

# Our Witness

February 2026



## Pray with us for these 8th Graders!

This time of year we always feel a sense of urgency when we realize that our time with the 8th graders is coming to an end. The urgency comes as we have so much we want to teach these students while seeing that the weeks are quickly coming off the school calendar.

Our prayer is always that every 8th grade student will be able to answer the question, “Who is Jesus Christ to you?” This question is the most important question we can equip them with answering before they leave for their high school experience. For some, they have been under our teaching for 11 years, for others they have recently joined our school - for all, the question is the same and one that each one has to answer on their own.

Please pray with us that our last few weeks guiding these young people will bear much fruit for Jesus!

2

Science - A Hand's  
On Subject!

3

Sometimes Students  
Teach Us

4

A Letter From Our  
School Board

6

In All Things - Christ!

## Science - A Hand's On Subject!

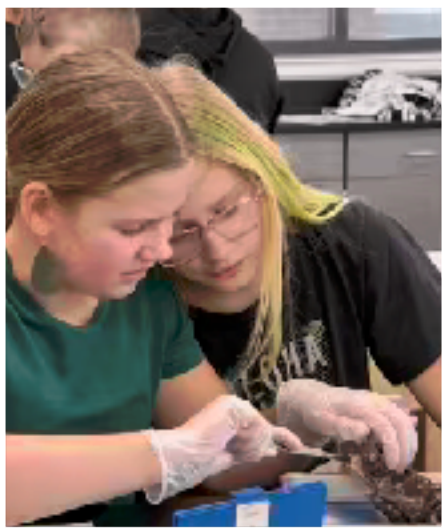
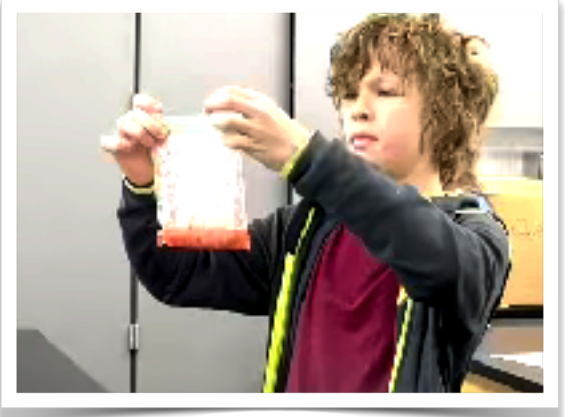
Science is all about getting your hands dirty! While there is much to learn in a textbook, science is the one subject that makes the most sense when you can create, experiment, predict and conclude.

From extracting the DNA of a strawberry, to building your own rocket to launch to discovering what materials are the strongest to hold objects in water to dissecting an owl pellet to see what their last meal was - it is all better

when you can get your hands engaged in the activity.

Some would argue that dissecting animals is better to just read about in a book, but, if we were honest, everyone would agree that getting to look into the body parts of a worm or lamb's eye or a pig's heart gives you a deeper appreciation for how amazing our Creator God is!

Science - the subject that creates a wonder for how things work and an insight into the perfect design of all things given to us to enjoy by our Great and Mighty Heavenly Father!



## Students Sometimes Teach Us!

As adults, it is sometimes hard to see how our children are teaching us, but we were reminded at our recent Jason Mentink Memorial Charger Shoot Out basketball tournament of an important life lesson taught to us by our students.

When the Charger boys were playing in a game, the students were “all in” cheering for the OCS teams! The student section was full and the cheers were loud.

The stunning part was when the Sheboygan Christian or Oostburg teams were playing, our students made just as much noise! These are their friends from their neighborhood, kids they attend youth group with, maybe acquaintances from summer camp or their teammates when they play various league sports. Just because they attend a different school didn't seem to matter to our students. They cheered the whole game, making our teams from SCS and Oostburg feel like they had home court advantage. It didn't matter that they attended a different school - they wanted them to succeed.



The adults in attendance were awed, and probably a bit stunned, that our students could show love for others who wore a different color jersey. What a great lesson for all of us - we are the body of Christ and we are neighbors and friends and we can show great love for each other in all things. We, as Christians, should be cheering on others who are working towards the same goal of bringing others to Christ. We should be the ones that are building each other up, rather than tearing them down. Can you imagine how different the environment of this basketball tournament would feel if our students were silent when the other teams played or if they even booed while they were on the court? May we take this example of encouragement and make it how we live as the Body of Christ!

Way to go OCS students! Thanks for giving us all a reason to pause and remember that we are “one” in Christ! Romans 12:5 says, “so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”



OOSTBURG  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

Dear OCS Association Family,

We are thankful for the fantastic start to the new year and the many great things that have been happening at Oostburg Christian School in January and February. One of the amazing promises from Scripture is found in the book of Hebrews. The author in Hebrews wrote in Hebrews 10:23, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." This is a verse our school has come back to and grounded ourselves in for several years as we have seen the magnificent work of the Lord in our school as He has blessed and grown many of our generational families, and as He has brought some wonderful new families to our school that are attending OCS for the very first time. In all, the One we look to, cling to, and hold fast to is forever and always FAITHFUL!

The intention of this letter is to give additional information regarding the board's decision to seek input from key stakeholders and families as to the future of Oostburg Christian School. First, we do find it necessary to clarify a couple of matters. Oostburg Christian School has long appreciated and valued our brothers and sisters at Sheboygan Christian School. Like SCS, we desire to partner in expanding the kingdom of God through teaching and proclaiming the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Sheboygan County. We desire God's best for the ministry of SCS, and we will seek to work alongside Sheboygan Christian and continually pray for their success in this amazing calling! We have also appreciated the great working relationship with Oostburg Public schools and we are complimentary of the growth they are experiencing as a district.

As we move forward, we want to be very upfront that as a board we are approaching this matter very cautiously. Like Gideon, the board wants to be overwhelmed with evidence that this is what the Lord is leading us to do. On the flip side, we also want it to be very clear if this is not what the Lord is leading us to do. Either way, we can speak in full confidence for the board that we will find satisfaction in what God is directing. Our board is prayerfully working at setting high benchmarks, either affirming us to continue to move forward, or not, as we want this to be clear and obvious.

How did we get here?

- Over the past several years, our administration has been asked by numerous families and supporters to build a high school. The requests have been respectful, and while none of these requests were ever acted upon, it has been notable for the frequency and number. Unique to schools like OCS, the selection of a high school amongst OCS families starts to occur in the lower elementary grades. Some families have chosen to go to SCS, others have chosen Oostburg public, while others to another school. These decisions often cause angst. As a result, many of these requests have been from families who are desiring a consistent offering at OCS through 12th grade.
- While these requests provided us with a good perspective, it was never brought to the school board formally for the board to officially consider or act upon.
- As Mr. Torrenga and Mrs. Lammers have given tours to potential families each spring and summer, many new families have asked if OCS would ever build a high school. In the past three years these questions have increased in their frequency.
- As an example, in just one grade level, in the 2025 enrollment cycle, 9 of the 22 3K families pulled their registration from early April to early May. Of the 41% (9) of the families who pulled their children, close to 60% (5) indicated their reason for withdrawal was their desire for a future high school.
- We draw a significant number of families from Oostburg and from communities south and west of Oostburg. These families represent 73% of our current enrollment. It was also confirmed that Ozaukee Christian School is expanding their offerings to PreK-12th grade at a location 25 miles southwest of our campus, which has a short reach into the geographical area in which we draw a significant percentage of our student population.
- In May, our board was presented with all of these factors. While our enrollment has still continued to grow, the school board of OCS - after much deliberation - determined that it was best to investigate if expanding our offerings to a high school is 1) feasible, and 2) what God would desire for us to do. We wish God's best upon Ozaukee Christian as well, however, the board felt it imperative to not ignore these facts and to seek what is best for Oostburg Christian School at this time.

- While many different narratives and perceptions are out there regarding this matter, we must be clear. The school board of Oostburg Christian School has made no formal decisions other than to investigate the feasibility of this prospect. Like you, the decision makers on the school board are prayerfully seeking their own clarity on this matter and truly desire what God wants.
- While 51% is by definition a majority, in no way will our board accept such a low rate of approval as clear evidence to move forward. While we have neither discussed, nor decided on what metrics we will set to action, or inaction, we want to be clear that they will be set high so as to leave little doubt for what God may or may not be doing.

What are the next steps?

We have hired GSB Fundraising, an independent firm who will provide us with an honest and deeply investigated recommendation. While this firm will recommend one way or another, our board will also use the metrics provided for our own evaluation and determinations. We have decided to hire a firm independent of OCS and our community. We do not want skewed recommendations or bias. We have carefully sought out a company that will be straightforward, candid and honest and who has a demonstrated pattern of doing so.

We will be recommending 40 stakeholders in the OCS and Oostburg community for this outside firm to conduct interviews. These interviewers will be completely independent of the staff or board members from OCS. These interviews will occur in late April at an off-site location. Additionally, GSB will send to every family of a current OCS student a survey to complete. Providing this honest and confidential feedback to GSB is extremely important for our board as it will drive us in determining what steps, if any, must be taken.

What if the results are not favorable from the feasibility study? We will praise God for His clear direction! We will glean a trove of valuable information that will be provided to us as to how we can continue to grow as a highly impactful gospel-centered pre-K through 8th grade Christian school, and we will continue to lead and move by the Lord's direction.

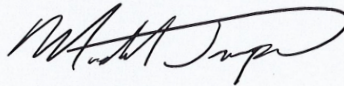
What if the results are highly favorable from the feasibility study? If God makes it clear that we are to continue down this investigative path, and our board conclusively decides to do so, the next steps will unquestionably be brought to our OCS Association to consider and vote upon. And, like the feasibility study, a clear and obvious direction by the Lord is what we will be seeking. In all honesty, the focus of the board at this time is no further than the feasibility study. If the board decides to continue investigating we will provide clarity on our next steps.

As we continue moving forward with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Sheboygan Christian, those within the community of Oostburg, and to those watching from a distance; we urge us all to set our hearts and minds upon the truth written in I Peter 3:8, "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind." We would ask that all of us pray for this to take deep root in our hearts and minds as we seek the Lord's direction.

In Christ,



Adam Dykstra  
OCS Board President



Mike Toerpe  
OCS Board Vice President

---

Oostburg Christian School | 101 S. 7th St. | Oostburg, WI 53070 | (920) 564-2664

## In All Things - Christ!

What does it mean to be “Distinctively Christian?” As we promote our school and talk with potential new parents, what does this descriptor mean and how do we describe our culture to someone that isn’t currently in our school?



A simple way to explain it is to say that we incorporate Christ in all things. That is easy to say, but how would people know that this is what we actually do? The best way for potential new families to get a feel for what makes our school “Distinctively Christian” is to spend the day with us. What would you see if you walked in our doors?

The above photo is PE class. While you would expect to see kids running and throwing balls, which they do, this shows what happens at “half-time” of PE class. Mr. Modahl shares some Scripture and talks about what that passage means. Christ belongs in PE class!

This will be your experience in each of our classrooms and in each subject taught - you will see Christ in all that we do. As new or potential future parents come to OCS, may it be abundantly clear that this is the daily cadence of our teaching and our structure. In All Things - Christ!

## Phase 2 Update

The winter months can feel long and, even longer when you are hoping for the frost to leave the ground so digging can begin on our next addition! With a very aggressive goal of giving our teachers access to their new classrooms by the first day of school on August 25, 2026, it is important to get started as soon as it is feasibly possible.

Plans have been submitted to the state, some of our playground equipment has been moved and materials have been ordered. Now we wait - but we trust that God’s timing is always the best and He is in control of all things - including the frost levels in Oostburg!

To date, we have raised 1.5M with another 2M pledged. With some cost savings already made, the full cost of this addition will come in around 5.5M - this means that we are looking for another 2M donated to cover the full cost. We have been blessed by so many that have given gifts to us within the last 6 months. God has used so many of you to be a great encouragement to us as we move forward.

If you would like to help us get this addition moving forward through a financial gift, we would be grateful for the show of support. Contact the school office for more information!

# That's A Wrap on Basketball!



**8th Grade Boys Basketball Team Front**

Front Row: Noah DeHaai, Logan Hilbelink, Royce Rodriguez, Brandon Cruz-Leon

Back Row: Ellis Stewart, Levi Heinen, Jonah Fredelake, Elias Huibregtse, Levi Hendrikse, Coach Eric Patron



**8th Grade Girls Basketball Team**

Front Row: Rebekah Tarter, Brenley DeMaster, Livy Behr, Diana Walcott

Back Row: Autumn Rosenthal, Kelsey Veldkamp, Taya Zavatchin, Aubrey DeBlaley, Avery DeBlaley, Evelyn Williams, Coach Drew Zylstra



**7th Grade Boys Basketball Team**

Coach Lee Veldkamp, Armani Solano, Jeremiah Bernal, William Paltzer, Parker Gardner, Blake LeMahieu, Isaiah Oppeneer, Randy Markwardt, Levi Crawford & Josiah Arentsen



**7th Grade Girls Basketball Team**

First Row: Kinley Oppeneer, Natalie Frier, Harper Meinnert

Back Row: Coach Paul Modahl, Julia Swart, Norah Ratajczak, Samantha Bulkow & Annalin Neeb



**6th Grade Boys Basketball Team**

Front Row: Caio Schuh, Jacob Tarter, Dawson Wiersma, Asher Tumsoongnern & Mason Mentink

Back Row: Coach Andrew Whittenburg, Logan Mentink, Levi DeHaai, Jace Oppeneer, Zander Huibregtse, Max Whittenburg & Josiah Winkel



**6th Grade Girls Basketball Team**

Front Row: Aidrey DeMaster, Georgia Moeller

Back Row: Coach Jackie Ratajczak, Violet Walcott, Anne Marie Ratajczak, Laiwynn DeMaster, Gianna Doss, Harper Oppeneer & Coach Dan Oppeneer

# CLASS OF 2026

GRADUATION

**7 PM**  
**May 28**

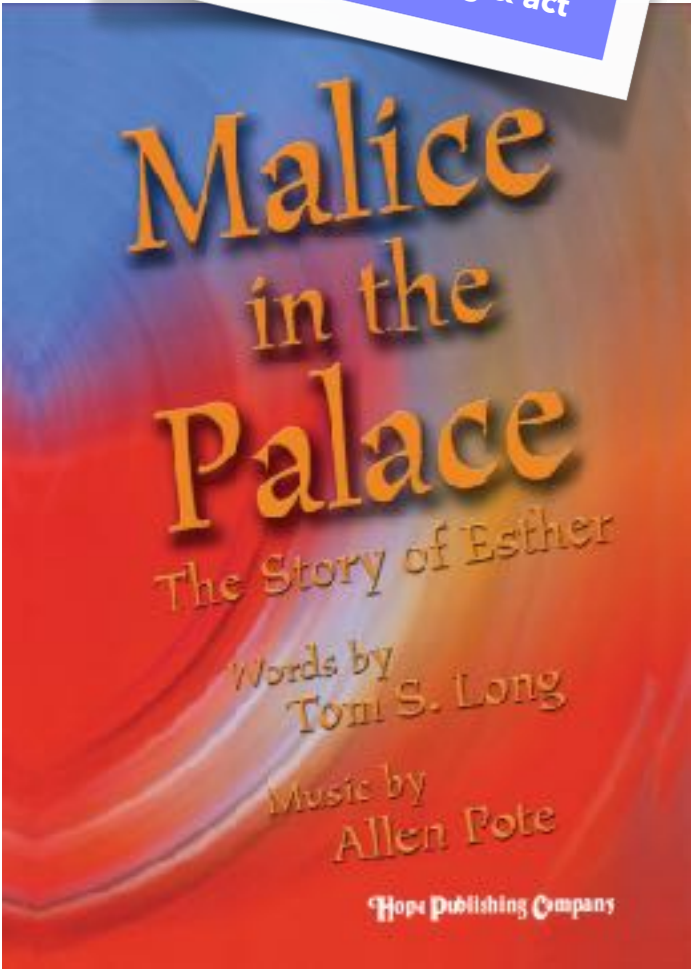
Oostburg Christian School Gymnasium



OOSTBURG  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

101 S. 7th St.  
Oostburg, WI 53070  
920.564.2664  
[www.oostburgchristian.com](http://www.oostburgchristian.com)

5K - 5th Grade Musical  
April 23, 2026 6:30 p.m.  
5K - 4th grade will sing  
5th grade will sing & act



Thank you to the many families and supporters for your generous gift of directing memorial gifts in honor of your loved ones to Oostburg Christian School.

We are honored to receive recent gifts in memory of:

Don Clousing, Dennis Kanz, Bonnie LeMahieu, Kathryn Rauwerdink & Tom Triphan