

Our History

"Being a Christian School means more than just opening and closing the day with a prayer."

What was spoken by then School Board President Walt VanderBeek, in 1967 is still true today:



"They have to make sure that every subject is Christ-centered. Mathematics should show that God is a God of order. He created mathematical principals into the structure of this universe. History is aimless unless it is seen in the light of God's word. Science should be seen by the children in the light of God's creation. They should know that all knowledge has a moral content. Their lives should be filled with a high moral purpose. God should be glorified in every

subject that is taught. For these reasons a Christian School was established in East Palmyra."

On May 17, 1937, a group of 30 interested persons met for the purpose of organizing the East Palmyra Christian School Society, with the common goal of establishing a local Christian School.

The school continues to change and grow and at present it has a student population of over 80, almost four times the number of the very first year. One teacher's position in 1947, has given way to 5 full time teachers, 5 part time teachers and a teacher aide. Numerous volunteers work in the art department, the office, preparing and serving a weekly hot lunch, and in many other services.



It took ten years of prayer, planning and saving before the school was ready for the opening of the school in September 1947. It opened in a small block building behind the East Palmyra Christian Reformed Church with 1 teacher and 23 pupils in eight grades.

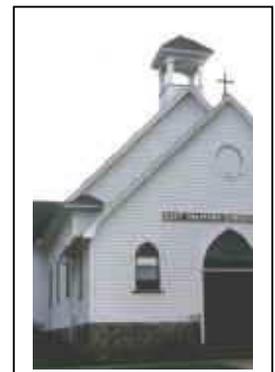
Although many of the founding members of the School Society were members of the East Palmyra Christian

Reformed Church, they were wise enough to make the school independent of the church, and to it under parental control. Today it is supported by parents interested in Christian education and is interdenominational in character.



The Society worked hard to make ends meet, but because it was a small school, it was hard to pay teachers and buy school supplies at the same time. On May 6, 1952, a group of

about 20 women formed the Christian School Circle whose purpose was to raise money to help supply the school's needs.

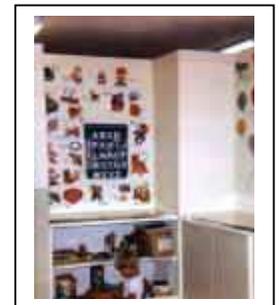


Over the years the School Circle has spearheaded many fundraisers--pie sales, rummage sales, Dutch Dinners, Ham Dinners, Walk/Lap-A-Thons, etc., and with the proceeds have purchased a range of things including the flagpole, the school sign, a film projector, teaching aids, filing cabinets, a hot water heater, playground equipment, and computer equipment.



By 1962, the church and the school had outgrown their respective buildings and when the Church moved in January 1962, the School was able to purchase the church building, remodeling to accommodate 2 classrooms upstairs and one downstairs. The Junior High grades held classes in the old church while the primary grades held classes in the cinder block schoolhouse.

After many years of discussion, it was decided that, to better serve the students and school community, a new school building would be built on a piece of the East Palmyra Christian Reformed Church's new lot. This land was purchased from the church. On June 6, 1981, the Society held the groundbreaking ceremony for the new school and in a few months, the building was complete enough to open for the first day of school on September 14, 1981.



A temporary, moveable wall to divide activity room and kindergarten room. Meant to be used for only one year, it was in use for 13.



The first lesson "in" the new music room.

In 1996 the school erected a new gymnasium, so now the students in grades 5-8 can enjoy indoor competition with other schools in basketball, in addition to soccer and track. Over the winter of 2000-2001, through a very generous donation, EPCS was able to add on the Albert and Gladys Ryckbost Memorial Music Room.

The school continues to change and grow and at present it has a student population of over 80, almost four times the number of the very first year. One teacher's position in 1947, has given way to

6 full time teachers, 5 part time teachers and a teacher aide. Numerous volunteers work in the art department, the office, preparing and serving a weekly hot lunch, and in many other services.

The families involved with the school continue in their desire to keep God at the center of their children's education.

