



The Pathfinder

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

Nurture - Develop - Educate

Starting New

There's nothing quite like starting something new. You know it is coming, so you prepare all the things you will need. But at some point, you can only prepare so much before you are ready for it to begin. That is how many of us feel about the start of a new school year. Even for those teaching the same grades and/or subjects as before, it is still new every year with a new mix of students.

It is so nice to begin the new year and to hear students in the building once again. We enjoyed seeing how many of them have grown over the summer, and hearing about their new experiences from the summer. It was wonderful watching friends reconnect with one another at Back to School Night and during recess on the first day of school. This year, we have 41 students, nine of them are new to our school. We are thankful for the Lord's continued blessings on us each year, bringing new students and families.

We started our school year with a wonderful chapel and message from Pastor David Swinney from Peoria CRC. He spoke about our theme verse (Ephesians 4:32) and connected it to the story of the Good Samaritan. Many of the students showed their knowledge of that story as they answered Pastor Swinney's questions. Afterwards, many parents joined their child with their class in the gym for a time of prayer. It was a great opportunity to pray together before returning to the classrooms and starting the process of learning the new routines.

As we are now a few weeks in, those routines have been set and practiced. I have enjoyed visiting the classrooms and seeing what they are busy doing. Be sure to check out the Classroom News section in this Pathfinder - each teacher shares a bit about what's going on in their classroom. In closing, Lamentations 3:22-23 comes to mind: "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." (ESV)

Thank you for your continued support,

Erica Taft
Lead Teacher



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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

September

September 15

Grace Counseling

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

September 26

8:30AM Chapel

October

October 2-3

No School

October 6

School Board Meeting

October 9

PK-2nd to Autumn Acres

October 14

School Picture Re-Takes
Grace Counseling

October 17

1:20PM Dismissal

End of 1st Quarter

October 23

4-8PM Parent Teacher
Conferences

October 24

No School

PCHS 8th Grade Visit Day

October 29

PCHS Sound of Music
2:40PM Dismissal

October 31

8:30AM Chapel

CHAPEL

Please join us for chapel on September 26 at 8:30AM in the school gym. Rev. Greg Lubbers from Covenant Reformed is our scheduled speaker. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: September 8, 2025

The Board sang "Amazing Grace" and President Eric Fynaardt read from James 1:5 and opened with prayer.

Minutes of the August Board Meeting were read and approved.

- The monthly Treasurer's Report was distributed, reviewed, and approved.
- The date for the Culvers fundraiser has been set for September 22, 2025, from 4:30-7:30p.
- From the bus committee, bus inspections are scheduled for September 30.
- Our school has welcomed several new families this school year with a total enrollment of 41.
- The Board/Staff Supper has been scheduled for September 20 at 6pm.
- Please continue to be in prayer for our staff, students, and families. The Lord has graciously blessed us with a smooth start to the new 2025/26 school year!

Next meeting: Monday, October 6, 2025

Ben Gesink closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jameson Roose, Secretary

Peoria Christian School Circle Meeting

August 5, 2025

Members present: Ruth De Bruin, Jamie Dunsbergen, Jana Laverman, Clarice Meinders, Paige Roos, Carla Vander Molen and Sarah Williams

Stacie Fynaardt was absent with notice.

Paige Roos opened with devotions.

Meeting minutes read and approved from April 8, 2025.

Out going members: Clarice Meinders and Paige Roos

Incoming members: Jamie Dunsbergen and Sarah Williams

- President: Stacie Fynaardt
- Secretary: Ruth De Bruin
- Treasurer: Carla Vander Molen

Fundraiser Updates:

- June: School tractor ride - \$2,545.23 profit
- Bazaar - November 14, 2025

New business:

- Approved the purchase of two new roasters for the school kitchen.
- Kaitlyn Hanco is the new Hot Lunch Coordinator.
- The committee has cleaned the school kitchen.

Devotions for
next meeting: Jamie Dunsbergen

Next meeting:
September 30,
2025 at 6PM in
the library.

Ruth De Bruin
closed with prayer.



Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

The school year is off to a good start. There are seven students in the PreK and Kindergarten room this year. We have spent most of these first couple weeks getting to know each other and the routine of being in school. It is always fun to see the excitement of a new school year through the eyes of new students. We have already had fun learning about our bodies that God created so uniquely.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen

1st & 2nd Grade

First & Second grade is off to a wonderful start! This class has been blessed with a total of 10 students, who are all eager to learn and grow. Everyone is adjusting well with the changing of the grades and the teacher. This year our school theme verse is Ephesians 4:32. So in class we are talking more about what that looks like and how we can be kind on a daily basis. We will look at ways that Jesus showed kindness during His ministry on Earth. We are learning how to encourage one another, work together, and celebrate each other's successes.

~ Mrs. Mary Ann Williamson

3rd & 4th Grade

The students are settling into our class routines and doing a great job! Our classroom spiritual focus this year is The Fruit of the Spirit. We will be looking at one fruit per month, starting with love in September. In Bible, we are using a new curriculum published by Answers in Genesis that will be taking us on a journey of the New Testament. We are currently learning about attributes of God such as eternal, sovereign, omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. In Science, we are admiring the handiwork of God by studying the solar system and have enjoyed extending this learning into our art work and even our PE class. This year we are studying US History and will learn about the different regions of the United States. In addition, we will prepare for the bi-annual Geography Bee by learning our 50 states and capitals! In conclusion, our classroom is blessed to have had a great start to the year, and we are eager to continue to learn, grow, expand, and connect our skills across the different subjects throughout our day.

~ Mrs. Laura Merrin



5th & 6th Grade

We are off to a great start in 5/6th grade! This year we have 9 wonderful and eager students! What a joy it is to be in the classroom with these students everyday! In History and Science we are learning about our Creator God. We can see the greatness of God and how all of creation fits together from the beginning of time to eternity. Although the earth is under the curse of sin, God uses all things for His glory. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He lovingly controls all of His creation. What a joy it is to point the students to this Savior every day. "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17

~ Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer



7th & 8th Grade

Peoria Peers and Pupils

Pick Plenty of Plump Pumpkins!

The 7th and 8th graders, Mrs. Heidi and Mr. Drew Van Wyk, Mrs. Lisa Roose, and Mrs. Laura Fynaardt had the opportunity to pick pumpkins at Mr. Arvin Roose's pumpkin patch from morning until lunch. We had a fantastic time picking all sorts of pumpkins and gourds. To energize us, snacks were provided by Mrs. Erin Fynaardt and Mrs. Stacie Fynaardt and lunch was given by Mr. Arvin Roose. God provided us with cool weather and a nice breeze. Genesis 2:15 "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."

~ submitted by Jedidiah Anum-Higher, 8th Grade

Music

The 1st-4th graders are working on improving their music reading skills. We have been learning songs by our 4 step process:

- 1) Rhythm - I can read, speak, and clap the rhythm.
- 2) Solfege- I can read, sing, and sign the solfege.
- 3) Lyrics - I can read and sing the words with correct rhythms and pitches.
- 4) Playing a game or doing an activity while singing the song! This is their favorite step!

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley

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
- 6oz Styrofoam cups
- Magic Erasers

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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>

IXL

IXL is off to a great start this school year! We have had our first week of assigned objectives all about Reading Strategies. Students are all striving to become the reader God created them to be by learning ways to understand and work with different texts. Some reading strategies can be difficult for students, so we are also working on persevering even when the work is hard. God is so good and helps us even when the work is challenging.

~ Mrs. Melinda Vos

**SCHOOL PICTURES**

Jostens Pix is scheduled to take our school pictures on Friday, September 19, starting at 8:30AM. All students and staff will have their picture taken that morning. Due to the green screen technology that Jostens uses, please do not wear green for your pictures that day. Retakes are scheduled for Tuesday, October 14.

SOCCER GAME

Our 5th-8th grade students and Sully Christian's 5th-8th grade students plan to have a combined time of PE and fellowship on Friday, September 19. Starting at 1:00PM, the students will be playing a soccer game on the back field at Peoria Christian. Spectators are welcome and encouraged! We are also looking for donations of sports drinks and snacks for students from both school to enjoy after the game is over. If you are able to help with the drinks or snacks, please contact the office at office@peoriachr.org.

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. Please plan to join us!

COMPUTERS

Over the summer the school purchased new computers for the teachers and staff. Kevin Van Der Hart took the old computers and erased, reassembled, and reloaded them into 6 useable computes. These computers are now on their way to Cambodia to the orphanage started by Mr. Al Bandstra, Children of Promise.

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school on Thursday and Friday, October 2 & 3.



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Please save the date of Thursday, October 23 for Parent Teacher Conferences. A schedule will be sent to parents a few week ahead of time.

VALUE CARDS

The 2025/2026 Peoria Christian Value Cards are available for purchase! Cards can be purchased for 1 card for \$15 or 3 cards for \$35. Please contact a 7th or 8th grade student to purchase your cards or stop by the office. The Value Card fundraiser helps provide funds for the 7th & 8th grade class trip to Adventureland (Spring 2026) and the Ark Encounter/Creation Museum (Spring 2027) along with allowing our 8th grade students to leave a gift when they graduate. Please contact a 7th/8th grade student or the school office at office@peoriachr.org with any questions. Thank you for your support of our 7th & 8th grade students!

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.

Save the Date!

PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S BAZAAR

Friday, November 14, 2025

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

3:00-6:30PM BAKE SALE & BROWSE-N-BUY

3:00-4:30PM COFFEETIME

5:00-6:30PM SUPPER

6:45PM CHILDCARE IN THE SCHOOL

7:00PM LIVE AUCTION IN THE GYM

Do you want to donate something to help make this fundraiser successful? Contact Stacie Fynaardt, Paige Roos, or Jana Laverman.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19