

Monthly Newsletter

March 2026



Reading Growth at Zion Classical Academy

Ahead of National Reading Month, we are grateful to share encouraging news about reading growth at Zion Classical Academy. From the beginning of the last school year to the middle of this school year, 29 students who were enrolled continuously demonstrated exceptional progress in foundational literacy skills, including phonics, fluency, and comprehension.

Using a nationally normed reading assessment, our students increased their average national standing by 14 percentile points. In practical terms, this means that the average student moved ahead of a significant number of peers across the country over this period. This is not typical year-to-year fluctuation; it reflects measurable acceleration.

Even more importantly, the overall growth in reading scores was considered very large by research standards. In education research, a moderate year of growth is often associated with a statistical effect size of about 0.40. Our students' growth was measured at 1.78, indicating well beyond typical annual expectations over the study window.

Students who began below benchmark showed especially strong improvement, demonstrating that our strengthened intervention systems are working. Staff meet regularly to review student data, adjust instruction, and ensure each child remains on track. That intentional structure is producing results.

Reading is foundational to everything we teach. As students grow in fluency and comprehension, they are better equipped to pursue truth in history, beauty in literature, and wisdom across all disciplines. We are thankful for your partnership in this important work.

We also congratulate our spelling bee participants, from left to right: Maliya Fitzgerald, Will Quinn, Rory Piel, Emery Allen (5th place), Jack Fink, Cate Peterson, Karsyn Piel, and Julia Jabs. We are proud of their preparation, courage, and academic excellence.



Rooted and Growing

“He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.” Psalm 1:3

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6–7

March often feels like a waiting month. The ground is still cool, the trees are not yet in bloom, and much of the growth we hope for remains unseen. Scripture reminds us that real growth begins beneath the surface. A tree planted by streams of water does not rush its fruit. It first grows roots.

When we think of our children, we are reminded that their most important growth is not always visible. Before there is confidence, there is practice. Before there is wisdom, there is instruction. Before there is maturity, there are daily habits quietly forming the heart and mind.

Psalm 1 gives us the image of a tree. Colossians tells us where our roots must be placed. We are not simply raising well-behaved students or capable learners; we are seeking to see our children rooted in Christ, built in Him, and established in faith. Our academic growth from our cover matters. Skill development matters. Yet deeper still is the steady formation of belief, character, and gratitude.

To be rooted in Christ means that nourishment does not come from shifting ideas or passing trends. It comes from the steady truth of God’s Word. Just as a tree draws water from a stream, our children draw strength from faithful teaching, discipline, and the daily reminder of who we are in Christ.

Fruit comes in its season. Some growth is quick. Some take years. Our task as teachers and parents is not to force fruit, but to cultivate roots. We plant. We water. We teach. We correct. We encourage. God brings the increase.

As we move through this season, may we continue to walk in Christ ourselves, rooted and built up in Him. From those roots, lasting fruit will grow.

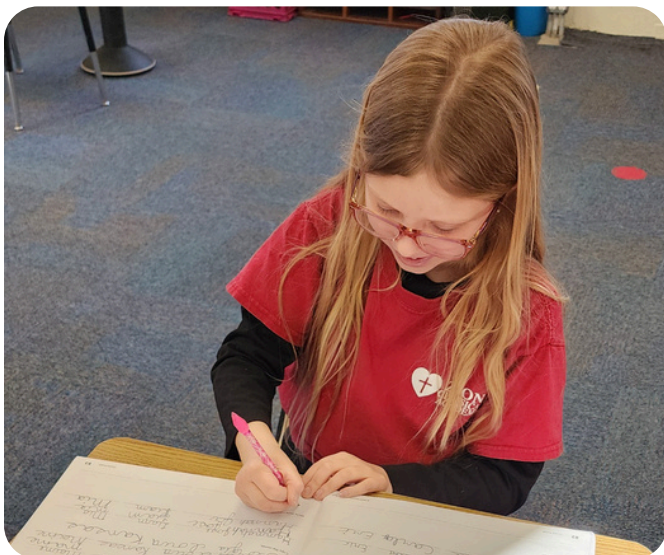
March Events

- March 1 - ACLEA beings preparing for FIRE at the Adams County Fair Grounds
- March 4 - 12:30 pm Dismissal
- March 7 - FIRE XXI. Doors open at 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm
- March 8 - Daylight Savings Begins
- March 9 - ZCA Board of Directors Meeting at 7:00 pm
- March 10 and 12 - Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 6:00 pm
- March 13 - No School
- March 24 - Meet Your Teacher Evening 5:00 - 6:00 pm
- March 28 - Hoshaw Fundraiser
- March 29 - Ladies' Tea Party at Zion, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
- March 30 - Spring Concert 6:00 pm
- April 2, 3, 6 - Easter Break

Parent Teacher Conferences March 10-12

Our spring parent-teacher conferences will be held on March 10 and March 12 from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. Conferences will last approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

Please sign up for a time slot directly with your child's teacher or through the shared Google document. If you need assistance scheduling, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.



Meet your Teacher Evening!

Zion Classical Academy will host a Family Meet and Greet for next year's teachers on March 24 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

We invite families to come and meet their child's teacher for the 2025–26 school year. This is a wonderful opportunity to ask questions about what will be taught, the goals for student learning, and how each classroom functions. We look forward to preparing for the year ahead together.

.....The next PTO meeting is April 7 at 6:30pm in the East Fellowship Hall.....



Artist in Residence 2026

During the many activities in February, including the auction, penny wars, and donation efforts, our staff made plans to collaborate with two special artists this spring.

Our visual artist will be none other than our own Mrs. Shriver. She will be leading a clay unit using materials from Grand Island. Students will create their own pieces, have them fired in a kiln, and then bring them home. To allow time for this work, we will be extending our art periods.

We are also excited to welcome a well-known guest, Jennie Williamson. Brian and Jennie Williamson are preparing a flyer for us. We have tentatively scheduled a 1:15 pm private concert for students and a 6:30 pm public concert on April 10. The date is confirmed, though the time of the public concert may still change.

ZION CLASSICAL
ACADEMY



Spring Concert

March 30, 6:00 p.m.

Another way we experience beauty is through the sound and music of our own children. Our music teacher, Ms. Post, will share our students' musical growth with families on March 30 at 6:00 p.m. The concert will last approximately one hour and will be held in the Reif Performance Center, our ZCA gym. Following the vocal performance, several of our band students will offer a few light selections for families to enjoy.

Updated Sound

We are looking forward to installing a new sound system in the Reif Performance Center. The upgraded system will include new main speakers, floor monitors, choir microphones, a digital mixer, and wireless microphones. Our hope is to have the system fully installed and ready by March 30 in time for the concert. This improvement will help ensure that our students' voices and instruments are heard clearly and beautifully during performances, chapel, and special events.



Garden Program 2026

The Garden Program is seeking a volunteer in March to help run operations. Mr. Adams gave it his best last year, but with school items, summer camps, and mowing multiple yards, he had a hard time keeping it up! Materials, such as seeds and tillers, are available to keep the program running; we just need someone to keep it organized. Please email principal@zionclassical.org or call us if you're interested.



GAP funding and Education Freedom Tax Credit

Zion Classical Academy testified before the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee in support of the proposed \$7 million gap funding measure designed to sustain scholarship access for families until the new federal program takes effect. Our testimony emphasized the real families and students who would be directly impacted if the continuity of funding were interrupted. At ZCA, we see firsthand how scholarship support makes a classical Christian education accessible to families who are deeply committed to the formation of their children in truth, wisdom, and virtue. The requested bridge funding ensures stability, protects students from disruption, and honors Nebraska's commitment to expanding meaningful educational opportunity for families across our state.

The forthcoming federal Education Freedom Tax Credit program, supported in Congress by Representative Adrian Smith, will allow individual taxpayers to direct a portion of their federal tax liability, up to a capped amount, to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations in exchange for a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit. Those organizations then award K-12 scholarships for tuition and other eligible educational expenses. In Nebraska, this structure can work in coordination with Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska by strengthening the overall scholarship funding pool rather than replacing the state model. As Nebraska participates in the federal framework, Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska can continue serving eligible families while leveraging the additional federally incentivized contributions, creating a more sustainable and long-term pathway for scholarship access across the state.



FIRE XXI

**Saturday March
7th, 2026**

Adams County Fairgrounds

Doors open at 5pm- Dinner at 6:30pm

Join us for a night of
elegance and excitement!

Preview Night Friday March, 6h 6-8pm

WWW.ACLEAFIRE.ORG

Ladies' Tea - Palm Sunday

Zion Lutheran Church, along with other area churches, will be hosting a Ladies' Tea party on March 29th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring daughters or granddaughters with an easter outfit! Food and tea will be provided by What the Dickens from downtown Hastings. If families are interested, please RSVP by March 22nd. You may call or email the school, or contact Carol Fisher from Zion Lutheran Church.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Tea Party

DATE March 29, 2026 TIME 2-4 pm

PLACE Zion Lutheran Church

RSVP Carol Fisher 402-469-9032



Hands For the Hoshaws

A Community Benefit For Meghan, Derek and Their Children



Meghan is courageously undergoing chemotherapy treatment for colon cancer and is unable to work during this time.

With ongoing care spanning into the new year, medical expenses continue to grow.

This benefit is a way for friends, neighbors and the community to support and assist the Hoshaw family.

Location: Adams County Fairgrounds, Hastings

Date: Saturday, March 28th

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Benefit Activities

- ♥ Food & Drinks Available: A portion of the proceeds will go to the family
- ♥ Silent Auction: Bid on items generously donated by local businesses and friends
- ♥ 50/50 Raffles: Drawings every 30 minutes throughout the event
- ♥ Special raffles: Your chance to win larger, high-value items
- ♥ Bracelets supporting Meghan and the Hoshaw family are available for purchase now

♥Ways To Show Support♥

Monetary Donations: Pinnacle Bank Benefit Account payable to Meghan Hoshaw

Go Fund Me



Meal Train



To donate auction items, ask questions, volunteer please contact:

Crystal Clancy Johnson: (402) 705-2504 Christa Williams (402) 705-4676

Aaron Adams: (402) 902-9121 Heidi DeGodt (402) 214-6370

Dusty McKenna (402) 310-8072 Krista Sherick (402) 984-6337

Please see the Hands For the Hoshaws Facebook Event for further details and updates



Thank You For Standing With the Hoshaws!



MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

02

Who Roast Beef.
Who Pudding
Who Hash
Dr. Seuss Day

03

Beef Tacos

04

Scalloped
Potatoes w/Ham

05

Chicken Strips

06

Cooks Choice

Early Out 12:30

09

Tomato Soup

10

Taco soup

11

Pop corn
chicken OR
chicken
Sandwich

12

Sloppy Joes

13

Pancakes And
Sausage

16

Chicken Alfredo

17

Beef Tacos

18

Scalloped
potatoes
W/Ham

19

Turkey
Sandwich

20

Chicken Bacon
Ranch Pasta

23

Tomato Soup

24

Chicken Tacos

25

Ham Sandwich

26

Stir fry
Crab Ragoon

27

Pizza Hut

30

Hot Dogs

31

Fish Sticks

