



The mission of Sioux Center Christian School is to disciple God's children by equipping them with a knowledge and understanding of Christ and His creation so that they can obediently serve God and others as they work and play.

A Word from Mr. Bowar HEAD OF SCHOOL

DISTINCT, PECULIAR, CALLED

"The primary goal of Christian education is the formation of a peculiar people, a people who desire the kingdom of God and thus undertake their life's expression of that desire." -James K. A. Smith

Picture it. A teacher plans a unit, and he thinks to himself, **"What is my deep hope for this learning? What story would I like to invite my students into?"** He then designs everything around that story, with all aspects consistently **inviting, nurturing, and empowering** students to **see the biblical Story and then live that Story**. This learning revolves around his classroom storyline of We Are the Body, something students refer to often.

Picture it. A student **reads a novel with her classmates through the lens of a justice seeker**, exploring ways that both justice and injustice show up in the story. She is then so moved by the injustice that she motivates her entire class to do something, and they plan a formational learning experience to assist in building wells in South Sudan. When asked why they do this, she responds, **"We are called by God to serve others."**

Picture it. A first grader **learns that some students don't have books to read**. They are so bothered by that learning that they organize a school-wide book drive, complete with planning, announcing, encouraging others to participate, gathering the books, and delivering them (they don't realize it, but they are also learning a lot of 1st grade curriculum through this). When asked why they do this, a student responds with, **"We're learning and living God's Story as community builders! Why would we not do this?"**

These are the **snapshots of Teaching for Transformation (TfT) that I have the privilege to witness every day at SCCS**. I could go on and on about the Kingdom work that God is doing through our students, faculty, and staff.

Throughout its history, SCCS has been focused on integrating faith and learning in everything we do. In 2015, we started on a journey to further develop that strength—the implementation of TfT. Now a **mentor school** for other schools, SCCS continues to deepen what it means to **fulfill our mission in all things**.

TfT binds together all subjects and activities, providing a framework for the education we provide and what we invite students to develop. It helps us live out our mission by providing shared language and experiences related to:

- what it means to be a disciple (HEAD),**
- why we have discipleship habits (HEART), and**
- how we practice being a disciple (HANDS).**

It is a key piece of what makes us distinct. When a parent enrolls their child at SCCS, **we take seriously our promise to embed all curriculum, instruction, assessment, activities – all things – in a biblical, Reformed perspective.** We count this a huge privilege. **It is a blessing. It is an adventure. It is a joy.**

I invite you to visit school. Check in at the office, grab a cup of coffee, and let's talk more about the amazing things God is doing here. And mark your calendars for Thursday, April 12, when we'll have a Celebration of Learning open house, an opportunity for everyone to gather at SCCS to praise Him for all of the learning that has happened this year at school. I hope you will join us!

With you,

JUST ASK JOSH: Are you wondering about anything related to school? Maybe you have some questions? Ideas? Suggestions? I would like to hear from you!
I'll be hosting Q&A sessions for parents on Fridays, Feb 23 & Mar 9 from Noon - 1:00.
I invite you to bring your lunch & meet me in the orchestra room!

TIER 3 SERVICES AT SCCS

This school year is the **first year Sioux Center Christian has offered tier 3 services** for students who need one-on-one attention and an adapted curriculum. We deeply hope to include as many children with varying needs as we possibly can. **We desire to be a school that provides a home for each student** in the general education classroom and **equips all students** with the necessary support for academic and social success. **We desire to be an inclusive school**, a school that strives to put people and programs around children whose parents desire a Christian education for them. **Why? We believe that a child's value comes from being created in God's image.** Because of this belief, **all of our students belong.** We also believe that everyone can and should learn and develop academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.



Important factors in adding these services were space made available by the building expansion and the addition of Kristina Harmelink, a special education teacher certified with a strategist II endorsement. **Twelve students are served** by Kristina and paraprofessionals at various times on a daily basis, both in a classroom down the 3rd/4th hallway and in their homerooms. An Adapted Iowa Standards curriculum guides reading, writing, and math, and Kristina supports teachers in adapting materials for Bible, social studies, and science. **We are so very thankful to have these students learning God's Story at SCCS!** If you are interested in inclusive education at SCCS, please contact Josh Bowar at jbowar@siouxcenterchristian.com. We would love to discuss the possibilities with you!

LEGACY PLAN UPDATE

SCOTT HULSTEIN, CHAIR OF LEGACY PLAN TEAM

Our mission as one society of believers is to support the distinct, Christ-centered education of God's precious children, with a lifelong commitment of prayer, sharing of spiritual gifts, and financial support.

60% of our annual school budget is provided by parents' investment through tuition, plus NICSTO and TRIP contributions. The remaining 40% of the budget relies on the provision of our society of believers, which is called the Legacy Plan.

When you give to the Legacy Plan, you are helping all families who desire a Christian education for their children. You are saying to them, **"we want to do OUR part in God's Story by helping your child learn and find THEIR part in God's Story,"** and you are **joining in the mission to disciple God's children**, no matter what Bible-believing church they attend.

The Legacy Plan is a mission that partners with individual families and churches in promoting a vibrant and diverse community of Christians who desire a Christ-centered education for their children. The Legacy Plan helps keep tuition costs low to prevent divisions based on economic status, and contributions come from all ages and stages of life... from "cradle to grave".

The 2017-18 goal for the Legacy Plan is \$1,365,000, and we have received \$600,494 through January 31.

January is 50% of the way through our funding year, and we have received 43.99% of our goal.

We are **so thankful for your faithful support** of Sioux Center Christian School through the Legacy Plan and **encourage your continued generous giving**, so that we may reach 100% of the goal to provide for SCCS by the end of July 2018.

4TH ANNUAL TRAIL'RAISER NIGHT

AMY VANDER BERG, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTIONS

Reserve Saturday, April 14, for our 4th Annual Trail'Raiser Night! This year is an Auction year (we alternate Game Show and Auction years) and we look forward to seeing the variety of donations generously given by many businesses and individual supporters! If you have anything you would like to donate to the auction, feel free to contact me or drop off your donation at school.

In addition to a **Live Auction**, the afternoon will also include our famous **Gourmet Cupcake Stand**, **Buy it Now tables and Silent Auction**, and **Freewill Supper**, plus we're working to add a **Submarine Sandwich Stand**, where you can purchase half-dozen packages of subs - perfect for the busy spring season! Our students will be doing a **personalized item** again (we'll reveal it in March) and the **Trailblazer Gala** is planned for the last week in April (we're finalizing the date). All proceeds from Trail'Raiser Night will go toward reducing the remaining \$1.2 million debt on our building expansion. We look forward to this exciting, community-building event in which we trust God to provide through His people!

RETIREMENT BLESSINGS FOR MR. DE VRIES!

Harlan De Vries transitioned this year from the position of Principal to Director of Operations and will be officially retiring on June 30, 2018. Harlan has been at SCCS since 2012 and very capably led our school through the building expansion project. **We sincerely thank Harlan for his 44 years of dedicated service to Christian education:** 19 years at Sioux Center Christian School (he also taught science here in the 70s) as well as at other Christian schools, including Central Valley Christian School (4 years), Edgerton Christian Elementary School (9 years), Unity Christian High School (10 years), and Alpha Omega Academy (2 years). **We wish him well as he makes plans for retirement and the joys of watching over 14 grandchildren instead of several hundred students!** We pray that God will bless you and your wife, Donna, for all you have given to Christ and His schools!



WE REMEMBER MRS. HELEN KOBES



Helen Kobes, a beloved PE teacher at Sioux Center Christian for 32 years, passed away on January 22 after a 19-month struggle with ALS. "Mrs. Kobes" had a special heart for her students, and **she will be remembered as a teacher who could have fun while still challenging and encouraging students to develop their physical skills for God's glory.** She will be fondly remembered by hundreds of SCCS students and alumni who played four-square with the big pink ball, scooter soccer, and many other activities under her instruction.



We at Sioux Center Christian extend our sympathy to her husband of 48 years, Wayne, and their children and grandchildren. Helen was a faithful servant of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and her genuine witness will be a lasting legacy in the lives of those she touched.

CALENDAR NOTES

- Mon, Feb. 19:** No School, Presidents Day (TRIP office will be closed)
- Thurs, Feb 22:** NW Iowa Band Festival at Unity at 7pm
- Thurs, Feb 22:** Parent Night for TK/K parents at 6:30pm at school
- Tues, Feb 27:** NW Iowa Christian School Choir Festival for 7th/8th grades at Unity at 7pm
- Thurs, Fri, Mar 1 & 2:** TK/K Round Up
- Thurs, Mar 8:** 3rd to 8th Instrumental & Orchestra Concert at BJ Haan at 7pm
- March 13 & 15:** Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Fri, March 16:** No School
- March 19-23:** Iowa Assessments for Grades 3-8
- Thurs, April 12:** Celebration of Learning Open House
- Sat, April 14:** 4th Annual Trail'Raiser Night

TK & KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

LISA MOUW, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING

TK & Kindergarten Round Up is coming soon... Thursday, March 1 and Friday March 2

It is an exciting time for our incoming TK-K students, families, and our school community. We know many kids are looking forward to attending the "big school"...maybe joining their siblings or being the first of the family to attend. We also know some may be nervous about this next step in their education. Our teachers enjoy the time of Round Up as a way to meet each child and to assess their readiness for TK or kindergarten, but also to come alongside parents as they make this important decision. It is our **deep hope that each student and their families feel invited into God's Story** as they begin their time at Sioux Center Christian School.

We are hosting a **Parent Night on Thursday, February 22 at 6:30pm**, giving parents an opportunity to tour the school, see the classrooms, to experience a "day in the life" of TK and K, and to ask questions before Round Up. Parents will also learn more about the **NEW Friday Kindercare option!**

If you or someone you know would like to sign their child up for Round Up, please call our school office at 712-722-0777.



IN MEMORY OF GOD'S FAITHFUL SERVANTS

With gratitude to God, we gratefully acknowledge the receipt of gifts to the SCCS Building Fund in memory of *Charles Adams, Gerald Kruger, Coba Rens, Burdella De Jager, and Helen Kobes*

TRAILBLAZER BASKETBALL

JEREMY MILLS, JR HIGH TEACHER & ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

It is Colossians 3:23-24 that states, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. **It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**" This year, forty-seven students represented the Trailblazers as part of our 7th and 8th grade basketball teams. Each student entered the season at a different level of skill and knowledge of the sport, but was encouraged to fulfill exactly what Colossians calls us to do, to work at everything with the knowledge that we are serving our Lord.

This season consisted of games against the nine local Christian junior highs. **Through the hard work of our teams and coaches, the teams were able to model success through individual and team growth.** I am so thankful for the work and dedication put into our basketball program by our five basketball coaches. Andrew Kaemingk

and Devin Eekhoff coached our 8th grade boys, along with Brandon Hofland leading the 7th grade boys. Our 7th and 8th grade girls' basketball teams were coached by Janae Wynja and Janaya Hirsch. These five coaches spent time in practices and games developing an understanding and appreciation for the game in each player.

The final stamp on the season came with the final boys and girls basketball tournaments that are hosted by the area Christian schools. **We as a school are once again so proud of these young people for the work they put in to developing the skills and abilities that God has blessed them with.**

Great season, Trailblazers!



STORIES FROM THE HALLWAYS

- Mrs. Feekes' 3rd grade class **invited local pastors** to join them for a Subway lunch in appreciation of all they do!
- Our jr. high students have been enjoying a new addition to their weekly schedules...**exploratory classes**. The exploratory classes being offered on Mondays and Fridays just before lunch are coding, robotics, current events, algebra, writing, and drawing. Our goal is to provide enrichment and to engage students in learning beyond the curriculum of our standard courses.
- The **entire school celebrated Literacy Week** from Feb 5 -9, with the Olympic theme of "Gold Medal Stories". With dress up days, an at-home reading challenge, special daily activities, and an Olympic Celebration at the end of the week, it was a big celebration of reading!
- Our **first graders organized an all-school book drive** during Literacy Week. 508 books and \$150 were donated! The books were given to Promise Community Health, and the money will be used to purchase Spanish books for Promise plus books for students in Ethiopia. Read more about how the books will be shared at promisechcnews.blogspot.com.
- Seventeen SCCS students were selected to participate in the **NW Iowa Honor Orchestra** at Dordt College on January 25. Congratulations!
- **Grace Groups** for 7th & 8th graders began in January. The purpose of this is to provide opportunities to **nurture, grow, empower, go**. Every Thursday from 2:30-3:00, 26 adult mentors (teachers, pastors, counselors, parents, college students) meet with groups of 4-5 jr. high students to address **life skills, employability skills, and social emotional skills using a biblical perspective**. Please pray that Grace Groups will be an encouragement & challenge, so students may see their role in God's Story and grow and develop as disciples in God's eternal Kingdom. Pray also for wisdom for the mentors, who generously give their time to our students!



Sioux Center Christian School is one of the first schools in the nation to

partner with StaytoHelp.com, a company that converts hotel bookings into donations toward our school building fund. You can make hotel bookings on our site for the same rates as other global travel websites. Go to sccs.staytohelp.com (bookmark it!) and book a hotel for your next trip. There are also links at www.siuoxcenterchristian.com. We will receive from 2%- 4% per booking completed.

