

The Pathfinder

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

Nurture - Develop - Educate

Christian Education Week

The start of April 2026 is a time of celebration. I pray that all of you reading this enjoyed a wonderful weekend celebrating Easter with your families. We thank the Lord for sending His Son to die to save us from our sins. Without Christ's sacrifice, none of us would be here at Peoria Christian School.



Right after Easter, we celebrated Christian Education Week on April 7-10. It is a week when we specifically take time to celebrate having the ability to learn from a Christian perspective. The theme for the week this year is Great are His Works! It is from Psalm 111:2, "Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them." With this theme, we focused on science topics. All the students learned about the scientific process and completed an experiment. While PreK-4th grade completed the process in each class, the 5th-8th grade students chose an individual project to complete. They started with some research about their topic, created an experiment plan, and followed it as they completed their experiment. Through it all, the students learned more about how God has ordained all created things to work in the world.



Each day has a dress up theme as well as special events. On Tuesday, we started the week with chapel. Rev. Chuck Muether spoke to us about the theme for the week, and the students enjoyed dressing up in earthy tones. On Wednesday, everyone dressed up as hikers, explorers, and hunters; and we spent the afternoon enjoying God's creation around Cordova Tower. Thursday, the dress up theme was scientists, gardeners, and farmers; and the 5th-8th graders showcased their gifts and talents as they presented their science

fair projects. We ended the week as we usually do, with our grandparents and special friends day. Mr. Al Bandstra blessed us with a message during chapel, our visitors spent time in the classrooms and seeing the science fair projects, and we ended the day with a wonderful lunch. Be sure to check our Facebook page for pictures from the week. Throughout all the fun, we strive to do all things for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31).

We want to thank God for allowing us to continue to teach from a Reformed Biblical perspective, teach students from a young earth viewpoint, and for the many generations of students and support for the school. We continue to pray for God's wisdom, guidance, and blessing on Peoria Christian School for generations to come.

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

April 2026

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

May 2026

May 7 & 8

Tulip Time
No School
Ride Bikes in Afternoon

May 14

School Picnic at West Market Park

May 15

PK-4th Track & Field

May 20

2:45PM Kindergarten Graduation

May 21

11:30 8th Grade Dismissal
2:20 PK-7th Dismissal
7PM 8th Grade Graduation

May 22

Last Day of School
8:30AM Chapel at Peoria CRC
1:20PM Dismissal

June 2026

June 5

All Parent School Cleaning

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: April 6, 2026

The Board sang "Living for Jesus" and President Eric Fynaardt read from Revelation 21:1-5 and opened with prayer.

Minutes of the March Board Meeting were read and approved as amended.

- The school's handbooks will be undergoing internal reviews in preparation for accreditation.
- Ben Gesink reported on his school visit and gave a favorable report.
- The Endowment Committee met with the Foster Group to review the yearly summary of the Endowment Account.
- A line item was approved for next year's budget to include additional funding for the promoting of our school.
- Please continue to be in prayer for our staff, students, and families. Psalm 91:1-2

Next meeting: Monday, May 4, 2026

Jayne Veenstra closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jameson Roose, Secretary

Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

We started the month of March with PreK and Kindergarten Round Up. Eight potential students came that morning. The current PreK students did a great job of leading and welcoming the new children to our classroom. Please join us in praying for these families as they make decisions for next school year.

We ended our month with a celebration of the 100th day of school in our room. We had a pajama day! Throughout the day we saw how many different things we could do in 100 seconds, like how many times we could write our name, how many words, and how many numbers we could write. We made a snack mix that we each had 100 pieces to bring home. In PE, we did 100 exercises. We give thanks to God for these 100 days of learning.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen

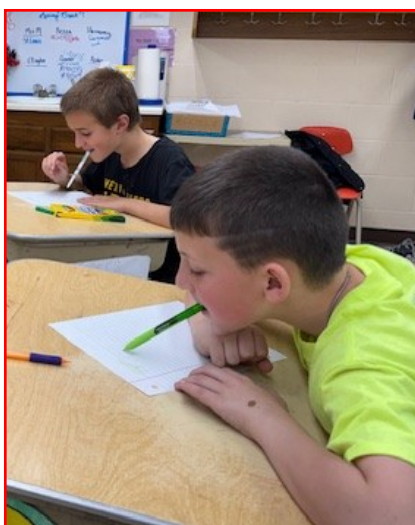


OPEN POSITIONS

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 are busily soaring to new heights! They are diligently working on their Science Fair Project, testing which paper airplane design will fly the farthest. Along the way, we have learned how to write a hypothesis and develop detailed procedures. We also discussed how the Wright brothers studied birds to help design the first airplanes. As we work, we are emphasizing the importance of being orderly and consistent—just as God is the God of order and consistency.

~ Mrs. Mary Ann Williamson



3rd & 4th Grade

The 3rd and 4th graders have been working diligently this month. They honored God with their best effort on ISASP testing in the areas of Language, Writing, Reading, and Mathematics. The class has been observing and gathering data for our class Science Fair project which we are excited to share about at the Science Fair during Christian Education Week. Our class has several opportunities in April to show and grow in the love of Jesus and the Fruit of the Spirit. First, we were able to donate class tithes funds to bless others with 50 Bibles through Legacy Thrift. We also were able to learn about the importance of volunteering as a way to serve Jesus. Our class also hosted Joel Vander Molen as a special guest speaker to learn more about how God wants to use each one of us! We may come up with reasons why we can't do something (finances, health, age), but through the power of God, He enables and equips us to do His Kingdom work. It was an honor to help expand these students' minds with opportunities in our community and through the testimony of other believers! Praise God through whom all blessings flow!

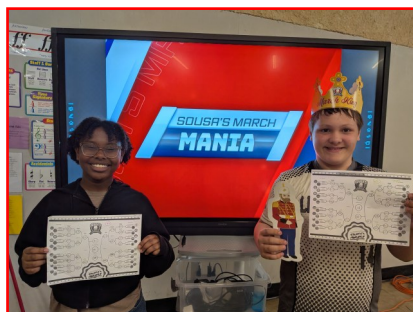
~ Mrs. Laura Merrin



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

As we start the final quarter of the school year we are reminded of the many ways God has been faithful to us through the year. He has helped us as we learned, studied, played and grew together as a class. God continues to bless us as we have lots of exciting events coming up. Next week the students will be presenting their science fair projects. They have been working hard so please join us to see the students' projects and the abundance of knowledge God has given them. Later in the month, we will take part in District V Track and Field and take a couple of field trips. Please pray for fun, God-honoring events, and for the students to continue to get their work done in class with all the exciting extras during the end of the year.
~ Mrs. Laura Fynaardt

7th & 8th Grade

In the 7th and 8th grade classroom we have been having a wonderful time reading *The Hobbit* in literature class. We are about one-third of the way through. We have also been learning about how the good characters like the light, and the evil characters like the dark, just as it says in the Bible. "They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart." (Ephesians 4:18) However, It does say in John 4:5 that the light will eventually win, and we can take heart in that. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Also, we have been reading riddles in the book and are making our own to share on Grandparents Day.
~ Submitted by Matthew Fynaardt, 7th Grade

Music

In the month of March, the 6th-8th band class participated in the Marine Corps Band's Sousa's March Mania. Instead of filling out a bracket with basketball teams, the students listened to 32 marches, filled out a bracket, and voted on which ones they wanted to win. This year our "March King" was Jayse Williams because his bracket earned the most points. Jedi Anum-Higher got second place and was only two points behind him. This year's march winner was "Midway March" by John Williams. You can listen to the Marine Corps band play it on YouTube.
~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley





8TH GRADE GRADUATION

Everyone is invited to join us in celebrating the graduation of our Class of 2026. Graduation will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 7PM at Peoria CRC. All students (PK-8th) will be participating in the ceremony. We look forward to celebrating what the Lord has done in the lives of our graduates during their time at Peoria.

KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

Our kindergarten class will be having a small graduation ceremony in the school gym on Wednesday, May 20 at 2:45PM. Family and friends are welcome to join them as they celebrate their successes of their kindergarten year!



ENROLLMENT FOR 2026/2027

Enrollment is open for the 2026-2027 school year. Current families should refer to an email from Michelle with instructions on re-enrollment. New families should reach out to Michelle for further directions. Please join us in praying for the 2026/2027 school year and those students that the Lord has planned for us.

SPRING MAP TESTING

End of the year Map Testing is scheduled for April 27-May 1. Parents, please try avoid any appointments during this week especially in the morning. Please pray for peace of mind and clarity for our students as they take these year end tests.

TRACK & FIELD DAYS

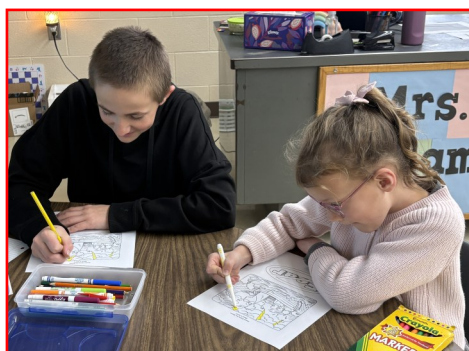
Save the dates for the following track and meet days for our students

- 5th-8th Grades: Monday, April 20 - District V Track Meet at Lacey Stadium in Oskaloosa (Rain date of Monday, April 27). Parents, Please see the email from Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer for more information
- PK-4th Grades: Friday, May 15 - Track & Field Day at Peoria Christian with Sully Christian participating



CHAPEL

Please join us on Friday, May 22 at 8:30AM for our Last Day of School Chapel. Chapel will be held at Peoria CRC and Pastor David Swinney from Peoria CRC is our scheduled speaker. Everyone is welcome to join us!



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.

TULIP TIME

Tulip Time is scheduled for May 7-9 Our students have two opportunities to participate in the festivities and share our school with those who come to visit Pella. Please be looking for our students and give them a wave if you see them!

- **Bikes:** All students are expected to walk or ride in the parades on Thursday & Friday afternoon. Dutch Costumes will be going home as Tulip Time gets closer and further details will be in upcoming Weekly Pathfinders
- **Band:** Our 6th-8th grade band students will be marching with the Central Iowa Christian School Band on Thursday afternoon, Friday night, and Saturday afternoon. Parents, please see the email from Mrs. Ansley for more details.

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.

Peoria Christian School

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