



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

Welcome Back!

I am so glad for another great school year to start at Peoria Christian School. I have enjoyed spending some quality time with my family and relaxing this summer. It has been a different kind of break, however. There have been more things for me to learn and do in these summer months- mostly to do with my new position. There have been some bittersweet moments too, like realizing I do not have a classroom to decorate and prepare. Yet, some things have stayed the same, while others are new and exciting. I still get to prepare for teaching a few subjects on a regular basis and I get to teach middle school students again. Now that August has arrived, I am ready to get started on all the new things this school year will bring.

As you know, each year we have a new theme verse to focus on. There is a process for the verse selection, but ultimately, the upcoming eighth graders have the final choice. In this year of transition, I am already appreciating their chosen verse:

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

There are two key things that jump out to me: "be kind" and "forgive". I have felt and seen these principles so many times as I have been learning what it is to be the lead teacher of our school. So many people have been kind and gracious in helping me throughout this summer. As I sit in my desk looking at this verse posted on my board, I can see how God's Word will help our students in many situations. We can ask two simple questions. "Are you being kind?" "Do you need to forgive or seek forgiveness?" Of course, life is not always that simple, but when we get down to it, those two questions guide us through many things in our walk with the Lord.

Please be in prayer for our students, staff, facilitators, board members, and our many volunteers as we start this new school year. God has blessed us and we give honor and glory all to Him. Thank you for your continued support of Peoria Christian School.

Blessings,

Erica Taft

SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

August 28

11:45AM All School Picture

September

September 1

Labor Day, No School

September 5

7th/8th Pumpkin Picking

September 8

School Board Meeting

September 8-12

Map Testing

September 17

2:40PM Dismissal

Staff In-service

September 19

School Pictures

1PM 5th-8th Soccer Game
with Sully Christian

September 22

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

September 25

9:15AM PK-4th to
Camp Creation

ALL SCHOOL PICTURE

All students and staff will be included in an all school photo on Thursday, August 28. The photo will take place at 11:45AM. Please have your child wear their new teal shirt. PK students will need to come early that day to participate in the photo.

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: August 11, 2025

The Board sang "This Is My Father's World" and President Adam Fynaardt read from Isaiah 60:1-4 and opened with prayer. Minutes of the July Board Meeting were read and approved.

- The monthly Treasurer's Report was distributed, reviewed, and approved.
- A Future Leaders cohort has become available and its value to our school is being evaluated.
- Motions were supported and carried to approve continued usage of Pure Freedom resources for the 2025-2026 school year.
- The date for the Culvers fundraiser has been set for September 22, 2025, from 4:30-7:30pm.
- From the bus committee, our buses have been successfully recertified and continuing education for our drivers is scheduled for September 10.
- Many projects have been completed around the school and teacherage this summer. Thank you to all who supported these efforts.
- Please pray for our staff, students, and families as the start of this new 25/26 school year is soon upon us.

Next meeting: Monday, September 8, 2025 (in lieu of September 1 being Labor Day)

Jayme Veenstra closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jameson Roose, Secretary

2025/2026 School Board Members

Eric Fynaardt - President
Brent Hanko - Vice President
Jameson Roose - Secretary
Russ Fynaardt - Treasurer/Finance
Jayme Veenstra - Promotion
Ben Gesink - Endowment/STO
Bret Fynaardt - Building
Sean Rozenboom - Bus
Kody Roos - Athletic/Tech

25/26 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:

Bus Driver
(Part-Time)

Substitute Teachers
(As Needed)

Facilitators
(Weekly Volunteers)

Individuals interested in these positions should contact Michelle De Haan at office@peoriachr.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hot Lunch Volunteers

The hot lunch program is looking for volunteers who are willing to help fill in when a parent isn't able serve. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to be a substitute please contact Kaitlyn Hanko at hot-lunch@peoriachr.org or text/call at 320-305-2021.

Facilitators

We are looking for individuals who would be willing to serve one or more times a week as a classroom volunteer. These individuals would assist the teacher with various classroom activities and tasks. If you have questions or if you are interested, please contact Michelle at mdehaan@peorichr.org.

Chapel Snacks

Every month after chapel our students gather in small groups to discuss what they learned during chapel. During this time we like to provide the students with a small snack. If you would be willing to provide snacks one month please contact the office at office@peoriachr.org.

**TEACHERS**

Join us in prayers of praise for these individuals who are willing to serve the students and society of Peoria Christian School.

PreK/K Teacher: Krista Klaasen

1st & 2nd Grade Teacher: Mary Ann Williamson

3rd & 4th Grade Teacher: Laura Merrin

5th & 6th Grade Teachers: Laura Fynaardt & Lisa Ver Meer

7th & 8th Grade Teachers: Heidi Van Wyk & Erica Taft

5th-8th Grade Math: Lisa Roose

Lead Teacher: Erica Taft

Resource Room: Teresa Van Wyk

IXL Teacher: Melinda Vos

Music & Band Teacher: Carolyn Ansley

Librarian: Maria Gesink

Gym Janitor: Marcia Van Gorp

School Janitor: Hannah Van Wyk

Hot Lunch Coordinator: Kaitlyn Hanko

Office Assistant: Michelle De Haan

Bus Drivers: Marcia Van Gorp & Dennis Rietema

1ST DAY OF SCHOOL

The 2025/2026 school year will begin on Tuesday, August 26.

CHAPEL

Please join us as we open the 2025/2026 with chapel and a time of prayer. Chapel will begin at 8:30AM at Peoria CRC. Pastor David Swinney is our scheduled speaker. After chapel we will head to the school gym for a few brief announcements and a time for prayer. Parents and society members are welcome (and encouraged!) to join us.

ENROLLMENT

We give thanks for the 41 students (PK-8th) that will be attending Peoria Christian School this year. We pray for God's hand to be on each student and family this year as we continue to grow in His ways.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

All students and parents are encouraged to attend our Back to School Night on Thursday, August 21 at 6PM. We will begin the evening in the gym with a brief meeting. After the meeting students will have the opportunity to bring all their school supplies up to their classrooms and become familiar with their teachers. Please ensure your child brings all their school supplies that evening.

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
- Hot Glue Gun
- Post-It Notes

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 crops this year and are looking for what to do with it, please consider donating it to the hot lunch program. All donations can be put in the gym freezer. Please contact Kaitlyn Hanko (hotlunch@peoriachr.org; [320-305-2021](tel:320-305-2021)) with any questions.

CULVERS NIGHT

A Culver's Tip Night will be held at the Pella Culver's on Monday, September 22, 4:30PM-7:30PM. Peoria Christian School will receive a portion of the evening's sales and 100% of all tips collected. Our 7th & 8th grade students will be assisting the Culver's staff and taking care of you in the dining room!

MAP TESTING

Map testing will be held Monday, September 8 - Friday, September 12. Please avoid scheduling appointments during the morning this week and make every effort to have your students here at school these days. Testing is required and students will have to make up any missed tests. Please pray for confidence and peace of mind for our students as they take these tests.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar can be located on the school website, www.peoriachr.org. Instructions for uploading the school calendar to your personal calendar can be found online below the school's calendar. Any questions can be directed to Kevin Van Der Hart at tech@peoriachr.org.

PATHFINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Pathfinder announcements need to be to Michelle on the Friday before the school board meeting to be included in that month's Pathfinder. Weekly Pathfinder announcements need to be sent by the Monday before. Please contact Michelle at office@peoriachr.org with any questions.

SCHOOL START AND END TIMES

If you are bringing your child to school please be sure to have them to school by 8:10AM. The tardy bell will ring at 8:15AM. If you are planning on picking them up at the end of the day please arrive at school by 3:20PM. The buses will pull out at 3:25PM.

PATHFINDERS

If you are currently 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.

Peoria Christian School

110 Peoria West St.

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>