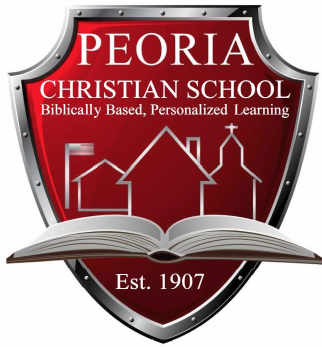




The Pathfinder

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

Nurture - Develop - Educate

Gratitude

As I was preparing for this month's Pathfinder, I came across one that was shared years ago by Melinda Vos. She was our lead teacher the year she wrote this, and is currently one of our PLS teachers. I appreciate the point that gratitude is an intentional choice. It is a great reminder for us all, especially at this time of year, so I wanted to share it with you again.

"Say, 'Thank you.'" How many times have those words of prompting come out of the mouths of parents? Most kids become adept at repeating those words back because they have just received what they wanted. But have we taught them anything about gratitude? Politeness and manners--certainly! But in the heart of the student, does making them simply say, "Thank you," make them more grateful for what they have received?



This fall, God gave me the directive to bless. We go about our day and intentionally (and unintentionally) say and hear negative comments about ourselves and others that take root and turn our hearts and minds towards resentment of ourselves and others. God put it on my heart to shower blessings to cover the words of negativity that have taken root in the hearts of our students and staff, that change how they view themselves and others.

Just as blessing counteracts negativity and resentment, gratitude counteracts greed and selfishness in our hearts. It doesn't come naturally; it is a learned discipline that takes time and persistence. It starts when we are little by saying "Thank you" to grandma for the cookie. Over time, we gain a deeper understanding by choosing to be grateful. That choice could be choosing to do without the new car or TV, and choosing to be grateful with what we currently have. That choice could be choosing to give away something important because we know it is also important to someone else. Gratitude is an attitude that starts with a choice. It is only through gratitude that greed can be negated. What choice can you make today that will change your heart towards being more grateful?

With Gratitude,
Erica Taft, Lead Teacher

VETERANS DAY LUNCH & PROGRAM

Peoria Christian School is hosting a Veterans Day lunch and program on Tuesday, November 18, at noon. If you are a veteran or know someone who is, please plan to join us on this day. We would love to honor all veterans and their families on this special day with a meal and a short program. Please RSVP to Michelle in the office at office@peoriachr.org by Thursday, November 13, with the number attending and eating lunch. Everyone is welcome to attend, but please RSVP.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

November

November 10

Grace Counseling

November 12

12:20PM Dismissal

Curriculum Mapping

November 13

Fall Festival at PCHS

November 14

Bazaar (See pages 5 & 6)

November 18

12PM Veterans Day Lunch &

Program

November 21

8:30AM Chapel

November 26

12:20PM Dismissal

November 27 & 28

No School

Thanksgiving Break

December

December 2

10:20AM Lock Down Drill

December 10

2:40PM Dismissal, In-Service

December 12

2:40PM Dismissal

7PM Christmas Program

December 19

8:30AM Chapel

Christmas Program Make-up

December 23

12:20PM Dismissal

December 24-January 2

No School

Christmas Break

CHAPEL

Please join us on Friday, November 21, at 8:30 AM for our Thanksgiving Chapel. Rev. Bob Johnson from First Church in Pella is our scheduled chapel speaker. Everyone is invited, and we hope to see you there!

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: November 3, 2025

The Board sang "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord" and President Eric Fynaardt read from 1 Thessalonians and opened with prayer.

Minutes of the October Board Meeting were read and approved.

- The monthly Treasurer's Report was distributed, reviewed, and approved.
- The board approved a motion to add additional AEA trainings to our handbook for our staff.
- The board discussed the future of our school's Veterans Day activities.
- Our grant writer has identified several funding opportunities and is working to secure funds for projects around the school.
- Please continue to be in prayer for our staff, students, and families. Psalm 86:11.

Next meeting: Monday, December 1, 2025

Bret Fynaardt closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jameson Roose, Secretary

Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

We are praising God for the beautiful weather that we have been experiencing. It is so much more fun to be able to have PE outside in the fresh air and not have it so cold. We were able to enjoy the fall weather on our trip to Autumn Acres. We learned about many things that have corn in them. A fact that surprised the students was that there is corn in diapers! We also enjoyed seeing the goats and donkeys. A highlight of the afternoon is always the jumpy pillow. This year, the students especially enjoyed Mr. Roos joining us and bouncing us.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen



1st & 2nd Grade

We've been busy bees—working on our bazaar project, practicing for the Veterans Day Program, and collecting items for Operation Christmas Child. We're learning that Jesus is our faithful friend and singing sound doctrine together. Each student continues to grow and use their unique, God-given gifts every day.

~ Mrs. Mary Ann Williamson

EARLY OUT & NO SCHOOL

Please mark these early outs and no school days on your calendars:

- November 12—12:20 PM, Curriculum Mapping
- November 26—12:20 PM Dismissal, Thanksgiving Break
- November 27 & 28, Thanksgiving Break

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our annual Christmas Program is scheduled for Friday, December 12 at 7:00 PM at Peoria CRC. Everyone is invited to join us as our students lead us in celebrating the birth of Christ. A coffee time will be served in the school gym following the program. Parents, please watch the Weekly Pathfinder for more information regarding the program.



3rd & 4th Grade

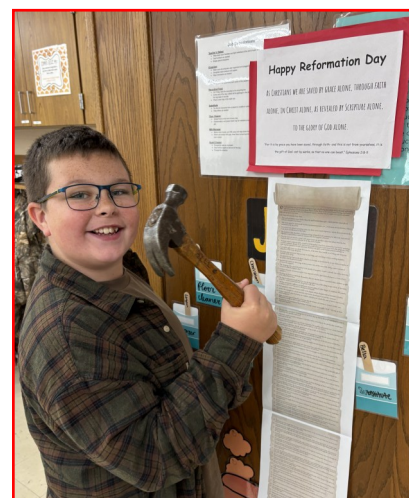
In 3rd and 4th grade, we have been learning a lot about God throughout our subjects. We have enjoyed learning in Bible class about the fulfillment of prophecy with the birth of the promised Messiah. We learned about His birth, His obedience to His parents, and how His sinless life was pivotal in Him being the Last Adam, as mentioned in I Corinthians, by being the perfect sacrifice for us when He died on the cross for our sins. We have seen that God is a beauty creator in Science as we were Creation Enjoys by studying, collecting, and analyzing soil, rocks, minerals, and fossils. We are also understanding God's covenants in the world of mathematics by studying money, clocks, addition, subtraction, fractions, and now starting some multiplication. Our class was honored to attend the PCHS Sound of Music school performance. The 3rd and 4th graders are currently gathering items for Operation Christmas Child boxes to share the good news of Jesus this Christmas and are enthusiastically looking forward to the Peoria Bazaar in a few weeks!

~ Mrs. Laura Merrin

5th & 6th Grade

At the end of October the 5th & 6th graders had the opportunity to lead the Reformation Day chapel. They presented the 5 Solas of the Reformation and did a great job explaining why they are so important. In the classroom, we enjoyed "nailing" the 95 Theses to the door in "Wittenberg". We thank God for using men like Martin Luther and the many other reformers! What comfort and peace it brings us to know we are saved by GRACE alone, through FAITH alone, in CHRIST alone, as revealed by SCRIPTURE alone, to the GLORY of GOD alone. May we all delight in His Word and look to it as the source of all truth!

~ Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer



7th & 8th Grade

"Wise builders know that every house must have a foundation." This is a quote from our newest Bible unit, and it states the main lesson of the unit. A foundation is a stone structure that supports a building, but this lesson is not about architecture. Like a building needs a foundation to stay secure, we also need a foundation to stay secure. This foundation isn't of stone, but of God's Word. Because we need God's word to stay stable. Psalm 18:2 states, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

~ submitted by Philip Post, 8th Grade

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
- Styrofoam Cups
- Individually Wrapped Snack Crackers

PATHFINDERS

If you are currently on the mailing list but no longer wish to receive the Pathfinder, please email Michelle 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>

MUSIC

The 3rd/4th graders and the 5th-8th graders are working hard on learning to play the hand chimes for the Christmas program already! They love the chance to play these beautiful instruments, and they are sure to be a favorite at the concert.

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley

IXL

IXL is off to a great start this year! Each week, we focus on one of the ten different standard areas (Numbers & Operations, Algebra & Algebraic Thinking, Fractions, Geometry, Measurement, and Data, Statistics & Probability for Math; and Reading Strategies, Vocabulary, Writing Strategies, and Grammar & Mechanics for Language Arts). This week, we will complete our first rotation of those ten standards areas with work on Numbers & Operations. Our younger students will be working on completing addition sentences using pictures, while the more advanced students get to work with God's design of irrational numbers.

~ Mrs. Melinda Vos

FALL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Our 5th-8th grade students are preparing for the annual Fall Festival to be held on Thursday, November 13. Students from area sister schools come together at Pella Christian High School for an afternoon and evening of fellowship and music. A concert will be held that evening at 7 PM in the high school gym. The concert is open to everyone, but come early as seats fill up quickly. The concert will be live-streamed on the Pella Christian YouTube channel. Parents, please review the email from Mrs. Ansley for more details.

LOG-STO

Legacy Of Grace Student Tuition Organization (LOG STO) is once again actively seeking donations to help reduce the cost of Christian education in Iowa. A 75% state tax credit will be given on the first \$930,943 donated. Please see the letter and donation form on pages 7 & 8 of this Pathfinder for more information.

LOCKDOWN DRILL

A lockdown drill has been scheduled for 10:20 AM on Tuesday, December 2. Josh Stevens with Mahaska Emergency Management will lead this drill, and it will take around 10 minutes. Society members will not be able to get into the building during this drill. Please contact the office with any questions.



PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

AUCTION & BAZAAR

NOVEMBER 14, 2025

BAKE SALE: 3:00-6:30 PM

BROWSE-N-BUY: 3:00-6:30 PM

COFFEE TIME: 3:00-4:30 PM

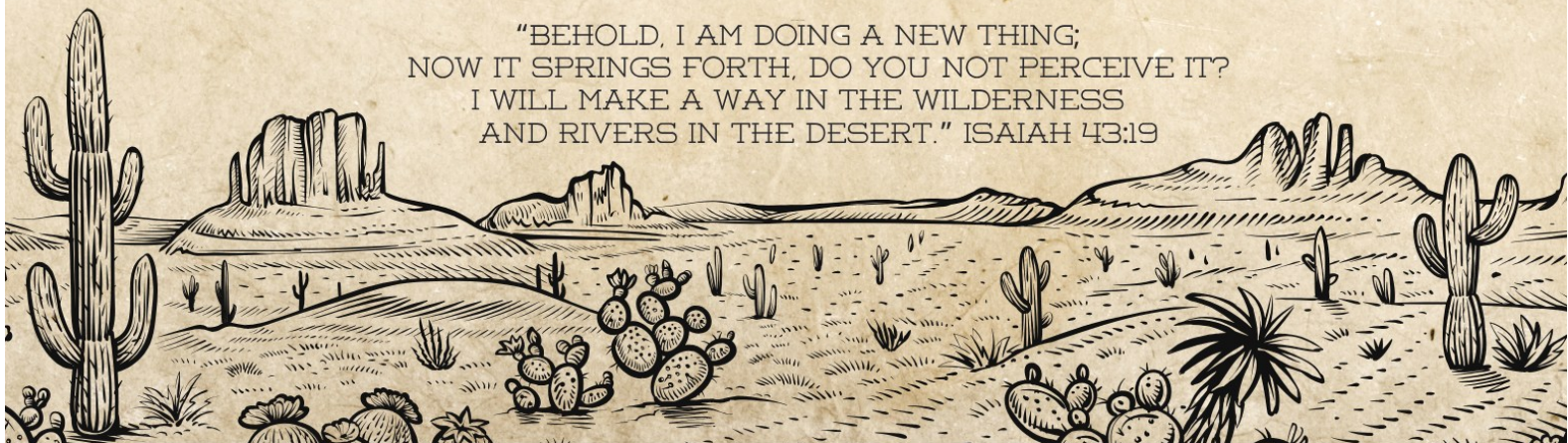
SUPPER: 5:00-6:30 PM

CHILDCARE IN THE SCHOOL: 6:45 PM

LIVE AUCTION IN GYM: 7:00 PM

★ FOLLOW PEORIA CHRISTIAN BAZAAR FACEBOOK ★
PAGE FOR AUCTION SNEAK PEEKS.

"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



Peoria Christian School

AUCTION & BAZAAR

Bake Sale Donations

We need your delicious baked goods and confections for the bake sale at the annual bazaar.

Cookies, bars, pies, bread, rolls, cupcakes, fudge, candy, jelly, jam, and home canned goods.

Please have your labeled items in the gym by noon on November 14. Styrofoam trays, bags, and labels are available at school.

Questions? Please contact Clarice Meinders 641-780-0126; email glennmeinders@iowatelecom.net



Contact us to Donate

If you would like to donate something to make this fundraiser successful or have questions, please contact us. We appreciate your help as we strive to support Peoria Christian School.

Stacie Fynaardt 641-780-1894

Paige Roos 641-780-3563

Jana Laverman 641-660-5987



We need You!

Are you willing to help the supper committee? We need willing volunteers to serve food and help with clean up. A sign up sheet will be available in the office. We are also looking for help on Wednesday, November 12th in the afternoon to shred meat.

To help, contact Suzy Veenstra 641-780-8856

Supper

Menu:

Roast Beef
Potatoes & gravy
Green beans
Fruit Salad
Dessert

BAKE SALE

● **BROWSE-N-BUY**

● **LIVE AUCTION**

**"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**





IOWA ALLIANCE
FOR CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Iowa's Student Tuition Organization (STO) Tax Credit Program

The Iowa STO Tax Credit Program has long been a bipartisan supported resource providing opportunities for low-income, single-parent, or working-class families to have a choice in their child's education.

PARENTS & CHILDREN BENEFIT! TAXPAYER DONORS BENEFIT!

The STO Program is a WIN-WIN for Iowans!

Parents and their children win by gaining access to donated tuition dollars for the non-public schools they believe best fit their needs.

Taxpayer donors to the program win by receiving a tax credit for a portion of the money they donate.

the state an average of more than \$12 million every year – unlocking more opportunities for state and local initiatives all citizens enjoy and preventing an increased tax burden on Iowans.*

Iowa's STO Program supports more than 11,000 students each year and is designed to help the parents whose choice in education is restricted by their income or zip code.

In Iowa, the state limits the amount of tax credits available to donors. The lower the limit – the less is available to help students.

You can help raise this limit by talking to Iowa legislators.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL – IOWA'S STO PROGRAM HAS A BONUS WINNER:

\$12 MILLION+ANNUAL SAVINGS FOR ALL IOWA CITIZENS

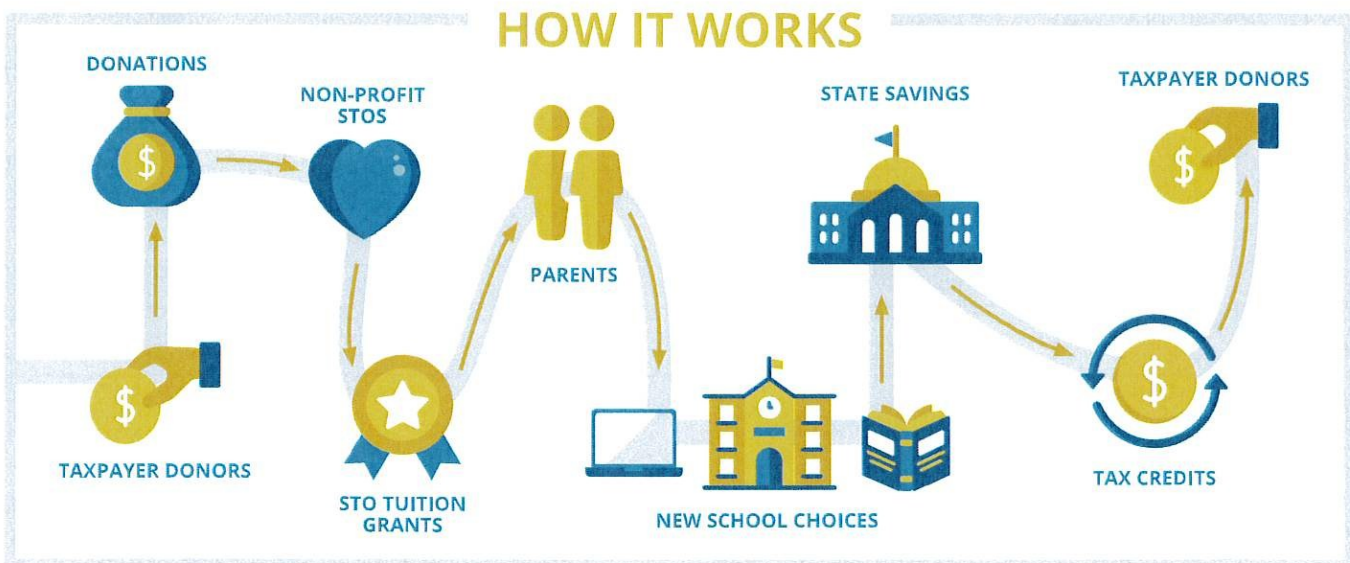
When parents take advantage of these privately donated tuition funds and attend a non-public school, the costs to educate their children is no longer a cost to state. For more than a decade, the program has saved

CLICK HERE

**TO FIND YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS
AND ADVOCATE TODAY!**

*Source: [Iowa Department of Revenue analysis of School Tuition data \(2007-2017\)](#)

HOW IT WORKS



2025

Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

2025

110 Peoria West Street • Pella, Iowa 50219 • www.logsto.org

Individual Donation Form

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Social Security Number _____
(We are unable to distribute tax credits without name, address, and social security number)

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

☐

Check here if you would like your acknowledgement receipt emailed to you.
Be sure to include your email address above.

Grain Transfer

Use Only

I, _____ transfer _____ bushels
of corn or beans to Legacy of Grace STO on ____/____/2025.

X _____ Date ____/____/2025
Producer

X _____
Business Representative

Representative of _____.

Please make checks payable to **LOG-STO**

Please send to: Legacy of Grace STO
110 Peoria West Street
Pella, IA 50219

Office Use Only

Date of Donation _____
Check No. _____
Amount _____
CACTAS Date _____