

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



THRIVE CAMPAIGN
PLEDGES/ONE-TIME GIFTS
\$6,607,309.46

**\*6.205.970.50** 

SINCE JUNE 1, 2024
PLEDGE PAYMENTS \$1,255,081.39
ONE-TIME GIFTS \$652,748.58
NEW PLEDGES \$122,856.85
PAYMENTS RECEIVED ON NEW
PLEDGES \$56.475.35

TOTAL THRIVE DOLLARS
RECEIVED SINCE JUNE 1, 2024
\$1,907.829.97

### **IMPACTFUL GIVING 2024 - 2025**

\$300,000 MATCHING (JULY - SEPT 2024)

All NEW gifts to Thrive were matched 1:1, producing \$600,000 in new Thrive money

### \$50,000 EOY MATCHING CHALLENGE

All Thrive gifts during the EOY Campaign matched 1:1 Challenge met by 12/16/24

### \$12,500 BLOCK MATCHING CHALLENGE

Raised \$25,895 to name an Ignite classroom in honor of Pr. David Block

KINGDOM LEADERS GALA 2025 GROSS: \$231,981.82 NET: \$193,726.59 (TOTAL EXPENSES: \$38,255.23)



### DEAR CONCORDIA FAMILIES,

It is a humble and joyful privilege to step into the role of CEO at Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha. As I prepare for this transition, I do so with deep gratitude: for the trust placed in me, for the mission and ministry that unite us, and for the opportunity to return to Nebraska.

Though I bring nearly 30 years of experience in Lutheran education, I approach this new chapter at Concordia as a learner first. Even in these early stages, I've been deeply encouraged by what I see and hear: strong, faith-filled leadership, a dedicated team of Christian educators, and a school culture that reflects both academic excellence and authentic community. It's clear that Concordia is a place where Christ is central, where students are known and loved, and where families feel at home. That is the kind of ministry I feel called to join—one I am eager to serve with humility, purpose, and hope.

This summer has been a season of meaningful transition for our family. After nearly 30 years of ministry at Faith Lutheran in Las Vegas, a school and community that shaped me deeply and gave our daughters a strong foundation in faith, education, and life, my husband Doug and I are preparing for a new chapter. We're returning to Nebraska with grateful hearts and open hands, excited for the opportunity to serve in a place that feels both new and like coming home. Our daughter Clara was recently married and will continue her teaching ministry this fall at Anchor Lutheran School in Anchorage, Alaska. Our youngest, Lydia, is entering her senior year at Montana State University and is prayerfully navigating the process of applying to dental schools. Doug, an avid fisherman, is especially looking forward to the chance to explore the many lakes and fishing spots throughout Nebraska and the region.

I grew up in Fairbury, Nebraska: a rural town that many here know well, especially for its red hot dogs made famous on Husker game days. I was raised in the Lutheran church, attended Concordia University in Seward, and have been blessed with a lifelong calling to Lutheran education. That foundation—of faith, family, and calling—continues to shape how I lead and serve, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to return to the state and the values that first formed me.

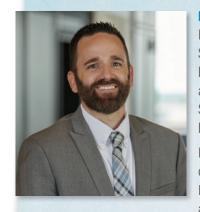
In the coming months, I look forward to listening closely, learning with purpose, and leading with integrity. More than anything, I'm excited to join this vibrant community of believers, educators, and families who are committed to shaping students in both faith and learning.

Thank you for the warm welcome I've already received. It is a true honor to serve this community—and to serve the Lord alongside you.

### GO MUSTANGS! Sarah Harper

CEO. Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha

### **WELCOMING NEW BOARD MEMBERS**



NICK MONTAGUE We are pleased to welcome Nick Montague to the Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha Board of Directors. Nick brings valuable expertise as an attorney and business owner. He is an owner of Smith Pauley, LLP, a law firm specializing in business and estate planning.

Nick and his wife, Malorie, have three children: Colton (7, first grade at Concordia), Madison (4), and Mason (2). The Montagues are members of Living Water Church and

passionate about supporting Christ-centered education. Originally from Arkansas, Nick moved to Omaha in 2010 to attend Creighton Law School, while Malorie, a Papillion native, has always called Nebraska home.



**SARA BRESSMAN** Sara brings 15 years of executive leadership experience in the healthcare sector, where she has consistently demonstrated a heart for service and strategic vision.

Sara and her husband, Aaron Bressman, are active members of GraceHill Church, where they are a founding family and where Sara served as a founding board member. The Bressmans are parents to five children.

Their eldest daughter, Madison, graduated in 2018, while Kayla (11th grade), Leigha (9th grade), and Cam (7th grade) are all current Concordia students.

Sara is passionate about the mission of developing kingdom leaders and is excited to support Concordia's Christ-centered approach to education and leadership development.



# IN THE LEADERSHIP

Sarah Harper, CEO
Nathan Domsch, Head of Education
Kristin Herrera, Director of Operations &
Development

WE PREPARE

# FAITH SECURE WORLD READY KINGDOM LEADERS

Download our ne

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

August 5: MS/HS Back to School Night + school photos

August 11: Elementary Back to School Night
August 12: BTS 101: All NEW MS/HS students & all
6<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> graders

**August 22: Mustang Kickoff** 

**September 9:** Elementary Photo Day MS/HS Photo Makeup Day

**October 6:** Elementary Photo Makeup Day

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Charista Baye (King of Kings Lutheran Church)

Alison Betten (GraceHill Lutheran Church)

Sara Bressman (GraceHill Lutheran Church)

Pastor Caleb Kruse; Pastoral Representative (Lord of Life-Elkhorn)

Nick Montague (Living Water Lutheran Church)

Nanette Rasmussen (Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church)

Matt Rehbein (Zion Lutheran Church)

Joe Risko (Pacific Hills Lutheran Church)

Dan Swan (Pacific Hills Lutheran Church)

Pastor Dusty White (Coram Deo)

# MISSION VALUES OUTCOMES

**DEEP ROOTS** 

IN GOD'S

**WORD** 

**FAITH-FUELD** 

COMMUNITY

**MAXIMIZING** 

**GOD'S GIFTS** 

UPDATE

WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE THE UPDATED **MISSION, VALUES, AND OUTCOME** STATEMENTS FOR CONCORDIA, which Concordia's Board of Directors adopted in April 2025. Our strategic plan led us to consider how our mission, values, and outcomes align, and the updated statements bring clarity that will guide our ministry forward!

Our mission statement incorporates the beauty and simplicity of our tagline, "faith secure, world ready, kingdom leaders," with the phrase "we prepare" to clarify the essential work we do at our school. This new mission statement encapsulates our commitment to nurturing and equipping our students for future endeavors. It is also combined with an explanation based on our discussion over the past several months.

The most significant changes are stated in our updated list of values. These values are common in our community, and naming them allows us to lean into maintaining deep roots in God's

Word, a faith-fueled community, maximizing God's gifts, academic excellence,

meaningful relationships, and embracing challenges with greater intentionality moving forward. These values will serve as the foundation for our interactions, decision-making, and the overall culture of CLSO.

Finally, the draft outcome statements, which define what a faith secure, world ready, kingdom leader looks like, will guide our intentional effort to support student growth in each area.

Thank you for your connection to Concordia and your role in shaping our future. I am excited about the journey ahead and look forward to working together to be even more intentional about integrating our mission, values, and outcomes into daily practice.



Value the word of God Profess and defend an identity in Christ Reflect Christ in word and action



WORLD READY

Achieve academically Succeed in their next step Think critically



**WE PREPARE** 

FAITH SECURE

WORLD READY.

KINGDOM LEADERS

**KINGDOM LEADERS** 

**ACADEMIC** 

**EXCELLENCE** 

**EMBRACING** 

**CHALLENGES** 

**MEANINGFUL** 

**RELATIONSHIPS** 

Collaborate with others Demonstrate accountability Possess a servant heart

GOD'S BLESSINGS, The



Nathan Domsch, Head of Education

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

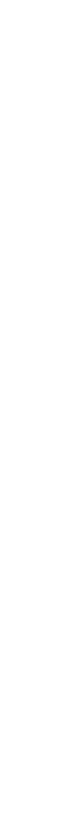
- The Baseball Team finished the season 11-8 with a loss to Skutt in the B1 District championship game. Ryan S. pitched a complete game shutout in the team's 2-0 victory over Gretna in the District semi-final.
- Boys Golf finished 6th out of 12 teams in the B1 Golf District and Adam S. finished 5th with a score of 80 at Firethorn to qualify for the state tournament for the 4th consecutive year. At state, Adam shot a two-day tournament total of 162 (81, 81) to finish tied for 37th in the field of 74 golfers at the Class B state tournament at Monument Shadows Golf Course in
- Boys Soccer Five Concordia boys played on the cooperative team hosted by Roncalli High School. The team lost 6-4 to Hastings in a District final to end the season. Will P. had three assists in the game. Will led the team in offense on the season with 19 goals and 10 assists.
- Envirothon sent two teams to the state contest, where one team finished runner-up.
- Girls Soccer finished the season 9-8 on a cooperative team, hosting both Brownell Talbot and DC West. The team ended the season with a 3-1 loss to Elkhorn North in subdistricts. Alexis N. set new school records in goal with 168 saves on the season and 189 saves in her
- Girls Tennis Concordia had a large number of girls compete on the tennis cooperative team hosted by Brownell Talbot. Concordia sent girls to the state meet in #1 singles (Daisy F.), #2 singles (Claire E.), #1 Doubles (Lillie J. and her partner Reeya C. from Brownell Talbot), and #2 doubles (Lilly F. and Sonia B.). Lillie J. and Reeva C. placed 3rd in #1 doubles at the state meet and finished the season 26-3.
- Shooting Sports Six Concordia students won a total of 35 medals across eight events.

- The team finished in the top 10 at every meet for 16 vd and top seven in handicaps
- Owen M. was 3<sup>rd</sup> team all-conference this season and was ranked #15 out of 931 shooters in the conference.
- Owen also placed 7<sup>th</sup> at State in 16 vd this season (a first for Concordia to place at State), and he placed 17th overall out of over 1,200 other shooters from around the state and country.
- Seven of our school records for shooting sports were broken this season.
- Faith R. and Owen M. hold all male and female individual school records.
- Track & Field- Season Highlights Our team had a remarkable season! These are just a few numbers that highlight how well our athletes performed.
- Seven School records (Four records) re-broken from last year and three new records).
- Five State Qualifiers in six events (four first-time state qualifiers and four returning next year).
- Jarek P. finished 13<sup>th</sup> in the triple jump and 16th in the long jump.
- Addie S. finished 11th in the high jump.
- Elijah C. finished 12th in the High Jump.
- Kvra M, finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the 400 M.
- Payton D. finished 21st in the 800 M.
- Girls Soccer Class B honorable mention-Mikayla O., Alexis N. Alexis finished the season #1 in class B in saves with 168.
- Boys Soccer: Class B 2nd team all state-Will P., Class B honorable mention all state- Cade W. Will P. finished the year 5th in class B in points scored with 19 goals and 10 assists.
- Baseball Class B honorable mention-Andrew M., Cole C.
- E-Sports Concordia's Alpha Mario Kart team (Jim T., Andrew S., Nathan H., Jamey T., and Lucas S.) won the Class B Nebraska State Esports Association's

- (NSESA) State Championship. They ended their season with a perfect season and a record of 14-0. Concordia's Beta Mario Kart team (Sawyer M., Martin L., Utah A., Case C., and Finn L.) took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the NSESA Class B State Championship.
- Boys Basketball The team finished the season 23-5 and were runner up in Class C1 in the NSAA state tournament falling in the title game to Ashland-Greenwood. Jack T. was named to the all-tournament team for C1 by the Omaha World Herald. This was the fifth consecutive trip to the state tournament earned by our boys basketball team with the highest finish to date.
- Girls Basketball The girls team more than doubled their win total from last season and finished the season 10-14.
- The Swim Team, hosted by Brownell Talbot, had four Concordia swimmers qualifying for the NSAA state swim meet: Jocie A., Heidi G., Audrey G. and Cianan S.
- Speech Season ended with all of our six students qualifying for District finals.
- The Cheer and Dance Teams both competed in the Nebraska Coaches Association state competition and both performed well with each team finishing in
- The Boys Wrestling Team had a growing year with a solid core of underclassmen competing hard all season and three wrestlers just missing qualifying for the state tournament in the heartbreak round of the District tournament.
- The Girls Wrestling Team had two solid seniors graduate in just our second year of competition and our first year hosting Mercy in a cooperative sponsored team. One wrestler from Mercy qualified for the state meet.

# LASS 2025 SENIOR CLASS 2025 SENIOR CLASS 2025 S





Andrew Swan



Jimminy Thompson

Jackson Thrasher







For Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha sophomore Evie E., archery started as a fun activity and quickly became a passion.

"When I was 10, my mom signed me up for archery lessons," Evie recalls. "I got really into it, and since I enjoyed it so much, my parents got me my own bow." That early spark ignited a lasting interest, and Evie started shooting at archery tournaments. From there, she began deer hunting through the Nebraska Game & Parks' Mentored Hunting program.

This fall marks her fourth season participating in the mentored hunts—an experience she looks forward to each year. So, when Concordia launched its own archery team in the fall of 2024, Evie was eager to get involved. The Concordia team uses Genesis bows, which meant Evie had to temporarily step down from her more advanced gear. "It was actually really good for her form," her mom, Lindsey, explained. "Getting involved in an organized program at school meant she was shooting with her friends, which made it even better."

Archery Coach Pr. Bryan Rice found Evie to be a foundational leader for the new team. "Evie set a high standard for the team. Her steady presence and work ethic made a lasting impact from the very beginning."

Archery wasn't the only sport calling to Evie. Inspired by her older sister, who had participated in trap shooting for three years, Evie decided to give it a shot and quickly fell in love. "I tried it and liked it," Evie said simply. "So I joined the Concordia trap team." What she found was more than just a new hobby—she found a community.

"She loves the coaches and her teammates," Lindsey said. "Ron and David, especially, have been so supportive and encouraging. We've known David Phillips since Evie was in early elementary, so that connection made it even more special."

Evie enjoyed every part of the experience—hanging out with teammates, shooting, and even staying after tournaments to

watch the shoot-offs. "It was my first year, so I was just okay," she admitted with a laugh. "But the coaches and teammates were super encouraging."

"She came with a great mindset, she wanted to be all-in, and she's one of the best students I've ever had as far as paying attention, listening to the basics, and really wanting to learn," said Shooting Coach Ron Patton. Because she was eager to learn and always wanted to give her best, according to Patton, she was very inspiring to her teammates.

For Lindsey, the impact of the program was bigger than just skill development. "I think it's given her a place to belong," she said. "She formed relationships with upperclassmen who cheered her on."

The parent community has also played a key role. "There's breakfast and lunch at every meet, cooked on a griddle by one of the parents," Lindsey added. "The support for the kids is amazing."

Thanks to her long history with archery, Lindsey even got involved as a volunteer for the CLSO team. "It's such a tight-knit community," she said. "I loved being able to help out, and it was so cool seeing the mentors from Game & Parks at the competitions."

The trap team's level of organization stood out too. "The coaches go above and beyond," Lindsey emphasized. "I was so impressed at the parent meeting. The coaches had everything ready for the season—PowerPoint slides, shells ordered and ready for pickup, everything! It was a God-filled experience, with amazing and intentional coaching, and encouragement for every student."

"There were no favorites," Evie added, "Everyone got feedback and support. They really just want all of us to succeed."

Through both archery and trap shooting, Evie has found more than just sports—she's found purpose, friendship, and faith in action at Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha.







**SARAH HARPER - CEO** Sarah comes to us from Faith Lutheran Middle & High School in Las Vegas, where she has served as the Middle School Principal for 20 years. She is a dedicated educational leader with 30 years of experience supporting students, equipping faculty, and engaging communities in the pursuit of

excellence. She is known for cultivating collaborative, Christ-centered cultures, driving innovative practices, and fostering a well-rounded approach to learning that integrates faith, academic rigor, and servant leadership.



#### TYLER NICHOLAS - GUIDANCE COUNSELOR Mr.

Nicholas brings a deep passion for student growth, a strong foundation in Lutheran education, and a heart for guiding young people. He spent the past eight years with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Nebraska College Preparatory Academy (NCPA), where he supported hundreds of high school students in

reaching their academic, personal, and post-secondary goals.

Tyler earned his Master's Degree in School Counseling, further equipping him to walk alongside students in both their challenges and triumphs.



#### KEVIN SCHEEF - HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS TEACHER

Kevin Scheef is a seasoned educator and coach with a strong background in business education. He earned his bachelor's degree in business education and a master's in Curriculum and Instruction. He served for 23 years at Wahoo High School, where he was known not only for his excellence in the classroom but also

for his leadership in athletics. Throughout his career, Kevin has been a head basketball coach and an assistant coach for football and track and field.



#### KARI JOHNSON - MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL ART Kari

has a passion for fostering creativity, and integrating faith into learning. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education with endorsements in K-12 Art and 7-12 English, as well as a Master's in School Counseling. Kari is looking forward to inspiring students to explore their creative potential while instilling values of faith

and personal growth.



KRISTA MOLLAK - SPECIAL EDUCATION Krista brings a wealth of experience and passion to her role. She most recently served in the Mark 10:14 Program at Faith Lutheran Middle and High School in Las Vegas, where she led an inclusive special education program for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Prior to that, she worked as an elementary resource teacher in Bellevue Public Schools

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education with endorsements in K–12 Special Education, and a Master's in Literacy with a Reading Specialist endorsement. Her commitment to teaching and advocating for the inclusion of students of all abilities makes her a wonderful addition to our community.



**TERA BAUER - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE** Over the past 24 years, Tera has taught a wide range of grade levels in elementary and middle school classrooms. Her passion for guiding and encouraging young learners, both academically and spiritually, continues to grow. Tera holds an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education, a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, and a

Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. She is furthering her education with graduate studies in Educational Counseling and Administration through Concordia University.



MICHAELLA BARSELL - IGNITE 4/5 Born and raised in Omaha, Michaella brings a deep love for education, faith, and family to her role. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary and Special Education and a Master's in Reading, which equipped her with both the heart and expertise to meet students where they are and help them thrive.



MALLORY FINK - IGNITE K/I Mallory comes to us with a deep love for Jesus, a passion for student-centered learning, and a heart for building strong relationships with students and families. She will be a wonderful fit for our Ignite program, where young learners are encouraged to grow in ownership of their education, character, and faith.



ALICIA BOWMAN Alicia brings professionalism, attention to detail, and a heart for service to the daily operations of the school. She holds a degree in Business Management and has prior experience in both the financial and events industries, providing her with a strong foundation in organization,

communication, and planning. She considers it a privilege to support students, families, and staff, and is grateful to serve in a Christ-centered environment where faith and learning go hand in hand.

## WELCOMING NEW STAFF...

FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR





### NATHAN DOMSCH - HEAD OF EDUCATION Nathan

has been the elementary principal at Concordia for the past 10 years and worked as a teacher, technology director, and principal at Immanuel in Olivette, MO, before coming to Omaha. His new role will focus on school improvement and compliance, curriculum, student activities, student experience and outcomes,

and stakeholder communication.



### AMY SCHWARTING - SENIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL Mrs.

Schwarting has been part of the Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha community since 2003. With a deep passion for sharing the love of Jesus, she considers it a joy and privilege to walk alongside students during their high school years. For several years, she had the honor of serving both the middle and high school,

and she is now excited to focus her leadership on serving the high school students and families. She believes CLSO is a truly special place where faith, learning, and community come together to prepare students for life and leadership in Christ.



### PRESTON DOERR - MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Preston brings over a decade of dedication and leadership to this important role. Mr. Doerr began his journey at Concordia in August of 2014 and his passion for education, commitment to Concordia, and heart for students make him a strong and inspiring leader for our middle school. We are thrilled to welcome him into

this new role and look forward to the continued impact he will make in the lives of our students and families.



### KAYLA MARTY - ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL Since

joining Concordia in 2019, Kayla has been a visionary leader and passionate educator, dedicated to creating innovative, Christ-centered learning experiences for students. She founded and directs Ignite, Concordia's micro-school designed to meet students' academic,

emotional, and spiritual needs in unique and personalized ways. Mrs. Marty's unwavering commitment to developing faith secure, world ready, kingdom leaders aligns deeply with the mission of Concordia, and we are excited for the ways she will continue to bless our Elementary students, staff, and families in this new role.



### SARA MAXON - MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH & SCIENCE

Sara has been with Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha since 2002 and has seen it through all its variations. "Where we are now as a school is what we have dreamed about and worked toward for as long as I can remember. God's timing is perfect, and everything

along the way has been for His purpose. Concordia Lutheran Schools has made an eternal difference in the lives of so many students and families, and will continue to do so long into the future."

During her 23 years as an educator, Sara has taught grades 3-6, PE, and served as the elementary athletic director. She is excited for this next chapter as a middle school teacher and for the future of Concordia.



TINA KRATZ - MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH With 25 years of experience in education, Tina Kratz brings both passion and expertise to her second year at Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha. Tina holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master's in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Athletic

Administration—both from Creighton University. She also carries a Middle School Math Endorsement and is deeply committed to helping students develop confidence in their math skills. Her classroom emphasizes a growth mindset, encouraging students to discover that they can do hard things.

Tina is passionate about teaching in a Lutheran school setting where faith formation and academic excellence go hand in hand. She considers it a privilege to help students grow both spiritually and intellectually each day.



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CONCORDIAOMAHA.ORG

A PUBLICATION OF CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF OMAHA FOUNDATION SUMMER 2025



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, Against Such things there is no law.

DATION BOARD

**Gaye Lynn Schaffart** *Board Chair* 

Liz Cook Lee Handke Gail Hawkins A. William "Bill" Kernen Lloyd Probasco Karli Ridder Dan Vehle



Sabrina Weiss

MARCH 2025 BALANCE \$2.547.051

DEC 2024 BALANCE \$2,608,606

SEPTEMBER 2024 \$2,624,569

JUNE 2024 \$2,620,072

MARCH 2024 \$2,760,554



# FOUNDATION BOARD Update

#### "The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it." - William James

The late 19th-century American philosopher William James provided this very simple and inspiring message that serves as a call to everyone searching for meaning in our busy professional and personal lives. Serving on the CLSO Foundation is a uniquely important pathway to serving God and building His Kingdom in this world. The Foundation Board members seek to support the Concordia Lutheran Schools' mission to prepare our young students for lives of solid faith, profound service, and world-class leadership in God's extended church around the world. Over the 25+ years that I have been associated with our school, I have witnessed remarkable growth in this institution. God has richly blessed us with devoted talent and timely benevolence that has propelled Concordia to the esteemed position it now holds in the greater Omaha community.

The CLSO Foundation members are committed to supporting the school leadership and the Board with efforts that will build the Foundation resources to provide substantial funding for the school and its wide operations in the future. As we develop and refine our ideas toward action on this goal, we pray that God's Holy Spirit will stir the hearts among those disciples of Christ who will hear the call to be the next wave of patrons and sponsors in this noble endeavor of Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha. It is the ambitious goal of the Foundation membership to encourage our close Christian brothers and sisters to plant the seeds today which will grow into the resources that serve to build God's kingdom through Concordia in the generations beyond our lifetimes.

**IN CHRIST'S SERVICE, Dan Vehle**