



BE THOU OUR VISION

Orange City Christian School is a biblically-based community that partners with parents, educating hearts and minds to serve in Christ's Kingdom.

Self-Control

The school year is off to a wonderful start. It is hard to believe we are already over a month into the school year. September has been full of activity at school. Volleyball games, playground remodeling, society meetings, field trips, regular class activities, and so much more keeps things buzzing around here.

Our theme for this year is Fruit of the Spirit. We had a fun, fantastic kickoff event at Sandy Hollow this month. We started our theme in September with "Self-Control" and that is so timely for us in our world right now.

Our theme verse is James 1:19-20: "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." I hear this verse shared regularly through the hallways. Teachers and staff are taking time to discuss it with students throughout this month. It is a great verse for all of us to take to heart.

How often are children and adults terrible examples of following this verse? How often are we quick to speak and slow to listen? We see so many examples of this in our world amplified through technology. We quickly take sides, try to out argue those who disagree with us, and rarely take time to understand each other. Unfortunately, this practice spills over into so much more than just politics or pandemics.

Remembering our theme and unleashing the words of our September verse challenges us to do better. When we establish the habit from James 1:19-20, we are ready to undertake learning and growing in all aspects of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Couldn't we and our world use more of those virtues?

OCCS believes our call is to educate all aspects of our students according to God's Word while partnering with parents. The board, teachers, and staff work dedicatedly each day to follow that call. We are encouraged each day with the privilege we have working in a building full of children and the support of loving parents. Thank you for partnering with us.

In Christ,
Jason Alons, Principal

Theme Chapel Kickoff Event

It was a beautiful brisk morning on September 22, 2021, when the student body filed onto buses that were headed for Sandy Hollow. This destination was where OCCS "kicked off" their Fruit of the Spirit theme for the 21/22 school year.

Thanks to the help of community members, pastors, and our own staff members, nine stations were set up around the campground that each grade level visited. Each station focused on a single characteristic of the fruit as explained in Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law". Students had fun practicing such characteristics with activities such as singing for joy, not popping bubbles for self-control, carrying eggs on a spoon for patience, and coloring placemats for our local care centers for kindness. We ended our time together with a group photo and eating a sack lunch on the campground.

As we continue on throughout this school year, it is our hope and prayer that the Fruit of the Spirit theme will continue to blossom in our children's lives as they grow. May their fruit be so evident that others will praise the workings of the Holy Spirit.

Crista Smidt



Convocation Service

August 24, 2021 was an exciting day for many as it kicked off the start of the 2021-22 school year. God blessed the school with a bright sunny morning, allowing nearly 300 students plus parents and OCCS supporters to learn about the school theme, sing together, and meet the OCCS Staff. The highlight of the morning was the "fruit" which appeared on stage. Despite some initial confusion, Mr. Alons, Mr. De Jong, Mr. Van Schepen, and Mr. Hilbelink eventually taught us that the fruit of the Spirit is not real fruit but characteristics produced in us by the Holy Spirit. Together, we prayed for a "fruitful" year, and the year began!

Kim Philipson



Tiger PAWS Update

Our Tiger PAWS year is off to a great start! We are thankful for the opportunity to serve our school community through the Tiger PAWS vision to provide prayer, service opportunities, and financial support for our school because of our commitment to Christian education.

Because of God's goodness, Tiger PAWS was recently able to write a check to OCCS for \$50,000 for tuition assistance and Tiger PAWS was also able to purchase chapel shirts for all of the students once again this year. Praise God! Through Tiger PAWS service opportunities, our OCCS families are able to come together to build a community as we fellowship while we serve. Our families are busy and our calendars are full but joining together and getting to know someone while we serve our school cultivates an important community fostering bond.

With the great feedback we received from the survey that was sent in April, we made the decision to continue with the Fall Frozen Pig fundraiser. We were once again thankful for the response from the community! Because of the help of many, 1500 dozen (yes, that is 18,000!) pig-in-the-blankets were made. A special thank you goes to the committee members for their time, effort and willing spirit to make this fundraiser a success. And, thank you to all who supported OCCS by your purchase of frozen pigs, we are thankful for you!

Soon we will be celebrating the 100 years that Monica / Tiger PAWS has been supporting OCCS! As preparations are being made, the committee welcomes all information, items, and ideas that you have to help with this celebration. Please contact Karla Kroeze, Maria Byker, or Miranda King with your contributions. We look forward to sharing more about this celebration in the near future.

Thank you for your continued support and most of all prayers for Tiger PAWS. We look forward to all God has planned for the year as we serve!

Kristin Mellema, Tiger PAWS Board President

School Year Kickoff Event

This year, our SHARE committee partnered with our middle school students in hosting a Fall Kickoff to School event on Saturday, August 28. The event combined the Fall Kickoff, which had happened each of the last few years, with the annual Fun Night which was typically held later in September as a middle school fundraiser. While it was agreed that both events still held value in bringing our school community together, we also saw the busyness of the fall with other activities and silage piles filling the calendar and made the decision to hold them the same night. Middle school students ran carnival games like plinko, coin toss, and the fishing pond for younger students. The inflatables were moved in the gym due to rain and storms in the area and a dunk tank was set up outside where students enjoyed the opportunity to get their favorite teachers wet. The storms also moved the "drive-in" movie indoors, but many stayed to enjoy a late-night viewing of "Zootopia" with a bag of popcorn. A big thanks to our SHARE committee and our 7th/8th grade students and parents for your help in running this year's event!

Matt Van Schepen



Second Grade Update

The second graders are off to a super start! We have been busy learning many new things both inside and outside the building.

We are currently learning about bats and the wonderful way God created them. We are in constant awe of God's amazing creation.

Something else unique to second grade is our partnership with the Orange City Fire Department. Each class is assigned a fire fighter to visit our classroom and they come to visit each month. For the month of September, they came and talked to us about fire prevention and what fire fighters wear to protect themselves. They want the students to know that they don't need to be afraid of them if they would ever need to help them in a fire. They will also come and talk about escape plans, meeting places, and fire safety equipment, and they will bring a trailer that they use for a simulation of a fire in a real house.

One of the special things we were able to do outside of the building was a field trip to the Harvest Festival in Sioux Center. As we read Little House on the Prairie, it was fun to see some of the things that are talked about in the book. We were able to go inside of a sod hut, watch apples being pressed into cider, see a blacksmith make horseshoes, watch butter being churned and eat some with crackers, and many other interesting things.

Maria Noteboom & Jennifer Noteboom, 2nd grade teachers



Sports Update

As we roll into October, our fall sports season continues along. We are at the halfway point in our seasons. We currently have students participating in OCCS volleyball, Jr. Knights football and Jr. Knights cross country. We also sent a group of junior high students to the 1 mile fun run hosted by Unity Christian.

Our volleyball team is off to a good start. Our 7th grade team has a record of 6 wins and 4 losses, while our 8th grade team has a record of 7 wins and 3 losses. This year our teams are coached by Josie Vander Stoep and Hope Geissert. This year we have 4 eighth graders and 14 seventh graders participating in volleyball.

We had some great performances from our 6th-8th graders who participated in the Unity Christian Fun Run. Congratulations goes out to the following students that placed in their divisions: 6th grade boys: Elliot Klompier 3rd place, 6th grade girls: Lindsey De Groot 5th place, 7th grade girls: Sienna Rosenboom 1st place, Summer Schouten 2nd place, Avery Rowenhorst 3rd place, 7th grade boys: Tyce Van Donge 1st place, 8th grade girls: Kate Van Grow 4th place, and 8th grade boys: James Foreman 1st place. Thank you to Melanie Witt and Karlyn Brunst for helping our runners prepare for this event.

Travis De Jong, Athletic Director

Staff Wish List 2021-22

Supporters of OCCS, it takes a lot of resources to make a school run smoothly. Budgets are tight and we work hard to ensure that school dollars go as far as possible. Most supplies used in the classroom and around school are budgeted. However there are resources and items teachers would like to purchase but they do not fit into this category. The teachers and staff members have created a "wish list".

If you or someone you know would like to give toward any of these wish list items, you may send it in to the office. We will then let the teacher know and purchase the item immediately. You can also give a portion of the cost of an item. Then several people can donate toward an item for a classroom.

Thank you for helping out in this way!

Grade/Department	Item	Quantity	Amount
3rd grade	The One and Only Ivan	40	\$6.96 each
3rd grade	vocab binders	20	\$19.99 each set
4th Grade	Books for Classroom Library		Prices Vary
4th Grade	Keyboard Covers for Typing	32	\$14.88 each
4th Grade	Noise Cancelling Headphones	6	\$13.99 each
4th Grade	Wood Clipboards	2	\$9.95 for each 6 pack
5th-6th grade	Flocabulary-website subscription		\$120 a year
5th-6th grade	Storyboarding		\$7.99/month
5th-6th grade	Keyboard Covers for Typing	65	\$967.20
6th grade	Quizlet teacher upgrade	1	\$47.88
6th grade	Turtle food-Reptomin-10.59 oz.	2	\$32.00
6th-8th grade	World Watch-10 minute daily news update		\$10/mo or \$80/year
7th-8th grade	Electric pencil sharpener	1	\$30.00
7th-8th grade	Student mailboxes	1	\$110.00
Kindergarten	Playtime toys - dolls	2	\$22.00
Kindergarten	Playtime toys - beads	1	\$20.00
Kindergarten	Playtime toys - Legos	1	\$25.00
Kindergarten	Privacy shield durable washable	1	\$13.00
Kindergarten	Play doh brand playdoh any colors but white		
Library	parachute	1	\$19.88
Library	bookmarks	1	\$11.99
Office	Clipboards - 10 pack	1	\$48.00

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 7 & 8	Heartland Conference - No School
October 20	Chapel led by 2nd & 7th grades
October 22	End of first quarter, 12:00 dismissal
October 27	Pastors' Day
November 1-4	Library Book Fair
November 1	1:30pm dismissal 4:00-8:30 p.m. - P/T Conferences
November 2	1:30pm dismissal 2:30-7:00 p.m. - P/T Conferences
November 5	No School
November 15	Fall Concert, 5th-8th grade
November 24	Chapel led by 1st & 6th grades
November 24	12:00 dismissal
November 25 & 26	Thanksgiving Break, No School
December 16	K-5 musical, OCCS gym, 7:00pm
December 17	K-5 musical, OCCS gym, 10:00am
December 21	Chapel led by support staff
December 22	12:00 p.m. dismissal
Dec. 23-Jan. 3	Christmas Break
January 4	Classes resume
January 14	End of second quarter, 12:00 dismissal
January 26	1:00pm chapel led by Preschool & 4th grades

MEMORIALS

Edna Katje

Board Report – October 2021

September Balance Sheet: \$446,024.70

Thank you to all who participated in the silage piles fundraiser. Eight piles were covered and approximately \$50,000 was raised.

An after-care program has been implemented on Fridays for families of preschoolers and kindergartners.

The city has partnered with OCCS to re-seed the playground/soccer field and put in new baseball diamonds.

The annual Society Meeting was held on Monday, September 13.

- 109 members were in attendance; 8 absentee ballots were accepted.
- Retiring board members were Heather Hofmeyer (At Large), Bert Reinders (1st CRC) and Jamey Schiebout (Living Water). We sincerely appreciate the years of service each of them has given to serving on the OCCS school board.
- New board members elected were Tim Van Voorst (At Large), Christina Zuiderveen (1st CRC) and Schuyler Noteboom (Living Water).
- Recognized for years of service at OCCS were:
 - 5 years: Michelle Alons, Karlyn Brunst, Jennifer Noteboom, Katie Schuller
 - Thank you for your commitment to our school and serving faithfully!
- Enrollment for 2021-22: 29 in two preschool programs, 296 in K-8 (decrease of 2 from last year)
- Election of Board Officers and Committee Assignments:
 - President – Dan Foreman
 - Vice President – Luke Perry
 - Treasurer – Melanie Van Grouw
 - Secretary – Jen Elgersma
 - Vicar – Brady Goslinga
- Committee Assignments:
 - Education – Luke Perry, Tim Van Voorst
 - Finance – Melanie Van Grouw, Brady Goslinga, Christina Zuiderveen
 - Building - Dan Foreman, Steve Vis
 - SHARE – Jen Elgersma, Schuyler Noteboom
- TIGER PAWS (formerly MONICA) 100 year celebration (1921-2021) is being planned.

Respectfully Submitted, Heather Hofmeyer, board secretary

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

<u>Church Unit</u>	<u>Requested for 2020-21</u>	<u>Contribution for 2020-21</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>
Calvary CRC	\$98,000.00	\$28,095.68	\$69,904.32
First CRC	76,000.00	15,003.36	60,996.64
Hospers CRC	16,000.00	5,554.88	10,445.12
Immanuel CRC	100,000.00	10,089.08	89,910.92
Living Water	68,000.00	3,960.65	64,039.35
Redeemer URC	46,000.00	8.00	45,992.00
Other Supporting Churches	12,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Partner Society	178,000.00	59,695.42	118,304.58