

December 2025

SHILOH SKYLIGHT

CONNECTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Academic
Excellence on a
Christian
Foundation -
Teaching
Students to
Know, Love,
and Serve God.



HONORING OUR VETERANS

➤➤➤ **BJ BUCHMANN, HEAD-OF-SCHOOL**

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation." - General George Washington

Freedom is not free; it comes at a cost paid in blood, sweat, and sacrifice. Washington's words still echo today, reminding us of the countless soldiers who have risked - or given - their lives for one another, for us, and for people they may never meet. Their actions reflect a higher calling, one we often fail to fully grasp: the ultimate sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave His life for all humanity.

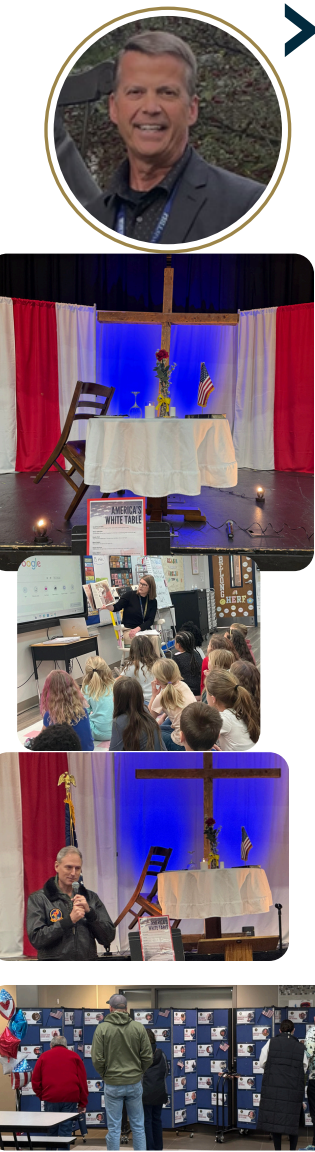
This past November, Shiloh Christian honored Veterans Day. Our veterans, parents, grandparents, guests, and student body gathered in reflection and prayer, recognizing the profound example of sacrificial love shown by those who serve. Service members willingly carry a heavy burden - standing in harm's way so others may live in peace. From every walk of life, they step forward to leave home, travel abroad, and, if necessary, pay a debt the rest of us cannot.

As our Shiloh team reflected on the day, it was clear that students, staff, and families alike praised God for the solemn commitment made by each man and woman in uniform, those who lay down their lives for their brothers-in-arms and for their fellow citizens.

Their service stands as a powerful reminder that sacrifice is a universal truth, the necessary cost of life, liberty, and love of country. And ultimately, it points us to the greatest sacrifice of all - the life given by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, so that we might have life everlasting.

Veterans Day activities included reading the book *America's White Table*, a special chapel service with guest speaker Nathan Huntington, a Wall of Honor & Recognition, and letters to Veterans living at the Baptist Home in Bismarck.

BJ Buchmann



THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

➤➤➤ PASTOR PAUL NATHER

When I was young, I let the anticipation of Christmas get the best of me. As soon as I caught even the slightest hint that my parents had purchased a gift for me, I would search the house high and low to find it. It got to the point that if I didn't find it before it was wrapped, I would wait until I was alone in the house, carefully unwrap my gifts, get excited about what I found, rewrap them, and then practice my "surprised face" for Christmas Eve.

I'm not exactly sure how my secret was discovered (I'm still convinced my big sister ratted me out), but Mom and Dad put a quick end to it by returning a couple of gifts to the store. I'd like to tell you I felt terrible...but honestly, I mostly remember the *excitement of the search* and the *thrill of discovery*.

As the Christmas season approaches, there will be many moments that remind us of the characters and scenes in the Christmas story—school music programs, church services, children's plays, pageants, nativity sets, and Christmas specials. These are all wonderful things. But let me challenge you not to wait for those moments to discover Jesus.

Just as I couldn't wait until Christmas to unwrap my gifts, I want to encourage you and your family to daily "unwrap" more and more of the story of Emmanuel—God with us. As we partner together to disciple young followers of Jesus, let's be intentional about opening God's Word each day during this season.

Read together about the God who chose to leave the glory of heaven to step into our world. Talk as a family about the humility of His birth in a stable, the obedience of Mary and Joseph, the joy of the shepherds, and the chaos stirred up by a fearful king. You will be amazed at what God reveals about Himself when you take time to slow down, read, and discuss the story of Christ's coming.

You don't have to wait until Christmas morning to unwrap the story of Jesus—it's available to you today, right now. And as you unwrap it, don't keep it to yourself. Share the good news with those around you. Who knows—sharing the story of Jesus even with the difficult people in your life might just touch their hearts in ways you never expected. After all, my big sister may have ratted me out when we were kids, but she grew into one of the greatest encouragers in my life.

You never know what God can do when His good news is unwrapped and shared with love. Make every day about Jesus. Make your family's holiday season about Jesus. And make Jesus known. That's the heart of Christmas.

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." — John 1:14



The sign behind and above reads
"Welcome to Ancient Shiloh"



Pastor Jeremy and Pastor Paul had the opportunity to travel to Israel in early December. More to share in our next Skylight, but pictured here is their visit to the ancient city of Shiloh, in their Shiloh Skyhawk gear!

SKYHAWKTION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

>>> RECORD-SETTING EVENT

What an amazing evening of fellowship, generosity, and school spirit! Thank you to every family who donated, attended, volunteered, bid, baked, or prayed over this event. Your support was felt in every corner of the room, and we are so grateful for the way our school community showed up for our students!

We're thrilled to share that we met our cash match challenge! We could not have achieved a record-setting event without the generous \$100,000 cash match. Through the support of many we were able to unlock the full match, multiplying the impact of every cash gift.

This year's Skyhawkktion raised an incredible \$373,330. Thank you for helping make the 2025 Skyhawkktion such a meaningful and successful night!

A new addition to Skyhawkktion was a kindergarten and 1st grade Christmas concert. These precious children sang their hearts out to the Veggie Tales Christmas. Mrs. Kuhn did an outstanding job with their performance. Students could dress up or be a Veggie Tale character and we had one brave cucumber!



GENERAL GIVING

>>> LAURIE EISENBEIS, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

While the success of this year's Skyhawkktion is truly something to celebrate, the chart below illustrates the different fundraising sources needed to meet our general operational budget. Our fiscal year runs July 1- June 30 and then numbers below are as of December 1, 2025. Annual general giving ensures Shiloh continues to provide excellent Christian education, retain quality staff, and maintain daily programs that serve our students well. Thank you for your continued partnership and generosity as we work to meet these needs each year.

Charitable Contributions	Projected	Actual to end of prior month	Difference over/ under
Skyhawkktion	\$250,000	\$373,330	123,330 +
Giving Hearts Day (Feb 2026)	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000 -
Community Partners	\$150,000	\$35,000	\$115,000 -
General Donations	\$150,000	\$13,112	\$136,888 -
Total Development Budget	\$570,000	\$421,442	\$148,558 -

CLASSROOM EXPANSION PROJECT

UPPER ELEMENTARY COMMONS AREA

➤➤➤ MS. MILLER AND MS. WAGNER, 4TH GRADE TEACHERS

The 4th grade students are enjoying their new learning space immensely! The new upstairs commons area is quickly becoming a favorite spot for projects, guest speakers, and quiet independent work. One highlight of the classrooms is the large window overlooking the playground - a beautiful backdrop for learning each day. We are truly grateful for the privilege of using this new area. Thank you to everyone whose generosity and time helped make it possible.



ELEMENTARY MUSIC - GOD IS FAITHFUL!

➤➤➤ MRS. KUHN, ELEMENTARY MUSIC TEACHER

As students first walked into our new classroom in the new addition, I watched as their jaws dropped and listened to their comments. "It is so big!" or "The instruments are sitting out and don't need to be stored away after every class." and "The room smells different!" (like new carpet.)

I replied that God is showing His faithfulness to us by using so many generous people to make this happen. I told them about how Shiloh first was just an idea as friends brainstormed around a table. Then later moving into part of a church and when I came along as a student, they moved into a steel building on the prairie. As I now sit in my personally temperature controlled classroom with automatic lights, I am humbled by God's faithfulness.

MIDDLE SCHOOL APPRECIATION

➤➤➤ MRS. SEIFERT AND MRS. FUCHS, MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Having the opportunity to be part of the grand opening of the new addition has been an amazing experience. The spacious rooms and ample learning areas have been true highlights. My favorite feature is the large window that brings in so much natural light. Our middle school students also love having classes in the new addition - they appreciate the extra space and the bright, welcoming atmosphere of the rooms.



While not all teachers and students are in the new classrooms, with the expansion project, all classrooms are now under one roof! Mrs. Fuchs snapped the photo at right on November 25th and shares "Thank you to all who made it possible for the middle school to be back in the building!"

GREETINGS FROM THE SKYHAWK LIBRARY

➤➤➤ MRS. BRAUN, LIBRARIAN

What a wonderful year it has been! Our new space is working beautifully, and students are enjoying having room for full-class story times, spreading out with books, and finding just the right read. We're continuing to settle in and explore ways to make the space even better for our students.



BY THE NUMBERS

REMAINING BALANCE
ON PROJECT:
\$2,300,000

MONTHLY INTEREST
PAYMENT: \$20,000



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEEDS

WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

“



DAWSON DAVIS AND AYMS MELIN, SHILOH JUNIORS

We really love Shiloh because it feels like a second home where everyone knows each other and tries their best. The teachers actually care about us, and you can tell they want us to succeed, which makes coming to class feel worth it. Our sports teams, clubs, and events bring everyone together, and it's honestly one of the things that makes our school so special.

Even though we're doing great, there are still things we could improve, like getting newer equipment and fixing up some of the older classrooms. Sometimes it's tough because the school doesn't always have the budget for everything we need. That's why donations would really help us keep making our school better for everyone who goes here. We are proud to be part of this place, and we hope others can support it so future students can have the same awesome experience we've had.

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YEAR END GIVING

The new classroom addition is already making a meaningful difference for students and staff, and now we have an opportunity to further maximize its impact! **Donations towards the Capital Campaign will help to bring down the debt amount and reduce the monthly interest payments on our loan.**

For Shiloh's year-end giving, we ask that all donations be towards the Capital Campaign. Many of our supporters give at year-end for tax purposes, making this a meaningful way to reduce your tax liability while directly strengthening student opportunities.

Donations can be made online at shilohchristian.org/capitalcampaign or via the envelope provided.

Please continue to lift up Shiloh Christian's staff, students, and financial needs in prayer, trusting God to provide through His people. Every gift, no matter the size, helps us reduce our debt and expand resources for the students we serve every day.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



QUINN WRIGLEY AND KATIE MCCABE

Quinn Wrigley and Katie McCabe, 2019 Shiloh Christian graduates, were finalists in the 2025 Moot Court competition at the University of North Dakota School of Law. Both Quinn and Katie are second year law students. As finalists, they had the honor and privilege to present their oral arguments before the North Dakota Supreme Court Justices (two of which are former Shiloh parents).



FIRST SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS



Both second grade classes celebrated the 50th day of school- 50s style! They all dressed up in our best 50s throwbacks. The kids had root beer floats and we showed them videos and photos of how life was different in the 50s. The students also did a writing assignment about what they thought they would be doing when they were 50 years old.



Shiloh 3rd graders attended NDSU Extension's Life on the Farm in October. They learned about how farm life is relevant to what they eat, wear, and how North Dakota farming/ranching is important to the nation and to the world as the leading exporter of durum wheat used in pasta! A favorite station stop was to see the goats, donkeys, and rabbits!



2025-2026 5TH GRADE CHEER SQUAD

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay connected and help celebrate our students throughout the year!

HOME GAMES STREAMED ON HUDL

Skyhawk home games are live streamed on Hudl! Get the link on the Shiloh website under 'Activities' or find it on the Activities Calendar in the Shiloh App.

DOWNLOAD THE SHILOH APP

While the Shiloh App is primarily designed for current families, several features and icons - such as the Activities Calendar, Community Calendar, and Shiloh Business Directory - are available to all.



Shiloh 4th graders completed an egg drop challenge where students designed and built a unique device that protected a raw egg from breaking when dropped down from a flight of stairs. They created several sketches before choosing a design to build. After carrying out the initial experiment, students tweaked their designs and retested just like scientists do to make sure they collected adequate data. The more evidence we have about a theory, the more confident we are about it! We can all relate the egg drop challenge to things that happen in the real world, such as space exploration, vehicle safety, disaster relief, and protective packaging.



MODELING JESUS THROUGH PRAYER BUDDIES AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

>>> MRS. ANDERSON, TEACHER AND STUDENT LIFE TEAM MEMBER

At Shiloh, students have regular opportunities to model Jesus through intentional relationships and meaningful service. Two key programs - Prayer Buddies and Baptist Home visitation - help students practice Christian leadership, compassion, and connection across ages and generations.

Prayer Buddies is a long-standing school-wide effort that pairs middle and high school students with elementary partners several times each year. Guided by Campus Ministry, older students receive brief faith-skills training before meeting with their buddies for conversation, activities, and prayer. These gatherings strengthen communication, active listening, encouragement, gratitude, and authentic Christian leadership. Over time, the program has fostered a warm sense of community from kindergarten through 12th grade, with many students keeping connections long after their official buddy year ends.

In Shiloh's Bible 10: Outreach and Missions, sophomores practice similar Christlike skills - sharing their story, listening well, responding with grace, and leading spiritual conversations. Each Wednesday, students visit residents at the nearby Baptist Home, building relationships through conversation and prayer. Their consistent presence, supported by the Home's development director, Shelle Aberle, allows students to live out their faith in practical, heartfelt ways.

Both ministries remind our students that modeling Jesus isn't just taught in the classroom - it's practiced in real relationships, one conversation and one prayer at a time.

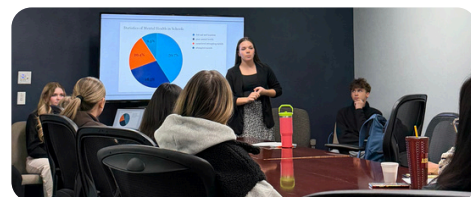


HIGH SCHOOL PUBLIC SPEAKING CLASS

>>> MRS. GAMUNDY, HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH AND SPEECH TEACHER

In a group persuasive speech, students worked together to prepare and deliver a researched speech utilizing Monroe's Motivated Sequence on a current need/problem that exists in the city, state, country, or world. The sequence worked by first grabbing the audience's attention, then convincing them of a problem (need), presenting a clear solution (satisfaction), helping them visualize the positive outcomes of the solution (visualization), and finally, calling them to take immediate action (action). Topics included education, mental health, physical health, and safety.

The presentations were followed by a question & answer time from the panel including Mr. Kunze, Mrs. Strutz, Mrs. Gamundoy, Mr. Buchmann, and one student representative. This contributed to meaningful dialogue about the issues the students chose to address.



STAY CONNECTED

As Shiloh prepares to celebrate 50 years, we need your help ensuring our alumni and supporter contact information is current. Scan this QR code or visit shilohchristian.org/ connect to update your info!



Thank you!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Partners are businesses that have committed to annually supporting our school. This continued giving provides long-term stability and growth in education, programs, and activities for all Shiloh students.

