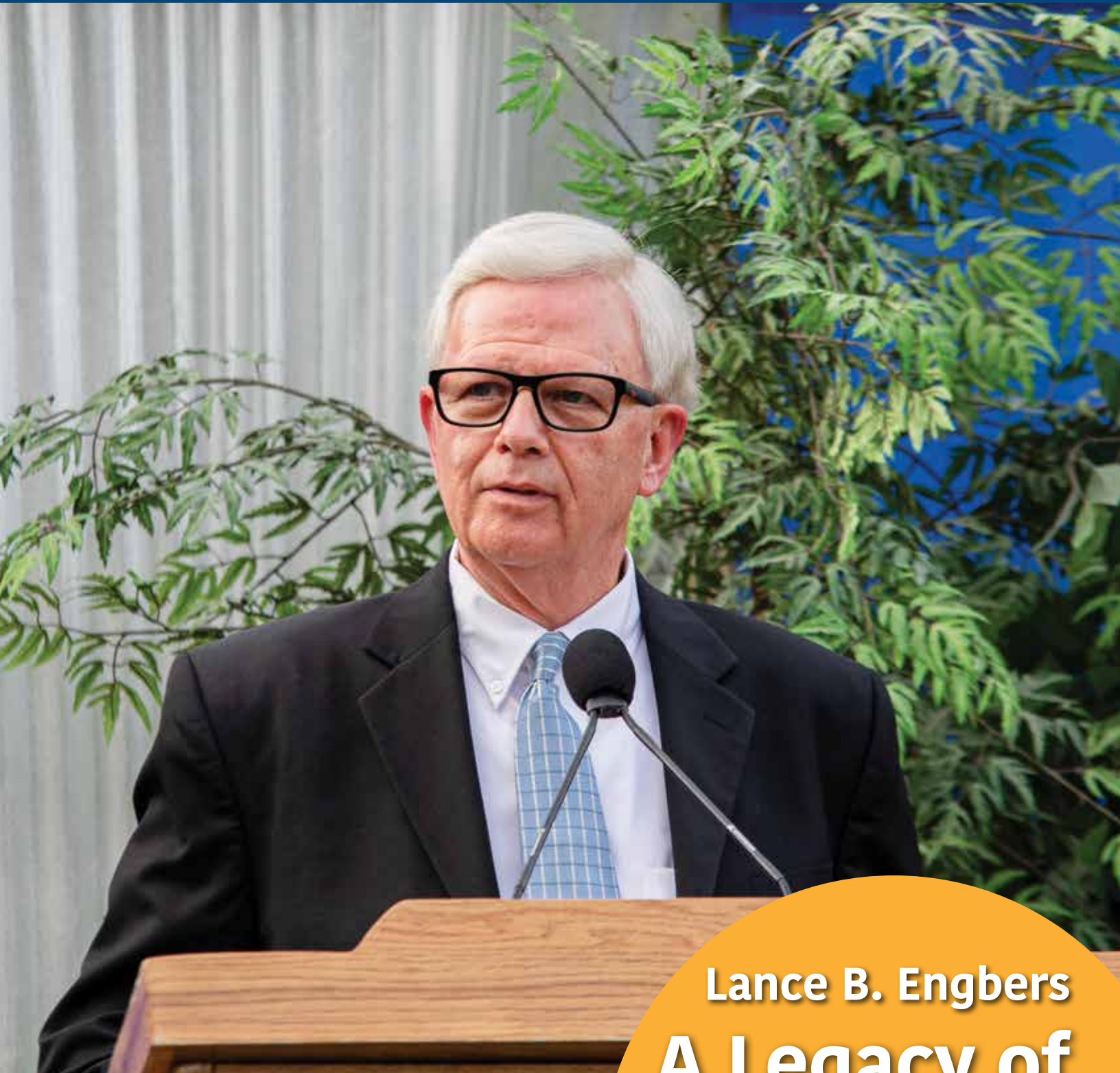


# The Crusader Chronicle



Lance B. Engbers  
**A Legacy of  
Leadership**

WHITINSVILLE  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# My Legacy

A great career is a collection of individual accomplishments that can be assessed, applauded, and recognized. A legacy however, is the lasting impact someone has on other people, and a gift they leave for the world.



I will defer to the WCS community, faculty, and staff to determine my legacy and prefer to not pen collections of accomplishments.

My focus as an educator includes deep passion for the classroom in combination with enriching co-curricular opportunities. This has been my vision and focus from 1984 to 2020. As a collective WCS group, we work tirelessly to infuse creativity into education. We share desires to transform the journeys of preschool thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and remember the journeys of those who have gone on before them. Implementing these shared desires takes countless hours that stretch into many, if not most, evenings and many, if not most, weekends. We take great pride knowing students have walked out of these doors well-equipped to do what God would have them do in their respective careers, walking intentionally with God in each and every part of their lives. There is great satisfaction for me in knowing that I as a father, along with this community, played a key role in the Christian education of our children – Lori, David, Jeffrey, Kyle, and Andy Macdonald (our son-in-law). This gift I will never forget. The unexpected, unplanned pandemic-year-ending to this school year tested the fabric of who we are; the magnetic chemistry of the administrative team, faculty, and staff propelled us forward in creative ways as we invented online learning for WCS.

Encouraging others to be leaders and critical thinkers at times means a shift in focus. Feedback laced with encouragement keeps administrators and teachers and staff and students and parents and trustees and the community walking in the same direction.



This educator knows that what really matters is that others catch my student-focused vision. Learning the names of each and every student becomes contagious as I lead by example. Inherent in the word excellence is high expectations, but may I suggest, tailored individually with thoughts beyond striving for the perfect score. Let us never forget the beauty of creating a path for each child.



“Inherent in the word excellence is high expectations, but may I suggest, tailored individually with thoughts beyond striving for the perfect score. Let us never forget the beauty of creating a path for each child.”

There is a compelling wholeness to the way we conduct Christian education based on a solidly Biblical perspective which brings to our work a sense of optimism, of passion, of joy, of grateful lives for God today and in the future.

To God be the glory as I reflect. Some careers have predictable days. School administration has many unpredictable days. It has been a match for me and I hold many stories in my head and heart. What could be better than seeing the smiling face of a child each and every day? May Whitinsville Christian School continue to flourish for years to come. Humbly, I hope I played a small part in the big picture.

Lance B. Engbers



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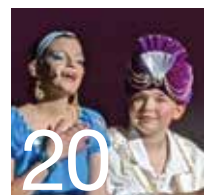
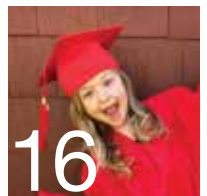
## ON THE COVER

Lance Engbers delivering the commencement address to the class of 2020

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This issue of the *Crusader Chronicle* covers the time period of January – June of 2020. A graduation ceremony was held in July. Please visit our website, Facebook page, or Instagram account for images from that ceremony.

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# Celebrating the Class of 2020

The 2019-2020 school year had an unusual ending but that did not stop us from celebrating our graduates! In early May, the Admissions Team delivered yard signs to each senior's home. Deliveries covered Douglas, Dudley, Holden, West Boylston, Hopkinton, Medway, Milford, Mendon, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Northboro, Grafton, Sutton, Southborough, Upton, Uxbridge, and Whitinsville, MA, as well as Chepachet, RI.

The WCS High School Awards Ceremony was live-streamed to students and parents on May 21 and the following week, high school students and faculty gathered virtually for Senior Assembly. Participants guessed baby pictures and "Who's Most Likely..." Students shared their thank you messages for teachers and Mr. Genese performed a song he wrote for the Class of 2020.

WCS also hosted a parade for the graduates on May 22, their last day of classes. The seniors set up in designated spots in the WCS parking lot and traffic directors guided 500 cars decorated with messages for the graduates with passengers offering their well-wishes and honking their horns! Many area first responders participated including the Uxbridge Fire Department and Northbridge Police Department. The U.S. Coast Guard even sent a helicopter to fly over the event. "It was really cool to see our community come out and support us like this," said Erin Brown, WCS Student Council President. "It meant a lot to see how much they love us and it gave us the opportunity to say goodbye."



# High School Awards Ceremony

## Strong Academic Endeavor Awards

Grade 12: Tori Herrick  
 Grade 11: Ashley Schofield  
 Grade 10: Christian Holm  
 Grade 9: Colin Deres

## Academic Subject Awards

Art: Anela Picotte  
 Band (John Philip Sousa National Band Award): Jackson Kuphal  
 Bible: Beth Hatton  
 Business: Connor Dudka  
 Choir (National School Choral Award): Hadley Koeman  
 Drama: Nate DeGregorio  
 English: Makenzie Gorman  
 History: Robert Foley  
 Math: Makenzie Gorman  
 Musicianship (Quincy Jones Award): Peter Johnson  
 Orchestra: Darnell Worley  
 Science (Biological): Darnell Worley  
 Science (Physical): Peter Johnson  
 Spanish: Nicole Spiller  
 Technology: Lucas CaraDonna

## Annual Local and Memorial Scholarships

DAR Good Citizens Award: Hadley Koeman  
 Garry and Annette Keessen Scholarship: Micah Hart  
 Roland and Sandra Vander Baan Scholarship: Karen Bekhet  
 Jim and Jean Nydam Honorary Scholarship: Juliana Buchanan  
 Milford Federal Savings & Loan Scholarship: Hadley Koeman  
 UniBank Scholarship: Anna May  
 Blackstone Valley Rotary Club: Connor Dudka & Hadley Koeman  
 Fredericks Family Award, Perseverance and Personal Success: Olivia Cutler and Lauren Airey  
 Thelma DeYoung Memorial Award for Excellence: Ben Cannistraci  
 Sadie DeYoung Memorial Scholarship: Jessye VandenAkker  
 Leonard M. Krull Memorial Scholarship: Hadley Koeman  
 Arthur A. Wiersma Memorial Scholarship: Erin Brown  
 Eric J. Cook Memorial Scholarship:

Hadley Koeman  
 George J. VandenAkker Memorial Scholarship: Katie Sprunger  
 Kimberly Hannon Memorial Scholarship: Peter Johnson

## Additional Awards

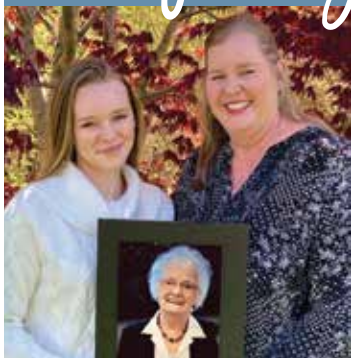
Mass Secondary School Administrators: Katie Wren  
 Brandeis Book Award: Ella VanTol  
 George Washington Book Award: Micah Hart  
 Gordon College Book Award: Ben Cannistraci  
 Smith College Book Award: Isabella Ibrahim  
 Prudential Spirit of Community Award: Jessye VandenAkker  
 RPI Medal Program Award: Ella VanTol  
 New England Math League: Drew Burkhart  
 WPI Math Meet: Harry Lou  
 Senior Athlete (Female): Anna May  
 Senior Athlete (Male): Justin Vander Baan

## Founders Award (K-12 at WCS)

Lucas French, Tommy Hannon, Alex Kerr, Hadley Koeman, Anela Picotte, Vanessa Rios, Jessye VandenAkker, Justin VanderBaan

# Legacy Families

It is our joy and privilege each year to honor the families that have been part of the WCS community for more than one generation. This year we are celebrating two 2-generation families and four 3-generation families!



Anela Picotte with mother, Noralee (Van Dyke) Picotte ('86) and in the photo her grandmother, Trina (Wynja) Van Dyke ('53)



Jessye VandenAkker with father, Greg VandenAkker ('84) and grandmother, Joanne (LaFleur) VandenAkker ('50)



Justin Vander Baan with grandparents, Robert Vander Baan ('55) and Kathryn (Vander Brug) Vander Baan ('56), and father, Jeffrey Vander Baan ('78)



Tommy Hannon with his father, T.J. Hannon ('97)



Victoria Herrick with mother, Deborah (Jorritsma) Herrick-Breault ('88), grandfather, James Jorritsma ('59), and aunt, Kimberly (Jorritsma) Hurley ('87)



Peter Johnson with parents, Kelly (Young) Johnson ('91) and Tim Johnson ('93)



# WCS 2020



**VALEDICTORIAN**  
Makenzie  
Gorman



**SALUTATORIAN**  
Jessye  
VandenAkker



Jia Baek  
Liberty University



Erin Brown  
University of  
Rhode Island



Niko Chalkiadakis  
Bryant University



Olivia Cutler  
Merrimack College



Vicky DeBarros  
Roger Williams  
University



Nate DeGregorio  
Endicott College



Connor Dudka  
Bryant University



Robert Foley  
Bentley University



Lucas French  
Apprentice Electrician



Makenzie Gorman  
Boston College



Carter Hall  
Newberry College



Tommy Hannon  
Bentley University



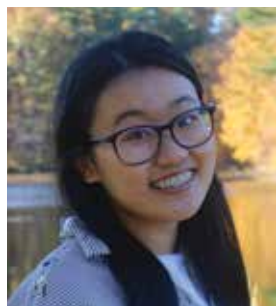
Andrew Harvey  
Liberty University



Beth Hatton  
Grove City College



Tori Herrick  
University of New Haven



Xinyue (Crescent) Huang  
Emerson College



Peter Johnson  
Wheaton College (IL)



Alex Kerr  
Quinsigamond  
Community College

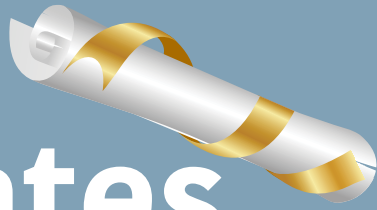


Hadley Koeman  
Calvin University



Jackson Kuphal  
Gap Year to  
Pursue Music Career

# Graduates



Jiachen (Harry) Lou  
Gap Year to Travel



Michael MacGillivray  
Calvin University



Michael Malouin  
Community College of  
Rhode Island



Anna May  
Liberty University



Ally McGrath  
Sacred Heart University



Reilly Moran  
University of Hartford



Jingyao (Yolanda) Pan  
American University



Anela Picotte  
Liberty University



Dylan Ramos  
Gordon College



Vanessa Rios  
Liberty University



Linzy Rivera  
Massachusetts College of  
Art and Design



Frankie Salvi  
Messiah College



Katie Sprunger  
Grand Canyon University



Chris Staniszewski  
The College of Saint Rose



Olivia Toothman  
Drexel University



Ping-Hsun (Tim) Tsai  
University of  
Massachusetts, Amherst



Jessye VandenAkker  
Calvin University



Justin Vander Baan  
Boston College



Luke Visgatis  
Bryant University



Darnell Worley  
Vassar College



Katie Wren  
Catholic University  
of America



Xinran (Catherine) Yu  
Boston University

# A Legacy of Leadership in

*Dear Dad,*

When each of us graduated from high school, you wrote and published open letters to us in the weekly newsletter. We treasure these words from you. One of us late in the lineup, anticipating his letter, remembers eagerly grabbing a copy as soon as the newsletter was distributed and asking a teacher for permission to take a few minutes of class to read it. Now, to celebrate your commencement, we have written you a letter.

The question no doubt buzzes in Whitinsville, but we hear it too, in the far reaches of North Carolina and Michigan: What is your dad going to do next? We shrug and fumble generic responses because we simply don't know. But we do know some answers to a related and ultimately more important question: Who will our dad be in retirement? Because we imagine that the process of defining yourself beyond the role you've served for 36 years at WCS may be disorienting at times, we offer you today a reminder of and a vision for the "you" we see walking into the next stage of life.

You are a curious conversationalist. As kids, we remember the church custodian politely locking up behind us. We remember walking across a deserted parking lot to the car following school concerts. Sometimes we started home on foot while you were still deep in conversation. A walk through the school hallway or downtown Whitinsville was never a quick trip. What we didn't realize as we tugged impatiently on your pants pockets was that we were learning how to love people. Whether engaging a nervous preschooler on the first day of school, a room of giddy alumni revisiting their high school English classroom, or a long-time supporter of WCS in a nursing home, you call people by name, look them in the eye, give them your time and attention, ask honest questions, and listen intently. In laughter and rejoicing, and also in confusion, conflict, and sorrow, you are--and will continue to be--the keeper of so many stories, a sacred role that transcends any job description.

You are a craftsman. We've seen you light up recounting the clever solution to a maintenance problem that you and the custodian contrived together; some of us witnessed this first hand working summers at WCS. With you, we've hunted junkyards for car parts, engineered decks, designed patios, repaired doors, remodeled rooms. You enjoy handling the parts and pieces, fitting them together to make something work. For 36 years, you've crafted language, too. You've arranged and rearranged words, built sentences, and constructed paragraphs to communicate your grounded yet evolving vision of Christian education for the WCS community. Whether the material is wood or words, and the tool a chisel or a pen, you have passed on to us your delight in this work, and we look forward to what you will create in retirement.

You are a Christ-follower. You and Mom showed us that God holds every moment and molecule of this complex world. You gave us the space to explore our gifts and venture into a calling with the confidence that amidst the beauty and brokenness we encounter in others and ourselves, God is at work redeeming a creation that groans for wholeness. In your lifelong vocation as an educator, you helped shape WCS around this mission. Your career experienced highs and lows, and your family wasn't perfect, but you acknowledged God's work through you as a grace-filled follower of Jesus. As parents ourselves, we now see ever more clearly the importance of this truth passing to the next generation, and we look forward to the faith impact you and Mom will continue to have on your grandchildren in retirement. As others, like us, try to capture the gift you've been in so many lives, we can hear you humbly say, "God was at work."

We love you, Dad, and whatever's next, we're excited to be a part of it.

*Lori '95, David '97,  
Jeffrey '01, and Kyle '05*



Whitinsville Christian School is a place that shaped our family in many positive ways. Thank you to the countless people who crossed Lance's path since the fall of 1984. You entrusted the person we call Dad with a place to invest his gifts and flourish in his passion for Christian education. We are thankful.



# Christian Education



Signs collected at Lance's farewell parade



Virtual 'thank you' notes for Lance

Kaleb DeWeerd, rising 4th grader, gave Mr. Engbers a pair of very colorful socks earlier this year. "I only dared wear them during remote learning so I wrote a note to Kaleb with the picture," said Mr. Engbers.



Dear Kaleb,  
Missing school and missing you. But, those socks are a bright reminder of your smile - shining like the sun and warming my heart. Can you see the playground? Do you miss the big slide?  
Mr. Engbers



Dear Mr. Engbers,  
I hope you have a good day. I love you. I can see the playground, and I DO miss the big slide. You are wearing really, really crazy socks I gave you. I read my books, I play games, I watch TV, I go hiking, I do my math, and I help Dad outside. We chop and stack wood. I'm learning about lots of people in Social Studies, like the colonists and red coats. In Bible, I'm learning about Moses and Aaron. Have a nice day. I miss you because of the corona-virus. I cannot see you. I miss art and a lot of people: Ethan and Max and Abby and all my friends and Mrs. Foppema, Mrs. Massotti, and Mrs. Klatt and Miss Rivera.  
Love,  
Kaleb DeWeerd  
P.S. I miss you and love you.



# A Legacy of Leadership in

## Sarah Bowler, Elementary Principal

*36 years ago* I was in 2nd grade at WCS. Mr. Engbers was our new principal. There were two chairs outside his office for students waiting to see him and I wasn't going to be sitting on one of them! I assumed I would have little contact with him. As the years went by, from a student perspective, Mr. Engbers became known as someone who knew your name, he was someone who celebrated your birthday, and yet I still found myself maintaining that feeling of awe for the "person in charge of the WHOLE school."

Flash forward to 2008. My husband and I are at the school for our admissions interview to enroll our daughter in Kindergarten. Lance greets us with a big hello and smile, but I still feel that feeling of awe, after all he is the "person in charge of the WHOLE school."

It is now 2010 and I have a voice message on my phone. I still have that message on my phone. It's from Lance, letting me know about a 2nd grade job opening for the fall. We begin the application/interview process and along the way I see glimpses of a man who can make people laugh, who listens well, and asks thought-provoking questions. It's hard to lose the awe feeling at this point, after all he is now one of the people deciding if I get to be a teacher at WCS.

I did get that job and I spent five years as a teacher at WCS while Lance was the elementary principal. I was a teacher who liked to switch things up, always finding new ideas that I thought would help the students and improve my teaching. I was a teacher who brought chickens into the classroom, I did papier mache, my classroom could be messy and loud. I also didn't hesitate to reach out to Lance and tell him my new ideas and plans. In fact, I was

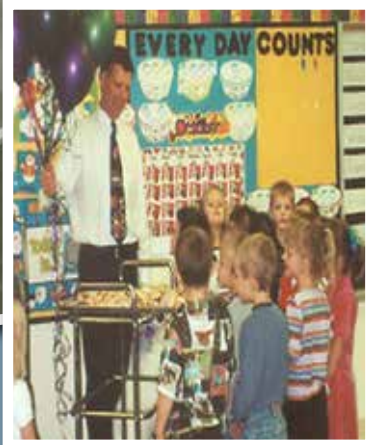
now often sitting and waiting on those chairs outside of Lance's office. Looking back now, I'm sure there were times he inwardly groaned when he saw my face at his door, but he never let on. He always made time to listen, he offered thoughtful feedback, and he encouraged my ideas. He also always directed me to go through the proper channels, when I might have been more inclined to "cut corners." The feeling of "awe" that I had always had in the past had now morphed into a feeling of respect.



After I had taught for five years, the school was looking for an elementary principal, and I was hired. Lance had been in this role previously, along with being Headmaster, and it was a position that was very dear to him. But he embraced the change, welcomed me into the administrative team, and provided support.

For the past five years, I have worked closely with Lance Engbers. My respect for him has continued to grow. He has challenged me to be my best self professionally and in my faith. He is a man of integrity who is committed to Christian education taught from a reformed perspective, and that has been apparent in each interaction I have had with him. I am thankful that he has held me to a high standard and encouraged me to be reflective during challenging times and times of celebration.

Lance has been a part of my life for the past 36 years, 20 of those years I have seen him on an almost daily basis, as God led me from student to principal. It's hard to picture WCS without him, but I know God has great plans for him in the years to come, and I am thankful that the awe I once felt has been replaced by the respect I have for him as a mentor, today and tomorrow.



# Christian Education

Mary Dykstra MS Principal, HS Drama Director, Former ES and MS Art Teacher

**T**wenty nine years ago, the phone rang in our small apartment in Nova Scotia, Canada. I was 25 years old, and my husband and I had decided to make a move. He was applying to various schools for his master's degree and I had sent out applications to schools near each of the places he applied.

When I picked up the phone, I heard a booming and jovial voice on the other end. It was Lance Engbers, saying that he wanted to fly me out to MA for an interview. He was impressed by my resume and had an open position that he thought would fit me perfectly. He proudly told me a bit about Whitinsville Christian School, and then he backtracked and said, "I guess I first have to ask if you're still planning to move to MA," at which point I had to tell him that we were not.

However, three years later, we did end up in MA, and the interview happened. It was a different position, but Lance's exuberance was the same.

I remember meeting him in person, big smile, same exuberant voice accompanied by a strong firm handshake. His energy and enthusiasm was infectious. I couldn't help but be excited about a position at Whitinsville Christian School after meeting and talking with him.

The position was a new one; the first ever elementary art teacher. WCS was expanding their fine arts program to include specific art instruction for elementary students by a trained art teacher. As a fine arts fan, Lance was thrilled to be getting this new program off the ground, and knew that it would further enhance the excellent education WCS offered.

Lance and I had a shared understanding of what that program should look like. Early on, when some of the teachers told me they wanted their students to make more "bulletin board crafts," I promptly walked straight to his office to confirm that this was not an "arts and crafts" type of position, but rather, a full on arts instruction including a healthy dose of art history, even for kindergarten. I remember the conversation well. Lance had a glimmer in his eye as he listened to my passionate views, confirming what I believed should be taking place. While I could see

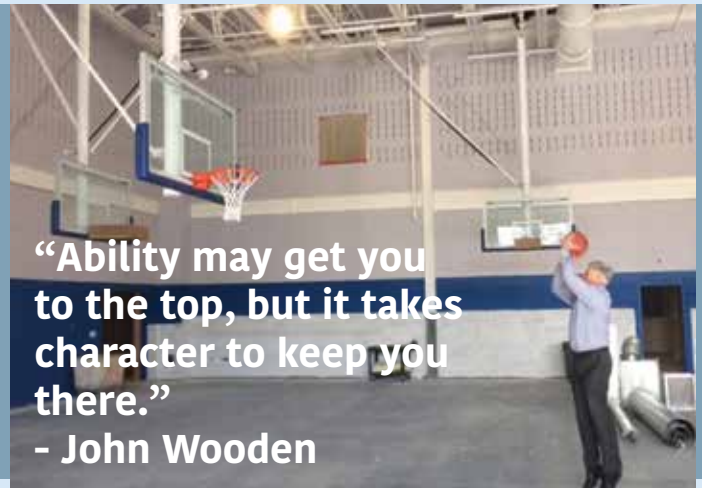
he found some humor in the vehement expressions of this new young teacher, he also fully supported and shared the vision.

Lance's support for the arts continued and remains strong to this day. Weekly, if not daily, anyone can hear him praising the work of the students either seen on the walls in the hallways and on the bridge, or heard in grandparent day programs, recitals, concerts, or at basketball games with our new pep band. Lance makes a point to attend as many functions as humanly possible, and he thoroughly enjoys each and every one. He and RoseAnn have invested in their own children's music lessons, and have promoted the arts at every venture. Not only are they seen at these events, they can also be heard after each one, marveling at the God given student talent that is nurtured and developed through the many arts opportunities provided at WCS.

During our work with the high school drama group, Lance can often be seen standing in the back of the Nehemiah Center watching a rehearsal. He likes to see how the rehearsals are coming along and always reassures me when I say, "Not sure we'll be able to pull this one off." Once we open, Lance sends emails to the whole faculty and staff encouraging them to attend the show. He also highlights specific student performances, mentioning students who surprise him by doing such a great job in their role, both those who are naturals on the stage, and those who he would never have guessed would shine in the role they were in.

And the students love it when Lance is in the audience. During intermission, the actors can be heard excitedly chatting backstage saying things like, "Did you hear Mr. Engbers laughing? I'm so glad he's here. I love his laugh! He gets the whole audience excited."

From a three year old preschooler's budding artistic expressions to a senior's polished and well trained performance in our new Nehemiah Center for Arts and Worship, Lance's exuberance and support have been the backbone in growing the fine arts programs at WCS. The whole arts department including the teachers, the students, the parents, and the entire community, say a hearty and well deserved THANK YOU! We wish you all the best and God's richest blessings. Soli Deo Gloria!



**"Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there."**

**- John Wooden**

# Lance's Legacy will Live On!

Chris Vander Baan, High School Principal

*“Lance is retiring.”* Three words I hoped would never be uttered while I was still working at WCHS. Lance and I go back 28 years. We first met on the phone when he asked me to share some policies from Christian Heritage School in Trumbull, Ct. Later, he called me to assist WCHS in purchasing some great used science equipment from The King's College in New York. Kings was closing its doors and WCHS needed some gently used microscopes and glassware. I was happy to jump in and help and really appreciated Lance's desire to ramp up the science department despite limited resources. Finally, Lance and I spent four days together when WCS went through its first ever accreditation through NEASC. I was on the visiting team. What stood out to me was Lance's deep desire to attain accreditation so that the school could move toward excellence. His attention to detail struck me as unique and amazing!

Just like that, 25 years has come and gone. Lance has been my mentor, my boss, my advisor, but most of all, my friend. He has urged me, pushed me, nudged me, and challenged me to be a better father, husband, educator, and teacher. Lance and I have spent thousands of hours planning, scheming, and dreaming about the past, present, and future of WCS. He has been inspirational, wisely cautious, thinking on the cutting edge, and occasionally exigent. We have talked about all things educational and wrestled with policies, procedures, and people. We have participated in hundreds of teacher interviews together and even more admissions interviews with new families.

When I think of Lance, the following words pop into my mind: committed, dedicated, thoughtful, well-read, insightful, wise, courageous, kind, diligent, Christ-follower, and man of God. Lance loves Christian education and has committed four decades of his life to serving his students and their parents. Lance is a leader in Christian education and has weathered the storms of change without bending or breaking. He has forced himself and everyone at WCS

to be on the innovative forefront of education. He has been WCS's spiritual gate-keeper since taking over as Head of School 26 years ago.

By definition, “legacy means putting a stamp on the future, and making a contribution to future generations.” ([daringtolivefully.com](http://daringtolivefully.com)) While Lance probably never worried, or even thought about his own legacy, WCS is in part the best PreK-12 Christian School in New England because of his leadership and commitment to excellence. Lance's word is his bond of friendship and integrity. He loves literature and reading. He loves expanding his already vast vocabulary by adding new words to his vocabulary. Lance demands excellence in reports and policies. His affinity for specificity is born out in his writing. His deep desire to do things consistently and purposefully is why WCS has more than 300 carefully-crafted and well-written policies. One of the legacies Lance has left WCS is a library of policies that not only help to clarify the school's position on all things educational, but also provide consistency and fairness as our school moves forward. Lance's leadership has helped create and refine our leadership teams at WCS. Whether that is seen in committees or our Administrative team, Lance has helped design, plan, and carry out the creation of these teams and given them purpose and focus. Great leaders empower others to carry on in their absence. I am extremely confident that Lance's legacy of leadership will still be evident and active in his retirement.

When I look at the letters of the word legacy, my mind cannot help but think of an acronym. Lance loves acronyms-LOVES THEM!

**L-LEADER** with longevity. Lance has been an educator for more than four decades. He has seen hundreds of teachers and staff members work at WCS. He has seen thousands of children come to WCS and graduate. Lance has been at WCS longer than our high school has existed.

**E-ENDURANCE.** Those of you who know Lance know he never tires of his work, nor does he ever run out of enthusiasm or excitement. The Energizer Bunny had nothing on Lance.

**G-GOD** honoring. Lance loves the Lord and everything he does reflects that. He is selfless and humble, yet boldly defends the foundations of his faith and Christian education.

**A-ASSERTIVE.** Lance is not afraid to share his opinion while respecting the opinion of others. Lance is a thinker who carefully ruminates on his thoughts and ideas. When Lance has an opinion he shares it boldly but respectfully.

**C-CARING.** Lance loves people. He loves kids. He loves teachers who work alongside students. Lance knows everyone by name and never forgets a name or a face. He cares about God's world and the children God has entrusted to WCS.

**Y-YOUNG** at heart. Frank Sinatra's song *Young at Heart* in many ways reminds me of the professional life of Lance Engbers.

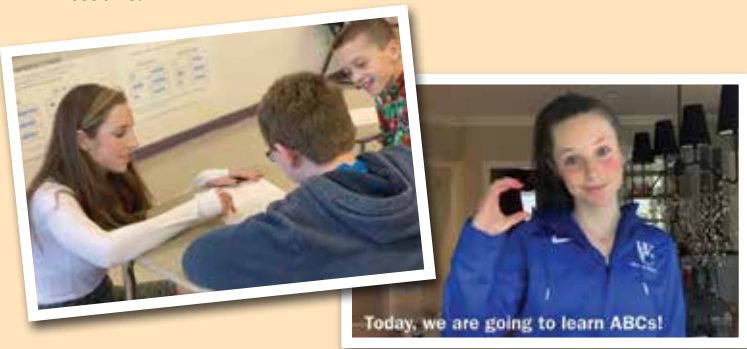
As we wave goodbye to our fearless leader, reflect on the man who has been greeting us for the past thirty-six years. Relish the time WCS has been blessed by this leader and faithful servant. As you drive through the parking lot and look at the amazing facility, thank our Lord for calling Lance Engbers to WCS. Pray for him as he turns his energy and keen mind towards retirement. Pray for him as he spends time doing other things that bring honor and glory to our Lord. It has been a great ride!

# Senior CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Dealing with the unexpected is a lesson learned with every Senior Capstone Project and this year, the unexpected was an understatement. We commend these students for the adjustments each made to her project during Virtual Learning, as well as the poise with which they made their final presentations through a screen instead of in front of a live audience.

## MAKENZIE GORMAN Teaching American Sign Language

Makenzie developed a love for learning languages in middle school. "I think languages are beautiful and communication is such a cool part of God's creation." Makenzie's original plan included teaching after-school enrichment courses for WCS 3rd-5th graders and hosting a fundraising event. This plan was adjusted to include a new video Makenzie created to provide information about ASL and the deaf culture. Her enrichment courses also moved online in the spring and were available to all elementary students. "I really appreciate the encouragement Mrs. Bowler passed along about the students who watched and enjoyed my lessons."



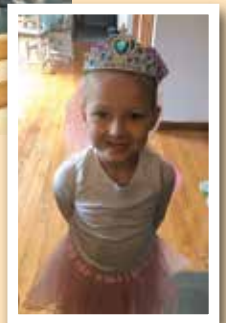
## KATIE SPRUNGER Reducing Environmental Waste

Katie loves to travel and has spent time in many national parks, learning to be a good steward of God's creation. Katie's project provided the community with opportunities to learn about environmental waste and practice sustainability. Katie teamed up with Treasures Thrift Store to promote their mission, she hosted a recycled art exhibit at WCS, and she managed WCS's participation in the Trex Challenge. Trex manufactures composite decking from recycled materials. For the final weeks of the challenge, the weight of the collected materials was tracked online, as donations could no longer be collected at school. "WCS came in first place in Massachusetts for schools our size! It was also really exciting when Trex shared the video I created with my fellow students promoting the Trex Challenge!"



## VICTORIA HERRICK Room Design for Disability and Mental Illness

Tori's project incorporated her love of art and design with her heart for others. For her Capstone Project, she completed a redesign and update of WCS Health & Wellness Counselor Emily Paharik's office. "I wanted anyone entering the room to feel a breath of fresh air. Mrs. Paharik also needed better storage for the toys she uses when meeting with younger students." The second major part of Tori's Capstone Project was to create a room model for a woman she met in her mother's Multiple Sclerosis group. "Depression can be common with some disabilities and room design can greatly affect your emotions and behavior. I hope that people see design as a way to show kindness and spread God's love."



## KATHERINE WREN Incorporating Dance at WCS

Katie has been dancing for 14 years and assisting with teaching for four. "I am passionate about dancing and want to do it as long as my body allows. God calls us to dance as a form of worship." As one part of her project, she formed the WCS Dance Team with Vanessa, Trinity, Linzy, and Tori as members. The team performed at four basketball games during half-time. Katie also choreographed five numbers for the Middle School Drama Club's production of *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.* "I was working with 30 kids, my largest group ever to be in charge of, and it was so much fun!" She also taught elementary after-school enrichment courses. Once learning moved online, so did Katie's classes. "It was challenging to create the videos but I'm happy to know so many students participated!"

# A Virtual WCS

Whitinsville Christian School values hands-on education, interaction with and between students, and the spirit of the entire community. We know these are the ways we best fulfill our mission to nurture the academic, spiritual, personal, social, creative, and physical development of students, in cooperation with their parents, for Christ-like service in God's World.

As we approached spring break, the COVID-19 pandemic was rapidly evolving and it was important for our administrators and faculty to act quickly. Classes on March 13 were cancelled and the day was used as a professional development day, allowing faculty and the administration time to plan for the possibility of online classes in the event of a campus closure. That closure of course was extended through the end of the school year, and we could not be more grateful for the way our community met the challenge of Virtual Learning.



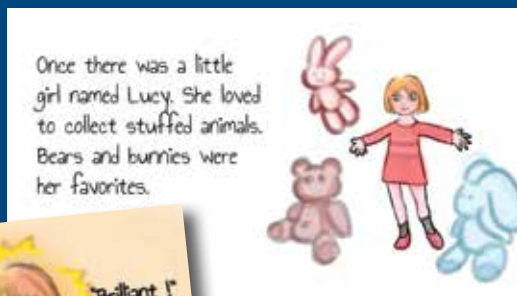
“Overall, we are so pleased and amazed at the quick pace at which WCS changed to online learning, and our child found it very helpful, too. We appreciated how well the online materials were organized so that our child could find and follow them on their own. Thank you for a great year! We are excited to come back in the fall!”

- WCS parent



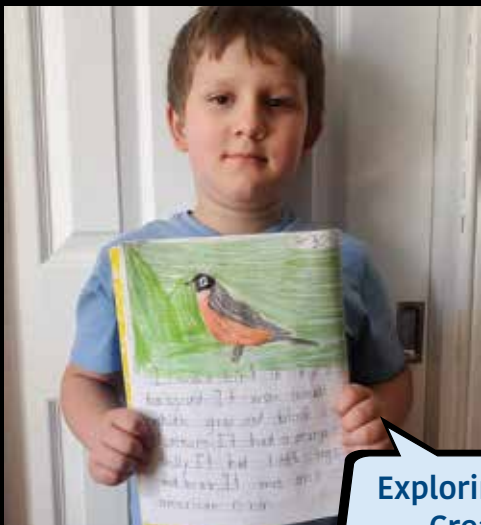
“The time and effort put into distance learning was stunning! I could not believe how much my child learned at home under the expert guidance of his teachers. I don't feel like he lost any ground, and most importantly, he felt loved and connected to his peers and teachers.”

- WCS parent





Covering all the Subjects



Exploring God's Creation



Art in Quarantine



# Middle School

All Whitinsville Christian Middle School students came together for a virtual Recognition Chapel on the last day of school. This event provided a look back upon the entire year and announced the recipients of several awards. Annika Fortna and Will Johnson earned the Scholar Award. Meadow O'Connell and Caleb Deters were given the Representative Award. The first-ever Impact Award was given to Ella Brochu for her work throughout middle school, including the establishment of a Student Senate.



# MOVING UP!

In addition to high school graduation, we celebrate end-of-year milestones for students at an Advancement Ceremony for our 8th graders and Stepping Stone Preschool graduation.

# Preschool Families

We also celebrated our youngest graduates from Stepping Stone Preschool! Families were invited to a virtual ceremony featuring a prayer from Mr. Engbers, messages from the teachers, songs, and Bible verses. Students also participated in a drive-thru parade!





# Better Together

Melissa Hadley, Director of Enrollment

**W**hat a year! What a year to be a parent, a child, a teacher, a front-line worker, a human being, and the new Director of Enrollment at Whitinsville Christian School!

Parents, I believe I speak on behalf of everyone here at WCS when I say THANK YOU! Schooling at home was not easy, but your efforts and dedication made the end of the 2020 school year a success! As a mother of a 4th grader with two younger children at home, I know how challenging some days were to help with school, clean, cook, do the laundry, and work from home. You did it well! You finished! You should give yourself a big high-five!

Students, we miss you and we adore you! What an incredible job you all did and we are all immensely proud of you. You make our hallways come ALIVE with your smiles, laughter and talents! I know for certain that I speak for everyone at school when I say that we can't wait to see you in the fall!

Teachers, what can I say? You amaze me! You flipped the switch on remote learning as if it were second-nature. You did it with ease, dedication, and smiles. God put your talents on display via computer screens and your voice was heard throughout the homes of more than 630 students. Your love for WCS and its students goes beyond passion; it's your mission in God's world. As parents, we all have a deeper appreciation for what you do for our children day in and day out. Thank you!

Prior to March, the Admissions Team was on an incredible track with enrollment and we expect a very busy summer as we continue to receive inquiries. I cannot help but believe that God has WCS in His hands through this process. He is good all the time. All the time!



Hutchinson family pizza night

This year in enrollment, we have more inquiries than ever recorded. This is a testament to not only our marketing efforts, but also to you as a community! Word-of-mouth, without fail, is our number one marketing tool. Inquiries are wonderful, but we

want to welcome and accept mission-appropriate students and families into the hallways of WCS. We have instituted, and continue to institute, many initiatives to allow this to happen.



Welcoming new students

- Two new Admissions Events were added. Welcome Wednesdays were an effective tool to bring families on campus once a month. Coffee Shop Talks were also an effective way to get out, spread the good word of the WCS name, and meet with families face-to-face. I was able to connect with some incredible families, a few of which have continued to pursue their interest in WCS.
- WCS advertised on a billboard on Route 146 North, which proved to bring awareness of WCS to those traveling along that route.



- The timeline of admissions testing was adjusted to test more children on the same day, allowing us to interview more families earlier.
- Virtual Admissions Activities became the norm in the fourth quarter. We produced a virtual school tour, hosted our first virtual open house, conducted virtual testing and family meetings, and offered virtual acceptances. It goes without saying that we are certainly thankful for technology!
- Friday Night Pizza Night was added to the re-enrollment season! It was a great time for me to get out, treat some early re-enrollers, and see some of our students and their families during the final weeks of the school year.

While we are thankful for technology, we are BETTER TOGETHER! Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." We are meant to be together as a community and we are looking forward to doing that in the fall and welcoming our new families through our doors as well!

Be well and be blessed!

# The “New Normal” and the Old Normal



## “NORMAL”

### Naming Our Reality, Ministering, and Leading

Scott Anderson, Director of Advancement

It is with great joy that we approach the opening of the new school year at Whitinsville Christian. All of us in the WCS community had to deal with some challenges during this past spring and summer associated with the Covid-19 virus, but I am confident that our faculty, administration, and staff are working toward maximizing our students’ academic and spiritual experience. On a larger scale we have seen the impact of the virus on our national economy and the various restrictions put upon us in accordance with government regulations. All of this seems to work toward what we often hear to be the “new normal,” a term with which I am uncomfortable.

I would prefer to define normal not as the old or the new, but just N.O.R.M.A.L.

#### Naming Our Reality, Ministering, and Leading

Each and every day we face circumstances that are new to us, or arrive in a different form. We make various adjustments to adapt and continue on our way. But that way is still primarily defined on a personal level in terms of who we are and what our near-term and long-term objectives might be. We may alter our immediate direction or change the speed with how we seek to accomplish things, but we do not change our way, or who we are.

In much the same way I believe this concept applies to our approach here at Whitinsville Christian School. Our “way” is our mission. We have Named this as Our Reality, it is the unchanging framework within which we operate, conduct our Ministry, and Lead. The mission of Whitinsville Christian School is to nurture the academic, spiritual, personal, social, creative, and physical development of students, in cooperation with their parents, for Christ-like service in God’s



“We have Named this as Our Reality, it is the unchanging framework within which we operate, conduct our Ministry, and Lead.”

World. This is our reality from which everything else flows. Ministering to our community is of the utmost importance as we deal with the specific needs of our students and families. And finally, it is up to us to lead in our approach to change based on our underlying principles. We may face outside forces that may seem to dictate what our academic approach might be, but the point is to determine that we will be in charge of our actions,

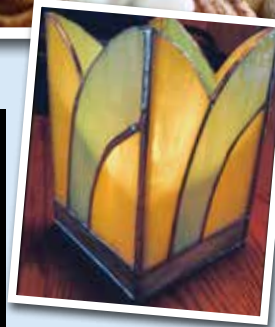
and only be guided by outside influences.

Looking forward, our normal will always be influenced by the legacy of Lance Engbers. The impact that Lance has had on this school is timeless, and will continue to guide students, families, faculty, and staff in a positive way for generations to come, as it has for the generations that have passed through here. I want to personally thank Lance for the opportunity he provided me at WCS. I have always compared the people that I have worked for to the great coaches that I have been fortunate to have had in my athletic experiences. It is said that a good coach is positive, enthusiastic, supportive, trusting, focused, goal-oriented, knowledgeable, observant, respectful, patient, and a clear communicator. He or she is someone who, because of who they are, is able to maximize the individual performances under their charge. They make you want to win, not for your own aggrandizement, but for the good of the overall organization. I couldn’t think of a better description of my experience in working with Lance.

# Annual Spring Auction

The Annual Spring Auction moved online this year and we are incredibly grateful to our community for their flexibility. Through generous sponsors, donors, and bidders, this major fund-raising event raised approximately \$50,000! We're thankful to our donors, and Auctioneer, Kurt Hanson, for creating videos that were shared on social media. Bidding was open for three days and returning favorites were featured such as Mary Masselink's cinnamon buns and handmade stained glass from Lois Hassey. "Many circumstances impacted this year's Spring Auction and I am grateful that it was still able to bring our community together, in a much different way than years past," said Erin Thakkappalli, WCS Spring Auction Chairperson. "Going online opened up the bidding to people who aren't always able to join us at the live event. We look forward to changes for next year's event, and a return to an in-person gathering!"

**RAISED**  
**\$50,000**



**Treasures**  
An Upscale Thrift Store  
CLOTHING • FURNITURE • GIFTS • HOUSEWARES

The mission of Treasures, an Upscale Thrift Store, is to provide financial assistance to WCS to help keep tuition affordable for all students.

Come in and shop for gently-used high quality clothing and shoes for women, men and children. Also available are handbags, jewelry, vintage items, housewares, small kitchen appliances, and furniture.

#### STORE HOURS

Wed - Frid noon - 5:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am - 5:00pm

#### DONATION DROP OFF

Mon & Thur 10:00am - 1:00pm

**We rely on our  
volunteers!  
Please call if  
interested  
774-293-1564**





# Aladdin Jr.

Susan Upham  
Middle School  
Drama Club Director

On March 6 and 7, Whitinsville Christian Middle School transported a full house to the “fabled city of Agrabah” when it presented *Disney’s Aladdin Jr.* A cast and crew of over 40 middle school students came together to deliver an unforgettable performance of this family-favorite musical. With exciting choreography, beautiful costumes, rousing musical numbers, professional light and sound engineering, and some SUPER talented kids, this show will go down not only as my last show to direct at WCS, but my favorite.

As we studied the script and considered the themes within, we could see so clearly how relatable those themes were: the struggle to be truthful no matter what the cost, the pitfalls of greed, the hunger to be free, the importance of good friendships, the desire to be fully known and loved.

As my family heads on to new adventures in Arkansas, I feel so

grateful to have worked with these remarkable kids.

They truly are a special lot. It is my prayer that the Middle School Drama Club will continue to be available to students. I cannot express enough how important it is for middle schoolers to have this outlet to express themselves and to be truly known and loved - and to recognize that wish is granted not through a wise-cracking Genie, but through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the privilege of leading. May God raise up more leaders for this important ministry in the arts.



## Celebrate the Arts Week

May typically means end-of-year concerts and the High School Drama Club’s spring performance. Since we were unable to gather in person, we highlighted the visual and performing arts programs at WCS during Celebrate the Arts Week by celebrating our talented seniors who participate in these programs.

The High School Orchestra recorded *Ashokan Farewell* by Jay Ungar and dedicated the performance to Lance Engbers in honor of his faithful dedication to Whitinsville Christian School. After viewing the video, Lance responded, “I am simply overwhelmed

by the compelling beauty of this favorite of mine. The sound, tone, the collective group is an amazing representation of what WCS offers. It is truly a display of how God has abundantly blessed WCS with amazing talent and gifts to both students and staff. This is an indescribable gift I will never forget.” The video can be found on YouTube by searching: “Whitinsville Christian High School Orchestra - *Ashokan Farewell.*”



# A Legacy of Character and Faith

By John Casey ('86)  
President of the Board of Trustees



**W**hen we're younger, we have many dreams about what we want to do, what we want to accomplish, and what we want our lives to look like. Then, life gradually happens. We have ups and downs, opportunities and struggles, and the life we pictured for ourselves early on doesn't quite work out the way we hoped it would, and the things we once strongly desired are not as important to us as they once were. Some people begin to long for significance. We want our lives to make a difference. We want to invest in things that matter and that will last.

Some would call this desire or the actions to fulfill this desire as "leaving a legacy." Webster's Dictionary defines legacy as "something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past." Often this refers to gifts of money or property, but a personal legacy involves more than financial assets. It is more about who you are and how you touch people's lives. As Christians, I believe it's using the time and gifts God has given us to invest in the people around us to make a difference. It's allowing God to work in us and through us to accomplish His eternal purposes.

I wonder if 36 years ago, Lance had a sense of how God was going to use his life in the little town of Whitinsville, Massachusetts. Probably like most of us in our 30s, it was an incredibly busy time balancing a growing family and a growing career at a growing school. It is incredible to reflect on all that has taken place at WCS over the span of Lance's time here. When Lance arrived at WCS, there was no Nehemiah Center; there was no second floor to the school building; there was no upper soccer field and track; and there weren't even bleachers at the Krull Auditorium. There may have been a handful of computers, no cell phones, and many of the classes, programs, and positions that are now present today didn't exist. Socially and culturally there have been significant changes that have impacted the way we work, raise families, socialize, and spend our time. As we look back and reflect on all this change and growth over the years, we can see God's hand working through Lance to provide leadership and guidance.

Over the last four years, I've had the opportunity to work alongside Lance on the Board of Trustees at WCS. Leading an institution is not easy. There are many difficult choices that need to be made that do not please everyone. Lance does not take the responsibility of decision-making lightly. He researches, seeks input, prays, and thinks deeply about courses of action while factoring in a love for God, a love for WCS, and a love for the WCS community. Throughout the years, Lance has dedicated himself to Christian education and allowed God to use him here at WCS, and we have all been blessed through his dedication.

Billy Graham once said, "The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith." Lance has not only passed on this legacy to his family, but he has passed this legacy to the alumni, students, faculty and staff, and community of Whitinsville Christian School. In addition to a legacy of character and faith, I would add excellence in Christian education. Thank you, Lance, for your faithfulness. We have benefitted greatly from your legacy at WCS.



“Throughout the years, Lance has dedicated himself to Christian education and allowed God to use him here at WCS, and we have all been blessed.”

# Distinguished ALUMNI

Christine (MacIndoe) McCabe

*The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves in their business, profession, or vocation, and through their actions have demonstrated concern for and service to, their community and to God.*

**C**hristine (MacIndoe) McCabe ('00) has been selected to receive this year's Distinguished Alumni Award. Christine is the WCS School Nurse and an ICU Nurse at Milford Regional Medical Center. "During the global pandemic we are experiencing this year, Christine stands out as a shining star advocating for the safety of all students, faculty, and staff, as well as their families," said Lance Engbers, Head of School. "Her competent skills, well-researched information, effective communication, and tremendously helpful service on the Crisis Response Team and Readiness Task Force positions her as a wonderful representative of all frontline workers making themselves available for service to others. Christine is selfless in her willingness to serve others. She walks with humble steps and yet with expertise confidently flowing from the essence of who she is. Having served as an ICU nurse for years at Milford Regional Hospital, she leaves the safety of her home to now assist in the COVID-19 world at the hospital as well. Christine embodies what it means at WCS to be Inspiring Minds and Igniting Hearts. It was no surprise to me that after serving in an exemplary manner as school nurse at WCS, she was on her game for exemplary leadership through the challenges of the last quarter of the school year. In addition, I have full confidence that she will be a key person moving forward into the next school year as well. Pervasive through all she does is her very deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ – it flows out of her when you meet her."

"I must admit I was quite shocked at first to hear I had been selected for this honor," said Christine. "I think of distinguished alumni as dedicating decades of their lives to WCS. I felt too young. But then I remembered that it has been 20 years since I graduated! I feel very blessed, humbled, and honored, especially to be on the wall with so many 'greats.'"

Christine has many fond memories of her time as a student at WCS. "I remember the big tractor tire full of pillows for reading, receiving Jolly Rancher candy sticks as prizes in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and memorable trips such as Choir Tour and extra credit trips. Most of my memories involve the great friends I made here, many of whom I remain friends with to this day. It was at WCS that I first began a love for science, biology, anatomy, and physiology. RoseAnn Engbers was a guest speaker at Career Day and she enlightened my view on what it meant to be a nurse. WCS

*Elliott, Ryan, Christine, and Ethan MacCabe*



**"It was at WCS that I first began a love for science, biology, anatomy, and physiology."**

also helped to strengthen my faith personally through challenging chapels and teachers who lived out Christ's example in their day-to-day lives in a very consistent way."

In addition to being a staff member, Christine is also a WCS parent of two boys, Elliot and Ethan. "As our firstborn grew and was approaching Kindergarten we knew we wanted to send him to WCS, Lord willing! The caring teachers, the excellent academics, and most importantly, the strong faith in God that is intertwined through it all makes the investment well worth it! And working at the school has provided me a new sense of joy - being able to bring my kids to work with me and see them at school has been wonderful. Being the School Nurse is a big responsibility that I take very seriously. I pray a lot for wisdom and understanding. I work through this pandemic and how it affects WCS using three guidelines: Faith in God, respect for science and medicine, and common sense. I feel hopeful in our community's common ground and resilience."



# Crusader Athletics

## Spring Season

The spring athletics season typically means track and field, softball, baseball, tennis, and co-op lacrosse. Many of our senior athletes have missed the chance to participate in this final season of their time at WCS but we did not want to pass up the opportunity to recognize their commitment to their sport. We wish you God's blessings!

**Track & Field** – Vicky DeBarros, Connor Dudka, Alex Kerr, Hadley Koeman, Linzy Rivera, & Darnell Worley

**Softball** – Anna May & Jessye VandenAkker

**Tennis** – Ally McGrath & Katie Sprunger

**Co-op Lacrosse** – Nathan DeGregorio & Carter Hall



## Indoor Track

*Front row: Abigail Goodell, Ashley Schofield, Becky Dowling, Jenna Dolan, Eliza Dowling, Kira Simoncini, Karen Bekhet, Jill LaBonte, Vicky DeBarros, Hadley Koeman, Hannah Pollitt, Cece LaBonte, Michaela Clifford. Back row: Ethan Enoch, Ben Cannistraci, Joseph Thumann, John Sullivan, Jack Hearn, Jeff Curtis, Josh Guertin, Nate DeGregorio, Darnell Worley, Andrew Harvey, Alex Kerr. Not pictured: Michael MacGillivray, Coach Mike Persenaire, Asst. Coach Tatiana Wiersma*



## Varsity Boys Basketball

*Front row: Mgr. Jack Hearn, Nathan Walton, Nic DeNorscia, Noah Massotti, Seth Massotti, Mgr. Tyler Yakimowsky. Back row: Coach Brady Bajema, A.J. Gorman, Ben Johnson, Justin VanderBaan, Calvin Mawn, Jake Bell, Josiah Graves. Not pictured: Asst. Coach Dave Deters*



## JV Boys Basketball

*Front row: Lucas Silveri, Bobby Gaudette, Noah Robertson, Vinny Gilbert, Peter McHugh, Joseph French. Back row: Ethan MacGillivray, Christian Holm, Charles Palmatier, Ben Schneider, Jimmy Susi, Victor Mineo. Not pictured: James Casey, Coach Dennis Richey*



## Varsity Girls Basketball

*Front row: Bella Ibrahim, Lillie Burns, Alyssa Worley, Abbi Cullen, Olivia Cutler. Back row: Asst. Coach Emily Kreidler, Jessye VandenAkker, Makenzie Gorman, Ella VanTol, Karleeuurma, Anna May, Nicole Ramos, Coach Kris VandenAkker*



## JV Girls Basketball

*Front row: Meadow O'Connell, Tory Fredericks, Lexi Foster, Kate Crowley, Emily Dill. Back row: Doris Du, Sophia Dill, Ally Weedon, Anela Esler, Margaret Johnson, Abby Shimko. Not pictured: Coach Bruce Dykstra*



## Varsity Girls Soccer

L to R: Karlee Buurma, Olivia Toothman, Makenzie Gorman, Eliza Dowling, Ashley Schofield, Alyssa Worley, Olivia Cutler, Hannah Pollitt, Margaret Johnson, Tess Belanger, Ally McGrath, Abbi Cullen, Callie VandenAkker, Katie Sprunger, Meadow O'Connell, Becky Dowling, Meghan DeGregorio, Cece LaBonte, Vicky DeBarros, Jill LaBonte, Bella Ibrahim, Nicole Ramos, Jessye VandenAkker, Ella VanTol. Not pictured: Coach Beth Cutler, Asst. Coach Rocky VanTol



## JV Girls Soccer

Front row: Katie Godin, Amanda Cinelli, Marley Koopman, Kate Crowley, Hannah Lashley, Bella Silveira. Back row: Ella Kozloff, Lauren Stanick, Hannah Walton, Chloe Richey, Ava Ibrahim, Camdyn Forget, Coach Mike Persenaire. Not pictured: Sophie Perkins, Giana Salvi, Ludmilla Silveira, Lilly Wierenga, Emma Wierenga



## Varsity Boys Soccer

Front row: Kole Wyndham, Bobby Gaudette, Connor Dudka, Andrew Harvey, Robert Foley, Seth Massotti, Noah Massotti, Nathan Walton, Coach Bryan Johnson, Coach Greg Massotti. Back row: Asst. Erik DeGregorio, Nathan Meininger, Dan Paharik, Dylan Ramos, Darnell Worley, Nate DeGregorio, Ben Johnson, Jeff Curtis, Ethan MacGillivray, Jimmy Susi, Sam Chilton. Not pictured: Michael MacGillivray, Asst. Coach Mike McGrath



## JV Boys Soccer

Front row: Josh Monteiro, Declan Mitchell, Corbin Swaim, Sean McGrath, Caleb Deters, Michael Vardis, Peter Cloutier, Logan O'Connell, Dillin McAlister. Back row: Elijah Tetreault, Cam Desmarais, Charles Palmatier, Brian Sun, Zach Casey, Maitlan Abongwa, Noah Robertson, Matt Godin, Brandon Ramos, Coach Mike McAlister. Not pictured: Micah Deters, Ian MacGinnis, Joseph Tatulli





## Cross Country

Front row: Jack Crowley, Allison Cinelli, Lexi Foster, Sophia Dill, Fiona Donnelly, Lillie Burns, Hadley Koeman, Kira Simoncini, Emily Dill, Molly Lashley, Michael Allocca. Back row: Luke Hatton, Alex Kerr, Jack Hearn, Ben Pielt, A.J. Gorman, Joseph Thumann, Ben Linton, Dylan Anema, Brandon Whiton, Anthony Gilbert, Riley Plourde, James Casey, Peter McHugh, Coach Chris Vander Baan, Asst. Coach Peter McHugh. Not pictured: Alli Anema



## Varsity Volleyball

L to R: Lois Powers, Ella Rejmer, Hope Brookhouse, Lucy Bowler, Ally Fogg, Coach Kris VandenAkker, Fiona Shaw, Anna May, Karen Bekhet, Olivia Fleming, Maggie Rejmer



## JV Volleyball

L to R: Coach Tahnee Kuder, Juliana Buchanan, Quimlan Rice, Jocelyn Hackathorn, Abigail Goodell, Siena Mueller, Maggie Redding, Kelsey McCormick, Joanna Graves, Maria Fletcher, Emma Johnson, Annika Holm, Caroline Bolduc, Ally Weedon, Hannah Rejmer. Not pictured: Emily Burkhart, Adeline Cherrier



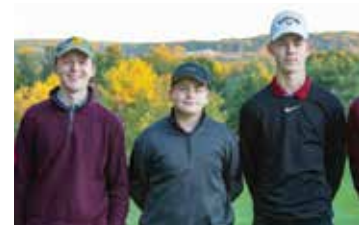
## Co-op Hockey

Will Pielt and Cam Gibbons



## Co-op Wrestling

Daniel Bourguignon, Noah Tetreault, Luke Hatton



## Co-op Golf

Luke LaBonte, Hayden Maynard, Will Pielt

# Dual Valley Conference All-Stars

### FALL SPORTS

#### Volleyball

1st Team – Hope Brookhouse, Fiona Shaw

#### Girls Cross Country

Runner of the Year – Molly Lashley  
1st Team – Fiona Donnelly, Molly Lashley  
2nd Team – Lillie Burns, Allison Cinelli, Sophia Dill, Lexi Foster, Hadley Koeman

#### Boys Cross Country

Runner of the Year – Joseph Thumann  
1st Team – A.J. Gorman, Jack Hearn, Joseph Thumann

2nd Team – Jack Crowley, Ben Pielt

#### Girls Soccer

1st Team – Ella VanTol  
2nd Team – Olivia Cutler, Jessye VandeAkker

#### Boys Soccer

1st Team – Seth Massotti  
2nd Team – Andrew Harvey, Ben Johnson, Darnell Worley

### WINTER SPORTS

#### Girls Basketball

1st Team – Makenzie Gorman  
2nd Team – Anna May

#### Boys Basketball

Player of the Year – Justin VanderBaan  
1st Team – Justin VanderBaan

#### Girls Indoor Track & Field

Overall Athlete of the Year – Cece LaBonte  
Field Events Athlete of the Year – Karen Bekhet  
1st Team – Karen Bekhet (shot put), Vicky DeBarros (4x200 relay), Cece LaBonte (50-yd hurdles and 4x200 relay), Jill LaBonte (4x200 relay), Kira Simoncini (4x200 relay)  
2nd Team – Cece LaBonte (High Jump), Hadley Koeman (mile)

#### Boys Indoor Track & Field

1st Team – Jeff Curtis (50-yd dash, 4x200 relay), Alex Kerr (600m, 4x200 relay), Michael MacGillivray (300m, 4x200 relay), Joseph Thumann (mile, 4x200 relay)  
2nd Team – Darnell Worley (300m)

#### Hockey

Russell Conference – Cam Gibbons

### Highlights

Girls Cross Country DVC Champs  
Middle School Girls Cross Country DVC Champs  
3rd year in a row Volleyball DVC Champs

# Friends We'll Miss

## Richard Vandenberg



Richard Vandenberg  
High School History Teacher

**D**ick Vandenberg is a map drawer. In the days before Google maps, Dick would quickly sketch out a road map to one's desired destination with labeled road names, proper orientation, and accurate scale. Whitinsville Christian's beloved history teacher has a deep knowledge of and respect for the past, a desire to shape students in the present, and faith for the future.

After forty-one years of teaching History at WCS, Dick has retired this summer. He has famously stood behind his wooden lectern, sharing his knowledge, passion, and enthusiasm for World

"Dick, could you tell me how to get to the Riverside T Station?"

"Sure, do you have a piece of paper or a napkin and a pen?"

and U.S. History. Mr. Vandenberg brought the history books to life, preparing his students by assigning challenging history texts and writing assignments.

Dick grew up in Fremont, MI, one of five children of a physician and a home-maker. He graduated from Calvin College. After college he wanted to travel and see the world so he accepted a teaching assignment at the Palauan Islands of Micronesia where he taught for two years. He came to Whitinsville Christian in 1979 when the school added tenth grade to begin growing the new high school. He would meet

### Sam Meade ('06)

Mr. Berg, anytime I have a long-winded student who has not reached their intended point, I ask them, "Are we ready to land the plane yet?" You always had the best one liners. Congratulations on finishing a wonderful teaching career at WCS. God Bless!

### Colleen (Youngsma) Chenail ('93)

Thank you for developing our critical thinking about current events. Enjoy your retirement!

Berg enjoyed taking student groups on the road to places steeped in rich history, such as Boston and New York City, where he served as a tour guide and subject matter expert who brought their history lessons to life on the very soil where historic events took shape. When it came to his Boston trips, for many students this was their first time navigating the MBTA subway transportation system by themselves. He enjoyed seeing students learn how to get around, building their confidence as they explored the city. These journeys into Boston and New York City have been a highlight for many WCS students who recall these events with fond memories.

Dick has contributed so much to our school community. For years he has donned his reflector vest and gloves to safely guide traffic out of the school park-

### Kim Priore ('95)

I'll always be grateful for the experiences in Mr. Berg's classroom that encouraged me to be a thoughtful, informed citizen of the world and a critical thinker.

### Jessica (Nydam) Mahler ('95)

Mr. Berg is hands down the BEST teacher I have ever had. I have many fond memories of his jokes and funny phrases in the classroom, some of which I still like to use! Best wishes on a well-deserved retirement!

and later marry Miss Dorothy Helder, a fifth-grade teacher, in July 1982. He has been a Douglas resident for many years and has served on various town boards and faithfully served his local church as a frequent member of its leadership council.

In addition to teaching students about history in the classroom, Mr. Vandenberg

### Erin (Trimble) Olkowski ('93)

Mr. Berg prepared us so well for college and helped develop our critical thinking skills. He was a great teacher! Enjoy your retirement!



ing lot each afternoon, rain or shine. He has served as yearbook coordinator and class advisor. He even coached basketball in his early years! A highlight of his teaching career was to be part of the tremendous growth of Whitinsville Christian School, seeing the staff grow from fourteen members to over seventy today.

We wish him the very best as he retires from teaching, knowing that God has a great map drawn out for his future. We hope to gather together to honor Mr. Vandenberg at an Open House in early August.

*Adapted from an article written by Laurie Vander Baan*

**Carla (Exoo) Van Eck ('06)**

I think we need to frame the Friday tie and display it in a trophy case! Blessing to you, Mr. Berg!

**Brooke (Michaelson) Melia ('00)**

You are definitely one of the great ones, history is one of my favorite things thanks to you. Congratulations on a great career and best of luck to the future... And yes, Douglas indeed has indoor plumbing.

**Rose Thayer ('18)**

So glad to have had you as a teacher, Mr. Berg! You always made learning fun with your stories about your travels, interesting movies, and random clips. You really taught me how to appreciate the history in the places you go and I know that will stick with me for the rest of my life. I look at history in a deeper sense now because of your focus on looking at history in different lenses and I want to thank you for that.

**More Friends We'll Miss**



Linda Barnes  
Elementary Art Teacher



Sam Cook  
Middle School SAS



Nicole DeVries  
Middle School Spanish Teacher



Amy Hall  
Kindergarten Teacher



Karyn Pagkanlughan  
Third Grade Teacher



Janine Panechell  
First Grade Teacher

**ALUMNI UPDATES**

**CONGRATULATIONS**



**Jeffrey Bloem ('09)** received his PhD in Applied Economics last month from the University of Minnesota.



**Grace May ('16)** recently graduated from Liberty University and has been accepted into graduate school

for the fall (at Liberty) to pursue a Master's in Criminal Justice.

**NEW ARRIVALS**



**Corah (Dahl) Hannaford ('06)** and her husband, Kenneth, welcomed a baby boy, Joseph, in October of last year.



**Spencer Gorman ('16) and Kate Killoy ('15)** got engaged this summer.



**Emma-Claire Vanderslice ('19)** has received an artistic scholarship to Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, DC. This is an internationally acclaimed school and the sister school to a school in Russia which

is considered one of the best in the world.



**Matt ('02)** and Laura Skudera welcomed a son, Brady, in April! Brady has two big sisters, Lucy and Molly.

**CONDOLENCES**

**Beatrice (Betty Vriesema) Nydam ('36)** passed away in March. She was WCS's oldest living alumnus. Betty was a longtime member and volunteer at the Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville.

**Richard H. Vander Brug ('46)** passed away in April. Richard was a former deacon and church elder at the Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church and was a board member for the Whitinsville Christian School.  
**Sarah (Hanscom) VanDoorne ('87)** passed away in April. Sarah was a resident of Michigan at the time of her passing.

We also offer our congratulations to all WCS alumni who graduated from college this spring!



## WHITINSVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **Virtual Celebration of Lance Engbers**

**Tuesday, September 8**

Information regarding this online celebration will be made available to our community!



### **Annual Golf Outing**

**Monday, October 12**

(rescheduled from June 2020)

Blackstone National Golf  
Course