



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.



CLASS OF 2021 GRADUATION



On Friday, May 28, OCCS held the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2021 at First CRC. Thirty-nine graduates received their diploma this year. The class chose "Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me" as their class song as well as their class motto. The verse they picked to coincide with their song was Philippians 4:13, "I can do all this through Him who gives me strength". Speaking to the class this year were Pastor John Klompier of Calvary CRC and Pastor Garry Nyenhuis of Living Water CRC, both parents of graduates of the class. Speaking on behalf of the graduates were Kendra Breems, Kortney Hofmeyer, and Caden Oolman. Following the ceremony, graduates were congratulated by friends and families at a parent-coordinated reception at Unity Christian High School.

Matt Van Schepen, Middle School Teacher

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

July 5	OCCS office closed for observation of the 4th of July holiday
July 19-30	School closed, no TRIP sales
August 3-5, 10-12	GUFS for those registered, 10:00am-12:15pm
August 10 & 16	Registration for 2021-22 year, music rooms, 6:30-8:00
August 23	6:30-8:00 p.m. Back-to-School Night
August 24	First day of school for 2021-22 school year, 8:45 Dedication Service
September 6	Labor Day - No School
September 7	Preschool begins
October 7 & 8	Heartland Conference - No School

Heroes of the Faith

We have completed another school year at OCCS. It has been a good year. In some ways it went very fast and in others not so fast. Through it all I thank and appreciate all of you for your support and dedication to the school.

The theme for this year was "Heroes of the Faith" and it was another exciting theme to study with our students. In August, I shared thoughts on the overall theme verse of Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." I encouraged us to go forward in faith.

We did not know what the year would hold, what challenges it would bring, and even if we could stay meeting in person. The Lord was faithful and saw us through. We were able to continue to meet in person and the health here at school was strong and absences never got overwhelming. Even through the challenges, the ups and downs, we can declare that God is good, and His faithfulness endures through all generations.

Now as we look back, I would like to leave you with our May verse: Hebrews 11:39-40, "These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect." I love how these verses focus on community and together. Those heroes listed in Hebrews 11 lived their lives in faith knowing God is faithful and will accomplish His purpose before the Messiah came. Hebrews 12 gives us our challenge to run our race and move forward in faith and community, with the Messiah as Lord, working in our community in anticipation of fulfillment with the Messiah's coming again. We can do that, as Hebrews 12:1 states, "since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses".

OCCS is blessed with a multi-generational cloud of witnesses. Certainly this includes the ones from the Bible, and also you parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and loved ones in our community today. Thank you for being a part of that. We had a good year, the Lord is on the throne, and he has certainly blessed OCCS. Have a great summer.

Jason Alons, Principal

Farewell to Staff

OCCS bids farewell to some staff members who have served our school faithfully in different capacities.

- Jerry Goedhart has served us as our technology expert for 20 years. He worked behind the scenes to make sure all our technology worked smoothly. He plans to spend more time with his wife.
- Barb Bouma has served in our kitchen for 3 years. She is planning to spend more time with her husband and following her grandkids.
- Krista Oolman served as a classroom aide in our middle school this past school year. She will be teaching full-time at Ireton Christian School next year.

We wish them well as they begin these new chapters in their lives.

Jason Alons, Principal

K-5 Musical

The K-5 Musical, "A Not So Terrible Parable" was FINALLY performed on April 22 and 23 after a long delay because of Covid. The students were so excited to be able to bring the story to life and share the story of the Good Samaritan. The 5th grade students were the stars of the show which took place at the quaint Mountain Vista Inn where a storm was brewing outside and a mystery was transpiring inside! This "who-dun-it" had fascinating characters, a story twisting plot and wonderful Biblical truths of God's unfailing love, mercy and faithfulness!



Tiger Toss

On Saturday, April 24th, we held the annual Tiger Toss Bean Bag Tournament. We had hoped that a date later in the spring would allow for us to hold the event outdoors, but due to less than ideal weather conditions, it was moved inside. This year, we had 20 teams enter in the 4:00 tournament (won by Caleb Smit & Landon Hofmeyer) and 24 teams enter in the 6:00 tournament (won by James Bouma and Jacob Van Donge). This year's tournament focus was to bring the community together to celebrate a full year of in-person school rather than act as a major fundraising event. Another change this year was the omission of the Serenity Stage, a popular event for many which was removed from the night this year due to the initial goal of holding the event outdoors. In its place we saw the addition of OCCS Bingo which turned out to be very popular with kids of all ages. Thanks to everyone who came to play bags, participate in Bingo, and eat the delicious pulled pork meal that was offered.



Honor Orchestra

These students were selected to be a part of the Middle School Honors String Orchestra which took place on April 30, 2021 at the Le Mars Community High School. The students rehearsed under the direction of Dr. Onsby Rose from Dordt College and performed in an early evening concert.

Attending from OCCS were left to right, front row: Emily Oordt, Haley Schuller. Second row: Kate Van Grouw, Kallie Zwart, Brynn Vanden Brink, Kendra Breems. Third row: Drew Noteboom, Amber Vande Zande, Amalia Visser, Kaylee Dykstra. Fourth Row: Emma De Rooy, Katie Young, Dustin Vande Voort, Autumn Bousema.

Also selected but not pictured were Celeste Van Kley, Morgan De Groot, Joslyn Vis, Kortney Hofmeyer, and Madison Hoogland.

We praise God for the gift of music!



Math Bee

Four teams from OCCS competed in the Dordt University math bees held on May 18 and 19. The bees were virtual so students solved problems from the STEPS classroom and entered their answers on a Google form. To give you a glimpse of what the students worked on, here are two problems from the bees:

Are you smarter than a 4th or 5th grader?

In the cryptarithm $ABC + AB + A + B + C = CBA$, different letters stand for different digits. What is the three-digit number CBA? Answers are below this article.

Are you smarter than a 7th or 8th grader?

At the Pascal School, exactly 5.2% of the 8th graders joined the tennis team. What is the least number of 8th graders at the Pascal School? Answers are below this article.

Thank you to these students for representing OCCS at the bees:

4th grade: Autumn Bonnema, Abigail Van Maanen, Levi Dykstra, Kelsey Hulstein, Chelsea De Rooy

5th Grade: Leyton Woudstra, Gage De Groot, Arielle Moreau, Connor Van Dyk, Kaden De Weerd

7th Grade: Josh Campbell, James Foreman, Lily Bonnema, Emma De Rooy, Kallie Zwart

8th Grade: Isaiah Van Maanen, Riley Mulder, Caden Oolman, Jacen Huizenga

From this group of students we had quite a few individuals who placed in the top 20 individuals in their grade. The students who placed in the top 20 were Levi, Leyton, Arielle, Kaden, Lily, Emma, Isaiah, Riley, and Jacen. Congratulations, students!

We also had two teams who received awards! The 5th grade team took second place, and the 8th grade team took first place. Thank you to all these mathletes for their hard work!

Kim Philipsen, STEPS Teacher

(Answers: CBA=918, 8th graders = 250 students)

Strings Night

"StringsFest 2021...Driving Through the Decades" was a fun and exciting outdoor concert and car show, featuring the 4th-8th Orchestras. Sabrina Timmermans and Caden Oolman led the festivities as emcees and kept everything rolling along. Cars playing "Hot Cross Buns", a Bazooka bubble gum blowing contest, many "sock-hoppers" rocking around the clock, a couple of surfers riding the waves, and some old fashioned pop and snacks had the large crowd driving back into the "good old days." We also had guest appearances from the Monkees and Elvis Presley! A big THANK YOU to all who brought cool cars from many decades to help us get the show on the road!

We said good-bye to some awesome 8th graders and wish them God's richest blessings as they go on to high school! (How many 8th graders can you pack into a VW bus?) Above all we say thank you to God for his faithfulness throughout the decades! Great Is Thy Faithfulness!

Dixie Wielenga, Music Teacher



Sports Update

As we put the finishing touches on another school year, we see the end of our 2020-21 athletic events! This spring was a busy one for our Junior High students. We had students participating in the school musical, track and soccer on top of many other school related activities.

Our track team was able to participate in 3 of their 4 meets, with the Western Meet getting rained out. Our girls took the team title in all 3 of the meets, while our boys took 2nd at the Trailblazer invite hosted by Sioux Center Christian. This spring we witnessed a school record fall. Mia Schuiteman, Jaelye Woudstra, Elizabeth Hoogland, and Katie Young broke the 4x400m relay record, which dated back to 1994! We also had couple near misses on a couple other relay records. Our coaches really enjoyed working with this group of athletes as they were hard workers and very respectful. They really wished they could have worked with our 8th graders one more year since they missed out last year!

Our soccer teams also had an exciting year this spring. Our girls' team ended the season with a record of 4 wins and 2 losses. They ended the year on a 4 game winning streak! Our boys' teams ended the year with a record of 1 win and 5 losses. Two of the losses came in overtime and one loss came via shootout, while their only win also came in a shootout. Our boys had some close and exciting games. We had two coed games this year and were able to win both of those!

We would like to thank our coaches: Melanie Witt, Karlyn Brunst, Micah Byl, Sydney Minderhoud, Dillan De Jong and Andrew Perry. Thank you for taking the time to work with our athletes. It is a big commitment and we appreciate you doing it.

That is a wrap for our 2020-2021 athletic season. We are extremely thankful that we were able to participate in all of our sports this year!

Travis De Jong, Athletic Director

Board Report

- May balance sheet: \$260,229.95
- The board was pleased to offer contracts to our hourly employees, including classroom aides and office and kitchen staff.
- We welcome Lori Wassenaar to the OCCS office staff. Lori will begin the second week of June.
- We would like to thank those who served on the COVID task force. With updated regulations in place from the Iowa Department of Education concerning COVID, this committee is now absolved. We are grateful for their guidance in keeping our school open and safe during the pandemic.
- The fall Society meeting has been moved to early September. It is scheduled for September 13, 2021. In an effort to provide time for newly elected board members to be orientated to the school board, they will attend a brief Board of Directors meeting after the Society meeting. Newly elected board members will be a part of their first full board meeting on the third Monday of September to begin their service. This meeting will be held on September 27, 2021.
- Tuition and fair share amounts have been approved for the 2021-2022 school year. Be watching for registration information as it becomes available late summer.
- OCCS has partnered with the city of Orange City to redo the soccer fields and ball diamonds behind the school. Work will begin this summer.
- A motion was passed to implement a daycare beginning next fall at OCCS for those students who are enrolled in kindergarten and preschool. More information will be available in the upcoming months.

We appreciate your continued prayer support! *Heather Hofmeyer, board secretary*

Tiger PAWS Update

Tulip Festival Tent & Straatmarkt combined profits are estimated at around \$35,000!! A record year! THANK YOU to:

1. Tent, Straatmarkt, Pigs and Soup/Tavern committees. Your efforts in this challenging year were creative and very much appreciated. Great work!
2. All those who came to help with tent set up by moving tables and chairs both on set-up night and take-down night. Many hands made the work light and quick!
3. Everyone who ate at the tent or Straatmarkt booth and supported Tiger PAWS at Tulip Festival.
4. God for allowing us to have Tulip Festival and experience a community-wide celebration.

Prayer Items:

- Praise God for a full year of school IN school! Who would have thought that would ever even be a concern? The blessing of face-to-face teaching and learning has become very clear and not something we take for granted anymore.
- Prayers of praise for the 39 graduating 8th grade students. May God continue to guide and bless them as they head to high school.
- Praise God for all OCCS faculty and staff for the faithful, dedicated work they do. Their time and energy devoted to the students and families sets OCCS apart.
- Pray that all students, faculty and staff have an enjoyable, safe and rejuvenating summer break.
- Continue to pray for OCCS administration and school board. Their work is often unseen but vital to the function of our school.

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	\$93,600.00	\$92,780.69	\$819.31
First CRC	77,400.00	73,150.45	4,249.55
Hospers CRC	12,600.00	12,600.00	0.00
Immanuel CRC	104,400.00	104,400.00	0.00
Living Water	64,800.00	42,389.65	22,410.35
Redeemer URC	48,600.00	48,600.00	0.00
Other Supporting Churches	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00
Partner Society	106,650.00	106,591.12	58.88