

# SIoux CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD

HOME OF THE  
TRAILBLAZERS

FALL 2019

*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 Dr. Bowar HEAD OF SCHOOL

### Clear is Kind (Unclear is Unkind)

Here are some thoughts that run through the mind of a school leader: **Is my school's message being heard? Are people listening? Are we being clear?**

At Sioux Center Christian School, **we follow a set of internal norms, our "rules of the road"** when it comes to working together as colleagues and with students, parents, and supporters. These norms were written collaboratively by our faculty and staff, and all employees and administration are held to them. They **provide a framework, help everyone know what to expect, and embed guidance and accountability.**

Norms are important. Research shows that organizations with a clear set of norms are strong organizations. **Norms provide safety and structure while also encouraging growth and creativity.** And that is what we want SCCS to be, a thriving place for the benefit of our students.

Here are the norms we follow, all under the umbrella of our biblical framework, our mission as a school: **1. Communicate regularly** (face-to-face is often best). **2. In conflict, seek direction through prayer and wise counsel** (seek guidance versus gossip). Focus on solutions. Follow Matthew 18. **3. Assume positive intent;** trust, but verify. **4. Put student needs first.** **5. Provide and seek kind, specific, and helpful feedback.** **6. Celebrate and support each other.** **7. Take healthy risks.** **8. Remain flexible, focused on growth.** **9. Balance professional and personal needs.** **10. Face reality boldly.** These norms show up in conversations, when we're working through conflict, when we're making decisions, and more.

Please don't mistake these norms as ways that we can hide behind nice language or as me saying that we have a perfect school. In fact, the opposite is true. **Norms help us lean into hard things. They inspire courage over comfort. They encourage getting into the grittiness of life, digging deep with each other for the benefit of our team and the school culture.** Author Brene Brown, in her book *Dare to Lead*, highlights the importance of norms by sharing, **"Clear is kind. Unclear is unkind.** Most of us avoid clarity because we tell ourselves that we're being kind, when what we're actually doing is being unkind and unfair. Feeding people half-truths to make them feel better (which is almost always about making ourselves feel more comfortable) is unkind. Not getting clear is unkind. Talking about people rather than to them is unkind."

Norms are about being clear because clear is kind. They don't cause people to wonder what's expected. **They help us save that mental energy for more important things, like providing a fantastic learning experience for our students.**

**Let me be clear about one thing as I close. Thank you for your support of Sioux Center Christian School. Our school is thriving.** I can tell you that experiencing Christian employees working at a Christian school is a beautiful thing. **Employees committed to providing an intentionally Christian education are thriving and living out their part in God's Story as they invite our kids into His Story with them.** And, because of that, **our students are thriving and are getting a top-notch education,** one that **treasures** them as image bearers of God, one that **trains** them in God's Truth through strong faith nurturing and academics, and one that seeks to **transform** them through the power of the Holy Spirit.

On behalf of our near-record enrollment of 523 students (526 is our highest), **we thank you** for your support our efforts!

With you, *Joshua F. Bowar*

*This article was published as an editorial in the Sioux Center News on September 10, 2019.*



## LIVING GOD'S STORY MRS. JILL FRIEND, FAITH INTEGRATION SPECIALIST

This year at SCCS, we will be looking at **God's epic Story through the lens of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.** We will be taking a whirlwind tour from Genesis through Revelation. **Our storyline "Between the Trees" refers to living our lives in the time between the tree of life in Genesis 2 and the tree of life in Revelation 22.** We celebrate the world God has made, but long for the day when sin will be no more. While we wait for that day, **we seek God's restoration in all of life.**

We are thankful that we can partner with the Northwestern College drama department in bringing to life the Scripture passages led by the 7/8 drama team each month. Our September storyline was **"Everything Out of Nothing (Creation)"** and during our connection group time we were able to go outside on a scavenger hunt to find beauty all around us. We are focusing on **"What a Mess! (the Fall)"** during the month of October. **We mourn the brokenness we see in us and around us, but take joy knowing that we and our world belong to God.**

**You are invited to join our storyline chapels** in the gym on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:35pm. You can also watch our chapels via Livestream (the recording is available for a month after the event).

Go to [siouxcenterchristian.com](http://siouxcenterchristian.com) > **Student Life > Chapel.** The most current Livestream link will be there.



## OUTLET 75 MRS. MELISSA PUNT, STORE MANAGER

**Seven months have flown by since we opened the doors of Outlet 75.** It seems a bit surreal to be at this stage when it feels like yesterday we were sitting in the orchestra room brainstorming how to bring in additional revenue for our school! (It was 18 months ago!) **Stepping out in faith and setting goals** (having really no idea if they were realistic), **we can look back and see God's faithfulness in every detail.**

**After just seven months in business,** with the help of generous start-up donors and the SCCS Foundation match to those donations, plus MANY hours of volunteer labor and consistent weekly profits, we have **completely paid for all our start-up construction costs and start up inventory purchases (\$65,000)! We are now self-sustaining** (revenue will cover inventory costs, paid managers, and overhead expenses) and **we plan to kick back our profits to school in quarterly payouts** (which we will report to you in the future).

We are excited to report that weekly sales are consistently at or above what the planning team projected. We have customers who shop regularly plus new customers every week, all **thrilled with the deals they find on new clothing, shoes, home décor, and furniture!**

**It's a joy working with our volunteers** and we have fun work for them to do- like assembling furniture, unpacking clothing, and checking out. **If you would like to volunteer, please contact us!** ([info@shopoutlet75.com](mailto:info@shopoutlet75.com) or stop by during open hours)

-Melissa Punt, Bethany Bosma, & Janey Boogerd (managers)  
Emily Vanden Berg (volunteer coordinator)





# LEGACY PLAN UPDATE

**We praise God for the gift of \$1,198,365 Sioux Center Christian School has received from families and congregations through the Legacy Plan during the 2018-2019 school year!**

**The Legacy Plan provides for about 40% of the overall mission of SCCS. The 2019-20 goal is \$1,393,901.**

We are SO VERY THANKFUL for all YOU DO to reach this goal & provide a distinct, Christ-centered education for our students!

## The Legacy Plan is ...

**ONE BROAD SOCIETY** of believers who support the distinct, Christ-centered education of God's children, with a commitment of prayer, the sharing of spiritual gifts, and the pledge of financial support.

**With a LIFETIME PASSION:** We passionately and faithfully support this obedient task of training God's children in His Way throughout our entire lives. We surround God's children during their educational years and gladly and generously invest in their Christ-centered training.

**For EVERY CHILD:** Our baptism promises encompass EVERY CHILD of the covenant who enrolls in our school, so a key commitment of the Legacy Plan is to provide for the overall mission of SCCS so that every family can be offered the same tuition rate.

**For GENERATIONS to come:** On the Day of Christ's return, **may we, as a society, still be found faithful** in our passion to train His children in His Way.

**Donations to the Legacy Plan are tax deductible** and may be made through your church or sent to school.

If sending donations directly to school, make checks payable to

"SCCS Legacy Plan." If you would like your gift to apply to a church's goal, please indicate on the memo line or with a note.

Drop off or mail to: Sioux Center Christian School | 630 First Ave SE | Sioux Center, IA 51250.



## CALENDAR NOTES

**Fri, Oct 25: Grandparents & Special Friends Day.** Starts at 8:30am. Dismiss at 11:30am.

**Fri, Oct 25: PACE Soup Supper.** Serving 4:45pm - 7pm in the school gym. Freewill donation.

**Tues, Oct 29: NW Iowa Christian School Orchestra Festival** for 6th - 8th orchestra students. 4pm at Western Christian Events Center.

**Wed, Oct 30: Reformation Day Chapel.** 1:35pm in the gym (or watch online)

**Mon & Wed, Nov 4 & 6: Parent /Teacher Conferences.**

**Wed, Nov 6: Storyline Chapel:** Called and Blessed. 1:35pm in the gym (or watch online)

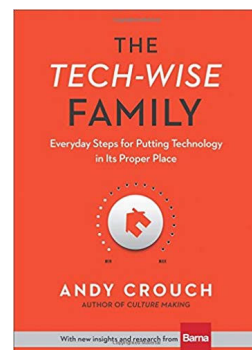
**Fri, Nov 8: No School**

**Wed, Nov 27 - Fri, Nov 29: Thanksgiving Break**

**Wed, Dec 4: Storyline Chapel: God Moves into the Neighborhood.** 1:35pm in the gym (or watch online)

## TECH-WISE FAMILY BOOK DISCUSSION

**We are hosting a book study for parents on navigating technology in our homes and with our kids.** We will meet 3 times: **Nov. 12, Dec. 10, and Jan. 14**, from 7-8 PM in the orchestra room. Childcare will be provided. We have been given a grant from EMOC, a ministry foundation of First CRC, to cover the cost of the books for all participants. If you are interested in participating, please contact the school office by Monday, Oct. 28.



## IN MEMORY OF GOD'S FAITHFUL SERVANTS

With gratitude to God, we gratefully acknowledge the receipt of gifts toward the Building Expansion Fund in memory of  
*John Peuse and Clarice Vande Griend.*

We also give thanks for the estate gift from *John Roorda* to the SCCS Foundation and Building Fund.

# WELCOME TO SCCS!

We are enjoying several new employees at Sioux Center Christian and would like to introduce them to you!

**Mrs. Lori De Jong is the art teacher for 5th through 8th grade.** Lori has been a classroom teacher, art teacher, adjunct faculty at Dordt, and has her own art education studio, The ImagiNation Studio. Lori and her husband Brent live in Sioux Center with their children Anna (8th), Jonah (6th), Mykah (2nd), and Bo (1st). "I enjoy the challenge of teaching students to observe carefully, create from their observations, share their thoughts using images, and reflect deeply about the things they see and the people they encounter. I deeply hope that all my students will **live like the masterpieces** that God made them to be!"



**Mrs. Leah Mouw is our school counselor.** Leah recently moved here from California, where she served as school counselor, Bible teacher, and coach at Valley Christian Schools. She is married to Steve and she has four children: Kyla (R.N. at Orange City Health), Lindsey (Dordt junior), Madison (Unity junior), and Carter (Unity freshman). "I love school counseling and the privilege of walking students and families through life transitions and difficult situations. My deep hope is that **we will trust God in all circumstances.**"

**Mrs. Becca De Vries is a part-time music teacher,** teaching choral music classes for 5th- 8th grades. Becca has experience as a worship coordinator, and has taught at Unity, Dordt, and SCCS in the past. Rebecca and her husband Laremy have three children at SCCS - Cornelia (6th), Nicolaas (2nd), and Louisa (K). "I'm excited to be teaching general music to the middle school students this year. It is my hope that the students will **enjoy creating and experiencing music in a variety of ways**--playing drums and ukuleles, listening to classical and rock, studying hymns and Psalms."



**Mrs. Timae Saavedra is a paraprofessional** serving a student one-on-one in kindergarten M-Th and 3rd graders on Friday.



**Miss Meredith Spicher is our behavior interventionist** working with a variety of students throughout the day.



**Mr. Adam Potter is a part-time paraprofessional** for grades 5-8 and tier 3 students.



**Mrs. Darlene Reichert is a paraprofessional** for grades 5-8.



**Mrs. Lisa Tintle is a part-time paraprofessional** serving several tier 3 students.

## ROLE CHANGES AT SCCS



**Mrs. Marissa Westra has moved into the role of 1st grade teacher** this year. Last year she served as a paraprofessional in TK and 1st grade. Marissa shares, "Teaching young students is a calling that God has placed on my heart. **I have a passion for learning and love seeing students learn something new.**"



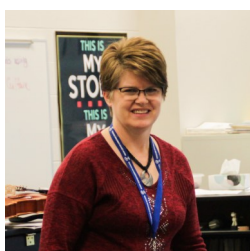
**Mrs. Lisa Miedema is a part-time paraprofessional** serving a student one-on-one in 7th grade.



**Mrs. Miranda Vander Werff serves as a part-time cook.**



**Mrs. Mike Kooistra serves as a part-time cook.**



**Mrs. Jill Friend has taken on a new role as Faith Integration Specialist.** In this position, Jill will be working with Mrs. Lisa Mouw and the Storyline team to plan Storyline events each month. She will also be working to **develop stronger ties between families and local churches.** She is also working in partnership with the Christian Reformed Church Faith Formation ministries to **develop resources for families** that can be implemented throughout the denomination. This position is financially supported by CRCNA. "I am looking forward to where God will lead this year as we continue to live out what it means to 'Live Between the Trees.'" Jill will continue to teach K-2 general music and all orchestras.



## WELCOME INTERNS TO SCCS!

We have four college students working at Sioux Center Christian as part of the year-long student teacher program.

**Mrs. Cassidy Hinds** is a senior at Dordt University and is teaching in Mrs. Sarah Stoub's **2nd grade classroom** the first half of the school year. Cassidy is originally from Boyden and married Andrew this summer. "I am grateful for the opportunity to put my faith into practice while teaching and look forward to making many good memories with my 2nd graders."

**Miss Olivia Vander Haag** is from Sanborn, and is a senior at Dordt University. She is co-teaching in Mrs. Kristi Vander Kooi's **4th grade classroom** until March and then will spend the remainder of the school year with Mrs. Stephanie Peters, working one-on-one with students in a resource room. "I love getting to know each of my students and enjoy implementing what I have learned from my education classes."

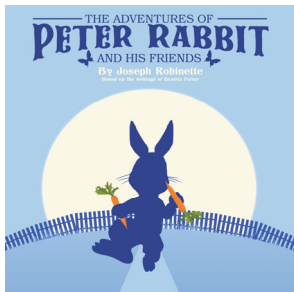
**Mr. Mika deVin** is from Vernon, British Columbia, and is a senior at Dordt University. Mika will be co-teaching in Mr. Al Bandstra's **6th grade classroom** all year. "I really enjoy getting to know each student and what they love about life! Making those connections with students is really important and it's been a blessing so far."

**Miss Anna Vander Griend** is from West Point, Nebraska, and is a senior at Dordt University. She will be teaching in Mrs. Sarah Stoub's **2nd grade classroom** starting at the end of October through March. "I'm most looking forward to meeting the students and learning how to teach with a Christian perspective."



Olivia, Mika, Anna, and Cassidy

## SAVE THE DATE FOR PETER RABBIT MRS. EILEEN BUITER, DIRECTOR



*The Adventures of Peter Rabbit and His Friends* takes us through the fascinating life of **Beatrix Potter**. The play moves back and forth from the fantasy world she created to the **intriguing story of Beatrix Potter** herself, who overcame her lonely, strict childhood—in which her writings and drawings were discouraged in the male-oriented Victorian era—to become the most widely read children's author of all times. We also meet Beatrix's governess, Annie (who narrates the play), and Annie's children, for whom many of the stories were originally written.

Five delightful tales by Beatrix Potter are interwoven into the narrative. We will

see **The Tale of Peter Rabbit, The Tailor of Gloucester, The Tale of Two Bad Mice, The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher, and The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck**. Both entertaining and educational, this play is a must for any child—or adult—who has ever enjoyed the endearing stories of Peter Rabbit and his many friends.

**Join us on Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7 at 7 pm in Te Paske Theater** as we watch 29 talented 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students perform this heartwarming play.



## PARENT VISIT DAYS MRS. LISA MOUW, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING

**We take seriously our calling to partner with parents in the education of their children.** We value this partnership! We are **inviting parents into the school** so they can experience what's happening in the classroom with their students. To do that, **every grade level** will be hosting a **parent visit day** this year.



Thursday, October 10 was our first Parent Day with 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Grade 5 will be Tuesday, Nov. 12, Grade 6 will be Tuesday, Nov. 19, and grades TK-4 will be coming in January and February.

**Parents:** Watch Bloomz or the Home Bulletin for your signup opportunities.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## SIoux CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Greetings! By God's grace, the faculty, staff, parents, and supporters of Sioux Center Christian School have remained committed to a vision for **biblically-grounded, Christ-centered education** since its beginning over a century ago. This vision seeks to recognize **each child** as a **treasured** member of God's family and to **train** them in God's Word so they may be **transformed** as they learn and live in God's Story. Commitment to this vision is evident in every moment of the day at SCCS. Our teachers and staff love the Lord and love kids, and they work with parents to **discover in each student the gifts they have been given by God to further His Kingdom and give Him glory**. That's why we exist as a school, and that's our focus moving forward. We want to be a place where learning and wisdom come together, all based on God's Word. Stop in for a cup of coffee sometime. I'd love to share more about what God is doing at SCCS! And if you desire to have your child attend SCCS, please feel free to call me or stop in so I can share the ways a Christ-centered education can fit in your budget... we never want finances to be a barrier to an education at SCCS. THANKS to YOU all for loving our school and supporting it in so many ways!

In Him, *Joshua F. Bowar*  
Head of School  
jbowar@siouxcenterchristian.com



## ABOUT SCCS

Established in 1905 (school society formed in 1903)  
523 students in grades TK-8 (growth of 142 students in the past 10 years)  
265 families choose to partner with SCCS in their child's education  
\$5,120 tuition for one student, with sliding scale for additional students  
\$7,477 cost for one student (Legacy Plan, NICSTO, TRIP, and donations bridge the difference between tuition and cost)  
25 churches support SCCS  
3/4 of students attend Christian Reformed Churches  
1/4 of students attend other denominations  
562 families participate in the Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (TRIP)  
\$5,950,000 was purchased through the TRIP office, with \$119,000 given back to SCCS tuition and \$65,000 to Christian schools nationwide  
\$279,300 total tuition grants received by 102 families through NICSTO in 2018-19. \$300,003 goal amount for NICSTO donations in 2019  
\$3,700,503 budget for 2019-20 school year  
\$1,198,365 given in 2018-19 by our church & family partnerships through the Legacy Plan. \$1,393,901 is the 2019-20 goal.  
\$516,279 was donated toward the \$6.8 million 2015 building expansion project in 2018-19. Actual debt remaining (not including pledges) is \$879,000  
\$2,232,000 is the asset balance of the SCCS Foundation  
\$70,000 given to school budget by Foundation in 2018-19  
\$70,000 committed by Foundation for 2019-20  
70 students served through the inclusive education framework  
100 employees (54 full-time and 46 part-time)  
Parents in Action for Christian Education (PACE), through service, fellowship & fundraising, provides \$30,000 per year to SCCS

## PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Bible, math, language arts, science, art, social studies, reading, music (orchestra, band, choir), physical education, exploratories, technology, storyline chapels and chapel groups, leadership council, Kindercare, Aftercare, Destination Imagination, Tales & Trails summer camp, drama, academic support, behavior support, musical, team sports, school counselor, school nurse, library, talented and gifted, school lunch, and busing

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Paul Ross, President  
Greg Van Dyke, Vice President  
Arlene Heynen, Secretary  
Michael De Boer, Treasurer  
Dennis Vander Plaats, Vicar  
Renae Calkhoven  
Chad Feenstra  
Deb Hulstein  
Joe Bakker



## ACADEMIC STRENGTH

### Math Proficiency

Grade	SCCS	State
3	94.7%	78.8%
4	93.4%	76.6%
5	83.3%	74.7%
6	82.0%	74.9%
7	93.5%	82.0%
8	86.8%	75.7%

### Reading Proficiency

Grade	SCCS	State
3	94.7%	76.3%
4	88.5%	74.7%
5	90.7%	76.5%
6	86.0%	73.7%
7	91.3%	74.6%
8	83.0%	75.9%

**SCCS Iowa Assessments** Indicates what students were testing like in certain grades.

Example: 3rd grade students tested as if they were a student in their 5th grade, 4th month on the 3rd grade test

Grade	Reading	Written Expression	Math	Composite Score
3	5.4	5.8	4.5	4.9
4	7.8	7.8	6.1	6.7
5	8.5	8.9	7.2	7.6
6	7.8	9.2	7.3	7.7
7	9.7	11.1	9.3	9.6
8	12.5	13+	11.1	11.8

The numbers on these charts come from the most recent results provided by the Iowa Dept of Education.

## 2019-20 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- » Ensure **effective**, visionary governance.
- » **Remain accessible** to all families seeking to enroll their children at SCCS.
- » Provide **additional space** for faculty and staff to collaborate with each other, parents, and students.
- » **Support teachers** in their professional calling.
- » **Strengthen curriculum** scope and sequence.
- » Design grades 7-8 as the **premier destination** in the school.

Sioux Center Christian School is accredited through the Iowa Department of Education by Christian Schools International.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### 2019-2020 BUDGET

#### INCOME

Tuition	\$2,090,852
Legacy Plan	\$1,393,901
Foundation Grants	\$70,000
Other	\$145,750

#### EXPENSES

Debt Service	\$35,000
Educational Supplies	\$82,500
Fine Arts & Athletics	\$34,450
Transportation	\$73,770
Relations	\$67,000
Salary and Benefits	\$2,957,970
Facility Operations & Maintenance	\$238,812
Technology	\$60,000
Other	\$51,000

**Total 2019-20 Budget**  
**\$3,700,503**

### 2018-2019 REPORT

Total Revenue	\$3,479,053
Total Expenses	\$3,440,288
Legacy Plan Gifts	\$1,197,944
Legacy Plan Goal	\$1,378,441

### FUND BALANCES as of July 31, 2019

Tuition Scholarships	\$17,014
<i>Formerly called Tuition Assistance</i>	
Building Depreciation	\$74,537
<i>Earmarked for capital improvements and maintenance</i>	
Bus	\$29,536
<i>Earmarked for bus needs</i>	
Trailblazer Fund	\$503,065
<i>Cash reserves, building toward three months of operating expenses, as suggested through CSI accreditation</i>	

## THANK YOU

What a **blessing it is** to be able to report to you all this information about Sioux Center Christian School! **Behind every number are Kingdom servants** who work to make these numbers possible - and it is all done because of their **passion to train God's children in His Way**, so that they may be **lifelong agents of transformation** in Christ's Kingdom. Please continue to pray for our students, faculty, staff, trustees, and parents - that the **Holy Spirit** may work mightily in all of us, as we learn and live God's Story!



OCTOBER

2019



SIOUX CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
**FOUNDATION**

## FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

## INVESTING NOW TO PROVIDE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Chad Feenstra, president  
Dan Mouw, vice-president  
Darren Raih, treasurer  
Amy Vander Berg, secretary  
Judy Feekes

**Sioux Center Christian School Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.** Sioux Center Christian School remains the sole beneficiary of the Foundation.

The Foundation provided a **total matching grant of \$23,583** toward the start-up costs of **Outlet 75**, our new retail store that solely supports the mission of SCCS.

**\$70,000 was provided by Foundation earnings to Sioux Center Christian School for the 2018-19 school year.** Half went to general operating expenses and half toward the purchase of the new Fountas & Pinnell literacy curriculum for TK - 2nd grades. This new curriculum is based on current reading instruction and phonics research.

**\$70,000 from investment earnings is committed to Sioux Center Christian for the 2019-20 school year.** Half will go toward operating expenses and half will help purchase the new Fountas & Pinnell literacy curriculum for 3rd - 8th grades.

The Foundation was **blessed to receive an estate gift of \$150,000, plus \$16,880 in annual, lifetime, and memorial gifts this year.**  
The asset balance of the Foundation as of July 31, 2019 is \$2,232,873.



**INVESTING NOW** FOR GENERATIONS  
TO COME

**Help provide Christian education  
for generations to come.**

**Support the Foundation with an annual gift or  
make a lifetime gift.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we are (check all that apply):

☐ Parent ☐ Grandparent ☐ Alumnus ☐ Supporter  
☐ Past Parent

☐ I/we would like to invest in the future of Christian education with a tax-deductible gift to the Sioux Center Christian School Foundation:

☐ Annual gift of: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Lifetime gift of: ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am a 2009-2019 SCCS graduate and would like to be a contributor to the **Young Alumni initiative** for the Foundation:

Gift of: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I/we would like to know more about planned giving.

Drop off or mail your donation with this form to:

Sioux Center Christian School

Attn: Foundation

630 First Ave SE

Sioux Center, IA 51250

Make checks payable to "SCCS Foundation"

To give online via credit card or ACH, go to:

[www.siouxcenterchristian.com](http://www.siouxcenterchristian.com)

Click on Support SCCS > SCCS Foundation



# STORIES FROM THE HALLWAYS

- **This spring, we celebrated 30+ years of service for five of our faculty members.** Mrs. Ellen Korver (35 years), Mrs. Laura Van Ravenswaay (33 years), Mrs. Geri Van Ruler (32 years), Mrs. Sue Siemonsma (30 years), and Mr. Al Bandstra (30 years) all received an SCCS jacket as a gift of thanks.



Miss Crista Smidt

**We also said farewell** to Miss Crista Smidt (school counselor for 28 years), Mrs. Sue Siemonsma (art teacher for 30 years), Mr. Ivan Goothuis (bus driver for 4 years), Mrs. Reba Marra (1st grade teacher for 4 years), Mrs. Sarah Jensema (7th grade teacher and paraprofessional for 3 years), Mrs. Karla Hansen (paraprofessional for 2 years), and Mrs. Emily Van Beek (custodian for 1 year). At the end of October, we also will say farewell to Mrs. Denise Vanden Berg, who has been a kindergarten paraprofessional for 6 years (she will be helping her husband in his business). **We have been blessed by the talents ALL these amazing Servant Workers have shared with our school! May God bless each of you!**



Mrs. Korver, Mr. Bandstra, Mrs. Siemonsma, Mrs. Van Ravenswaay, Mrs. Van Ruler

- **Our TK through 2nd graders are enjoying our new Fountas & Pinnell literacy curriculum.** This new curriculum is based on current reading instruction and phonics research and was mostly funded by a Sioux Center Christian School Foundation grant of \$35,000. Our **TK students** are enjoying the **F&P Shared Reading for Pre-Kindergarten Program, which builds a strong early reading foundation with books that engage and excite children into the world of literacy.** Shared reading is enjoyable and an important opportunity for children to **experience more challenging texts** (1-2 levels higher than what they are reading) while also acquiring the tools they need to **read text independently.**



- **Mrs. Den Boer's 7th grade class and Mrs. Linda Feekes' 3rd grade class** got together as a Storyline Connection Group in September and worked on a prayer rock project together. They walked to the prayer garden on the Dordt Prairie and placed their rocks to share encouragement with the community.



- **We started the school year with a Back to School Bash** on Saturday, August 24. The Bash includes several fun activities for families, including inflatables, kickball, and capture the flag. There was also a freewill supper in support of the Legacy Plan and a movie shown in the gym. It's a fun event that gets families and kids together in celebration of the new school year!



- **Our September Storyline focused on Creation.** Mrs. Van Ravenswaay's 5th grade class spent time outside on a beautiful September day reflecting and writing prayers. Here is one written by a student: *"Dear Lord, Your creation is beautiful. Thank you for the beautiful sounding creek. Sitting outside and enjoying your creation is wonderful. I love how the birds glide so swiftly. The creek flows through the earth just like your love flows through us. Amen."*



- Two babies were born to the SCCS family within a week! **Mr. Kyle Brummel** (PE teacher) and **his wife Rachel welcomed their first child, Ryker Kyle**, on September 20. **Mrs. Sara Feekes** (resource teacher) and **her husband Russ welcomed a daughter, Everly Mae**, on September 25. Everly is well-loved by big brother Hudson (4) and sister Ayda (2). **Congratulations** to these young families!



hose, and learning from the firefighters. Our **2nd graders** learned about fire prevention and had homework to complete during the week, which helps them review their family's fire safety plan. Students received an SCFD t-shirt for completing their homework. **Thank you Sioux Center Fire**

**Department for your service to our community and the time you gave our students!**



- **Dordt University math students are helping our 2nd graders** on most Tuesdays and Thursdays in October and into November. They **observe math lessons and develop their teaching skills** by reinforcing the math concepts with students. On their first visit they made subtraction bracelets with our students. Thanks, Dordt students, for being **Order Discovers** with our 2nd graders!



## STORIES FROM THE HALLWAYS CONTINUED

- After **studying many areas of Iowa's history**, the **5th grade class**, their teachers, and a few parent volunteers had the privilege of learning by way of a field experience. We started the day together at 5:00 AM on October 11th. Our first stop in **Des Moines was Living History Farms**. The students had a choice of touring the farms set up to display various times in history or of touring a town set up to show life in the late 1800's. Our next stop was the **state capitol building**. Students were able to see the senate and house of representative chambers, the library, the former Supreme Court room, and experience the internal echo as they talked to themselves while standing on the glass floor. They also



viewed a battleship model and beautiful artwork showing Iowa's history. Our final stop in Des Moines was the **Science Center of Iowa**. There were many hands on experiences here such as trying to protect an "egg" for an egg drop, creating and shooting off a paper rocket, and building and racing a Lego car. We were also able to view a program entitled "Fire and Ice" to learn about dry ice and the combustion of certain gases. **It was a great day for the 5th graders to interact and build unity.**



- 7th and 8th graders in Mrs. Autumn Den Boer's and Mrs. Ruth Clark's** classes are participating in various **Global Read Aloud** projects that involve students from the US, Canada, Brazil, China, Japan, Australia, and more. They've participated in a **Kahoot game** with 50,000 students around the globe to review chapters of *The Bridge Home*, a book they are reading as part of the Global Read Aloud project. They have also participated in **Mystery Hangouts**, where each student has a role and, through clues, work to figure out the mystery location.



- We have implemented a new **school-wide communication app, called Bloomz**, to better connect teachers and parents. The goal is to **streamline communication**, so that most school-related information (classroom newsletters, reminders, schedules) can be found in one place. It has taken some adjusting, but it does make keeping in touch with classroom teachers easier. Plus, teachers can safely give parents a "window into the classroom" with frequently posted pictures, which can only be seen by classroom parents.

## BUILDING EXPANSION DEBT REPORT

MRS. AMY VANDER BERG, DIR OF DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTIONS

We are **blessed to report** that in 2018-19, the debt on the 2015 building expansion project was **lowered by \$516,279** through pledged donations, new donations, and Trail'Raiser Night donations. Our current **actual debt is \$879,000**. As we approach the final countdown on the debt, we believe sharing the actual debt amount is clearer than sharing the "actual debt minus pledged donations" amount (which is a standard practice). We still **anticipate receiving many Forward in Faith and One Thousand Blessings pledged donations**, but also look forward to **encouraging donations** from new and past donors as we approach a zero balance!

Our **2019 year-end goal is to pay off the \$286,000 bank loan**, which matures on Dec. 31. The remaining debt is owed to supporters who invested in a Certificate of Deposit program, which has given them above-market annual interest earnings each year (which many forgave), while providing school with lower interest loans. We are so thankful for these investors and look forward to paying back their investment.

We are **SO VERY THANKFUL for this wonderful building** (including the older parts!) that **daily protects and surrounds over 600 of God's treasures** (students, faculty, staff), as we learn and live God's Story together. **Our building is God's workmanship - designed and equipped** so that we can **daily learn, live, and walk out its doors to serve as agents of transformation in our homes, neighborhoods, and the world!**

We are **BLESSED by every dollar given in the past and in the future for our building!** Look for our **end of the year building drive** in November and please **prayerfully consider how you can contribute** to the **EXCITING END of the debt** on our building project!





# NICSTO TAX CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

Did you know there is a **TAX CREDIT OPPORTUNITY for Iowa tax payers** who support Christian education? **Donations made to NICSTO** (Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Tuition Organization) receive an **Iowa tax credit equal to 65% of their donation**. There is NO LIMIT on your contribution amount! Plus, you might also be able to deduct 35% of the donation on your Federal tax return.

If you are 70½ or older, make your **IRA charitable rollover distribution more tax effective** by giving to NICSTO. Your IRA distribution does not count as taxable income plus you will receive the 65% Iowa tax credit.

**Gifts in kind of grain, stock, and bonds** may also be received.

*Please visit with your tax professional for advice on how to best enjoy the donation opportunities of NICSTO.*

**The Sioux Center Christian School contribution goal for 2019-20 is \$300,003.**

**More information** on NICSTO is available online at **siouxcenterchristian.com > Support SCCS > NICSTO**  
OR contact the school office at 712-722-0777 or [avanderberg@siouxcenterchristian.com](mailto:avanderberg@siouxcenterchristian.com).

***Donations are due by Dec. 3, but it is best to donate early before our contribution goal fills up!***

As of October 15, 2019, there is about \$200,000 still available toward our goal, but it can fill up quickly in November. If you intend to donate but won't know the amount until after Dec. 3, please contact us with your intention to donate.

**Your donation to NICSTO directly benefits Sioux Center Christian families.**

In the 2018-19 school year, 102 families received a total of \$279,300 to help cover the costs of tuition.

**THANK YOU to all who bless SCCS and our families through this opportunity!**

## Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Tuition Organization (NICSTO)

### CONTRIBUTION MEMO - 2019

#### SIoux CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

This completed memo must accompany your contribution. A formal Iowa Tax Credit Certificate will be sent to you in early January.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Taxpayer/C or S Corporation/LLC/Partnership Name      Date of Contribution

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address      Amount of Contribution

\_\_\_\_\_  
City      State      Zip Code

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Taxpayer I.D. No. (Social Security No.)      Did you contribute in 2018?    Yes    No

Please apply my contribution to the following school(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to: Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Tuition Organization.**

Your contribution may be mailed or delivered to either of the following addresses:

**Sioux Center Christian School | Attn: NICSTO | 630 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE | Sioux Center, IA 51250**

**Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Tuition Organization | 204 Kentucky Ave NW | Orange City, IA 51041**

## STORYLINE PARENT CONNECTION

MRS. JILL FRIEND, FAITH INTEGRATION SPECIALIST

Each month, I will be posting a **Storyline Parent Connection newsletter** online. This newsletter gives parents an overview of what students will be focusing on at school in connection to our Storyline, "Living Between the Trees." The newsletter also gives parents resources they can look into and share with their students, with the **goal of supporting faith formation in the home.**

If you would like to see the September and October newsletters, go to **siouxcenterchristian.com > Parent Center > God's Story at HOME** (or look for the *God's Story at Home* link on the home page).



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

MR. PAUL ROSS, BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings from the board of trustees! The first part of a school year is a great time to think about goals and plans for the rest of the year. As a result of a self-assessment process, the board of trustees has written the following goals for itself:

**Participate in topical and themed education opportunities.** At each board meeting, trustees learn about and discuss topics related to the future of Christian education. Trustees read articles and chapters, watch videos, and talk about what God might have in store for the future of SCCS. The current topics of conversation have revolved around increasing the diversity represented in our student body.

**Receive regular updates on the strategic plan, including measurements.** Each month, Dr. Bowar provides us with a measurement scorecard that is based on the strategic plan. The scorecard includes measurements related to board policy manual updates, Outlet 75 distributions, Tales and Trails income, information included in a 5-year budget projection, Legacy Plan income, the Foundation balance, number of teacher walkthroughs completed, percentage of curriculum maps completed, and number of planned improvements for grades 7-8 completed.

**Provide consistent communication with stakeholders.** The trustees have made it their goal to keep providing consistent communication with stakeholders, which will be done through The Bulletin Board, messages on Bloomz, email information, and other avenues.

**Be visible at school events.** Trustees love seeing the school in action. As a result, we will be having two trustee visit days at school, one in October and one in February. Trustees will visit the school while it is in session so that they can get a first-hand experience of the Christian education happening at SCCS. Trustees also plan to be visible at several other school events.



**Thank you for holding our trustees up in prayer as they make important decisions for the school. We appreciate your support!**

## CSI ACCREDITATION

DR. JOSH BOWAR, HEAD OF SCHOOL

**Sioux Center Christian School is a fully accredited school in the State of Iowa.** We have achieved this accreditation status through independent accreditation from Christian Schools International (CSI).

Being accredited means that we meet (and exceed) all state standards for schools as well as standards set forth by CSI. Accreditation also gives us access to busing, services from Northwest Area Education Agency, and other state and federal programs. It's a way to hold ourselves accountable to high standards of excellence in Christian education.

During the 2014-2015 school year, we worked through the process of becoming accredited through CSI, which lasts for 5 years.

**Several things have been implemented at school as a result of our accreditation process: strategic plan, mission-directed governance, curriculum mapping, Teaching for Transformation, and a faculty and staff evaluation system.**

It's now time to start the next round of accreditation this school year, and we have our **site visit April 2020**. We have started the process with stakeholder surveys, and we have been working in teams internally to assess ourselves against the accreditation standards. In December, we will be working on writing a school improvement plan based on the data we've gathered.

**We covet your prayers as we work through this very important process, and we look forward to what God has in store for us with the next accreditation plan!**

