SIOUX CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2022

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.











"Give thanks to the LORD. for He is good; His love endures forever. Let the REDEEMED of the LORD tell their story..." Psalm 107:1-2a







FROM Dr. B.

Greetings, SCCS supporters! We think of our newsletters as a window into our school - a way for you to get a glimpse of the amazing Christ-centered training that takes place here every day. Thank you for taking the time to read this and "peek in"!

I want to share with you a core principle that drives how we live out our mission every day at SCCS:

> We believe all students at school are disciples of Christ - right NOW! And it's our calling to help them first identify as a disciple of Christ and then practice living out that identity.

Students have value because they were made in God's image. Because they were made in God's image and are His children, they are His disciples. Whether they are a

1st grader, a 4th grader, or an 8th grader, they are a disciple of Christ. Yes, we are preparing students for the future, but we are also focused on the NOW. What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ as a 6-year-old, and how do we help students start to develop this way of seeing the world?

Our faculty and staff view students in this way, as fellow disciples of Christ. It's then the role of the Christian school to help students practice what it means to be a disciple. Kids have lots of practice today: basketball practice, play practice, piano practice, and more. If we are to truly train students to live a life of discipleship and to have a biblical worldview, we need to give them practice doing that – right now – under the direction of fellow disciples (their teachers).

Every SCCS classroom must provide authentic (real work, real people, real needs) opportunities for students to practice living the Kingdom Story. This practice then becomes a habit, with habits shaping who we are and what we do.

Nicholas Wolterstorff says it like this: "It is nothing but a pious wish and a grossly unwarranted hope that students trained to be passive and non-creative in school will suddenly, upon graduation, actively contribute to the formation of Christian culture." I like how Mark Twain puts it: "A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something that he can learn no other way." Students must be given the opportunity to do God's work NOW - to be active and creative in God's Story.

> Meaningful work creates a sense of purpose in their lives, and this practice draws students more powerfully to God's Story.

Research and experience suggest that formational learning best emerges from experiences that get at our gut and touch our heart.

That's what we're seeking to do at SCCS – provide these meaningful experiences that touch student hearts and that get students practicing what it means to be a disciple, both as a way of living out their calling now as a disciple and so that they have a firm foundation for life.

Head of School

This is hard work, but it's so meaningful and so important. And it's what we believe we've been called to do. Thank you for partnering with us in this mission!

With you, Toshua F. Bowar

LIVING GOD'S STORY THEIR STORY

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!

A child must be 5 years old by Sept. 15, 2022 to enroll in either TK or Kindergarten.

PARENT INFO MEETING

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

CHOOSE your TIME:

12:30 - 1:30pm

(at this time you will be able to see our school in action!)

6:30 - 7:30pm

Please join us for a brief presentation and an opportunity to tour the school and see the classrooms.

We are eager to meet you and answer your questions!

Come to our north main entrance. We will greet you and direct you where to go.

ROUND UP

Thursday & Friday March 24 & 25, 2022

Round Up is a time devoted to getting to know your child through group learning activities and play-based centers. Round Up will be a fun, interactive experience for your child!

Thursday Sessions

8:15am - 10:15am

10:15am - 12:15pm

12:45pm - 2:45pm

Friday Sessions 8:15am - 10:15am

10:15am - 12:15pm

RESERVE your child's Round Up session: www.siouxcenterchristian.com > Admissions > Round Up Registration

SNEAK PEEK for Preschoolers

CHOOSE A FRIDAY:

March 4 March 11

9:30-10:30am

Preschoolers and their parents are invited to come and experience a sneak peek of SCCS! Enjoy a time of activities and play that includes whole-group story time.

FREE! Choose a session at:

www.siouxcenterchristian.com > Admissions > Sneak Peek



We're

EXCITED to meet our

FUTURE TRAILBLAZERS!

4Care at SCCS

4Care is a great place for your child to enjoy **hands-on**, **child-led**, **play-based learning** at SCCS when preschool is not in session.

To enroll in 4Care at SCCS for the 22-23 school year, a child must be 4 yrs old by Sept. 15, 2022 and enrolled in a preschool.

LEARN MORE and **RESERVE** your child's place:

www.siouxcenterchristian.com > Admissions > 4Care for Preschoolers

Tales and Trails Summer Camp

It's time to think about summer and childcare options for your kids.

Tales and Trails Summer Camp at SCCS is an educational and FUN summer supervision option for kids! With exciting weekly themes, such as Sensational Science, Amazing Art, and Space Camp, Tales and Trails offers nine weeks of active and engaging experiences. Half-day and full-day options are available,

and parents can choose the weeks their child will attend.

Let your friends and neighbors know about this Christ-centered summer experience for kids ages 5-11!

LEARN MORE and **REGISTER**:

www.siouxcenterchristian.com > Parent Center > Tales and Trails Summer Camp Printed forms are by the TRIP office.





Stories from the Hallways



7th graders used various methods to form **clay** coil vessels in art class and then celebrated their finished projects by filling them with hot chocolate and enjoying!

#beautymakers



As part of Trailblazer Days, 6th graders took time to connect with their 1st grade friends to read their favorite "younger days" books together!

#communitybuilders

5th graders are studying genes and traits in science class. To demonstrate their understanding of dominant and recessive traits, they created "potato babies." They had fun constructing and adding in traits their potato parents passed down.

#orderdiscoverers

4th graders enjoyed an ice fishing field trip to Sandy Hollow. Their storyline, Fully Rely on God, was put to practice as one student stated, "Patience is important when you ice fish." Another student quipped, "I think we would have caught more fish if we were quieter."

#creationenjoyers

2nd graders lived out their storyline "See and Bee Seen" by writing thank you notes to encourage many of the faculty and staff members at Sioux Center Christian and reading them in person.

#Wordappliers #servantworkers

3rd graders have been studying balanced and imbalanced forces in science, as well as the different types of forces. They conducted experiments by creating various models and structures to test magnetic

#orderdiscoverers

fields.

On **Decades Day**, clothing from several decades made a comeback, and kids loved browsing tables of SCCS history!

#communitybuilders





1st graders celebrated the 100th day of school on February 4!

They read 100-day books, wrote about what they would do if they had \$100, did 100 exercises, and explored and played with centers that had 100 objects.

#orderdiscoverers

TK students enjoyed the wonder of God's creation of "winter" by designing paper snowflakes, reading books about winter, and playing in an Arctic-themed sensory bin.







Mrs. Rebecca Vander Werf and her TK students were surprised with a visit by friends from Sioux Center Pella Corporation, who presented her with a \$500 big check as the January Pella Staff Member of the Month recipient. The

nomination stated, "Mrs. Vander Werf makes every child feel special, appreicated, and unique. She is able to captivate all of the student's hearts and minds while ensuring each lesson points to Jesus and furthering His Kingdom." The award will be used to impact learning in the TK classroom! #imagereflector #servantworker

Our faculty was blessed to connect with author Dr. Roger Erdvig (Beyond Biblical Integration) via Zoom during their professional development days on Feb. 17 and 18. Teachers spent time deepening their teaching practices and working together on curriculum.

#imagereflectors

Kindergarteners
learned about
solids, liquids,
and gases
through handson experiments.
Students were
asked to think about
why God created
three different states of

three different states of matter. Their learning reflected both an understanding of the states of matter and

beautiful connections to the wonderful work of our Creator!

#orderdiscoverers #creationenjoyers

Our **4Care** kids spend part of their day with us while they are not in preschool. One of the defining characteristics of 4Care is **learning through play!**

and Control of the Co

#orderdiscoverers #communitybuilders

Parent Visit Days are an important part of our desire to partner with parents in the education of their children. Parents come for a couple hours to experience what's happening in the classroom and enjoy lunch together! Students love this opportunity to share their "school world" - what they

world" - what they learn and how they work in community with their classmates! #communitybuilders

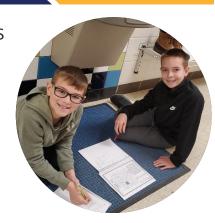


SCCS Legacy Plan Report

The SCCS Legacy Plan is the means by which churches financially support their SCCS students and the daily mission of Sioux Center Christian School.

The total Legacy Commitments for 2021-22 from fifteen churches is \$1,134,500. We are 50% of the way through our fiscal year, and we are **blessed to report that** Legacy giving is at 64% with \$729,559 given since August 1, 2021!

God's faithfulness through His people, from generation to generation, has kept and will continue to keep this biblically Reformed education thriving! THANK YOU for being THIS generation of faithful givers who invest earthly treasure into the lives of God's kids, so that it can be transformed to eternal treasure!





RECEIVE 75% BACK AS AN IOWA TAX CREDIT

LEARN MORE about giving to NICSTO: www.siouxcenterchristian.com > Support SCCS > NICSTO
Forms are available at the school office.

GIVE, then Receive 75% of your Donation BACK

Are you writing a check to lowa for income tax owed for 2021? Make sure that doesn't happen for 2022 by giving to NICSTO!

When you give a donation to NICSTO (an Iowa School 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 tax next April?

We are so grateful that 232 students (45% of our students) received a total of \$304,000 in tuition grants for this 21-22 school year!

For 2022, our **goal has been increased to \$406,189!** NICSTO is our main source for tuition grants given to students who qualify for financial assistance for their education at SCCS!

You may donate cash, appreciated stock, and gifts from an IRA.

Outlet 75 Benefits our Kids!

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

outlet-75
NEW CLOTHING, SHOES, FURNITURE & HOME DECOR

Outlet 75 is an alternate revenue source that recently granted \$18,000 to SCCS, for a total of \$62,000 for 2021!

More volunteers are always welcome. Shifts are 2 or 2.5 hours and you will work in a fun, clean environment, getting to know other volunteers and shoppers.

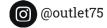
Want to help Outlet 75 continue to thrive in support our treasured kids? CONNECT WITH US! (Contact Janey: 712.449.8106 or info@shopoutlet75.com)

STORE HOURS: Wednesdays 11am - 8pm // Thursdays 11am - 3pm One Saturday per month 10am - 1pm





www.shopoutlet75.com







1 mile south of Sioux Center on Hwy 75

SCCS Calendar

Our calendar is also at www.siouxcenterchristian.com

Tuesday, Mar 1: Round Up Parent Info Meetings, 12:30pm OR 6:30pm

Wednesday, Mar 9: IGNITE the Vision Briefing at 7:00pm

Thursday, Mar 10: 3rd - 8th Instrumental Concert at 7:00pm at the BJ Haan Auditorium

Tues & Wed, Mar 15-16: Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, Mar 18: No school

Tuesday, Mar 22: IGNITE the Vision Briefing at 6:30pm

Tuesday, Mar 29: SCCS Society Meeting at **7:00pm** in the school gym

Thursday, April 7: 2nd-4th grades Folk Song Celebration

Friday, April 8: Grandparents & Special Friends Day, 11:30 dismissal

Saturday, April 9: Trail'Raiser Night and Celebration of Learning

Wed, April 13 (1:05) - Tues, April 19: Easter break

STAY IN THE LOOP by checking our **Home Bulletin** weekly (updated on Wednesday afternoons): www.siouxcenterchristian.com > Parent Center > Newsletters

Position Opportunities

We have position opportunities available at Sioux Center Christian School for the 2022-23 school year!

- PE Teacher and Director of Athletics (full-time)
- 7-8 Reading Teacher (full-time)
- 4Care Specialist (full-time)
- Line Clerk/Prep Cook (part-time)
- Paraprofessional (part- or full-time -immediate and future positions available)
- Summer Cleaning Crew (age 15 or older)

MORE DETAILS and APPLICATION PACKAGES:

www.siouxcenterchristian.com > About SCCS > Employment

SUBSTITUTES ARE NEEDED

for teachers and paras at all grade levels, kitchen crew and, at times, a nurse. Interested? email sccsoffice@siouxcenterchristian.com

Qualifications for being a sub include a love of children, the ability to follow teacher lesson plans, flexibility, and a commitment to Christian education. We invite you to join us!

SAVE the DATES!

Grandparent and Special Friends Day is Friday, April 8!

Students will be sending invitations in March, but we want to ensure it's on your calendar! You are welcome to come at 8:30am and school will dismiss at

11:30am. We look forward to seeing you!

Trail'Raiser Night and the Celebration of Learning is Saturday, April 9!

Over the last seven years, Trail'Raiser Night raised over \$1 million to help fund our 2015 building expansion! The 8th annual Trail'Raiser Night will raise funds for the science lab/classroom of the proposed campus expansion project.

The Family Feud Game Show is coming back from our very first Trail'Raiser Night in 2015!. Watch for details on how to form your own Family Feud team!

Trail'Raiser Night 2022 will include the Celebration of Learning Open House, Freewill Supper, *Best of Sioux County* Buy It Now tables, plus Cupcakes, Bars, and Snack Mixes.

In March, watch for the opportunity to order the Prayer Pen kid craft, Truth t-shirts, and a Special Edition Trailblazer t-shirt (ready to pick up April 9).

In Memory of God's Faithful Servants

With gratitude to God, we thank those who gave gifts in memory of **Goldie Colenbrander** (who lived as God's faithful servant for 106 years!) to the SCCS Building Fund.

We are also grateful for **Henrietta Ribbens**, a saint in the Lord whose estate gifts to the SCCS Building Fund will bless students for generations to come.





TK - 4th Grade Choral Concert

On Thursday, February 10, our **TK** - **4th graders gave a choral concert** at the BJ Haan Auditorium, which was filled to the brim with families and friends. Our TK and Kindergarten students first sang about God's love for us and others, even leading the audience in spelling L-O-V-E with their arms!

Then students in grades 1-4 took us on a folk song world tour, sharing songs from twelve countries, from Ireland to South Africa and back home to the United States.

Thank you for sharing God's love and reminding us of His amazing world!

Watch the recording at www.siouxcenterchristian.com > Student Life > Music



Music Honors and Notables

On Thursday, January 27, seventeen of our 6th - 8th grade orchestra students were chosen to participate in the Northwest Iowa Honor Orchestra at Northwestern College in Orange City. The students spent the day practicing for a late afternoon performance and had a great opportunity to grow as musicians under a fantastic conductor, Dr. Luis Visquez.



On Saturday, January 29, several of our students recited the Pledge of Allegiance at Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra's patriotic winter pops concert, A History of a Nation.



Mr. Brandon Haan Hired as Principal



We are pleased to announce that **Brandon Haan has been hired to join the school leadership team as principal**, effective July 1, 2022. Brandon has served as a middle school teacher at both Sioux Falls Christian School and Central Minnesota Christian School, as a coach, and, most recently, as the athletic director and K-12 principal at Central Minnesota Christian School. He is a Unity Christian High School graduate and holds a BA degree in elementary education from Dordt University and an MA degree in educational leadership from the University of Sioux Falls.

Brandon will partner closely with Josh Bowar, head of school, and will be continuing the work that has been done by Lisa Mouw, who has held the position of director of learning (the position will now be named principal), as Lisa will be teaching in the education department at Dordt University in the fall.

"I am incredibly grateful and excited to serve the students, teachers, staff, and the entire Sioux Center Christian School community. God has been so faithful to SCCS throughout the generations, and we know and trust He will continue to be in the future," says Haan. "I can't wait to dive in, to partner with Dr. Bowar and the school's amazing people, and to continue to strive for excellence as we live God's Story."

Brandon will be moving to Sioux Center with his wife Jill and their daughters – Makenna, Jacy, and Addison – this summer. Please join us in praying for the entire family in the months ahead!

\$25,000 Grant from Pella Corp.

Our school was blessed to be the recipient of a \$25,000 grant given by the Pella Rolscreen Foundation in support of the construction of our proposed multipurpose gym/chapel/performance space and classroom addition.

Denny Van Zanten, Pella's Sioux Center Plant Manager, and Judy Delperdang came to school in January to present the grant to Josh Bowar and Amy Vander Berg.

We are grateful the Pella Rolscreen Foundation has chosen to support our next campus expansion with this generous grant! We truly appreciate the community spirit of the Sioux Center Pella Corp team. They also sponsor the Staff Member of the Month Award, in which they honor Sioux Center teachers who go above and beyond, plus they contribute to the Classroom to Career program. Thank you, Pella team!



5th-8th Grades Enjoy Minimesters

On Tuesday and Wednesday, February 15 & 16, our 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and teachers took a break from their usual schedule to enjoy what we call "minimesters".

What are minimesters? Minimesters are a two-day opportunity for our students to step out of the daily schedule and learn life skills and interests taught by our teachers and paras. Through minimesters, we desire to foster joy in learning, give students choice in experience, and encourage community. Students participate in three sessions and minimesters take place twice each school year (in November and February).



Sessions this round included calligraphy, ethnic foods, starting your own business, worship planning, knitting, harmonica, graphic design, painting, farm and business tour, dance fitness, engineering technology, drumline, origami, teaching, and many more!

Thank you to the grades 5-8 and co-curricular teachers and paras for providing these rich learning experiences for our students!



Mystery at Shady Acres: 7th/8th Grade Play

From Mrs. Eileen Buiter, play director: On January 28 and 29, fifty-two 7th and 8th graders gave two public performances, plus a school-wide performance of Mystery at Shady Acres, a lighthearted "whodunit" that involved the audience to help to solve a baffling theft.

The audience was kept guessing as every character seemed to have a motive for stealing an esteemed guest's valuable diamond necklace. At intermission, audience members

could ask questions of any character (improvisation training for those actors and actresses!) and then wrote down their guess of "whodunit".

The play completed the final acts, and we discovered the real thief, and also a few others who weren't thieves, but definitely were involved in shady dealings at Shady Acres! Thank you, students, for sharing your talents and for glorifying God!



7th & 8th Grade Basketball Season

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17

From Mr. Kyle Brummel, athletic director: We had another awesome basketball season with 40 students representing the Trailblazers as part of our 7th and 8th grade basketball teams. We were blessed to have great coaches that taught/coached these students the importance of teamwork, but also always giving all the glory to our Lord.

James Rylaarsdam and Ross Faber coached our 8th grade boys, along with Donte Gulker and Luke Vander Horst leading the 7th grade boys. The 8th grade boys capped their season off by winning the Christian School Basketball tournament at Unity. Our 7th and 8th grade girls were coached by Lucas Warner and Collin Laidlaw.

THANK YOU to these six coaches who put in a lot of time and effort to help develop the students' skills and understanding of the game. We also want to thank all of the student athletes for their hard work and commitment throughout the basketball season!









8th grade girls team

7th grade girls team

8th grade boys team

7th grade boys team

From the SCCS Board of Trustees

From Greg Van Dyke, Board President:

The board believes a **strong orientation process for new trustees is essential.** Dr. Bowar and I met with Jay Dekkers and Darren Raih this fall in order to get them up to speed as to how the SCCS board operates. They have been doing a great job! Trustees serve a three-year term and have the option to renew for an additional three-year term. Renae Calkhoven, Joe Bakker, and I have all chosen to serve an additional term. Therefore, we will not have a board nomination process this year.

SCCS and the board is working with CACE (the Center for the Advancement of Christian Education) to assist in the development of a new strategic plan for the school. This past fall, CACE fellows visited SCCS and met with stakeholders to explore the state of the school and what might be next for SCCS. A strategic road mapping team was assembled and is made up of teachers, parents, society members, the head of school, and the board president.

The board has appointed the following people to serve on this strategic planning team: Al Bandstra, Greg Van Dyke, Daren Dieleman, Dale Vander Berg, Mick Vande Griend, Erica Roth, Paul Ross, Abby Foreman, Henry Byl, Emily Penner, Gretchen De Wit, and Josh Bowar. Leaders from CACE are Chad Dirkse (head of school at Chattanooga Christian School) and Tim Van Soelen (CACE director). This team met on Monday, January 18 to start the process, with plans to have a finalized strategic road map later this spring. We encourage you to pray for these people by name that they would be faithful in seeking God's will for SCCS moving forward.

The board has been very involved with the **IGNITE** campus expansion proposal. The board believes this next step for our school will help meet the needs of students, teachers, parents, and the society to ultimately fulfill the mission of SCCS. This will be a huge endeavor for the SCCS community, and your prayers and support are appreciated. The board is excited to host some informational evenings in February and March so you can learn more about the project and how you can get involved.

One of my favorite highlights from this past fall was the **Trustee Visit Day.** This day gives trustees the opportunity to see first-hand all the amazing things happening at SCCS! We are blessed to have such an amazing faculty and staff who pour into and love our kids daily. **SCCS is a JOY-filled place where kids are treasured, trained, and transformed for the glory of God!**

Focusing on Life Skills at SCCS

We see students as whole people, each uniquely created in God's image. As a result, we want to treasure and train the whole person, and part of doing that is a focus on important life skills. Life skills are a focus of two areas of SCCS: **Trailblazer Time and our school counselor's services.**

Trailblazer Time is a time at the beginning, middle, and end of the day that is designed to build relationships and establish a classroom culture that encourages students to better see themselves as part of God's Story. We want to welcome students into a safe, friendly environment that allows them to be valued, seen, and heard each day, and we want to empower students to be ready to learn. Elements of Trailblazer Time include

greeting, sharing, activities, and check-ins. Teachers are providing leadership through training students in these important life skills. We are just getting started in our implementation of this structure, and we look forward to a continued deepening in the future. We believe these skills are so important for students!

Mrs. Megan Birdsong, our school counselor, also trains students in the important area of life skills. Through meeting with students individually, in small groups, and as a whole class, Mrs. Birdsong helps students navigate important life issues through the lens of a biblical perspective. She also teaches life skills topics to each grade level on a rotating schedule. We are so thankful to be able to offer a full-time counselor at SCCS in order to best meet student needs.

Igniting the Vision for God's Children

We are blessed to report that in the <u>last three months of 2021</u>, \$272,655 was given to IGNITE the Giving towards the next step in our plans. We were blessed with a generous year of giving to the building fund: \$522,860 total for 2021, which allowed us to complete the funding on our 2015 expansion and began laying the foundation of funding for the next campus expansion.

We are committed to **relentlessly pursuing our vision** for God's children.

Our vision is to treasure and train God's children so they may be transformed and equipped as the next generation of servant-leaders and restoration workers, obediently living their unique role in God's Story with the passion to share His Story and defend His Truth, now and for their entire lives.

We move forward in our vision with strategic priorities and giving-driven steps.

Our **first step** was to **build a strong foundation** for Sioux Center Christian School by strengthening our educational framework through Teaching for Transformation, expanding inclusive education, and increasing our space for growth and safety, plus several more initiatives. Through God's strength and generous provision through His people, over a span of eight years (2013-2020) this step has been completed!

Our **next step** focuses on **igniting student opportunities to learn and thrive.** We want to deepen and expand the transformational impact on students' lives.



Our **next step** includes **plans for a multi-purpose performance, athletic, and gathering space,** outfitted to house chapels, plays, concerts, athletic events, and more. Also included in the plans are **ten new classrooms**, several **flexible gathering spaces** for student learning and teacher collaboration, and a **kitchen remodel**.

To learn more about this proposed campus expansion

COME to one of our remaining IGNITE the Vision Briefings!

Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00pm Tuesday, March 22 at 6:30pm

at the Sioux Center Christian School gym (come to our main entrance, no RSVP needed)

The Vision Briefing will last about 30 minutes and will include a 3D fly-through video of the expansion, plus storyboards with visual renderings of the spaces. Staff and trustees will be available to answer questions after the presentation.

The annual SCCS Society meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 29 at 7pm at the SCCS gym and will include the opportunity to vote on the proposed expansion.





siouxcenterchristian.com
> Support > IGNITE
the Vision