CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2023

NECTION

www.siouxcenterchristian.com /// 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**





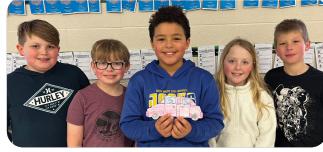




"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." Deuteronomy 6:6 & 7











FROM Dr. Josh Bowar

Greetings from Sioux Center Christian School!

It just showed up on my Twitter feed the other day. Apparently, spring is less than a month away! It's been a bit of a long-haul kind of winter, right?

Even though the landscape remains snowy and cold outside the SCCS building, things inside are definitely moving and shaking. We are in the middle of a deep time of learning at school, a time when we really see student growth and development, a time when things start to "click".



First graders are loving their **animals** unit. Students in PE have been enjoying **ice skating**. Third graders are demonstrating their artistic creativity through making butterflies. Fifth graders are having fun playing with **language** by learning about idioms. Eighth graders look forward to a **learning day** at the state capitol.

The love of learning is evident at our school, something for which I am very thankful. Students love learning, teachers love learning, and school leaders love seeing learning happening. We praise God for the ability to grow and learn, and we're so thankful we can do it at a Christian school that unapologetically holds fast to the **Reformed Christian perspective.**

We **continue to grow and learn as a school**, which you'll see through the articles in this issue of the SCCS Connection. From adding reading support for students with dyslexia to encouraging research in 3rd grade that connects multiple learning units to creating volcanoes that illustrate God's love, we continue to do our very best to be faithful to the calling God has given us.

Please **continue to pray for SCCS** – that we may be faithful to our mission, that we may keep a desire to learn, that we may effectively treasure and train God's kids so they may be transformed.

Thank you for your support of our efforts. Let's keep at it!

With you, Joshua F. Boware Head of School

From the Board of Trustees by Greg Van Dyke, president

At our January board meeting, trustees were excited to learn that **SCCS hit record enrollment** this spring semester. The enrollment of **527 students** means that a record number of students are experiencing the SCCS mission of being treasured, trained, and transformed for God's glory! The amazing teachers, staff, and administration at SCCS walk alongside every student as they learn about who God created them to be. The trustees had the privilege of seeing that transformation in action during our bi-annual trustee visit day, which is when we have the opportunity to visit the school to see it in action. We invite parents into that experience as well during Parent Visit Days.

The board continues to work closely with the **IGNITE building campaign** and appreciates the **generous support** from the SCCS society. Paul Ross and Josh Bowar continue to meet with supporters in order to reach the milestone of \$9M before breaking ground on the Blazer Center. The school has currently raised just over \$6M, and we ask that you prayerfully consider a gift or commitment towards the IGNITE campaign. The board made the decision to break out the kitchen portion of the project because of the immediate need for improvements – if you ever help with dishes, you know what I mean! Construction will start on this phase this spring, with the hope of finishing before school starts in August.

The board has focused much of its time on the Students First Act, which was signed into law in January and provides an Education Savings Account (ESA) for students. This bill provides great opportunity for families across lowa. **Great opportunity also comes with a great responsibility** and the board has dedicated prayer and discussion to this topic. Please read the enclosed ESA FAQ document that will provide answers and guidance as we move forward. It is good to keep in mind that we do not have all the details of this program from the state, and we will keep the society updated as we learn more.

The board appreciates your prayers and support for the school as we continue to boldy live out the mission of SCCS!

TK & Kindergarten Round Up

Do you know a child who is ready to start school this fall? It is Round Up time at Sioux Center Christian School, and we are excited to share how your child will learn and live God's Story at our school!

Did you know that **ALL incoming kindergarten students qualify to receive state funding** that will help cover 90% of their tuition cost at Sioux Center Christian School? Learn more about **Education Savings Accounts** at our Parent Meetings (and also read the enclosed ESA FAQ).

TK/K Parent Information Meetings:

Thursday, March 2 (12pm-1pm OR 6pm-7pm)

Sneak Peek for Preschoolers:

Friday, March 10 OR Friday, March 17 from 9:30-10:30am

Round Up

Thursday, March 30 & Friday, March 31. Register now for your child's session!



LEARN MORE & REGISTER

siouxcenterchristian.com > Connect With Us >TK/K Round Up

4Care at SCCS



Do you have a child who will attend preschool next year? 4Care is an opportunity for children who attend half-day preschool to enjoy **hands-on**, **child-led**, **play-based learning** at SCCS on the half-day they are not in preschool.

Students may enroll in a morning or afternoon session, plus we offer a full-day Friday 4Care option.

LEARN MORE

and RESERVE your child's place in 4Care!

siouxcenterchristian.com > Student Life > Extended Care Services > TK/K Round Up



Tales & Trails Summer Camp

We offer a **fun**, **educational**, **Christ-centered summer experience for children who are 5-11 years old!** Tales and Trails offers exciting weekly camp themes that encourage students to learn about the wonder of God's creation through a variety of hands-on, fun activities, indoors and outside.

Tales and Trails runs for 9 weeks and offers morning, afternoon, and full-day sessions and is available to all children of our community.

siouxcenterchristian.com > Student Life > Extended Care Services > Tales & Trails Summer Camp



In Memory of God's Faithful Servants

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

Margie Vanden Toorn – Building Fund Martha Goslinga – Building Fund Daryl Vander Kooi - Foundation

We are also grateful for saints in the Lord, **Sharon Snieder** and **Daryl Vander Kooi**, who are **blessing students for generations to come** through their estate gifts to the Building Fund.

for honoring these lifelong servants of the King with gifts that bless our treasured students!

Stories from the Hallways

...sharing how our students are connecting every learning experience to God's Story through our amazing teachers!

4Care kids had the opportunity to explore and learn about **God's marvelous** creation of the stars, the skies, and space through hands-on activities that included digging for stars, making edible constellations, and climbing in a star air tent.

#orderdiscoverers #creationenjoyers 4Care Specialist: Mrs. Tara Dekkers

While learning the letter "J", TK students filled jars with fluffy "snowballs", studied jellyfish and jaguars, and dug through frozen ice cups to discover jewels. They were reminded that THEY are jewels and special

treasures whom God loves (and we love and treasure them, too!).

#imagereflectors

Teacher: Mrs. Rebecca Vander Werf

Kindergarteners are growing deeper in their "Learn to Love" storyline. Creating heartshaped volcanoes to represent God's overflowing love, they

were challenged to think about how deep, wide, and unstoppable God's love really is. They also practice loving each other each day with words and actions because they know learning to love takes practice.

#truthfinders

Teachers: Mrs. Beth Bleeker,

First graders enjoy having live fish in their classrooms as they learn how our creator God is a God of order. He created sun and water before

> plants so they could grow and thrive. Before creating animals, He created food and habitats for them. And everything He created on the earth was in preparation for His people, His image bearers, to live here.

> #truthfinders #orderdiscoverers Teachers: Mrs. Abigail Van Beek, Ms. Marcy Holwerda, Mrs. Emily Penner

Mrs. Megan Haan, Mrs. Tammy Nieuwsma

Third grade students conducted research on assigned topics about **Egypt.** They designed posters to help them present their Egyptian findings to their class.

This research helped them better understand their Bible unit on the Israelites in Egypt, while also connecting their social studies unit on Egypt with their informational writing unit.

#orderdiscoverers #communitybuilders Teachers: Mrs. Anna Bootsma, Mrs. Ellen Korver, Mrs. Andrea Wieringa

Solids, liquids, and gasses.

Our second grade students learned how it all "matters" as they observed and recorded their observations about these various properties in everyday things.

#orderdiscoverers

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



The fish weren't really biting, but that didn't deter our fourth graders from having a great time at their field experience at Sandy Hollow. Students donned snowshoes and learned snowshoeing is hard work in thick snow! They loved learning how to ice fish and enjoyed spending time outside in God's creation.

#creationenjoyers

Teachers: Mrs. Abby Finley, Mrs. Kristi Vander Kooi, Mrs. Megan Winter

Sixth grade students invited our **Stepping Stones preschool** friends to join them on our amazing sledding hill on the south side of school.

With the thick snow this year, the sledding hill has been a popular recess activity and the "big kids" had fun sledding with their little partners and helping them climb back up the hill!

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

In writing class, eighth graders wrote and illustrated their own fictional stories and then shared them with TK and 4th grade students. Knowing they would be sharing their work with younger students helped them

write with their audience in mind, making sure the plot, climax, and resolution was clear and exciting!

#beautymakers #communitybuilders

Teachers:

Mrs. Samantha De Weerd Mr. Phil Postma Mrs. Angela Veenstra

The fifth graders completed their study of the muscular system by creating a P.E. lesson that applied factors of physical fitness they had learned about. They shared their lessons with our first and second graders. Students were shining for God as they used their bodies to glorify Him in their physical fitness activities.

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



To illustrate our February throughline (discipleship characteristic) **Beauty Maker,** seventh graders worked with their 2nd and 3rd grade Connection partners to create small sections of a Gees Bend quilt mural, that when put all together, created a famous art piece. All grade levels worked with their partners

to create different murals. They learned they could create something of beauty individually, but it was even more beautiful and complete when combined with the work of others.

> #beautymakers #communitybuilders Teachers: Mrs. Teresa Taylor, Mr. Dan Tinklenberg, Ms. Annetta de Jona

Stories from the Hallways, continued

On Jan. 27 & 28, our **7th and 8th graders** gave a matinee performance for our students and two amazing evening performances of their musical, Disney's **Newsies JR.**

Congratulations, students! You "seized the day" by working hard, having fun, and giving glory to God with your incredible talents while bringing joy and delight to everyone who attended!

#beautymakers #imagereflectors

Production Team: Mrs. Eileen Buiter, Ms. Kirsten Buiter, Ms. Brianna Miedema, Mrs. Mel Knobloch, Mr. Matthew Moget, Mrs. Miriam Buss, Mrs. Sarah Stoub

Thanks to a fine arts grant, our students were able to enjoy Omaha Street Percussion in early February. The percussion group held fun, energetic assemblies for TK-3rd grades and 4th-8th grades, creating music with recycled materials and inviting the students to join in with the music. 8th graders enjoyed a workshop the group gave on creating rhythms with bucket drums.

#beautymakers

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

We have received \$994,255 in Legacy gifts from sixteen participating churches, with the total amount pledged for 2022-23

being \$1,252,425.

We are 58% of the way through our fiscal year and have received 79% of the gifts pledged. **THANK YOU for all you do to impact God's kids for life!**

Congratulations to the **twenty-three 6th-8th grade orchestra students** (a record number!) who were selected to be a part of the 2023 NW Iowa Middle School Honor Orchestra!

On Thursday, January 26, they went to Northwestern College for an all-day event that culminated with a concert.

#beautymakers #Godworshipers

Director: Mrs. Jill Friend



We had a great basketball season with 19 girls and 33 boys representing the Trailblazers as part of our **7th and 8th grade basketball teams.** We are thankful for eager students and willing coaches, all working together to strengthen skills, develop a team mindset, and honor God with their athletic abilities.

#communitybuilders #imagereflectors

Girls coaches: Marina Keck (7th) Courtney Ellis (8th) Boys coaches: Luke Vander Horst (7th) Seth Swedorski (7th) James Rylaarsdam (8th) Ross Faber (8th)



7th grade girls team



8th grade girls team



7th grade boys team



8th grade boys team

The Lord has greatly blessed the work of our managers and volunteers at **Outlet 75!** From October through December sales, they were able to write a \$40,000 check to SCCS! This brings the **total contributions** for 2022 to \$92,000!

THANK YOU to all who volunteer and shop!

SCCS News At a Glance

As we continue to ignite opportunities for students to learn and thrive, next school year we will be adding **dyslexia** screening and support to our already robust reading services. Mrs. Beth

Bleeker will transition from Kindergarten
Teacher to Reading Specialist, in partnership with
Thrive Learning Center to expand our services to
include dyslexia screening, Wilson interventions, and
faculty and parent support. Students will be able to
receive their reading services at SCCS during the day
instead of tutoring after school. Plus, diagnosis can
take place in Sioux Center instead of kids being sent to

Pray these expanded efforts will be blessed!

We are excited to report that we reached our end-of-year milestone of \$6 million in gifts and commitments to help build the Blazer Center campus expansion and IGNITE our Vision for God's kids at SCCS!

costly other specialists.



Thanks to all who have given and committed to move this project forward! The Blazer Center campus expansion project adds a multi-purpose performance, athletic, and gathering space, plus ten new classrooms and several flexible learning spaces, and includes our kitchen renovation at an estimated total cost of \$14.7 million. These spaces are designed to train and impact the lives of God's kids for generations to come!

Our hope is to reach the **next milestone of \$9 million** by fall. We are so blessed to be in a community of generous believers who love Christian education and share our vision to treasure and train God's kids so they may be transformed! As we gradually connect with all

our supporters, we ask that you **begin**

to pray about how you can be a part of moving the plans for God's treasured kids forward.

<< We've been holding leadership briefings with supporters and school leaders in the homes of our trustees. Our hope is to eventually meet with everyone! We are one of 37 lowa schools to be awarded a STEM BEST® (Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers) + HD (High Demand) Grant from

the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council. The **\$40,000**

grant will help build and equip the science lab in the Blazer Center addition. Interstates will partner with us to provide industry insight in the creation of the lab and partner with teachers to design curriculum that teaches STEM future-ready skills through real-world experiences.

We praise God for this gift!

SCCS Calendar

Our calendar is also at www.siouxcenterchristian.com

Monday, Mar 13: Spring Instrumental Concert 6:30pm at BJ Haan Auditorium, featuring our 5th-8th grade band and 3rd-8th grade orchestra

Monday-Friday, Mar 20-24: Spring Break No school

Thursday, Mar 30: Society Meeting 7pm at SCCS

Monday, Apr 3: Spring Choral Concert

7:00pm at Centerpoint Church, featuring 5th-8th choirs

Friday, Apr 7: Good Friday No school

Friday, Apr 14: Grandparent/Special Friend Day

Saturday, Apr 15: Trail'Raiser Trek Fundraiser event

Wednesday, May 17: Trailblazer Track Meet

Thursday, May 18: Instrumental Pops concerts

Monday, May 22: Storyline Celebration at Dordt

Wednesday, May 24: 8th grade Graduation

and last day of school

Follow us on Facebook and check out our weekly
Home Bulletin, posted by Wednesday afternoons at
siouxcenterchristian.com > Connect With Us > SCCS News

TRIP Office will be open normal hours during spring break (Mar 20-24)!

OPEN 8am-1pm Mon-Friday

Follow TRIP on Facebook! Phone: 712.722.4663

Trail'Raiser Trek Fundraising Event

The first Trail'Raiser Night fundraising event was held on April 11, 2015. Maybe you were there and remember walking through our new addition that was still under construction? Over 1,000 attendees enjoyed walking through the future music rooms, TK-2nd classrooms, and office area. Plus, the gym filled to the brim for our first ever game show, the Family Feud. The event raised \$110,000 for the new addition, and an annual tradition was born!

We have had a total of eight Trail'Raiser Nights, alternating between auctions and game shows and raised a total of \$1.14 million through them!

THANK YOU to all who attended and gave towards those events!

Now approaching our **9th Trail'Raiser event**, we are ready to try something a little different to help build the Blazer Center campus expansion. Our event this year is planned for Saturday, April 15, and will be a come and go event running from 9am - noon.

We are renaming the event to **Trail'Raiser Trek** and attendees will **walk a one-mile course** near school and through school - the more people who show up to walk, the more money we raise! (Note: there will be a shorter route option plus the opportunity to be a "virtual trekker" if you are unable to attend).

Before the event, businesses, supporters, parents and grandparents will have the opportunity to pledge a \$.05 to \$10 gift for every person who comes to the event. If we reach our goal of \$150 sponsored for each attendee and we have 1,000 attendees – that raises \$150,000! If 1,250 people attend, \$187,500 is raised.

Walkers will enjoy a freewill Blazer Brunch and we are continuing our famous Gourmet cupcakes, bars, snack mixes, Truth t-shirt, adding an event t-shirt, plus some fun new things!

Over the next five years, we hope to work together through this fun annual event to help build areas in the Blazer Center that have to do with walking.

Trail'Raiser Trek 2023	Trail'Raiser Trek 2024	Trek Trail'Raiser Trek Trail'Raiser Trek 2025 2026		Trail'Raiser Trek 2027	
Build east half of gym floor	Build west half of gym floor	Build raised seating feature in lobby and access ramp	Build the stage area	Build the paved approach to the Blazer Center entrance	
Goal: \$200,000	Goal: \$200,000	Goal: \$200,000	Goal: \$200,000	Goal: \$200,000	
The gym floor will be the foundation for many feet to worship, gather, run, jump, & perform!	The gym floor will be the foundation for many feet to worship, gather, run, jump, & perform!	These features in the lobby provide access for all students and a place where students will gather.	The stage is where students will walk to perform, worship, and they will walk across to graduate.	The cement is the foundation for student feet to walk into our school and walk out as God's agents in the world!	

Watch for more details coming in March!

SAVE the morning of SATURDAY, APRIL 15 for our first Trail'Raiser Trek!





amily Feuc











Education Savings Account Frequently Asked Questions

Updated February 2023

On January 24, 2023, Governor Kim Reynolds signed the Students First Act into law, effectively creating an Education Savings Account (ESA) for all lowa families within the next 3 years. Over the past several weeks, there have been both feelings of excitement and curiosity. The board of trustees and school leadership have been wrestling with several questions that have arisen about the impact ESAs will have on families, on SCCS, on churches, on donors, and on communities.

Our desire is to implement ESAs at SCCS with discernment—in ways that align with our mission and Reformed Christian perspective. As we worked through decisions, our intent was to be careful, wise, and measured as we considered any changes made to our funding and partnerships with families and churches. Please continue to pray for SCCS as we steward what has already been entrusted to us and what will be entrusted to us as parents become recipients of ESAs. We are viewing ESAs as a huge blessing for parents both across lowa and locally! We want to steward that blessing well. The board of trustees and school leaders are deeply committed to continuing a robust Reformed Christian perspective at SCCS. That is our priority. We remain unapologetic regarding our mission statement, core values, statement of faith, and policies. We look forward to seeing what God does through ESAs!

If you have further questions, please reach out to Josh Bowar at jbowar@siouxcenterchristian.com. We have also created a document with further details. If you would like a copy of that document, please email **sccsoffice@siouxcenterchristian.com**.

Who is eligible for an ESA? When does it begin?

The program begins for the 2023-2024 school year, with per pupil funding being **\$7,635 per student**. Funds are deposited into an Education Savings Account each year until students graduate or complete high school or turn 20 (the money cannot be used for college). Applications will be due yearly by June 30.

Eligibility Chart:

YEAR 1 (2023-2024)	YEAR 2 (2024-2025)	YEAR 3 (2025-2026) & forward	
All kindergarten students	 All kindergarten students 	 All K-12 students in lowa, 	
 All students transferring from public school or homeschool 	 All students transferring from public school or homeschool 	regardless of income	
 Christian school students at or below 300% of the federal poverty level 	 Christian school students at or below 400% of the federal poverty level 		

What can ESA funding be used for?

There is a list of eligible uses for ESA funds, but tuition and fees at a nonpublic school is at the top of the list, and it is a requirement of the bill that the funds must **first be used for tuition and fees** before any other qualified educational expense.

Are there "strings attached" to the ESA funding? What if the ESA goes away?

ESA dollars go directly to parents, who then choose where to spend those dollars. Our school is not the recipient of state funds – parents are. The bill also specifically outlines religious protections.

In the unlikely event that ESA funding is repealed, the school has plans to increase the cash reserve account and desires to continue the Legacy Plan structure to help families adjust. Across the country, no school choice program that has been implemented and had students enroll in it has ever been repealed by a state legislature.

Will anything change with the school's enrollment policy? Do you expect more students?

We will keep our current enrollment processes and requirements which have been in place for decades and are designed to help everyone understand what is important at SCCS.

We want to continue to be accessible to families who desire a Christian education for their children and who meet all admissions requirements. We are also committed to keeping class sizes at a reasonable level. We are prepared to create new classroom spaces and hire additional teachers and support staff as needed to keep class sizes to the level that we believe makes SCCS distinct and that is most beneficial for student learning. The fact is that we simply don't know how enrollment will be affected but believe we have the collective wisdom and foundational strength to adapt to what happens.

Will tuition costs greatly increase? Will the ESA amount go up each year?

The board does not plan to greatly increase tuition because ESA funds are available to parents. Much like everything else in today's world, tuition increases each year because the school's expenses increase each year, and we want to continue providing yearly pay increases to faculty and staff and increased programming for students. The board plans to continue tuition increases in much the same manner as have happened in previous years. Also note that funding provided through an ESA grows each year and will be identical to however the state chooses to increase the public school funding.

What will happen with the Legacy Plan?

The Legacy Plan has been a feature of the relationship between Sioux Center Christian School and area churches for more than 70 years. The board and school leadership have been in conversation with churches and pastors and have received feedback that they are supportive of and thankful for the Legacy Plan and want it to continue and remain strong; they believe that it is important for families to also contribute toward the cost of Christian education; and they advised as little change as possible as we "ease in" to a new opportunity with ESAs.

Based on the feedback received, the Legacy Team is moving forward with this plan:

Years 1 and 2 for those NOT Receiving an ESA		Years 1 and 2 for those Receiving an ESA		Year 3 and Moving Forward for All (All Qualify for an ESA)
•	Continue the Legacy Plan "as is", with no	Churches decide a per-student	•	Churches decide a per-student
	adjustments made	contribution with a cap of 36% of		contribution with a cap of 36% of the
•	Churches decide a per-student contribution	the gap between the ESA amount		gap between the ESA amount and the
	with a cap of 36% of the full cost of tuition	and the full cost of tuition		full cost of tuition

What will happen with NICSTO, SCCS tuition grants, multi-child discount, and alternate revenue?

NICSTO will remain in place and grants will still be based on income eligibility. **SCCS tuition grants** are not solely based on income and will continue to assist any family with needs. The **multi-child discount** will continue for the 2023-24 school year for all students. The board does have plans to phase out the multi-child discount within the next two years.

Our **alternate revenue activities** (Outlet 75, Aftercare, Kindercare, 4Care, and Tales and Trails) **will continue**.

How does this legislation impact the public school?

With this program, only the state tax dollars follow the child should a child transfer from a public school to a Christian school. The public school will retain the local and federal funding they receive. Also, the bill directs that public schools will receive \$1,200 annually in state funds for every child who receives an ESA in their district. Once fully implemented, our local public school will receive approximately \$750,000 in new funding (considering SCCS, Unity, and Western students). Because of the \$1,200/student allocation with the ESA bill, the Sioux Center School District would need to lose almost 120 students for their funding levels to decrease. It is likely that their funding levels will actually increase.

How will the school's development efforts be adjusted?

The board is hopeful that the infusion of ESA dollars into our families and local economy will further encourage generous giving toward the next steps SCCS hopes to take to provide the best possible Christian education for its students.

We believe it is important for the SCCS strong culture of generous giving to continue. Tuition – no matter how it is paid – has always funded the day-to-day student experience. Development efforts propel the school forward into the next steps of the plan God has for us – beyond the day-to-day operations. We plan to continue to use the gifts provided to SCCS to advance God's Kingdom.

We believe that everything belongs to God – WE belong to God! Money that comes to us through wages or business profits or investment earnings or inheritance or the government also belongs to God. We are at the beginning of something that has never existed in the 118 years since our doors opened. Let's **join together in fervent prayer**, asking our God of all wisdom to **give us**wisdom as we set standards and practices for how this will bless the training of God's kids for generations to come!

May we be found faithful!



SIOUX CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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