

Horizon Christian STATE OF THE SCHOOL (2025)

REPORT



**HELP
NEEDED**



Horizon Christian School
Teaching Truth – Changing Lives

Introduction

Welcome to the 2025 State of the School report for Horizon Christian School. This report celebrates our school's 48th year advancing Christian education in the Gorge, and gives thanks to our teachers and community members who make it all possible. It also provides an important update on serious financial challenges currently faced by the school, in the spirit of asking our community for prayer and assistance as we work to improve. We are operating at a cash deficit and need help. We invite our community to gather for a Q&A on Wednesday, April 16 (6:30) in the Chapel.

Horizon's Mission

At Horizon, we are dedicated to helping each student develop their full potential by educating **A**cademic achievement, **B**iblical truth, and **C**hristian character development (our "ABC's"). We stress a challenging academic program taught by caring, experienced teachers using a curriculum integrated with a biblical worldview.





Chairman's Report

April 9, 2025

Dear Horizon Christian School Community,

Our mission drives everything we do at Horizon Christian School. Our focus is being a Christ-centered community for the sake of the children and gospel of Christ. Our goal is to prepare students to become Christian leaders who will go on to influence their homes, churches, and communities. Horizon sees itself as your partner as you mentor your little ones into their teenage years and then into young adulthood. Thank you for letting Horizon join your family's journey in life in the Gorge.

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Horizon Christian School, I wish to express my deep gratitude for our dedicated teachers and staff, without whom we could not operate, and all of whom sacrifice to provide Kingdom education in the Gorge.

As we move into the spring season of this academic year, we are excited about the opportunities ahead.

- Our primary school is vibrant with many upcoming special events. For example, our teaching staff has partnered with the Gorge community for an outdoor school program whereby our sixth grade will learn about the creation around us through hands-on learning.
- In May, our Horizon Hybrid students will be traveling to Newport to interact with microbiology through a hands-on approach in a floating classroom on a 65-foot boat.
- In our secondary, the SOAR Conference was just concluded in early April to facilitate spiritual growth and leadership for our older students. We also have a near record number of our students out for track and field this year, with nearly 62% of our secondary students (grades 7-12) participating.
- Through partnerships forged by our teaching staff with schools like Columbia Gorge Community College and Grand Canyon University, we are able to offer courses that earn our high school students a year (or more) of college credit.



Chairman's Report

April 9, 2025

While there is much to celebrate, this report is also intended to provide transparency that the school is in a state of significant need. In fact, the school is currently in a state of financial emergency. We are struggling to keep up with inflation, the ever-increasing cost of doing business in the Gorge, and debt service on our remaining \$3.3M in construction and land acquisition debt (portions of which have been subject to significant interest rate volatility). We know we are at capacity for most families on tuition. And we cannot ask our teachers--who have an average salary of only \$40,000 per year--to absorb any more burden.

The immediate problem is this: the school currently has a cash deficit of **\$150,000**. As things stand now, we will not make payroll due May 24, 2025. Additionally, we need to raise up to **\$106,000** in additional funds by June to regain ground on our budget and pay-off an individual investor who helped us build our new school building in 2006. We need your help to continue and fulfill our mission in the Gorge.

In the long term, the Board of Trustees is actively working to expand our revenue opportunities through implementation of a number of mission-based institutional development strategies. The Board is also working on budget adjustments for next year. We are coming to our community to communicate the need and to solicit support in prayer and financial assistance.

We are inviting everyone in the Horizon community to participate in a prayer and Q&A gathering at the school on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Chapel.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community, and may God continue to bless our school and each of your families.

Erick J. Haynie
Board Chair, Horizon Christian School





Annual Budget: \$1,995,000

Average Teacher's Salary: \$40,000

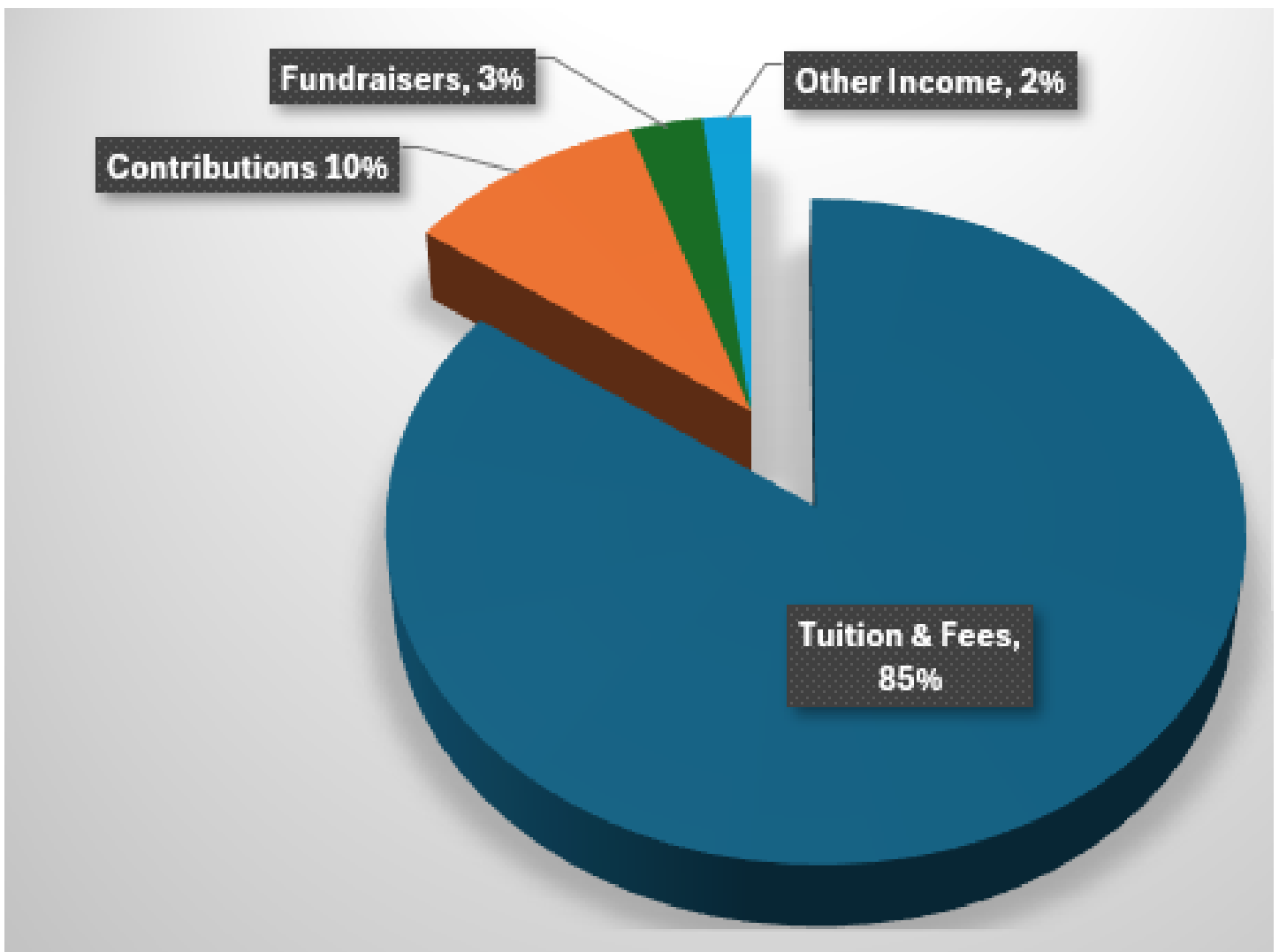
Teacher Salaries as % of Budget: 70.5%

Debt Service on \$3.3M as % of Budget: 13.5%

Current Cash Deficit (April 2025): (\$150,000)

Additional Budget Deficit (June 2025): (\$106,000)

**Actual cost of Horizon education covered by each student's tuition:
Less than 85%***



**Balance covered by beloved donors, many of whom have retired or passed away in recent years.*

THE VALUE OF HORIZON CHRISTIAN

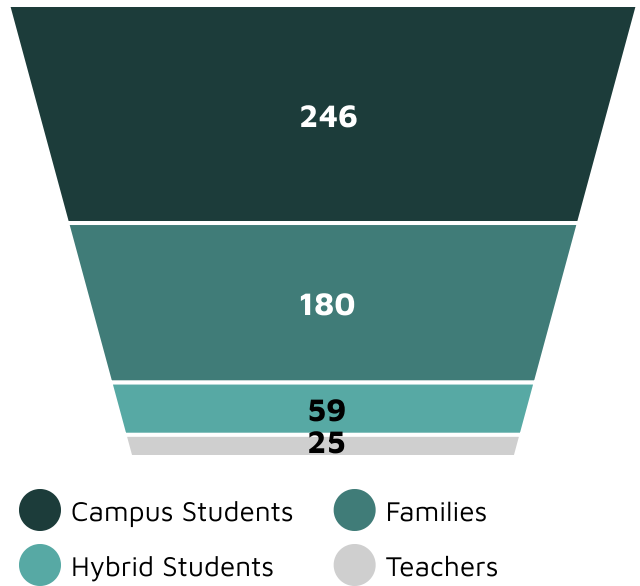
USING EVERY DOLLAR WISELY

STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO

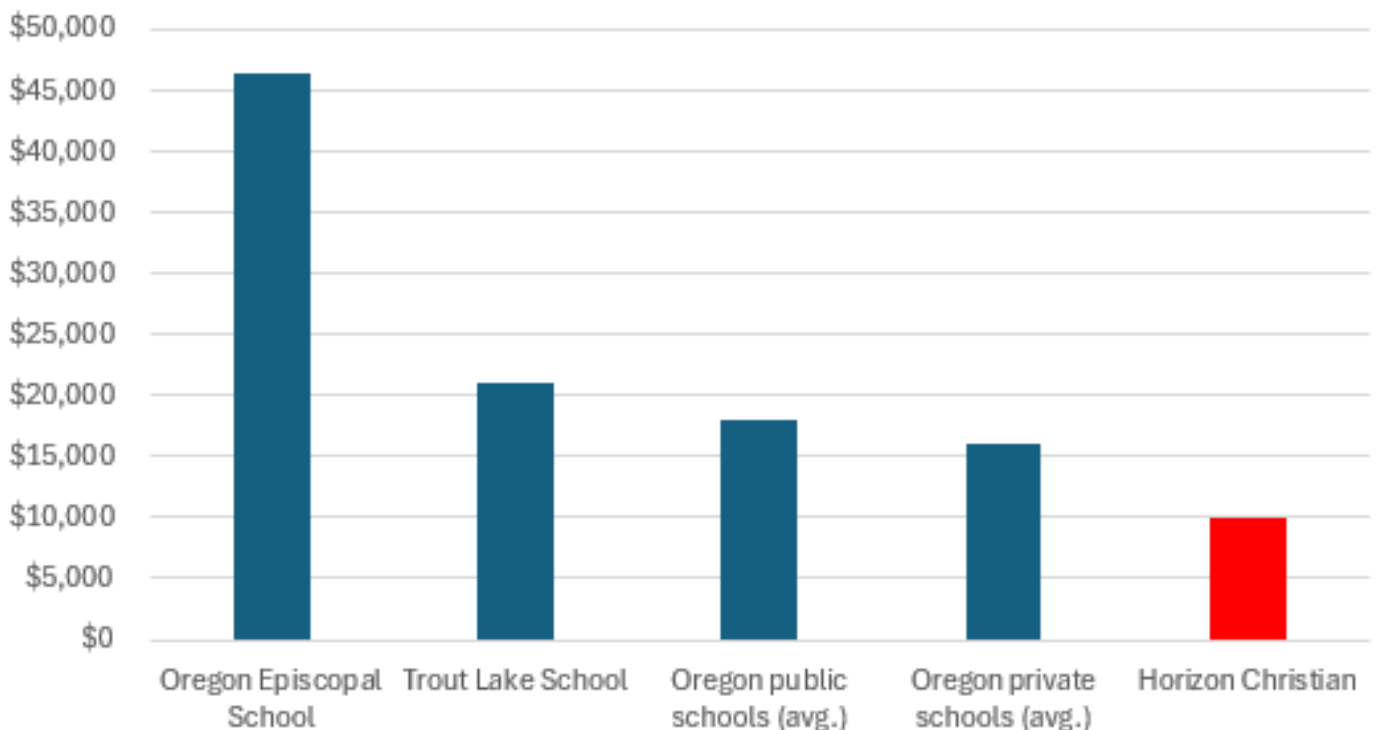
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Our goal is to increase teacher compensation to at least 85% of public scale, but we currently pay our teachers less than 50% of public scale. This impacts retention rates and staff morale.

Serving the Entire Gorge



We are providing Christian education in the Gorge at a fraction of what other areas schools spend on a per-student basis.





2025–2026 Changes

We are facing some challenging financial realities. In order to ensure the short-term financial viability of the school, we are implementing some tuition changes for the upcoming school year.

We recognize these decisions will not come as welcome news for any family; they have not been made lightly. We believe they are absolutely necessary and we present them to you in a spirit of transparency and humility.

1 Tuition Increase (Inflation Only)

Next year's tuition increase will only account for inflation (4%). This narrows the gap between tuition and the true cost of each student, although a gap will still remain.

2 Sunsetting Tuition Discounts

The multi-student discount will be eliminated and the early lock-in discount will be reduced by 1%. The reason for these changes is to ensure that we are using limited resources in the best way possible. The current system of various discounts makes it difficult to identify the areas of greatest need. We hope to get a clearer picture of the financial needs of each family and allocate assistance where it is most needed. Funds traditionally earmarked for these programs will be freed up for needs-based assistance.



2025–2026 Changes



Emphasis on Needs-Based Assistance

We realize that the above changes will pose a very real hardship for some families. Our goal is to ensure that every child who desires a Christian education at Horizon is able to receive one. Meeting that goal will require a major expansion of our needs-based assistance. As a preliminary step, we need to understand the magnitude and scope of that need. Please contact the Business Office if finances threaten your family's ability to remain at Horizon. We want you here, and we ask for the opportunity to explore possible solutions with you. As ever, inquiries related to needs-based assistance will be handled with confidentiality and respect.

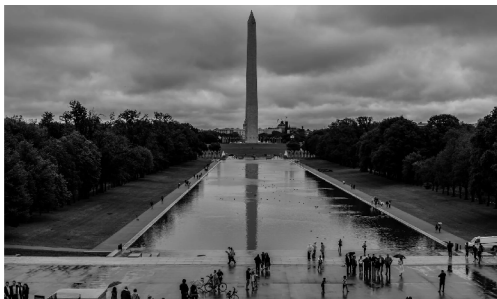




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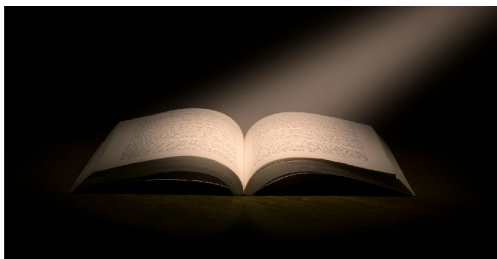
Program Highlights

Horizon Christian School is the Gorge's only K-12 Christian school. We have no public funding and are supported fully by our student families and supporters. Horizon advances the Kingdom in the Gorge at a time when it is needed most.



Mind-Expanding Travel

Through independent fundraising, our history and English departments have coordinated for a group of our secondary students to travel New York and Washington, D.C. this summer for an immersive learning experience touring key national landmarks and museums.



Scholarships

We are a diverse, inter-denominational school focused on Biblical truth. We strive to allow any family desiring to join our school to do so. Funded by donors, we offer substantial need-based assistance.

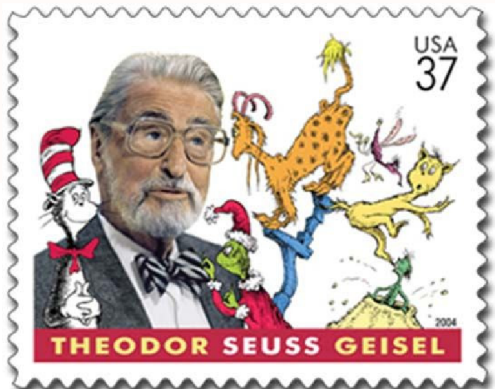


Worship Night

"From Stevenson to Dufur" is the call by and for all youth in the Gorge to attend the 2025 Horizon Christian School Worship Night. Led by Horizon's Elizabeth Hartley and the high-school worship team, Horizon will host a Gorge-wide youth worship and fellowship night at Covenant The Dalles on May 16, 2025.

Horizon Track & Field

Over 60% of our secondary participates in our Big Sky 1A track program, with multiple students last year reaching the State Championship podium at Hayward Field in Eugene.



Dr. Seuss-a-palooza

In our elementary, we explore imagination, poetry and alliteration through our annual Seuss-a-palooza celebration.



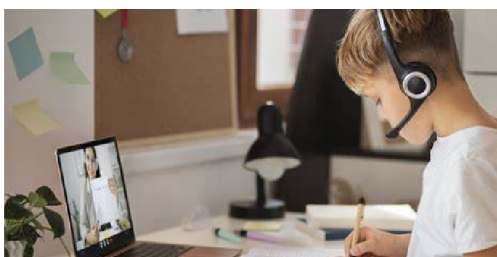
Chapel

Chapel is mandatory and celebrated at Horizon Christian School. Chapel serves as a time and place for students to explore their faith, engage in worship, and reflect on moral values. We have separate chapel sessions for different age groups within the school. Chapel is led by our principals and Chaplain Oscar Stenberg.



Sportsmanship

When approached from a faith perspective, high school sports can transcend competition and become a means of spiritual growth. That is our goal at Horizon. We fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7).



Horizon Hybrid Program

In the post-lockdown world, many families seek flexibility in education. Our unique Horizon Hybrid program, which has garnered state-wide attention, provides just that by mixing a personal on-line teaching platform with a weekly in-person session. It is perfect for many homeschool families.

More Program Highlights



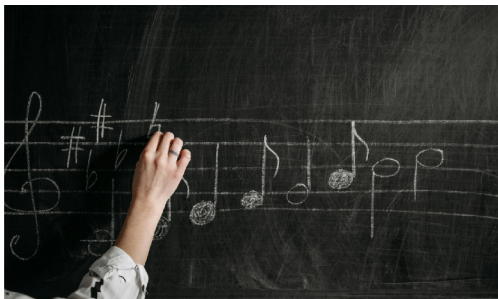
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Mind-Expanding Travel

Turtle Town

In our 5th grade, the "Turtle Town" program provides an unmatched experience where students generate a simulated economy and take on the challenge of managing organizations. Our class will also participate this year in the broader "BizTown" program in Portland.



Spring Concert

A highlight of the primary each year is the spring concert, where our Pre-K through 4th grade students present their musical works to the community in the Chapel.



Maker's Market

Our entire student body participated in our "Makers Market" program, whereby students are mentored to create and bring to commercial market a bona fide manufactured good.



Horizon International Program

Horizon's international program allows the school to host students from around the world, including France, Korea, Japan, China, and other countries. Our International program helps widen perspectives, and grow the Kingdom internationally, for the benefit of all concerned.

Horizon advances the Kingdom in the Gorge and is a blessing to many.



**BASKETBALL
FAMILY FUN NIGHT CARNIVAL!**
SPONSORED BY: HAWK PARENT COUNCIL



**HAWK
MADNESS**

JAN 24 | **\$5 ADMISSION** | **5:30-7:30PM**
Includes 5 carnival tickets. Additional tickets 2 / \$1

~ ALL ACTIVITIES = 1 TICKET
~ PIZZA, COTTON CANDY & MORE,
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT CONCESSIONS
~ 50/50 RAFFLE DURING HALFTIME OF BOYS VARSITY GAME

GIRLS VARSITY GAME: 6:00PM | BOYS VARSITY GAME: 7:30PM



The Board of Trustees is working on several steps to improve the financial health of the school.

1

Fundraise to solve our immediate cash need.

2

Plan curriculum and program upgrades, while also working to improve teacher pay and community retention.

3

For long-term institutional advancement, implement planned giving and charitable annuity programs to support the school.

4

Develop "third leg" revenue sources, including the possibility of a summer child care program at the school.

5

Strategically restructure our remaining construction loans and other debt to preserve cash for teachers and programs.





Horizon
Christian
School

Prayer and Resources **Invitation**

Q&A Session

As a member of the Horizon Christian School community, you are invited to join the Board of Trustees for a Q&A Session on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Chapel. Everyone with a touch to our community is welcome to attend, ask questions, and get involved.



www.horizonchristianschool.org

541.387.3200

700 Pacific Ave.

Hood River, OR 97031

This report drafted by volunteers at no cost to Horizon.