Our Witness

July 2026

Congratulations Graduates!

Oostburg Christian School graduated our 1,499th graduate!! These 34 young people made a impressive impact on our school while they were enrolled - through their dedication and determination, their fun-loving nature, their unity as a class and their commitment to learning. We know that each of them are rooted in Jesus Christ and we pray that they will only ever follow Him!

Join us in congratulating the following pictured above:

4th Row: Jonah Fredelake, Elias Huibregtse, Ellis Stewart, Levi Hendrikse, Kelsey Veldkamp, Avery DeBlaey, Elizabeth Marcantel, Leona-Rae Litke, Taya Zavatchin

3rd Row: Mr. Rozeboom, Tanner Winkel, Levi Heinen, Miles VanDenend, Evelyn Williams, Aubrey DeBlaey, Autumn Rosenthal, Rebekah Tarter, Naomi Anderson, Mrs. Velzke

2nd Row: Noah DeHaai, Owen Stous, Quin Marshall, Ameila Velzke, Diana Walcott, Yharlet Roblero, Lais Schuh, Kaylee Crawford

1st Row: Brandon Cruz-Leon, Jonah Mamazza, Royce Rodriguez, Logan Hilbelink, Brenley DeMaster, Olivia Behr, Natalie Smies, Willow Meeks, Sophia Pattison, Mr. Torrenga

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Phase 2 Update

The OCS students and staff put in a little sweat equity on the last day of school as every classroom was cleaned out - some just so the maintenance staff could come in and start their deep cleaning and some because in the Fall they will be in a new classroom. As we said "good-bye" that Friday for summer break, the crew of Jos. Schmitt was ready to move in. Early Monday morning, the interior of the school was a busy place filled with contractors - all trying to meet the timeline of having the new classrooms finished by the middle of August.

This is an aggressive ask, but Jos. Schmitt and their partner sub-contractors have proven that they are committed to this project and are working many hours to reach our deadline. We so appreciate them!

God has provided beautiful weather to eliminate any weather delays and we praise Him for His grace and care of us in this way.

Phase 2 will not only add three additional classrooms but the majority of this phase is focused on our music department. If you have benefitted from the music program at OCS, you have experienced the high level of talent our students have. Fostering this and giving our music teachers the proper space to teach our students to also love music is the cornerstone of this project.

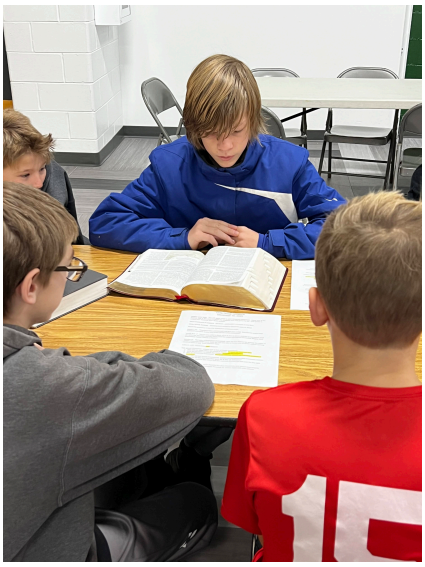
From the start, we needed to raise 5.9 Million. To date we are 67% of the way towards paying off this newest building project. Can you help us with a summer gift? What a testament to God's faithfulness through the generosity of His people and our supporters to see this project finished without any debt to pay. We have met these milestones in the past and we trust that we will meet them again for this newest and last building phase to this facility. If you would be willing to send a gift and support the completion of this project, gifts of all sizes are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for faithfully supporting our school through your prayers & financial gifts. While we know that there are many amazing non-profit organizations you can support, we hope all of our supporters know how your gifts to us are used in investing in the hearts & minds of God's precious children. We know this is the highest calling for us to show these students Jesus every single day! Thank you for partnering with us!

Our mission is to partner with the home\church in providing a distinctly Christian education where students learn about God, His Word, His world to develop a heart that is prepared for a lifetime of service to Jesus Christ.

The “Why” of Christian Education

It is that time of year, now, when we all begin to balance some new phases and transitions in our lives. On one hand, we had a school year to finish with the many activities that the anticipation of a concluded year brings: class trips, school programs, spring sports, concerts, graduations, and the list goes on. On another hand we now have our summer plans starting to jump out at us as we begin to formulate and coordinate schedules with family and friends, summer activities, travel, and work. But there is one other hand… if it were possible to have a third hand, that still lingers in the back of our minds for a while, until this, too, sneaks up on us. On this hand is school for the next year. For most, this is really not a thought as these big “schooling” plans don’t happen every year. But, have you ever taken the time to really consider “WHY” you have chosen OCS as the school for your family?



It is so easy to get distracted with the “when’s” and the “where’s” and the “what’s” and the “who’s” and the “how’s” of our school experience, but we often lose sight of the most important one - why. We have our calendars for the next school year, we know when school is, we know when we have to take our children to school, to practice, and all the other “what’s”. We have all the “what’s” on the calendar to tell us the “when’s” those “what’s” are happening with the “who’s”, and we go to great lengths to figure out “how” we will get to “where” the “what” is happening. All these can cloud our days, they consume our energy, and distract our focus.

When was the last time that you paused to ask yourself, “WHY are going to such great lengths for our students to attend Oostburg Christian School?” I think it is a good question to ask yourself. I think it is a necessary question to ask yourself. I have spoken to many, many parents - some long time veterans at OCS and others soon embarking for their first time on a gospel-centered, Biblically founded education at Oostburg Christian School. Whether it is your first child, or your tenth, there is a financial cost. Many yachts could have been purchased for some families! The “WHY” is what puts this sacrifice into perspective, and it puts my call to leadership and the purpose of Oostburg Christian School into a crystal clear focus.

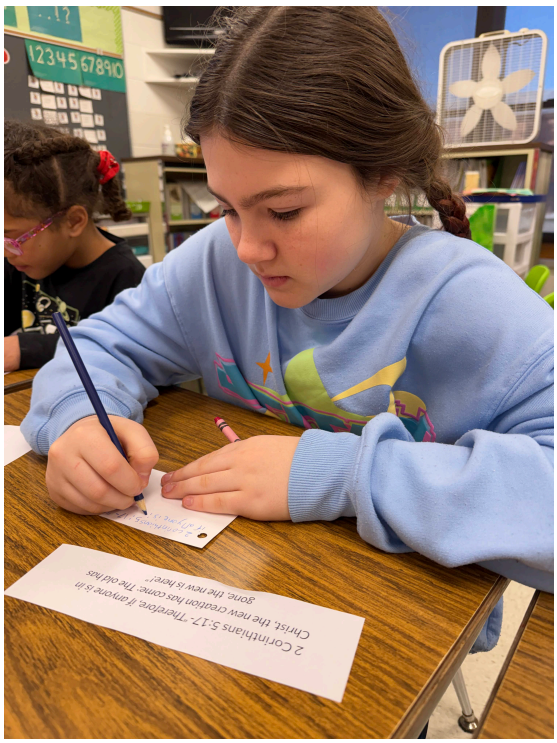
If you think about it, why do so many families make a financial sacrifice for OCS? Why do the amazing teachers at OCS take a lesser salary to teach at OCS than what they could earn elsewhere? The answer is simple, yet gets lost in the “what’s” and “when’s” and “where’s” and “how’s”. ***It is simply that our kids will know Christ.***

There is a LOT to the “why”, however. It is not that our students know about Christ… that can happen at any “christian” school. No, our “why” is that our students KNOW Christ, in a personal and eternal way. We want them to know of the God of the Bible, creation, His miracles, His redemptive plan, His Son - but so much more than an academic knowledge of God and His Son Jesus, our heart-driven and burning desire is that our students - in the way that only God can design - will have a personal, heart and old nature changing transformation into an intimate, personal, eternal and sanctifying relationship with an eternal and holy God through the Lordship of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is why. There can be no other “why”. Anything other than this, and this alone, translates into nothing more than a good, private education.

Our promise to you is that at Oostburg Christian School, we will never lose sight of the gospel. We can’t. The gospel is inescapable, it is exclusive in its demands, and it is the only thing that will transform. There are times that I wonder if we talk about the gospel too much. But, when I realize the sacrifice that families make to have their children attend here, and the war that Satan has waged on deconstructing the Biblical gospel, I can do nothing more than fall deeper into our commitment that it always has, and always will be about the gospel of Jesus Christ and what that calls for in our lives.

There is no say in this. There is no negotiating. Only God will reveal what He will reveal, to whom He will reveal it. However, my prayer is that when all of us who are in Christ are in glory with Him, and we havethe chance to worship before Him on His throne of holiness, that in His grace He will allow us to see the harvest of saved souls that He accomplished through Oostburg Christian School. What a day of rejoicing that will be!

And so we thank you, both parents making the sacrifice to entrust your children to our care and to our grandparents and supporters who are coming alongside us to support this magnificent calling both financially and in your continual prayers! From all of us at Oostburg Christian School, we wish you a wonderful summer and would exhort you, as well, to never forget the rich and eternally promising joy of the Good News of Jesus Christ!



In Him,

B. Torrenga

Brent Torrenga
Administrator

Dear Oostburg Christian Association, Families and Supporters,

On behalf of the entire OCS School Board, it is an honor to follow up with you regarding our most recent feasibility study that was conducted during the month of April. While the results were very encouraging and positive, the board and administration also gleaned valuable feedback regarding the current position of our school, with areas of commendation and also areas where we can begin to improve our current offerings. We are once again caught in awe of how great our God is and how He has blessed Oostburg Christian School for close to 80 years! Please join us in pausing and giving God thanks for our wonderful school and our wonderful community at OCS.

Another big token of thanks must go to all of you who participated either face-to-face interviews or by participating in our anonymous survey. Both of these modes of soliciting feedback was facilitated by GSB Fundraising, and so we offer a specific thank you to Jenny Wolf Smith. Before we communicate the results and our board's sentiments, we must highlight that we interviewed 42 couples who we considered to be strong stakeholders in OCS and in the surrounding community. We are fully confident that the pool of people who were asked to participate in the face-to-face interviews represented a wide range of perspective and opinion regarding the matter of the board considering movement forward on investigating a high school in the future. As a board, we can assure you that we did not "stack the deck" when selecting those we interviewed. There were some who we knew were opposed to this proposition. We wanted to hear from them. There were some who we knew were in favor of this proposition. We wanted to hear from them. We also selected interviewees whom we had no indication of where they stood on this matter, but with their perspectives and commitment to our school, we wanted to hear from them as well.

Lastly, we had an 80% response rate from our online survey that was sent out! This high participation rate is rarely heard of, with many organizations being satisfied with a 50% response rate. Jenny Wolf Smith from GSB was highly encouraged by this high rate of participation. With the individual interviews and the wide swath of OCS families surveyed, we believe that our data and our feedback is highly credible and accurate. For this, we are very thankful.

Results of the Feasibility Survey

From our stakeholder in-person interviews:

65% indicated a strong need or likely need that OCS should continue to move forward in considering a high school option in the future.
19% indicated that they were unsure if OCS should move forward in considering a high school option in the future.
16% indicated that OCS should not consider moving forward on a high school option.

Results of the Anonymous Online Survey:

81% indicated a great need or likely need for the OCS board to consider a high school option in the future
19% indicated no need or likely not a need for the OCS board to consider a high school option in the future

From these interviews, and from the additional questions from the online survey, the OCS board was able to glean a wealth of information pertaining to our current performance as a school, the strengths of our school, and we were able to receive feedback regarding areas that we must consider to enhance to make us an even better 3K through 8th grade Christian school.

How are we moving forward?

While we wish that a decision like this is easily made upon hard data, we knew going into this process that several hurdles and obstacles are in front of us. As a board, we also knew that many, many factors must be taken into account as we weigh out the responses against other factors that impact a decision like this.

We are grateful for the positive responses regarding our board, our administration, our staff and the spiritual and academic areas of the school. Regardless of the direction our board chooses to move, we are encouraged by the support and encouragement of where we are currently at and what we are providing to our students, parents and community.

When we made the decision in late November, 2025 to seek out a company to guide us through the feasibility process, the status of the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (state vouchers) was not in the same spot as it is today. From November to May, several lawsuits against the state (some now being spearheaded by Wisconsin school districts) are now being presented to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This is a big cause for caution, and one that concerns our board in moving forward with any definitive and extreme decision, especially one that could have a major impact on our families and school funding.

Additionally, we are praising God for the ways He has blessed OCS in providing our Phase One building addition debt free! We are currently close to 67% debt free in donations and pledges for our Phase Two building addition. As good stewards of your resources and the monies our supporters have provided us, we believe it is biblically obedient to put our focus into reducing the remaining 33% of our balance and working ourselves to be debt free from our second major phase.

Lastly, we have also been prayerfully convicted that we must continue to place ourselves in a spot of being financially strong for our future students. It is a commitment of the board, once our Phase Two addition is paid for, to build up our investments and savings to ensure long-term financial stability for the future of the school. This will be a heavy focus of ours once our second addition is paid for.

What does this mean for a possible future OCS high school?

Some of you may read this letter and say, “Hey! The survey results were very positive. You heard our voice, and now you’re going to ignore it?” Not at all, we have heard your responses, both favorable and unfavorable. As a board we will continue to keep this topic as a long-term strategic plan item for consideration. We will start to answer many of the questions that came from our surveys, and we will also keep a steady pulse on the political movements happening in Madison and around the state. We cannot ignore your voice, and we are committed to not disregarding the feedback you took time and prayer to provide.

It is, however, prudent at this time for us to slow this conversation down and work through the immediate factors in front of us as we are first, and foremost, committed to making our current 3K-8th grade OCS model the absolute best it can be and to set our kids, parents and staff up for long term stability. We are committed to entrusting our school’s future in continual prayer and will steadily investigate our future with your voices in mind.

If you would like to discuss this matter with one of us on the board, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at ocsschoolboard@oostburgchristian.com.

In Christ,

Adam Dykstra
OCS Board President

Monday, August 24th - First Day of school for 6th - 8th grade students/Sneak Peek for everyone.

Tuesday, August 25th - First Day of School 3K - 5th Grade/ First Day of School Chapel @ 8:30 a.m.

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:

Norm Veldboom

Thank you Veldboom family for directing your loved ones memorial to OCS!

OOSTBURG CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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