

CONO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WALKER, IOWA USA



Real grace.

Type: Coeducational boarding school focusing on moderately distressed teens

Headmaster: Thomas Jahl

Web: www.cono.org

Real grace in this world comes through real adults. Not Christians who imagine life in Christ with only smiles. Not Christians who are scared of teens who talk back.

We parent children who need help through steady and joyful hands. At Cono we teach them, too.

We are doing this with teens who need a safe, yet challenging, place to overcome hopelessness, disruptive behavior, and attachment difficulties.

THE SCHOOL

Cono provides families and their children a place that fosters Christian hope and reconciliation. We offer a safe place for our students to move beyond current confusions and conflict. Cono strives to build an environment in which every child knows at a deep level that they “belong”. We know that ultimate help comes from God as we joyfully recognize his supremacy over all of life in Christ.

Cono Christian School was founded in 1951 by families who were dedicated to providing a Christian education for their children. Missionary children began attending in 1960 as our first boarders. Since 1989, we have focused on modern adolescents lost in our culture’s moral and spiritual wilderness.

Cono Christian School is governed by a Board of Trustees, composed of parents of former students, former students and friends of the school, who share a common understanding of the importance of Cono’s mission to reach the hearts of young people.

The school is situated on 200 rural acres that include a 30-acre campus. The campus includes an administrative and academic building featuring extensive physics and biology labs, a new student center, a new gymnasium, dorm facilities and multiple staff houses.

Cono Christian School is accredited by Christian Schools International (CSI) and the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges (NCA).

OUR STAFF

The School employs full-time staff who hold bachelor degrees. One-third hold graduate degrees. In addition to their primary roles of parenting and teaching, each staff member is responsible for various duties including coaching, music, drama, and tutoring as well as supporting other community needs.

Students find advice regarding personal issues, college preparation and spiritual matters from experienced dorm parents and teachers who interact with students during a large part of every day.

Thomas Jahl, our current Headmaster, first came to Cono as our Business Man-



ager. Prior to that he had an investment and senior management career in New York and New England. He and his wife continue to parent one of our dorms. Tom is a graduate of Princeton University (BA, Economics) and Columbia University (MBA).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Our middle school curriculum (grades 7-8) stresses fundamental skills, conceptual learning and an introduction to Christian thought, which emphasizes God’s sovereignty and grace over all creation.

The upper school stresses critical thinking skills, refinement of specific subject matter and development of a Biblical world view.

The formal academic year, divided into semesters, begins in late August and ends in June. There are two, nine week grading periods each semester.

Class size ranges from two to ten students. The student-teacher ratio is 3:1. Small class sizes, individual attention and enthusiastic teachers enable students to learn efficiently. Most staff members reside on campus and are easily accessible for tutoring, problem-solving, supervised study and counseling.

Summer and winter sessions prepare participating students to continue at grade level. Other students join them for academic work, an equestrian program, and performing arts, and other activities as well as learning small group social skills.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Students take the SAT or ACT in their junior and senior years and the PSAT in their sophomore and junior years. International students add the TOEFL. College is not



the goal of every Cono student. However, 100 percent of the seniors who seek college admission are accepted.

Graduates have been accepted to Wheaton College, The College of William & Mary, Calvin College, University of Michigan, University of Illinois, University of Florida, Penn State University, Iowa State University, University of Wisconsin, Emory University, Biola University, Geneva College, Covenant College, Samford University, Gordon College and other colleges and universities throughout the world.

STUDENT BODY

While students come from many backgrounds, most parents want our assistance in helping their child overcome some combination of difficulties with academics and relationships. Parents, who have exhausted local resources, turn to Cono in hope that their teens will learn that Mom and Dad are for them; not against them. Many of our students have been adopted or experienced some form of dislocation and family distress. Others have made poor choices in friends and are not able to extricate themselves from those relationships. Some have not learned the benefits of submitting to necessary authority—whether parental or school.



We seek to be a small Christian community excelling in parenting and teaching. We want Cono to be a safe place for teens, who need some time away from their current family and neighborhood, to make mistakes. We are a refuge, but only for a time, and expect students to develop spiritual, academic and personal maturity as they continue towards graduation.

The general student body is composed of 40 students distributed over grades 7-12, with an average class size of six.

CAMPUS FACILITIES

Facilities at Cono include a main classroom building, a gymnasium, and the Student Center. These buildings feature 12 classrooms, a well-equipped physics laboratory, a biology lab, a 3,000 volume library, a computer laboratory and an art room. The student center contains stage and performance facilities. Each of the dorms on campus is cared for by a staff family. Each dorm has its own lounge, laundry facilities, and small kitchen area. Two students share a dorm room. A homelike atmosphere encourages the growth of lifelong friendships.

Students and faculty eat the majority of their meals together in the new student center located in the center of campus. All of our full-time parenting/teaching faculty live on the school campus.

The new student center houses both the large eating hall and a student lounge designed to hold foosball, air hockey, table

tennis and a pool table. Outdoor athletic facilities at Cono include a basketball, volleyball and tennis court, soccer fields and Mt. Cono, a small sledding hill.

ATHLETICS

Teams compete in soccer, volleyball, and basketball. Cono also provides an equestrian team. Student participation in organized sports is encouraged and emphasis is placed on teamwork, fair play, goal-setting and good sportsmanship. Our small size provides opportunity for students, who have thought themselves unable to participate in a sport, to give one a try.

FEES AND FINANCIAL AID

Domestic tuition and boarding fees continue to fall well below the national boarding school median. Fees are payable in full in August or in two installments during the school year.

Financial aid in the form of grants is awarded based on merit and demonstrated financial need. Information about financial aid procedure can be obtained from the Admissions Office and from our web site.

APPLICATION

Cono welcomes inquiries for admission year round, conducts tours for visitors during the school year, and accepts applications on a rolling basis. Enrollment throughout the year is dependent upon space availability. The Admissions Committee generally makes admissions decisions within one week after an applicant's file is complete.

ADMISSIONS

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