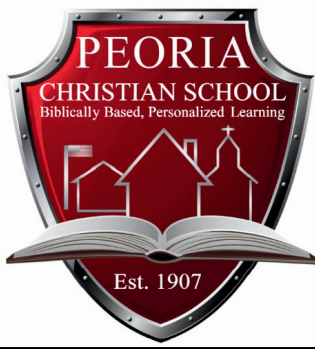




THE PATHFINDER

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

Nurture • Develop • Educate

STEPPING INTO THE NEW

I am so glad for another great school year to start at Peoria Christian School. I have enjoyed spending some quality time with my family and friends, going to ball games, relaxing, and getting some projects done this summer. I pray that each of you have enjoyed your summers as well as we start to transition into fall.

It has been the tradition in recent years for our incoming 8th graders to pick the theme verse for their final year at Peoria Christian School. Every year, the students do a wonderful job picking a verse and this year's class is no exception. The 2026-2027 theme verse comes from Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (ESV)

As I think about this verse, I remember that everything that we go through is in accordance with God's plan and for His glory, in both the highs and the lows. Since it is all part of God's plan, we do not have to be frightened or dismayed. God is in control of all things. We can be strong and courageous in our faith that God is leading the way for us.

As we prepare for the school year, there are so many new things that can be worrisome or even frightening for some. Please be in prayer for our new students and their families as they prepare for a new school, a new routine, and new friends. Pray for returning students as some of them are changing classrooms and will have new teachers. Pray for teachers as they prepare for new and returning students in their classrooms. Pray for new teachers, staff, facilitators, and bus drivers as they prepare for their part at Peoria Christian. Pray for new committee members and School Board members as they serve to guide our school in the ways they should go. And finally, pray for those students who graduated this past year as they prepare to start a new adventure in high school.

God has blessed us so richly and we give honor and glory all to Him. Thank you for your continued support of Peoria Christian School. To God be the glory!

Erica Taft
Lead Teacher

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.
Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

18-24 - Teacher Inservice
 20 - 6PM Back to School Night
 25 - First Day of School
 8:30AM Chapel at
 Peoria CRC
 31 - Map Testing

September

1-4 - Map Testing
 1 - 11:45AM All School Picture
 7 - Labor Day - No School
 8 - Applebee's Fundraiser
 16 - 2:40PM Dismissal -
 Inservice
 18 - 5th -8th Soccer with Sully Chr
 22 - Grace Counseling
 24 - School Pictures

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The entire school calendar can be found on our school website, www.peoriachr.org. Below the calendar, you can find instructions for uploading the entire calendar to your personal calendar. Please contact the office at office@peoriachr.org with any questions.

SCHOOL DAY START & END TIMES

If you are bringing your child to school please be sure to have them to school between 8:00AM and 8:10AM. If you arrive before 8:00AM you will need to wait with your child until a teacher is on duty at 8:00AM. The first bell rings at 8:10AM and the tardy bell at 8:15AM. If you are planning on pick your child up at the end of day please arrive by 3:20PM. The buses generally leave school at 3:25PM.

PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOARD School Board Meeting: August 10, 2026

The Board sang, "To God Be The Glory" and Board President Eric Fynaardt read from I Corinthians 1:18-30 and opened with prayer. Minutes from the June Board Meeting were read and approved.

All members were present except for Jameson Roose, Kody Roos, and Ben Gesink, with permission.

- A motion was approved to offer a candidate the 7th & 8th grade teaching position for the 2026/2027 school year.
- Committee chair positions for the new board were discussed and assigned (see list below)
- A motion was approved from the Promotions Committee to offer a candidate the Director of Promotion position.
- Information regarding the new IACS requirements was shared and reviewed.
- The District V Board Workshop will be hosted by Pella Christian this year. Potential topics were discussed.
- Please pray for a smooth transition to the start of the new school year as students, faculty, and families transition back to the school routine. It is familiar to many, but will be new to some, so please pray for courage and grace.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 7PM

Bret Fynaardt closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Hanko, Vice President

2026/2027 Board Members

President: Bret Fynaardt

Vice President/Education: Jameson Roose

Secretary: Ben Gesink

Finance/Endowment/STO: John McClellan

Promotion: Brent Hanko

Hospitality: Jayme Veenstra

Building: Andy Dunsbergen

Bus: Ryan Laverman

Athletic/Technology: Kody Roos

2026/2027 THEME VERSE

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

OPEN POSITIONS

Peoria Christian is prayerfully looking to fill the following positions:

Principal
(Full-Time)

Bus Driver
(Part-Time)

Substitute Teachers
(As Needed)

Facilitators
(Weekly Volunteers -
see below)

Please contact Michelle De Haan at office@peoriachr.org for more information or if interested.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hot Lunch Volunteers

The hot lunch program is looking for individuals who are willing to help fill in when a parent isn't able to prepare and serve the meal. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to be a substitute, please contact Kaitlyn Hanko at hotlunch@peoriachr.org or at 320-305-2021.

Facilitators

We are looking for individuals who would be willing to serve one or more times a week as a classroom volunteer. These individuals would assist the teacher with various classroom activities and tasks. If you have questions or if you are interested, please contact Michelle at office@peorichr.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TEACHERS

Join us in prayers of praise for these individuals who are willing to serve the students and society of Peoria Christian School.

PreK/K Teacher: Krista Klaasen

1st & 2nd Grade Teacher: Mary Ann Williamson

3rd & 4th Grade Teacher: Laura Merrin

5th & 6th Grade Teachers: Laura Fynaardt & Lisa Ver Meer

7th & 8th Grade Teachers: Heidi Van Wyk & Erin Fynaardt

5th-8th Grade Math: Lisa Roose

Lead Teacher: Erica Taft

Resource Room: Teresa Van Wyk

IXL Teacher: Erica Taft

Music & Band Teacher: Carolyn Ansley

Librarian: Maria Gesink

Gym Janitor: Marcia Van Gorp

School Janitor: Hannah Van Wyk

Hot Lunch Coordinator: Kaitlyn Hanko

Office Assistant: Michelle De Haan

Bus Driver: Marcia Van Gorp

Please remember to keep these individuals in your prayers as we go throughout the school year.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

All students and parents are encouraged to attend our Back to School Night on Thursday, August 20 at 6PM. We will begin the evening in the gym with a brief meeting. After the meeting, students will have the opportunity to bring their school supplies up to their classrooms, settle into their desks, and become familiar with their classrooms and teachers. Please ensure your child brings all their school supplies that evening.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL/CHAPEL

The first day of school will be Tuesday, August 25. School will begin at 8:15AM and chapel will be held at Peoria CRC at 8:30AM that morning. Pastor David Swinney will be our speaker. After chapel, we will gather in the gym and divide into classrooms to cover the 2026/2027 school year in prayer. Parents and community members are welcome to join us for both chapel and the time of prayer in the gym.

SOCCER WITH SULLY CHRISTIAN

Our 5th - 8th grade students will be participating in a joint soccer game with Sully Christian on Friday afternoon, September 18. This opportunity for fellowship is open to all parents and community members from both schools. Look for more information in the Weekly Pathfinder and September Pathfinder.

ITEMS NEEDED

Throughout the school year, Peoria Christian School has items that are needed for our day to day use. This is a tangible way for society member to contribute to Peoria Christian School. These items can be purchased and dropped off at school during normal hours:

- Postage Stamps
- Post-It Notes
- Fat Dry Erase Markers
- Fruit Cups
- Applesauce Pouches

VALUE CARDS

The 7th & 8th grade students will once again be selling Value Cards. Cards will be available starting September 1 and are valid September 2026-August 2027. Contact a 7th or 8th grade student to purchase your cards!

SAVE THE DATE

Please mark Friday, November 13 on your calendar for our annual Bazaar. There might be an opportunity to break out your Dutch costumes!

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>

HOT LUNCH DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS

The Hot Lunch Program is once again serving our students two hot meals a week on Tuesdays & Thursdays. We are currently looking for donations. Items such as ground beef, corn, green beans, applesauce, eggs, and cookies help defray the cost of providing hot meals to our students 2 times a week. We are also looking for some individuals to add to our list of individuals who would be willing to help prepare and serve lunch when a parent is unable. If you, or someone you know, has items they would like to donate or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Kaitlyn Hanco at hotlunch@peoriachr.org or 320-305-2021.

PATHFINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

All monthly Pathfinder announcements need to be sent to Michelle on the Friday before the monthly School Board meeting to be included in that month's Pathfinder. Weekly Pathfinder Announcements need to be sent to Michelle by the Monday before. Please contact Michelle at office@peoriachr.org with announcements or questions.

APPLEBEE'S FUNDRAISER

We have partnered with Pella's Applebee's for a fundraising event. All day, Tuesday, September 8, the school will receive a percentage of the sale, when you bring in the flyer (see flyer on last page) or mention Peoria Christian School when ordering by phone, or in store. Gather up your friends and family and enjoy a meal together while supporting Peoria Christian School!



Join Applebee's in a fundraiser for:

Peoria Christian School

Please mention this fundraiser or show this flyer to your server on September 8. Applebee's will contribute 25% of your order to support our community.

When

September 8, 2026

All day

Where

1600 Washington St.
Pella, IA 50219

Offer valid only on select date(s). Only approved non-profit organizations and tax-exempt organizations are eligible to participate in the fundraising program. Restaurant will donate 25% of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax and tip are excluded from the donation. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant. For more information about fundraising, visit <https://applebees.force4good.com>.