



THE LION LEADER

The Penn Christian Academy Newsletter

Feature: 2026-2027 Refresh

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, we are embracing our school theme for the year: **Refresh**. Just as spring rain refreshes the earth and brings new growth, we believe that every day offers an opportunity to be renewed in our learning, relationships, spiritual foundation and purpose. "Refresh" reminds us to pause, refocus, and allow ourselves to grow into the best version of who we are meant to be through Christ.

This year, we encourage everyone to:

🔄 **Refresh Your Mind** – Approach learning with curiosity and a willingness to try new things. Romans 12:2 (NLT) tells us, "Do not copy the behavior and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is." We will explore new experiences and new ideas with curiosity and through the lens of who God is and how He created us to reflect his glory.

♥ **Refresh Your Heart** – Show kindness, compassion, and understanding to those around you. Ephesians 4:32 (NLT) reminds us to, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." We will explore what it means to put on "Compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience" Colossians 3:12 (NLT). Our students will be encouraged to look outside themselves to others to help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

💛 **Refresh Your Relationships** – Build meaningful connections with classmates, teachers, and family members. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT) is a blueprint for how we should relate to one another. It states, "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful, proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith and is always hopeful and endures through every circumstance." We will explore throughout the school year how we relate to each other, and how we can better show love to our community and beyond.

🕊 **Refresh Your Spiritual Foundation** – Set new challenges, celebrate progress, and strive for excellence in your relationship with the Lord. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT) tells us to, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in ALL your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Students will be challenged to trust in God and learn how to grow in Him daily.

Throughout the year, students will participate in activities, projects, and events designed to help them discover new strengths while renewing their commitment to personal growth, spiritual growth and academic success.

As a school community, let us embrace this theme together. May we be refreshed by new opportunities, renewed by challenges, and inspired to make a positive impact wherever we go.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to a wonderful year filled with growth, encouragement, and success.



Important Dates for the 26-27 School Year:

8/26: First Day of School
10/22: PCA's 9th Annual Fall Gala
11/13: Veterans Day Event
12/11: Christmas Concert
1/16: Open Enrollment

1/28: Pastor Appreciation
3/19: Grandparents Day Event
4/23: Spring Fine Arts
4/30: Food Truck Family Fundraiser
5/22: PCA Trap Shoot

What Sets PCA Apart

Penn Christian Academy is distinguished by its commitment to providing a Christ-centered education that integrates biblical truth into every area of learning. Guided by its vision of equipping biblical worldview thinkers who serve and lead in the name of Christ, Penn Christian Academy partners with families and churches to nurture students academically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally. Students have opportunities to grow in their faith through daily prayer, Bible classes, weekly chapel services, Scripture memorization, and optional participation in Bible Club, while also engaging in service and leadership opportunities. Through strong academics, dedicated Christian teachers, and a caring school community, Penn Christian Academy encourages students to know God, learn about Him, serve others as Christ did, and lead with integrity in their homes, churches, communities, and future endeavors.



Penn Christian Academy is excited to partner with the Sylvania Foundation, a 125-acre outdoor learning center in West Sunbury, Pennsylvania, dedicated to enriching educational experiences for local students and their families while remaining open to the public. Through this partnership, PCA students will engage in hands-on learning that brings classroom concepts to life in a real-world setting. Science studies in force and motion, molecules and organisms, ecosystems, engineering, and weather will extend beyond the classroom through interactive exploration and discovery. Students will study aeronautics through model airplanes and a flight simulator, gaining a deeper understanding of the principles of flight and aviation. They will also learn about renewable energy through a water wheel project designed to generate electricity for the pond area of the property. Additional opportunities include exploring a beehive habitat to learn about the lifecycle and importance of bees, as well as participating in conservation-focused projects such as building bat houses to support local wildlife. By combining academic learning with outdoor experiences, this collaboration supports Penn Christian Academy's mission of equipping students to think critically, grow in their understanding of God's creation, and apply their knowledge in meaningful ways.

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program benefits students, families, individuals, and businesses by providing scholarship funding that helps make quality education more accessible. Through EITC contributions, eligible individuals and businesses can direct a portion of their Pennsylvania tax liability toward scholarships that assist students in attending schools such as Penn Christian Academy. The impact of this program is significant at PCA, where more than 50% of students receive tuition assistance through EITC-funded scholarships. These scholarships help families afford a Christ-centered education while giving donors the opportunity to make a lasting investment in the lives of students. Through the generosity of EITC participants, Penn Christian Academy is able to expand educational opportunities, strengthen its mission, and ensure that more students can benefit from an environment that nurtures academic excellence, spiritual growth, and servant leadership. Donors and parents interested in learning more about the EITC program and its benefits are encouraged to contact Ashleigh Machak in the Penn Christian Academy school office for additional information and guidance.



2026 - 2027 Development Event Calendar

Fall Gala (October 22, 2026) The PCA Annual Fall Gala is our premier fundraising event in support of the general operating budget of Penn Christian Academy. As a private Christian school in Pennsylvania, we are limited in our funding options—especially as we remain steadfast in our commitment to Biblical truth. We intentionally decline funding sources that require us to compromise our faith, choosing instead to trust in God's provision through faithful supporters like you. Your investment supports our vision of equipping biblical worldview thinkers who serve and lead in the name of Christ.



End of Year Appeal (November-December 2026) Our End of Year Appeal provides essential funding that helps bridge the gap between tuition and the true cost of providing a Christ-centered, academically excellent education. These gifts allow us to invest in our students, support our teachers, enhance programs, and meet the school's greatest needs. Year-end business giving is especially meaningful, as it enables local businesses to make a lasting impact in our community while maximizing charitable contributions before the close of their fiscal or calendar year. Every gift, regardless of size, helps strengthen the future of Penn Christian Academy and the students we serve.



Food Truck Family Fundraiser Night (April 30, 2027) As Penn Christian Academy seeks to enhance our programming opportunities, we need to be sure we are taking care of our enrolled families who may fall on hard times, or who have extenuating circumstances creating a tuition assistance need. To assist these families, PCA has an established Make-a-Difference Fund. This fund addresses the situations mentioned above and any other needs that may not be covered by other scholarship opportunities.



Trap Shoot (May 22, 2027) Get ready to aim high for a great cause! Penn Christian Academy is On Target for Building Upgrades, and you can help us hit the mark. By joining us for our Trap Shoot, you'll play a direct role in funding vital building repairs and improvements that keep our students, staff, and families safe. Every shot fired and every dollar given moves us closer to creating the best possible learning environment for our children. Come out, have fun, and make an impact that lasts!



Golf Outing (July 2027) As we expand our programming and deepen our impact, one of our core goals is to narrow the gap between current salaries and local livable wages. Our educators give sacrificially of their time, talents, and hearts, helping children grow both academically and spiritually — equipping biblical worldview thinkers who serve and lead in the name of Christ. We invite you to be a part of this mission. By sponsoring or attending our Golf Outing, you will directly support fair, sustainable compensation for our Christian educators. Your partnership makes it possible for us to continue providing high-quality, faith-based education while caring for those who serve so faithfully.



Weekly Chapel Services PCA opens its doors to the community each week for chapel services with our staff, students and families. Chapel is held most **Fridays at 8:30 AM**. Check our school calendar for more details.



*Your participation in our development events—whether through your attendance, sponsorship, or donation—helps fuel the mission of Penn Christian Academy. Every gift makes a meaningful difference by supporting our students, strengthening our teachers, and enriching the educational experience we provide each day. Through your partnership, our students are equipped to **KNOW** who God is, **LEARN** about Him through His creation, **SERVE** others as Christ did, and **LEAD** others to Christ. Thank you for investing in the lives of the next generation.*

Thank You: We Can't Do It Without You

Penn Christian Academy cannot thank the families, friends, community members, businesses, donors, and sponsors who give to PCA through finances, items, time, and talent. God continues to bless Penn Christian Academy through your generosity and commitment to PCA's vision to equip biblical worldview thinkers who serve and lead in the name of Christ.



PCA Vision

The vision of Penn Christian Academy is to equip biblical worldview thinkers who serve and lead in the name of Christ.

Non-discriminatory Policy

Penn Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship, athletic and other school administered programs.



PENN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

KNOW | LEARN | SERVE | LEAD

August 11, 2026

Dear Friend of Penn Christian Academy,

We are excited to invite you to our **9th Annual Fall Gala on October 22, 2026, at the Butler Country Club**—a special evening to celebrate God’s faithfulness and the incredible things He is doing through Penn Christian Academy.

It has been an incredible privilege to serve PCA for the past six months, following 18 years of previous service to this wonderful school community. It is both an honor and a joy to serve our students, families, and staff. I invite you to join me in supporting the mission of PCA and investing in the lives of the young people God has entrusted to us.

The **PCA Annual Fall Gala** is our premier fundraising event and provides essential support for the school’s general operating budget. As a private Christian school in Pennsylvania, our funding opportunities are limited, particularly because we remain steadfast in our commitment to Biblical truth. We intentionally decline funding sources that would require us to compromise our beliefs, choosing instead to trust God’s provision through the generosity of faithful supporters like you.

The Gala is more than a fundraising event—it is an opportunity to come together, celebrate what God is doing at PCA, and invest in a mission that has an eternal impact. Through your partnership, our students are equipped to:

- **KNOW** who God is,
- **LEARN** about Him through His creation,
- **SERVE** as Christ did, and
- **LEAD** others to Him.

We warmly invite you to attend this special evening and prayerfully consider how you might support Penn Christian Academy through your attendance, sponsorship, or financial gift. **Every gift, regardless of size, makes a meaningful difference** in providing the resources needed to educate, equip, and disciple our students.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, donations to Penn Christian Academy are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law, and a receipt will be provided for your records.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about attending the Gala, becoming a sponsor, or making a gift, we would be honored to speak with you. Please contact our **Director of Development, Jodi Glassic, at 724-586-5200, ext. 205**, or I am happy to speak with you at **ext. 203**.

Thank you for considering an investment in Penn Christian Academy. **Your partnership helps make it possible for us to prepare students not only for success in this life, but to make an eternal impact for Christ.**

With gratitude,

Ruth McCarrier

Ruth McCarrier
Interim Head of School



Penn Christian Academy hosts the Fall Gala each year to support our vision of equipping biblical worldview thinkers who serve and lead in the name of Christ. Our goal for this event is to raise **\$70,000** to help our students KNOW who God is, LEARN about God through His creation, SERVE as Christ did, and LEAD others to Christ through a biblical worldview. By sponsoring and supporting the Fall Gala, you are helping to equip students from 3 years of age to their teenage years to live a life of hope in Christ.

If you are interested in sponsoring, donating, or attending the Gala and helping PCA reach their fundraising goal, please complete this form and return it to the school office by **September 25, 2026**, or register online.

*Seating is limited and will be on a first come basis. **There is no cost to attend the Gala.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Company Name (as it should appear in auction program/signs): _____

Contact Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone (Required): _____ E-mail (Required): _____

☐ I will be Attending the Gala Total Number of Individuals Attending: _____

SPONSORSHIPS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Platinum (\$10,000) | ☐ Lion (\$500) |
| ☐ Gold (\$5,000) | ☐ In Honor / Memory (\$250) |
| ☐ Silver (\$2,500) | ☐ Faithful Friend (\$100) |
| ☐ Bronze (\$1,000) | ☐ Host a Table of 10 (by Inviting 9 Additional Guests to Attend the Gala) |

DONATING AN ITEM OR SERVICE TO BE AUCTIONED

Item Description: _____ Item's Estimated Value: _____

Mail form and fees to: Penn Christian Academy, Attn: Gala, 199 Airport Road, Butler, PA 16002.
Payable to Penn Christian Academy or PCA.

*See website for online payment details: www.pennchristianacademy.org/support/gala.cfm

Please return this form by September 25, 2026. For more information, please contact Jodi Glassic at **724.586.5200 x205** or jglassic@pennchristianacademy.org



*As a 501(c)3 organization, we will provide a tax receipt for your donation.



Sponsorship Levels

Platinum (\$10,000 or more)

- VIP Table of Ten at the Gala
- Full page ad in program with premium page positioning
- Corporate logo on bid paddle
- Opportunity for representative to speak at opening of the gala for five minutes
- Corporate recognition throughout auction area
- Corporate logo recognition on PCA website & Gala video
- Special favor for each person at your table

Gold (\$5,000)

- VIP Seating of Ten at the Gala
- Half page ad in program
- Corporate recognition throughout auction area
- Corporate logo recognition on PCA website & Gala video

Silver (\$2,500)

- Quarter page ad in program
- Corporate logo recognition on PCA website & Gala video
- Table host for table of ten

Bronze (\$1,000)

- Corporate logo recognition on PCA website & Gala video
- Table host for table of ten

Lion (\$500)

- Corporate logo recognition on PCA website & Gala video

In Honor (\$250)

- Special In Honor or Memory of Loved One flowers to be displayed at Gala
- Special In Honor or Memory of Loved One's name to be displayed in Gala video

Faithful Friend (\$100)

- Supporting the next generation of leaders

Questions about sponsorship? Please call the school at 724-586-5200.