



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

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a fun and exciting summer making all kinds of lasting memories with your friends and family. I know for most people it is bittersweet when the school year starts back up. It is always so fun and exciting during the summer, but kids are also excited to see their friends and basically enjoy the social part of school. For my family, there was a lot of Little League baseball games, vacation Bible schools, and going on vacation to central Pennsylvania. Some of the highlights from the trip were going swimming in my sister's brand new in ground pool, visiting with my mom, going to Hershey Park and Chocolate World, and watching a Philadelphia Phillies baseball game. Then on the way back to Iowa, we stopped at the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in Kentucky for a teacher's conference. It was such an incredible learning experience. The biggest highlight from the conference was the sessions on why defend a young earth viewpoint. This is something our school takes a big stance on and so it was so refreshing and exciting learning from experts in the field. Dr. Andrew Snelling and Dr. Terry Mortenson lead most of the sessions and here were the biggest takeaways on why defend a young earth viewpoint:

1. The meaning of Yôm (day) in the Old Testament. When Yôm is modified by a number or when the words morning and evening are used, together with Yôm, it is always referring to a 24-hour period. In fact, outside of Genesis chapter 1, Yôm plus a number is used 410 times and when evening and morning are used with Yôm (23 times) it is always referring to a 24-hour period.
2. Until the late 1700s and early to mid-1800s, the church almost universally believed in a young earth viewpoint. It wasn't until James Hutton (1795), George Cuvier (1812), and Charles Lyell (1830), who were claimed deists, who started the idea of millions of years. They had the ideas of nature is all that exists, everything can be explained by time, chance, and the laws of nature, and processes of geological change have always been operating in the past at the same rate as in the present. They thought that the present is the key to the past. It was Charles Darwin then that read and used the works of these men for his evolution framework.
3. Jesus spoke of man being created at the beginning of creation instead of millions of years later. Example: Mark 10:6 says, "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female'". Also, Isaiah tells us that God meant for the world to be inhabited not without people for millions of years. "For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (He is God!), who formed the earth and made it (He established it; He did not create it empty, He formed it to be inhabited!): 'I am the Lord, and there is no other'" (Isaiah 45:18).

There are so many others, but the last one I will mention, is if you believe in millions of years how do you explain death, disease, and suffering prior to the fall.

Does a young earth viewpoint matter? Well, at Peoria Christian School we teach how and why we should defend a young earth viewpoint and unlike James Hutton who taught that the present is key to the past, we teach that the Bible is key to the past and the present.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our upcoming school year,
Jeremy Copenhaver

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15.

Calendar

August 21

6PM Back to School Night

August 23

First Day of School

8:30AM Chapel at Peoria CRC

August 28-September 1

Fall Map Testing

August 29

11AM All School Picture

5-8PM Culvers Tip Night

September 4

No School—Labor Day

September 8

7th/8th Pumpkin Picking

September 13

2:40PM Early Dismissal

September 20

12:20PM Early Dismissal

September 21

8AM School Pictures

September 22

8:30AM Chapel

September 26

PK-4th Camp Creation

September 29

5th-8th 1PM Soccer with

Sully Christian

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: June 26, 2023

The Board sang “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine” from the Psalter Hymnal. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Proverbs 3:16 and opened with prayer. All members were present except Nick De Haan with notice.

The minutes of the May and June board meetings were read and approved.

- The Treasurer’s Report was given and approved.
- From the Ed Committee, the board approved four field trips.
- From the Ed Committee, the board approved ISASP testing as required for the ESA.
- The Bus Committee reported on the search for a bus and a bus driver.
- The Building Committee reported on school cleaning plans.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 15th, at 7:00PM.

Andy Dunsbergen closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick De Haan, Secretary

School Board Meeting: August 15, 2023

Board opened with “Great is the Lord our God” from the Psalter Hymnal and devotions from Psalm 48:8-14. All members were present.

From the Education Committee, a motion to approve the list of substitutes and facilitators was approved. Schedule has been approved without Spanish. The committee is still actively looking for another part-time IXL teacher.

Endowment reported that they estimated approximately \$2,000 would be available per student from endowment that didn’t qualify for ESA money this year.

New officers for 23-24 school year are:

President - Adam Fynaardt

Vice president - Dennis Veenstra

Secretary - Eric Fynaardt

Promotions - Drew Van Wyk

Finance - Russ Fynaardt

Bus - Sean Rozenboom

Building - Andy Dunsbergen

Endowment/STO - Kody Roos

Athletic/Tech & SIT - Nick De Haan

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 5 at 7PM.

Andy Dunsbergen closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Fynaardt, Secretary

Upcoming Field Trips

7th & 8th Grade: Pumpkin Picking at Arvin Roose's, 8:15AM, Friday, September 8

PK-4th Grade: Camp Creation, Tuesday, September 26

***Parents** please see the Weekly Pathfinder or your classroom newsletter for more details regarding field trips.

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. Parents are encouraged to join their student(s) to pray. Hope to see you there!



NEW STUDENTS

Please welcome these new students and their families:

Elias Laverman - PK

Kyler Briggs – 5th Grade

Levi Roose - Kindergarten

Anna Roose – 7th Grade

Rhaya Whiles - Kindergarten

Kendon Kruid – 8th Grade

Addicyn Little – 2nd Grade

Brody Borg – 8th Grade

Isaiah Koelsch – 3rd Grade

We thank God for these new students and families as they join our school. Please help us in welcoming them to our school and remember to pray for them as they transition to a new school.

2023/2024 THEME VERSE

This year's theme verse comes from II Timothy 2:15. It says, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). Please remember to pray that God would use this verse to encourage and challenge our students and staff this year.

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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!

Website: <http://www.peoriachr.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PeoriaChristianSchool>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/peoriachristian?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

PATHFINDER SUBMISSIONS

All announcements for the monthly Pathfinder need to be turned in by the last Friday of every month. All announcements for the Weekly Pathfinder need to be turned in by 3PM on Tuesdays. Announcements can be sent to office@peoriachr.org with specific instructions and should contain all necessary information. All announcements are subject to approval.

HOT LUNCH DONATIONS

The hot lunch program is always looking for donations of food such as ground beef, corn, green beans, applesauce, eggs, and cookies. If you or someone you know has an abundance of these items this year and are looking for what to do with them, please consider donating to the hot lunch program. All donations can be put in the gym freezer. Please contact Melissa Copenhaver (hotlunch@peoriachr.org; 480-861-0716) with any questions

Wish List

Looking for a unique way to support PCS? The Wish list is a list of items that the school needs. Items can be purchased and dropped off at school. This month we are requesting donations of the following items:

- ~ Forever Stamps
- ~ Disinfecting Wipes (Clorox, etc)
- ~ Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
- ~ Small Styrofoam Cups

We have a need to replace or upgrade several of the classroom microwaves. If you have a countertop microwave that you are looking to replace, contact Michelle in the office at office@peoriachr.org.

Peoria Christian School

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<http://www.peoriachr.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/PeoriaChristianSchool>

Instagram:

<https://instagram.com/peoriachristian?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@peoriachristianschool-pell248>

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 Tuesday, August 29th. One of the topics will be from Protect Young Eyes. Here is their website if you would like to know more information: <https://protectyouneyes.com/>. Finally, if you are looking for your child to receive individual sessions, please contact Mr. Cope for available options.

HOT LUNCH VOLUNTEERS

The hot lunch program is looking for volunteers who are willing to help fill in when a parent isn't able to do so. If you or someone you know would be willing to be a substitute, please contact Melissa Copenhaver at hotlunch@peoriachr.org or 480-861-0716.

MAP TESTING

Fall map testing is scheduled for August 28th - September 1st. 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 to avoid the student(s) missing any of the tests. Here is the breakdown of the testing:

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The entire school calendar can be found on our school website by clicking on the Calendar tab. Once there you can find directions for adding the entire calendar to your personal calendar. Any questions, please contact Kevin Van Der Hart, tech@peoriachr.org.

SCHOOL DAY START & END TIMES

For students that walk or parents that bring their students to school, please try to have your student(s) arrive 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. School dismisses at 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.

ALL SCHOOL PICTURE

An all school picture is scheduled for Tuesday, August 29th at 11:00 AM and will include all students Pre/k-8th grade 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 red Peoria t-shirt on this day. Any questions, please contact the office.