

Crusader Chronicles



OSKALOOSA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

726 North E Street
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

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August 9, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 14-16	New Staff Inservice
Aug. 16-22	Staff Inservice
Aug. 19	Full Staff meeting at 8:30 a.m.
Aug. 20	6th Grade Orientation 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Aug. 21	Back to School Night 4:00-6:00 p.m. (see article)
Aug. 21	TK and KK Open House 2:00-6:00 p.m.
Aug. 22	Optional teacher workday
Aug. 23	First day of school begins at 8:00 a.m.
Aug. 23	First day chapel at 12:45 p.m. in the gym
Aug. 23	2:15 dismissal with Oskey buses
Aug. 27	Parent Information Night (see article)
Aug. 28	2:15 dismissal with Oskey buses
Aug. 29	First day of Volleyball Practice, 3:30-5:00
Aug. 30	Volleyball Practice, 2:30-4:00
Sept. 2	Labor Day-No School
Sept. 3	Volleyball Practice, 3:30-5:00
Sept. 4	2:15 dismissal with Oskey buses
Sept. 5	Volleyball Practice, 3:30-5:00
Sept. 6	Praise Chapel, 8:10
Sept. 6	School Pictures for all KK-8th graders, 9:00
Sept. 6	Volleyball Practice, 3:30-5:00



WELCOME

to the 2024-2025 School Year!

On Friday, August 23, classes will resume for all KK-8th graders! The first bell rings at 7:55, with classes beginning at 8:00 a.m. At 12:45 pm, we will have our 'First Day Chapel' with all grades present. Singing, prayer, introductions of students, staff, and new families will take place, and announcing our theme for this year. We will also welcome Joe Hoksbergen to do a live art demonstration for the revealing of the new crusader. Our chapel will end with an all-school picture. 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 Oskey Public buses for both the morning and afternoon.

Back to School Night! Come to our Back to School Night on Wednesday, August 21 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. This is a fun time for students and parents to meet the teachers and bring in their school supplies. Free SnoBiz treats will be available along with other fun activities. A food truck will even be available if your family would like to purchase your evening meal. An extended time for Kinder Kids will take place from 2:00-6:00. More information will be emailed to parents next week. Thanks to the Advancement Committee for sponsoring this fun night!

REMINDERS



•**6th Grade Parents:** A 6th Grade Orientation will be held for 6th graders and their parents on Tuesday, August 20 from 9:30-11:30. Be looking for an email from Miss VK for more information.

•**Parents, mark your calendars for P.I.N. (Parent Information Night)!** It will be Tuesday, August 27. In order to maintain a strong home/school partnership, we strongly encourage one or both parents to attend the meeting. You will meet with the teachers and learn what to expect in your child's classroom for the upcoming year. Sessions of 6:00-6:25, 6:30-6:55, and 7:00-7:25 will be available to accomodate everyone. There will be an 8th Grade parents meeting 7:30-8:00. Because parents of 6th graders have already attended their Open House/Orientation, they are not required to attend.

•**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. If you did not include an updated form during enrollment, please bring it 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.

•**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**.

•All parents will again receive our school newsletter every week. The **Crusader Chronicles will be emailed** to parents on the last school day of the week, usually Friday. It is VERY important for parents to read this communication from school, to receive timely information and updates of our schedule, etc.

•**No school** on Monday, September 2 for Labor Day.

•**A community-wide back to school prayer walk** is planned for Sunday, August 18 at 6:00 p.m. A flyer will be sent next week with more information.

BUS SCHEDULE: Mark your calendars!



- Friday, August 23: 2:15 dismissal with Oskey buses
- Wednesday, August 28: 2:15 dismissal with Oskey buses
- Wednesday, Sept. 4: 2:15 dismissal with Oskey buses

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. Reminder this year: we will be closing the books early to better align with spring registration. All families will need to re-enroll in January 2025.

•**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...LAST DAY being August 14.

•**Moving:** TRIP will be moving back to school on Friday, Aug. 23, with Cash & Carry available. Your first weekly order is due Monday, August 26 by NOON.

•**Order Deadlines** will again be noon on Mondays, with order pick-up on Fridays from 8:00-3:00. Orders will be approximately 2 times monthly similar to last year. Watch the Chronicles for all the updated info and dates throughout the year.

•**Coordinator:** Kristin Plate is 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. **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 medication from home that can be given to them, as needed, during the school day. Please bring it 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.) If you would like to provide essential oils for your child to use, you may bring those to the office as well. 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 OSC! apparel. Families will have the opportunity to order extra theme shirts and other apparel in September.

HOT LUNCH MENU

(milk provided with every meal)



Aug. 23-30

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

Monday: Mexican Straw Hats, Corn, Mixed Fruit, Lettuce, Cheese, Dinner Roll

Tuesday: Hot Dog on WG Bun, French Fries, Applesauce, Bar

Wednesday: Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Peaches, WG Roll

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

Friday: Mozzarella Cheese Sticks, Green Beans, Pears, Yogurt

Sign
Up!



HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

The cost for student lunches this year is \$3.05. The cost for reduced meals is 40 cents. Free or Reduced Hot Lunch application forms will be emailed to all parents next week. **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.

Parents are invited to eat lunch with students any time. 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.

Parents will have access to their hot lunch accounts through FACTS this year. More information will be shared later.



IMPORTANT!!

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!

Please take note of the times below. A more detailed classroom schedule can be provided by your child's teacher.

Grades KK through 2nd Schedule

Grades 3rd through 5th Schedule

Middle School Schedule

8:00 - 8:10	Devotions, etc.
8:10 - 8:50	1st period
8:53 - 9:33	2nd period
9:36 - 10:16	3rd period
10:19 - 10:59	4th period
11:02 - 11:42	5th period
11:45 - 12:02	Lunch
12:02 - 12:17	Noon Break
12:20 - 12:40	0 period
12:40 - 1:20	6th period
1:23 - 2:03	7th period
2:06 - 2:46	8th period
2:50 - 3:10	Intramurals (M, T)
3:10	Clean-up & Closing Prayer



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

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.



Policy for cell phones and other digital devices, including smart watches:

Cell phones and digital devices 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/devices to school in grades KK-5 have them in their backpacks and not on their person. In grades 6-8, cell phones/devices will be collected in homeroom and given back at the end of the day. Students may ask teachers for permission to use them during the day if deemed necessary. This practice will help to reduce potential problems, while keeping the convenience. If a student is found to have cell phones or devices on his/her person during the day, they will be confiscated until the end of the day. If this persists, we will ask that the student not take them to school with him/her any longer. Thank you for your cooperation.

The OSCI Society meeting was held in June. Three board members were elected: Karl Boender, Amie Roberts, and Nathan Stam. The Society also approved the budget for the new year. The School Board officers for this year are: President Joel Groenenboom, Vice-President Emily Jorgenson, Secretary MaryBeth Jackson, Treasurer Rob Bruxvoort, and Vicar Joel Bruxvoort.

Willing Workers Officers for 2024-2025:

President: Deann De Groot

Vice President: Katie Allmaras

Treasurer Advisor: Kate De Jong

Treasurer: Meredith De Ronde

Corresponding Secretary: Kristin Boender

Recording Secretary: Arianne Vonk

From the Finance Committee: All payments for Tuition, Lunch and Incidentals will be made through the FACTS system this year. You can check your account balances through the Family Portal. If you have questions please email our bookkeeper Anne DeBruin at bookkeeper@oskaloosachristian.net.

Parent Handbook: The Parent Handbook is currently being updated. Updated copies will be sent home with students sometime after school begins.

A school directory will be published after school begins, using information from this year's enrollment. Please contact the school office **if you do not** wish your family information 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!



**ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER....
ONLY 14 days left
until the first day of school!**



School pictures: Pictures will be taken this year on Friday, September 6 of all Kinder Kids - 8th graders. Any students who are absent on September 6 will be able to have their picture taken on a re-take day which will be scheduled at a later date. Order forms will be sent home with students after school begins.

OSKY BUSES: Parents, if you would like your child to ride the Osky Public bus and did not complete the bus form during enrollment, **please submit it to the office as soon as possible.** The Oskaloosa Community Transportation Department is currently determining bus routes based on the students who are signed up, so this is critical information for them.

To be kept informed of the Oskaloosa Community bus schedule, please read the Crusader Chronicles 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.



Colorful Days! The SONshine Preschool staff has scheduled 2 days of each month for their students to wear a specific color of clothing. This year the KK-8th students are invited to wear the same color clothing on these designated days. You can begin supporting our SONshine Preschool students by wearing red on September 16 and 17!

2024-2025 EVENTS!

Parents, here are some school events that are not included in this issue or our yearly calendar. More will be added as they become scheduled!

November 22: KK-8th Fall Music Evening Program

December 13: Parent Christmas Dinner and Chapel, 11:00am

February 14: Chapel with Pastors

April 14: District V Track Meet, 5th-8th

April 25: Grandparents/Friends Day, Music Program am & pm

We welcome new staff members and also staff members who have a new position this year:

Ms. Haley Albright: 5th Grade Co-Teacher

Mrs. Lisa De Bruin: 3rd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Cathy Fay: Kinder Kids Classroom Aide

Mrs. Cassi Fitzpatrick: KK-8th Art, Librarian

Ms. Cora Groenenboom: 4th Grade Classroom Aide

Mrs. Tracy Klucas: Director of Learning and Advancement

Mrs. Colleen Platt: Middle School Math and Algebra

Mr. Joel Rietema: Permanent Principal



2024-2025 school theme:
"Running with JOY"

Jesus first

Others second

Yourself last

Philippians 2:3-4

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others."