

CONO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WALKER, IOWA USA



Real grace.

Type: Coeducational boarding and day college-preparatory school focusing on moderately distressed teens.
Headmaster: Thomas Jahl
President: Andrew Belz

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 several local 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 turned to help 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 dining facility, 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).

PARENTING AND TEACHING STAFF

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

While Cono does not always employ a full-time counselor, students find superb advice regarding personal issues, college preparation and spiritual matters from experienced dorm parents and teachers. Staff members interact with students during a large part of every day.

Thomas Jahl, our current Headmaster, first came to Cono as our Business Manager. Prior to that he had a financial services and senior management career in New York and New England. He and his wife continue to work parenting one of our dorms. Tom is a graduate

of Princeton University (B.A. Economics) and Columbia University (M.B.A.)

Andrew Belz is Cono's first President. Mr. Belz has served Cono since 1982 as Headmaster, development officer, dorm parent, choir director and journalism teacher. Mr. Belz did his undergraduate work (History) at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Ga. and completed his M.A. at the University of Iowa (Mass Communications).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

In the primary and elementary programs (grade K-6), a sequential curriculum emphasizing fundamental skills in math, reading, language arts, the sciences and social studies is supplemented with music, art, sports and other outdoor activities.

The middle school curriculum (grades 7-8) stresses these fundamental skills, conceptual learning and an introduction to Reformed theology, which emphasizes God's sovereignty and grace over all creation. Classes reflect a strongly integrated curriculum of writing, literature, math, social studies and science. Middle school students also receive instruction in art and may have access to various musical opportunities.

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. Students receive percentage grades, which can easily be converted to letter grades (A-F). Boarding students also receive evaluations by dorm parents.

Class size ranges from 2 to 15 students. The student-teacher ratio is 4:1. 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 periods and counseling.

Cono Christian School provides two types of diplomas for graduation, the college prep diploma and the general diploma. The graduation requirements for the college preparatory diploma include 4 years of English, 3 years of history, 3 years of mathematics, 3 years of science and 2 years of a foreign language. The graduation requirements for the general diploma are less demanding.

Summer and shorter winter programs are

available for selected students. Their academic curricula prepare many of those students to continue in the fall at grade level. Others join them for advanced academic work as well as learning small group social skills.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

All 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 of our 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 65 students distributed over grades 1-12, with an average class size of eight. In a typical year, 40 are boarders from grades 7-12.

CAMPUS FACILITIES

Facilities at Cono include a main classroom building (Alling Hall), a gymnasium, and the Max and Jean Belz 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 five dorms on campus is cared for by a faculty 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 pool

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

ATHLETICS

Teams compete interscholastically in soccer, volleyball, basketball, and a limited track program. 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.

EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

The School provides a variety of activities including yearbook/journalism, instrumental music and voice lessons, drama productions, and mathematics competitions. All of our students are involved in at least one of these activities.

DAILY LIFE

A typical day begins with breakfast at 7. Students clean their room and prepare for chapel which begins at 8. Most students join in choir from 8:15 until 9. Academic classes begin at 9 and end at 3:15. Athletic practice and cocurricular activities are offered after the end of the class day. Dinner is at 6:00, followed by study time from 7:30 to 9:30. Weekday bedtime is 10:00 PM.

WEEKEND LIFE

Weekends provide students with time to relax and play. Typically, two Saturdays a month have athletic events, one Saturday is a shopping trip and one is left unscheduled. Weekend activities can include a campus movie, coffee house, game night, shopping trip, attendance at a concert, school picnics and other faculty or student ideas.

Students may, with administrative and dorm parent permission, leave campus on two occasions per semester, provided their absence does not conflict with



school-related commitments and does not jeopardize their academics.

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 website.

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 CORRESPONDENCE

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