

Crusader Chronicles



OSKALOOSA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

726 North E Street
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

641-672-2174
www.oskaloosachristian.net

August 3, 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 16-21	Staff Inservice
Aug. 16	Full Staff meeting at 9:00 a.m. First Aid Training at 1:00
Aug. 17	1st-8th students Meet & Greet, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Aug. 17	1st-8th students Meet & Greet, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Aug. 21	6th Grade Orientation, 9:39-11:30 a.m.
Aug. 21	Kinder Kids Open House 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Aug. 22	Optional teacher workday
Aug. 23	First day of school begins at 8:05 a.m.
Aug. 23	First day chapel at 1:00 p.m. in the gym
Aug. 23	All Kinder Kids attend this first day
Aug. 23	2:15 dismissal with Osky buses
Aug. 24	2:15 dismissal with Osky buses
Aug. 25	2:15 dismissal with Osky buses
Aug. 28	Volleyball Practice, 3:30-5:00 (first day)
Aug. 29	Volleyball Practice, 3:30-5:00
Aug. 29	Parent Information Night (see article)
Aug. 30	2:15 dismissal with Osky buses
Aug. 30	Volleyball Practice, 2:30-4:00
Aug. 31	Volleyball Practice, 3:30-5:00
Sept. 1	Volleyball Practice, 3:30-5:00
Sept. 4	Labor Day-No School

REMINDERS



•**Parents, mark your calendars for P.I.N. (Parent Information Night)!** It will be Tuesday, August 29. In order to maintain a strong home/school partnership, we strongly encourage one or both parents to attend the meeting. You will meet the teachers and learn what to expect in your child's classroom for the upcoming year during the teachers' 6:00-6:30 and 6:30-7:00 sessions. Because parents of Kinder Kids and 6th graders have already attended their Open House/Orientation, they are not required to attend.

•**A reminder that all visitors must sign in at the school office upon arriving. As requested by the school board, ALL VISITORS, INCLUDING PARENTS, are required to use the *west door* by the office for entry into the school. Please check in at the office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. There's no need to sign in if you are only picking up or dropping off your child, but you do need to use the *west door*.**

•**IMMUNIZATION FORMS** are needed prior to the start of the first school day for ALL new students. Also, students entering 7th grade are required to have a booster Tdap and Meningitis vaccine. Please be sure an updated immunization form is brought to our school office before or on the first day of school. **DENTAL SCREENING FORMS** are required for all new KK students. If it is more convenient for you, Immunization and Dental forms can also be emailed to westrap@oskaloosachristian.net or faxed to our school at 641-672-1451.

•**Meet and Greet:** Our teachers will hold "Meet and Greet" sessions on Thursday, August 17. This is a time for students and parents to meet the teachers and bring in school supplies. You are welcome to come any time between 2:00-4:00 p.m. or 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Kinder Kids Open House will be held:

Monday, August 21 from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

6th Grade Orientation will be Monday, August 21, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

•**There will be no school** on Monday, September 4 for Labor Day.



WELCOME

to the 2023-2024 School Year!

On Monday, August 23, classes will resume for all KK-8th graders! The first bell rings at 8:00, with classes beginning at 8:05 a.m. At 1:00 pm, we will have our First Day Chapel with all grades present. Singing, prayer, introductions of students, staff, and new families will take place, as well as announcing our theme for this year. All parents and friends of Christian education are invited to attend.

We will have a dismissal time of 2:15 on our first day. There will be Osky Public buses for both the morning and afternoon. **On Thursday, August 24 and Friday, August 25** we will have a 2:15 dismissal along with Osky Community, so there **WILL** be Osky buses all day for those days also.

All parents will again receive our school newsletter every week. The **Crusader Chronicles will be emailed** on the last school day of the week, which is usually on Friday. It is VERY important for parents to read this communication from school, to receive timely information and updates of our schedule, etc. If you do not receive the first issue on August 25, please call the office or email westrap@oskaloosachristian.net.

BUS SCHEDULE: Mark your calendars!



- Wednesday, August 23: 2:15 dismissal with Osky buses
- Thursday, August 24: 2:15 dismissal with Osky buses
- Friday, August 25: 2:15 dismissal with Osky buses
- Wednesday, August 30: 2:15 dismissal with Osky buses
- Wednesday, Sept. 6: 2:15 dismissal with Osky buses

Register
Now!

TRIP

(Tuition Reduction Incentive Program)

Tuition Reduction Incentive Program: All TRIP participants will need to re-register for the new school year if you haven't already done so over the summer.

•**Summer Trip:** Cash and Carry will be available for sale in the office of the First Christian Reformed Church (815 N. 11th St.) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

•**Moving:** TRIP will be moving back to school on Wednesday, Aug. 23, with Cash & Carry available. Your first weekly order is due Monday, August 28 by NOON.

•**Order Deadlines** will again be noon on Mondays this year, with order pick-up on Fridays from 8:00-3:00.

•**Coordinator:** Kristin Plate will again be our TRIP Coordinator this year. If you would like more information on how you can sign up, please email trip@oskaloosachristian.net or call 641-670-0583.

After School Care Policy: After-school care is available to any KK-8th student until 4:00 for families who are interested. The charge is \$2/per student/per day, or families with 3 or more children are charged \$5/per family/per day. **PLEASE NOTE** that ANY students who have not been picked up after school by 3:25 (2:25 on Wednesdays) will automatically be sent to after-school care and families will be charged the appropriate fee. Parents interested in after-school care are asked to call or email the school office ahead of time to sign their children up. It is important for staff to know which students will be staying. **Late fees will be charged** for any students not picked up by 4:05.

After school care also includes our early dismissals on Wednesdays with a pickup time of 3:00. After school care will not be available on noon dismissal days or other early dismissal days before vacation breaks. The complete after-school care policy is available in the parent handbook.

Medication: If your child is prone to have headaches or another medical condition, we encourage parents to bring in medication from home that can be given to them, as needed, during the school day. Please bring the medication to the school office, along with a note signed by parents, giving our staff permission to administer it, as needed. All medication is to be provided by parents. The school does not provide medicines such as Tylenol or cough syrup. Also, students must not keep medicines in their desks, backpacks, or lockers, but must bring them to the office, where they can be kept locked up to follow State of Iowa regulations. Some considerations are given in the case of inhalers for students with asthma. Thank you for your cooperation.

Friday Wear: Theme t-shirts will be provided to students again this year at no charge. **(Thank you to our Willing Workers for paying for them!)** Students will be divided into chapel groups, and will participate in theme-related activities throughout the year. All **Fridays** have been designated as days to wear their theme shirt or other OSCI apparel.

Families will have the opportunity to order additional theme shirts in September. More details will be shared later.

HOT LUNCH MENU

(milk provided with every meal)



Aug. 23-25

Wednesday: Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Fruit, WG Roll

Thursday: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, Broccoli w/cheese sauce, Peaches, WG French Bread

Friday: Max's Pizza, Baked Beans, Pears, Breadsticks w/marinara sauce



HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

The cost for student lunches this year is \$3.00. The cost for reduced meals is 40 cents. Free or Reduced Hot Lunch application forms were emailed to all parents and also made available at registration. **It is important that everyone who qualifies for free or reduced lunches completes an application form.** It is vitally important to the hot lunch program itself in generating extra income. Also, **a number of grants and federal programs are based upon the percentage of families** in a school participating in the Free and Reduced program. Please check the income eligibility guidelines included on the form, and if your family qualifies, please bring your completed form to school **by the first day of August 23.** All forms are kept confidential.

Hot Lunch Balance: If your family has a past due hot lunch balance, please pay it as soon as possible. Your balance can be checked from our school's website. Use the Hot Lunch Program listing on the left side of our homepage, then go to the School Lunch Web Account Viewer from there, using the login information for your account, provided to you by our Food Service Department. Checks can be made to OSCI Food Service.

Parents are invited to eat lunch with students this year. Visitor lunches will be \$4.84. Please call or email the Food Service Department before 10:00 on the day you plan to visit so that enough food can be prepared for everyone. For any questions about Hot Lunch, please contact Carol De Ronde-Richards, our Food Service Director, at derondec@oskaloosachristian.net.

Attention Parents of ALL grades: Due to students with food allergies, we are asking that parents DO NOT send lunches or snacks that contain fish, peanuts, or tree nuts with their children. Tree nuts include pecans, almonds, cashews, walnuts, hazelnuts (Nutella is a hazelnut product that should be avoided), pine nuts, and other nuts that grow on trees. Please also avoid peanut butter and other peanut products. Items that are processed in a place where nuts are used are acceptable (ex. no peanut M&Ms, but plains, even though produced in the same factory, are OK). Most packaging will indicate such a situation when it occurs. There will be no hot lunches that include these foods served to anyone. If your child has a food allergy that is not listed here, please contact the office, your child's teacher, or our Food Service Department. We appreciate everyone's help in keeping our students safe and healthy!

2023-2024 DAILY SCHEDULE

Grades KK through 2nd Schedule

8:05 - 8:15	Devotions, etc.
8:15 - 9:50	Morning Classes
9:50 - 10:05	Morning Recess
10:05 - 11:25	Morning Classes
11:25 - 11:55	Lunch
11:55 - 12:15	Noon Recess
12:15 - 1:45	Afternoon Classes
1:45 - 2:00	Afternoon Recess
2:00 - 3:05	Afternoon Classes
3:05 - 3:15	Clean-up & Closing Prayer
3:15	Dismissal

Grades 3rd through 5th Schedule

8:05 - 8:15	Devotions, etc.
8:15 - 11:10	Morning Classes
11:10 - 11:32	Lunch
11:32 - 11:52	Noon Recess
11:52 - 2:15	Afternoon Classes
2:15 - 2:30	Afternoon Recess
2:30 - 3:05	Afternoon Classes
3:05 - 3:15	Clean-up & Closing Prayer
3:15	Dismissal

Junior High Schedule (M, T, TH)

8:05 - 8:15	Devotions, etc.
8:15 - 8:58	1st period
9:01 - 9:44	2nd period
9:47 - 10:30	3rd period
10:33 - 11:16	4th period
11:19 - 12:02	5th period
12:02 - 12:20	Lunch
12:20 - 12:28	Noon Break
12:32 - 1:15	6th period
1:18 - 2:01	7th period
2:04 - 2:47	8th period
2:50 - 3:10	Intramurals (M, T, F)
3:10	Clean-up & Closing Prayer
3:15	Dismissal

Junior High Schedule for 2:15 dismissals:

8:15-8:58	1st Period
9:01-9:44	2nd Period
9:47-10:30	3rd Period
10:33-11:16	4th Period
11:19-12:02	5th Period
12:02-12:20	Lunch
12:20-12:28	Noon Break
12:32-1:15	6th Period
1:18-2:10	Band (study hall for non-band students)



P.E. SCHEDULE: Gym shoes are required for P.E. class. All shoes worn in the gym must be non-marking. Please remind your children to dress appropriately for the days they have PE classes:

Kinder Kids	<u>Wednesdays and Thursdays</u>
1st Grade	<u>Tuesdays and Fridays</u>
2nd Grade	<u>Tuesdays and Thursdays</u>
3rd Grade	<u>Tuesdays and Thursdays</u>
4th Grade	<u>Wednesdays and Fridays</u>
5th Grade	<u>Wednesdays and Fridays</u>
6th Grade	<u>Mondays and Tuesdays</u>
7th Grade	<u>Mondays and Fridays</u>
8th Grade	<u>Mondays and Thursdays</u>

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL: Please make every effort to bring your children to school on time every day. Classes begin with morning prayer and devotions and it is important for all students to be present during that time. Our morning classes will again begin at 8:05, with the first bell ringing at 8:00. Students arriving after 8:05 will be considered tardy. To provide adequate time for all students to get dropped off and settled into their classroom, all children should arrive by 7:55. **Students arriving before 7:50 will report to the gym. At 7:50, students will report to their classrooms to wait for school to start at 8:05.** When dropping off your children, please pull ahead to the first available spot. For your children's safety, and to eliminate interference with increased bus traffic on "E" Street, **DO NOT** drop off children at the west door by the office.

After school pick-up will stay the same as last year. The west entrance to the parking lot will be blocked to route cars back through the parking lot to exit as last year. **PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF OUR SCHOOL NEIGHBORS, AND DO NOT BLOCK ANY DRIVEWAYS** as you are waiting in line. Thank you!

IF YOU ARE PICKING UP YOUR CHILDREN FOR A 2:15 DISMISSAL, please do not arrive before 2:00! The SONshine Preschool students are dismissed at 2:00, and all vehicles waiting for them will be given the first places in car line.

Students Leaving: We encourage before or after school appointments for all students if possible. However, if your child must leave during the school day for any reason, parents must come to the office to sign their children out. Office personnel will notify teachers when you arrive, or you may go to the classroom to pick up your child. Please call or email teachers before school begins of any changes in your child's plans for that day.

Weather-related changes: Because many OSCI students are transported to and from school by the public school buses, the cancellation of classes is coordinated with the public school as often as possible. Students will not be calling their parents from school to inform them of early dismissals. It is the responsibility of parents to learn of weather-related early dismissals, delays, and cancellations through the following means.

***An announcement** will be made on the home page of our school's website.

***The following media** will be contacted as soon as possible: KBOE (104.9 FM, 740 AM), KCWN (99.9 FM), WHO-TV (Channel 13), www.who.com, WHO radio (1040 AM), and KCCI-TV (Channel 8), www.kcci.com, and WOI-TV (Channel 5). Please keep your radio/tv tuned to these stations or their websites during extreme weather conditions.

***Text:** Parents will receive a text for all weather-related changes in our schedule if you have provided a cell phone number.

Occasionally there may be circumstances that would call for a delay or early dismissal for our school only, and therefore, the public school buses will not be available. In such cases, parents will be sent a text, with notifications on our website and radio/tv stations if possible.



Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones are a large part of adults' and students' lives, as well as a source of security. But they can also be a distraction and even a cause for discipline issues during the school day. Understanding this, we require that all students who bring cell phones to school in grades KK-5 have them in their backpacks and not on their person. In grades 6-8, cell phones will be collected in homeroom and given back at the end of the day. Students may ask teachers for permission to use their cell phones during the day if deemed necessary. This practice will help to reduce any problems with cell phones, while keeping the convenience. If a student is found to have cell phones on his/her person during the day, the phone will be confiscated until the end of the day. If this persists, we will ask that the student not take a phone to school with him/her any longer. Thank you for your cooperation.

The annual OSCI Society meeting was held June 26. Three board members were elected: Joel Bruxvoort, Joel Groenenboom, and Emily Jorgensen. The Society also approved the budget for the new year. The School Board officers for this year are: President Stacy Boender, Vice-President Janel Campbell, Secretary MaryBeth Jackson, Treasurer Rob Bruxvoort, and Vicar Joel Groenenboom.

The Willing Workers Committee assignments for this year will be emailed to families soon. Be sure to check for your name, and make note of the committee you will be serving. We appreciate all of you who so faithfully serve our school on the various committees. You are a blessing to our school!

Willing Workers Officers for 2023-2024:

President: Deann De Groot, Vice-President: Katie Allmaras
Treasurer Advisor: Kate De Jong, Treasurer: Morgan Younger,
Vice-Treasurer: Meredith De Ronde Corresponding Secretary:
Kristin Boender, Recording Secretary: Airianne Vonk

MUM FUNDRAISER! The Willing Workers committee at the Oskaloosa Christian School is selling mums as a fundraiser again this year. The mums are from Stam's Greenhouse and are 10 inch pots with your choice of color: white, yellow, red, purple or bronze. If you are interested in purchasing a mum for \$20, please mail or drop off an order form and payment to the Oskaloosa Christian School office by Thursday, August 31. Mums will be available for pick up on Friday, September 15 from 1:00 – 5:30 PM at the school parking lot.

The 2023 Christmas Bake Sale/Vendor Event will be held Saturday, December 2nd from 8am to 1pm. If you own a home-based business or are a crafter, you may purchase a designated spot to sell your goods. Please contact Mary Beth Jackson at 777-4635 or Kristi Jabaay at 319-899-8342.

**ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER....
ONLY 20 days left
until the first day of school!**



A school directory will be published after school begins, using information from this year's registration forms. Please contact the school office **if you do not** wish your family information (name, address, phone, email, etc.) to be included.

FAMILY PICTURES: We would like to again include family pictures in our school directory, so we are asking that you email a family picture to Patti in the office at westrap@oskaloosachristian.net. Please include names of all family members in the order they are pictured. Last year's family pictures can be reused for this year if you like; just let us know. Thank you!



School pictures: Pictures will be taken this year on Friday, September 8 of all Kinder Kids - 8th grade. Any students who are absent on September 8 will be able to have their picture taken on a re-take day which will be scheduled at a later date.

BUS SCHEDULE: To be kept informed of the Oskaloosa Community bus schedule, please read the Crusader Chronicles each week for updates. Our schedule allows for 2:15 dismissals on most Wednesdays in conjunction with the Oskaloosa Community Schools. However, if there are times when our schedule is not the same, transportation will need to be provided for your children on those days.

From the Finance Committee: Tuition statements will again be sent by email this year. Tuition payments will be made by automatic withdrawal. If you have questions about your account during the year, please email our bookkeeper Anne De Bruin at debruina@oskaloosachristian.net

Parents, please review the Parent Handbook before the new school year begins. No changes have been made for the new year. New families should have received a copy at registration. Please contact Patti in the office if you would like an electronic copy emailed to you.

WELCOME to our new staff members!

- Mrs. Anne De Bruin: Business Manager
- Mrs. Kristin Plate: KK-8th Art
- Mrs. Jeanine Vandegest: 8th Algebra
- Mrs. Molly Vander Leest: Guidance Counselor
- Mrs. Megan Keith: 5th-8th Band and Choir Music Teacher
- _____ : Teacher Aide in 4th grade



2023-2024 school theme: "Fruits of the Spirit"
Focus verse: Galatians 5:22-23

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

Look for our monthly theme chapel schedule in an upcoming Crusader Chronicles!