



Horizon Christian School
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June 12th, 2026

Celebrating 2025–2026: An End of Year Letter from the Board

Dear Horizon Parents and Families,

Grace and peace to you as we officially close the 2025–2026 school year!

On behalf of the Board, we want to thank you for the trust you place in Horizon and for the privilege of partnering with you in the education and formation of your children. This is a profound joy and a responsibility we do not take lightly. As we head into the summer, we pause with immense gratitude for all that God has done within our community this past year.

This year, Horizon continued to be a vibrant home for families from across the Columbia River Gorge:

- 52% Hood River County
- 24% Wasco County
- 19% Klickitat County
- 5% Skamania County

These numbers represent more than just geography; they reflect Horizon's beautiful role as a unifying, Christ-centered educational hub for our region. We are so proud to be equipping students who are already positively impacting these local Gorge communities.

Last spring, many of you participated in our school-wide assessment. Your valuable feedback has deeply encouraged and guided us. Over the past year, the Board has been prayerfully working to build upon Horizon's strong foundation by strategically planning for our future, enhancing our financial sustainability, and continually elevating our educational approach. We are inspired by how these steps forward so clearly align with our core mission of *Academic Excellence, Biblical Truth, and Christian Character Development*.

We believe the Lord is leading Horizon into an exciting new season of growth and impact as we seek to raise students who love God and others, demonstrate strong character, think critically, and articulate their faith with wisdom and confidence.

Celebrating the Year's Highlights

This year has been filled with joyful milestones and clear evidence of growth across our campus:

Academic Highlights

- 8 students inducted into Horizon's National Honor Society
- Sophomore Charlie Haynie received two College Board honors: the Rural and Small Town Recognition Award and the School Recognition Award
- A collaborative 7th–12th grade Fall Semester finals project creatively integrating multiple disciplines
- Every Kindergartner student is reading!
- Engaging grade-level learning experiences, including cultural studies, hands-on projects, and field-based education such as BizTown, Mt. St. Helens, and Outdoor School

Spiritual Formation

- Meaningful monthly secondary small groups
- Third Annual Horizon Worship Night with incredible community participation
- Beautiful celebrations of baptisms within our school families
- A continually growing culture of prayer, care, and weekly chapel gatherings

Community Life & Character Development

- A highly engaged Horizon Parent Council (HPC), faithfully encouraging and supporting our staff
- First Horizon College Fair with excellent attendance
- Joyful community-building events including the chili cook-off and Hawk Madness
- The successful launch of HAWK Houses to strengthen student community and identity
- Strong athletics participation and achievement, including a District Championship in boys' track and field and 14 state qualifiers
- The Horizon Concert Band was successfully reinstated

We are so grateful for how God continues to work through our students, faculty, and families.

Leadership & Faculty

As we prepare for the year ahead and our search for a permanent Head of School, God has provided wonderful, steady leadership for this transitional season. We are so thankful for the dedicated team guiding our campus:

Krithianto Kainama – Interim Board Liaison: To ensure our principals can focus fully on our students and academics, Mr. Kainama has graciously stepped into this role to provide steady administrative support. He brings over 20 years of teaching experience and 12 years as a principal, previously leading

international Christian schools. His presence is a tremendous blessing to our daily operations.

Jennifer Tomka – Secondary Principal (Full-Time & Hybrid): Mrs. Tomka, who holds a Master’s Degree in Education, will continue to bring her vision and care to the Secondary, having faithfully led Horizon’s Hybrid Program since its inception seven years ago.

Nancy Rinella – Elementary Principal (Full-Time & Hybrid): Mrs. Rinella will continue her excellent work guiding our youngest learners, while expanding her oversight to include the elementary hybrid program.

Additionally, our faculty remains one of Horizon’s greatest treasures. Our 20 teachers (including 15 with Bachelor’s Degrees and 7 with Master’s Degrees) bring a daily dedication to academic excellence and Christ-centered formation that truly shapes the culture of our school.

Financial Stewardship & Community Support

Horizon’s ability to thrive is a direct result of the beautiful partnership between our families, generous donors, local churches, and volunteers.

Because we desire to keep tuition as accessible as possible, tuition covers approximately 75% of the actual cost of a Horizon education. The remaining gap is bridged by the incredible generosity of our community. This year alone, because of your faithful support:

- 45% of our students received tuition assistance
- The “30 in 3” campaign raised over \$40,000
- Our 25th Anniversary *Night of Impact* raised over \$100,000

We are deeply grateful for God’s provision through you. As we plan for 2026–2027, the Board remains deeply committed to careful financial oversight and long-term sustainability.

Because our community is our greatest asset, we invite you to help us welcome new families into the Horizon family over the summer. Many parents first discover our school simply because a friend invited them. If Horizon has been a blessing to your family, we warmly encourage you to share your story and invite a neighbor or friend to an upcoming campus tour.

Looking Ahead to 2026–2027

We are energized by several key priorities for the coming year:

Elevating Our Academic Rigor & Curriculum (see attached)

We know that as parents, the strength and rigor of your child’s curriculum is paramount. We are thrilled to announce that after a thorough review process, Horizon Christian School has officially been accepted as a **Hillsdale Curriculum school!**

This prestigious partnership provides a rich, classically inspired educational framework. We are able to use Hillsdale resources alongside our already carefully vetted, top-tier curricula—such as *Eureka Math*, *DeepRoots*, *TCI*, *Fountas & Pinnell*, and *Savvas*. By combining these elite academic resources, we are ensuring a cohesive curriculum that guarantees the intentional development of critical thinking, academic excellence, and a Christ-centered pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty.

Partnering Through Our HAWKS ESLRs

To ensure our refined educational philosophy takes root both in the classroom and in your living rooms, we are bringing renewed focus to our Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs). Known as our **HAWKS**, these serve as tangible, practical goals we can pursue together—both at school and at home—to intentionally develop students who demonstrate:

- Heart of Christ
- Academic Excellence
- Wise thinkers
- Kingdom servants
- Skilled communicators

These five pillars give us a shared, everyday language to develop virtue, character, and lifelong habits in our children.

Search for a Full-Time Head of School

We are actively seeking a leader who is passionate about championing these rigorous educational goals and guiding Horizon into its next chapter of academic and spiritual excellence.

Expansion of Dual Credit Opportunities

We are actively expanding opportunities for our high school students to earn college credit right here on campus, ensuring they are exceptionally well-prepared for their next steps.

Our ultimate goal remains unchanged: to provide an elite education that not only equips students academically, but forms hearts and minds equipped for life under the Lordship of Christ.

Closing

As we reflect on the year, we are simply grateful—for the growth, the achievements, and the relationships that make Horizon Christian School such a special place. It is deeply encouraging to hear reflections from our families that echo this sentiment:

“The community of Horizon has been a blessing to our family since the moment we set foot in the door. We have seen our children learn and grow at the hands of teachers and staff that love Jesus and enjoy what they get to do every day. What a joy we have in being a part of this awesome team.” — Janelle Neustel, Parent

We celebrate our students, staff, graduating seniors, volunteers, and all of you who faithfully invest in this mission. We believe God has incredible things in store for Horizon, and we are honored to walk this path together with you.

Have a wonderful, restful summer! Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and partnership in our shared calling of *“Teaching Truth, Changing Lives.”* Please continue to pray for our school, and never hesitate to reach out to the Board with questions or encouragement.

In Christ,

Erick Haynie, Chair

Laurie Bell, Vice Chair

Ron Jensen, Secretary/Treasurer

Jenny Ward

Tyler Caldwell

Shannon Carley

On behalf of the Board of Horizon Christian School