



# The Ireton Christian **BEACON**

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## Principal's Corner

*It is our hope and prayer that your summer was filled with reconnecting with family and friends, with rest and relaxation. We hope you've had the opportunity to explore, play and enjoy God's creation! We are looking forward to another school year!*

*Our school continues to be blessed with dedicated staff who are committed to academic excellence and building Christ-like character in our students. It continues to be our priority to partner with parents to provide an excellent education grounded in Biblical worldview.*

*This past school year we created focus groups with parents, the school board, society members, staff and students who shared what they valued about Ireton Christian School. Out of the process we were able to create Core Values that share the vision of our school along with a new mission statement. We are excited to share those with you!*

### CORE VALUES



### MISSION STATEMENT

Ireton Christian School provides high-quality, Christ-centered education that connects learning to real life, where each child is known, nurtured, and equipped to positively impact their community and world for Christ.

*It continues to be a privilege and blessing to serve as the principal of ICS. God is at work in our student's lives. It brings me joy to think about the impact our staff is making daily to further God's kingdom.*

Megan Kooima

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# 2024-2025 School Theme

Our school theme for this year is "Take HOLD Stand BOLD!"

We will focus on Ephesians 6:10 (NIV) "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."

Our theme for the school year is Take Hold Stand Bold. We will be focusing on a powerful and transformative theme: the Armor of God. This theme is inspired by Ephesians 6:10-18, where students will learn about the spiritual armor that Christians are encouraged to put on in order to stand strong in their faith.

Part of our mission is to help students grow not only academically but also spiritually. By understanding and applying the Armor of God, our students will learn to face life's challenges with confidence, grounded in their faith. This theme encourages them to develop a personal relationship with God, build character, and prepare for the spiritual battles they may encounter. We invite you to join us in prayer as we embark on this journey together. Thank you for your continued support in nurturing your child's faith and character.

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## September Birthdays

September 3	Evan Butcher
September 9	Justine Byker
September 10	Amelia Gradert
September 15	Aina Brown
September 18	Collins Waterman
September 19	Emily Toel
September 29	Katie Schuller



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# WELCOME

New Faculty Members at Ireton Christian School  
for the 2024-2025 School Year Are:

Katelyn Blankespoor (Librarian)  
Aina Brown (Math Interventionist/TAG)  
Rochelle Eisma (Cook)  
Alissa Richardson (P.E.)  
Marissa Schiebout (5th & 6th Grade)  
Lila Sieck (Middle School Para/Van Driver)  
Erika Vander Berg (2nd & 3rd Reading/Math)  
Amanda Van Driessen (Van Driver)

We welcome them to Ireton Christian School!

On the next page you can read a little bit about some of these new faculty members.

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# New Faculty

## Marissa Schiebout

My name is Marissa Schiebout and I am the new middle school teacher, teaching 5-8 Language Arts/Reading, 5-8 Social Studies, and 5/6th Bible. I currently live in Sioux Center, IA, but was born and raised in Orange City, IA. My father is a farmer and my mother is retired. My oldest brother, Mitchell, farms with my dad. My other brother, Logan, and his wife, Taylor, moved to Lemars and are going to have their first baby this fall. Along with my love for teaching, I work a part-time job waitressing in Sioux Center. In my free time, I love to read, draw, paint, and do various arts and crafts. I received my Bachelor at Dordt University in May 2022. Christian Education has been a prominent part of my childhood and upbringing. I believe it is a valuable and vital part of an individual's growth and development as a Christian. Here, you are presented with wonderful opportunities to serve in God's creation and community. Being at a Christian school is an opportunity I have always been grateful for, as I learned more about God, my role in His creation, and how to stand strong in adversities. By teaching at a Christian school, I hope I can reveal similar truths to my students. I am thrilled to be joining the ICS community. I am most eager to get to know the students and learn about their passions while finding unique ways to utilize their God-given gifts each day. I am also very excited to get to know the teachers and parents and to develop a strong community with them.

## Aina Brown

Hello! My name is Aina Brown, and I will be doing math intervention and TAG this year at ICS. My husband Barry and I live in Sioux Center and are members at Bethel CRC. We moved here last fall when Barry accepted a dual position at Dordt University as a Business Instructor and also Director of Global Missions Strategies. We have 3 children--Liz (age 33) in Chicago, Daniel (30) in Portland, OR, and Rachel (19), who is a sophomore at Dordt. I have a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota and have always loved math. I have tutored students of different ages and ability levels in a variety of settings on and off since I was a college student. Math is important for every student, so I'm looking forward to encouraging and impacting ICS students at every ability level to grow in their math skills.

## Erika Vander Berg

Hello, my name is Mrs. Erika Vander Berg and I will be the new 2nd/3rd grade reading and math teacher. I grew up in Hudsonville, Michigan with my parents and two younger siblings. After attending Christian schools and seeing the support I had from friends and teachers throughout each grade level, I decided to continue my Christian education by attending Dordt College where I received my bachelor's in elementary and special education. The first seven years of my teaching career I was blessed to have been a part of the teaching team at DeMotte Christian Schools in DeMotte, Indiana. I have taught 4th, 1st, and 2nd grades while in DeMotte. This summer was full of transitions! I got married to my husband, Cody, honeymooned in Hawaii, moved to Sioux Center, and then started putting together a new classroom space at ICS! I am very excited to continue teaching at a Christian school. I feel strongly that teaching is an important vocational calling, and it is vitally important to train up children to follow God so they may live a life which is pleasing to Him. I look forward to helping students discover the unique gifts and talents they have been given by God to glorify Him in all they do. I am looking forward to forming new friendships with the students and families at ICS this year and also how God will use those relationships for His glory.

## Alissa Richardson

Hello ICS Family! I am Alissa Richardson and will be doing PE Activity this school year. I am a former student of Ireton Christian, Class of 1999. I also am a cosmetologist on the days that I am not at school. Our four children all attend ICS, Clay is in 7th, Ellie is in 5th, Kara & Raelyn are in 2nd grade. My husband Joe is a famer. We enjoy living on our family farm southwest of Ireton. We raise cattle, cow/calf and crops. We both have always enjoyed being part of school and helping out where we can. I look forward to getting to know your kids and having lots of fun in PE!

## Lila Sieck

Hi! My name is Lila Sieck and I will be the full time para in Jr. High this year. I went to school at Ireton Christian and graduated from Unity Christian in 2022. I then went to NCC and graduated with a business management degree this May. I heard about the para job and loved my time at ICS so decided to pursue a different route and may take more classes to get my administrative assistant degree. A few things to get to know me better-

- \* I love going to concerts.
- \* I love animals, especially my dog Walker and my cat Tiger.
- \* I enjoy watching Hallmark Christmas movies and sports.
- \* My favorite season is Fall.
- \* I like reading.

I am excited to get to know the students and families this year.

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## Office Hours

SECRETARY- Our office hours for the secretary will be from 7:45-3:30 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. **Please use these times to call, or else it will disrupt class time or no one will be available.** You can leave a message with your name, number, and a brief message and we will get back to you.

**Items for the weekly note will be due in the office by Thursday at 8:00am.**

## New Students

If you are a new student to ICS, we will need these documents: updated immunization record, vision screening, lead screening, dental screening, and if 5th grade or older a completed athletic physical. Please send these to school as soon as possible.

## Updated Immunization Information

**Parents please make sure your students are updated on all of their immunizations.** If you need assistance on where to go to get them, please contact Community Health Partners at 1-800-435-3454 or 737-2971 during regular hours 8:00-4:30.

## Athletic Physicals

**All Junior High students** need an athletic physical by their family doctor before the school year begins. Many places offer physicals throughout the early part of August at a lower or discounted rate, please take advantage of these and turn in your physical forms before the first day of school. **Athletic Physical Forms are available on the homepage of the school website.**

## Parent/Student Handbook

The Parent/Student Handbooks will be distributed to families with students at ICS as soon as possible after the new school year begins. **Please read through the materials for your own information, keep on hand.**

## A Few Reminders About Our School Week:

School will be Monday - Thursday. The first bell will ring at 7:50 and the tardy bell at 8:00. Students will be dismissed from school at 3:30.

## Dress Code

A reminder to parents and students to keep in mind the dress code as you buy clothes for the new school year.

- All clothes should be modest and appropriate for a Christian witness
- Suggestive words or the advertisement of alcoholic beverages, smoking, drugs, or anti-Christian groups on clothing are not appropriate
- Shorts may be worn during months of Aug., Sept., Oct., April and May. Shorts must be mid-thigh length or longer.
- For grades 5-8 shirts must have sleeves. The student's midriff should not be exposed and shirt should not be too tight
- Skirts should be knee length or longer.
- Footwear is required, only athletic shoes, no sandals or flip-flops.
- No black sole tennis shoes.
- Caps, hats, or headbands are not permitted in class.
- Wear appropriate clothing for winter weather such as coats, hats, gloves, and boots.
- Parents will be contacted if the child's clothing is inappropriate.

## TRIP NEWS

Upcoming order dates are:

Orders need to be in the TRIP box in the school office or given to Donna Koopmans by **8:00 AM** on order dates in your family envelope. No late orders will be taken. Do not fax or call orders to my house - money needs to accompany orders or they will not be processed. Please try to remind your child to bring the order to their teacher or the office right away when they get to school, so that orders will not be forgotten or late.

## Ireton Christian School Auxiliary

All mothers with children in our school are automatically a member of the Auxiliary. We also extend an invitation to all ladies who have a vested interest in our children to participate as an Associate member. This organization helps and works many of our school's fund raisers and activities.

President	Pam Fedders
Secretary	Krista Oolman
Treasurer	Mary Hooyer