

May 2025

SHILOH SKYLIGHT

CONNECTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY



**2024-2025
BY THE NUMBERS**

Shiloh's Class of 2025 is our largest graduating class with 43 seniors earning their diploma.

Total enrollment for the '24-'25 school year was 587 students PreK - 12th grade.



»»» A NOTE FROM PASTOR PAUL, INTERIM HEAD OF SCHOOL



When I was about to start 3rd grade, my parents made a life-shaping decision — they enrolled my sister and me in a small Christian school that met in a Baptist church in Mandan, North Dakota. That school was Shiloh. What followed were some of the most formative years of my life — full of spiritual growth, strong friendships, and meaningful learning within a Christ-centered community.

**MEANINGFUL
LEARNING
WITHIN A
CHRIST-
CENTERED
COMMUNITY**

I had the privilege of growing up at Shiloh in its early years. I watched it grow from a handful of students and a single soccer team to a vibrant school community that eventually moved into its own building on Main Street. Along the way, I was taught how all 66 books of the Bible point to one story — the story of Jesus. I was challenged by teachers who cared deeply, prayed for me, and led with grace. Many of the friendships I made then are still some of my closest today. If you've ever been part of Shiloh, you understand — it leaves a lasting impact.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Shiloh will celebrate its 50th year in 2028 and we need updated contact information for all Shiloh alumni and families.

Please scan the QR code below or visit us at shilohchristian.org/connect



This past year, I've had the unexpected honor of serving as interim Head of School. I never imagined working in education, but Shiloh continues to bless me. If you had told me as a student that one day our school would serve hundreds of students on a beautiful campus with playgrounds, athletic fields, and dedicated staff — I'm not sure I would have believed you.

But now I see it clearly: Shiloh's growth is no accident. It began with a few faithful families who trusted God to provide — and He has. He's worked through teachers, staff, generous families, and community partners who all believe in the mission of Christian education. Today, we see His continued faithfulness as construction finishes on an 8-classroom expansion, finally allowing us to move students out of portable buildings and bring everyone under one roof.

God has been writing Shiloh's story from the beginning — and He's still writing it. You're receiving this letter because you've played a part in that story. And now, we invite you to help us keep it going.

Pastor Paul Nather

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE

>>> WELCOME MR. BUCHMANN

The Shiloh Board of Directors is excited to announce Mr. BJ Buchmann as the new incoming head of school. Mr. Buchmann, a native of Stanton, ND, holds a post-secondary education that includes a BA from Dickinson State University, advanced degrees and certifications from Adams State University in Alamosa, CO, the University of Denver, and the University of Colorado Denver.



Before returning to North Dakota, Mr. Buchmann spent 25 years in education across North Dakota, Colorado, and Wyoming. His administrative background and experience in curriculum and instruction spans both charter and traditional public schools. Mr. Buchmann has held various roles including Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Executive Director, and Principal.

Mr. Buchmann advocates for a strong and rigorous Christian education program that engages students and parents while reaching out to the local school community and modeling a Christ-centered culture. Students should be prepared for a life of service, enabling them to know, love, and serve God beyond the walls of Shiloh Christian School.

Married to his childhood sweetheart of 34 years, Nan; BJ has three sons who graduated from Faith Christian Academy in Wheatridge, Colorado. The oldest, Alex is stationed with the Marine Corps in Iwakuni, Japan. Adam, the middle son, is completing an advanced degree at Penn State after serving as a commissioned officer in the Marine Corp. The youngest, Aron, is a skilled carpenter and tradesman graduating from North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, ND.

WITH GRATITUDE

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Shiloh's Community Partners are businesses that have committed to annual support for our school.

We appreciate your commitment to the long-term stability and continued growth in education, programs and activities for all Shiloh students!

>>> CELEBRATING YEARS OF SERVICE & WELCOMING NEW STAFF

We are incredibly grateful for the dedication and passion of our faculty and staff, who faithfully serve our students and families each day. This year, we are honored to recognize several individuals for their long-standing commitment to Shiloh: Sue Nather, Julie Seifert, Barb Haux, and Becky Strutz for over 15 years of service, and Jen Anderson for an incredible 20 years.

We are thrilled to welcome new members to our team - meet them at shilohchristian.org/new-hires.

As we position Shiloh for strength and growth, we continue to evaluate the leadership structure that best supports students and teachers. We're excited to have Mr. Mark Kunze step into the role of Dean of Students for our middle and high school.

>>> SHILOH PTO & BOOSTER CLUB

We are incredibly blessed by our PTO and Booster Club! Your dedication plays a vital role in supporting our staff, students, and athletes. From organizing special activities and providing classroom resources to supplying team gear and assisting at events, your commitment strengthens and enriches our entire school community. Thank you for helping our school thrive!

CLASSROOM EXPANSION

In recent years, Shiloh has experienced significant growth. To accommodate this growth six portable classrooms were added to our campus. In the spring of 2024, construction began on a new classroom wing that will bring our students and staff back under one roof. Along with classrooms for upper elementary students, at the heart of this addition is a much needed new elementary library.

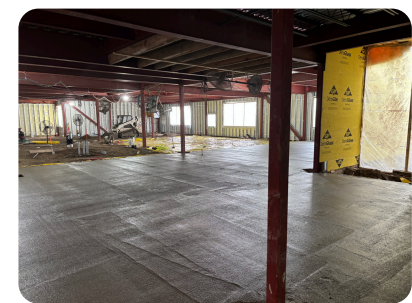
Our current elementary library is small and limited in both space and resources. The new library will provide a warm, welcoming space while expanding access to a wide variety of books and genres.

An additional \$2.1 million is needed to fully fund the new classroom addition. This amount also includes remaining debt from the Commons addition. **Please consider a gift today** for this much needed classroom wing. We are thankful for those who have invested in Shiloh through the years and are prayerful the remaining donations/pledges will come in to finish the project.



SUPPORT SHILOH

To make a donation to Shiloh Christian School, return the enclosed envelope or visit the 'Give' page at shilohchristian.org



SCHOOL-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

We are proud to share that Shiloh's Early Learning Center was voted "Best Preschool" in the Bismarck Tribune's Best of the Best awards!

Our Early Learning and Elementary students celebrated Dr. Seuss Week with a fun and impactful Read-a-Thon, raising over \$6,000 - a portion of which will support a new library.

In Middle School, the Student Council led food drives to support local missions, exemplifying servant leadership in action. We also celebrated a meaningful milestone with our 8th Grade Graduation.

Across all grade levels, we introduced refined core values that encourage every student to SOAR—by striving to **Serve**, promoting **Oneness** and **Awareness**, and showing **Respect** for all.



Follow Shiloh on Facebook and Instagram for current events, updates, and features of our students, faculty, and staff!

PERFORMING ARTS



SPEECH

The Shiloh speech team included 24 participants and celebrated its 9th consecutive Region Championship. Bella Voller and Madi Miller were named State Champions in the Serious Duo category. Coach: Becky Strutz

CHOIR & BAND

The Shiloh band program continues to grow and inspire, with 20 high school students and 41 middle school students participating this year. Choir saw strong engagement, with 32 high school and 30 middle school students involved. Maya Wonnenberg and Isabella Voller were honored with selection to the North Dakota All-State Choir. Ten groups competed at the State Music Festival, with nine receiving star ratings. Directors: Kathy Ring & Nick Mortenson



MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS

This year's high school musical, Bye Bye Birdie, was a community favorite and received enthusiastic praise from audiences. Thirty three students participated in this year's production. The 7th grade also showcased their talents in a well-received performance of Godspell Jr. Directors: Joanne Drevlow and Kathy Ring



ONE ACT

Thirty-three students participated in this year's One Act Play, The Strength of Our Spirit, The Vision of Anne Frank. The production placed 2nd at the State One Act competition, with the entire cast earning Superior Performer recognition at the regional tournament. Coach: Becky Strutz

ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL

The Skyhawk football team went 8-3, finishing 2nd in our region making it into the quarterfinal playoffs. Selected to the 2024 Class A 11-Man All-Region 4 football team were Wyatt Westin (QB), Cole McClennen (RB), Jace Kunze (WR), Triston Griess (TE), Ryan Gerving (OL), Terrell Diarra (DL) and Carson Quam (LB). Coach: Funnon Barker



VOLLEYBALL

The Skyhawk volleyball team finished second in Region 5 with a record of 25-12-1. Selected to the 2024 All-Region team were Harper Wrigley and Sophia Heringer. Coach: Lisa Wingerter



CROSS COUNTRY

Shiloh's cross country team finished the season on a high note, with six athletes earning personal records at the State Meet. The boys' team placed 8th, and the girls' team placed 12th out of more than 50 competing schools. Coach: Kim Melin



BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys basketball team had a standout season, finishing 3rd in the State Class A Tournament with a record of 22-4. Caden Englund and Wyatt Westin were named to the State All-Tournament Team and selected for the All-Star Lions Game. Coach: Brad Miller



GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls basketball team finished 3rd in the region with a record of 11-4. Betsy Hatlestad, Sophia Heringer, and Macie Thompson earning All-Region honors. Coach: Dan Seifert



TRACK & FIELD

Shiloh's track and field program continues to thrive, with 40 high school and 60 middle school athletes competing this season. Several varsity athletes made their debut at the prestigious Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls and earned podium finishes. The Skyhawks now head to the State Track Meet with a strong team qualified in multiple events. Coach: Kim Melin



BOYS GOLF

The boys' golf team is enjoying a successful season, marked by strong team performances and notable individual achievements. The varsity squad is preparing for the state golf meet this June. Coach: Evan Eriksmoen



BASEBALL

The Skyhawk baseball team welcomed Andrew Hershey as the new head coach this season. The Skyhawks hold the top spot in region competition and have a strong chance to head to state competition.



EXCELLENCE

KEY CLUB

Shiloh's Key Club is Bismarck/Mandan's most active Key Club with 21 members participating in Volunteer Week, where they made blankets and bandages for the Red Cross and served at the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Members of the National Honor Society extended their service internationally by sponsoring a student through Baja Ed. School-wide activities include a monthly hat day.



SCIENCE CLUB

Eli Hatlestad received top honors in five categories at the North Dakota Science & Engineering Fair held at the University of North Dakota.



SPIRITUAL LIFE & OUTREACH

Sophomore students shared the love of Christ by visiting the Baptist Home as part of a Bible outreach project. The entire student body participated in Spiritual Emphasis Week, a time of worship, teaching, and reflection. This year's spiritual theme was Inside Out, Upside Down.

FBLA

Twenty-three students competed at the State FBLA Conference, with several placing in the top 10 and advancing to the National Competition in Los Angeles.



CELEBRATING A SHILOH LEGACY FAMILY

Words cannot express the gratitude or measure the magnitude of Brad and Kathy Miller's impact on the Shiloh community through the years. They are true examples of "Living the Mission" as a servant of Christ. Generosity, passion, love for kids and Christian education are a few words to describe them.

The Shiloh family offers our sincere appreciation for their countless hours at the school for activities, board meetings, Skyhawkction, TRIP office, and of course basketball. We would be amiss if we did not mention their children Kylie, Toni, Klint & Josh and our dearly loved Rainy. Thank you for your giving hearts.

May God continue to bless you as you have blessed the entire Shiloh community!

