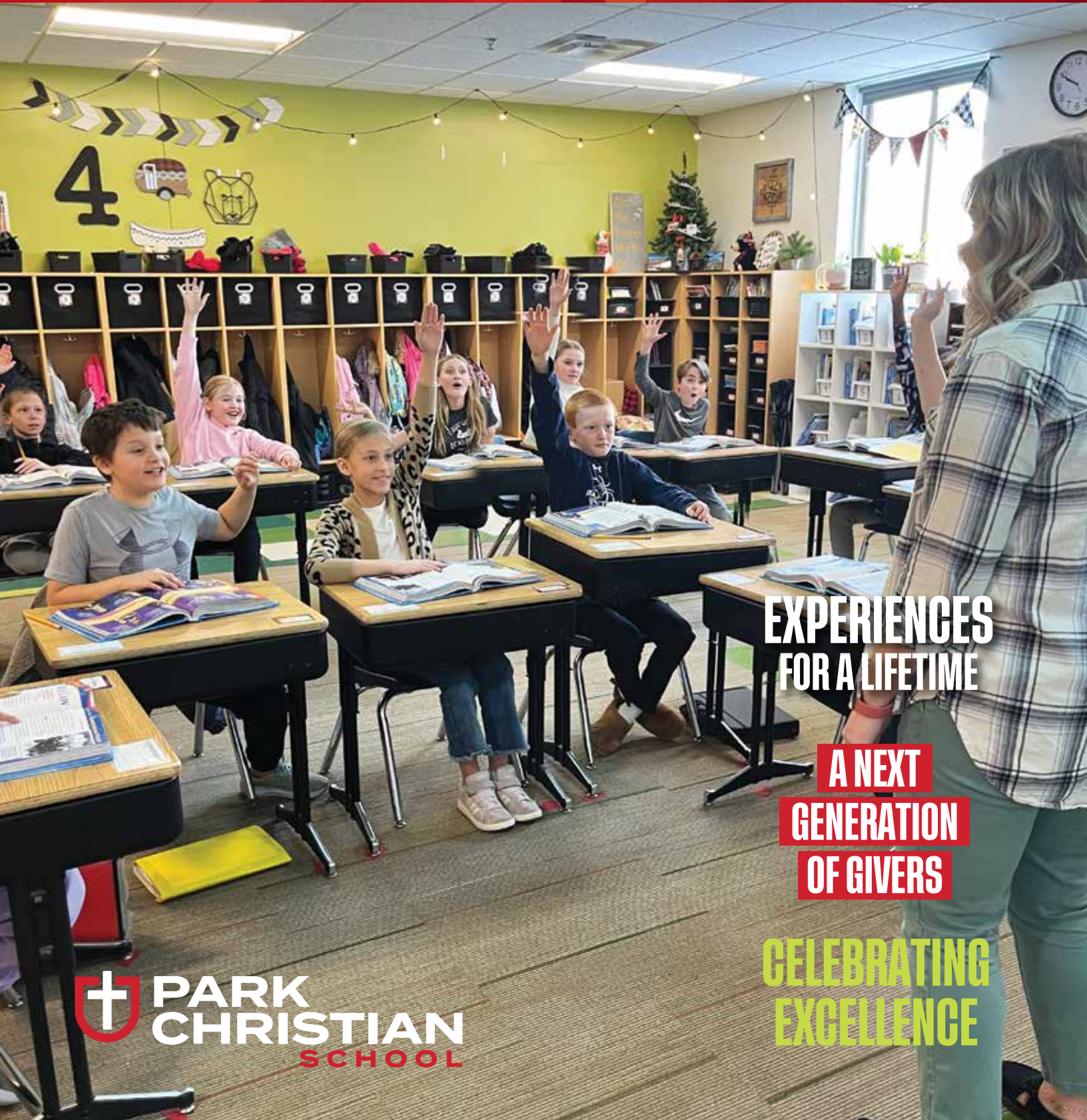


# THE PARKPARTNER

— SPRING 2026 —



**EXPERIENCES  
FOR A LIFETIME**

**A NEXT  
GENERATION  
OF GIVERS**

**CELEBRATING  
EXCELLENCE**

 **PARK  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL**



# WHAT I SEE...



## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

*Chris Nellermoe, President*

We are celebrating the successful on-site re-accreditation visit that took place January 11–14, 2026! During this review process, a team of ACSI Christian school professionals from across the Midwest spent several days evaluating our practices, policies, classrooms, and the overall Park Christian School environment.

**The external review team shared that PCS is one of the most exemplary schools they have visited and will be recommending full accreditation by ACSI and Cognia to the Mid-America Accreditation Commission.** We praise God for the outstanding work our teachers and staff do each and every day. It brings us great joy to have that work affirmed by an outside team of educational professionals.

Below are the major commendations from the re-accreditation process:

- The school clearly and consistently communicates its mission and expected student outcomes and effectively embeds them throughout its programs, operations, and curriculum.
- PCS provides fair and competitive compensation for the staff in comparison to local public schools in the immediate area. The school also has a strategic goal to continue improving staff compensation.

- PCS has expanded facilities and enrollment through visionary strategic planning, ensuring the provision of current and future Christian education for as many mission-appropriate families as possible in the Fargo-Moorhead communities.

- PCS fosters a Christ-like and distinctly Christian school culture in which students are known, supported, and encouraged to grow spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally through intentional relationships and a safe, caring environment.

The re-accreditation process also encourages us to maintain a mindset of continuous growth. In the coming years, PCS will focus on fully implementing our strategic plan, along with two action steps identified by the external review team:

- Develop and implement a systematic and objective process for assessing students' spiritual formation and Biblical worldview and intentionally use the results to inform program evaluation and school improvement.
- Use assessment data to drive curriculum development, inform instructional practices, and achieve student outcomes.

**We praise God for our partnership with you, which helps make Park Christian School one of ACSI's most qualified K-12 schools in the nation.** Our shared commitment — school and Christian home together — builds a strength and unity that makes PCS truly special. It is a blessing to live out our mission each day, from kindergarten through 12th grade: to be a Christ-centered academic community, equipping students to think biblically, live wisely, and serve faithfully.

*We praise God for our partnership with you!*

What a joy it is to share this report with you. To God be the glory!



Ben and I met and fell in love while serving on the youth staff at a church in Dallas; so long before we had kids of our own, we were passionate about discipleship (and having fun)! In Matthew 28, Jesus' final recorded words to His disciples are to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Simply put, disciples of Jesus are made by bringing others along as you follow Him. As a couple, our greatest hope and prayer for our family is that as we raise our kids to be disciples of Jesus, God will be glorified in us.

**In the Park Christian community, we often talk about discipleship as a three-legged stool: with the home, church, and school partnering to shape mature believers. When all three are strong and working together, the foundation is steady.**

In our home, discipleship looks pretty ordinary and often messy. Yes, it looks like spending time together in God's Word, but it also looks like practicing multiplication tables, talking about hard topics, playing games, going on long road trips, climbing mountains, making science fair boards, and doing the dishes. Discipleship happens in a million small, ordinary moments.

Discipleship starts in our home, but it doesn't end there. God also gives believers a church family to walk alongside us — to bear burdens, to encourage, to sharpen, and to practice the gospel. Ben and I love our Calvary Church family dearly, and we are deeply grateful for them; for Sunday school teachers who faithfully teach God's Word and for youth leaders who open their lives and challenge our kids to obey what they are studying. Through the church, our kids have opportunities to serve, to share the gospel, and to begin discipling others.

School also plays an essential role in that discipleship journey.

**At Park Christian School, our children are shaped each day in ways that strengthen and affirm the values we seek to cultivate at home.** The many hours spent in the classroom are not spiritually neutral but are intentionally Christ-centered. What a gift!

We see this in concerts that encourage worship through music and song.

We see it in regular Scripture memory and in Biblical truth woven throughout every subject.

We see it in art projects, reflecting the creativity of our Creator.

We see it in character awards that point to Jesus working in each student.

We see it in Bible and theology classes that encourage critical thinking and faithful life application.

We see it in weekly chapels led by godly men and women, where students worship alongside their peers.

We see it in service opportunities like Kindergarten reading buddies, Feed My Starving Children, and Operation Christmas Child.

We see it in Biblical teaching and team building on the Junior High retreat.

We see it in team devotions and coaches who reinforce using athletic gifts for God's glory.

Most of all, we see it in teachers and staff who love the Lord and sincerely desire to see their students mature in Him.

We are thankful for the tremendous impact Park has had on Pierce, Anna Kate, and Claire.

*It is truly  
a blessing  
to partner together  
in the sacred work  
of discipling the  
next generation.*



The Ben & Pam Killerlain family

# TEACHING MUSIC AND FAITH *Suzanne Larson, PCS Teacher*

I was looking forward to retirement so that I could enjoy life with fewer obligations – attending morning women’s Bible studies at church, having coffee with friends, and traveling a little. I imagined slow mornings with a warm cup of coffee in hand and the freedom to spend time with family without a schedule. Just as I was ready to enjoy retirement, I began to wonder: I knew I wanted free time, but would that be fulfilling enough at this stage of my life?

Around that time, my husband and I became more acquainted with Park Christian School through our grandchildren who attend there. Some of the staff also attend our church and have played music with us, so when PCS asked if I would consider starting an orchestra program, I didn’t hesitate. It felt like a nudge from God, an invitation

to use my gifts in a new way while being close to family.

I had spent many years teaching middle school orchestra for West Fargo Public Schools, where I had the privilege of starting orchestra programs at new schools. **There’s something special about watching students pick up a violin or cello for the first time and slowly hearing the music come alive under your guidance.** During that time, my husband and I also stayed active in music, playing in area symphonies and serving through our church.

We began the orchestra program at PCS with just a few students meeting after school on Wednesdays. The following year more students joined, and this year we have 70 students! We now have four different orchestras with some meeting three times a week. I still remember the

first time we played together as a large group -- the sound, the energy, the joy – it was a moment of pure blessing. It’s clear that the need for a string program was real, and I am grateful to see God’s plan unfold in such a tangible way.

Because I am teaching part-time at PCS, I am still able to enjoy the things that I looked forward to in retirement, like attending Bible studies, having coffee with friends, and traveling a little. At the same time, every rehearsal and every student’s progress reminds me that I am part of something bigger than myself. The climate and vision at Park Christian School make it a wonderful place to educate and raise children in the Lord, while also inspiring me to live out my faith. My goal is to help students develop a life-long love of music, whether it be for their own enjoyment or to bless others.



**Ella Skaff**, 9th grade, wrote this song for her 8th grade Science final, inspired by Mrs. Holter’s desire for students to see the magnificence of God’s creation. She later arranged it for string orchestra, and our PCS Orchestra performed her original composition.

## Senior High Orchestra

### We Are Called By Ella Kate

We are designed by God  
Created in His image  
to follow His word  
cause It heals both hearts and  
minds

we are called to fill the earth  
and to take care of creation  
we are to use the earth  
with love and care  
we called to worship God  
so that’s what I’ll do

every detail in creation  
proves of a creator  
the detail in every snowflake  
and just look at you and me

we are called to fill the earth  
and to take care of creation  
we are to use the earth  
with love and care  
we called to worship God  
So that’s what I’ll do

You can see God in His creation  
the artist that He is  
look at the sun  
the seas and the stars  
and that’s the deep hope

You can see God in His creation  
the artist that He is  
look at the sun  
the seas and the stars  
and that’s the deep hope  
(H-o-o-o-o-pe)

we are called to fill the earth  
and to take care of creation

we are to use the earth  
with love and care  
we called to worship God  
So that’s what I’ll do

We called to worship God  
So that’s what I’ll do  
What I’ll do

*God’s Unexpected Plan  
Brought Me to PCS!*



## Junior High Orchestra



Jonathan & Suzanne Larson

# EXPERIENCES FOR A LIFETIME



Kindergarten Valentine Tea



Fine Arts



Basketball



Fall Theatre Production



Board Game Club



Feed My Starving Children



State Champions: Arianna Hoff (200 Free, 200 Medley Relay) & Alexa Heckaman (200 Medley Relay)



Spelling Bee



Operation Christmas Child



Check out what makes PCS so special!

## ALEXIS SCHEID *PCS Junior*



Hello Park Christian! My name is Alexis Scheid, and I am currently a junior. Right now I am at a point where the future is feeling very close, and between

classes and extracurriculars, it is very easy to get caught up in the pressure of “performing” or even just trying to have it all figured out. However, the most important thing that I have learned during my time here wasn’t found in a textbook but in the realization that my life and “success” are not my own.

*Colossians 3:17 says, “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

This verse has become a guiding light for me, especially when I feel the weight of different responsibilities.

When I am working on science research or preparing for competitions such as ISEF, it is really easy to focus on the data or results. But Park has taught me to see science in a way that honors our Creator. I hope to eventually become a doctor and pursue a doctorate degree, not for a title, but because I want to use the mind God has given me to serve His people. Whether I am in a lab or eventually a clinic, I want my work to be an act of gratitude for the way He has designed our world.

The same is true outside of the classroom. Being involved in things like the theater department and weightlifting team has truly pushed me way past what I thought myself capable of. There

are plenty of days when I feel I lack the patience or strength to be a leader to my teammates and peers, but I think that is where Park’s community really shines. My coaches, teachers, and friends constantly remind me that it’s not about being the “best” or most talented but rather showing up with a heart that wants to serve God, even when I feel inadequate.

**I am so thankful to be a part of a school that prioritizes our walk with Christ above our GPAs or trophies.** And as I look toward my senior year and the big goals ahead, I feel ready. Not because I have it all figured out, but because I know Who I am working for, and I am especially grateful for everyone that has invested in a place that teaches us how to do whatever we do for His name’s sake.

# PaY STUDENTS MAKE AN IMPACT *Melissa Evans, PaY Co-Advisor*

Quiet needs surround us every day. A teen without a safe place to sleep. A child searching for confidence. A teen battling anxiety, depression, or suicidal thoughts in residential treatment. A mother unsure how to afford the basics as she gets back on her feet. A family struggling to pay ongoing medical bills. These stories are often unseen, yet they are here in our community.

While these seem like intense challenges, our community is not without hope. Faithful, passionate nonprofit organizations show up day after day to meet these needs. Nonprofits all over our area collaborate with each other and others in the community to meet the needs. **And PCS students GET to be part of this!**

For 17 years, PCS has participated in Philanthropy and Youth (PaY), a program that invites area high school students (Grades 9-12) to live and experience what it means to give generously, lead boldly, and love their neighbors well. Philanthropy isn't always a term that is used regularly. What exactly is philanthropy? Philanthropy, at its core, means goodwill toward others—an active effort to promote human welfare and bring help where help is needed most. **Through PaY, students don't just learn this definition; they live it.** At PCS, our mission is to think biblically, live wisely, and serve faithfully.

This aligns with PaY – specifically to serve faithfully! PaY gives students a powerful opportunity to put this mission into action and shapes them into compassionate leaders for life.

Through PaY, students discover their passions, understand their strengths, and immerse themselves in the work happening across our city. They meet nonprofit leaders, ask questions, listen to stories, and witness the courage and resilience of people facing significant hardship.

The PaY vision is: Inspire, lead, share. Each year students select focus areas, research nonprofits, and conduct site visits. They learn to evaluate needs with wisdom and empathy. They work together to decide how to allocate their committee's \$6,000 in grant funds. No more than \$1,500 may go to a single organization, ensuring that their impact is felt widely across the community. Students present their mission, values, and recommendations to community leaders before submitting formal grant proposals to The Barry Foundation's Board of Directors. In addition, students during the year create their own project where they can make a tangible impact in the community.

This year, more than 30 PCS students are part of PaY, and their enthusiasm is inspiring. This year's student-defined mission is to act as the body of Christ, helping the community by

supplying basic needs, assistance with mental health, and support for youth development. Their values include compassion, humility, and joy. Their focus areas are youth development, mental health, and basic needs. Very soon, the PaY committee will finalize their grant decisions. It may seem small, but ultimately impact is made. These are future volunteers. Future nonprofit leaders. Future givers. Future world changers. **Through PaY, PCS students discover they can be part of something bigger, lasting, and something that reflects Christ's love in tangible, life-changing ways. They are making an eternal impact.**



I also have really appreciated all the lessons PaY has taught me. I've learned so much more about talking with people and setting up meetings because the students are the ones who actually set up meetings with the nonprofits...



**Daniel Dietrich, 12th grade**



One thing I love about PaY is that each year you get to go visit the different nonprofit organizations and you get to see the bigger needs of our community.



**Ruby Nelson, 12th grade**



PaY has been an amazing experience overall and I would encourage anyone who wants to make a difference to get involved.



**Annika Johnson, 12th grade**



My favorite part is probably going on site visits and getting to see how other organizations help impact the community.



**Libby Suckert, 12th grade**

# CHLOE DRUMMOND *2018 Alumna*

Early in my life, I came to a deep understanding of the Lord's care for me as I saw evidence of His faithfulness time and again. I had the privilege of attending Park Christian School from kindergarten through twelfth grade. During these formative years, I received a high-quality education while also being spiritually nurtured. I graduated not only with memories, friendships, and a love of learning, but also with hope because of Jesus' faithfulness.

I attended Grand Canyon University, where I received a degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Christian Education. My desire to pursue education was rooted in my wonderful experiences at PCS. I enjoyed teaching, but I began to feel the traditional classroom wasn't my career path.

As I pondered the future, I reflected on which experiences had been the most meaningful. A common theme was opportunities and experiences in the nonprofit community. My own participation in organizations such as Philanthropy and Youth grew my understanding of philanthropy and appreciation for the strong collaboration uniquely present in our region. These reflections helped me to decide to search for nonprofit opportunities in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

I became Executive Director of the North Dakota 4-H Foundation, a program that has been shaping North Dakota leaders for over 100

years. While I was working at the ND 4-H Foundation, I leaned into my love of learning and began pursuing my Master of Business Administration through North Dakota State University. While I enjoyed my professional and educational pursuits, I felt as though the experiences I had were scattered – that my nonlinear path was actually not connected at all. However, I was again reminded of Jesus' faithfulness.

This past November, I joined The Barry Foundation as Program Manager. The Foundation played an important role in my high school and college development as I became a Barry Scholar and active Forward alum. The Foundation felt like a natural choice – the role blended my background in education and youth programming with my current interests in nonprofit leadership and business. My faith allowed me to see all of these elements that I had previously considered separate fall into perfect alignment.

The past few months have been a joy to guide programming at an organization that shaped me. Daily, I am inspired by the students who participate. This year, over 700 students are engaged in proactive grantmaking. These

student-led committees identify an area of focus, research community nonprofits, and visit organizations before deciding how to award the grant funds provided. As participants move through the program year, their reflections, insights, and growth amaze me. It is assuring to see the care the next generation carries.

**I have deep gratitude for the preparation PCS afforded me. As I have grown in my personal life, career, and relationship with the Lord, I have become even more grateful for the investment of my parents, teachers, mentors, and leaders. What a treasure it is to be equipped with truths such as the faithfulness of Jesus!** I have hope for my current life and hope for my future life because of His faithfulness.

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“Chloe Drummond is joining our staff in a new role, Program Manager. Chloe has been a participant in all our programs – PaY, the PaY Summer Internship Program, the Barry Scholarship Program, and our alumni engagement program, Philanthropy: Forward. She is an emerging leader in the nonprofit sector, making her an excellent fit for helping us advance our programming goals.”  
- The Barry Foundation



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## KELSEY TITUS *Student Life & Academic Specialist*

Hello, Park Christian Community! My name is Kelsey Titus. This year I transitioned from my role as Business and Computer Teacher to Student Life and Academic Specialist. I am originally from southern Minnesota and earned my undergraduate and graduate degrees from Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD. After I was done with college, I coached college volleyball for 7 years and did various jobs within the college setting, including Assistant Volleyball Coach, Admissions Counselor, and Associate Athletic Director at the University of Jamestown.

I have had various roles since then, such as substitute teacher, stay-at-home mom, high school volleyball coach, and business education teacher. Three years ago, we had been praying about what we were to do next in our careers and what direction our family was to go, **and the Holy Spirit made it clear that August that we were meant to come to Park Christian as a family.** I am very fortunate that my entire family is here at Park Christian School as my husband teaches fifth grade and our son, Moses, is a 1st grader!

Being part of a Christ-centered school was very important to us, both from our teaching perspective and for our son's education. As parents, we treasure the education our son is getting here at Park and also how he is growing in his faith and love of Jesus. We have felt so welcomed at Park from the beginning and are very thankful to have this opportunity at this point in our life to be here! We treasure the relationships and the friendships we have built here! Park Christian is truly an amazing community!



Travis, Kelsey & Moses Titus

## THE PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL UNITED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Park Christian School United Scholarship Fund is a permanently restricted endowment that gives at least one 50% tuition grant each school year. We are so thankful to the donors who make this possible!

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For more information contact **Chris Neller** at Park Christian School or **Eric Wilkie** at FM Area Foundation

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