



Developing Christlike Character
and Academic Excellence

RELATIONSHIPS

From our hallways to your home. Stories of Christlike Character and Academic Excellence.

Summer 2025



2025-2026 Theme Verse

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.
But take heart! I have overcome the world."

-John 16:33 NIV

Hopeful Expectation

As we prepare to step into a new school year, I am filled with anticipation and gratitude for what lies ahead. One of the things I am most looking forward to is seeing our students grow not only academically but also in their walk with Christ. Each year brings new opportunities to witness God's transformative work in the lives of our young people, and I am eager to see how He will shape their character, deepen their faith, and ignite their passion for learning and serving others. Our faculty and staff have been prayerfully planning and preparing to create a Christ-centered

environment where every student feels known, valued, and challenged to reach their God-given potential.

As a community, we are invited into a year of hopeful expectation—trusting that God will do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. Let us come together with hearts ready to support, encourage, and uplift one another as we pursue excellence rooted in faith. I encourage every family, student, and staff member to lean into this year with a spirit of unity, grace, and joy. May we continue to build a school culture where Christ is

at the center of all we do, and may this year be marked by growth, connection, and a deeper sense of purpose as we follow Him together.

"In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

Proverbs 16:9 NIV



Dr. Ridder
Head of School
Isaac Newton Christian Academy

Setting Our Eyes on God For the 2025/2026 Academic Year

It is quite amazing the difference that hope can make. Hope can draw the weak to strengthen their shaking knees, it can cause people to wait in lines outside for days in hopeful expectation for the next big thing, it can cause a student to work harder than they ever thought possible in hope for a better future. Hope can even be the difference between life and death (Job 17, 2 Corinthians 1:8-11, Jonah 2, Matthew 27:3-5).

The Lord has often made use of 'hope,' as a simple, yet essential, lifeline for His people throughout the history He has written. We read of God's first promise of hope in Genesis 3 immediately after the fall of man in what is known as the Protoevangelium: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Though all of mankind has just been plunged into sin, sickness, sorrow, and shame, God promises that there is hope for a day when all will be made

right (also Romans 8:22-25). We see throughout scripture the significance that the Lord puts on setting one's hope where it belongs and living in the light of that hopeful expectation (Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 146:5, Hebrews 10:23, 1 Peter 1:3, Titus 2:13).

Often hope can make all the difference between someone's experience even in suffering or trials. One of my favorite quotes from Paul David Tripp's book entitled *Suffering*, states a similar sentiment this way: "You never just suffer the thing that you're suffering, but you always also suffer the way that you're suffering that thing." When someone's hope is set to find joy in the Lord and His glory, even suffering can bring joy and sanctification (Acts 5:41, Romans 5:3, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 12:10, James 1:2).

This school year is a gracious gift from a Good Father and my prayer for every student, parent, faculty, and staff would be that their hope might be set this year to find joy in

knowing and growing in love for the Lord on the campus of Isaac Newton Christian Academy and into the larger community of Cedar Rapids. I am satisfied to trust that the Lord will use this year in the lives of His people, for His glory and their good (Romans 8:28-30, 11:36). Perhaps you are stressed, or perhaps you are excited for the school year to come; maybe you are frustrated by changes, or perhaps you are grateful to be able to call Isaac Newton your child's school. Regardless of where your heart is beginning this semester, I invite you to set your hope this year that the Lord would use this school year to draw our hearts to a deeper knowledge and love of Him and that He would be glorified in us as we delight in Him (Psalm 37:4).



Mr. Pearson
Lower School Principal
Isaac Newton Christian Academy

"I am satisfied to trust that the Lord will use this year in the lives of His people, for His glory and their good."

Welcome Mr. Pearson!

We are excited to welcome our first staff who is solely dedicated to the role of Lower School Principal. Our Head of School and Director of Special Services previously shared this role. Mr. Pearson has three children (Eden, Elias, and Bennett). He is married to his greatest friend, Katie. Mr. Pearson was born and raised in Iowa until God led his family to move to Texas for over ten years to serve the Lord in various Christian education and ministry positions.

Mr. Pearson could not be more excited to pour his heart into the education and ministry of the students and staff at Isaac Newton Christian Academy. His past experience in private education and his professional training make him a great fit for our school. The Lower School Principal reports directly to the Head of School.



More Paths to Academic Excellence

Entering a new school year is often marked by hope and excitement. We hope for what is new — new school supplies, outfits, and classes. We find comfort in what is familiar — returning to regular rhythms and schedules, athletics, and friends. While the expectations for a new school year start to build in August for our students, our leadership team dives in a bit sooner.

A New Upper School Schedule

Last spring, our Upper School staff began to plan for ways to reevaluate the students' schedule, based on student concern of not having enough capacity within the school day to focus on one subject at a time. Because we value academic excellence and our students' ability to pursue it, we wanted to come up with a solution that would uphold the standards of our mission and equip our students to spend more focused time in each subject. The fruit of that planning is a new schedule that reduces the number of subjects in a day, AND increases class time in each subject, without reducing the amount of content that is covered. This schedule change will also reduce the amount of daily homework by 25%. I am looking forward to seeing how our students benefit from this change.

Enhanced Communication

Isaac Newton Christian Academy students thrive off of what we call the home-school connection. We know that a student's success is highly contingent upon both the home and school working together. One way we accomplish this mission is by providing pathways for parents to easily access their student's progress. As a student progresses through our school, we also encourage them to become independent learners — taking personal responsibility for their academic achievements. Now, with the implementation of Canvas, a digital learning management system, our families will be able to see exactly what their 6th-12th grade student(s) are working on and see the areas in which they might need support.

Opportunities for Professional Development

At Isaac Newton, we charge our faculty with the task of being a Living Curriculum. They are mindful that they instruct not only rational explanations of formal subject material, but even more powerfully, through word, deed, example, and shared experience. One way our teachers will act as a living curriculum is through participation in Christian Professional Learning groups (CPLC's). These learning groups will require teachers to create individual professional development goals and report on their progress through their Profession Learning Journeys (PLJ's). I cannot wait to see how their participation in these CPLC's and PLJ's will impact the classroom, and ultimately, their hearts and minds as they grow deeper in and through Jesus.



Mrs. Harlan
Upper School Principal
Isaac Newton Christian Academy



Linn Christian Education Association
1635 Linmar Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

Last spring we received a two for one matching gift through the end of this year of \$1.5 M. Since we made the announcement at our Annual Spring Banquet, we have been the recipient of a culture of generosity. Many have come forward, eager to triple their impact. Are you interested in tripling your impact? Let us know! Reach out to Tracy King at tking@incaonline.org.



Pictured, a conceptual rendering of the expansion between The Patriot Center and the original Adams building. The Facility Expansion will focus on:

- Increasing classroom learning spaces to accommodate 2 sections of every grade from K-12
- Improving fine arts spaces
- Improving our students dining experience and providing the kitchen team the appropriate space and resources as we expand.
- Ensuring our administrative and support facilities are right sized for our current and future student population

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All proceeds will be used to further the mission and vision of Linn Christian Education Association (Isaac Newton Christian Academy).