



Heart of Iowa School Tuition Organization

Thank you for your support of Pella Christian Grade School! We are only able to provide Christ-centered education through the support of the PCGS community.

For the current school year, nearly 75 families with demonstrated financial need are receiving tuition assistance. Without assistance, the financial challenges would be too great for many of these families and they wouldn't be able to enroll their children at PCGS. A majority of PCGS's financial assistance awards are funded through distributions from the Heart of Iowa Student Tuition Organization (HOI STO).

While supporting financial assistance for our families, donations to the HOI STO also provide great tax benefits to donors. Donations to the HOI STO are eligible for a 65% tax credit against Iowa taxes and a portion may also be deductible on federal taxes. Please note that

the tax credit can be used to receive a refund of state income taxes withheld from wages during the year – the tax benefits are available even if you don't owe when filing your state taxes.

As of the writing of this letter, PCGS needs an additional \$262,000 of designated contributions to the HOI STO to meet its fundraising goal for 2020. We ask that you consider a contribution – it's important to raise these funds to provide financial assistance to our families with financial need. If we do not reach our fundraising goal, the amount we receive from HOI STO will be reduced. If you'd like to contribute, please complete the attached form (be sure to indicate the gift is for PCGS) and mail to the address listed on the form. If you have any questions, please call the school office.

Thank you for your support!

2020-21 Kindergarten Schedule

Pella Christian Grade School board approved the transition from the current progressive kindergarten model to a 5-day per week schedule beginning the 2021/2022 school year at the October board meeting.

A full time kindergarten schedule will provide educational benefits to kindergarten students. The additional time will provide students more in depth learning of current content through discovery and play based learning. The schedule change is not meant to move students through more content each year. In addition, the increased time and consistency will help students learn classroom structures and routines that allow for more impactful learning. The transition to a full time kindergarten schedule will also allow for additional learning opportunities surrounding social and emotional development. Finally, this change will provide our teachers additional time to provide individualized instruction and enrichment ideas for all students at Pella Christian Grade School.

While it is recognized that the progressive model has served some families well, this model has also created challenges for an increasing number of families throughout recent years. One of these challenges has centered on the need for regressive childcare. Finding daycare and holding seats for limited usage have created burdens to families which a 5-day kindergarten schedule will alleviate. Board discussions surrounding model options were considered, but the complexities of options presented additional challenges.

Pella Christian Grade School kindergarten teachers and staff look forward to inviting students to know God's story and live their part in God's story through the 5-day per week schedule beginning next school year.

Sample Tax Benefit of STO Donation

	<i>Without STO Donation</i>	<i>With STO Donation</i>
State income taxes before STO tax credit	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
STO tax credit (65% of \$5,000 donation)	-0-	3,250
Taxes due after STO tax credit	4,000	750
State taxes withheld from wages	4,500	4,500
State tax refund	\$ 500	\$ 3,750

The \$5,000 donation increased the donor's state tax refund by \$3,250 – reducing the "cost" of the contribution to \$1,750 (\$5,000 contribution – \$3,250 tax savings). In addition, the donor may be able to report the \$1,750 as a charitable contribution on the donor's federal taxes to further reduce the "cost" of the contribution.

** We are not able to provide specific tax advice, please [consultant](#) with your tax advisor. **



Board Briefs

Kyle Van Wyngarden shared opening devotions.

Correspondence - The board reviewed correspondence regarding the decision for a five-day kindergarten program. The board had a discussion and did not take action.

Reports - Glen Swanson shared the financial reports. David Te Grotenhuis Shared The Head of School, Director of Learning, Admissions Director, and Preschool Director Reports.

Building and Grounds - The Building and Ground Committee reported on projects completed this past month. A new bus is scheduled for delivery soon.

Executive - The minutes of the November 13 Executive Committee were shared for information.

New Business - Information about the Head of Schools and Principal positions was shared for information. Transition teams for each position have been selected, an opportunity profile has been created, and the job has been posted. The administrative team is working on a job description for each new position. Due to COVID-19, The Fall Board Workshop that was scheduled to take place this month will be rescheduled for the Spring.

Closing - Mike Fransman closed in prayer.

COVID Brings Virtual Concerts

Creation Station Preschool Christmas Program will be recorded with students and shared with parents in the middle of December. The Christmas program will premiere through Pella Christian High School's YouTube channel.

Spanish Immersion Christmas Program will be recorded and premiere through Pella Christian High School's YouTube channel in mid December.

More information will be shared through church communications or you may contact office@pellachristian.net to obtain a link to view the programs after December 17.

Prayers and Praise

Thank you for your continue prayers for the students and staff at Pella Christian Grade School. It has been a blessing to have face to face learning for over three months. Please continue to pray for the health of staff and students as the influenza season has begun. Student attendance has remained consistent during this time of increased cases in the county and surrounding areas. Our prayer is continue on site face to face learning in the weeks ahead.

Employment Opportunities

One-On-One Spanish Immersion Aide - Pella Christian Grade School has an immediate opening for a Full-Time One-On-One Spanish Immersion Aide. The person in this position would provide services to a lower elementary student in our 2nd grade Spanish immersion classroom. All subjects in the immersion program are taught in Spanish so that the students learn Spanish as a second language through content material. The candidate must be a committed Christian who is fluent in Spanish and proficient in English. A current Iowa teaching certificate or para-educator certificate is desired, but not required for this opening. Interested applicants may contact David Te Grotenhuis, Head of School tegrotenhuisd@pellachristian.net or complete the non-teaching application found on the employment opportunities page of the PCGS website. Applications will be accepted until this position is filled.

Middle School Music Festival

This year our annual Middle School Music Festival was conducted in a little different format. On November 12 middle school students from Pella Christian, Peoria Christian and Sully Christian were able to perform pieces for our clinicians and then record the music for a virtual concert. Aaron Fitzgerald and Autumn Bennett served as the clinician this year and were joined by directors Melanie Meinders and Carolyn Ansley. Some of the pieces for this years' concert include: Homeward Bound, When Jesus Wept and Yonder Come Day. The virtual concert will premiere on the PCHS YouTube channel on Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m. Please email office@pellachristian.net to receive a specific link for the premiere.

November

- 24 Virtual Music Festival Premiere
- 25 11:35 a.m. dismissal, Thanksgiving break
- 26-27 No School, Thanksgiving break
- 30 No School. professional learning

December

- 9 2:35 p.m. dismissal, professional learning
- 16 2:35 p.m. dismissal, professional learning
- 21 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- 23 11:35 a.m. dismissal, Christmas break

January

- 4 Classes resume



Heart of Iowa School Tuition Organization

Use this form for donations during the 2020 tax year only.

If you are making a donation for a different tax year, you must use an updated form.

Donation Instructions: Include this form with your donation. Donors will receive a tax credit certificate equal to 65% of their donation. **Make checks payable to Heart of Iowa STO.**

Checks may be sent to one of the participating STO schools or to the address below:

Heart of Iowa STO
13007 Douglas Parkway
Urbandale, IA 50323-1702

Tax Credit Certificates will be mailed in January of the following year.

If your employer offers a Matching Gifts Program, your donation may be eligible for a match (credits are not issued on the match).

DONOR INFORMATION (required to receive tax credit)

Name of Donor or Corporation (if Corp. include type):		Social Security # or EIN (Required):	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Email Address:		Phone #:	

If the designated school exceeds their fundraising goal, I give permission for the excess portion of my donation to be directed to another school. Donor Initials: _____

DONATION

Undesignated Donation \$ _____

Designated - Select one or more schools.

Ames Christian School	\$ _____	Marshalltown Christian School	\$ _____
Ankeny Christian Academy	\$ _____	Morning Star Academy	\$ _____
Cedar Valley Christian School	\$ _____	Mt. Olive Lutheran School	\$ _____
Des Moines Christian School	\$ _____	Pella Christian Grade School	\$ _____
Grand View Christian School	\$ _____	Tri-State Christian School	\$ _____
Heartland Christian School	\$ _____	Waterloo Christian School	\$ _____
Isaac Newton Christian Academy	\$ _____		

Total Donation to All Schools \$ _____

For STO Office Use:

Donation Received By: _____ **Date:** _____