



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

Thank You

It seems like just yesterday that my wife and I visited and interviewed during Spring Break and accepted the job of being your principal. It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity for the last 7 years. The time has gone by so quickly, yet it has been so rewarding. Our kids have grown in many ways, in fact, Lydia has only known the state of Iowa and the town of Peoria. We have met some amazing people, and like David said in Psalm 16:3, we can take delight in you because we see your love of God, love of people, and your desire for God to be the center of your lives. As I think back over these last 7 years, I think what stands out the most are the relationships that we were able to build. We have met new friends that have become like family. I know that moving away can be sad, but God brought us here for a season (a beautiful season) and now He is calling us on to a new location. I know that God has something amazing in store for next year, at Peoria Christian, because of the amazing prayers, support, and stance on the Word of God that each of you have. I encourage you to continue to be that support for Miss Taft that you were for me.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, encouraging words, invites, and many ways that you have blessed our family. I know that God will continue to use each one of you to raise up the next generation to reach a lost and dying world.

Finally, remember that God calls us strangers and aliens of this world (1 Peter 2:11) because our citizenship is in Heaven (Philippians 3:20-21). I look forward to that glorious day when we will be reunited with all of God's chosen ones to rejoice forever in His presence.

So, whether in this life or the next, see you soon.

Jeremy Copenhaver

"You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

SOCIETY MEETING

Registration and Society Meeting will be held on Monday, July 7th. Registration will begin at 6:00 PM in the school. Parents are encouraged to attend Registration as details for the 2025/2026 school year will be distributed and finance committee members will be available to discuss tuition. The Society Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM in the gym. All members of the Peoria Christian School society are encouraged to attend. New board members will be elected, the budget for the 2025/2026 school year approved, and reports on the 2024/2025 school year will be given.



"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).

SCHOOL CALENDAR

June

June 2

7PM School Board

June 21

8:30AM Peoria Tractor Ride

June 30

ESA Applications Due

July

July 4

Pella's 4th of July Parade

July 7

6PM Registration

7PM Annual Society Meeting

August

August 19, 20, 22 & 25

Staff In-Service

August 21

6PM Back To School Night

August 26

First Day of School

8:30AM Chapel



Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: June 2, 2025

The Board sang "When Peace Like a River." President Adam Fynaardt led devotions from Matthew 18:1-6 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the April and May Board Meetings were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was distributed, reviewed, and approved.

The June Drive lists were distributed and Finance Chair Russ Fynaardt encouraged members to begin contacting donors.

From the Ed Committee:

- The facilitator list and sub list for the 2025-26 school year were approved.
- The proposed field trip list as well as the Absence Policy and Required Attendance for Events Policy were approved.

Principals Report:

- Mr. Copenhagen thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Principal for the past seven years.

From the Endowment Committee:

- It was decided to withdraw 5% of the five-year rolling average, which is the usual annual amount for tuition assistance.

From the Finance Committee:

- The 2025-26 budget was approved.
- An ACH program to assist with donations will be pursued.

The Building Committee:

- Reported there were summer projects at the school and teacherage.
- Basic ideas were presented for a building project.

Next meeting: Monday, July 7, 2025, following the annual society meeting.

Nick De Haan closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick De Haan, Secretary



THANK YOU

We want to thank the society for your prayers and support during this past school year. Peoria Christian School would not exist without God's continued blessings and your prayers and financial support. "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers" (1 Thessalonians 1:2).

2025-2026 THEME VERSE

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

2025/2026

JOB OPENINGS

Peoria Christian is prayerfully looking to fill the following positions for the 2025/2026 school year:

Librarian
(Part-Time)

Bus Driver
(Part-Time)

Hot Lunch Cordinator
(Part-Time)

Substitute Teachers
(As Needed)

Facilitators
(Weekly Volunteers)

Individuals interested in these positions should contact:

Michelle De Haan at
office@peoriachr.org.

Please pray for the Lord's guidance as we look to fill these open positions.



LEAD TEACHER

We give thanks that Ms. Erica Taft has agreed and signed her contract to be our Lead Teacher for the 2025/2026 school year. Please be in prayer for her as she transitions from the 3rd/4th grade classroom and into this new position at Peoria Christian School. See a brief message from Ms. Taft below:

First of all, I want to give my appreciation to all of you for your support and prayers as I've taught the third and fourth graders of Peoria Christian. I have enjoyed teaching these children about God's world and watching them grow year after year. Next year, God has led me into a new role, the lead teacher. I know God has used all my experiences so far to lead me to this role, and I look forward to serving our school in this new position.

For those of you who may not know me or my background, I have been the third and fourth grade teacher at Peoria Christian for the past nine years. Prior to that, I taught various grades at Marshalltown Christian for seven years. While there, I taught first and second grade a couple years, then switched to various combinations of 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. I also have over 15 years experience in tutoring Kinder-college students at several tutoring companies in Oskaloosa, West Des Moines, and Ankeny. I was the lead teacher for a number of years at each of these locations. Having grown up in Oskaloosa, I always knew I wanted to teach in this area. I am so happy to have found a home at Peoria Christian. God has greatly blessed me through this school and society, and I am pleased to continue God's work here.

~ Ms. Erica Taft

ESA APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2025/2026 school year will be open until June 30th. All applications must be complete before then.

First-Time Applicants:

- Parents/guardians must sign up using an email and password.
- A confirmation email from Odyssey will be sent—follow the instructions to verify your email.
- Once verified, log in to the ESA portal to complete the application.

Returning Applicants: Parents/guardians with an existing ESA portal account can simply log in and submit their application for the 2025-26 school year.

Funding & Benefits: Families enrolling eligible children in an accredited Iowa nonpublic school will receive funding equal to the per-pupil allocation provided to public school districts for the same year. For the 2025-26 school year, this amount is \$7,988. Funds are deposited into an Education Savings Account (ESA) and can be used for tuition, fees, and other approved education expenses.

TRACTOR RIDE

The Peoria Christian Tractor Ride is scheduled for Saturday, June 21. Registration will begin at 8:00AM that morning in the school gym in Peoria. Tractors will pull out at 8:30AM and there will be a wagon for those who want to ride along. Everyone is invited to the school gym for a free-will donation lunch after the ride around noon. Contact Ruth De Bruin at 641-204-1855 with any questions.

DONATIONS

NEEDED

Throughout the year, Peoria Christian School has a need for the following items. This is a tangible way for society members to contribute to Peoria Christian School. These items can be purchased and dropped off at the school:

- Forever Stamps
- Brightly Colored Sharpies



Peoria Christian School

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Pella, IA 50219

641-625-4131

office@peoriachr.org

<http://www.peoriachr.org>

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

YouTube:

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

PATHFINDERS

The next Pathfinder will be distributed after the August School Board meeting. There will not be a July Pathfinder. Also, if you are on the mailing list, but no longer wish to receive the Pathfinder, please email Michelle De Haan at office@peoriachr.org. Likewise, if you know someone who would like to be added, please email Michelle as well.

1ST DAY OF SCHOOL

The 2025/2026 school year will begin on Tuesday, August 26. Chapel will be held at 8:30AM that morning.

NEW FAMILY MEETING

Prior to the start of school a meeting for new families will be held. We are specifically asking families who are new to Peoria for the 2025/2026 school year to attend this meeting, but all parents who are new within the last few years are welcome to attend. An email will be sent to parents when the date is set. Please contact Michelle De Haan at office@peoriachr.org with any questions.

PELLA 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Please look for our students to be participating in the 4th of July Parade in Pella. The parade this year is scheduled for Friday, July 4th at 6PM with other activities in Pella beginning earlier in the day. More information will be emailed to parents as the parade gets closer.

CASEY'S REWARDS

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Peoria Christian School through Casey's Rewards. We recently received a check for \$84.40 from this program.

CLASS OF 2025

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2025! We pray for the Lord's richest blessings to be upon our 10 graduates and that they will continue to follow in the path that He has laid out for them. Congratulations to Olivia De Haan, Alicia Fynaardt, Dylan Klaasen, Elijah Molde, Josiah Molde, Anna Roose, Aleah Van Wyk, Alexa Van Zante, Will Ver Meer, and Ellie Vos.

