# INWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

302 East Madison
Drawer C
Inwood, IA 51240
Pete Van Velzen, Principal
Amy Stearns, Head Teacher
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Fall 2026

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.

## FROM THE ICS OFFICE….

Welcome to a new school year at ICS! It is great to have the students and teachers back in school. The school year seems to be flying by, and here it is October already.

We want to say "Thank You" to Josh Van Grouw and Michael Grevengoed who completed their terms as school board members. We appreciated their many hours of work to keep the school running smoothly. We want to welcome two new school board members, Brian Blankespoor and Caleb Van De Stroet. We ask that you pray for our school board members as they help to lead our school during the upcoming year.

ICS's enrollment stands at 63 students in Kindergarten-8th Grade and 10 preschoolers who attend SonLight Preschool. We give thanks for the families that are partnering with ICS in educating their children.

This year's theme is "Believe, Grow, Serve." It is a summary of our mission statement that we felt would be easier for the students to understand.



**You are cordially invited to the annual**

**Inwood Christian School**

**VETERANS DAY PROGRAM**

**Held in the Inwood Christian School Gym**

**On Wednesday, November 11, 2026**

**Coffee & Cookies served at 10:00 a.m.**
**Program begins at 10:30 a.m.**

**Speaker: Jake Erpenbach**
**Veteran**




The Inwood Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities, generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 12 - School Board Meeting
October 23 - Early Dismissal, 1:30 p.m.
October 23 - End of 1st Quarter
November 5 - Parent Teacher Conferences
November 6 - No School, P/T Comp Day
November 9 - School Board Meeting
November 11 - Veterans Day Program
November 13 - 11:40 a.m. dismissal, Staff PD
November 25 - Early Dismissal, 1:30 p.m.
November 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving Vacation

**SAVE THE DATE:**

December 10 - Christmas Concert
February 4 - All school skating party at Skate City
March 2– Solo & Ensemble at Inwood Christian
April 22 - Spring Concert

## FALL DRIVE

The annual Fall Drive for the support of Christian Education has begun. You should have received a letter explaining the drive. Our goal in this year's giving is $50,000.00. We ask for your support in this matter. By working together, we can help to keep the tuition cost down and keep Christian Education affordable for all parents. Please give this your prayerful consideration. Donations may be sent to Inwood Christian School, Drawer C, Inwood, IA 51240, or placed in Inwood CRC mailbox #159.

## ASBESTOS INFORMATION

In compliance with regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), on July 7, 2025, an inspection of our school building for asbestos-containing building materials was performed. The inspection findings and asbestos plans are on file in the school office for your review.

## INWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FACULTY FOR 2025-2026

Mr. Pete Van Velzen……..Principal
Mrs. Amy Stearns……..……..Head Teacher
Part-time Resource
Mrs. Stephanie Klarenbeek……Preschool
Mrs. Lisa Greene……..……...Kindergarten
Mrs. Ruby Moe..……..…Grades 1 & 2
Miss Rebekah Warmbrand...……Grades 3 & 4
Miss Ella Zwart……...Grades 5 & 6
Mrs. Elizabeth Lucas……..……Grades 7 & 8
Mrs. Andrea Hoogendoorn...……..……...Music
Mrs. Marge Kollis…..……..……...Paraprofessional
Mrs. Lavonda Scholten……..Paraprofessional

## SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs. Ashley Van Dieren……..……...Secretary
Mrs. Cristina Hernandez...……..……...……..Cook
Mrs. Leah Vande Vegte...……..……..……...Janitor
Mr. Briton Van Beek..……...Janitor
Mrs. Abbi Davelaar..……..……Volunteer Librarian
Mrs. Jessica Bonnema……...Volunteer Librarian
Mr. Ken Denekas……...Bus Driver
Mrs. Minerva Grevengoed……...Bus Driver
Mrs. Sandra Hanson……..Bus Driver
Mr. Dale Kollis……..…Bus Driver
Mrs. Marge Kollis……...Bus Driver

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Matt Vande Vegte...……President
Mr. Todd Reinke…...……...Vice-President
Mr. Caleb Van De Stroet…..……..……Treasurer
Mr. Brian Blankespoor…..……..Secretary
Mr. Jaron Van Beek..……Assistant Treasurer
Mr. Tyler Attema……..……..Building & Grounds

## FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Darrin Van De Stroet…..……..……President
Mr. Heath Van Voorst……..……...Secretary
Mr. Todd Folkerts……...……..Treasurer
Mr. Jim Bleeker……..……..Board Member
Mr. Mike Knobloch……..……...Board Member
Mr. Caleb Van De Stroet…..School Board Representative

## SONLIGHT PRESCHOOL



We just finished our “Beginning of the Year” Study! Throughout this study, we learned all about school, the different people who work at our school, school rules, and how to be good friends.



We had so much fun getting to know some of the people who help make our school special! We visited Miss Cristina, our school cook, who showed us around the kitchen and taught us about the different tools and appliances she uses to prepare our food, including the can opener, mixer, oven, and stove. She also showed us where she stores food in the pantry,  refrigerator, and big freezer. The students even got to be little chefs and make their very own pizzas!





We also visited Miss Ashley in the office. We learned about the things she does on her computer and how she helps let people into the school. One of the students’ favorite parts was seeing Miss Steph on the screen while she was getting buzzed into the school!



The preschoolers have also had a blast getting to know their friends, playing outside, working together as a team, and learning how to be “Bucket Fillers.” We have been busy learning our letters, numbers, shapes, and colors, too!

We also had the opportunity to help clean up God’s Creation during a service project with the kindergarten through second-grade students. We worked together to pick up sticks and garbage around the school and at the park.

We have had such a fun start to the school year, and we are excited to begin our Tree Study! We are also looking forward to our field trip to the Riverview Christmas Tree Farm later this month. We have lots of fun learning and exploring ahead of us!







## KINDERGARTEN

We've had a great beginning to our Kindergarten journey! We started off the school year learning the color words, so we dressed to match the colors we were focusing on for the day! We enjoyed learning about all those colors God created in our beautiful world in seven days for us to enjoy, explore and take care of!

We enjoyed our visit to the Inwood Fire and Rescue Department. Tyler Attema showed the students around the fire station. They saw the old-fashioned fire truck that is 90 years old. They got to go inside the ambulance, sit inside a fire truck and see the equipment the fire trucks carry. The students tried to lift some of the equipment and realized you need to be very strong to be a firefighter!
The students said their favorite part of the visit was spraying the fire hose!

Tyler, thank you for welcoming us to the fire station! We are so grateful for your time and kindness, and for giving our students such a fun and memorable experience!





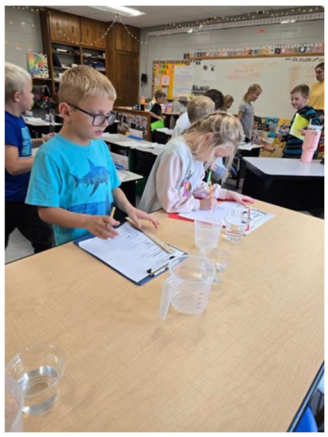


## 1st/2nd Grade

Our 1st and 2nd graders have been busy exploring God's world through Science! They have been learning how to use a variety of science tools, including magnifying glasses, measuring cups, rulers, and balancing scales.
Our students loved becoming scientists for the day as they practiced using their senses and explored what each science tool could help them discover. They also practiced important science process skills such as testing, observing, and communicating with one another throughout their exploration.

I am so proud of all my little scientists and the curiosity, excitement, and teamwork they showed!











## 3rd/4th Grade



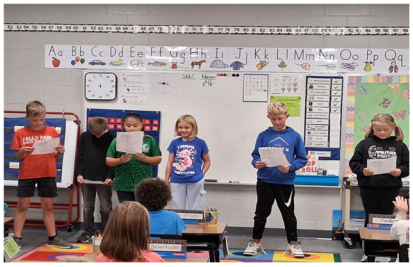
Third and fourth graders are so excited to be back at school! We started the year by jumping into social studies and learning about some of America's landmarks and regional features. Students got to incorporate reading with their social studies as they practiced some reader's theatre skits about ecosystems and important landmarks. After practicing, students got to perform their skits for our preschool and kindergarten classes, as well as for each other.

This unit of social studies also tied in with our Bible unit, where we walked through what God created on each day of Creation. This was a fun way for students to practice their reading fluency and expression, learn more about our nation's landmarks, and build community between grade levels.

Students also shared some of their favorite parts of school so far this year. Art, PE, and Music remain at the top of students' lists. Another student favorite this year is our classroom's 'Prayers and Praises' board. Each morning, while we share prayer requests, we record our prayers and praises so that we can look back and reflect on God's faithfulness in answering our prayers. Even though we're only a few weeks into the school year, we have so many things to thank God for!

We are so excited to see what God continues to teach us and do for us over the next several months!





## 5th/6th Grade

These first couple months of school has been busy for the 5th & 6th graders! We have kicked off and are going to Fellowship Village every other week to play games and spend time with the residents. Both the students and the residents love this!
We have also had the opportunity to go to Pahoja for "outdoor classroom" where we went to different stations and learned about different things. A few of the stations included fishing, water Olympics, 'old school' learning, learning about bees, and learning about animal skins.
We also went to the Heartland Country Corn maze in Harrisburg, SD. This was a fun trip that the 5th -8th graders all went on for an afternoon! It was a little muddy, but the students embraced it!

Looking forward, the 5th-8th will be headed to Des Moines for a day to explore the Capitol as well as going to Living History Farms. Everyone is very excited!







**7th/8th GRADE**

Pro-Life Essays

In today's culture, we often see the debate on when life begins. It's definitely a hot-button political issue that we, as Christians, must take a stance on. So we took this issue on in our first unit of science this year. Our new BJU Science curriculum asked the question, "What is Life?", and our 7th-8th graders dug a little more into this topic. Our book explores a biblical perspective on this, as well as a naturalist perspective, so students are prepared to defend their beliefs on these debated scientific topics. We looked at the Characteristics of Life, and then applied those to a baby inside the womb. Instead of a test for this unit, students wrote an essay entitled "Why I am Pro-Life." They researched development of babies inside the womb and applied each of the Characteristics of Life to these babies.

Here are some interesting facts the students included in their papers:

- A baby's heart starts beating at five weeks.
- Babies develop tastebuds around 9 weeks in the womb.
- Fingerprints develop around 14 weeks.

Some thoughts from the students:

*"I am pro-life because I love babies, and each and every baby is one of God's image-bearers, which means they are very precious."*

***"Psalm 139:13-14:** "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made". I believe that he clearly states in this verse that all babies in the womb no matter how many weeks or no matter how big the size. They are human no matter where they are. Outside of the womb you are growing. Inside of the womb you are growing. It's the same no matter where you are, no where in the bible does it say that we weren't made in God's image until we came out of the womb."*

*"In the 10 commandments, found in Deuteronomy, it says not to murder. God commands us not to murder, because the life of a human, a being made in the image of God, is priceless."*

The 7th-8th look forward to visiting the Alpha Center - a Christian pregnancy resource center in Sioux Falls - for our fall service project to learn more about the pro-life movement, and how the smallest of God's image bearers are being cared for!





## VOLLEYBALL

Our 5th–8th grade girls have officially finished their season! We are so proud of all their hard work, dedication, and growth throughout the season. We are thankful for the time and effort our players put into their team.

This year, our 3rd grade girls also had a team! They have been working hard to learn the fundamentals and build their skills. We are so proud of their effort and excitement for the game!

A big **thank you to all of our coaches, players, and families** for making this volleyball season a great one!



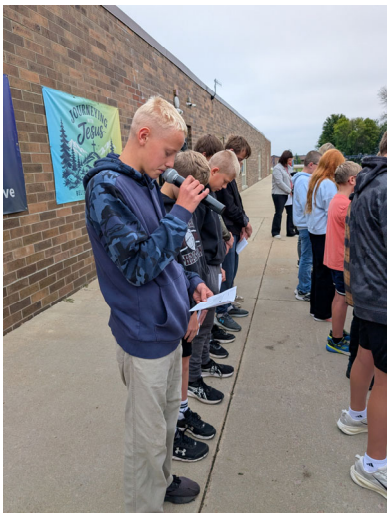




## SEE YOU AT THE POLE

Each year students at schools all across America gather around their flagpoles to celebrate their freedom to pray for their schools, friends, teachers, government, and nation. Inwood Christian School participated in this event on September 23. The 7th & 8th graders led the students and society members who joined us in prayer for our world, country, community, and school. Thank you to those who joined us in celebrating this freedom to pray.









## 5TH-8TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

Our 5th–8th grade students recently traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, for a field trip to Living History Farms and the Iowa State Capitol. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn outside the classroom and make lasting memories!









## FOUNDATION NEWS

Thank you to all of the members of the ICS Foundation who have been so diligent in submitting their dues in a timely manner and for all of the extra gifts that were received.

We want to thank everyone that gave memorials in honor of loved ones.

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 Society Foundation Board, Inc.

## NICSTO

NICSTO has been a great opportunity for individuals that are a part of a Christian School Society. Tax credits (75% tax credit on your Iowa taxes) are given to those who donate money to NICSTO, and families who attend a school that is part of the organization can receive assistance in paying for tuition. Contributions are welcome and greatly appreciated. You can find a contribution memo attached to the Society Newsletter.

## SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

### June 8, 2026

Josh Van Grouw opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. Minutes of the May 11, 2026 meeting were read by title and a motion was made, supported and approved to accept these minutes.
The agenda was established with the following members present: Pete Van Velzen, Amy Stearns, Matt Vande Vegte, Todd Reinke, Jaron Van Beek, Tyler Attema, Josh Van Grouw, Michael Grevengoed and new board members, Brian Blankespoor and Caleb Van De Stroet.

**Old Business**

Registration and ESA signups were discussed. ESA signups need to be complete by June 30.

Open secretary and PE positions were discussed.

Mrs. LaVonda Scholten was hired to be a para in the 3rd/4th grade classroom for the 2026-27 school year.

**Principal's Report**

Principal Van Velzen's report was discussed.

**Hot Lunch Report**

Hot lunch and kitchen details were 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. Various gifts were discussed

**Education Committee**

A report was given on the topics discussed. The Education committee will be meeting next on August 10, 2026.

**Building and Grounds Committee**

School cleaning night is set for July 28, 2026. Basketball backboards were discussed for installation. 12 desks were purchased for use in the Kindergarten room

**Other Business**

Bus routes and drivers were discussed.

The next school board meeting will be held on Monday, July 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Concept minutes were read and approved. Closing prayer was given by Michael Grevengoed.

Michael Grevengoed, Secretary

### July 13, 2026

Pete Van Velzen opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. Minutes of the June 8, 2026 meeting were read by title and a motion was made, supported and approved to accept these minutes.
The agenda was established with the following members present: Pete Van Velzen, Amy Stearns, Matt Vande Vegte, Todd Reinke, Caleb Van De Stroet, and Brian Blankespoor. Tyler Attema joined by phone and Josh Van Grouw was present for the first portion of the meeting. Jaron Van Beek was absent with notification.

**Old Business**

School has purchased 11 new Chromebooks for the 2026-2027 school year.

Mrs. Ashley Van Dieren was hired as our school secretary and PE teacher for the 2026-27 school year.

**Principal's Report**

Principal Van Velzen's report was discussed.

Board officers were voted on. President- Matt Vande Vegte; Vice-President- Todd Reinke; Secretary- Brian Blankespoor; Treasurer- Caleb Van De Stroet; Assistant
Treasurer- Jaron Van Beek; Building and Grounds- Tyler Attema; Busing- Jaron Van Beek and Caleb Van De Stroet

**Hot Lunch Report**

Hot lunch details were discussed. Todd Reinke is point of contact with any donation questions.

**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 discussed

**Education Committee**

School visiting was assigned to the board members for the 2026-2027 school year.

**Building and Grounds Committee**

School cleaning night is set for July 28, 2026. Basketball backboards were discussed for installation.

**Other Business**

Bus routes and drivers were discussed.

The next school board meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Concept minutes were read and approved. Closing prayer was given by Matt Vande Vegte.

Brian Blankespoor, Secretary

## SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

### August 10, 2026

Matt Vande Vegte opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. Minutes of the July 13, 2026 meeting were read by title and a motion was made, supported and approved to accept these minutes.
The agenda was established with the following members present: Pete Van Velzen, Amy Stearns, Matt Vande Vegte, Todd Reinke, Caleb Van De Stroet, Tyler Attema and Brian Blankespoor. Jaron Van Beek was absent with notification.

**Old Business**

Chapel arrangements were discussed

**Principal's Report**

Principal Van Velzen's report was discussed.
Substitute teachers were approved
In-service will be held on Thursday, August 20 and Monday, August 24.
Opening chapel will be held on Monday, August 24 at 6:45 p.m.

**Hot Lunch Report**

A newsletter about the hot lunch program will be sent out to society and families

**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 discussed

**Education Committee**

Curriculum review was discussed.
DIBELS testing materials were updated and approved
Dress code updates were discussed and approved
Solo/Ensemble night to be held at ICS was discussed and approved

**Building and Grounds Committee**

Work night went well with lots of participation from many families. Thank you!
Payment was given for lawn mowing services.

**Other Business**

Bus routes and drivers were discussed.
Payment for van rental was discussed.

The next school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., per request of Tyler Attema. Concept minutes were read and approved. Closing prayer was given by Todd Reinke.

Brian Blankespoor, Secretary

### September 15, 2026

Todd Reinke opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. Minutes of the August 10, 2026 meeting were read by title and a motion was made, supported and approved to accept these minutes.
The agenda was established with the following members present: Pete Van Velzen, Amy Stearns, Matt Vande Vegte, Todd Reinke, Caleb Van De Stroet, Jaron Van Beek and Brian Blankespoor. Tyler Attema was absent with notification.

**Old Business**

Solo/Ensemble night is set for March 2, 2027 at ICS
Accreditation training is set for September 30 at 6:00 p.m. with Mary Patterson.

**Principal's Report**

Principal Van Velzen's report was discussed.

**Hot Lunch Report**

Hot lunch details were 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. Various gifts were discussed

**Education Committee**

Todd Reinke will be visiting school for the month of October.

**Building and Grounds Committee**

Various building projects were discussed along with future tree removal on the playground

The next school board meeting will be held on Monday, October 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Concept minutes were read and approved. Closing prayer was given by Brian Blankepoor.

Brian Blankespoor, Secretary

**Minutes of the ICS Annual Society Meeting**
**May 27, 2026**
**7:00 p.m.**

Article 1: Opening prayer and devotions were given by Board President Matt Vande Vegte.

Article 2: Minutes of the June 4, 2025, Society Meeting were read for information. Motion made, supported, and carried to approve the minutes as read.

Article 3: Count off was held with 38 members in attendance. Nathan Nieuwendorp, Arie Van Nieuwenhuyzen, and Justin Bonnema were appointed tellers.

Article 4: 4 absentee ballots were turned in. Motion made, supported, and carried to approve the absentee ballots

Article 5: Voting was held for two school board member for a three-year term, the nominees are Brian Blankespoor, Brody Henrichs, Caleb Van De Stroet, and Kyle Scholten. Retiring board members are Joshua Van Grouw and Michael Grevengoed.

Article 6: Voting was held for two new foundation board members for a three-year term, the nominees are Jeff Meyer, Darrin Van De Streoet, Heath Van Voorst, and Glenn Vande Vegte. Retiring board members are Jeff Meyer and Dustin Schouten.

Article 7: Principal Pete Van Velzen gave the principal's report. Pete reported on the progress of the school and positive statements made by previous students of ICS. He discussed the positive impact of the SWOT analysis meeting that was held. He thanked Jamie Van Voorst for her years of service at Inwood Christian school.

Article 8: Leah Vande Vegte presented the Scrip Report. Earnings for the year was $15,852.00 which was an 9% increase from last year. Scrip paid out $10,174.51 for tuition and hot lunch to 5 different schools. Inwood Christian school received $4,000.00 for their share of the earnings. At the end of the Scrip year, there was a balance of $16,480 being retained for future use. This amount was invested in an 11-month CD. The balance in the Scrip checking account today is $6,399.33.

Article 9: The Hearts & Hands report was given by Abbi Davelaar. Major fundraisers for the year were cookie baking, pizza sales, and bake sales.

Article 10: Todd Folkerts gave the Foundation report.

Article 11: The Building Committee report was given by Tyler Attema. He reported that the classroom floors were planning to be sealed this summer and our work night is planned for July 28, 2026. Matt Vande Vegte and sons will be doing the mowing.

Article 12: Todd Reinke gave a hot lunch program report. ICS will be leaving the federal hot lunch program this year. Todd will be getting more information regarding donations out to the society soon.

Article 13: Election results were shared: Brian Blankespoor and Caleb Van De Stroet were elected to the school board. Darrin Van De Stroet and Heath Van Voorst were elected to the foundation board.

Article 14: Josh Van Grouw presented the 2025-2026 proposed budget. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the budget as presented.

Article 15: Matt Vande Vegte thanked Jeff Meyer, Dustin Schouten, Joshua Van Grouw and Michael Grevengoed for their service on Foundation Board and School Board.

Article 17: The concept minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes.

Article 18: A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn.

Article 19: Pete Van Velzen closed in prayer.

Michael Grevengoed, Secretary

# Northwest Iowa Christian Schools
# Tuition Organization
## CONTRIBUTION MEMO

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

_____ _____
Taxpayer Name Date of Contribution

_____ _____
Address Amount of Contribution

_____ _____
City State Zip Code

_____
Social Security Number or Taxpayer I.D. Number

_____
Phone Number

Name of the school or schools you wish to be the beneficiary of this donation.
Schools in NICSTO:

Clear Lake Classical
Hull Protestant Reformed Christian School
Ireton Christian School
North Iowa Christian School
Rock Valley Christian School
Sheldon Christian School
Siouxland Christian School
Unity Christian High School
Hull Christian School
Inwood Christian School
Netherlands Reformed Christian School
Orange City Christian School
Sanborn Christian School
Sioux Center Christian School
Trinity Christian High School
Western Christian High School

Your contribution may be mailed to:

**Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Tuition Organization**
**461 Larkspur Way**
**Sheldon, Iowa 51201**