



THE PATHFINDER

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

Nurture • Develop • Educate

PRAYERS

We want to start off by saying thank you to all of you who pray for us on a consistent basis. We appreciate your support in all of the many ways shown by our community. As the school year is officially under way and as you continue to pray for Peoria Christian School, here are some verses that you can use. We also have a suggested prayer topic of the week in our weekly Pathfinders for those who want more specific items to pray for each day. I would encourage you to use our theme verse for the year as a starting point:

"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)

Students

I Timothy 4:12, "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

Families

Deuteronomy 7:9, "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations."

Teachers and Staff

Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Facilitators and Volunteers

Mark 10:35, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

School Board and Committees

James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

Society

Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Thank you for your continued support of Peoria Christian School.

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

September

16 - 2:40PM Dismissal -
Teacher Inservice
18 - 5th -8th Soccer with Sully Chr
22 - Grace Counseling
24 - School Pictures
25 - 8:30AM Chapel
25 - Bike Day @ Howell Station

October

2 - No School, Fall Break
19 - Grace Counseling
22 - School Picture Retakes
23 - 1:20PM Dismissal
End of 1st Quarter
28 - 2:40PM Dismissal -
Teacher Inservice
29 - 8:30AM Chapel
29 - 4-8PM Parent Teacher
Conferences
30 - No School

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.



PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOARD School Board Meeting: September 1, 2026

The Board sang "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and President Bret Fynaardt read from Philippians 2:1-11 and opened with prayer.

Minutes of the July and August Board Meetings were read and approved.

- The monthly Treasurer's Report was distributed, reviewed, and approved.
- The board approved two new substitute teachers.
- A new field trip on Corrie Ten Boom was approved for the 5th-8th grade students.
- Our school has welcomed five new families this school year with a total enrollment of 43 students.
- Please continue to be in prayer for our staff, students, and families. The Lord has graciously blessed us with a smooth start to the new 2026/27 school year!

Next meeting: Monday, October 5, 2026

Bret Fynaardt closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Gesink, Secretary

CLASSROOM NEWS

PK/K

We have had a great start to our school year. Everything is new and exciting to the kids. The Lord has blessed our class with 4 PreK and 4 Kindergarten students. We have spent a lot of time learning how we act in school and have had fun making new friends. I can't wait to see how much we grow this year.

~ Mrs. Klaasen



1st/2nd Grade

First & Second Grade is off to a wonderful start! We have been blessed with a class of nine students who are eager to learn, grow, and discover new things each day. One of the first lessons we have been learning is that God's Word is the foundation of our lives. We have talked about how the Bible is breathed out by God, is completely true, and can be trusted in every area of our lives. On the very first day of school, the students also discovered that we have two secret students in our class who are still waiting to be born! My husband and I (and all the 1st & 2nd graders) are excited to meet these two little ones when they arrive sometime in March. I am looking forward to watching our class grow—not only in knowledge and learning, but also in love and excitement as we prepare to welcome our newest additions!

~ Mrs. Williamson

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.

3rd/4th Grade

Greetings from 3rd and 4th grade! We are blessed to have five 3rd graders and two 4th graders this school year! We are working hard to learn our Old Testament books of the Bible and their categories such as Pentateuch, Poetry, or Prophets! The 4th graders are reviewing their cursive and will utilize their cursive full time soon; the 3rd graders are excited to write in cursive and have already learned a few "loop" lowercase letters. We are studying the different regions of the world over the course of the year in Social Studies and will learn about several Difference Makers (such as missionaries- past and present) from those regions as well. Our class theme song ties into this and is called "Around the Corner, Around the World" by Ron Hamilton (Patch the Pirate). "Dear Jesus, bless our year with growth spiritually and academically and give us opportunities to be a witness for You around the corner, around the world. Amen."

~ Mrs. Merrin



5th/6th Grade

We are off to a great start this year in 5th and 6th grade. The students are doing great with having multiple teachers and being some of the "older kids" in school. We celebrated the end of map testing with freedom pops to go along with our "America" theme this year. Psalm 33:12 says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!" We are looking forward to seeing the many wonderful ways God blesses our class this year.

~ Mrs. Fynaardt



7th/8th Grade

We kicked off the 2026-2027 school year with chapel in the church, with Pastor David Swinny speaking. He reminded us that the theme verse from last year, Ephesians 4:32, was not only applicable to last year, but also to this school year and for the rest of our lives. He also told us about Joshua 1:9, the theme verse for this year. In the 7/8 grade classroom, we have eight students this year. Mrs. VW's theme for the year is Guard your Mind, which is from Romans 12:2. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what the will of God is, what is good and acceptable and perfect." The first week our devotions have been about this verse.

~Submitted by Matthew Fynaardt,
8th Grade



Music

It has been wonderful to hear all of my students singing praises to the Lord again and to add new voices to our classes! I love how God uses each of our individual voices to blend into one big sound when singing with others. Music is such a beautiful gift from God! At the beginning of each year, I love to remind the students that God has given us music for two reasons. First and foremost, to glorify His name. Second, for our joy! Music helps us bring joy and beauty to the chaos around us.

~ Mrs. Ansley

Students and staff of the 2026/2027 school year.



THANK YOU

We would like to express our appreciation to Marion County Bank and their Report Card program for their recent donation. Due to this program, Peoria Christian received a check for \$583.27. Thank you to the bank and to its customers for selecting and supporting the work at Peoria Christian School! If you are a Marion County Bank customer and would participate in this program please contact Michelle in the office.



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 members 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

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>

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Director of Marketing

Join us in welcoming Erin Fynaardt as the new Director of Marketing. Mrs. Fynaardt will take the lead in promoting and marketing the school through various avenues. Smile when you see her taking pictures or videos at the next school event! She can be reached at her email address: marketing@peoriachr.org. Join us in welcoming Mrs. Fynaardt to this new position!

Chapel

Please join us on Friday, September 25 at 8:30AM for our monthly chapel. Our 7th grade students will be leading chapel, and Joel Vander Molen is our scheduled speaker. Everyone is welcome as we join together in worship.

Soccer with Sully Christian

Our 5th - 8th grade students will be participating in a joint soccer game with Sully Christian at Peoria Christian on Friday afternoon, September 18. This opportunity for fellowship is open to all parents and community members from both schools. The game will begin at 1PM on the grassy field behind the school



FUNDRAISERS

Check out our ongoing and upcoming fundraisers!

School Circle Sweet Treat

The Peoria Christian School Circle is partnering with La Rose Marie Bakery to sell cupcakes for our fall fundraiser. All cupcake packs offered come with six delicious cupcakes. Contact a Peoria Christian student to place an order! Orders with payment are due by September 15, and pick-up will be Friday, September 25 from 3:00-5:30PM in the school gym. Checks can be made out to Peoria Christian School. For more information, or to place an order, please contact Jana Laverman at janalaverman@gmail.com or 641-660-5987. Thank you for helping support Peoria Christian School!



Value Cards

The 7th & 8th grade students are once again selling Value Cards. Value Cards contain discounts to 18 Pella area businesses and are valid from September 2026-August 2027. They are \$15 for 1 card or \$40 for 3 cards. Contact a 7th or 8th grade student or the school office to purchase.

Peoria Christian School's Bazaar

Friday, November 13, 2026



Schedule of events:

3:00-6:30PM BAKE SALE & BROWSE-N-BUY

3:00-4:30PM COFFEETIME

5:00-6:30PM SUPPER

6:45PM CHILDCARE IN THE SCHOOL

7:00PM LIVE AUCTION IN THE GYM

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches and glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

FOLLOW PEORIA CHRISTIAN
BAZAAR FACEBOOK PAGE
FOR AUCTION SNEAK PEEKS!