

The Pathfinder

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

Nurture - Develop - Educate

Enrolling at Peoria Christian?

If you or someone you know have been considering Christian education and specifically whether you should send your student to Peoria Christian School, then here are some ways to help make your decision:

- Pray – We all know it is a major decision where you send your students to school, so keep praying and continuing to seek direction and guidance from our Heavenly Father. (Psalm 54:2)
- Check out our website – Please take time to check out our website (www.peoriachr.org). There is a short video where you can get a sense of the atmosphere and why people love this school. You can also see our monthly Pathfinders (newsletters) to discover what's going on in all the classrooms, as well as other events happening in the school.
- Facebook or Instagram – Please make sure to visit us on Facebook and Instagram. You will be able to see different events and check out our students during class time, field trips, and other ways that make our school special.
- Visit – Set up a time by calling or emailing the office to come visit our school (641-625-4131 or office@peoriachr.org). We will sit down together and discuss our beliefs, curriculum, and tour the classrooms. It is such a great way for you as a family to get a taste of our school.
- Talk to a graduate – There are multiple families that have 3rd or 4th generational students attending this school. When you are visiting our school, you can check out our wall of graduates and see how many people you find that you know. In fact, you might even find a relative that graduated from Peoria as well. Then reach out to them and ask them what they loved about our school.



Finally, a few thoughts from our current students. When asked why they like attending school at Peoria Christian, there were a few responses that stood out. They like that we are a small school, they enjoy our field trips, and they like learning from a Christian perspective. As one of our fourth graders put it, "I like our school because our teachers are nice to everyone, we get to learn about God, and have some fun time."

Enrollment is now open for the 2026-2027 school year. We look forward to hearing from you!

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

March 2026

March 16-20

Spring Break (No School)

March 24

Grace Counseling

March 27

8:30AM Chapel

April 2026

April 1

12:20PM Dismissal
Curriculum Mapping

April 3

No School, Good Friday

April 6

No School, Easter Monday

April 7-10

Christian Education Week

April 7

8:30AM Chapel

April 10

Grandparents &
Special Friends Day
8:30AM Chapel at Peoria CRC
12:30PM Dismissal

April 20

District V Track Meet

April 27-May 1

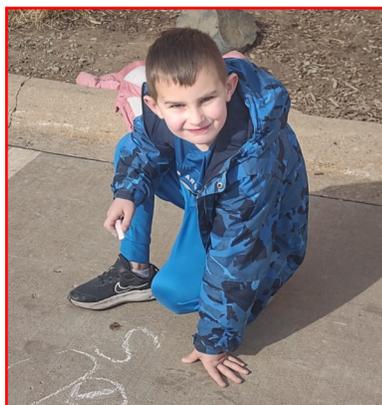
Map Testing

April 29

2:40PM Dismissal

April 30

7PM Junior High Spring
Concert at Sully Christian



Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: March 2, 2026

The Board sang "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" and President Eric Fynaardt read from Psalm 100 and opened with prayer.

Minutes of the February Board Meeting were read and approved.

- Motion carried to proceed with offering teacher contracts for the 2026/2027 school year.
- An instrument rental policy was approved and will be added to the handbook.
- Three board members visited classrooms this month and each gave favorable reports.
- The board authorized the next phase of efforts around offering expanded music opportunities to students.
- 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 34:8

Next meeting: Monday, April 6, 2026

Brent Hanko closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jameson Roose, Secretary

Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

Another month of school has come and gone. It's hard to believe spring is so close. In PreK and Kindergarten we spent time this month talking about God's word being our foundation. It cannot be changed or destroyed. God preserves His word. We also enjoyed joining with our friends at Sully Christian at the beginning of the month to learn about animal camouflage. It is amazing how God created animals to be able to protect themselves from predators or hide to hunt their prey. We praise God for His creation. We ended our month having fun during outside PE with friends from Pella Christian High School.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen



OPEN POSITIONS

Peoria Christian is prayerfully looking to fill the following positions for the 2026/2027 school year:

- Principal (Full-Time)
- 7th/8th Grade Science-Teacher (Part-Time with a possibility of additional subjects for Full-Time)
- Bus/Van Driver (Part-Time, Immediate)

Interested individuals should email Miss Erica Taft at principal@peoriachr.org or Michelle De Haan at office@peoriachr.org.



1st & 2nd Grade

The 1st & 2nd graders have been looking to the heavens with wonder and excitement. In science, we have been exploring the vast universe God created and marveling at its beauty, order, and detail. From the brightness of the sun to the quiet glow of the stars, students have been reminded that creation reflects the greatness and creativity of our Creator. We were especially "star struck" by the incredible truth that God not only made the stars, but He knows each one by name. What an amazing thought for young hearts to grasp! If God cares enough to name and number the countless stars in the sky, how much more does He know and care for each one of us? We have been encouraged and comforted by the realization that we are not only created by Him, but created in His image—with purpose, value, and great love. It has been a joy to watch the students connect science and faith, seeing the heavens not just as part of our curriculum, but as a beautiful reminder of God's power, intentionality, and personal care for His children.

~ Mrs. Mary Ann Williamson



3rd & 4th Grade

The 3rd and 4th graders had a great time at the Geography Bee challenge with Sully Christian and took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place! It was so fun learning all 50 states and capitals. We are now learning more about the US Territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific. We are starting to work on our Science Fair Class Project, excited for our upcoming Spring Break, and praying for focus and confidence on our state testing. We are learning about the Triumphant Entry, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus in preparation of Easter in early April. We are blessed by some new PE equipment that has allowed our PE class to be extra enjoyable. Thank you to those who supported Peoria by attending or donating funds at the Hostess Supper! Our Fruit of the Spirit in February was focused on Goodness; March will be Faithfulness. It will be easy to sing "Great is Thy Faithfulness" as we explore God's attribute of faithfulness in devotions together.

~ 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
- Juice Pouches
- 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 5-8th grade PE we recently had the opportunity to compete against our friends at Sully Christian in a game of volleyball. We had fun learning the rules and how to play! We made great improvements as our volleyball unit went on and had lots of fun competing in front of a very excited and loud crowd! We are thankful for the opportunity to use our bodies to glorify God! Thank you also to Sully Christian for hosting this fun event! After spring break we look forward to our Track & Field unit as we prepare for one of the best days of the year...the District V Track & Field in Oskaloosa! Working hard, encouraging one another and fellowship with other Christian schools is a wonderful way to spend a day! Please plan to join us on Monday, April 20 for this fun day!

~ Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer



7th & 8th Grade

On February 24, 2026, the 5-8th graders displayed their talents at our local Fine Arts at Peoria Christian School. Some of us had the opportunity to move on to District Fine Arts at Pella Christian High School. We had the opportunity to glorify God through singing, playing instruments, giving speeches, improvisation, and playing piano. We would like to give thanks to Mrs. Carolyn Bandstra, Mrs. Karen Whiles, and Mr. Craig Shannon for helping us with our speeches. We also would like to give thanks to our accompanists Mrs. Sue Van Ee, Mrs. Myrna Fynaardt, and Mrs. Lisa Roose. Finally, we would like to give thanks to our judges Mr. Scott Merrin, Mrs. Glenda Mathes, and Mrs. Debby Pence. Psalm 98:4-6 states, "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" What a blessing it was to use our gifts and talents.

- Submitted by Luke Fynaardt, 7th Grade



CHAPEL

Please join us on Friday, March 27, at 8:30 AM for our monthly chapel. Pastor Brian Oshsner, from Faith CRC, is our scheduled speaker and our 8th grade students will be leading chapel. Everyone is invited, and we hope to see you there!

SPRING BREAK

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

HOSTESS SUPPER

Thank you to everyone who attended the Hostess Supper and for your generous gifts, a total of \$45,902 was raised. We also wish to express our appreciation to all our table hosts and to Alex Foley for the evening's entertainment. Praise God for His bountiful gifts!

KINDERGARTEN

Parents, please note that kindergarten students will begin coming to school on Wednesdays after spring break. With this addition, kindergarten students will be coming to school full time.



Music

A big congratulations to the 5th-8th graders who participated in Fine Arts this year! The local event included all 5th-8th grade students as they performed in various arts including vocal, piano, speech, and band. We also had 10 students who earned a spot to represent our school at the District V Fine Arts night on March 5th in piano, vocal, and band performances. Those students, and others, also performed speeches, and submitted creative writing and art pieces. Fine Arts is a lot of work for students and teachers, but it is work worth doing! We are creating well rounded students who can grow and use their talents to glorify God and bless others. I am proud of their hard work and beautiful performances! Soli Deo Gloria!

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley



IXL

Teaching sometimes feels like putting together a 10,000 piece puzzle. Every day, teachers, and students add a couple pieces to the intricately God-designed puzzle that is each child. Sometimes the pieces are easy to find and assemble, and other days just finding 1 piece that fits is monumental. IXL feels like the latter many days. IXL is meant to find the stubborn, hard-to-find, hard-to-fit pieces, but are nonetheless important for the puzzle to be complete. So when the days are hard and the students are grumpy about IXL, I try to remember that each day is another day to add pieces to each child so that their perfect God-puzzle is assembled and ready for His work in this world.

~ Mrs. Melinda Vos



JUNIOR HIGH SPRING CONCERT

Our 5th-8th grade students are joining together with their peers from Sully Christian School for a joint band and choir concert. This concert will be held on Thursday, April 30th at 7PM at Sully Christian School. Please join us that evening as our students join together in worship of our Savior.

TRACK & FIELD DAYS

Save the dates for the following track and meet days for our students

- 5th-8th Grades: Monday, April 20 - District V Track Meet at Lacey Stadium in Oskaloosa (Rain date of Monday, April 27)
- PK-4th Grades: Friday, May 15 - Track & Field Day at Peoria Christian with Sully Christian participating

Peoria Christian School

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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>



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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEEK

Christian Education Week is scheduled for April 7-10. We enjoy taking this week to appreciate the blessing of Christian Education. Our theme verse for the week is Psalm 111:2 "Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them." Our planned activities for the week are as follows:

- Tuesday: Chapel at 8:30AM with Rev. Chuck Muether speaking. Students are invited to dress in earthy tones.
- Wednesday: Afternoon nature hike at Cordova Park. Students are invited to dress as a hiker/explorer/hunter.
- Thursday Science Fair presentations in afternoon. Students are invited to dress like a scientist, gardener or farmer.
- Friday: Grandparent & Special Friend Day
8:30AM Chapel at Peoria CRC with Mr. Al Bandstra
9:20AM Classroom Visits
11:00AM Science Fair

ESA & STO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

ESA applications for the 2026-27 school year will be open starting April 16 and will close on June 30. Look for the Students First Education Savings Account page to be updated in the coming weeks. Governor Kim Reynolds signed legislation setting Iowa's State Supplemental Aid (SSA) rate at 2% for the upcoming school year. The measure, Senate File 2201, increases per-pupil state funding for K-12 students by approximately \$160 over last year, bringing the total to \$8,148 per student.

Peoria Christian families can visit our school website and click on the Parent tab and then on Financial Assistance for more details regarding all financial assistance options. LOG-STO applications are open and priority is given to applications who apply before April 30th of each year.