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May 2025

The Mission of Inwood Christian School is to provide an atmosphere in which each unique child of God is challenged both academically and Biblically to live as a Christian, serving Him in all areas of life.



ICS GRADUATION
May 20, 2025
7:00 P.M.



2025 Graduates

Ryker Lance Blom
David Anthony Chew
Derek Alan Vande Vegte

Class Verse:

**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."
Deuteronomy 31:6**

2025

Inwood Christian School Graduates

RYKER BLOM

My parents are Andre & Danielle. I live in Inwood with my parents, my 3 brothers, and my 1 sister.

My favorite memory during my years at ICS is going to Des Moines in 5th grade with all of my friends.

The things I will miss most about ICS are how open everyone is and how kind everyone can be.

Next year I plan to attend Western Christian and participate in Band, and possibly soccer or basketball.

My favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 40:30-31 which says, "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."



DAVID CHEW

My parents are Tim & Joanne. I live near Canton.

My favorite memory during my years at ICS is meeting Ron De Santis in Rock Rapids.

A few of the things I will miss most about ICS is the small classroom size, kind teachers, and the memorable field trips.

My plans for next year are still undecided. I am hoping to possibly be able to play tennis, soccer and be in the choir.

My favorite Bible verse is Psalm 23 which says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."



DEREK VANDE VEGTE



My parents are Matt & Leah. I live on an acreage east on Inwood with my parents, 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

My favorite memory of ICS is when we went to Des Moines and took a tour of the Capitol and went to Living History Farms.

The things I will miss most about ICS are all of the great lunches that we get here and the fact that I know everyone. I will need to make new friends when I get to high school.

Next year I plan to attend Western Christian and participate in wrestling, football, baseball, soccer, FFA and band.

My favorite Bible verse is Joshua 1:9 which says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

INTRODUCING THE NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

RUBY YOUNG - 1ST/2ND GRADE TEACHER

Hello, my name is Miss. Young, and I am happy to announce I will begin teaching 1st/2nd grade at Inwood Christian School this fall! I live in Sioux Falls, SD, and will graduate this May from the University of Sioux Falls with an elementary education and special education degree. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, hiking, biking, crocheting, and reading. I believe Christian education ensures students understand the importance of walking with Jesus in all areas of life. Therefore, when parents and teachers come together to plant a seed of faith in each child, we are giving children the opportunity to connect with God intellectually, socially, and spiritually. This creates a strong foundation and sets every child up for success. One of my favorite Bible verses when reflecting on Christian education is "Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old, he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22:6. Once again, I am so excited to meet all the 1st/2nd grade students and their families this coming fall!



REBEKAH WARMBRAND - 3RD/4TH GRADE TEACHER

Hello! My name is Rebekah Warmbrand and I will be teaching 3rd/4th grade at ICS! I live in Tea, SD but I have lived in many places - including overseas for a year! I earned a degree from Liberty University in Early Childhood Education and a few years later, decided to go back to school. I will finish my Master's in Elementary Education from Grand Canyon University in May! When I'm not working at school or working on my own schooling, I enjoy reading, spending time with friends and family, playing board and card games, serving at my church, and completing the occasional baking or craft project. There are many Bible verses that have been especially meaningful to me over the years, including Romans 12, which reminds us that we are made for His glory, that we are all design with unique gifts, and that we are called to live differently from the world. As someone who was blessed to be raised in Christian education, it is my goal to show all students how each subject reveals more about the God who created us, loves us, and saved us. I am excited to partner with staff, families, and students at ICS to help students grow closer to Jesus!



ELLA ZWART - 5TH/6TH GRADE TEACHER

Hello, my name is Miss Ella Zwart, and I am excited to be teaching 5th/6th grade at Inwood Christian this fall! I currently live on a farm north of Hull and will be graduating from Dordt University with a Degree in Elementary Education with a Reading Endorsement. In my spare time I enjoy reading, going for walks, being outside and hanging out with family and friends. My favorite Bible verse is not necessarily a verse, but a chapter. Psalm 34 is one that I read through every week, if not every day. It encourages me, comforts me, and is a well-rounded chapter for every circumstance that comes my way in life. Christian education to me means that I am not just educating students to be the best academically, but I am teaching students and mentoring students in how to be a disciple in everyday situations and preparing them to be Kingdom citizens. Christian education is much more than academics. It is about the community of believers that come together to support the education of every student.



PRESCHOOL

Wow, what a year we have had in preschool! In preschool this year we did multiple different studies. We did the Back to School Study, Tree Study, Clothing Study, Building Study, Exercise Study, and Community Helpers Study on top of learning our letters, numbers, writing our name, and learning multiple other skills. We worked hard, but we also had some fun in preschool to end our year too! We went on a field trip to visit Riverview Tree Farm to learn about trees, we celebrated 100 Days of school on March 25, we celebrated Spirit Week at school with a full week of dress up days, we went on another field trip to Valley Elite Gym in Rock Valley, and we had fun celebrating the end of the school year by dressing up as cowboys and cowgirls! On the last day of preschool we celebrated graduation! It is crazy to think our school year is over, but it has been a blessing to be able to teach all these amazing students and get to know their families!



KINDERGARTEN

It has been a busy year in kindergarten and these last couple of months have been busy as well! Bible continues to be a favorite time of our day. Some of the students' favorite parables were: Jesus and Nicodemus (the butterfly craft), Sower (planting Zinnia seeds), Ethiopia (Colors book - no words). We strive daily to believe, grow, and serve like Jesus.

The students enjoy a variety of ways to practice their popcorn words. Some of their favorites are: Beat the Timer, Hangman, Popcorn Scramble, Popcorn Walk, Sparkle and Pass the Plate. Along with their reading skills, they are writing sentences too!

Ask your child about doing "donut" math facts on the whiteboard! They have been working on addition and subtraction stories and basic math flashcards.

Hands-on-science is always fun . . . students learned what magnets attract and repel, what natural resources are and the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling. We've also been charting some caterpillars in our classroom that grew from barely a quarter of an inch long, to forming their chrysalides, to seeing them emerge as painted lady butterflies, and then releasing them into nature. God's creation is amazing!

Favorite part of kindergarten:

Isaac Attema - I liked playing Beat the Timer to practice popcorn words.

Luke Bonnema - I liked playing new games on tablets.

Ruth Bonnema - I liked playing Beat the Timer to practice popcorn words.

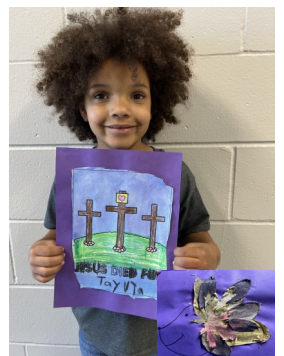
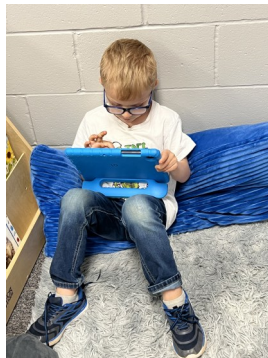
Alaina Schaeffer - I liked art classes - all of them were my favorite!

Blakey Schroder - I liked making music with our shakers (in science class).

Addyson Stearns - I liked art class - my favorite was the Christmas ornaments.

Mylah Van De Stroet - I liked art class - my favorite was stringing beads on the Christmas tree.

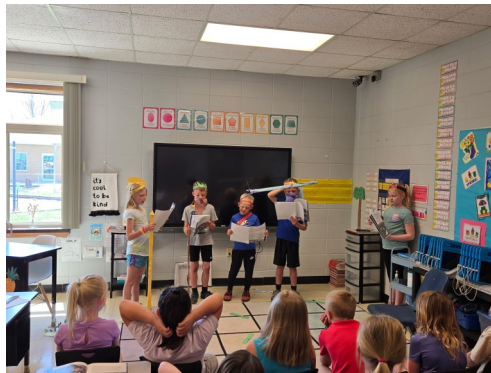
Tayvia Williams - I liked art class - fall leaf animal was my favorite. I love coloring.



1st/2nd Grade

May has been filled with many activities in our classroom. Along with our daily routine, we have been busy doing science experiments, performing skits, and learning about money. Outside of the classroom we went on a field trip to the Great Plains Zoo. God blessed us with a beautiful day to enjoy many of his amazing creatures! Some of our favorite animals were the lions, tigers, giraffes, and flamingos. After leaving the zoo, we went to Sertoma Park to eat lunch and play on the playground. Another fun outdoor activity was participating in the K-4 Track Meet on our soccer field. Everyone did a great job and certificates were awarded to each participant.

As the school year comes to an end, we want to thank our room mothers for their help. We also want to thank our parents, grandparents and society members for their support and prayers throughout the year. Above all, we praise God for his love and presence in our classroom each and every day.

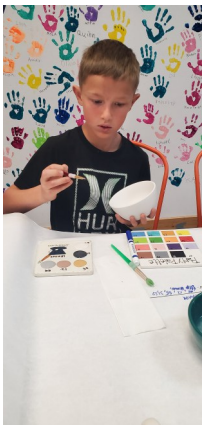


3rd/4th Grade

On Tuesday, April 29th, the third and fourth graders went to Sioux Falls for a fun, class field trip! It started out at Color Me Mine. The students had a choice of painting a mug, bowl, or salad plate! This is an artistic class, and they did so well! Their projects had to be treated and will be ready for pick up in a few weeks. After that, some free time was spent at the Outdoor Campus. They did some hiking, ate lunch, and had time to play. In the afternoon, they ventured downtown to the Old Courthouse Museum. After a tour and looking around, the students had a fun challenge of doing a Historical Scavenger hunt! It was such a fun day!

We look forward to our Hike day on Friday, May 16, which will be our final activity of the year! It has been such a great year! Thank you for all your words of encouragement and support! Thank you to our Room Mothers Tanya Van De Stroet and Abbey Van Beek. We appreciate all you did for us!

May you all have a great and safe summer!
May God Bless you all!
Mrs. Vander Veen and the 3rd and 4th Graders



5th/6th Grade

We have been very busy in 5th and 6th grade this year! From sports to projects to big tests all the way to new memory work, the kiddos in 5th & 6th have grown so much! We spent some time reflecting on the year and picking out our favorite memories of the year.

Kaison Blom: When we got to watch Hatchet because we got to see him eat grub and do some not so smart ideas like use the sharp side of his hatchet to start his fire which also lessened his chance to be able to cut something with his hatchet.

Keaton Blom: We went to the curling club for our P.E. field trip and we got to curl. This was my favorite memory because it was super fun to learn how to throw the rock thing and how to sweep.

Seth Leusink: When we got to do the social studies project in medieval times because we got to make dioramas. Dioramas are my favorite project and I got to make a little marketplace with popsi-cle stick stores and lego people walking around buying things. The report wasn't my favorite but you have to do the boring things for all the good things.

Jacob Vande Vegte: When my class went to Lake Pahoja. And we did all sorts of fun things there like we threw spears at a target. And we shot bow and arrows and threw hatchets, but my favorite thing that we did there was start a fire with flint and steel and Seth was my partner and once we got our fire started we went over to another group and helped them start their fire.

Emily Attema: One of my favorite memories is going to the corn maze. I like this because I got to split up with Ruby and Avery to go into the corn maze.

Owen Davelaar: When we went to Sioux Falls curling club. We got to curl the way that Olympians do. There were professionals there to teach us. I had a lot of fun. We got a bullseye.

Kent Leusink: Going to a corn maze and nearly getting lost and also finding the bonus thing so I could get a free Mountain Dew and we even got to find all the answers there and had a great time teaming up with another team to go much faster.

Alania Orwig-Reeves: When we went to Fellowship Village. It was fun when we got to know and play with the elders. I love the way they tried to hit the balloon for volleyball and when they won bingo or bread tic tac toe.

Ethan Stearns: When we went to the corn maze for our first P.E field trip. It is my favorite memory because we got lost and then we just walked around until we found a checkpoint. Then we got back on track and found the special checkpoint that was not on the map. Then we got a pop for free for finding it.

Weston Van Grouw: My favorite memory this year was Lake Pahoja. I liked going to Lake Pahoja because I liked it when we tried to start a fire with just flint and steel.



7th/8th Grade

In a 180-day school year, the students spend over 75,000 minutes in the classroom! A lot of learning, experiences, and growth can happen within those minutes! I often mention to my students that they possibly spend more awake hours with their teacher than with their families on school days! What an honor it is to be entrusted with the care and growth of these students! It can be pretty fun too! I have many memories of my own throughout this 2024-2025 school year, but I'd thought I'd ask my students to see what stands out in their memories. Here's what they had to say:

"I loved it when we went to the corn maze. That was really fun, and my friends and I got lost. Eventually, we learned about where we were. We got out, after a while." - Avery Stearns - 7th Grade

"A favorite memory that I have from this year, was when our class went shopping for toys for the foster kids. I had a lot of fun looking at everything in the stores, and I liked eating at Culver's." – Derek Vande Vegte - 8th Grade

"I think one of my favorite memories of this year is doing basketball and soccer. I had a lot of fun playing sports for Inwood Christian School. I was mentored by my coaches and had a lot of fun!" – Drew Davelaar - 7th Grade

"I really loved going on the curling field trip." – Karsen Van Beek - 7th Grade

"I really liked making the radio plays based off of the children's books." – Ryker Blom - 8th Grade

"I think that my favorite memory from this year was the day of the Math Bee because even though I was pretty worried about it before we went there, it was not like I had expected it to be, and it was actually a pretty fun and memorable day." – Reven Gieske - 7th Grade

"Going shopping for the foster kids in Sioux Falls." – David Chew - 8th Grade

"Really any of the video/audio/song stuff we've done. The Civil War videos were very fun, but I'd say the best thing was writing the songs. The bug guy and the Call of the Wild songs were really fun to make. Also coming to school dressed as Trump. That was awesome." – Ethan Van Engen - 7th Grade

Some other favorite memories from the year are doing our annual Iditarod unit and holding an Iditarod Party. We started the Feeder Watch Project this year as well, with a bird feeder outside our window! We've had fun seeing some species we didn't see last fall with the spring migration! I know all of the students will remember our little hummingbird, Bart! It was fun to teach the 2024 Election as well! The kids had a great time learning about how it all works and playing their own game to "Win the White House!"

Our 8th grade boys have turned into real leaders in this school. I have seen them grow in both knowledge and wisdom in my classroom, and I know they'll take this with them beyond Inwood Christian. They've also brought some fun along the way! Derek, Ryker, and David, know that you three will be missed! Go do great things for God's Kingdom!



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

April 14, 2025

Jaron Van Beek opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. Minutes of the March 10, 2025, meeting were read by title and approved.

The agenda was established with the following members present: Amy Stearns, Pete Van Velzen, Todd Reinke, Darren Davelaar, Josh Van Grouw, and Jaron Van Beek. Michael Grevengoed & Tyler Attema joined the meeting by phone call.

Old Business

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will be held on Wednesday, May 28.

The Annual Society Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Principal's Report

Principal Van Velzen's report was discussed.

Kindergarten will be changing from 4 days a week to 4 days a week for the 1st semester (Monday - Thursday) and 5 days a week for the 2nd semester.

Justin Bonnema has been approved to be the graduation speaker.

A contract for 3rd/4th grade has been offered to Rebekah Warmbrand.

Hot Lunch Report

The hot lunch program was discussed.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee Report

The treasurer's report was given, and profit/loss statements were reviewed. Tuition concerns were discussed.

The offerings and envelope amounts were discussed.

Scrip has given school \$4,000.

Education Committee

Michael Grevengoed gave a positive report on his school visit.

Building/Grounds Committee

Mowing of the school yard will be done by the Vande Vegte family.

The renovation for the summer was discussed.

Other Business

Nominees for School Board were discussed.

An Open House for Sheri will be held on May 5.

An additional van has been purchased for school use.

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Concept minutes were read and approved. Closing prayer was given by Darren Davelaar.

Josh Van Grouw, Secretary pro tem

May 12, 2025

Darren Davelaar opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. Minutes of the April 14, 2025, meeting were read by title and approved.

The agenda was established with the following members present: Amy Stearns, Todd Reinke, Darren Davelaar, Michael Grevengoed, Josh Van Grouw, Jaron Van Beek, and Tyler Attema.

Old Business

Nominees for School Board & Foundation Board were discussed.

Principal's Report

Principal Van Velzen's report was discussed.

Graduation will be held on Tuesday, May 20.

The 2025-2026 calendar was approved.

A tag program was discussed. We are hoping to have this started for the 2025-2026 school year.

Hot Lunch Report

The Food Service Assistant Grant was approved.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee Report

The treasurer's report was given, and profit/loss statements were reviewed. Tuition concerns were discussed.

The offerings and envelope amounts were discussed.

Various gifts were received by school.

The 2025-2026 Budget was approved.

Education Committee Report

Jaron Van Beek gave a positive report on his school visit.

This year new math and science curriculum will be purchased.

Building/Grounds Committee

Work night will be held on Wednesday, May 28.

This will be the same night as registration.

The renovation was discussed.

Other Business

The Society meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Bus Inspection will be in May at West Lyon.

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Concept minutes were read and approved. Closing prayer was given by Josh Van Grouw.

Michael Grevengoed, Secretary

THANK YOU!

The ICS Board would like to thank everyone for the support the school has received this past school year. Your financial support and volunteer help were greatly appreciated. Also, thank you to everyone who generously contributed to NICSTO this past year. Contributions helped give families the opportunity to experience Christian education at ICS.

The school covets your prayers as the current year is coming to an end and preparations are being made for our next school year. With most tuition being paid during the school year, the summer months are financially lean. Please remember Inwood Christian School this summer in your giving and your prayers.



SOCIETY MEETING

The annual Society Meeting of Inwood Christian School will be held on Wednesday evening, June 4, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All society members are encouraged to attend and be an active participant in ICS.

The evening's agenda will include the approval of the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget, the election of school board members and foundation board members, and reports from various committees.

FOUNDATION NEWS

Thank you to all of the members of the ICS Foundation who have been so diligent in submitting their dues when they become due and for all of the extra gifts that we have received.

Your continued cooperation and sharing have helped to educate our children in an environment that allows God's name to be honored and glorified in all aspects of the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

ICS Foundation Board

FAREWELL

Writing this "Farewell" note seems unreal! How could 44 years have gone so quickly? How could I have taught so many years and enjoy every one of them? The camaraderie with all the coworkers, and support from all the different school board members and society members has been phenomenal over the years! I have so many GREAT memories! I have been truly blessed to work at Inwood Christian School for my entire teaching career and had no idea when I started that I would have stayed here the entire time!

Looking back, it is not hard to see how God's hand has been there the whole time! God has been and will continue to be writing the story of this school and in every detail! He has made Inwood Christian School one of the best schools in the area! He has been in all the details of my part in this story as well! From starting out in the 5th and 6th grade classroom, then 3rd and 4th grade, serving as Head Teacher, He led me each and every day! He has guided me in my teaching and protected me in the many miles I traveled. I only had one flat tire - just a mile from home, only one spin-out on icy roads - but I wasn't driving, and one time my car wouldn't start - but Tim Blankespoor came to my rescue! So much to be thankful for!

Thank you to the committee for planning an amazing open house for my retirement! I had so much fun seeing so many people that I have not seen for a while! I will cherish your many wishes for a great retirement! Thank you also for the cards and gifts! I am excited for retirement, but I know there will be many tears as it approaches! I love this school and all the people associated with it! You will be greatly missed!

God bless~
Sheri Vander Veen