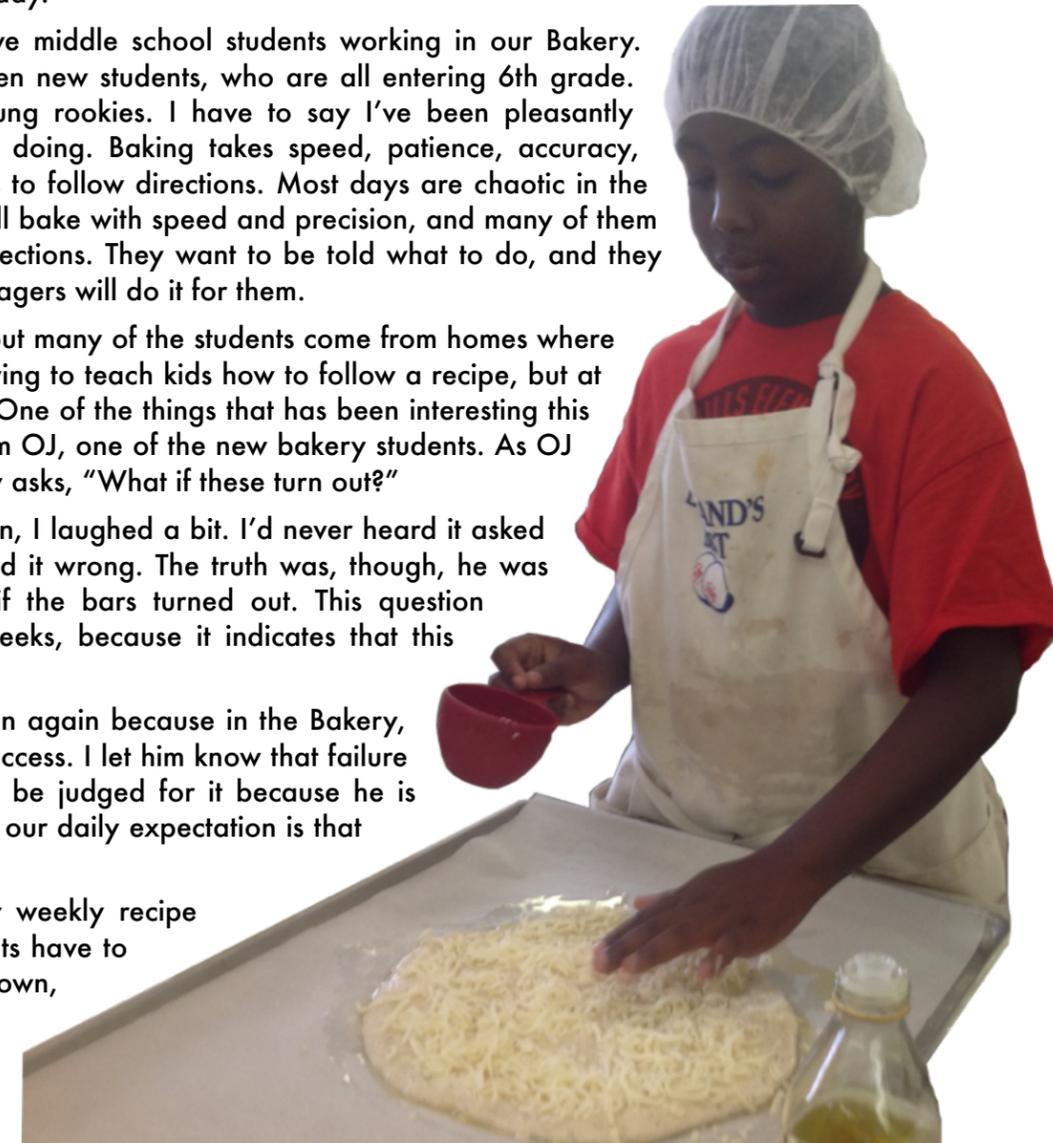
As in years past, we have twelve middle school students working in our Bakery. Unlike years past, we have eleven new students, who are all entering 6th grade. In other words, a bunch of young rookies. I have to say I've been pleasantly surprised by how well they are doing. Baking takes speed, patience, accuracy, math, reading, and a willingness to follow directions. Most days are chaotic in the kitchen. The truth is, they don't all bake with speed and precision, and many of them really struggle with following directions. They want to be told what to do, and they hope one of the high school managers will do it for them.

We're trying to teach job skills, but many of the students come from homes where work is not a priority. We are trying to teach kids how to follow a recipe, but at least one of the kids can't read. One of the things that has been interesting this year is a question I get daily from OJ, one of the new bakery students. As OJ prepares his recipes, he regularly asks, "What if these turn out?"

The first time I heard that question, I laughed a bit. I'd never heard it asked before and thought he had asked it wrong. The truth was, though, he was really wondering what I'd do if the bars turned out. This question bothered me for the last five weeks, because it indicates that this young man is expecting failure.

I told him not to ask that question again because in the Bakery, like any job, we are expecting success. I let him know that failure does happen and that he won't be judged for it because he is learning something new, but that our daily expectation is that everything will turn out well.

This past week, OJ entered our weekly recipe challenge. Each week the students have to make a specific item, on their own, and are encouraged to enter it into a competition to see whose recipe the group enjoys the most.



July
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Seeking to be a diverse, welcoming ministry that works with Northeast Grand Rapids neighbors to restore and develop their community.

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The winner gets their item featured in our store. OJ searched the internet and found some applesauce bars. He spent time in our kitchen on Monday afternoon whipping up a batch of these bars. To my amazement, he made them on his own, without asking me a single question. When the votes were counted the next day, OJ's bars won by a landslide. You'd have thought OJ had won the lottery. He was ecstatic! He also quickly asked if he could take the remaining bars home to share with his neighbors and family.

The next day he proudly reported that his neighbors loved his bars. I then asked him what his mom thought. OJ's face dropped a bit, and he said, "She told me they tasted like carrot cake, and since she doesn't like carrot cake, she thought they were nasty." My heart dropped, but I quickly attempted to encourage him that though his mom didn't like them, many people did, that his hard work had paid off, and that we'd still be featuring his bars in the store. Later that day, in Bible study, I also tried to encourage him that though people may reject us, God doesn't, and in fact he sent Christ to provide us the ultimate acceptance.

That afternoon in the store, OJ sold his bars with pride. His bars not only turned out, they won. The bar for success has been set higher.

The bakery teaches kids many great skills related to baking, jobs, and life. But the bakery also provides a place for kids to experience success, encouragement, joy, and hope. We're halfway through the Bakery, and I'm excited to see what God will do with these wonderful middle school students. Please continue to pray for this ministry, and stop by and purchase some goodies and offer encouragement to the kids. Your love could make a huge difference in the life of a student!

Meet Rileigh - Chris & Eric



We are in the third year of the New City Urban Farm, and in that short amount of time, we have undergone a tremendous amount of growth. Not only have we gone from offering 15 shares to 55 shares, we've also gone from 30 families involved to 100. Because of generous donors like you, we've been able to purchase a new walk-behind tractor, a walk-in cooler, and many other important tools.

We've also been able to continue to hire high school students to work on the farm and learn valuable job and life skills. One of the students working on the farm this summer is Rileigh.

Rileigh is a sophomore at Wellspring Prep High School in GR and she is new to the farm this year. In her spare time, she enjoys playing sports such as volleyball and soccer, and she also runs cross-country. Rileigh enjoys art as well, such as photography and

painting. For college she would like to attend beauty school, then attain a degree in teaching or social work.

During the summer months, Rileigh likes to go camping with her family and visit the beach with her friends. She also does volunteer work through her church and Comprenew. Comprenew is a program that takes apart computers and recycles them instead of tossing them into landfills. Rileigh enjoys not only helping out the community, but making the environment a better place as well.

It's only Rileigh's fifth week here at the farm, but boy, has she been busy. She shares that she has already learned many things here such as teamwork, communication, business tips, planting skills, as well as harvesting. All of these, she says, are great skills to have.

Rileigh brings a lot of skills to the farm. Her hard work and determination have proven very useful and also encouraging to the other workers. She is outgoing and kind and is not afraid to take initiative and step into a leadership position. Rileigh has recently been promoted to Assistant Manager at the farm due to all her hard work and leadership skills.



Ministry Wish List

- Gaga Ball Pit: \$300
- Muck Boots: \$300

Breaktime - Laura Horinga

This summer at Breaktime, we have a very diverse group of kids with fun personalities. We are having a great time "traveling" around the world and learning about God's unique creation through different cultures. We are discovering and creating new forms of art twice a week with the help of our art volunteer, Miss Nancy. We are also enjoying singing with Julie every morning and challenging the kids in their math and reading skills in the afternoons. After all our hard work during the week, the kids are having a great time on our Friday field trips. We are excited for what the end of the summer will bring. Please continue to keep these kids in your prayers as they get ready for another school year.



Summer Quotes

"My favorite thing about Breaktime is the art projects, especially the Australian dot paintings!" - Edith

"I love the math we do at Breaktime." - Waldin

"I love the field trips and studying about the different countries!" - Eli

"My two favorite things are the reading tutors and the art." - Ava

"I liked the zoo field trip because there were cool and new animals there!" - Jay

"I like when we get up and get to work, and sometimes it doesn't feel like work at all." - Kenyon

"My favorite part is baking, it is FANTASTIC!" - Tina

"I'm learning about God, and other stuff like baking. Our baked goods are good!" - Jajuan

"I get to learn how to bake new things and how to work with new people." - Avery

"I learned how to work as a team, and that's how you get the job done." - Abbie