

September 2026

EAGLE EYE



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

Dear Friends of Pella Christian Schools,

What's it like in your house? Is it warm, safe, inviting? You, your children, and people who know you can attest to the culture, the belonging, and the faith that fills the four walls of your home.

What would others say? Would those who pass by on the street have any idea, any concept of that love, that joy, that faith, so evident to those on the inside who've experienced it firsthand? Why would they? No one's told them.



It's the same for Pella Christian. As a parent, I've watched my kids grow and mature in the Lord, learning to pray more deeply, more fully. Internally, we see our staff nurture students every day, helping them to see God's handiwork in all of creation and learning to live in Christian community. We watch our students feel a sense of belonging, both at PC and as part of the wider world of Christ's eternal kingdom!

I know these things. You know these things. But do others?

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, I invite you into this next chapter here at Pella Christian. It's one filled with growth, joy, and prayer. More than that, I invite you to help us tell the story. Help us share the life-changing work the Lord is doing here to those who may not fully realize what it's like at Pella Christian. That's how people outside these walls start to understand what's happening inside them.

In His Service,

Dan Zylstra
PC Head of Schools

ON THE COVER



Opening the school year in chapel is one of our most cherished traditions, bringing our students, staff and guests together in a powerful spirit of unity and purpose.

Gathering together we kick off the year through heartfelt worship, unified prayer, and an inspiring look into God's ongoing restorative work in us and our community.

It is a profound joy to explore how each of us can actively participate as agents of His restoration both inside and outside the classroom this year. Seeing children of every age lifted in praise, side by side, is a beautiful glimpse of God's kingdom on earth, a joyful sight that surely delights the heart of God as we embark on this new school year together.

NEW FACES AT Pella Christian

MRS. LAUREN FOUGHTY

Kindergarten



MRS. AMBER JASPERING

Kindergarten



MRS. ISABELLE GEETINGS

2nd Grade



MS. CLAIRE BLEEKER

VoAg Teacher & FFA Advisor



MS. MARISSA VOS

High School Science



FAMILIAR FACES in New Places

- Mrs. Amy Branderhorst, Kindergarten Paraeducator
- Mrs. Tara Fransman, High School Activities Assistant
- Mrs. Jana Van Zante, High School Food Service
- Ms. Ella Bandstra, Grade School Administrative Assistant and Health Lead



MS. ANA DEMESTRI
High School World Languages



MS. KAYLEE PRINS
Middle School Support Services



MR. AARON STOLTZ
Grade School English Specific Skills



MRS. BAILEY SHORT
Marketing Coordinator



MRS. VALERIE KEEGAN
Admissions Coordinator



MS. ERIKA SYTSMA
Grade School Paraeducator



MS. JACEY VEENSTRA
Grade School Paraeducator



MRS. MARTHA ARMBRUSTER
Grade School Food Service

GET TO KNOW OUR NEW PRINCIPALS



MR. STEVEN OVERBERGEN

EE-4 Principal

My wish for students in three words is:
SOW. GROW. SHOW

My mind often connects through parables. In the case of the 26-27 school year, I strive for our staff to sow seeds of truth that develop strong roots for children. In order for seeds to thrive, they require constant maintenance and attention in order for us to create the best conditions possible for growth as there are so many other competing factors. Just as plants grow they endure different challenges in order to grow stronger. We too have to have a mindset of working through and withstanding hard things because oftentimes that's where most of our growth occurs. Over time, this consistency allows us to show others the goodness of God through his handiwork. My wish for students is that they take care of what's being sown, challenge themselves to grow, and show others what God is doing for them through their everyday actions and words.

MRS. RENAE SLOAN

5-8 Principal



My wish for students in three words is:
SEEK CHRIST DAILY

I want all of our students at Pella Christian to seek Christ daily. In a culture that encourages young people to "be your authentic self," I want to intentionally point them toward Christ, who commands us the opposite of culture by saying, "follow me." Scripture assures us that those who seek Him will find Him (Proverbs 8:17). When we seek Christ, He directs our steps, remains faithful to us, and becomes our refuge. In His presence, we find peace, joy, wisdom, and protection (Isaiah 41:17; Psalm 27). My hope is not simply that our students succeed in school, but that they know Christ deeply, trust Him, follow Him, and find in Him the source of true life. I do this, first and foremost, through prayer and study, seeking to make God's goodness and faithfulness central to our classrooms, chapels, and daily life. I also believe it happens through relationships. I constantly walk through the hallways and into classrooms to greet and converse with students. I believe it's important that I know every child's name. I want our students to be known, loved, encouraged, and corrected by adults who see them as Christ sees them. Above all, I desire, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn their faces toward Christ so they may grow in faith, know Him deeply, and walk in relationship with their Lord and Savior.

SUMMER AT PELLA CHRISTIAN

Community, Updates and Preparations

While summer may be only 10 short weeks, there was plenty happening at Pella Christian. From building community to investing in our campuses and preparing for the year ahead, it was a busy and productive summer.

Building Community

- **Summer Camps:** Twenty-two camps welcomed students from kindergarten through high school, offering opportunities to try something new, develop skills and build friendships.
- **Snacks & Stories:** Four gatherings at the PC Grade School playground brought families together for stories from guest readers.
- **Sundae Monday:** More than 250 people gathered for Culver's ice cream, conversation and connection while welcoming new principals Mrs. Sloan and Mr. Overbergen.

School Updates

- **Curriculum Map:** After a process of intentional teacher collaboration, our new K-12 curriculum map was published, providing a picture of what is taught, when it is taught and how learning aligns with our academic and Biblical learning targets.
- **Vermeer Auditorium:** A new digital backdrop and hoists will enhance performances and create new learning opportunities for students.
- **Campus Improvements:** New windows, a 5-8 principal office, wayfinding signage and concrete improvements were completed across the two campuses.
- **Student Technology:** Following analysis and community input, technology plans were updated to support learning, encourage healthy technology habits and align with the PC mission and core values.

Ready for a New Year

Teachers and staff spent the summer preparing classrooms, planning lessons, welcoming new staff and getting ready to serve our students and families. We are grateful for a summer of community, investment and preparation, and excited to see how God will use this school year to empower His children to join in His restorative work.

Thank you to those who assisted us in our summer updates with reduced pricing, labor and donations:

Albers & Co
Dale Vos
Pella Glass
Van Den Broek Concrete

Chad Van Wyk
De Ruiter Lawn Equipment
RS Trucking
Veenstra Painting



WE LOVE BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT!



DATES OF INTEREST

SEPT
18

PC Fall Fest

OCT
29-31

HS Musical
Frozen

NOV
10

MS Fall Music
Festival

NOV
20

GS
Thanksgiving
Lunch

Find all PC events at www.pceagles.org/calendar

PCGS FIRST DAY



SCHOOL BOARD SUMMER RETREAT

The PC Board of Trustees convened for its 3rd annual summer retreat on July 21 at the Backroads Retreat in Oskaloosa, bringing together new members Chelsey Nugteren and Craig Shannon alongside returning trustees.

Dan Beckering, an Edgerton Christian Alum and current Head of School in Chaska, MN, led the board in strategic planning conversations. How is the board involved in the formation and

monitoring of the strategic plan? What data and information is needed to monitor progress on the plan's goals? What structural changes could be made to ensure missional alignment of resources as part of the plan? How do we balance current engagement with long-term positioning?

We left the meeting marveling at the amazing work God has done at PC over the years and humbled by the task of leading PC into its next chapter.

Kent Breems, School Board President



School Board Members: Kent Breems, Mike Fransman, Dan Dunsbergen, Jenna Huitink, Zach Vender Linden, Cassia Boender, Mark Van Wyngarden, Andi Van Kooten, Craig Roose (not pictured), Chelsey Nugteren, Craig Shannon

FAITHFUL SUPPORT, LASTING IMPACT

Investing in the Next Generation

Every year we create a budget, a certain amount of money we anticipate to receive from givers like you in order to cover our costs and keep Christ-centered education thriving.

Every year I'm amazed by the Lord's provision. People like you faithfully contribute to our mission, going above and beyond the needs. 2026-2027 is no different. 10% of our operating budget comes from gifts rather than tuition. That 10% fuels essential parts of our ministry, including field trips, flex activities, curriculum, facilities updates, and countless other things that make each day special and bring Christ to life in our hallways.

If you've given in the past, thank you. You've made moments like this possible. If you've never given, consider what your gift could do. Either way, we desire the chance to sit down with you and tell you the story of what's happening inside these four walls at Pella Christian.

Reach out at 641-628-4440 or give online anytime at www.pceagles.org/give

SENIOR SUNRISE

The beautiful tradition of Senior Sunrise continued as the Class of 2027 gathered to watch the sunrise on the first day of their final year at PC. The morning featured worship, devotions, and prayer led by senior parents Dale and Karla Hodgell, followed by a delicious breakfast provided by senior parents. A memorable start to a year full of promise!

PCHS FIRST DAY



EAGLE EYE

A new school year begins—
see how God is empowering
His children at Pella Christian
Schools

September 2026



300 Eagle Lane

Pella, IA 50219

pceagles.org

