PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Biblically Based, Personalized Learning
Est. 1907

THE PATHFINDER

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

Nurture • Develop • Educate

HAVE THINE OWN WAY

"Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still."
"Have Thine Own Way" from Psalter Hymnal (1987)

We are all a work in progress. For the students, this is a daily occurrence while they are in the middle of their education. They are learning about God's created world and where they fit in it. They are learning about God's covenants, what it looks and feels like to do their best as a covenant child. They are learning math skills, language arts skills, fine arts, and how to treat their peers. Most of what they do at their age is a learning experience for them.

Looking back at some of our field trips this past month, it seems God was teaching our students patience and flexibility. Due to weather conditions, several favorite field trips had to be rescheduled. Anticipation of a day outside of the classroom on a bike trip, the airport, or a pumpkin farm can be difficult to modify when plans have to change due to weather conditions.

Last spring, our first and second graders had planned to go to the Pella Airport to learn about planes and flying. It was supposed to be part of their science fair project last spring, as well as learning about being community helpers. Finally, in mid-October, they were able to go and learn about these topics and more.

Early September was supposed to bring our all-school bike day. The rain of September derailed those plans until early October. Our bike day at Red Rock was blessed with wonderful sunshine and beautiful temperatures for the afternoon. Students, teachers, and parents enjoyed a picnic lunch on the grass, then took to the trails. The younger students mainly biked to the playgrounds to play, but the older students went on long rides (up to 11 miles!) following the different bike paths around the lake.

A favorite of our younger grades is the trip to Autumn Acres. It was also rescheduled from its original date. In the last week of October, the PreK-2nd graders enjoyed all the fun activities at Autumn Acres in Oskaloosa. One of their favorite parts was jumping on the big orange pillow.

With all these changes, the students did a great job being flexible in their expectations. They came to school on those original days planning to go on a field trip, but ended up having a normal school day. As adults, we know how difficult it can be to be flexible when things do not happen as planned. But as we know from Scripture, God's timing is perfect and adapting to changes provides us with opportunities to be molded. With the delay of each of these trips, the Lord provided another beautiful day for them to be enjoyed and helped our students to learn that everything happens in HIS time. (Ecclesiastes 3:11) All the things we experience in life, both the things we enjoy as well as the things we don't, are helping to make progress towards what the Lord would have us to be. "Have thine own way, Lord!"

Thank you for your continued support,

Erica Taft
Lead Teacher

PS. Make sure to see our Facebook page for pictures of these field trips and other activities at Peoria Christian!

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

November
10 - Junior High Fall Music Festival
11 - 12:20PM Dismissal, Curriculum Mapping
13 - Bazaar - see page 6!
16 - Grace Counseling
20 - 8:30AM Chapel
25 - 12:20PM Dismissal
26 & 27 - No School, Thanksgiving Break

December
9 - 2:40PM Dismissal - Teacher Inservice
11 - 2:20PM Dismissal
7PM Christmas Program
18 - 8:30AM Chapel
1:20PM Dismissal, End of 2nd Quarter
21-31 - No School, Christmas Break

January
1-3 - No School, Christmas Break
4 - Classes Resume

Chapel

Please join us on Friday, November 20, at 8:30AM for our monthly chapel. Mr. Al Bandstra is our scheduled speaker. Everyone is welcome as we join together in worship.

LOG-STO

Legacy of Grace Student Tuition Organization is once again actively seeking donations to help reduce the cost of Christian education is Iowa. A 75% state tax credit will be given on the first $924,653 donated by the end of 2026. Please see the letter and donation form on pages 7 & 8 of this Pathfinder for more information.

PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOARD
School Board Meeting: November 2, 2026

The Board sang "Living for Jesus" and President Bret Fynaardt read from Psalm 100 and opened with prayer.
The minutes of the October Board Meeting were read and approved.

- The monthly Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.
- The Board received good reports from its school visitors.
- Board representatives plan to attend a Teacher Recruitment Fair in NW Iowa the first week of December.
- We are grateful to God for his enduring love and faithfulness in Christ.

Next meeting: Monday, December 7, 2026
Jamie Veenstra closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Gesink, Secretary



CLASSROOM NEWS

PK/K

We are officially in the season of fall, even though it hasn't really felt like it. The students always like it when we can change the seasons and months on our calendar board. We have been able to enjoy the beautiful weather and God's creation with two outdoor field trips this month. We went biking with the whole school, and we went to Autumn Acres with the first and second graders. We had so much fun on both trips.
Both grades are progressing in learning our letters and their sounds. We have also just finished the week of creation in Bible. We have had fun learning a song to help us remember what was created on each day. We also learned a fun song about creation and a hippo!
~ Mrs. Klaasen

1st/2nd Grade

We've been busy bees! We've been working on our bazaar project and enjoying field trips to Autumn Acres and the Airport. We are learning that God is our Creator and Savior and that He made each of us with intentionality, purpose, and love. Each student continues to grow and discover ways to use their unique, God-given gifts each day!
~ Mrs. Williamson



OPEN POSITIONS

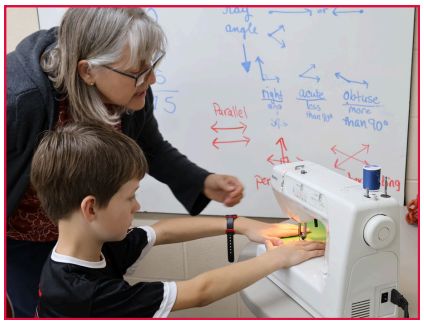
Peoria Christian is prayerfully looking to fill the following positions:

Principal
(Full-Time)
Substitute Bus Drivers
(Part-Time)
Substitute Teachers
(As Needed)

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

Math Facilitator

We are looking for individuals who would be willing to help facilitate during math classes for our 5th-8th grade students. Individuals are needed on Wednesdays and Friday from 10:45 until noon and every afternoon from 12:35-1:00. Volunteers can help once a week or multiple times a week. Tasks include assisting students with their assignments and helping them stay on task. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Michelle at office@peoriachr.org.





3rd/4th Grade

Greetings from 3rd and 4th grade! We have been blessed to be studying the region of Europe in October. We have learned a lot about the culture, government, geography, climate, and religion of the region. Most importantly we have studied some great Difference-Makers such as Corrie ten Boom, Martin Luther, George Muller, and more! In Bible class, we have been studying about Samuel, Saul, and David. We tackled a big challenge and memorized David's Psalm 27 and quoted it during chapel for God's glory. What a blessing it was to help the student's learn this Psalm as well as helping them recently draft, edit, and finalize their IACS Essay Contest essays on "What is Christian Education and What Does it Mean to Me". These 3rd/4th graders are learning so much and do it daily with great attitudes and gratitude!
~ Mrs. Merrin



5th/6th Grade

Why does God want us to learn grammar? As we have been learning capitalization, punctuation, and parts of speech we have discovered that there are lots of things to remember, and it can be very difficult. So instead of getting frustrated, we try to focus on God. Here are some of the reasons the 5th and 6th graders came up with for why God wants us to learn and use correct grammar.

- To help us in the future
- To be able to read the Bible and glorify God
- To be knowledgeable
- So we can speak clearly
- So we can tell others about God
- To use proper grammar in writing & speaking
- To learn new things

~ Mrs. Fynaardt



7th/8th Grade

In Bible class, the seventh and eighth graders are studying about King Solomon and the kings of Israel. Each student enjoyed making an illustration of a verse in Proverbs because Solomon wrote the book, and it is full of wisdom for us. A few Proverbs that were chosen are the following:

- Proverbs 12:26: “One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.”
- Proverbs 27:17: “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”
- Proverbs 3:3: “Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.”
- Proverbs 25:12: “Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.”

All of these and more are hanging up in the hallway if you would like to see them.
~Submitted by Luke Fynaardt, 8th Grade

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
- Magic Erasers
- Kleenex
- Sandwich Bags





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Pella, IA 50219
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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

Math

Students have done a great job in math class during our 1st quarter together! As we progress through our Saxon curriculum, I try to add in various activities to keep student's love of learning. Many of the students LOVE to build, so building time serves as a great motivator to complete our assignments. Please join me in praying that:

- Students will grow in their understanding of God's glory, wisdom, strength, and beauty embedded and revealed in his creation and laws of mathematics.
- Students will grow in their knowledge of mathematics and their ability to problem solve and think critically so they can strive to glorify God with their lives.
- Students will grow in their understanding of God's love for them in Christ and in response will have joyful hearts that long to glorify and serve Him as they seek to love God and one another in their daily life.

~ Mrs. Roose

Music

The whole school is already preparing for the Christmas concert which is approaching quickly. After we do the work of learning/memorizing our songs for the class, the K-4 students like to play musical games like "I Like Turkey", "5 Fat Turkeys", "Tinker Tailor", and several more. Ask the students on a Tuesday after school if they remember what they did in music class that day!

~ Mrs. Ansley

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bazaar Bake Sale - Delicious Donations Needed!

We need your delicious baked goods and confections for the bake sale at the annual Peoria Christian School bazaar on November 13. Cookies, bars, pies, bread, rolls, cupcakes, fudge, Christmas cookies & candy, jelly, jam, home canned fruit, vegetables, salsa, gluten free and/or dairy free items, etc. Your items must be in the gym by noon on November 13. Please label your items. Styrofoam trays, bags and labels will be available at school and in the Peoria Christian Reformed Church basement a few weeks before the bazaar. Questions? Contact Clarice Meinders (641-780-0126; email glennmeinders@iowatelecom.net.)

Fall Music Festival

Our 5th-8th grade students will be gathering with students from area sister schools on Tuesday, November 10, for the annual Fall Music Festival at Pella Christian High School. Students will come together for a band and choir concert at 7PM. Mark your calendars and join us for an evening of worship and fellowship with our sister schools!

Career Fair

On February 19 we are planning to join together with Sully Christian School for a Career Fair. Our 5th-8th graders will be going over to Sully Christian for an afternoon to learn about various types of careers. We are looking for individuals who would be will to have a table and share their current job/career with small groups of students. If you are interested, please contact Michelle De Haan at office@peoriachr.org.

A LOOK INSIDE























SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Christmas Giving

As a school Christmas Project, students will be raising money to divide evenly towards 2 items in the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Gift Catalog: Baby Chicks & Dairy Goats.

To add a little fun, students will be split into two teams (families with last names A-G v. last names H-Z) to see who can collect the most money & who can collect the most weight in coins.

MONEY WILL BE COLLECTED FROM TUESDAY NOV 24 - TUESDAY, DEC 8.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Lisa Roose or Mrs. MaryAnn Williamson

Peoria Christian School

AUCTION & Bazaar

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

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



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

BAKE SALE: 3:00-6:30 PM
BROWSE-N-BUY: 3:00-6:30 PM
COFFEE TIME: 3:00-4:30 PM
SUPPER: 5:00-6:30 PM
CHILDCARE IN THE SCHOOL: 6:45 PM
LIVE AUCTION IN GYM: 7:00 PM

Follow Peoria Christian Bazaar Facebook page for auction sneak peeks!

Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

110 Peoria West Street Pella, Iowa 50219 www.logsto.org

Dear Supporter of Christian Education,

Thank you for your generous support of the Legacy of Grace STO! This year marks our 20th year of helping families choose a Christ-centered education. In that time, more than $8 million has been given, providing over 8,200 scholarships, including a record 622 students this school year. Here is what one family had to say:

"I'm a single mom who is able to send her kids to a Christian school so that we can have Biblical foundations for my kids."

For 2026, the State of Iowa has given LOG-STO $693,490 in tax credits. To use every one of them for families, we must raise $924,653 by December 31.

On the reverse side, you'll find a donation form. Every gift earns a 75% Iowa tax credit: a $500 gift reduces your Iowa income tax by $375, a $1,000 gift by $750, a $5,000 gift by $3,750, and a $10,000 gift by $7,500. Please ask your tax preparer how this applies to you.

You can increase that benefit by giving stock or grain, or, if you are 70½ or older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA, which counts toward your RMD.

Looking ahead: starting January 1, 2027, a new federal scholarship tax credit will give a 100% credit against your federal tax liability, up to $1,700 per taxpayer or $3,400 per married couple. Iowa has opted in, and we will share details next year.

Please don't hesitate to contact your local STO representative or Joel Groenenboom about any of these giving options. Most importantly, we ask that you pray and seek God's guidance as you consider how you might help us meet this year's need.

In Christ,

Peoria Christian School
John McClellan, LOG-STO Representative
515-205-8571 or 641-625-4131 (school)
treasurer@peoriachr.org

Joel Groenenboom
LOG-STO President
(641) 295-2003
joelg2911@gmail.com

Central Iowa Christian School · OCS Ottumwa Christian School · Pella Christian · Sully Christian School · Oskaloosa Christian School · Newton Christian School · Southeastern Christian

Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

110 Peoria West Street • Pella, Iowa 50219 • www.logsto.org

2026 Individual Donation Form

Gifts must be postmarked by December 31, 2026

YOUR INFORMATION

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Social Security Number _____

Required by the Iowa Department of Revenue to issue your tax credit. Kept confidential and used for no other purpose.

☐ Please email my acknowledgement receipt (include your email address above).

YOUR GIFT

An average LOG-STO scholarship is about $775 — and after your 75% Iowa tax credit, it costs you only about $194.

Your gift	Iowa tax credit (75%)	Your actual cost
☐ **$500**	$375	**$125**
☐ **$1,000**	$750	**$250**
☐ **$2,500**	$1,875	**$625**
☐ **$5,000**	$3,750	**$1,250**
☐ **$10,000**	$7,500	**$2,500**
☐ **Other $ _____**	*75% of your gift*	*25% of your gift*

The credit is applied against your Iowa income tax. Unused credit may be carried forward to future years. Please consult your tax preparer.

I am giving by: ☐ Check ☐ Stock ☐ Grain (complete below)

GRAIN GIFTS ONLY

I, _____ transfer _____ bushels of ☐ corn ☐ beans to Legacy of Grace STO on ____/____/2026.

X _____ ___/___/2026 X _____

Producer signature Date Business representative / elevator

Please make checks payable to LOG-STO and mail to:

Legacy of Grace STO
110 Peoria West Street
Pella, IA 50219

Questions about stock or grain gifts? Contact Joel Groenenboom
(641) 295-2003 • joelg2911@gmail.com

OFFICE USE ONLY
Date received _____
Check no. _____
Amount _____
CACTAS date _____

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." — 1 John 3:18

Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit