

SUMMER 2026

ELORA ROAD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

EDUCATE ● EQUIP ● EMPOWER



CHOOSE TODAY... WHO YOU WILL BECOME

by Mrs. Westendorp

"Choose today whom you will serve." — Joshua 24:15

As another school year draws to a close, we celebrate not only the accomplishments of our students, but also the countless choices that have shaped them along the way.

This year's theme, Choose Today..., has been woven into every part of school life—from our weekly assemblies to classrooms, playground conversations, and everyday learning. Inspired by Joshua 24:15, we challenged our students to make intentional choices rooted in our core values:

- Choose today how you will behave — Act Respectfully

Upcoming Dates



Tues. Sept. 8 - First Day of School
Wed. Sept. 9 - Parent Council 9:15 am (all welcome)
Wed. Sept. 16 - Back to School BBQ, 3:30 - 6:00 pm
Sept. 23 - 26 - Gr. 7/8 Medeba trip
Sat. Nov. 21 - Family Night & Silent Auction

- Choose today what you will do — Accept Responsibility
- Choose today what you will learn — Pursue Growth
- Choose today whom you will serve — Serve Others

Every respectful action, every act of responsibility, every opportunity to learn, and every moment of service has been another step toward becoming the people God has created our students to be.

Small Choices. Lasting Impact.

Children make thousands of choices every day. Most seem insignificant—how they respond to a classmate, whether they finish an assignment with care, whether they tell the truth, offer help, or choose kindness. Yet those small decisions are quietly shaping something much bigger. *They are shaping character.*

At this year's Grade 8 Graduation Banquet, I shared one final challenge with our graduates:

"Choose today who you will become."

The adults they become will not be determined by one defining moment, but by the ordinary choices they make day after day.

The beautiful truth is that this message isn't just for our graduates. It is equally true for our Kindergarten students and every child walking through our halls. "Who our children become begins with the choices they make today."

Three Choices That Shape a Life

As our graduates prepare for high school, I encouraged them to focus on three daily choices that apply to every age, even adults.

Choose to Think About Good Things

Everything we allow into our minds influences our hearts. The books we read, the music we listen to, the videos we watch, the conversations we have, and the content we scroll through all shape our thinking.

Philippians 4 reminds us to think about whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. Healthy thoughts lead to healthy actions. Repeated actions become our character.

Character always begins with what fills our minds.

"Who our children become begins with the choices they make today."



Choose to Spend Time with Wise People

The friendships we build and the people we listen to have a tremendous influence on our lives.

As children grow, they gain more freedom to choose the people who influence them. Proverbs reminds us that *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* God places parents, teachers, pastors, grandparents, and faithful friends in our lives to encourage us, correct us, and guide us.

One of my encouragements to our graduates was simple:

Surround yourself with wise people who will point you to God

Choose Excellent Habits

Great character rarely develops through grand gestures. Instead, it grows through ordinary habits repeated faithfully.

- Working hard.
- Serving others.
- Being dependable.
- Reading God's Word.
- Praying.
- Attending church.
- Looking for opportunities to help.

During our Grade 8 trip, I watched many of our graduates quietly demonstrate servant hearts. Before meals they came looking for jobs to do. They carried supplies, helped prepare food, washed dishes without being asked, and stayed until every task was complete, without expecting recognition. Those moments reminded me that character often reveals itself when no one is watching.



"The habits we practice today become the character we carry tomorrow."

A Word to Parents

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the opportunity to make choices for themselves. As parents, we naturally want to protect our children from mistakes. Yet some of life's most valuable lessons are learned through experiencing the natural consequences of our decisions within the safety of a loving family.

When children make poor choices, gentle guidance is often more valuable than immediate rescue. As they connect choices with outcomes—both positive and negative—they develop resilience, confidence, wisdom, and self-efficacy.

This summer offers a natural place to start. A simple example: instead of planning every day of your child's break, let them decide how to spend a Saturday, plan a family activity, or manage their own screen-time budget for the week. Let the choice, and its result, belong to them.

They will begin to understand that their decisions matter and that, with God's help, they are capable of making wise ones. These lessons prepare children not only for school, but for life as faithful followers of Christ.



Looking Ahead

As we close another incredible year at Elora Road Christian School, I am grateful for the privilege of partnering with families who share the desire to raise children of faith, wisdom, and character. Whether your child is entering Kindergarten next fall or beginning high school, our prayer remains the same:

May they choose each day to think about good things.

May they surround themselves with wise people.

May they develop excellent habits.
And above all, may they choose to faithfully serve the Lord.

Because every day brings another opportunity to choose.

And every choice helps shape who we are becoming.

Have a wonderful, restful, and Christ-centred summer. We look forward to all that God has in store for the year ahead.

Congratulations to the class of 2026!



Some Reflections from our Grads

I have learned many Bible verses by memory at ERCS. A verse that means a lot to me is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." A word of advice I wish to share with you is to always be thankful and grateful for the blessings God has given you.

~ Hayden B.

A Bible verse that means a lot to me is proverbs 16:3, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans." I know that if I try my best God will do the rest for me. God will always be on my side no matter what, and I shouldn't doubt Him because I know that He has a plan for me, and it's much better than any plan I could make myself.

~ Lilly T.

The teachers and their teachings, the friends and their friendships, yes the tests and the exams, the lessons and the support, the team spirit and the teamwork these are the reasons why ERCS truly matters.

~ Aiden D.

A Bible verse that has stood out to me over my years at Elora Road is Psalm 23:1. "The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing." This verse means a lot to me because it proves to me that God is protecting me, and that nothing happens that He has not already planned.

~ Levi V.

One of my favorite memories from ERCS was playing soccer when I was in grade one. I had the chance to play with some of the grade six students, and it was a lot of fun. I enjoyed spending time with the older students and making great memories on the field.

~ Cade M.

One special memory that stands out is a time I had a conflict with my classmate. Mrs. West took the time to sit down with me and explain the importance of accepting and forgiving one another, even when we don't want to. That lesson has stayed with me and continues to shape the way I treat others.

~ Samuel O.

YEAR END AWARDS

The following awards are presented to senior students in Grade 7 & 8.

Academic Award of Excellence - Aiden Damasi

This award may be given to a deserving senior student who has demonstrated academic excellence in effort, achievement and homework, and who actively engages in the learning process.

Athletic Excellence Award - Samuel Oruchukwu

This award may be given to a deserving student who consistently demonstrates excellent athletic skill across many different sports. They are hard-working, dedicated, and participate in most, if not all, CAASO tournaments.

Performing Arts Award (Music) - Lilly Tawadrous

This award may be given to a deserving student who has displayed a consistent willingness to learn, has made good progress and has made a positive contribution to the performing arts program.

ERCS LIONS UPDATE



CAASO FLOOR HOCKEY



On Tuesday, April 7th, our floor hockey team competed at the CAASO tournament in Waterloo. The boys played their hearts out and it was a joy to watch them! Coach Daycian led the boys in an encouraging and exciting way all day. After our first two wins we then lost a really tough game in overtime. The team ended up in third place! Congratulations to Wyatt who did an excellent job as goalie and was our named MVP. Way to go everyone!!

Our girls team also had a chance to host a team from Resurrection Christian Academy for an exhibition game on March 27th. Everyone had a great time and gained some confidence for future tourmanents!

ERCS TRACK & FIELD

We had a great day on May 8th for our track & field meet. Students in grades 3-8 competed in up to 5 track races and four field events. Younger students were also able to try the events. Thank you to all of the parents and alumni who volunteered for the day. We couldn't do it without your help!

Three school records were set on the track!
Congratulations to these athletes:

- Gabe W - Novice Boys 100m
- Samuel O - Senior Boys 100m
- Samuel O - Senior Boys 200m



CAASO TRACK & FIELD

Qualifying athletes continued on to the CAASO track and field meet in London on May 19th. The heat was a challenge, but our students persevered. Several students achieved top finishes in their events:

Novice Girls:

Bertine R.: 6th 200m

Everly R.: 7th 1500m

Novice Boys:

Gabe W.: 3rd 100m, 6th 200m

Wesley V.: 4th 1500m, 6th Triple Jump

Junior Girls:

April A.: 6th 100m, 6th 200m

Jocelyn V.: 5th Shot Put



Junior Boys:

Victory O.: 2nd 400m, 5th 200m- 9th Overall

Nico B.: 5th Long Jump, 6th Triple Jump

Victory, Nico, Zion, Wim: 6th 4x100 relay

Senior Boys:

Sam O.: 1st 200m, 1st Triple Jump, 1st Shot Put, 2nd 100m, 2nd 400m, 1st Overall!!!

Cade M.: 6th 1500m

Sam, Cade, Colton, Aiden: 5th 4x100m relay





TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION: A NEW CHAPTER AT ERCS

"Education is not simply about filling minds with knowledge—it is about shaping hearts, inspiring purpose, and equipping students to serve God's world."

This summer marks an exciting milestone in the journey of Elora Road Christian School as we officially begin implementing Teaching for Transformation (TfT) throughout our school.

Over the past year, our staff has been prayerfully preparing for this next step. Together, we devoted three professional development days to exploring the nine introductory TfT modules, learning how this framework can deepen the connection between faith and learning in every classroom.

Last week, that preparation moved into its next phase as Justin Cook from Edvance Christian Schools Association led our staff through two days of official Teaching for Transformation training. During these sessions, teachers reflected on their Deep Hope for the students God has entrusted to them, selected meaningful classroom storylines, and began designing the storyboards that will become visual reminders of each class's learning journey throughout the coming school year.

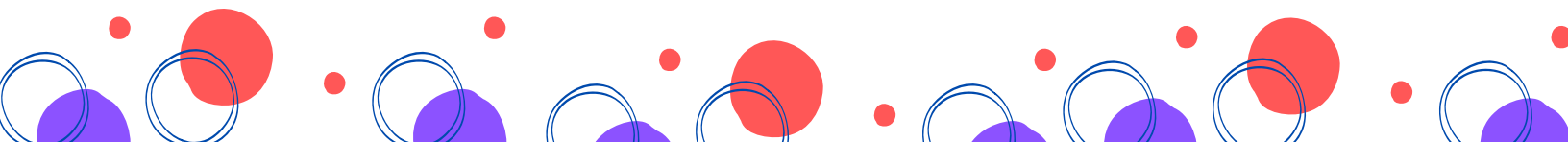
Teaching for Transformation will not be limited to our core classrooms. Every member of our staff participated in the training, and TfT will become part of the learning experience across our school—including French, Music, Student Support Services, and even our annual school theme.

What is Teaching for Transformation?

Teaching for Transformation is an educational design framework used by Christian schools around the world. While academic excellence remains important, TfT asks an even bigger question:

How can education help students discover who God created them to be and equip them to make a meaningful difference in His world?

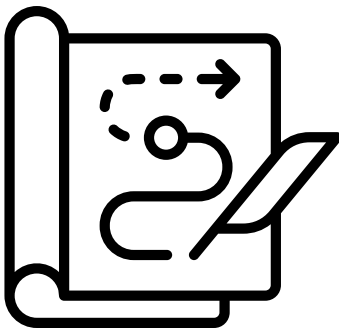
Rather than viewing school subjects as isolated pieces of information, students are invited to see every lesson as part of God's ongoing story of creation, redemption, and restoration.



The Three Foundations of TtT

Deep Hope

Every teacher begins by asking, "What is our deep hope for these students?" This question helps teachers move beyond simply covering curriculum toward intentionally shaping the character, faith, and calling of each child.



Storyline

Each class develops a unique storyline that connects daily learning to God's greater story. Whether students are exploring mathematics, literature, science, history, music, or French, they are continually reminded that their learning has purpose and that God calls them to participate in His work of making all things new.

Formational Learning Experiences (FLEx)

Learning reaches beyond the classroom through experiences that invite students into "real work that meets the real needs of real people." These authentic opportunities encourage students to put their faith into action by serving others and making meaningful contributions within their communities.



Living Out Our Faith

Throughout the year, students will also develop Biblical habits known as Throughlines. These are Christ-centered characteristics that help students see themselves as active participants in God's kingdom.

Some of these Throughlines include becoming:

- Creation Enjoyers
- Justice Seekers
- Community Builders
- Beauty Creators
- Servant Workers

These habits are intentionally woven throughout classroom learning, helping students grow not only in knowledge, but also in wisdom, compassion, and faithful service.

What to Expect

As we continue our Tft implementation this year, our staff will participate in ongoing training and coaching. This commitment will include some adjustments to our professional development schedule, including one additional PD day to support this important work. We believe this investment in our teachers will have a lasting impact on every student who walks through our doors.

We are excited to see how Teaching for Transformation will strengthen the partnership between home, school, and church as together we seek to educate, equip, and empower students to become all that God has created them to be.

If you would like to learn more about Teaching for Transformation, visit www.teachingfortransformation.org.



STAFF UPDATE

One of the hardest parts of the end of the school year is saying goodbye to valued staff members who have faithfully served our school community.

After four years at Elora Road Christian School, Mme. Julie Klapwyk will be moving on from her role as our Grade 7/8 French teacher. We are grateful for the knowledge, passion, and care she brought to our French program. Through her expertise, students strengthened their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills while developing a greater confidence in the French language. We thank Julie for her faithful service and pray God's blessings as she pursues new opportunities.

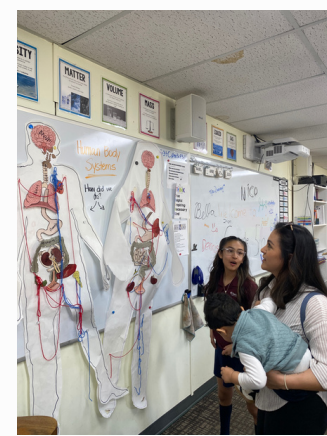
We are also excited to welcome Lindsay Henry-Lord to the ERCS family! Lindsay brings 13 years of teaching experience in the public education system and will be joining us as our Grade 7/8 French teacher and one-day-per-week JK/SK teacher. We look forward to welcoming her this September and know she will be a wonderful addition to our staff.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

for the first time in many years, we were able to have Grandparents Day again! It was a packed house, for lunch, classroom visits, and a performance. Thank you to everyone who came!



CELEBRATION OF LEARNING



AFRICAN LION SAFARI



BUTTERFLIES & BUBBLES

