

Newton Christian CHRONICLE

December 2022

*For to us a child is
born, to us a son is
given, and the
government shall
be upon his
shoulders. And his
name shall be
called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of
Peace.*

-Isaiah 9:6



Merry Christmas!

As we enter December, we enter a very busy and exciting season. The hallways are filled with chatter of family activities and traditions. The students have enjoyed helping their teachers decorate their classrooms with lights and trees. You can hear the sound of children singing Christmas songs throughout the school as they prepare for our upcoming Christmas concert. If you peek into a classroom, you will see the purposeful work of each student as they find their place in God's work.

I can't help but sit back and think of how blessed we are to teach and work in a Christian setting where everything we do is pointed back to God for His glory. The teachers and staff are delighted to be able to keep the focus of CHRISTmas on Christ.

Our Strategic Roadmapping team has been hard at work with meetings, evaluating different aspects of the schools, gathering data, analyzing, defining strategies, and developing key indicators and clear goals for NCS. There is still a lot of work to do but it is good work for a good purpose. The SRT is excited to keep moving ahead in this process.

As always, NCS appreciates your prayers for the students, staff and school community of Newton Christian School to be a light for His kingdom.

- Principal Nicole Van Wyk

Mission:

*Training to a higher academic, moral, and
spiritual standard based on Biblical principles.*

Benefit Dinner



Our 2022 Benefit Dinner was a great blessing to NCS! We had a wonderful evening of fellowship and our fundraising goal was surpassed. Thank you for your generosity!

All the glory goes to God for His faithfulness. We continue to see His hand of provision on our students, staff, and facility so we can continue training to a higher standard.

Pastor Appreciation Day

We invited our local pastors to a morning of donuts, coffee, and a special chapel to allow us to show our appreciation for all they do for our community.

Our students enjoyed seeing their pastors and celebrating them on campus!

Thank you, Pastors, for your involvement in our community and your commitment in helping our students see that God is in their Story.

Looking ahead:

December 8: Christmas Program
December 22- Jan. 2: Christmas Break
March 2: Fine Arts Night
March 13-17: Spring Break
April 14: Hog Roast & Auction
May 23: Graduation



Teaching for Transformation

NCS has been training and advancing our teachers in TFT for about 6 years. TFT stands for Teaching For Transformation. This framework came out of a deep hope that Christian Schools could be settings where everyone would discover their place in God's love story for this world.

TFT embraces the practices of deeper learning and has developed core practices that align with these principles. A TFT school pursues a Christian education that invites the people of God's story into real work that forms self and shapes the world.

Every year our new teachers are taking part in new teacher TFT trainings along with our sister school's new teachers. It is a great opportunity for our teachers to be able to be part of a program where Christian school teachers can come together, learn and lean on each other to advance the kingdom in our own schools.

Our veteran teachers continue to be coached in how to infuse traits of the TFT throughlines into the daily lives of our students. TFT throughlines include: Idolatry Discerner, Servant Worker, Image Reflector, Earth Keeper, God Worshipper, Order Discoverer, Creation Enjoyer, Justice Seeker, Beauty Creator, and Community Builder.

Newton Christian School is excited to continue to share this Christian designed framework that invites, nurtures, and empowers both teachers and students to play their part in God's story through engaging learning experiences.

District V Music Festival

Earlier this month, our 5-8 grade students performed at Pella Christian High School in the District V Music Festival along with 300 other students from 7 surrounding Christian Schools. They did a fantastic job!



Thank you!

- Community Heights Church & Staff for allowing us to use their building for the Benefit Dinner.
- Danny Beeler for his many years of service to NCS. We wish you the best in your upcoming retirement!
- Harden family for choosing to honor Steve Harden through a memorial to NCS.

Thank you, Sponsors!

Platinum



Gold



School Choice FAQ



1. What is the philosophy behind school choice?

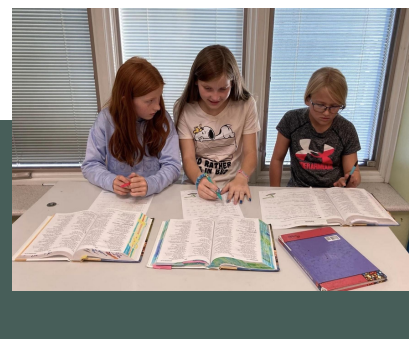
School choice puts parents in the driver's seat of their children's education by giving families access to their taxpayer funded education dollars. Empowered with financial means, families can use those dollars to access the education provider that best meets the needs of their children. All parents deserve choice, not just those with financial means. With school choice, taxpayer funding follows the child. School choice applies to all educational options: Christian schools (tax credit scholarships, education savings accounts), homeschooling, and public schools (charter schools, open enrollment). Thirty-four states have school choice programs. Polling indicates 72% of voters nationwide support school choice and 77% of current Iowa school parents support a universal Education Savings Account.

2. What is an Education Savings Account (ESA)? How would one benefit me and my child(ren)?

ESAs give parents the power to use some of their child's education tax dollars on approved education expenses like tuition, tutoring, educational supports, and more. Families receive funds in an account and use that money to customize an education to fit their child's needs. Nine states currently have ESAs, and Iowa may make number 10.

3. Won't an ESA take money away from the public school? Where does the funding come from?

Funding for an ESA comes from taxpayer dollars – dollars paid by you as a taxpayer living in Iowa. School choice advocates believe that funding should follow the child, supporting students and not systems. Some may say that “public dollars support public services”. But where do public dollars come from? The taxpayer. Taxpayer funding already supports various programs in Iowa, such as the GI Bill, WIC, SNAP, the Iowa Tuition Grant (for colleges), and preschool funding. The only level of education in Iowa not supported by taxpayer funding that does not have to be fundraised (STOs) is K-12 education. It's important to understand the public-school funding formula. On average, Iowa total spending per student in public schools is \$14,320. About 47% of this funding comes from federal funding and local property taxes (about \$6,700 per student). That money – paid partly by parents choosing to send their children to Christian schools – stays with the public school in an ESA program. Funding used for an ESA is state taxpayer funding (about \$7,600 per student in Iowa), which would be directed to parents to use how they choose for the education of their children.



4. Will accepting ESA funding cause Newton Christian School to compromise its values?

Newton Christian School is working closely to partner with legislators, lobbyists, and advocates to ensure that an ESA bill does not cause us to compromise our values. NCS will never accept funding that compromises its values. With an ESA, the funding is directed to the parent, who then chooses where those dollars go. Funding does not come directly to the school. NCS has already accepted taxpayer credit dollars (STO), Title services, and other funding for decades without needing to compromise our values.

5. What if the ESA is provided and then goes away?

The likelihood of an ESA being provided and taken away is low. Across the country, no school choice program that has been implemented and had students enroll in it has ever been repealed by a state legislature. For several decades in Iowa, NCS parents have benefited from STO funding, nonpublic textbook services, bus reimbursements, and more. Once a program begins and students benefit, parents become supporters and advocates. Lawmakers keep these programs because they benefit the common good.



NCS Vision Statement

Newton Christian School is a community of families, friends, and staff working together to provide students with a loving, nurturing environment which promotes strong academic development. Here the students learn by example and Bible-directed instruction to know God better. They learn to see His sustaining hand in creation, to honor Him and to be equipped with skill and insight for service to God and community.



Newton Christian School

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