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greatest of these is*
LOVE



Ryan Hahn
Parent, Board Member,
Volunteer & Friend

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF OMAHA IS A CHRIST-CENTERED PLACE TO LEARN AND TO BE LOVED.

That is what drew us there over eight years ago when our oldest daughter was ready to start kindergarten. Today, all three of our girls attend the school. Grace (14) is in 8th grade, Bella (12) is in 6th grade, and Norah Joy (9) is in 3rd grade and is a part of the Ignite program.

There are a lot of things to like such as small class size, a small school with similar academic and extracurricular activities as larger schools (our children are able to do so much), the community atmosphere and award-winning teachers. But, what still stands out today is love. Our children are loved by the staff and by the other families at our school. They can bring their whole selves each day knowing that they are cared for and supported.

Love God and love people. It's simple, yet it's the most important command from God for living life. My wife, Sommer, and I do our best to live under that precept and together have committed our time, talent and treasures to places & projects that create community and/or transform lives, especially those that are Kingdom focused. Church and Christian schools are where we can have the biggest impact in reaching people through Christ and that is why we support Concordia beyond our children's enrollment.

We both stay involved in activities and connected to families, teachers and administrators. We have real relationships and are in community with these people daily. We know this is not the experience in many other settings so we see it as a blessing. I have served on the Board of Directors since 2019 and have coached my daughters' basketball teams for many years.

It has been amazing to see what God has done through the school over the years and we are very confident that He has more in-store. Now more than ever, families need a place like Concordia. We are seeing the growth as a result of it. God has provided and will continue to provide as long as we stay obedient to his Word and to the mission.

Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha is where children become: Faith Secure. World Ready. Kingdom Leaders. And for the Hahn family, it is also a place to love and be loved by everyone in this community and by Christ!

Why We *still* Support Concordia



MARK AND CAROLE SANDEEN'S choice to continue to support Concordia with their time and finances has been a simple one. They believe in the mission of the school and want to see more students have the same positive experience that their daughter Claire had during her years as a student. Mark says, "we see the school as an extension of the church and we know our dollars are going to valuable services."

When the Sandeen family moved from Hastings, NE they began researching Omaha schools for their daughter, who was going into 4th grade at the time. They settled on Concordia after a tour with former elementary Principal Dean Raabe. The small class sizes were important to them as they both came from smaller rural hometowns. After just one year they saw personal growth in Claire. When they went back to Hastings for a visit, others even commented on Claire's new sense of confidence. As the years passed, Claire continued to grow into a mature young woman who was strong academically and involved in several extra-curricular activities. Carole shares, "Claire was challenged by the high school academic expectations of her teachers and it made her work harder." Claire graduated from Concordia in 2020 and is currently attending Nebraska Wesleyan University.

During their daughter's time at Concordia, Carole volunteered by serving lunch, helping with the gala and providing team dinners. Mark also gave of his time by helping with the scorebooks for the girls' basketball team. Today, Carole is still volunteering by assisting once a week in the Advancement office with data entry. They also continue to financially support Concordia. Mark felt the school leadership showed maturity by working to pay off debt with the last capital campaign. "I am pleased that Concordia is looking down the road and preparing for the future," says Mark. The Sandeens plan to continue their support and their volunteering efforts in order to bless the mission of Concordia and to help other students have the opportunity to know Christ. They have the time, have been blessed financially and enjoy staying connected to their Concordia family!



To Cambodia *with love!*

Concordia students are partnering with Garuna Ministries to bless students and families in Cambodia. Several of the Lutheran churches in Omaha are partnering together to build a school in Cambodia, a country where only 2% of the population knows Jesus. Concordia students are raising funds to purchase school furniture and supplies for that school. The Academy students are collecting chapel offerings and the Jr.-Sr. High students are holding various fundraisers with their Life Groups. The financial goal for furnishing one school is \$10,200.

Alumni Spotlight Dakota Hendrickson



Dakota Hendrickson (2015) was anxious to get out into the world and make a difference, and that is exactly what he has done. Hendrickson graduated from Creighton University in 3.5 years with a dual major in Finance and Entrepreneurship. While in school he realized he didn't want to work in a corporate job. Consequently, fifteen days after graduation from Creighton he started a company called Filti. The company is located in Kansas City and produces air filters. When COVID hit in 2020, Hendrickson changed gears at Filti and the company began producing high quality face masks.

Hendrickson believes Concordia had high expectations for him in all aspects of his life and he believes that was critical in building his character. In addition, the curriculum was challenging and he was encouraged to be an imitator of Christ. He shares, "Most people want to hit the easy button in life, but I have learned as a Christ follower, life is not easy. I am reminded of this in 1 Peter when it says, *all who desire to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted..... but rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.*" He is also thankful that he had the opportunity at Concordia to be in God's word each day and in worship every week.

While in high school Hendrickson played both football and basketball. He enjoyed the chance to have teachers as his coaches and values the relationships he built with them. The small class sizes were a good fit for him and he always enjoyed science classes with Mr. Ellis. Hendrickson holds a private pilot license that allows him to fly when needed for work, but also for fun! It would be fair to say those science classes played a role in his career path and even his leisure activities.

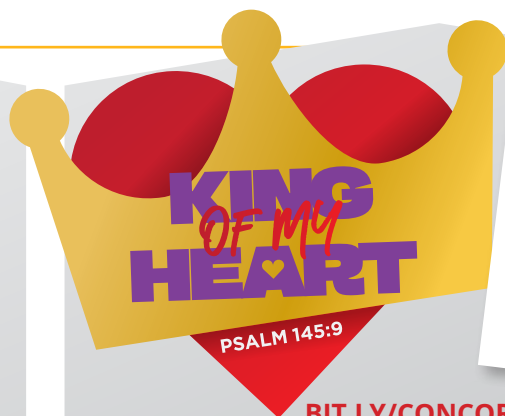


WELCOME TO SABRINA WEISS Mrs. Sabrina Weiss is the newest member of the Concordia Foundation Board. Weiss brings her vast knowledge of fundraising and donor relations experience to the table. She worked for the Joslyn Art Museum for 11 years as the Director of Development. She currently works for the Omaha Performing Arts Council as the VP of Development and she has been in this role for the last eight years. Weiss is connected to Concordia through her work with the Service Corp of Lutheran Business Executives with Mr. Bill Kernen. She is a graduate of Burke High School and attended Oklahoma City University for her undergraduate degree. In addition, Weiss earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of Nebraska Omaha.

Weiss shared that she loves to connect donors with organizations that have mutual interests and passions. She looks forward to helping Concordia donors with understanding planned giving, endowments and collaborating with the school on fundraising projects. Weiss believes this is an exciting time in the history of Concordia and is happy to play a part.



SAVE THE DATE! The 2022 High School Musical, *The Addams Family*, will be performed March 10th-13th at Marian High School Theater. Use the QR code above to purchase tickets after February 11th. You may also find the link on the school website, concordiaomaha.org.



[BIT.LY/CONCORDIAGALA2022](https://bit.ly/concordiagala2022)

THE 16TH ANNUAL CONCORDIA GALA IS FRI., MARCH 4 at Concordia Jr.-Sr. High School. Use the QR code to purchase tickets. If you would like to donate an auction item, please contact Cristine Minneman at 402-445-4000.

Endowing the Future of Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha



Many of us make resolutions as we enter the new year, hoping to improve ourselves and our lives or maybe just to check something off our to-do list that has been there for too long.

As Christians, our resolutions may

include improving the minds or bodies that God gave us. Or maybe they include improving our relationships through spending more quality time with our children or grandchildren, a more intentional focus on our marriage or a better job of staying in touch with our friends.

Maybe your resolution has to do with making sure your loved ones are well cared for if the Lord calls you home before you expect that to occur. If you don't have a will or trust, or your documents are out-of-date, hopefully your resolutions include taking care of that very important step. We want to leave our loved ones with our *best gift*. But if we have no plan or our plan is out of date, we are leaving them with a mess. If this is true for you, please make sure this is high on your resolutions list! And, when you create or update your estate plan, please consider including a gift for Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha.

Through the LCMS, we have a resource available to help you think through your goals for loved ones and ministry, at no cost to you. Craig Stirtz is our Gift Planning Counselor and is willing to sit down with you to assist you as you get your plan in place or update your current plan. You can reach Craig at **402-616-0312** or craig.stirtz@lfnd.org.

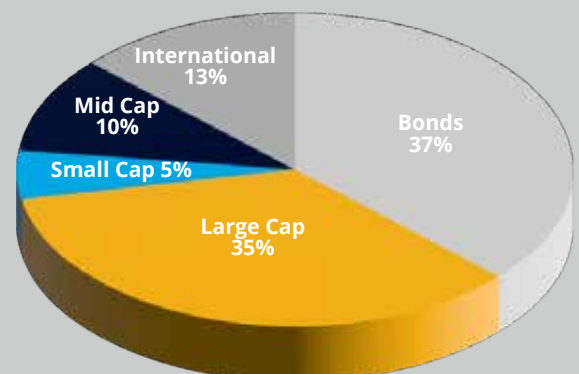
Celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week

Concordia celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week January 24th-28th. One very special part of these celebrations was a K-12 chapel held at the Jr.-Sr. High School campus. Did you know there are over 200,000 students across North America and internationally attending LCMS Lutheran schools? We give God the glory for these students and their families!



Total Market Value as of Dec. 31, 2021: **\$3M**

Since 2017, there has been a gain of **\$1,183,964** in the endowment fund through investment performance. \$605,000 has been distributed, primarily in student scholarships, during that same time. \$185,000 has been distributed in scholarship funds alone since the fall of 2020. In 2021, there were \$1,250,000 in new gifts received for the fund.





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2021 Block Leadership Society

The following donors gave \$1500 or more in 2021 to assist with operating expenses or tuition assistance through gifts given as undesignated, tuition/scholarship assistance or gala related support. A total of 59 donors gave \$1500 or more and 5 wished to remain anonymous.

THANK YOU TO OUR BLOCK LEADERSHIP SOCIETY DONORS

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