



EAGLE EYE

Sharing a bird's eye view of
God's Story at Pella Christian

June 2026



Dear Friends of Pella Christian Schools,

We've completed another exceptional school year at PC!
We have so much to be thankful for.



One thing of note recently was our Christian Schools International Site Visit (CSI) re-accreditation, which concluded in late April. In preparation, our teachers and staff invested time in a thorough self-study. We surveyed parents, students, and staff members. Eight outside observers from schools across the Midwest spent three days on campus reviewing documents, meeting with people, observing us in action, and witnessing firsthand who we are.

They provided feedback on what we're doing well and where we can better live out our mission as an institution.

Our accreditors noted a clear, consistent commitment to Biblical worldview integration from our teachers. Students and parents spoke highly of chapel rhythms, discipleship groups, and staff who articulate God's sovereignty in all areas of life and learning. God's fatherly love for His children was mirrored by staff who know and care for every student, actively making connections between classroom learning, faith and real life.

Our accreditors challenged us to more effectively ensure what happens inside these walls is known, celebrated, and shared with the broader community. We have something special here! It's powerful, impactful, and precious. We can be more intentional in sharing what the Lord is doing through us here at Pella Christian.

God blessed us immensely in 2025-2026, as He has for generations!

In His Service,

Dan Zylstra
PC Head of Schools

ON THE COVER

The 91st annual Tulip Time was an amazing three days filled with marching, community, and service. During the afternoon parades, the voices of kindergarten through fifth grade students could be heard singing as they marched through town. Crowds enjoyed exciting performances from our marching bands, including the high school band's performance of the Avengers Theme and the Central Iowa Christian Schools' (including PC 6-8th grade) performance of the Looney Tunes theme song.

Tulip Time was more than just parades and performances—it was also a wonderful opportunity to serve and connect with others. From church food booths to welcoming visitors with friendly smiles, so many people gave their time to make the weekend special. Thank you to all the hair braiders, sandwich makers, car parkers, and everyone in between who helped make PC's presence at Tulip Time so memorable.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

On March 24, 2026 Pella Christian held its annual Society Meeting. Ninety one people attended, which overflowed the choir section of the music room. The Society affirmed incoming board members Craig Shannon and Chelsey Nugteren for 3-year terms. Craig Roose and Jenna Huitink were also affirmed to serve a 2nd 3-year term. Head of Schools Dan Zylstra presented an update on the school and upcoming initiatives, including accreditation and strategic planning. Board Treasurer Dan Dunsbergen presented the 2026-2027 Budget. Principals Kevin Herdegen and Ben Dirksen honored staff who'd met milestones in their years of service, and Board Secretary Jenna Huitink thanked outgoing board trustees Jodi DeVries and Nicole Vos for their service.

In reflecting on the Board's work this past year, we continue to lean into long-term thinking. Even as every board member has daily involvement with the school through their children or grandchildren, through coaching, through volunteering as tutors, or through hands-on committee work, our most important work involves asking the question, How will this decision affect future students?

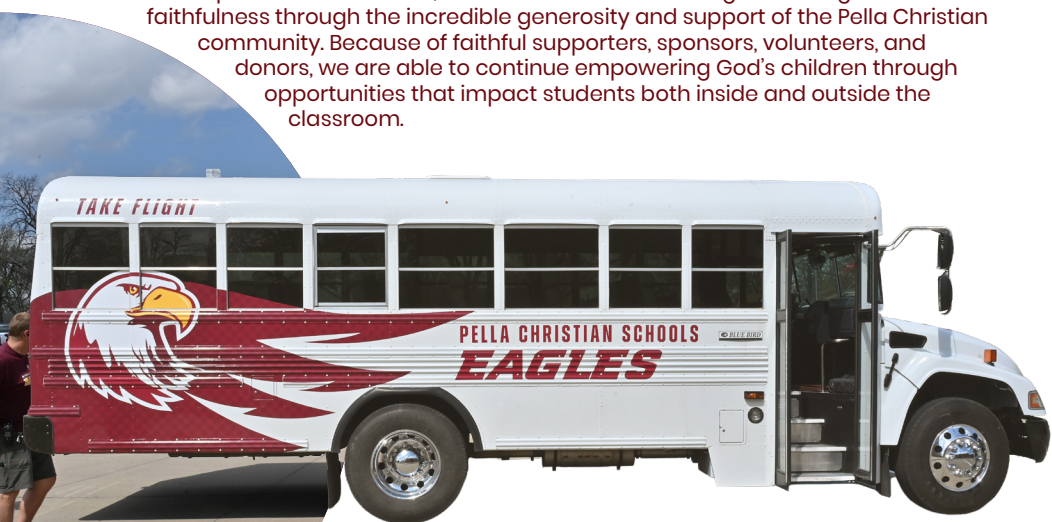
As we complete our accreditation and build a five-year strategic plan, we continue to lay our work before the Lord in prayer, remembering that our role as board members is to steward Pella Christian for the next generation.

Mark Van Wyngarden, Board President
Pella Christian Board of Trustees



DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATIONS

Over the past several months, we have been reminded again and again of God's faithfulness through the incredible generosity and support of the Pella Christian community. Because of faithful supporters, sponsors, volunteers, and donors, we are able to continue empowering God's children through opportunities that impact students both inside and outside the classroom.



Our annual PIE Night was nothing short of incredible. Through sponsorships, pie purchases, and the generosity of so many attendees, together we raised an amazing \$57,984 for the Eagle Fund. These gifts directly support the mission of Pella Christian and help make Christian education possible for our students and families.

We are deeply grateful to the dedicated planning team including Mindy Six, Haley Rohloff, Justine Brink, Lindsay Stout, and Sarah Taber and to every pie maker, sponsor, donor, and attendee who made the night possible through their generosity and support.



This spring, Pella Christian High School also unveiled a new state-of-the-art Daktronics video scoreboard at PC Stadium, made possible through the generous support of Precision Pulley & Idler (PPI). The new 25' x 37.5' board enhances the game day experience for fans, families, and student-athletes while also creating



hands-on learning opportunities for students involved in live production and media.

We're also excited to see the new Geetings, Inc. trailer rolling across the country. A huge thank you to Geetings, Inc. for generously choosing to feature Pella Christian on one of their trailers as it travels throughout the United States. While Pella Christian does not own or operate the semi, we are incredibly grateful for this partnership and for the opportunity to share the story of Pella Christian with communities far beyond our own.

Another meaningful moment this spring was our annual Help Us Soar Day, which focused on helping bridge the gap between tuition and the true cost of Christian education. Thanks to the generosity of 115 donors, more than \$90,000 has already been given, and support continues to grow. These gifts help make it possible for students to experience Christ-centered education that equips them to join in God's restorative work in the world.

Finally, Pella Christian students recently began enjoying the comfort and convenience of the new PC Activity Bus, first used by the girls soccer team on a warm spring day this season. This important addition was made possible through the generosity of the Paul and Marjorie Vos Trust, managed by Pella Community Foundation.

More than simply transportation, this bus provides students with opportunities to participate in learning experiences, service projects, competitions, and community events beyond the classroom.

Each of these moments and events are a reminder that Pella Christian is strengthened by a community that believes deeply in Christian education and in the lives of the students we serve. Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to empower God's children to join in His restorative work.



THE MAGIC OF FROZEN COMES TO PCHS

How PCHS earned the prestigious opportunity to perform *Frozen*



Summer is here, but before long we'll all be asking: "Do you want to build a snowman?"

Disney's *Frozen* premiered in theaters in 2013 and quickly became one of the highest-grossing and most recognizable animated films of all time. Soon after, the hit movie was adapted into a Broadway musical that enjoyed similar success. Typically, performance rights for major musicals are not released to schools until Broadway and touring productions have concluded. With *Frozen* recently closing its West End production in London, rights for schools to perform the show only became available in late summer 2025.

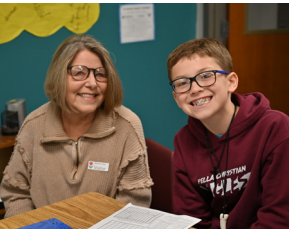
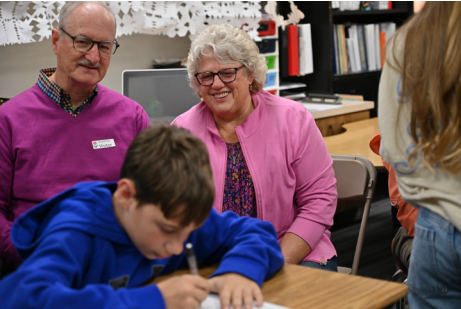
After an extensive application process reviewing past productions, attendance, and production staff, Pella Christian High School was selected to perform *Frozen*. PCHS is only the fourth high school in Iowa to stage this production; an incredible honor and a testament to the strength and quality of our theatre arts program!

In addition to this exciting opportunity, the Vermeer Auditorium recently received several production upgrades. Thanks to the generosity of Jason and Carrie Andringa, the Harry and Bernice Vermeer Estate, and the Andringa Family Foundation, a digital backdrop and new hoists are being installed. These additions will bring the village of Arendelle to life and showcase Elsa's ice powers in ways that mirror a professional production. While the timing is especially fitting for *Frozen*, these enhancements will create new learning opportunities and expand the possibilities for chapel programs and future performances for years to come.

Frozen will be performed October 29–31, with an additional matinee performance on Saturday, October 31. The production is directed by Marlo Van Peurseem, with music direction by Aaron Fitzgerald, choreography by Paulina Loaza, technical direction by Daryl Van Zee, and pit orchestra direction by Scott Merrin.

GRAND DAY

It was a blessing to once again welcome the grandparents and grand friends of our students to our hallways and classrooms of PCGS and PCHS. We are deeply grateful for the love, encouragement, and generational faith they share with our students.



STORIES FROM THE HALLWAYS



Cheeseballs and Faith

PCHS Spiritual Renewal Day 2026 centered on the theme “Called to Clash” from 1 Peter 2:11–12, encouraging high school students to live boldly for Christ in a world that often pulls them in the opposite direction. Throughout the day, students experienced worship, impactful teaching, and personal testimonies that challenged them to stand firm in their faith, live set apart, and trust God in every area of life.

A special thank you goes to guest speakers Craig and Molly Sanborn for investing in our students with wisdom, authenticity, and encouragement. Their passion for strengthening youth, families, and faith made a meaningful and lasting impact on everyone who attended. Molly’s well-known “cheeseball backpack” even made an appearance – a fun and intentional conversation starter she often carries to connect with people and open the door to deeper conversations about life, faith, and Christ.

Our prayer is that the seeds planted during Spiritual Renewal Day will continue to grow, giving students confidence to walk faithfully with Christ.

Butterfly Houses for Drew

The 3rd graders at PC recently had the opportunity to work alongside high school students on a special project that combined creativity, teamwork, and service. Together, they built butterfly houses in the high school woodworking class and then brought them to life with colorful designs and artwork in the art classroom.

Once the butterfly houses were completed, the students sold them to raise money for former classmate, Drew, who is currently serving with his family on a mission in Japan. Through this project, students not only learned new skills, but also discovered the joy of helping others through their talents and hard work.

From building and painting to giving back, the students truly became “beauty creators,” using creativity and kindness to make a positive difference in someone else’s life.



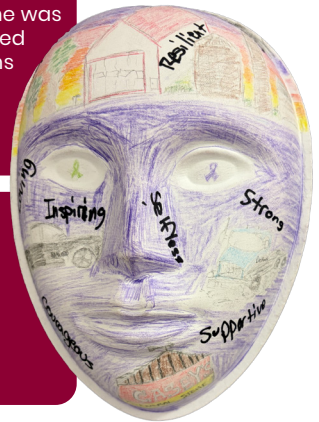
Faces of Cancer



Cancer is more than a diagnosis—it is a reality that touches nearly every family with stories of fear, resilience, grief, and hope. In Iowa, where cancer rates are among the highest in the nation, the sophomore biology class took time to study not only the science behind this disease, but also its deeply personal impact on individuals and communities. Through interviews and artistic portraits, students explored the “faces of cancer,” capturing both the pain and the perseverance of those affected. While cancer reflects the brokenness present in our world, this project seeks to bring compassion, understanding, and shalom into places often marked by suffering.

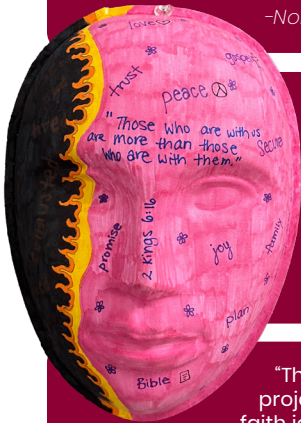
“My grandpa faced chemotherapy, pain, and uncertainty with courage every day. Even when he was scared or discouraged, he kept going to treatments and tried to support others around him. I learned that courage means continuing forward even during fear and suffering.”

—Dean DeRonde



“My biggest takeaway is definitely the power of prayer. The stories that were shared with me showed me that the Lord does hear our prayers, He won't always answer right away but that doesn't mean He doesn't listen. I hope to become more of a prayer warrior and talk to God in all that I do.”

—Nora Van Arendonk



“This project impacted me to be more aware and sensitive to the seriousness of a cancer diagnosis. I was able to see an inside look of the difficulties, frustrations and struggles of someone whose loved one is experiencing cancer. This project has allowed me to be more thoughtful of others. Being able to hear about someone's faith who has persevered through many trials was encouraging.”

—Elsa Breems

“The most meaningful part of this project for me was talking about your faith journey through the struggles and trials of cancer. The Lord was never punishing you, he was testing your relationship with him and your faith in him. This understanding allowed me to grow in my own faith, as I can understand why there are struggles in my life, and continue to trust in the plans of the Lord.”

—Trey Steinkamp



INVESTING IN A LEGACY

Our Year-End Vision

It has been a landmark era for Christian education in Iowa. Over the last two decades, we've watched a historic shift as lawmakers have increasingly empowered parents to reclaim the driver's seat in their children's education through school choice.

Because of your advocacy and support, the landscape of school choice has never been stronger. Here is how the current framework supports our families:

- STO (School Tuition Organization): A powerhouse for local impact, offering an unlimited 75% Iowa tax credit while providing direct tuition assistance to families in need.
- ESA (Education Savings Accounts): State-funded accounts providing roughly \$8,000 per student to help families cover tuition and essential educational expenses.
- Coming in 2027 - SGO (Scholarship Granting Organization): A new frontier in giving that will provide a \$1,700 federal tax credit to further bridge the affordability gap.

While these programs are transformative, they primarily address access to education. They don't cover the full cost of the Pella Christian experience.

10% Bridge

Currently, tuition covers 90% of our yearly operating costs. The remaining 10% comes from the generational giving of supporters like you. This 10% bridge ensures that our daily operations remain excellent and our mission remains sustainable.



Support PC today:

By check with the enclosed envelope
Or online at www.pceagles.org/support/give
or contact Dan Zylstra or Teresa Ulferts

Beyond the Budget: Creating Lightbulb Moments

If the operating budget keeps the lights on, our Capital and Eagle Funds are what make those lights shine brighter. These are the projects that lie outside the standard ledger: the cutting-edge labs, the hands-on experiences, and the facility upgrades that make a child's eyes light up when they walk into a classroom. These opportunities aren't just extras, they are the catalysts that empower God's children to join in His restorative work.

Join Us This Summer

As we wrap up our fiscal year, we invite you to be the difference-maker. Your gift is more than a donation; it's an investment in the next generation of Kingdom-builders. Will you help us close the year strong and ensure Pella Christian continues to thrive?



EAGLE EYE

Read inside to see how we are
empowering God's children at
Pella Christian Schools

June 2026



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