



Sanborn Christian

SCHOOL BELL

September 2026



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Welcome to our newest staff members! Jeremy Mills (Principal), Missi Runia (Academic Assistance), Marissa Maas (2nd Grade)

Upcoming Events

- September 22 - 7th VB ONLY @ Ireton (1 game) @ 4:00pm
- September 23 - Teacher PD - dismiss @ 2:00pm
- September 24 - 7th VB ONLY @ Home vs. Inwood (1 game) @ 4:00pm
- September 25 - 6th & 7th VB @ Home vs. Worthington Chr.
- September 29 - VB @ Home vs. HCS @ 4:00pm
- October 1, 2 - Heartland Teacher Convention - No School
- October 6 - VB @ Sheldon Christian @ 4:00pm
- October 8 - VB @ home vs. SCCS @ 4:00pm
- October 14 - Teacher PD - dismiss @ 2:00pm
- October 15 - VB @ RVCS @ 4:00pm
- October 23 - Serve and Shine (Work A Thon)
- October 23 - End Q1 - dismiss @ 2:00pm
- October 24 - VB Tournament @ WCHS
- October 28 - Teacher PD - dismiss @ 2:00pm
- November 3 - PTC 3:00-8:00pm - Dismiss @ 2pm
- November 5 - PTC 3:00-8:00pm - Dismiss @ 2pm,
- November 7 - Harvest Sale



Sanborn Christian School

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<https://www.facebook.com/sanbornchristianschool>

Our Mission:

Educating under God's Word,
for serving God in His World.

PRINCIPAL'S PEN

There is something special about the beginning of a school year. The hallways are full of energy, classrooms are filled with new routines, friendships are forming, and there is a sense of anticipation for all that lies ahead. As I reflect on these first few weeks at Sanborn Christian School, I am thankful to say that the school year is off to a great start. I am thankful for our students, our staff, and the many families who have helped make these opening weeks such a joy. Our theme for September is "Roots," based on Colossians 2:6-7: "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

What a fitting reminder for our school. Before a tree can grow upward, it must first establish its roots. Its strength is found in roots that anchor and nourish it. In much the same way, our students need to be deeply rooted—not in their accomplishments, abilities, friendships, or even in their school—but in Christ. The Heidelberg Catechism speaks of faith as a "deep-rooted assurance" created by the Holy Spirit through the gospel (Q&A 21). Lord's Day 25 reminds us that this faith is produced in our hearts through the preaching of the gospel. This is at the heart of what we seek to do at SCS. We are not simply providing our students with a strong academic foundation; we want to faithfully point them to the only foundation that will ultimately sustain them, Jesus Christ.

Our covenantal understanding of Christian education reminds us of the privilege and responsibility we have to nurture our children in the knowledge of God's covenant promises. We have the opportunity to faithfully pour into these students, pointing them again and again to Christ and His Word.

As we look ahead to the rest of the school year, there will be countless opportunities to do just that. Every classroom lesson, chapel service, athletic practice, field trip, and conversation provides an opportunity to help our students grow deeper roots in Christ. That work belongs to all of us—not just the teachers in the classroom.

I have already been encouraged by the way our SCS community demonstrates this commitment. Opportunities such as silage piles, NICSTO, and the Harvest Day Sale to name a few, provide important blessings to our school. But beyond the financial resources, I am grateful for what these events communicate to our students. They get to see their parents and partners of SCS giving their time, effort, talents, and resources to ensure that Christian education continues at Sanborn Christian School.

Our students see a community willing to sacrifice and serve because we believe that education deeply rooted in Christ matters. What a valuable lesson for them to witness.

As we continue this school year, my prayer is that our students would learn, grow, serve, compete, create, and succeed—but through all of it, that they would know Christ. May their roots grow deeper into Him.

When our roots are firmly planted in Christ, we can face whatever the school year brings with confidence. Our hope does not rest in ourselves, but in the One who has called us, redeemed us, and faithfully keeps His covenant promises. May God continue to bless Sanborn Christian School as we grow together—rooted in Christ, built up in Him, established in the faith, and overflowing with thanksgiving.

In Christ,

Mr. Jeremy Mills

School Board Highlights

September 14, 2026

- President Bob Oldenkamp opened with devotions and prayer.
- Agenda for the meeting, and past minutes, were approved.
- Mr. Mills gave the administrator's report for information.
- Education Committee reported on their September 8 meeting
- Transportation Committee gave update on some items that are being worked on in preparation for our State bus inspection on September 24.
- Promotion Committee reported on work being done in preparation for the Harvest Day Sale on Saturday, November 7.
- Finance Committee reported on their September 10 meeting.
 - The checking account balance of \$279,978.77.
- Old / New Business
 - Long range board goals and vision were reviewed.
 - The Board reviewed and had conversations in preparation for CACE to meet with the Board and begin the Strategic Planning process.
 - Monthly prayer lists were exchanged among board members.
- Mr. Cody Stange closed the meeting in prayer.
- Next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be October 12, 2026.

HELP WANTED

Bus Drivers: Sanborn Christian is still looking for Bus Drivers for the future... If you're interested, contact Lee Vellema or any other school board member.



Classroom Spotlight

Mr. Van Otterloo

"Roots"

Colossians 2:6-7

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Roots. They are important. As Midwesterners living in an agricultural community, we especially recognize the role roots play in plant development. Roots keep a plant grounded and firmly in place, even through summer storms. Roots also help the plant absorb the benefits that rain and nutrients provide. In short, roots are vital in helping the plant grow and become strong.

This concept of roots is what lies before us this month at Sanborn Christian School. How is the idea of being rooted important to us for the Christian walk? Just as roots play a vital role for the plant, so too does being rooted in something or someone play an important role for us. The world tempts us to place our roots in anything besides Christ. Our own sinful nature that we are all born with also pulls us towards the desire to root ourselves in our own selfish desires. The age old song "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" has that famous line in reference to God's grace saying, "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love." How true is that for every one of us in our Christian walk? How then are we to stay grounded?

The rest of the refrain of the verse mentioned above concludes with the phrase, "Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above." We can be grounded in our heavenly Father through Christ not because of our own merits but because of that very free gift of grace given to us through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It is in this truth that we read and are reminded of the calling God gives us in Colossians 2:6-7. "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." This month we will be looking at three reminders to help keep us rooted in Christ, who is our only true source of security through every season and storm of life.

We walk in Him: Since we are no longer rooted in our sin and since God has called us as His children "out of darkness and into His marvelous light", we are to walk in Christ by being rooted and built up in him. This means that every part of our life is to be in service to God. We walk our talk by truly looking to glorify God in all things. Walking in Christ and being rooted in him changes how we wake up in the morning, how we brush our teeth, how we interact with those around us, how we eat, how we work throughout our day, and even how we lay our heads down at night. In all we do, we walk in Christ in every area of life, being rooted and built up in him.

We are strengthened in the faith, just as we were taught: What a privilege it is for us to get to be a part of this Christian school where Christ is at the center of all areas of our education. From devotions to all classroom content areas to sports, we desire to be rooted. Our school's mission statement states this abundantly clear. At Sanborn Christian, we "Educate under God's word for serving Him in His world." Our goal is most certainly to teach and learn content well, but with the end goal of using what has been taught for bold Kingdom service. This Kingdom service takes an incredible amount of faith in God so that our students are willing and ready to walk in Christ. What an opportunity we are blessed with to hold this mission before our covenant children. Let us never take this opportunity for granted, whether at school, in the home, or at the church. May our students be strengthened and established in the truths of God's word. May we all, as adults, from our youngest years to our oldest, never waver from being rooted in the doctrinal truths of God's word. Let us boldly and without compromise proclaim and live out what it means to walk as Christian disciples even as our faith in Christ strengthens and depends more on Him day by day.

We abound and overflow in thanksgiving: This is the hallmark of the Christian walk. How we show our thanksgiving and gratitude to God directly shows our desire to bring praise to Him. Having hearts that can't help but overflow with gratitude for all that Christ has first done for us recognizes our need to be rooted in Him. At Sanborn Christian School, our kids are taught the foundational skills of what true faith is. Please boldly pray that the students within our school will take these truths that are being taught and have them transform the way that we live so that in everything they do will bring praise to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. Let this prayer not only be for our students, but for all of our teachers, parents, grandparents, and school constituency as a whole as well! The Lord willing, may everything that is done within this school building and beyond be unto the glory of God alone for all the days and years that he continues to bless Sanborn Christian. We certainly have been faithfully blessed for over 100 years and have much to be thankful for.

Athletic Physicals



It's the start of another school year! That means students in grades 5-8 will need an athletic physical for participation in sports for the upcoming year. Copies of the physical form can be obtained at the school office or at your doctor's office. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Moser in the school office. Athletic events that the physicals are needed for include:

Grades 6 - 8: fall volleyball (girls), winter basketball (girls, boys), spring soccer (girls, boys), and spring track/field (girls, boys)

Grade 5: spring track/field (girls, boys)



2026 Volleyball Schedule - Subject to Change...

Practices:

August 25
August 27
August 28
August 31
September 1
September 3
September 4
September 10
September 11
September 14
September 17
September 21
September 28
October 5
October 12
October 13
October 19
October 22

Games:

~~September 8 @ home vs. Sheldon @ 4:00pm~~
~~September 15 @ home @ Hull PR @ 4:00pm~~
September 22 @ away @ Ireton @ 4:00pm (7th only)
September 24 @ home vs. Inwood @ 4:00pm (7th only)
September 25 @ home vs. Worthington Christain (6th & 7th)
September 29 @ home vs. HCS @ 4:00pm
October 6 @ away @ Sheldon @ 4:00pm
October 8 @ home vs. SCCS @ 4:00pm
October 15 @ away @ RVCS @ 4:00pm
October 20 @ away @ OCCS @ 4:00pm
October 24 - VB Tournament @ WCHS (transportation on your own)



!!!ATTENTION: We are still looking for someone to run the clock during home games! If you are interested in this, please contact Heather Bakker!

Go Wildcats!

Welcome to our new volleyball coach, Mrs. Kaylee Moss!



PRAYER & PRAISE

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16.17



"REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING,
GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES..."

Please lift up your praise to God for...

- safety for our school families in all of our travels to & from school, in our participation and travel to & from extra curricular events
- a great turnout at our first two silage pile coverings on September 15 and 17!
- a great first month of the new school year!

Please lift your prayers to God for...

- our students as they continue to adjust to a new school year
- Mrs. Cindy Koldenhoven and her family as they continue to navigate Brian's cancer diagnosis and the days ahead.



We're off to a wonderful start here at SCS! Thank you for your continued prayers as we settle into the busyness of a new school year. We are grateful for God's faithfulness and for the support and encouragement of our SCS families and community!



Church Contributions:

	Budgeted	Received	Balance
Sanborn CRC	\$34,800.00	\$3,000.00	\$31,800.00
Cornerstone URC	\$49,200.00	\$7,666.66	\$41,533.34

(As of 9.14.26)

♥ THANK you!



Harvest Sale - Saturday, November 7!

Over the years, Sanborn Christian School has been blessed by the incredible support of our Annual Harvest Sale! Funds raised through this event go toward the General Fund, helping to keep tuition costs lower for our families while also supporting other needs that arise throughout the school year.

Our 2026 Annual Harvest Sale will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2026!

Please mark the date on your calendars and spread the word to your family and friends. We look forward to another great day of "Fun"draising! Remember, your support—and the support of everyone who attends—is what makes our Harvest Sale such a success!

The Harvest Sale Committee and SCS School Board are busy collecting donations and preparing for the big day. If you have an item you would like to donate, please contact the school office at 729-3288 by Wednesday, **October 7, 2026**, so we can include your donation on the Sale Bill.

We are also collecting baskets, tissue paper, basket fillers, and other packaging materials to help us put together our many baskets and bundles. These items can be dropped off at the school office at any time. Thank you for your continued support of Sanborn Christian School and for helping make our Annual Harvest Sale a success!



Serve & Shine

On Friday, October 23, our students will head out into the community for SCS Auxiliary Serve & Shine 2026! This special serve day is an exciting opportunity for our students to let God's light shine through their words and actions as they put into practice what they've been learning in the classroom about serving others and showing God's love.

Throughout the day, students will take part in a variety of service projects, including fall clean-up, making and delivering goodies, singing throughout the community, creating and sending cards to shut-ins, missionaries, widows and widowers, picking up garbage around town, washing windows, and so much more!

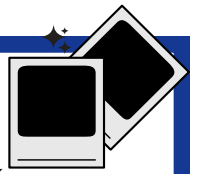
The opportunities to serve are endless, and we are excited to see our students put their faith into action, bless others, and let God's light shine throughout our community!

More information and Sign-Up Genius links will be coming soon with ways you can donate and be part of this rewarding day. We would love to have you join us as we work together to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

"Let your light so shine before men that all may see your good works and glorify your Father, which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16



Class Photos



School pictures will be held on Wednesday, October 7! We are excited to welcome LARK Photo & Video back for the 2026–2027 school year!

NEW this year: Picture orders will be placed online. Please use the link below or scan the attached QR code to order:

<https://secure.zenfolio.com/larkproductions/Preorder616702659>



A few things to note:

- One order is needed for every child ordering prints and/or a digital file.
- Students who are not ordering pictures will still have their photo taken for the class composite.
- Although the ordering page says you can “pick your photo,” Andrea will be selecting the photos to help streamline the ordering and class composite process.
- **Please have your orders in by September 30th!**



6th Grade Outdoor Classroom

On Thursday, September 3, the Sixth Grade class attended the Annual O'Brien County Conservation Day outdoor classroom. We are one of the only counties in Iowa that has a Conservation Day from year to year. The students spent the day at Prairie Heritage Center near Sutherland where they participated in many activities. The sectionals included information about furs, properties of water, a predator and prey game in the prairie grass, throwing spears, soil health, a prairie life simulation, how to care for bees, and a fishing station. The students really enjoyed the rotations and learned a lot from the presenters. We were blessed with a beautiful day filled with sunshine, laughter, and great memories. What a fun way to enjoy the creativity of our God who molded and designed the amazing world we inhabit!



Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Tuition Organization

CONTRIBUTION MEMO

This completed memo must accompany your contribution . The Iowa Tax Credit Certificate will be sent to you in January .

Taxpayer
Name

Date of Contribution

Address

Amount of Contribution

City

State

Zip Code

Social Security Number or Taxpayer I.D. Number

Phone Number

Name of the school you wish to be the beneficiary of this donation :

Sanborn Christian School

Your contribution may be mailed to:

Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Tuition Organization

Attn: Pete Van Velzen

461 Larkspur

Sheldon, Iowa 51201



October 2026

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat /Sun
28	29	30	1	2	3/4
Ranch Chicken On a Bun Curly Fries Fruit Cocktail	Soft Shell Taco Pepper Strips Spanish Rice Peaches	Teachers/Staff Meal Pulled Pork Nachos Corn Salsa Tropical Fruit Apple Crisp	No School	No School	
5	6	7	8	9	10/11
Ham & Cheese Sliders Cheesy Potatoes Apples	Mexican Chicken Flatbread Potato Ole's Oranges	Smoked Sausage Alfredo Bake Breadstick Cooked Carrots Pineapple	Mr Rib on a Bun French Fries Tropical Fruit	Chicken Strips Mac & Cheese Broccoli Pineapple	
12	13	14	15	16	17/18
Spaghetti Breadstick Green Beans Applesauce	Meat & Cheese Burrito Chips & Salsa Corn Grapes	Potato or Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Celery Pears	Chicken Bowls Dinner Roll Banana	Pizza Pretzels Crispy Cubes Pineapple	
19	20	21	22	Serve & Shine Day 23	
Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes Bread Oranges	Nachos Corn Peaches	8th Grade Favorite (will be announced in the home note)	Italian Pasta Bake Garlic Bread Green Beans Fruit Cocktail	Hot Dog Chips Carrots, Cucumbers Grapes, Cuties Cookie	
26	27	28	29	30	31/1
Ritzy Chicken California Veggies Cinnamon Roll Tropical Fruit	Mexican Lasagna Tortilla Chips & Salsa Peaches	Ravioli Breadstick California Veggies Grapes	Pizza Cheesy Breadsticks Potato Wedges Apples	Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap Chips Cucumbers Pears	

Scrip News

Orders will be ready for pick up Friday, Sept 18 after 9 am.

Next order: Sept 21.

No order Sept 28

Watch the Bonus Calendar to know what is happening on RaiseRight!

<https://www.raiseright.com/resources/organization/bonus-event-calendar>

Scrip Order Dates: (Dates may change, watch email.

Sept 21 **(NO ORDER Sept 28)**

Oct 5, 12, 19, 26

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE! PLEASE WATCH E-MAIL & FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES!

Bonuses

Kwik Star Grocery- 15% (10%)

Kwik Star- 9% (4%)

Check out RaiseRight app or RaiseRight.com for a complete listing!

Don't forget the ship to home option that is available for some gift cards!

Reminder: **All orders** must be **submitted** by **12pm** on **Monday's!** If you place an online order, please have payment to school by 9 am on Tuesday.

Reminder: Please double check your orders as soon as you receive them to make sure everything is correct. If you find an error with your order, please notify Heather Bakker immediately so I can do my best to get it corrected for you!

SCS BOARD MEMBERS 2026-2027

President:

Bob Oldenkamp (2029)

Vice-President:

Quint DeGroot (2027)

Secretary:

Heath Ten Kley (2028)

Treasurer:

Jeremy Van Ess (202)

Building Committee Chair:

Heath Ten Kley (2028)

Bus Committee Chair:

Lee Vellema (2027)

Brian Visser (2027)

Seth Irmiter (2028)

Cody Stange (2029)



Become a Member of the Sanborn Christian School Foundation!

Please join us anytime of the year! Christian education is ongoing, and we need your help! The board would like to invite anyone to help promote Sanborn Christian School. For an annual fee of \$50.00 or a lifetime membership of \$500.00, you can become a Sanborn Christian School Foundation member. Please visit the school office or mail your foundation contribution to SCS! ALL proceeds will be placed in the Foundation fund which helps defray the cost of educational expenses through the year. The Foundation can contribute a significant amount of money each year to SCS simply from the interest that is raised from the money that accumulates in the Foundation fund!

Asbestos Information

In compliance with regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA, in June 2025 we performed inspections of our school building for asbestos-containing building materials. The findings of the inspection and asbestos plans are on file in the school office for your review.

Sanborn Christian provides equal education and employment opportunities and does not discriminate based on race, national origin, age, marital status, gender, or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies. Nothing in this policy, or any policies of the school, however, shall be construed to limit, inhibit, or otherwise restrict the genuine expression of our Christian beliefs or convictions.

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