



# SIoux CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2023

# CONNECTION

630 First Ave SE /// Sioux Center, IA 51250 /// 712.722.0777  
[www.siouxcenterchristian.com](http://www.siouxcenterchristian.com) /// [sccsoffice@siouxcenterchristian.com](mailto:sccsoffice@siouxcenterchristian.com)

## OUR MISSION

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.

**TREASURED, TRAINED,  
TRANSFORMED**

'Therefore,  
my dear  
children,

**STAND  
FIRM.**

Let nothing  
move you.

**Always give  
yourselves  
fully to the  
work of  
the Lord,  
because you  
know that  
your labor in  
the Lord is  
not in vain.'**

1 Corinthians  
15:58





# Stories from the Hallways

...sharing how our teachers, who are fellow disciples of Christ, connect every learning experience to God's Story!



Rainy weather and a postponed field trip turned into a great opportunity for our **4Care students to glorify God through their creativity** by having a "Fort Day" instead.

Students made creative shelters with blankets and used flashlights to navigate their forts.

#creationenjoyers

4Care Specialist: Mrs. Tara Dekkers

**TK students** discovered the **letter L** in books and in various classroom activities, including doing the **Limbo** and hanging up **Laundry**. There was a lot of **Laughter** as they **Lived** out their classroom storyline of "Experiencing God's Joy"

#orderdiscoverers

Teacher: Mrs. Rebecca Vander Werf



Our **Kindergarten students** were Creation Enjoyers as they walked in nature to collect fall leaves.

They **observed and compared** the varieties of color, shapes, and sizes of the leaves. They were then **Beauty Makers** as they **painted and crafted** their very own unique leaf creature.

#creationenjoyers #beautymakers

Teachers: Ms. Hope Borger, Mrs. Megan Haan, Ms. Anmarie Stuit



On **Explorer Day**, each activity was designed to show our **first graders** how they serve a God of order. In math, they discovered that numbers have predictable patterns; in reading, they identified the order of words and sentences; and in science, they studied His order in the phases of the moon.

#orderdiscoverers

Teachers: Ms. Abigail Clemens, Ms. Marcy Holwerda, Mrs. Emily Penner

**Second graders** explored the Dordt Prairie to help **capture, tag, and release monarch butterflies**. They learned that scientists tag monarchs so they can track their migration to Mexico. Seven monarchs were tagged and released by our students, who enjoyed doing "real work for real people."

#creationenjoyers #earthkeepers #servantworkers

Teachers: Mrs. Sarah Stoub, Mrs. Rebekah Vande Kamp, Ms. Amanda Woudstra



**Third grade students** studied **fast and slow changes in nature**, including how God has placed weathering, erosion, and volcanoes into creation to change landscapes. Students conducted a scientific

investigation with sugar cubes to mimic what happens when rocks fall down mountains, brainstormed ways to stop a landslide, and explored differences between thick and thin lava.

#orderdiscoverers #earthkeepers

Teachers: Mrs. Chris Geleynse, Mrs. Mikayla Jackson, Ms. Ellen Korver





**Fourth graders** gathered in groups of three (one from each classroom) and worked together through an exercise that helped them **reflect on the richness of God's Word**.

Each group was given a specific Bible verse to study. They identified the "most important" part of the verse, wrote what the verse meant to them, and designed a picture around the verse.

#Wordappliers

Teachers: Mrs. Kristi Vander Kooi, Mrs. Kim Van Zee, Mrs. Megan Winter

Our **fifth graders** study **all about Iowa** - its history, government, and role in the world today. Our teachers have made this unit a **milestone learning experience** by connecting **classroom lessons** with a **field experience** and a day of **service**.

In early September, students **shined as servant workers** as they pulled weeds, shoveled dirt along new brick paths, and cleaned buildings at Heritage Village.

At the end of September, they concluded their study of Iowa with a **field experience to Des Moines**. Stops at the Living History Farms, the State Capitol building, and the Science Center of Iowa were **opportunities to see God's hand** in the formation and history of Iowa, and His order and design in science. We want to thank the **Sioux Center Kiwanis Club** for sponsoring the memorable learning experience to Des Moines!

#communitybuilders #imagereflectors #orderdiscoverers

Teachers: Mrs. Jayden Pieper, Mrs. Laura Van Ravenswaay, Mrs. Rachel Vanden Hull



Our **sixth graders** continue their partnership with Sioux County Conservation and Oak Grove State Park as a way to **connect learning with field experiences and opportunities to serve others by doing "real work for real people with real needs."**

In September, they enjoyed an **overnight campout** to connect as a class and think about God's "call to be uncommon."

In October, the class was invited to **explore the possibility of designing and constructing an adaptive bike trail at Oak Grove**. Students spent a full day in an **immersive learning experience** in which they explored what it would take to build an adaptive trail.

6th grade teachers set up **four learning sessions** in the morning, in which students **calculated slopes** with clinometers to decide what slopes are acceptable for the trail; **discussed the kind of experience** they hope for the people who visit the adaptive trail; **talked about** how our terminology can show love for others; and **tested adaptive bikes, played basketball in wheelchairs, and played games with sight-reducing goggles**, to experience the physical realities of people who will enjoy the trail.

In the afternoon, they **welcomed friends from the community who move about in wheelchairs** - asking questions about how they adapt and what the trail would need to be a great outdoor experience for all who use it.

Their **deep hope** through this experience is that, as people who reflect God's image, **they are to follow God's call to create ways for all image bearers to enjoy creation**.

#imagereflectors #communitybuilders #orderdiscoverers #servantworkers

Teachers: Mr. Al Bandstra, Mr. Nate Breen, Mrs. Gretchen De Wit



# Stories from the Hallways

...continued



## Seventh graders

learned more about their 3rd grade Connection Group partners by playing a "Find Someone Who" game and sharing a time of worship and prayer together. **Connection Groups** meet once each month, encouraging each other as they work through an activity that connects to one of our **Storyline discipleship characteristics**.

#Wordappliers #communitybuilders

Teachers: Ms. Annetta de Jong,  
Mrs. Teresa Taylor, Mr. Dan Tinklenberg

**Eighth graders researched the benefits of reading and chose creative ways to share their knowledge with others.** They created bookmarks and flyers for the library, made informational videos, and took time to read a story to a class of kindergarteners. As the 8th graders read, they are being asked to think about how reading influences them as a Christian, and how they can encourage others to grow as readers.

#imagereflectors

Teachers: Mrs. Samantha De Weerd,  
Mr. Phil Postma, Mrs. Angela Veenstra



Ten of our **7th/8th grade band** members auditioned for the **Northwest Iowa District Honor Band** in Storm Lake. Students spent months preparing music that challenged them beyond the middle school level.

## Congratulations to all who auditioned and the seven students who made the Honor Band:

(L to R) Ben Hummel (7th), Autumn Van Beek (7th), Collin Rose (7th), Millie Brommer (8th), and Brenna Van Roekel (8th).

Kira Oschner (8th) and Elsie Vander Tuin (8th) also made the **All-Iowa 8th Grade Honor Band** by earning the honor of first chair in this district band! The Honor Band performed at Dordt University on Saturday, November 4.

#beautymakers Band director: Dr. Allegra Fisher



On November 7, nine **7th/8th graders** attended the **Northwest Iowa Honor Choir** in Le Mars. These students worked hard to learn music and came together with nearly 500 students from 44 schools to put together a concert in one day.

## Congratulations to these students for their hard work and an outstanding concert:

(Back) Megan Wielenga (8th), Naomi Ploegstra (8th), Millie Brommer (8th, selected as a small group soloist), Kayci Lodewyk (8th), Talja van Niejenhuis (8th), (Front) Natalie Veenstra (7th), Anna Vander Pol (8th), Madeli Majia-Vargas (8th), and Rowan Heldt (8th).

#beautymakers

Choir director: Dr. Allegra Fisher



Thirty-six of our **6th-8th grade orchestra students** participated in the **Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Orchestra Festival** on October 26 at Unity HS.

It was a great day of sharing God's gift of music with friends from our local Christian grade schools and high schools!



#beautymakers Orchestra director: Mrs. Jill Friend



## 7th & 8th Grade Girls' Volleyball Season

This year in volleyball, we had **36 young ladies represent our 7th and 8th grade teams.**

Mrs. Amy Feekes, Ms. Hope Borger, Mrs. Cassidy Hinds, Mrs. Courtney Ellis, and Mrs. Mallory Groskreutz did a great job leading these girls to another fun and successful

volleyball season. These coaches spent time in practices and games **developing an understanding, appreciation, and love for the game and for their teammates.** Coach Feekes comments, *"These ladies have an infectious love of the game and it showed on the court! Congrats on excellent seasons and on winning the 8th grade tournament!"*



8th grade girls team



7th grade girls team

## 5th - 8th Grade Minimesters



We are in our fourth year of offering **"minimester" classes for our 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.** A minimester is a 2-day class that lasts 1½ hours each day, and each student takes three classes. Our faculty and staff create fun and interesting classes that help students learn a new skill or explore an area of interest.

Our purpose in offering minimesters is to encourage students to **find joy in learning, have choice in experiences, and build relationships with others.**

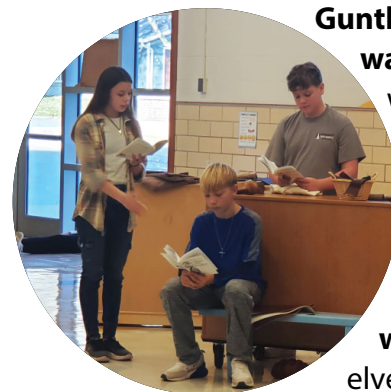
Excitement filled the hallways on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, as students enjoyed learning through classes such as: *Robot Forklift, 3D Printing, Campus Golf, Stop Motion Animation, Color Guard, Fly Fishing, Taekwondo, Girls Bible Study, Digital Media, Painting like Bob Ross, Explore Your Upper Story (Brain), and many more!*



## Elves and the Shoemaker: 7th & 8th Grade drama

**Forty-nine 7th and 8th grade actors plus 12 crew** are involved in the fanciful and charming reframing of the traditional story of shoemaking elves. They practice three times a week in preparation for their performances of ***The Elves and the Shoemaker* on Friday and Saturday, January 26 & 27** at 7pm at the Te Paske theater.

**Gunther, an old shoemaker, has lost his only son in the war that is raging across Europe.** He has lost his will to work and instead spends his days waiting for the daily casualty lists with his friend, Karla, a tailor. The war has also claimed the life of the mother of a precocious boy named Peter. The elves first show up to grant the wish of Peter's dying mother that he will be protected and cared for. **A kindhearted soldier brings Peter to Gunther, who reluctantly takes him on as an apprentice.** The elves watch over Peter and magically make shoes - to the delight of the boy and the consternation of Gunther. **The magical events turn the entire town topsy-turvy and gradually soften the heart of Gunther, who finds in the boy Peter, the son he has lost.**



If you've ever attended an SCCS production, **you know that our 7th and 8th graders put on an amazing show that glorifies the Creator who gave them such talents and determination!** We hope you will put this performance on your calendar and make plans to attend!

#beautymakers Directors: Mrs. Eileen Buitter, Ms. Kirsten Buitter

## Living God's Story: Elements of a Growing Disciple

**"Living God's Story"** is the overall storyline that guides our daily school life. In our chapels and weekly storyline events, we are delving into our eleven **"Elements of a Growing Disciple"** (also called "throughlines" or "discipleship characteristics").

**Each Wednesday at SCCS, we reserve part of our day for worship and fellowship.** The first week of the month is our whole-school Storyline Chapel in the gym. The second week we enjoy a connection group activity, and in the third and fourth weeks we have a time of praise and worship, a storyline-related activity chosen by teachers, or a "Table group" activity.

**Table groups** are a new development this year, created to build a sense of community and belonging that helps our **5th - 8th graders firmly fix their identity in Jesus Christ**, who welcomes them to His table. They are a mixture of different grade levels and meet once a month.

Last year we focused on half of the elements. This year we will focus on these elements and truths:

**"Creation Enjoyer"** and this truth: *"I can discover, enjoy, and celebrate God's creation."*

**"Word Applier"** and this truth: *"I can apply God's Word in all areas of life."*

**"Image Reflector"** and this truth: *"I can develop my talents and gifts to reflect God and serve others."*

**"Justice Seeker"** and this truth: *"I can see injustice and try to respond with love and fairness."*

**"Truth Finder"** and this truth: *"I can recognize idols in my life and choose to focus on the true God."*

**"God Worshiper"** and this truth: *"I can worship God in all parts of my life."*

Students look forward to our **classroom Storyline connection activities** in which we pair up with different grade levels and work through an activity that helps connect the discipleship element to their hearts and hands.

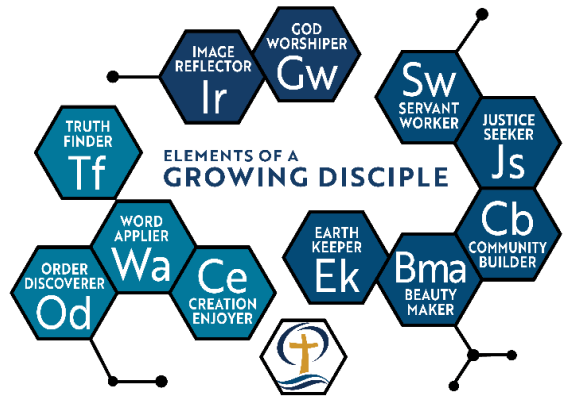


We enjoy singing songs that connects to the "element", plus two songs that we sing at every chapel and in our classrooms for the whole year are "Goodness of God" and "You Know the Way".

If think you would enjoy hearing 548 kids singing their hearts out, watch our chapels online at: [siouxcenterchristian.com](http://siouxcenterchristian.com) > Current Families > Livestream Links.



## Living God's Story



"BUT YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, GOD'S SPECIAL POSSESSION, THAT YOU MAY DECLARE THE PRAISES OF HIM, WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT."  
1 PETER 2:9

## Partnering with Parents

**We love partnering with parents in our mission** to train God's kids in His Way!

Parent Teacher Conferences and Parent Visit Days are two ways we **strengthen our relationships and support and encourage** each other.

**Parent Visit Days** give parents the opportunity to **visit classrooms and see how their students are learning and living God's Story each day.**



**Parent Teacher Conferences** are held before the school year begins so parents and teachers can talk about goals and expectations, and then at the end of the first and second grading periods. Teachers **lead each conference in prayer** for the student, and then discuss **student work and progress**, ask about the **parent's deep hopes** for the child, and share where **growth is seen** in his/her life.



**We are so thankful for engaged and supportive parents and caring teachers!**



## We WELCOME New Faculty & Staff to SCCS!



Ms. Hope Borger  
(Kindergarten)



Ms. Anmarie Stuit  
(Kindergarten)



Mrs. Mikayla Jackson  
(3rd grade)



Mrs. Kim Van Zee  
(4th grade)



Mrs. Rachel Harmelink  
(Title 1 Teacher)



Ms. Jena Dykstra  
(Learning Center Teacher)



Mr. Todd McDonald  
(School Counselor)



Mr. Kyle Munneke  
(School Resource Officer)

Mrs. Cassidy Hinds, *Interventionist*  
Mrs. Andrea Dieleman, *Paraprofessional*  
Mrs. Kristi Hummel, *Paraprofessional*  
Mrs. Josie Knip, *Paraprofessional*  
Mrs. Jina Tinklenberg, *Paraprofessional*  
Mrs. Rachel Van Voorst, *Paraprofessional*  
Mrs. Rebecca Wierenga, *Paraprofessional*  
Mrs. Jamie Zomermaand, *Paraprofessional*  
Mrs. Cassandra Eckert, *Cook*  
Mrs. Thao Haugstad, *Cook*

Ms. Laura Sahagian, *Cook*  
Mrs. Myrna De Vries, *Outlet 75 assist. mgr.*

### *Year-long student teachers:*

Ms. Caroline Brown (5th grade, 7/8 Math)  
Ms. Natalie Cohoon (7/8 writing, 5th grade)  
Ms. Paige Decker (6th grade)  
Ms. Karli Olsen (2nd grade)  
Ms. Whitney Minderhoud (4th grade)  
Ms. Sarah Zevenbergen (Reading room)

### Attention Preschool Families!

Around the **3rd week of January**, info about **TK/Kindergarten Round Up** will be sent home with preschool students in Stepping Stones and Little Warriors Preschools. If your preschooler attends another preschool or home preschool, contact us so we can send you an SCCS info packet!



### **TK/Kindergarten Round Up will be held on Thursday and Friday, March 21 & 22.**

If you would like to learn more about SCCS, **we invite you to tour** Sioux Center Christian, meet our teachers, and get a first-hand look at a typical school day in the TK/K environment.



To schedule a tour or receive an SCCS info packet, call the school office (712.722.0777) or Dr. Josh Bowar (320.979.9598).

*A child must be 5 years old by September 15, 2024 for enrollment in either TK or Kindergarten.*

### SCCS Calendar

#### **Monday, Nov 27: Fall Instrumental Concert**

7pm at BJ Haan Auditorium, featuring our 6th-8th grade bands and 4th-8th grade orchestras.

#### **Tuesday, Dec 12: 5th-8th grade Choral Concert**

7pm at Centerpoint Church.

#### **Tuesday, Dec 19: Christmas Chapel at 1:30pm**

#### **Wed, Dec 20 - Tues, January 2: Christmas Break**

#### **TRIP Office Hours during Christmas break:**

**OPEN Monday, Dec 18 - Friday, Dec 22 (8am-1pm)**

*For their hours the week after Christmas, follow TRIP on Facebook or check their page on our website:*

*Support SCCS > TRIP* **Phone: 712.722.4663**

#### **Keep connected with what's going on at SCCS:**

**Online Calendar:** [siouxcenterchristian.com](http://siouxcenterchristian.com)

**Facebook:** @siouxcenterchristian

@SCCSTRIP

@shopoutlet75

**Weekly Home Bulletin:** posted on Wednesday afternoons under **Current Families > SCCS News**

### In Memory of God's Faithful Servants

With gratitude to God, we gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following **memorial gifts:**

**Donald Altena** – Building Fund



## Outlet 75: School Retail Store

Outlet 75 is a retail store in Sioux Center that **supports the mission of our school** by selling new, overstock clothing for women, men, children, and furniture, decor, bedding, and kitchen items. ***It's like a little Marshall's or TJ Maxx right in Sioux Center!***

Shop for Lands' End coats and snow pants, brand name clothing, shoes, small kitchen appliances, home goods, candles, and more. **It's a great place to shop for Christmas gifts** and support SCCS at the same time!

So far in 2023, **Outlet 75 has granted \$49,000 to SCCS**, with a year-end grant still coming! **Total grants to SCCS since opening in 2019 are \$308,000!** These grants contribute toward each student's education through our *Alternate Revenue Contribution* on the tuition statement.



Outlet 75 is **OPEN Wednesdays 11am-8pm, Thursdays 11am-3pm** and one Saturday each month: **Saturday, December 16 10am-1pm**  
Located at 4175 US 75 Ave, about 1 mile south of Sioux Center.

outlet-75  
CLOTHING & MORE



*Thank you!*

**To all who have given volunteer time to Outlet 75: We are so thankful for you!**

*The thousands of items that pass through our little store make for a super fast-paced and fun environment to work in! There is simply no way we could run this store without YOU. Many hands make light work and the gift of creating a business that brings in "outside money" which we direct to school continues to be a joy-filled journey!*

**Thanks for working with a smile and being an encouragement to us!**

Manager: Melissa Punt

Assistant Managers: Amy Feekes  
and Myrna De Vries

YOUR  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
**IMPACT  
OUR  
TREASURED  
STUDENTS**

WITH \$404,220  
IN TUITION GRANTS  
\$303,165 GOES  
BACK TO DONORS!  
(NET COST OF \$101,055)

**YOU RECEIVE 75% BACK  
AS AN IOWA TAX CREDIT**



## GIVE, then Receive 75% of your Donation BACK

When you give a donation to NICSTO (Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Tuition Organization), **you benefit** by receiving 75% of your gift back as an Iowa tax credit certificate and **SCCS students are impacted by 100% of your gift!**

***Why not give a gift that directly impacts God's kids instead of paying income taxes next April?***

**There is still plenty of room for you to give!**

You may donate cash, gifts in kind of grain, appreciated stock, bonds, and gifts from your IRA (including your RMD).

***ANY Iowa taxpayer can join in this unique giving opportunity!***

For details, go to [siouxcenterchristian.com](http://siouxcenterchristian.com) > Support SCCS > NICSTO or scan the code above. Forms are also available at the TRIP window and school office.

**We encourage you to give by Friday, December 8** OR contact Mr. Paul Ross, Director of Development, if you know you want to give, but need a little more time (712.722.0777 x3).





We are **so thankful for the support our churches** provide our students through the Legacy Plan!

As of November 15, we have received **\$246,867 in Legacy gifts** from thirteen participating churches, with the total amount pledged for 2023-24 being \$799,904. The total pledged is about \$300,000 less than last year, since churches are contributing lower amounts to families who receive ESA funds.

**THANK YOU to all who belong to Legacy churches and all you do to impact God's kids for life!**



The **Sioux Center Christian School Foundation** is once again providing SCCS with a generous annual gift of \$90,000 for the 2023-24 school year!

This gift provides for operations and curriculum, and directly helps families through the Alternate Revenue Contribution on student tuition statements.

Did you know that **one of the most lasting ways you can help Christian education endure at SCCS for generations to come** is to include the SCCS Foundation in your estate plans? Your lawyer or financial planner can help you with those plans, or the Barnabas Foundation offers free estate planning services to SCCS supporters. ([barnabasfoundation.com](http://barnabasfoundation.com) 888.448.3040)



SIOUX CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
**FOUNDATION**

## What We Are Working Toward

Every five years, we go through the process of **creating a Strategic Plan**, outlining the steps we need to take to continue to fulfill our mission and vision for God's children. Below is a summary of our 2023 - 2028 Strategic Plan.

Sioux Center Christian School **aspires to be a community where students are trained, treasured, and transformed as they learn and live God's Story**. We seek to **maximize each family's investment, creating a sustainable, quality, distinct learning environment that is engaging, welcoming, and accessible**.

As we move forward in this calling, we prayerfully and expectantly pursue the following strategic priorities:

- **Continue Teaching for Transformation in every classroom, in every subject, and in every learning experience** by generously providing resources for our teachers, providing engaging milestone learning experiences for our students, and intentionally measuring the effectiveness of our training as we integrate the growing disciple profile throughout our TK-8th grades.
- **Honor the roles our faculty and staff have as master teachers and fellow disciples** by building upon their current expertise, strengthening their curriculum alignment, and growing their capacity and competency to provide excellent inclusive education.
- **Relentlessly and unapologetically share the story of SCCS**, so that current parents are confirmed in their choice and potential families see how a Christ-filled, transformative education is imperative for their children, so they can serve a world that needs them.
- **Strengthen our financial infrastructure** in a way that wisely implements Education Savings Accounts, strengthens church partnerships, seeks to encouragingly compensate and equip our faculty and staff, and advances our mission for God's kids - for now and future generations.
- **Cultivate a vibrant culture among all our students** so that they daily reflect joy, kindness, respect, and excitement for their classmates, their teachers, our school, the lunches they enjoy, and the unique roles and opportunities they have at each grade level, especially working toward creating a distinct and appealing middle school culture.
- **Provide engaging spaces** where students, faculty, and staff can be inspired to learn and thrive, and students will develop and grow in the full academic and creative spectrum of their educational experience.





## From our Head of School

*In mid-September, Dr. Josh Bowar shared this letter with faculty, staff, parents, supporters, and friends, announcing that this will be his last year as Head of School at Sioux Center Christian:*

God led me to Sioux Center Christian School in 2007, and as I look back at 16+ years as a teacher, assistant principal, and now head of school, I am reminded of His providence over my life. **He brought me here to serve a beautiful and faithful community in good times and hard times.** I now realize with more clarity than ever before how deeply I love the SCCS community. **SCCS has become part of me.**

**My passion for the mission and vision of Sioux Center Christian School is as genuine today as it was when I started** in 2007. I love this school. The faculty and staff are among the best in the country. The skill and passion they bring to their craft each day is unmatched. Our leadership team is humble, dedicated, and equipped. Our board of trustees is visionary and devoted to excellent Christian education. Deeply committed families spur us on to serve them with persistent care and energy. School supporters generously give of their time, talent, and treasure. The students bring us joy each day.

The **deepest desire of my heart is that God continues to lead SCCS** to disciple His children by equipping them with a knowledge and understanding of Christ and His creation so that they can obediently serve Him and others as they work and play. **That same desire for God's leading in my life has led me to decide that this will be my final academic year at Sioux Center Christian School.** My personal storyline is "Courage over Comfort", and **God continues to point me toward new opportunities that require courageous action.** I desire to **fuel new and existing Christian schools in Iowa and nationwide.** My passion lies in being a **tireless advocate** for Christian education and educational choice, and I desire to serve schools through **coaching, support, advocacy, and leadership.** I firmly believe more students need to be in Christian schools.

I'm grateful I will have opportunities to accomplish such work with the Iowa Association of Christian Schools, Dordt University, the Center for the Advancement of Christian Education, and Development & Leadership Coaching. Due to recent events in Iowa and nationwide, **I believe I can use my God-given gifts to impact many Christian schools.** I will assist in the start-up of new Christian schools across the state and the continual improvement and strategic planning of current Christian schools nationwide. I will also be teaching graduate-level courses and coaching school leaders. **I am excited for what is next; however, I am going to miss SCCS greatly.**

**I will finish my leadership with SCCS strong,** and, although it may feel different, I intend to stay invested in this place for the long term. I'm already mourning the loss that will inevitably come with change. What brings me comfort is that **I know the leadership, faculty, and staff here are enthusiastic, talented, and courageous** in their service to the Lord. **The school is in good hands, God is at work, and He is forever faithful.** It is a blessing to report that the state of SCCS is strong. The head of school vacancy will present an attractive opportunity for candidates. My hope in announcing my planned departure now is to give the school plenty of time to find a replacement, and the SCCS board of trustees will soon be sharing more about the search process. I am committed to working with the board, faculty, staff, and supporters in the coming months to ensure a smooth transition, which will take place July 1, 2024. Alicia and I will remain in Sioux Center.

Please pray for Alicia and me as we take steps forward together. Our prayers will be for the SCCS community as well. **It has been an honor to serve with so many who collectively believe God's children should be Treasured, Trained, and Transformed for His glory. I will always be a Trailblazer!**

With sadness, anticipation, grieving, and joy - all wrapped up.

*Joshua F. Bowar*

Josh Bowar, Head of School



Top photo: 2023  
Bottom photo: 2017



## From our Board of Trustees

SCCS Constituents,

**Josh Bowar has faithfully served at SCCS for over 16 years**, and it is with a **mixture of sadness and gratitude** that the Board of Trustees has received his resignation for the end of the 2023-2024 school year. During his tenure as Head of School, he has walked the school through some hard times while also being a **visionary leader in the areas of advocating for inclusive education, implementing Teaching for Transformation, developing alternative revenue for the school, extensively fundraising for building campaigns, and ESA implementation**. SCCS has earned a strong reputation in our community, is strong financially, has increased enrollment (now at record enrollment), and is moving forward with a strategic plan. Most importantly, **Josh has kept the school laser focused on the mission of Christ-centered education** for all kids at SCCS.

As we move forward, the Board of Trustees will be **actively engaged in the process of selecting a new Head of School**. We understand the importance of this decision and are committed to conducting a thorough national search to find the right candidate. More details about the search process will be shared in the coming weeks.

**Thank you for the support and trust that you have for SCCS**. For now, we ask you to keep the SCCS faculty, staff, students, and board in your prayers as we all make this transition together and seek to follow God's leading.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Greg Van Dyke

Board President

## From the Head of School Search Team

SCCS Constituents,

We have been working with the **Center for the Advancement of Christian Education (CACE)** to create our head of school opportunity profile. CACE was on campus on October 30 to **host listening sessions with the Leadership Team, faculty, and staff**.

We have finalized the SCCS Head of School Opportunity Profile and are in the **beginning stages of accepting applications**, following up on referrals, and sourcing. You can see our profile online at [siouxcenterchristian.com](https://siouxcenterchristian.com) > Connect with Us > Employment

We continue to ask for your prayers for this process, that **God directs our paths to intersect with the person whom He has already chosen to serve as the next SCCS head of school**. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a member of the SCCS Search Team.

On behalf of the Search Team,

Lori Walstra (Search Team Chairperson)

**Search Team:** Emily Penner (Faculty), Paul Ross & Brandon Haan (SCCS Leadership Team), Donna Brue (Staff), Renae Calkhoven, Mary Beth Pollema, Greg Van Dyke & Lori Walstra (Board of Trustees)

## Position Openings for 2024-2025

Do you or does someone you know have a passion for serving God's kids and a desire to be a part of a vibrant learning community? Go to [siouxcenterchristian.com](https://siouxcenterchristian.com) > Connect With Us > Employment to learn more about these positions and apply.

### Faculty Positions (2024-25 school year)

Head of School (full-time)

K-4th Art/5-6 Life Skills Teacher (full-time)

2nd Grade Teacher (full-time)

3rd Grade Teacher (two openings, full-time)

### Staff Positions (available now)

Kitchen (part-time)

Custodial Cleaning Crew (flexible, after-school hours)

Bus Drivers

Substitute teachers are always needed. Info online if interested.



## IGNITE the VISION for God's kids at SCCS: Update on the Blazer Center plans

By the last week of August, our **kitchen renovation project was completed!** This was the first phase of the Blazer Center plans, which was done to bring our kitchen "to code" and streamline the preparation and serving meals to our growing student body.

For the remaining steps in our plans, our board of trustees and school leadership have been actively engaging in **reality-based planning** to accomplish our original objective of **building transforming, meaningful spaces for a growing and flourishing school.**

Through this planning process, they made decisions that **prioritized our multi-purpose performance, athletic, and gathering space, and six middle school classrooms.** Additionally, a "value engineered" design/build process allowed coordination between our trusted local contractors and designers to propose more financially efficient solutions. The decision was made to save the new 3rd grade classrooms and some team rooms for the next step in our plans.

The strength of support received throughout the process and the giving level we are at (\$8.1M) helped our board of trustees make the important decision to move forward. The construction bid was awarded to Hoogendoorn Construction **for \$13.7 million, which is \$1 million below our original estimate!** If we had continued with the original plans (designed in 2019), the cost would have put us well over the Society-approved \$14.7M. **With hopeful anticipation, we look toward a project start date of March 25, 2024, and pray you will consider helping us reach our \$9 million milestone by that date!**

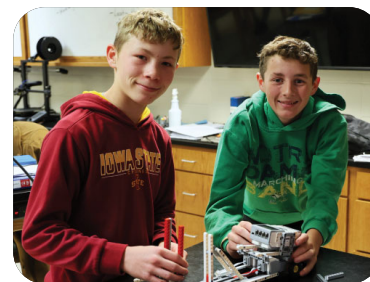
To join in helping **build spaces that will be part of God's work** in transforming the lives of treasured SCCS students **for generations to come,** connect with Paul Ross, our director of development, at [pross@siouxcenterchristian.com](mailto:pross@siouxcenterchristian.com) /// 712.541.1707

To give a year-end gift, you may give online or mail your gift to  
Sioux Center Christian School /// 630 First Ave SE /// Sioux Center, IA 51250



**We are DEDICATED  
to making GOD'S STORY KNOWN, LOVED, and LIVED  
EVERY DAY!**

*Amazing things happen each day inside (and outside) our classrooms!*



**SIOUX CENTER  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**



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