



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

Back to School

Baseball	Pools	Beaches
Sleeping In	Traveling	Flip Flops
Basketball	Swimming	Barbecues
Vacations	Boating	Fireworks
Memories	Ice Cream	Picnics
VBS	Sunshine	Camping

These are some of the words that I think of when we talk about summer break and how much fun it can be for our students. However, God's Word promises us that seasons will come and go (Genesis 8:22) and with summer winding down, that means its back-to-school time. For some families, school can't come fast enough; however, for others, school just gets in the way of all the fun, sleeping in, and staying up late. I do hope that this summer everyone has been able to enjoy God's beautiful creation, been able to make tons of memories, but most of all remembering to glorify God.

Our theme verse for this school year is, "Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I give thanks, to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever" (Psalm 86:11-12). Please remember to pray for our staff, students, facilitators, and board members as we start out this new school year trying to walk in His Truth glorifying His name.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jeremy Copenhaver

2024/2025 TEACHERS & STAFF

In His perfect timing, the Lord has provided teachers and staff. Join us in prayers of praise for these individuals who are willing to serve the students and society of Peoria Christian School. Please continue to pray for an additional bus driver and school janitor.

- PreK/K Teacher: Krista Klaasen
- 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher: Jonah Stange
- 3rd & 4th Grade Teacher: Erica Taft
- 5th & 6th Grade Teachers: Laura Fynaardt & Lisa Ver Meer
- 7th & 8th Grade Teachers: Heidi Van Wyk, Al Bandstra & Lisa Roose
- Principal & 5th-8th Math: Jeremy Copenhaver
- Resource Room: Teresa Van Wyk
- IXL Teacher: Melinda Vos
- Music & Band Teacher: Carolyn Ansley
- Librarian: Linda De Jong
- Gym Janitor: Marcia Van Gorp
- Office Assistant: Michelle De Haan
- Bus Drivers: Marcia Van Gorp & Dennis Rietema

SCHOOL CALENDAR

August

August 19-22

Staff In-service

August 21

6PM Back to School Night

August 23

First Day of School

8:30AM Chapel at Peoria CRC

Trip Orders Due

August 27

11AM All School Picture

September

September 2

No School - Labor Day

September 3

4:30-7:30PM Culver's Night

September 6

7th/8th Pumpkin Picking

September 9-13

Map Testing

September 13

Trip Orders Due

September 18

2:40PM Early Dismissal

September 19

School Pictures

September 20

11:30AM Bike Field Trip

September 27

8:30AM Chapel

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. Grade levels 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!

CULVER'S NIGHT

Join us on Tuesday, September 3rd, at Culver's between 4:30-7:30 PM. We can earn anywhere from 10-20% of the proceeds for all sales that evening. Our 7th and 8th grade students will be there to help serve. See you there!!!

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: July 1, 2024

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal #522, Onward Christian Soldiers. Adam Fynaardt read from Habakkuk 2:13-14 and opened with prayer. Minutes of the June meeting were read and approved.

From the Education Committee:

- New field trip to Blue Zoo Aquarium was approved.
- Darren Kornelis (the new pastor at Sully CRC) was approved as a chapel speaker.
- 20 additional hours were approved for the school secretary.

From the Promotion Committee:

- July 8 is Registration and the Annual Society Meeting

From the SIT Committee:

- School Improvement Plan has been submitted to CSI and is awaiting approval.
- Kody Roos and Mr. Cope have been working on an emergency response plan.

From the Finance Committee:

- June drive is still active and donations are still appreciated.
- An increase to curriculum budget was approved to cover needs of new students.

From the Bus Committee:

- Still actively looking for bus drivers. Open to sharing the position between individuals.

From the Building Committee:

- Looking for a new janitor for the school.

Next meeting: August 5, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Nick DeHaan closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Fynaardt

School Board Minutes:

August 5, 2024

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal #489, When Peace Like a River. Adam Fynaardt read from Colossians

3:23-25 and opened with prayer. Minutes of the July meeting were read and approved.

From the Education Committee:

- Pastor Chuck Muether, from Immanuel Reformed Fellowship was approved as a chapel speaker.
- The Reformation Study Bible for Students, from Ligonier Ministries, was approved for purchasing for our 1st & 2nd grade students.

Principal Report:

- Contract for Grace Counseling was approved.
- CSI accreditation was granted for August 1, 2024- July 31, 2029.
- Emergency Action Plan was presented and approved.

From the Promotion Committee:

- The new shirt design for the school year is nearly complete.



OPEN POSITIONS

Peoria Christian is looking to fill the following positions for the 2024-2025 school year.

Substitute Teachers
(as needed)

Bus Driver
(Part-Time)

School Janitor
(Part-Time)

Facilitators
(Volunteer)

Interested individuals should contact Jeremy Copenhaver at principal@peoriachr.org or Michelle De Haan at office@peoriachr.org.

HOT LUNCH VOLUNTEERS

The hot lunch program is looking for volunteers who are willing to help fill in when a parent isn't able fulfill their scheduled service. 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.

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 at hotlunch@peoriachr.org or 480-861-0716 with any questions.

Board Minutes Continued.....

From the Finance Committee:

- June drive is still active and donations are still appreciated.

From the Bus Committee:

- Still actively looking for bus drivers. Open to sharing the position between individuals.

From the Building Committee:

- Talking to an individual who might be interested in school janitorial duties on a short-term basis.

Next meeting: September 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Andy Dunsbergen closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Fynaardt



NEW STUDENTS

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.

Lydia Copenhaver - PreK
 Chloe Fynaardt - PreK
 Katherine Gesink - PreK
 Braxton Roos - PreK
 Emily Roose - PreK
 Siara Dunsbergen - K
 Charlotte Hanko - K

Noah Ventura - 1st
 Clara Roose - 5th
 Jaysen Williams - 6th
 Susie Muether - 7th
 Elijah Molde - 8th
 Josiah Molde - 8th
 Alexa Van Zante - 8th

2024/2025 ENROLLMENT

With the 14 new students that God has provided for this upcoming school year, that brings us to a total of 48 students. God has also provided us with 7 new families for a total of 29 families. Please remember to pray for all our new students and families as they transition to our school.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT/MEET THE TEACHER

Come join us on Wednesday, August 21st, at 6:00 PM to meet your child's teacher, receive information regarding this school year, and bring your school supplies for the year. Please meet in the gym at 6:00 PM. See you there!

ALL SCHOOL PICTURE

An all school picture is scheduled for Tuesday, August 27th at 11:00 AM and will include all students and staff. This photo will be used to update our Facebook and website pages. Please be watching the Weekly Pathfinder for more details. Any questions, please contact the office.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

7th & 8th Grade Friday, September 6, Picking pumpkins at Arvin Roose's.

All School Bike Field Trip: Friday, September 20, leaving school at 11:30AM.

***Parents** please see the Weekly Pathfinder or your classroom newsletter for more information and details on these field trips.

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
- ~ Small Styrofoam Cups
- ~ Ziploc Bags of all sizes (sandwich, quarter, gallon)
- ~ Black Sharpies



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>

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!

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

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

Instagram:

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

MAP TESTING

Fall Map Testing is scheduled for September 9 - 13. Please try to have your student(s) arrive at school on time on these days and avoid making appointments during these mornings to avoid missing any of the tests.

Here is the breakdown of the testing:

Monday: Science (3rd-8th grade)

Tuesday: Reading (Kindergarten - 8th grade)

Wednesday: Math (1st-8th grade)

Thursday: Language Arts (3rd-8th grade) & Math (Kindergarten)

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 scroll to the bottom of the page to find directions for adding the entire calendar to your personal calendar. Any questions, please contact Kevin Van Der Hart (tech@peoriachr.org).

SCHOOL 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 binder outside the office.

PATHFINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 should be written in sentence form and can be sent to office@peoriachr.org with specific instructions and all necessary information. All announcements are subject to approval.

GRACE COUNSELING

We are excited to announce that we are using Grace Counseling again this year. We feel that this is a 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. We will relay to parents when our school sessions are scheduled to take place. Finally, if you are looking for your child to receive individual counseling sessions, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver for available options.