

The Pathfinder

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

Nurture - Develop - Educate

Graduation

Now that we have entered the final month of school, we are looking forward to our 8th Grade Graduation. This year, God has blessed us with four graduates. Even though each of them have been at Peoria Christian for a different number of years, it is amazing to see how they have grown in their faith and have been leaders of our school this year. Be sure to read about each of these great students on starting on page 5.

We all know that it takes the home, church, and school to train up a child (Proverbs 22:6), and it is such a joy to see the fruits of those efforts. Please continue to pray for these four students as they transition into high school. One of our prayers for these students comes from Colossians 1:9-10, "And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

I would like to invite you to our 8th grade graduation on Thursday, May 21st at 7:00 PM at Peoria CRC. Rev. Greg Lubbers is our scheduled graduation speaker, and I hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate together what God has done in the lives of each of our graduates.

Thank you for your continued support,

Erica Taft, Lead Teacher



SOCIETY MEETING

The Annual Peoria Christian School Society Meeting will be held in the school gym on Monday, July 6. All supporters of Peoria Christian School are encouraged to attend this meeting as we elect new board members, approve the 2026/2027 budget, and hear reports regarding Peoria Christian School.



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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

May 2026

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

June 13

Peoria Christian Tractor Ride

July 2026

July 6

7PM Society Meeting



Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: May 11, 2026

The Board sang "God Himself is with Us" & Board President Eric Fynaardt read from Isaiah 43 & opened with prayer.

Minutes of the April Board Meeting were read & approved.

- Pure Freedom content for the 2026-2027 school year will be reviewed during the August Ed Committee meeting.
- Also from the Ed Committee, a motion was supported & carried to offer contracts for two teaching positions.
- A motion carried that merges the responsibilities of two committees, changes some of the responsibilities of another, & paves a path for a new committee that will focus on hospitality. This change will take effect for the 2026-2027 school board.
- Russ Fynaardt & Kody Roos reported on their school visits and both gave favorable reports.
- The Endowment Committee is investigating the possibility of putting on an estate planning event.
- From the Building committee, a water leak has been identified underground & a plan for repair is in process.
- Please continue to keep our students, staff, and families in your prayers as they work to finish the school year well.

Next meeting: Monday, June 1, 2026

Ben Gesink closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jameson Roose, Secretary

Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten



It is hard to believe that it is the end of the school year. We have learned and grown so much over the past year. We have a packet

that we do each month where we write our names and draw a picture of ourselves. We will do the last page here in a few weeks and look back at how much we have improved. It is such a great time of seeing the growth in our abilities. We praise God for the great school year and look forward to all of the fun activities we have yet to accomplish in the month of May! ~ 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

We have been eagerly counting down the remaining days of school. As of May 1, only 14 days remain, & each one is filled with meaningful learning and new discoveries. In 2nd grade, students are learning how to subtract three-digit numbers. In 1st grade, we are exploring how patient & merciful God was with the Israelites, as well as the many warning He gave them before they were taken into captivity by the Assyrians.

~ Mrs. Mary Ann Williamson

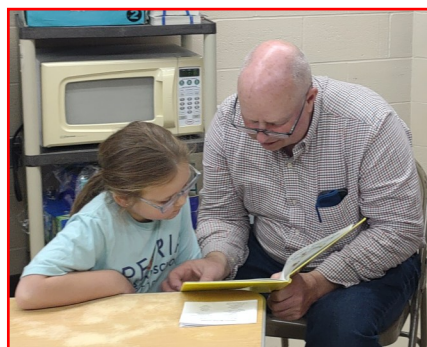
3rd & 4th Grade

Greetings from 3rd/4th Grade! We are feeling blessed as we head into the final month of this school year. We are excited & yet in disbelief that this school year is coming to a close. These students have worked really hard this year & have grown a lot in their academics & in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. We look forward to finishing up our final units, participating in Tulip Time, going on field trips, participating in several on-campus events, & cherishing our last moments together as group. We will be studying Paul's missionary journeys, learning about the last Fruit of the Spirit (self-control), & memorizing all of the books of the Bible. We will be reading one last novel, mastering multiplication & division, & learning more about magnets and electricity. A big thanks to our three facilitators who supported our class weekly - you are such a blessing from God to guide & encourage our class academically & spiritually!

~ Mrs. Laura Merrin

5th & 6th Grade

The month of April was a busy and exciting month! We enjoyed spending time with our Grandparents & Special Friends as we celebrated Christian Education Week. We prepared & presented our Science Fair projects as we praised God for ALL His works! We were able to go for a hike at Red Rock & climb the Cordova tower (some twice)! The 5-8th graders were also able to make up a field trip that had been cancelled to Des Moines. We were able to explore the State Historical Museum & tour the Capitol Building. A highlight of the day was our picnic lunch with beautiful weather & ending the day with ice cream from Jersey Freeze. Another highlight of April was the District V Track & Field day! We are so thankful for the opportunity to fellowship with other Christian schools as we use our gifts & talents to glorify the Lord! The sun was shining all day & the smiles were contagious! Our students worked hard, encouraged each other & had fun! This year's highlight was getting 2nd place in the power pull! It's been a LONG time since we have done that well! What wonderful memories and blessings!! ~ Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer



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.

IXL

As the school year winds down, it is fun to look back to see the progress the students have made. This year in IXL, as a school, the students have averaged an increase in their Math scores by 1.02 grade levels & their English Language Arts scores by 1.13 grade levels. The students have worked diligently improving on areas of weakness, but also adding to their strengths. God has blessed each student with incredible minds, & I'm proud of the hard work they have accomplished this year. ~ Mrs. Melinda Vos

Music

This semester the PK-4 students did not have their own spring concert, so I had the privilege of teaching through more curriculum than I have been able to before! More Bible songs, music skills & musical games. It is so fun to see their growth and joy for music! The JH choir & band had a beautiful concert on April 30th combined with Sully Christian. It is was my first time putting my 2 schools together & we all enjoyed it so much that we plan do it again next year! The 6th-8th band worked hard last week and marched in 3 parades! They served their community and represented our school well. ~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley



ENROLLMENT FOR 2026/2027

Enrollment is open for the 2026-2027 school year. Please reach out to Michelle at office@peoriachr.org if you are interested in enrolling for the 2026/2027 school year. Please join us in praying for the 2026/2027 school year and those students that the Lord has planned for us.

GRANDPARENTS DAY THANK YOU

Thank you to all the grandparents and special friends who made our day so special on April 10. Thank you for taking time to create special memories with our students and to see what the Lord is doing in their lives at Peoria Christian School

CHAPEL

Please join us on Friday, May 22 at 8:30AM for our last 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!



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. This year's graduates and their families have decided to have independent celebrations. These parties are by invitation only. The graduates will be available after graduation under the west carport to receive congratulations.

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!

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>

ALL PARENT SCHOOL CLEANING

All parent school cleaning will be held on Friday, June 5. All families are expected to participate in one of the scheduled cleaning times that day. There will be a morning shift and an evening shift. Please look for an email with specific details.

TRACTOR RIDE

The Peoria Christian School Tractor Ride is scheduled for Saturday, June 13. Registration will begin at 8AM in the school gym. Lunch will be provided after the ride back at the school gym. Everyone is welcome to join us for the freewill donation lunch and to view the tractors in the parking lot after the ride. Please contact Ruth De Bruin with any questions, 641-204-1855.

FACILITATOR THANK YOU

Please join us on Friday, May 22, after chapel at approximately 9:15AM as we take a moment to express our appreciation to our facilitators. These individuals have faithfully volunteered their time this school year to serve our students. We will have a brief time of thanks and then share a special snack together.



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!

CLASS OF 2026

Full Name: Judah Malachi Vos

Hobbies: Baseball

Dream Job: I want to be an engineer like my dad.

Favorite book to read?: A graphic novel *I Survived the Nazi Invasion*

Funniest memory while at Peoria?: Making the *I Survived IXL* story during free time.

Favorite field trip while at Peoria?: Ice skating

Favorite hot lunch meal?: Spaghetti

Favorite quote: "Hold everything in your hands lightly, otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open."- Corrie Ten Boom

Favorite Bible passage: Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

What advice do you have for younger students? Play sports so you are not lazy all the time.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... Knowing all fifty states.

Full Name: Jedidiah Adjeley Serrano Anum-Higher

Hobbies: Piano, clarinet, singing, arts and crafts

Dream Job: A surgeon

Favorite book to read?: I don't read books often, but Mildred D. Taylor is an amazing author. My favorite genre of books is historical fiction.

Funniest memory while at Peoria?: My entire sixth grade year.

Favorite field trip while at Peoria?: Environmental center in Oskaloosa where we went digging for fossils and fishing.

Favorite hot lunch meal?: Ham Balls

Favorite quote: "You get 1,440 minutes each day. Don't let a few bad minutes ruin the rest." -Les Brown

Favorite Bible passage: Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

What advice do you have for younger students?:

Be responsible, respectful, kind, and studious. Focus in class and don't disrupt fellow classmates. Be mindful of what you say. It is very easy to say something negative, hurtful, discriminative, and inappropriate. Only say, think, and do things that God will approve of. Do not procrastinate and be lazy. Grades are important (especially in High School and above), so study and strive for better than the best. Ask teachers for help and do extra credit if you have the opportunity! Make sure you have a correct, strong belief in God, and always serve him wholeheartedly. Extra curricular activities are fun, and I recommend doing band, sports, etc...as long as you can manage your studies at the same time!

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... my exceptional knowledge in grammar.



Full Name: Philip Post

Hobbies: I like rocks

Dream Job: Therapist

Favorite book to read?: The Lord of the Rings books

Funniest memory while at Peoria?: Mini golfing

Favorite field trip while at Peoria?: The Ark Encounter

Favorite hot lunch meal?: Pizza

Favorite quote: "Discernment is God's call to intercession, never to fault finding."- Corrie Ten Boom

Favorite Bible passage: Matthew 6:14-15 "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

What advice do you have for younger students? We all fail sometimes, that's just part of life. What matters is that you keep trying.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... the way I treat others

Full Name: Susan Lawrence Muether

Hobbies: Drawing and scrapbooking, listening to and making bad music, writing fanfiction, and creating good Roblox games.

Dream Job: Maybe a pilot or something that helps other people on a daily basis

Favorite book to read?: I really like *The Wednesday Wars* and *WW2 books such as The Hiding Place and Once*. I like realistic fiction and relatable characters.

Funniest memory while at Peoria?: Studying outside, recess, and creating stories such as I survived the bombing of Gregoryland and I survived IXL.

Favorite field trip while at Peoria?: The Urban Air Trampoline Park

Favorite hot lunch meal?: Almost anything but pizza. I like macaroni and cheese and walking tacos the most.

Favorite quote: "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." -Corrie ten Boom

Favorite Bible passage: John 20:1-10 "Because it is about how Jesus is risen and it reminds me how he will come again."

What advice do you have for younger students?: Make sure to study, especially at the beginning of the year. It gets you started for the rest of the year and it makes everything easier.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... My love and kindness to everyone, regardless of who they are, telling the world about God, and my intelligence.

CONGRATULATIONS!