



# Oskaloosa CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**OSKALOOSA SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION**

Fall Edition  
October 2023



## Highlights

### Mission Statement

Assisting families in equipping children to be effective disciples of Jesus Christ.



## Board of Directors

Stacy Boender (2024) President

Janel Campbell (2024) Vice President

Mary Beth Jackson (2025) Secretary

Rob Bruxvoort (2025) Treasurer

Joel Groenenboom (2026) Vicar

Janel Campbell (2024)

Joel Bruxvoort (2026)

Eric Hol (2024)

Ben De Bruin (2025)

Emily Jorgensen (2026)

Looking to review the Board meeting minutes? You will find them online or located in the school office literature rack.

Learn more about this year's school theme on page 4.



Be  
FRUITFUL

## Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

We are so excited about what God has in store for us this year at Oskaloosa Christian School. There are so many things to celebrate as we begin another year laboring together to educate and disciple children in the name of Christ. We pray that God would multiply our efforts so that his name would be exalted among us as ambassadors of his kingdom on earth.

Change is inevitable. Sometimes we bemoan it and sometimes we rejoice in it but no one can argue that it is a natural part of life. I think change produces anxiety in us because it involves a grappling with the unknown. However, we can rest easy knowing that although this newness is unknown to us that it is not unknown to our faithful God. In the midst of a year's time there are many new things that bring about change. Seasons change, children change from one grade to the next, health changes, society changes. Even within our school community, there are always small changes from one year to the next. I am a part of that change this year as I humbly step into the role of principal.

Sometimes change can be overwhelming and scary but we can have peace in knowing that there are some things that never change. God never changes (Malachi 3:6), God's word never changes (1 Peter 1:25), and the truth of the gospel of Christ never changes (Heb. 3:8). The promises and purposes of God will prevail. (Joshua 21:45) These are fundamental truths that we can all lean on in the midst of an ever-changing world. Rest assured, small changes from year to year in our OSCI community has not changed the fact that we as a school are anchored in these Biblical truths and we will remain steadfast in our mission: "Assisting families and equipping children to be effective disciples of Jesus Christ."

Oskaloosa Christian School will continually seek to partner with Christian families to provide students with a Christ-centered education about God's world with God's word as the foundation. We will always aim to be an institution of excellence in all facets of instruction. We will consistently labor to meet the needs of students both spiritually and academically. We will carry on producing graduates who genuinely desire to exalt the Lord in their lives, homes, churches, vocations and communities moving forward from this place.

More than our effort as a school to remain true to our mission and vision in the midst of change is our assurance in the faithfulness of God. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 states, "But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ."

In his letter to the church in Thessalonica, Paul effectively doubles down on the objective for believers to wholeheartedly continue working towards the mission established at the birth of their church body. He reminds them that the Lord will surely lead and guide them as they press forward in faith. No matter what changes they are facing, the message is clear that the Lord will continue protecting what he has established as believers continually look to him for his leading.

My prayer is that this year we will forge ahead in faith; knowing that God has been, is now, and will always be faithful to us. May we see and experience this faithfulness this year in significant ways as a school community.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Joel Rietema, Interim Principal

# Faculty and Staff 2023 - 2024



Joel Rietema  
Interim Principal



Patti Westra  
Secretary, After school care



Carol DeRonde-Richards  
Food Service Manager



Linda Taylor  
Cook



Jimmy Summers  
Custodian



Anne De Bruin  
Business Manager



Cheryl Groenenboom  
KK-4 Music



Megan Keith  
5th-8th Choir, Band,  
General Music



Kristin Plate  
KK-8th Art



Molly Vander Leest  
Guidance Counselor



Jenessa Kaisand  
Teacher Aide



Abbie Van Donselaar  
Teacher Aide



Lisa De Bruin  
Teacher Aide, Library



Shannon Semini  
Teacher Aide, Athletic Dir.



Keri Spronk  
6th-8th Teacher Aide



Rebecca Hoksbergen  
Kinder Kids



Kristin Van Zee  
Resource Room



Jaynee Grafke  
Kinder Kids



Tricia Van Roekel  
1st Grade



Tiffany Roozeboom  
2nd Grade



Tracy Klucas  
3rd Grade



Alicia Vander Wal  
4th Grade



Joy Mitchell  
5th Grade



Renee Van Kooten  
6th Grade; History, K-8 PE



Shawna Goemaat  
7th Grade; Language Arts



Kristi Jabaay  
8th Grade; Math & Science



Leah Stam  
Jr. High Bible



Jeanine Vandegest  
Algebra I/Math Aide



Coleen Platt  
Teacher Aide



Rachel Yang  
Teaching Staff



Vickie Van Donselaar  
Preschool Director/  
Teaching Staff



Kristen Van Donselaar  
Teaching Staff



Amber Adams  
Teaching Staff



Kate Vonk  
Bookkeeper

# Glossary of Terms

## TfT - Teaching for Transformation

Oskaloosa Christian School uses this paradigm of teaching throughout all subject matter. In summary, this framework is intended to purposefully and deliberately teach all subject matter through the lens of a Christian world and life view. God is in control of all things, and this is His world. We aim to help students find their purpose in God's world, and where they fit in His story for their lives. More information can be found at [www.teachingfortransformation.org](http://www.teachingfortransformation.org).

## MAP - Measure of Academic Progress

Oskaloosa Christian School tests students in grades three through eight with this testing platform. The test is an interactive online test, which automatically adjusts the test to the students' performance, making the test unique for all students to meet them where they are academically and more accurately assess students' knowledge levels and growth. Students are tested three times a year (fall, winter, and spring) to show student growth, both within a school year and across multiple school years. Students are tested in reading, language usage, mathematics, and science.

## DIBELS - Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills

Oskaloosa Christian School tests students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade with this testing platform. This test indicates a student's literacy skills, testing phonics, comprehension, and reading speed. This test is also given three times a year to assess literacy skills and progress.

## FGTC - For Generations to Come

This is Oskaloosa Christian School's internal tuition aid program. There are three events where we collect donations for this program. We send out a fall and spring mailing to ask for contributions. Our goal each school year is to raise \$60,000 to use for tuition assistance the following school year.

## LOG-STO - Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization

This is a charitable organization representing 7 accredited Christian schools that receive voluntary cash contributions from Iowa taxpayers and allocates those funds for tuition grants to member schools' children. Every donation to this organization is eligible for a 75% state tax credit on the donation. For example, if a person makes a \$1,000 contribution to LOG-STO, that person will receive a state tax credit of \$750. More information about the program can be found at [logsto.org](http://logsto.org).



## Galatians 5: 22-23

### The Fruit of the Spirit

This year's school theme is The Fruit of the Spirit. OSCI students and staff will be meeting with their created multigrade chapel groups and divided into 12 groups this year. Every Friday there are activities incorporating the school theme. The month is divided up with the following activities.

- 1st is praise and worship
- 2nd Friday is chapel
- 3rd is chapel activity
- 4th Friday is for journaling

Mark your calendars for the following chapel dates:

- October 13: 4th/5th host 8:15 a.m. (Self-Control)
- November 22: Chapel 11 a.m. (Goodness)
- December 15: Christmas Dinner 11 a.m. (Joy)
- January 12: 3rd/6th host 8:15 a.m. (Gentleness)

September chapel was led by the 2nd and 7th graders. Mr. Alex Foley spoke from II Samuel 9:1-7 about David's kindness to Mephibosheth. Students were challenged to "Be Fruitful" and show kindness to others.

*Be Fruitful: Kindness*



# Energizing Numbers

Established in 1946

176 students (growth of 13% increase in the past 10 years)

29 employees

11 graduated in May 2023

114 families partnering with OSCI in their child's education

\$7,974.72 full cost for a Christ-filled education for one student

\$6,500 tuition for one full-time student

23 churches represented at OSCI

94 families participating in the Tuition Reduction

Incentive Program (TRIP)

\$17,713.40 TRIP earnings in the current & future student

family accounts for the 2022-2023 school year

\$1,381,621.03 total budget for the 2023-2024 school year

Willing Workers concluded their fundraising efforts with a

mum sale generating \$1,899 in profit

Willing workers raised \$74,451 during the 2023-2024 school

year, providing the school with \$64,534

Endowment contributed \$150,000 to the school budget

\$2,917,627 is the current balance of the endowment fund

\$100,000 provided by LOG-STO for tuition aid to families of

OSCI in 2022-2023 school year

For Generations to Come helped OSCI families with \$51,142.00

in tuition assistance in the 2022-2023, and \$55,505.00

in 2023-24 school year

Capital Campaign contributions from our Society replaced the

roof, added and updated new lockers along with the

recent order of new windows.

# MAP testing 2022-2023 Results

100% of the classes were at or above the national average in



Reading  
Language Usage  
Science  
Mathematics

# Fall SPORTS



Oskaloosa & PC Football

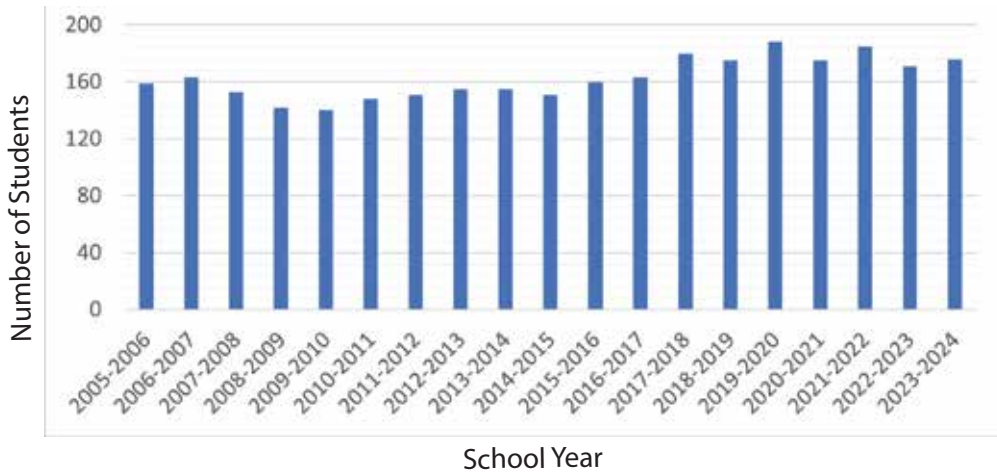


OSCI Volleyball



PC & Oskaloosa Cross Country

# Enrollment Trends



# Willing Workers

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School is off to a great start and we are busy preparing for all of our awesome fundraisers that are coming up! The saying goes "many hands make light work" and we are so thankful for all of you who are committing to volunteering. Every child benefits when we all work together! Last year we raised over \$70,000. All of these fundraisers help keep tuition costs down as well as supply our teachers with the needed items for their classrooms and OUR kids!

The fall flower mum sale is back again this year! Over 170 mums were ordered! Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser!!

Our believe Kids fundraiser kicked off on September 15. This is one of our larger fundraisers and with the addition of online ordering we can reach so many people! You can choose from food, sweets, wrapping paper and much more! Please encourage your student(s) to reach out to friends & family from all over the world! The fundraiser ended October 4 with pick up/delivery mid-November.

The Pop Can Shed - Don't forget if you do a little fall clean up to drop them off at the school; the shed is always unlocked! Offer to pick up cans from your neighbors and grandparents – a few cans can go a long way!

The Book Fair is back again this year with the Paper Pie Book Company. The dates will be October 19th from 12pm-8pm and 20th from 8am-12pm. Be thinking ahead to buy items for Christmas gifts etc.!

Poinsettias -Back this year is our poinsettia fundraiser! Order forms will be out in November with pick up Dec 2nd while you do your baked goods shopping. Remember to ask family, friends and local businesses if they are interested in this holiday plant!

Christmas Cookie, Bake Sale, and Vendor Fair- Mark your calendars! The date of our big event is Saturday December 2nd from 8am-1pm. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon!

Cookbooks for sale – in the office for \$10



## WHAT

does Willing workers do?

Willing Workers sponsors various fundraisers throughout the school year to generate financial support.

## WHO

is the money going to?

The money is used for the entire school. EVERY child at Oskaloosa Christian School benefits from the fundraising dollars.

## WHY

should I sign up to be on a Willing Worker committee?

Willing Workers raises roughly \$80,000 per year that goes directly back to ALL students through textbooks, ipads, playground equipment, art supplies, furniture, curriculum, tuition, PE equipment, chapel shirts, online subscription fees to Jupiter ed, white boards, teacher wish lists and so much more!

## HOW

does Willing Workers raise money?

Willing Workers fundraisers are only possible by the generous help of our school parents.

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# YOU

Make a Difference!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent Teacher Conferences .....	October 19 & 20
Book Fair .....	October 19 & 20
8th grade selling peppermints .....	End Oct/Beginning Nov until gone!
Music concert K-8 .....	November 17
Thanksgiving Break .....	November 23, 24
Poinsettia Pickup .....	December 2
Christmas Cookie & Bake Sale, Vendor Fair .....	December 2
Christmas Luncheon .....	December 15
6th-8th Science Fair.....	December 14
Christmas Break .....	December 23 - January 2
Classes Resume .....	January 3
Oskaloosa Christian Talent Night .....	January 19



For our chapel project, we put together "God's Survival Kits" to distribute to students and staff at William Penn. Each bag contained the following:

- Gum to remind you God will always stick with you. Hebrews 10:23
- Tootsie Rolls to remind you God is always there even when you bite off more than you can chew. Psalm 9:9
- Snickers to remind you that God has a sense of humor. John 15:11
- Chocolate Kisses to remind you of God's love. I John 4:7
- Starbursts to give you a burst of energy to continue to walk with God. Colossians 1:29
- Lifesavers to remind you that Jesus is the lifesaver. John 3:16.

Each group put together 20 bags giving us a total of 240 bags to give away. The entire school walked to William Penn on Friday, 9/22 to share God's goodness!

## You're Invited



### Fall Music Program



Join our community of praise on Friday night, November 17 at 7 PM. The KK-4th grade students will sing some fall songs for all to enjoy.

The 5th-6th grade classes will perform a few instrumental pieces and a few vocal pieces to musically share our theme, Be Fruitful.



### Book Fair

You are invited to look through our Paper Pie Book Fair, taking place during our Parent/Teacher Conferences on October 19th from 12pm-8pm & 20th from 8am-12pm. You will find selections of creativity, innovative, wondrous, tactile, and fact-filled! Books bring us together in delightful and fresh ways.



### Science Fair

All are welcome to the 6th-8th grade Science Fair on December 14 from 6:00-7:00 p.m at the Oskaloosa Christian School gym. Science Fair is an exciting opportunity for students to showcase their knowledge and creativity in the field of science. The event will feature various exhibits and students will be presenting their projects to attendees.



### Oskaloosa Christian has Talent

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 19th as our OSC Middle School students present "Oskaloosa Christian Has Talent". In addition to music pieces by the band and choir, each of our middle school students will participate in this show by sharing a talent of theirs within a group or individual basis. This is always a fun way to highlight the many gifts and talents our students have been blessed with!

### Information

Find out more by visiting the Oskaloosa Christian School website by using the QR link below. Here you will find the latest announcements, parent resources, additional calendar activities and more. Check out the Oskaloosa Christian School Facebook page for pictures of school activities and more!



# OSCI Capital Campaign



We are so pleased to announce we have successfully completed phase 1 of the capital campaign! Thank you to the generosity of His people, we have completed this phase completely with funds donated from the Society and the funds contributed have met the need! GOD is so good!

Over the summer we completed the installation of new and additional lockers for our middle school. Due to increased enrollment in the middle school, we were in need of the additional locker space. We also installed a new sound system in the gymnasium to be utilized for our chapel and school musical performances. The updates to the gymnasium were funded through the generous support of the Fred J. Brunner Foundation.

Most recently we have accepted a bid to remove, dispose and replace all the aging windows throughout the school building. All the windows are original, which means some of them are over sixty years old! We are ecstatic to have them scheduled to be replaced! The new windows will gain us more energy efficiency, safer classrooms for our children and the ability to utilize them for ventilation on nice days. Due to the size of the project and availability of the windows, this phase of improvements will begin in June 2024.

Thanks to the generosity of the Society and God's blessings, we will be moving to phase 2 of our Capital Improvements! During the 2nd phase we would like to begin with updating and renovating our existing building. Our current lighting is inconsistent throughout the building and many classrooms have drop down light fixtures. Our first priority would be to replace with safer, more energy efficient lighting. Our second priority would be the carpet in our classrooms. The current carpet has lost its stain resistance and showing a lot of wear, as well as missing sections or stains that reappear even after professional cleaning.

Donations can be turned in at the school office, or mailed to Oskaloosa School for Christian Instruction, 726 N. E Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577. Thank you for considering this need for our school.

*Thank you for prayerfully considering these capital campaign enhancements.*

In Memory of God's Faithful Servants:

We gratefully acknowledge the following memorial gifts:

Willie Van Weelden family to the Music Department



Lights Before



Potential New Lights



Flooring Before



New Lockers