

The Pathfinder

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

Nurture - Develop - Educate

Community

At Peoria Christian School, community is very important to us. In our small school community, we build relationships between all our students, the students of our sister schools, as well as continuing to fellowship with the generations who have come before. God has blessed our school with a wonderful society of support!

Within the school building, we encourage activities that build relationships across grade levels. We have weekly buddy time, in which an older student and a younger student spend time together doing different activities. There are also times throughout the year when teachers team up for their classes to learn together, or one is teaching or sharing with the other. And of course, we have yearly field trips as a school to enjoy learning together in a different way. In January, we had one of the student's favorite trips. At Coral Ridge Mall, we went ice skating and explored the Children's Museum together. It was a great time watching many of the older students helping the younger ones ice skate, and exploring the different learning opportunities at the museum together.

There are many ways we work on building community outside of the classroom walls as well. We have regular events with Sully Christian each year so the students can get to know one another. We have several sporting and educational events for friendly competition between the two schools, and the younger classes have shared field trips together. We also have wider community events, such as our District V events, Grandparent and Special Friend Day, and the Tulip Time parades. We recently had our Culver's night, when our 5th-8th graders greeted people as they entered and helped serve food. It was great to see so many generations of supporters and past students enjoying some great food and fellowship.

Looking ahead, we have many opportunities to grow and celebrate with our community. As Psalm 133:1 says, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity." We would like to have you join us, so be sure to put these in your calendar:

February 13: 3rd-4th Geography Bee and 5th-8th Volleyball Game at Sully Christian

February 24: Local Fine Arts

March 4: PK/K Round Up

March 5: District V Fine Arts at PCHS

April 10: Grandparent and Special Friend's Day

April 20: District V Track Meet at Lacy Complex

April 30: Middle School Concert at Sully Christian

May 7 & 8: Tulip Time and Parades

May 15: K-4th Track and Field with Sully Christian

May 21: 8th Grade Graduation

Thank you for your continued support of Peoria Christian School.

Erica Taft, Lead Teacher



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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

February 2026

February 13

1PM 3rd/4th Geography Bee
& 5th-8th Volleyball at
Sully Christian

February 16

President's Day, No School

February 21

5PM Hostess Supper

February 24

Local Fine Arts Night

February 27

8:30AM Chapel

March 2026

March 4

PK/K Round Up

March 5

5PM District Fine Arts

March 9-13

ISASP Testing

March 13

1:20PM Dismissal
End of 3rd Quarter

March 16-20

Spring Break (No School)

March 27

8:30AM Chapel



Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: February 2, 2026

The Board sang "To God be the Glory" and President Eric Fynaardt read from 1 Corinthians and opened with prayer.

Minutes of the January Board Meeting were read and approved.

- The finance committee presented tuition rates and teacher pay recommendations for the 2026/2027 school year.
- The 2026/2027 school calendar was approved.
- Multiple field trip opportunities were approved for later this school year.
- An Ad Hoc search team has been assembled to aid in finding and screening applicants for the posted positions at our school.
- Alternative strategies for enhancing the promotion of our school are being explored and evaluated.
- Please continue to be in prayer for our staff, students, and families. Psalm 139:14

Next meeting: Monday, March 2, 2026

Jameson Roose closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jameson Roose, Secretary

Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

In science we have spent some time learning about the nonliving things that God has created. The students especially enjoyed learning about the nonliving things that are in space. We were amazed at all the unique characteristics of each planet. One thing that surprised the students was how long or short a year and a day was on each planet compared to Earth. We serve and worship an awesome God.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen





1st & 2nd Grade

The 1st & 2nd grade classroom just celebrated the 100th day of school! We have been counting the days since the beginning of school. When we fill out our calendars in the morning, the anticipation has been rising all month long. We dressed up as 100 year olds, and spent the day counting to 100 many times. We discovered we could spell 100 trick words, and we grouped 100 items in a variety of different ways. Counting to one hundred is over and now we are counting down to the end of the year!

~ Mrs. Mary Ann Williamson



3rd & 4th Grade

Greetings from 3rd/4th Grade! Our class is enjoying learning more about our Creator as we study Ecosystems in Science. We are learning so much about the different plants, animals, and climates of these different biomes and how the populations, communities, habitats all work together according to God's design. We also have learned recently more about what it means to be a God Worshipper in our Bible curriculum by learning about the persistence of the widow's prayer and the humility of the tax collector's prayer in contrast to the prayers of the Pharisees. We continue to learn more about His earthly ministry, learning about important Biblical principles taught through the parables (Good Samaritan, Prodigal Son) and miracles (raising of Lazarus, healing of the Centurion's servant). We are looking forward to our Geography Bee with Sully Christian on Feb. 13th and have enjoyed learning about the uniqueness of each of the 50 states in the United States. In Math, multiplication fact mastery and the beginnings of long division are in progress. Lastly, thank you to all who support our school and classroom through facilitating, attending Culver's Night, attending the upcoming Hostess Supper, volunteering, serving lunch, donating, and praying for our school. What a blessing you all are!

~ Mrs. Laura Merrin

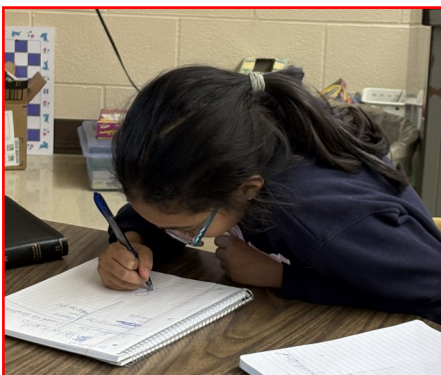
DONATIONS NEEDED

Looking for a unique way to contribute to Peoria Christian School? Here are some tangible items that are needed. Please send or bring to school at your convenience.

- Dry Erase Markers
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
- Styrofoam Cups
- Individually Packaged Snacks

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.



5th & 6th Grade

In 5th and 6th grade, we started a new novel in January. We are reading Calico Captive by Elizabeth George Speare. So far we are enjoying this exciting book. We are learning lots of vocabulary words and about God's gift of different characters in literature. The book is set in the 1750's during the French and Indian War. It has been fun to learn how differently people lived back then, and how historical events affect the characters in our book. There are so many lessons to learn from the wonderful literature that God has given us, and we hope to be able to learn more as we journey through the rest of the story.

~ Mrs. Laura Fynaardt



7th & 8th Grade

This month the 7/8 classroom in literature has been reading The Hiding Place, a great book written by Corrie Ten Boom. This book is about how Corrie, the main character, hides Jews in the city of Haarlem being a block away from the main police station taken over by Germans. They risked their lives to hide the Jews and to save them from being put in a concentration camp. Our class has enjoyed the book and are wanting to read more than the reading time given. We can't wait to find out the rest of her story. The Ten Boom's house, the Beje, was raided by the Germans to find Jews and Corrie was arrested. The book is always keeping us focused on how God guided Corrie during World War II. It states in Psalm 119:114, "You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word."

Summited by Jayse Williams and Hudson Fynaardt, 7th grade

MUSIC

The 5th-8th graders have been working hard this month on preparing solo and small group events for our local Fine Arts event on February 24th. They are working on becoming well-rounded students who are using the gifts God has blessed them with, as well as, strengthening areas of weakness. They will have entries in creative writing, speech, instrumental, vocal, and art. Pray for them as they grow their gifts, memorize the lines/parts, and that they will give God all the glory.

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley

CHAPEL

Please join us on Friday, February 27, at 8:30 AM for our monthly chapel. Mr. Joel Rietema, the principal at Oskaloosa Christian School, is our scheduled speaker. Everyone is invited, and we hope to see you there!

CULVER'S TIP NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who attended the Culver's Night on January 13. We appreciate your support and your generosity. The food and fellowship was a nice midwinter encouragement!



PK/K ROUND UP

Pre-Kindergarten (PK) and Kindergarten (K) Round Up will be held during the morning on Wednesday, March 4. Any parents who are interested in sending their child to Round-Up that morning should contact the school at office@peoriachr.org. Also, if you know of a family who has a PK/K student who is looking at their options for the 2026-2027 school year, we would be honored to have them at PK/K Round Up.

ENROLLMENT FOR 2026-2027

Even though the 2025-2026 school year is only half over, prayerful preparations are already beginning for the next school year, 2026-2027. If you know of a family who has expressed interest in Peoria Christian School, please ask them to reach out to us or ask them if we can reach out to them. We would be happy to send them information or answer any questions that they might have. Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is scheduled to begin in March.



HOSTESS SUPPER

We are excited for this fundraiser on Saturday, February 21. The evening will begin with supper at 5PM with entertainment to follow. Table hosts are in the process of reaching out and inviting families and supporters of Peoria Christian School. Alex Foley is our scheduled speaker and entertainment for the evening. If you would like an invitation to this event, contact Stacie Fynaardt at 641-780-1894.

GEOGRAPHY BEE & VOLLEYBALL

On Friday, February 13 our 3th-8th grade students will be going to Sully Christian. At 1PM our 3rd & 4th students will participate in a Geography Bee. After the Geography Bee, at approximately 1:45PM, the 5th-8th grade students will play a volleyball game. Everyone is welcome to join us at Sully Christian as we spend the afternoon together!

WEATHER ALERTS

Peoria Christian School will be making independent decisions when it comes to weather related closings & delays. Please stay tuned to the following when there is a concern regarding the weather and make sure that you see our school name.

- **Text Message:** This is our primary way of communicating weather delays, and we strongly encourage all parents to sign up for text messaging. If you would like to be added to our text messaging system, please text "START" to 833-526-1787
- **Email:** All society will be emailed
- **Facebook:** Watch our Facebook page for an announcement
- **WHO-TV:** Check the scroll at the bottom of your TV



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Instagram:

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

YouTube:

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

FINE ARTS NIGHTS

Once again our 5th-8th grade students are in the very beginning stages of preparing for the Fine Arts season. Students will be (or already are) working on written, artistic, vocal, band, piano and speech pieces. Our Local Fine Arts Night will be held on Tuesday, February, 24 followed by the District Fine Arts Night on Thursday, March 5. Everyone is encouraged to come and support our students!

SPRING BREAK

Peoria Christian School's spring break will be from March 16-20. School will not be held this week.

IMPORTANT IOWA 529 PLAN UPDATES

Several recent changes expand how Iowa 529 Plan funds may be used and increase available tax benefits:

- Expanded K–12 expenses (effective July 4, 2025): Iowa 529 funds may now be used for more than just tuition, including books, testing fees, tutoring, and educational therapies for students with disabilities.
- Postsecondary credentials now eligible (effective July 4, 2025): Recognized postsecondary credentials and credential programs—and their associated costs—are now qualified Iowa 529 expenses.
- Higher annual K–12 withdrawal limit (effective January 1, 2026): The annual withdrawal limit for K–12 expenses has increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000.
- Iowa tax benefit for 2026: Iowa taxpayers may deduct up to \$6,100 per beneficiary account in Iowa 529 contributions from their state taxable income.

Please consult your tax advisor for further advice.

