

The Pathfinder

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
Psalm 119:105

Nurture - Develop - Educate

Principal's Message

New School Year

It is a very exciting time at the beginning of a new school year. Students are excited to see their friends, wear their new clothes, share memories that they made over the summer, and see the new classroom that their teacher decorated. Teachers are excited to see any new or returning students, sharing new and exciting lesson plans, and displaying their brand-new bulletin boards.

However, as the first day of school draws near, this can also cause some anxiety for teachers, students, and parents. As a student, this may be because they have a new teacher this year, they may have a new classroom, they may have new procedures, more homework, and just having to adjust to waking up early and going to bed on time may make for some anxious moments for the first day of school.

For teachers, they are anxiously hoping to have finished every item on the checklist prior to the first day of school, wondering if people are going to like their bulletin board, wondering how the new seating arrangement will work, hoping there is enough time to finish everything they had planned, and finally they hope all the students enjoy their first day of school.

For parents, it can be a little nervous as well. Parents are always a little nervous that their "baby" is going to enjoy the first day of school, are we going to be on time, what did we forget, where is the bus, did I pack a lunch for my student(s), what time are they getting home again, where are my car keys, and did we get all the supplies on the supply list.

As each of you know, the first day of school is very exciting but can cause some anxiety as well. Please remember to pray for every student, teacher, parent, and bus driver as they prepare for the first day of school that God would grant them peace during such an exciting but anxious time (John 16:33).

Parents, here are some items to remember as the first day of school approaches:

1. Remember that your student is taught every day from a reformed Biblical perspective. We teach them about God's death, burial, and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:3-4), how to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18), teaching them about creation and how God created the heavens and the earth in six literal days (Exodus 20:11), and then learning how to share about God's love to a lost and dying world (Acts 1:8).
2. Remember that every day your student(s) is loved, prayed for, prayed with, and personally disciplined.

Finally, students that attend Peoria Christian school from grades pre/k-8th grade, receive a minimum of 9,821 hours of reformed Biblical Christian Education. That is equivalent to attending church regularly on Sunday morning and evening for 94 years. Thank you for your support of Christian Education and specifically Peoria Christian School!

Jeremy Copenhaver

Peoria Christian School Board News

Board Minutes July 6, 2021

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal 291. President Adam Fynaardt read from 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the June Board Meeting were read and approved.

- From the Ed Committee, a motion to accept the 2021-22 field trip list was approved.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion to add Benjamin Anum-Higher, Pastor Greg Lubbers, and Nolan Wiersma to the chapel speaker list was approved.
- From the Ed Committee, motions to approve the facilitator list and the substitute teacher list were approved.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion to continue using Grace Counseling for our school counseling for the 2021-22 school year was approved.
- The Ed Committee reaffirmed that we will continue to teach our students to capitalize pronouns referring to God.
- The Board approved a motion to suspend the COVID-19 policy. Any student or staff illness, whether COVID-19 related or not, will be treated per our standard sick policy.
- Jeff Vander Molen updated the board on work being done by the long-range facilities planning subcommittee.

Next meeting: Monday, August 9th, 6:30PM.

Mark Franje closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Spencer Fynaardt, Secretary

Board Minutes August 9, 2021

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal 530. President Adam Fynaardt read from Ephesians 5:1-2 and opened with prayer. All members were present except Glenn Meinders and Kody Roos with notice.

Minutes of the July Board Meeting were read and approved.

Minutes of the July Society Meeting were read and approved.

- From the Ed Committee, a motion to have teaching staff attend the Heartland Conference was approved.
- From the Promotions Committee, Van Hardin has agreed to be the entertainment for the Hostess Supper.
- The following positions were discussed and Board members approved to each position:
 - President - Spencer Fynaardt
 - Vice President/Ed - Glenn Meinders
 - Secretary - Kevin Van Der Hart
 - Promotion - Dennis Veenstra
 - Finance - Eric Fynaardt
 - Bus - Dan Hol
 - Building - Jeff Vander Molen
 - Endowment/STO - Kody Roos
 - Athletic/Tech - Drew Van Wyk
- Mr Cope updated the Board that we have received the annual Accreditation approval notice from CSI.
- From the Finance Committee, the June drive is going well and God has blessed us with a larger total than last year. Checks are still coming in so no final total yet.
- From the Bus Committee, the buses were serviced on Saturday, August 7th.
- From the Bus Committee, developing the new routes is in progress.
- From the Building Committee, the student bathrooms in the school are in the process of being upgraded and should be completed soon. The Board thanks Bret Fynaardt for all of his work on this project.
- All committees were discussed and names chosen to call for possible new members. The Board wishes to thank all committee members and especially those who will be going off of their respective committees.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 7th, 7:00PM.

Spencer Fynaardt closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Van Der Hart, Secretary



7 TIPS FOR PARENTS FOR THE 1st DAY OF SCHOOL

1. Pray together as a family about going back to school.
2. Start going to bed earlier (at least 1 week prior to school, have your student start getting into a routine of going to bed earlier). Start in 15 minute intervals.
3. Start waking up earlier (again start at least 1 week prior and have your student start waking up 15 minutes earlier every day).
4. Ask them questions about the first day of school (ex: are you wondering about anything about the first day of school, what do you think will be the hardest part of school, what are you looking forward to).
5. Lay items out ahead of time (ex: clothes for the first day of school, backpack, and school supplies).
6. Remember you are not alone. Touch base with other parents to see ideas they might have.
7. It's okay if you forget something. Only God is perfect.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE 1st DAY OF SCHOOL

- Pray for our teachers as they are preparing for the first day of school.
- Pray for our students as they transition to a school schedule again.
- Pray for the safety of our students on the playground, at school, and on the bus.
- Pray for our bus drivers as they drive our students to and from school every day.
- Pray and remember to encourage our janitors as they clean the school.
- Pray for our speakers as they prepare for our monthly chapels.
- Pray for Mr. Al Bandstra as he is our scheduled speaker for the 1st day of school.
- Pray for our students to grow in the grace and the knowledge of God (II Peter 3:18).

1st DAY OF SCHOOL:
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

THEME VERSE

This year's theme verse comes from I Timothy 4:12. It says, "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." Please remember to pray that God would use this verse to encourage and challenge our students and staff this year.

WHAT'S
EVENTS
HAPPENING

MEET THE TEACHER

Come join us on Monday, August 23rd, at 6:00 PM to meet your child's teacher, receive information regarding this school year, and bring all the supplies for your student's classroom. Please meet in the gym at 6:00 PM. See you there!

ALL-SCHOOL PICTURE

An all school picture will be taken August 31st at 10:30AM and will include all students PK-8 and all staff. This photo will be used to update our Facebook and website pages. Please make sure your student(s) wears his/her new orange Peoria T-shirt on this day. Any questions, please contact the front office.

SCHOOL START & END TIMES

For students that walk or parents that bring their students to school, please try to have your student(s) here every morning between 8:00 and 8:10 AM. Please note that there is no one on duty for recess until 8:00 unless a bus arrives earlier. The first bell rings at 8:10 AM and the late bell rings at 8:15 AM. This year school ends at 3:20 PM. The first bell will ring at 3:15 but school does not officially end until 3:20 PM. If you need to pick up your student anytime between 8:15 AM and 3:20 PM, please make sure to sign them out in the front office. Buses will still leave the school at the end of the school day between 3:25 and 3:30, which is the same as last year.



PRAYER WALK & PICNIC

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, August 21st. Lord willing we will be having our 4th annual prayer walk at 4:00 PM and new this year, a picnic to follow at 5:30PM. We hope you are able to join us on this evening of prayer, fun, food, and fellowship.



MAP TESTING

Fall map testing will take place August 30th - September 3rd. Please try to have your student(s) arrive at school on time on these days and avoid making appointments during these mornings to help try and avoid the student(s) missing any of the tests.

Here is the breakdown of the testing:

- Monday: Reading
- Tuesday: Science
- Wednesday: Math
- Thursday: Language Arts
- Friday: Make ups

Also, here are some test taking tips to remember going into the test to remind your student:

- Pray
- Get a good night's sleep the night prior (no staying up late)
- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Don't skip any questions
- Try your best

BAZAAR

A THRILL OF HOPE

"In His name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:21

SAVE THE DATE...

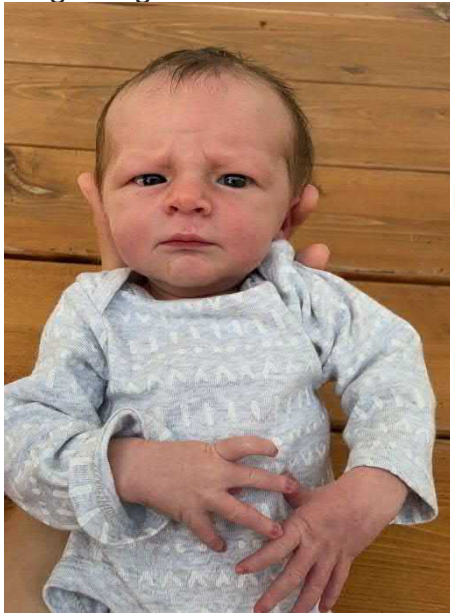
**Friday, November 12, 2021,
for the Peoria Christian School Bazaar!**

Please be thinking of ways you can help and also what you can donate to make this fundraiser successful! We greatly appreciate all your help as we strive to support Peoria Christian School. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Ver Meer, Stacie Fynaardt, or Heidi Van Wyk.

WHAT'S
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CONGRATULATIONS!

We extend our congratulations to Mrs. Amber Fynaardt, our IXL/PLS teacher and her husband, Grant, on the arrival of Enoch Lee. Enoch was born on Wednesday, July 21. Join us in celebrating this gift of new life!



CULVER'S NIGHT

Please join us on Tuesday, August 31st, at Culver's between 5-8 PM. Our school can earn anywhere from 10-20% of the proceeds for all sales that evening. Our 5th-8th grade students will be there to help serve. See you there!!!

IXL

Please remember to have your student(s) work in the diagnostic part of the IXL program prior to the 1st day of school. We are excited again for this program to help meet students' needs on his or her level. Please contact Mr. Cope if you have any questions.

PRAYER TIME

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing", and so we ask you to remember to pray for our school every chance you have. Additionally, we will again be having a weekly prayer time every Monday at 9:00 AM to specifically pray for a topic at our school. Feel free to come to the school and pray or pray right where you are at home or work. Each week we will send a new prayer topic in the weekly email. Also, if you have a prayer topic that you would like to see added, please send that to Mr. Cope at principal@peoriachr.org. On Monday, August 23rd, we will pray for our students as they make the transition back to school. Pray that they would handle the schedule of school and that they would obey and respect their teachers and bus drivers. Finally, please mark on your calendar specifically every Monday morning at 9:00 AM to pray for Peoria Christian School.

WHAT'S
EVENTS
HAPPENING

1ST/2ND GRADE TEACHER

We give thanks to God for providing Melinda Vos, who will serve as the interim 1st/2nd grade teacher at Peoria Christian School. We are continuing our search for an individual to take on the position on a more permanent basis. If you are interested in applying for the position, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver at principal@peoriachr.org.

IXL/PLS TEACHER

We are needing a person to fill in for Mrs. Amber Fynaardt while she is on maternity leave. This person would start August 30th and go until the middle of October. This person would work 3 days a week (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday) from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. If you are interested in this temporary part time position, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver.

GRACE COUNSELING

We are excited to announce that we are using Grace Counseling again this year. We feel that this is another great way to encourage our students when they are dealing with life's difficulties. We again are blessed to have Jora Van Maanen lead these sessions for our students. The first session is scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, September 3rd. Also, if you are looking for your child to receive individual sessions, please contact Mr. Cope for options for your family.



PATHFINDER SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for announcements in the monthly Pathfinder is the last Friday of every month. The deadline for announcements in the the Weekly Email is Tuesday at 3:00PM of every week. Announcements can be sent to office@peoriachr.org with specific instructions and should contain all necessary information. All announcements are subject to approval.

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AUGUST	
August 18-20	Staff In-Service
August 19	5:30PM School Circle Meeting
August 21	4PM Prayer Walk, 5:30PM School Picnic
August 23	Staff In-Service
August 23	6PM Back to School Night in Gym
August 24	First Day of School 8:30AM Chapel at Peoria CRC
August 30- September 3	Fall Map Testing
August 31	10:30AM All School Picture
August 31	5-8PM Culver's Tip Night
SEPTEMBER	
September 6	No School; Labor Day
September 15	2:40PM Dismissal, Staff In-Service
September 17	1PM 5 th -8 th Grades Combined Soccer Game with Sully
September 22	8:10AM See You At The Pole
September 23	4-8PM Parent Teacher Conferences
September 24	No School

CHAPEL

Lord willing Mr. Al Bandstra will be speaking at chapel on the first day of school. Chapel begins at 8:30 AM and will be at Peoria CRC. Chapel Groups will plan to meet in the gym after chapel for a time of prayer following chapel. Parents are encouraged to join their student to pray. Hope to see you there!

SEE YOU AT THE POLE

This year we are planning to join thousands of people around the United States by praying at the flagpole. We are blessed that we are able to pray and worship God everyday at our school, but this is a special day and time to unite with fellow Christian students and teachers that may not have that special privilege on a daily basis. We are planning for this to take place on Wednesday, September 22, at 8:10 AM. Please mark this on your calendar and feel free to join us on that morning.

PCS WISH LIST

Are you looking for a different way to help support our school? The PCS Wish List is a list of school supplies that we need. You may purchase the items and then donate them to the school. All donations may be dropped off at the school office. This month we are requesting donations of these items:

- ~ Ziploc Bags of Any Size
- ~ Forever Stamps
- ~ Black Sharpie Markers

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

Please make sure to visit our website and Facebook page to keep connected and up-to-date on what is happening at our school. We are excited to share what Christ is doing in the lives of our children and staff! Check it out!

<http://www.peoriachr.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/PeoriaChristianSchool>