



Teaching for Transformation Frameworks

Pella Christian Grade School teachers are over halfway finished with year-two training of the Teaching for Transformation (TfT) frameworks. Through TfT, teachers are designing learning experiences that help students discover God's Story and His fingerprints in all things, with the hope that every learning experience will become truly transformational for each student. PCGS teachers have learned and implemented three core practices of TfT which are storyline, throughlines, and formational learning experiences or FLEx.

The core practice of storyline invites students to imagine his or her place in God's Story now. The TfT framework does this by connecting the story of each unit with opportunities for students to live out God's Story.

Biblical throughlines are the second core practice of the TfT framework and are the qualities and characteristics that we desire students to develop as they live out God's story. The throughlines describe how we can become part of the creation/fall/redemption/restoration narrative. These characteristics answer the questions "How NOW shall I live?" and "What does God call us to "be"?"

Formational Learning Experiences or FLEx are designed to form the student's heart, mind, and actions to equip students to become people who live and breathe God's Story. This third core practice is key to shaping our students to desire a pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The PCGS staff have developed classroom storylines and are introducing the throughlines to students. All of our students have or will experience a FLEx in the weeks following Christmas Break. Teachers have three days of training scattered throughout the remainder of the school year to build a deeper understanding of the TfT Frameworks. Throughout its history, PCGS has focused on integrating faith and learning into everything we do, and we believe the TfT frameworks provide an intentional way to bind together all subjects and activities in a way that proclaims the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Heart of Iowa STO

Pella Christian Grade School is a part of the Heart of Iowa STO (HOI STO) for the 2018/19 school year. A 65% state tax credit will be given on the first \$1.72 million donated to the Heart of Iowa School Tuition Organization. We are excited to announce that the Heart of Iowa STO has been filled. Thank you for the support to assist the families in their desire for a Christian education. The Legacy of Grace STO is still seeking funds, if you are still wanting to contribute. The website is logsto.org



End of Year Giving

As the holidays' approach and the calendar year is about to end, it is a great time to look back on the year and be filled with gratitude for God's provisions. The board and staff are thankful for the wonderful new space and anticipate continued work on the building. Only through your generosity was this possible. Please think of PCGS when considering end of year gifts. Support in prayers and financial are truly appreciated.

Special Society Meeting

A special Society meeting is set for January 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pella Christian Grade School lunch room. Motion regarding the prioritized list of items to be completed in phase four will be discussed. Electronic absentee ballots will be made available on January 7.

Class of 2032

Pella Christian Grade School board is planning for the Class of 2032. Will you have a kindergartener at PCGS next year? Do you know of a family who will have a kindergartener next year? The PCGS administration is in the process of preparing an initial draft of the 2019-20 school budget and would like to get an estimated number of kindergarten students. Please call the school office if you will be enrolling a child in kindergarten next year or know of a family who may be interested in Pella Christian Grade School.

Board Briefs

Jodi De Vries shared opening devotions.

Reports - Chad Vink shared the financial reports. Craig Juffer gave a curriculum and technology report. David Te Grotenhuis shared highlights from the preschool and head of school report. Jodi De Vries and Nathan Nikkel gave classroom visit reports.

Education - The board approved the 2019-20 school calendar.

The board approved a motion to no longer have a swimming unit in grades two and three.

Finance - Information was shared with the board about the development of a new retirement plan for Pella Christian Grade School staff.

The board briefly discussed the 2019-2020 preliminary budget.

Building and Grounds - The board approved names for

members of the Food Service Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Building and Grounds Committee.

Executive - The board approved the second reading of a policy that addresses signage, placards, and naming rights. The board approved an agenda for a special society meeting to be held on January 21, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. An electronic absentee ballot will be made available two weeks before the society meeting.

Development - The minutes of the December 10 meeting were shared for information.

New Business - The board discussed information shared at the November 29 Board Workshop. The board discussed board member selection for 2019-2020.

Closing - Steve Runner closed in prayer.

Employment Opportunity

Pella Christian Grade School has the following opening:
For 2019-20) Middle School Bible Teacher - This is an opening for a full-time middle school Bible teacher. The primary responsibilities of this position include teaching Bible to two sections of sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students in addition to teaching one electives class. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Interested applicants can view the PCGS website or contact David Te Grotenhuis at tegrotenhuisd@pellachristian.net for more information. Applicants should submit an application, the application questions, agree to statement of faith, submit an official or unofficial transcript, and submit a resume along with two letters of recommendation. Application information can be found at www.pellachristian.net under employment tab.

Lego League

Did you know that it costs NASA \$10,000 per pound of payload that is launched into space? After working hard researching and designing since September, sixteen middle school students on two separate teams took projects and robots to competition in Ottumwa earlier this month. The theme this year is "Into Orbit."

After three rounds of robot competitions, two interviews, and a project presentation, both of PCGS's Lego League teams are advancing to state competition January 19! One PCGS team received the first place regional project award. This team's project focused on bringing pets to space due to the positive emotional and health impacts for humans. The team developed a harness system that allows a dog to walk on a treadmill while in space. The other group was awarded the Global Innovation Award and will have the opportunity to be part of a special showcase at the state competition with the possibility of individuals or companies investing in their idea to advance the design. This group designed a water-soluble food container which eliminates the need for plastic-packaged food for space travel thus increasing payload space and reducing weight on a long-term space flight.

Winter Bash

Please mark your calendar for February 22, 2019 to attend Winter Bash. The Winter Bash committee is busy preparing for a fun evening in which we raise money to support our school. You won't want to miss it! Visit <http://kidzblitz.com/outreach-family-program/> to see a sneak peek of what's being planned. Reserve February 22, 2019 for your family and make sure to tell your friends about it as well! Everyone is welcome!

December

- 24 - January 1 No School, Christmas Break
- 24 & 25 School office closed, no T.R.I.P. orders processed
- 31 School office closed

January

- 1 School office closed; no T.R.I.P. orders processed
- 2 Classes resume
- 9 2:35 p.m. dismissal, professional learning
- 16 2:35 p.m. dismissal, professional learning
- 21 5:30 p.m. Special Society Meeting, PCGS lunch. room
- 21 7:00 p.m. Board meeting
- 25 No school, Day 6 of Tft training
- 30 2:35 p.m. dismissal, professional learning

