

# The Crusader Chronicle



WHITINSVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



## FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Rick Lukianuk, J.D.



### **“Follow Me”** said Jesus. How simple a concept, right? Jesus points to where we are to go and tells us how to get there.

We then follow His instructions and live a holy, humble, and perfect life, blessing all of those around us each day. Although I am still ironing out a few minor kinks, I’m sure you all have it down.

If we are honest, I’m sure we are all ironing out a few minor kinks. At the beginning of each school year, our students are asked to follow various instructions. As I watched our youngest students begin their year, it didn’t seem like everyone inherently owned such a basic skill set. Yet, as the months passed and I walked into the building every Monday after my traffic duty, I saw a significant change in students’ abilities to follow instructions. In fact, I watched students begin to follow a beginning-of-day routine with-

out specific instructions from a teacher. By the end of the year, students even objected if the routine was not being followed. I overheard one student tell another that a substitute was obviously not aware of the proper morning routine and would need some help from them to get through the day.

“How do we take our next steps in our journey with Jesus?”

The same scenario played out throughout our school. As our students grow older, some choose not to follow instructions, not because they lack the knowledge, but because they choose to trust their own way, and not the “Follow Me” words of Jesus. We all fall away from this path at one time or another.

As each of our students learned new directions and acquired more advanced knowledge in each subject this year, they were also given instructions on how to take their next steps in their journey with Jesus by teachers

and staff still on the road, but just a bit ahead. If you were able to attend any of the year-end concerts, athletic events, awards evenings, or graduation, I am certain you saw the culmination of the academic, spiritual, personal, social, physical, and artistic development our Mission Statement outlines. The journey following Jesus this year has been challenging and rewarding.

Based on what has been accomplished through Him this year at WCS, we know our mission is important, and we look forward to returning to do it all again next year.



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Comments, content suggestions and address updates should be directed to:

Advancement Office  
Whitinsville Christian School  
279 Linwood Avenue  
Whitinsville, MA 01588

**HEAD OF SCHOOL**  
Rick Lukianuk

**DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT**  
Jennifer Talamini

**DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT**  
Miranda Osterman

**HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**  
Chris Vander Baan

**MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**  
Mary Dykstra

**ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL**  
Sarah Bowler

**PUBLICATION EDITOR**  
Laural Plourde

**LAYOUT AND DESIGN**  
Dionne Katinas

**PRINTING**  
Kemp Publishing Inc.

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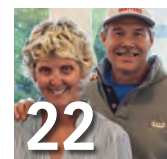
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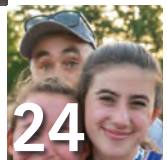
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Commencement ceremonies were held on June 3, in the Nehemiah Center Gymnasium at Whitinsville Christian School. Family, friends, and faculty gathered to celebrate the 48 members of the Class of 2022.

Class advisers, Shelly Cullen and Matt Genese, offered fond memories and funny moments as each student crossed the stage to receive a diploma. Kris VandenAkker, retiring PE/Health teacher, coach, Bible study leader, and so much more, offered the opening prayer and Rebecca (Becky) Dowling and Daniel Bourguignon shared words of encouragement and congratulations to their fellow graduates as valedictorian and salutatorian. Dick VandenBerg, retired WCS faculty member, gave the commencement address. Always the history teacher, “Berg” spoke to the graduates about the adventures of Lewis and Clark. He related their journey to the road ahead for the Class of

2022. Our newest alumni do not know what is ahead, but they have prepared for the mission. There will be people that God brings into their lives as guides. He reminded the students that they are on the most important kind of mission – a mission for the Lord. The tools they will carry along the way are not maps or compasses, but love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the tools for the

mission of a servant, and the Lord will be with them every step of the journey.



As part of the commencement ceremonies, the Distinguished Alumni Award was given to **Willard Banning (Class of 1947)** and posthumously to **Helen (Koopman) Banning (Class of 1948)**. The award was presented by Jennifer Talamini, Director of Advancement, who shared the reasons for this honor in the language of the nomination. “The Bannings epitomize everything we want to celebrate with this award. They are the picture of a Christian



*Karen Exoo with Global Seal of Biliteracy recipients Meghan DeGregorio, Nicole Moraes Ramos, Dimitar Milev, and Daniel Bourguignon*

marriage, a couple who made a lifelong commitment to each other and kept that vow. They raised four beautiful daughters who then blessed them with many wonderful grandchildren, two of whom are graduating this year from Whitinsville Christian School. They have been lifelong members at Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church. More than their commitment to each other and their family, they have a deep love for the Lord. Seeds that were planted here at WCS many years ago have been tended to, watered and blossomed. And much like their family business, they are an example of cultivating seeds into beautiful, blossoming flowers in their own life. Lastly, they are valiant supporters of Christian education. They have logged hundreds of hours giving, serving, and attending a variety of events over the years. They are from a generation that we will likely never see again.”



*Not pictured in the class photo above: Wiktoria Borucka and Molly Lashley*



# High School Awards



*Becky Dowling, Valedictorian*



*Daniel Bourguignon, Salutatorian*



*Dick VandenBerg delivers the commencement address*



*Willard Banning accepts the Distinguished Alumni Award*

## Strong Academic Endeavor Awards

Grade 12: Cam Gibbons  
Grade 11: Jonah Duncan  
Grade 10: Abby Wozniak  
Grade 9: George Foint

## Academic Subject Awards

Art - Ella Rejmer  
Band (John Philip Sousa National Band Award) - Meghan DeGregorio  
Bible - Callie VandenAkker  
Business - Kayla Hannon  
Choir (National School Choral Award) - Wiktorja Borucka  
Drama - Daniel Bourguignon  
English - Kayla Hannon  
History - David Randall  
Math - Becky Dowling  
Musicianship (Quincy Jones Award) - Abbi Cullen  
Orchestra - Gabriella Ferraz  
Science (Biological) - Jill LaBonte  
Science (Physical) - Dimitar Milev  
Science - Abbi Cullen  
Spanish - Daniel Bourguignon  
Technology - Hannah Dodge and Ethan Smith

## Administered Awards and Scholarships

Mass Secondary School Administrators - Abby Goodell  
Global Seal of Biliteracy - Meghan DeGregorio, Daniel Bourguignon, Nicole Moraes Ramos, and Dimitar Milev  
RPI Medal Program Award - Emily Dill  
Senior Athlete Female - Molly Lashley  
Senior Athlete Male - Dan Paharik  
Brandeis Book Award - Trinity Ezedi  
Harvard Book Award - Emily Dill  
Smith Book Award - Alli Anema  
Suffolk University Book Award - Allison Cinelli  
Carson Scholar Award - Trinity Ezedi  
Heisman High School Scholarship - Cam Gibbons  
Mathematics Competition Awards - Justin Vos, Meghan DeGregorio, and Ashley Jeong

## Annual Local and Memorial Scholarships

Blackstone Valley Rotary Club - Parker Carlin  
DAR Good Citizens Award - Juliana Buchanan  
Garry and Annette Keessen Scholarship - Fiona Donnelly  
Jim and Jean Nydam Memorial Scholarship - Meadow O'Connell  
Roland and Sandra Vander Baan Scholarship - Ava Ibrahim  
Milford Federal Scholarship - Becky Dowling  
UniBank Scholarship - Lauren Foellmer  
Fredericks Family Award, Perseverance and Personal Success - Joseph French  
Sadie DeYoung Memorial Scholarship - Callie VandenAkker  
Thelma DeYoung Memorial Award for Excellence - Grace Hart  
Arthur A. Wiersma Memorial Scholarship - Lisa Rockwood  
Eric J. Cook Memorial Scholarship - Vinny Gilbert  
George J. VandenAkker Memorial Scholarship - Abby Goodell  
Kimberly Hannon Memorial Scholarship - Abbi Cullen  
Najem Family Scholarship - Kayla Hannon  
Wendy Groot STEM Scholarship - Daniel Bourguignon

**Founders Award** (Graduates who have attended WCS since Kindergarten): Hope Brookhouse, James Casey, Abbi Cullen, Cam Gibbons, Sarah Guertin, Kayla Hannon, Riley Plourde, and Callie VandenAkker

## Outstanding Senior Award

Cece LaBonte

**Congratulations to the students who received a Presidential Academic Award, and to each student who participated in our many clubs, service groups, and student organizations. We are thankful for your gifts and your talents!**



## LOOKING AHEAD

Joe Aubut  
Wiktorja Borucka  
Daniel Bourguignon  
Hope Brookhouse  
Juliana Buchanan  
Parker Carlin  
James Casey  
Abbi Cullen  
Meghan DeGregorio  
Hannah Dodge  
Jenna Dolan  
Becky Dowling  
Eliza Dowling  
Gabiella Ferraz  
Lauren Foellmer  
Robert Gaudette  
Cam Gibbons  
Vincent Gilbert  
Abby Goodell  
Sarah Guertin  
Kayla Hannon  
Luke Hatton  
Annika Holm  
Christian Holm

University of New Hampshire  
Poznan University of Technology  
Cedarville University  
Pepperdine University  
Assumption University  
Florida State University  
Texas Tech University  
Liberty University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Undecided  
Loyola University New Orleans  
Sacred Heart University  
Lipscomb University  
Gap year  
Sacred Heart University  
Stonehill College  
Junior Hockey  
Porter and Chester Institute  
Lipscomb University  
Community College Rhode Island  
Babson College  
Gap year  
Southeastern University  
Pursue a vocation

Wenxun (Jason) Jiang  
Emma Johnson  
Cece LaBonte  
Jill LaBonte  
Molly Lashley  
Ben Linton  
Ian MacGinnis  
Dimitar Milev  
Nicole Moraes Ramos  
Victoria Njoroge  
Dan Paharik  
Stevie Paquette  
Will Piatt  
Riley Plourde  
Lois Powers  
Lisa Rockwood  
David Randall  
Ella Rejmer  
Ben Schneider  
Ethan Smith  
Jonathan Sullivan  
James Susi  
Callie VandenAkker  
Kole Wyndham

Return home to China  
UMass Amherst  
Ithaca College  
Springfield College  
University of Delaware  
University of Connecticut  
Lipscomb University  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
UMass Amherst  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Springfield College  
Johnson & Wales  
High Point University  
Champlain College  
Gap semester  
Framingham State University  
Hope College  
Endicott College  
Roger Williams University  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Undecided  
Roger Williams University  
Dordt University  
University of Alabama





# Legacy Families

We are honored by our families who choose to continue the legacy of a Christian education at WCS.



Hope Brookhouse with mother, Denise (Koopman) Brookhouse (Class of 1987), and grandfather, Don Koopman (Class of 1950)



Robert Gaudette with father, Lee Gaudette (Class of 1984)



Cam Gibbons with grandmother, Sandy (Youngsma) Wynja (Class of 1962) and Ruth (Wynja) Gibbons (Class of 1991). Ruth is holding a photo of Jeanette (Oosterman) Youngsma (Class of 1933).



Kayla Hannon with father, T.J. Hannon (Class of 1997)



Christian and Annika Holm with mother, Kay (Banning) Holm (Class of 1983), and grandfather, Willard Banning (Class of 1947). Willard is holding a photo of Helen (Koopman) Banning (Class of 1948).



James Casey with father, Scott Casey (Class of 1992)



Emma Johnson with mother, Kelly (Young) Johnson (Class of 1991) and father, Tim Johnson (Class of 1993)



Ben Schneider with mother, Karyn (Baker) Schneider (Class of 1986)



Callie VandenAkker with grandmother, Joanne (LaFleur) VandenAkker (Class of 1950), and father, Greg VandenAkker (Class of 1984)



# Followers of Christ

Miranda Osterman, Director of Enrollment

**“Follow me.” How many times did I utter these words as an elementary teacher? And now, as Director of Enrollment, I use them as I give tours to prospective families and students. “Follow me!”**



*Reading Buddies*

We have spent the last year focusing on what Jesus meant when He said these words. In Luke 9:23, Jesus lets us know, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” But how do we make sure that we are developing leaders, who are also followers - followers of Jesus?

I love that our school offers so many opportunities for students to be servant leaders: reading buddies, volunteer projects, athletic team captains, and student government, just to name a few.

Many of these opportunities allow older students to lead younger students, and set an example of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

God knows that we need each other. He puts people in our lives as a faith community to live as examples for each other. The faculty, administrators, and staff at WCS pour so much into each student. What a blessing to see this every day, and to be able to show visiting families what our community looks like - older students leading younger students, students of all ages leading chapels, and our students and teachers out in the com-

munity volunteering so many hours of service.

The end of our mission statement states we are preparing students for Christ-like service in God’s world. These words are so meaningful, especially at graduation. Watching these young adults, ready for their next adventure, supported by a community of faith. They are ready to be leaders, servant-leaders, and followers of Jesus. Thank you to the entire WCS community for pouring love into our students, so they are ready to follow Jesus for life beyond WCS.



*Water is Life Collection*



*High School Service Day*



*Middle School at Community Harvest*



*Middle School Service Projects*



# Following Him Through Servant Leadership

Lee Gaudette (Class of 1984), President & Chair of the Board of Trustees

**J**esus tells us many times in the gospels to “Follow Me,” and that is certainly what all of the WCS volunteers, administrators, faculty, and staff strive for each and every day. A few years ago, we adopted the WCS tagline: Inspiring Minds, Igniting Hearts. These four words really pack in a powerful message.

Obviously, a school must be focused on developing the minds of our students, but inspiring or inspiration is the key modifier. Inspiration may be defined as a spiritual influence that makes a person capable of acting in ways that transcends ordinary human capacities, sometimes referred to as divine inspiration. We are talking about an inspiration that truly causes a person to “Follow Me.”

Next is Igniting Hearts, which I think of as an explosion of passion or lighting the eternal flame of enduring love for God. This is not a slow, gradual process where we eventually become aware of our love, but instead the lighting of a fuse that ignites a true passion to serve the Lord. Such passion makes it easy to “Follow Me.”

**“...THE LIGHTING  
OF A FUSE  
THAT IGNITES A  
TRUE PASSION  
TO SERVE THE  
LORD.”**

There are a variety of ways to describe this, but my favorite formulation is the Servant Leader. There are many books and articles written about servant leadership which boil down to a desire to lead by serving others for the glory of God, not for individual accolades. Servant leaders possess the following qualities: integrity, humility, flexibility, resilience, and stewardship.

Despite lapses and failings, I am determined to embrace this style of leadership. It suits each significant facet of my life as a Christian, a husband and father, the leader of our family business, and a serial volunteer leader. I know even though the taglines were not articulated at the time, Whitinsville Christian School inspired my mind and ignited my heart as an elementary school student in the 1970s.

Our opening prayers at meetings often ask God to help us discern His will as we deliberate how best to implement it in our decision-making. This is another way to describe heeding Jesus’ instruction to “Follow Me.”

Every member of the WCS community has an opportunity to lead by serving others, and follow Jesus as we bring forward the next generation of Christian soldiers.

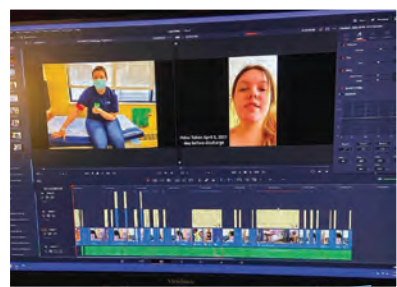


**INSPIRING  
MINDS,  
IGNITING  
HEARTS**



# Senior Capstone Projects

Senior Capstone Projects are a way of allowing our students to follow a calling, expand their knowledge, and express themselves in a unique way. This year's Capstones ranged from the highly technical, to the meeting of basic human needs. Valuable life-lessons are learned by each student, not only the basics of organization skills and time management, but also adaptability, self-motivation, and stepping out of one's comfort zone. Congratulations to the seven students who completed projects this year.



**Lisa Rockwood**

Lisa has had an incredibly unique high school tenure. She bravely and successfully battled cancer – during a pandemic. Lisa wanted to share her journey with others by producing a documentary. Lisa has enjoyed filmmaking for years and felt this project would be the perfect way to tell her story, in hopes it would encourage and inspire others. She shared her very personal feelings about receiving the diagnosis and about her treatments. During her project, she received the great news that she is cancer-free!

**Kole Wyndham**

Kole is a talented athlete and has played soccer for most of his life. Kole's mother works with students with special needs and over the years, Kole has developed a special friendship with one of her students, Thomas. After much planning and permitting, Kole hosted a soccer skills camp at WCS for

**Abby Goodell**

Abby has a servant's heart and looks for ways to help others. After last summer's events in Afghanistan led to a refugee crisis, Abby looked for ways to get involved. This desire to help others evolved into a Capstone Project. Abby held donation drives for basic essentials, hosted prayer events, and connected with refugees through WARM (Worcester's Welcoming Alliance for Refugee Ministry). During her project, the country of Ukraine was attacked, prompting another refugee crisis. Abby quickly included the Ukrainian refugees in her awareness and prayer campaigns.



students with special needs. He developed skill drills and other fun games to keep the kids active, and give them a chance to be soccer superstars. While the weather moved his event indoors, it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the volunteers, participants, or their grateful parents.







**Ethan Smith**



Ethan enjoys superhero and action stories, and has been developing one particular story idea since middle school that explores power dynamics and conscience. Knowing a full length movie was not practical in the timeframe of a Capstone Project, Ethan chose to create a movie trailer for a 3D animated movie. When asked about the challenges of his project, Ethan shared that it is incredibly difficult to replicate elements of the real world, such as a tree, giving credit to the “complex mark of the Creator.”



**Parker Carlin**

Parker is a gifted artist. An experienced painter, she was looking for a project to stretch her abilities.

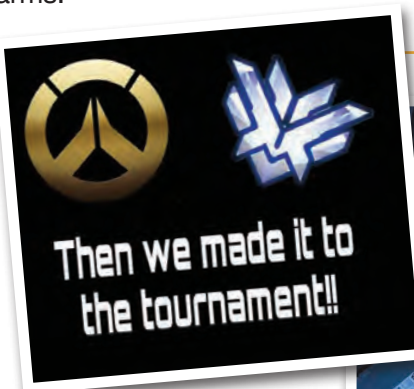
Working with a theme of “the saving grace of God,” Parker needed a home for a mural, and Mr. Freitas’s room became the perfect location. She credits her artistic mentors, especially WCS art teacher, Cydney Crossen, with pushing her in the development of her theme and in her painting techniques. WCS is blessed to have this mural on our campus, allowing many future students to see this exploration of a relationship with God.



**Joseph Aubut**



Joe has been a member of the Robonauts, the WCS Robotics team, throughout high school. He wanted to share his passion for robotics with younger students, and inspire a new generation of Robonauts. Joe teamed up with the after-school enrichment program to lead two sessions of beginner robotics with elementary students. Everyone learned the valuable lesson of perseverance when assembling their robotic arms.



**Hannah Dodge**



Hannah is a “gamer” and was a valuable member of her previous school’s e-sports team. For her Capstone Project, Hannah assembled WCS’s first e-sports team. In a project that may look like fun and games, Hannah learned the important lessons of delegation and skill recognition. With the help of one of the more experienced team members, all teammates were trained on the PC version of their game, and quickly adapted to their role on the team. The season proved to be a learning experience, with their first win coming at the end of the season.





# The Soul Hasn't Changed

A conversation with Kirsten (Heacock) Sanders (Class of 2001)

After graduating from WCS, Kirsten studied Theology at Gordon College, and later received a Master of Theological Studies from Duke Divinity, and her Ph.D. from Emory University. After spending some time teaching at Gordon-Conwell, she has entered what one could call “private practice.”

## What has your journey looked like since graduating from Emory?

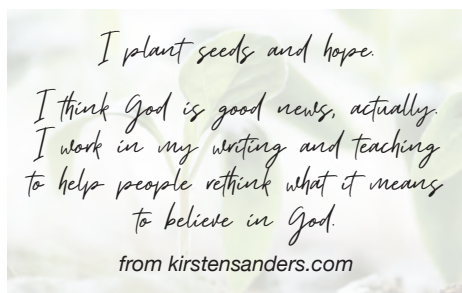
As a trained theologian, I thought I would teach Theology in higher education or at a seminary. Unfortunately, at that time the job markets were drying up in both higher ed and theology. What has happened is that I realized I most enjoy communicating with people in their everyday lives about God, spirituality, and faith. I'm discovering what people need to hear and how to best reach them. I've been writing and have articles appearing in publications such as *Christianity Today*. I've also transitioned to my own theology initiative, leading more informal courses for people who aren't necessarily up for seminary education, in a space where they can think about God. This fall I'll be leading a cohort through 20 hours of in-person instruction followed by a weekend retreat. We'll be working through Theological Anthropology – what it means to be a person. This will inform people in theology and community with the goals of learning and deepening trust.

## What do you see people struggling with?

People have deep questions, especially young adults. It's difficult to find a safe space to ask the questions, and even more difficult to get the answers. Young adults are questioning institutions, and the culture of church hasn't caught up with them. They're asking why they should even attend church, in addition to questions of faith. But the soul hasn't changed.

People still have spiritual needs and these needs aren't being met. There is a deep desire to be known.

I also find that people often think they are the first ones to have these deep questions. They end up leaving the church, lashing out, or forming community with people who are similarly upset or anxious. I want to help others understand that people have been asking these questions for centuries. When someone has doubts, it feels like stepping out onto ice, and



you aren't sure if the ice will hold you. We trained theologians can assure you it will hold. I compare us to rescue divers. We're a niche field, but when you need us, we're very helpful!

## What has the pandemic shown you about the importance of community?

We saw how much we needed community, but it also made it hard to come back. It's like a muscle that atrophied, and some have found it very difficult to return. To help build community, I al-

ways have my groups sing. It's an old Christian practice, it's something you have to do together, it's vulnerable, and you become one body. If you think about it, singing is one of the things we lost first. For me it became a metaphor for other things that might be lost if we don't work to retrieve them in ways people can understand culturally.

## How did your time at WCS prepare you for your life today?

I loved literature and history classes with Mr. (Jerry) VanTol and Mr. (Dick) Vanden Berg. I've always loved old stories. WCS gave us rich curriculum in science, literature, and history, integrated with Christian values. Theology is a great place for asking big questions and giving stories meaning in a greater context. WCS helped me to be confident enough to ask those questions – big questions about the soul.

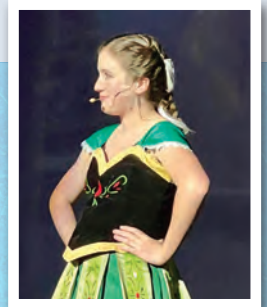
**Thank you, Kirsten!**





# KidZ Under construction

In this biennial event, the entire elementary school student body comes together to offer a musical production. This year, students sang and acted their way through *KidZ Under Construction*. Congratulations to all for a high-energy, entertaining performance! Thank you to Ms. Shannon May and Mrs. Laurie Baker for making this aspect of our elementary music curriculum so much fun!



# FROZEN

*Liz LaRosa, Middle School Drama Club Director*

*Frozen* is such a well-known and loved movie and body of work that I was cautiously optimistic when beginning the process of auditions. Being only my second production with WCMS, I was pleasantly surprised, and even taken aback by the level of talent and caliber of the cast and crew we were able to compile. *Frozen* is about true love and acceptance between sisters and friends. I believe we saw that unfold among our cast and crew as we worked on the show. Between the music, the dancing, greeting the elementary kids as they left at pick-up two days, and the two shows packed with young children excited to take pictures with their favorite characters, we all experienced something magical with this production. These middle schoolers put on a show with more talent and hard work than is typical of their age. I am grateful to God for the talents and abilities He gifted to these kids, and for the opportunity to witness the joy on all of their faces, seeing their hard work pay off, using those gifts for His glory on that stage!







# Newsies of New York

"Newsies of New York....look what we've done! We've got newsies from every paper and every neighborhood here tonight. Tonight you're making history." (Davey from Disney's *Newsies*)

History was made by the Newsies of New York City in 1899. It was the first time kids went on strike and won. The Newsies of New York City eventually worked with the big newspaper tycoons and came to a compromise on wages and working conditions, officially declaring a "win" for the Newsies.

realized that we are a result of their (and others') work. Our 2022 students are not working in sweatshops, nor selling newspapers to put food on the table. Most, if they have jobs, work to earn money for college, or for a car, or for some extra spending money. For others, school is their primary job and they



As we discussed this event over and over as a cast, we







than they ever knew before, and we had a blast doing it. We work as one body, the body of Christ. Costumes, sets, lights and sound, actors, dancers, cameos, directors...we are one body. We are learning about history. We are kids, telling a story of the kids who came before us, and theirs is a story worth telling.

We hope our audiences enjoyed *Newsies* as much as we enjoyed performing the show. We hope the story of the *Newsies* encourages you to take a moment to think about the opportunities

don't hold a part time job. They have this opportunity because of previous kids, like the *Newsies* of New York.

This show was a joy to work on from day one. Every student worked hard, learned more dance steps

you have, thanks to someone who came before you.

*Soli Deo Gloria,*  
*Mary Dykstra, High School Drama Director*





# FAITH, LOVE, & SUPPORT IN BLOOM

## for Christian Education at WCS



Jennifer Talamini, Director of Advancement

**A**s I wrap up my first year as Director of Advancement, my heart is so full. I have been blessed to learn the history and culture of our school, meet with incredible supporters and donors, and connect with many alumni and learned of their successes from their time as Crusaders. And through various opportunities such as morning traffic duty, 8th grade small group, and assisting with HS DECA, I have come to love and want the best for all these students, just like my own.

I have learned the ropes and traditions with many of our fundraising events and been so proud to see everyone come together to bless us and ensure we have the opportunity to continue to grow and thrive as a school. Through the efforts of our annual events (*Giving Day, WCS Fund campaign, Dutch Apple Pies, Spring Auction, and Golf Outing*) we raised a combined total of nearly \$400k! Behind this amount is not only a tremendous team of staff and volunteers, but families, alumni, small businesses, and people who have two things in common; a deep love for the Lord and supporting Christian education here at WCS.

For 94 years, WCS has cultivated a community of students with the goal of going out into the world to do amazing things that glorify our Lord. Over the past ten months I have had the incredible opportunity to meet or learn about some of our alumni who have done just that in a big way! A few of these alumni include: **Jessie Hendersen (Class of 1999)** who is now a Hollywood producer with credits that include *Ghostbusters 2*, **Braden Spear (Class of 2009)** who is a New York actor, **Ryan Mascilak (Class of 2008)** who is a gifted musician in California and blessed us with a visit this past fall to share his musical talents with our students and families, and **Katiegrace (Youngsma) Dudley (Class of 2005)** – the first person in the USA to earn a doctorate in robotics!

Throughout this last year I have been blessed to learn how tradition and loyalty are the fibers that run through all we do as a school. WCS was founded on faith and built with love. Those concepts remain just as true today as we welcome new families, represent many churches, and all work together to glorify the Lord in all we do as a community as it did when our beloved school sat proudly on Willow Street.

On June 9, I had the privilege of presenting the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award at our graduation ceremony. This process occurs behind the scenes for several months with careful and prayerful consideration for each nomination. The nominees are alumni of our school who have distinguished themselves in their business, profession or vocation, and through their actions have demonstrated concern and services to their community and to God. They foster an ongoing involvement and support of WCS and have an ongoing commitment to honoring God in all they do.

One of the families that is the true portrait of the love, faith, and loyalty that make our school shine are the Bannings. Willard, and the late Helen, Banning graduated from Whitinsville Christian School in the 1940s.



*Helen's class photo. She is seated second from the right.*





Willard's class photo. He is seated second from the left.



Willard holding a photo of  
**Helen (Koopman) Banning**  
(Class of 1948)

From there their romance blossomed and they built a life together loving the Lord, supporting each other and their family, and promoting Christian education throughout the Blackstone Valley. Their selfless examples of living in a Godly way has become the foundation for the way their four daughters and their grandchildren live as well. They are just one example of the way Whitinsville Christian School cultivates a community of followers of Christ who strive to share the Word, and are committed to being good and faith-

ful stewards in order to preserve and promote the longevity of our school for generations to come.

It is my prayer and goal in this upcoming year that we will continue to work together for the good of our school, to celebrate and share the amazing successes of our alumni, continue to raise funds to keep our school thriving and fostering the growth of these young Christian-learners, and continue to promote Christian education in the Blackstone Valley and beyond.

## ATHLETICS DVC ALL-STARS 2021-2022

This year brought a return to normalcy to the athletic fields. As pandemic restrictions were lifted, our athletes, coaches, and fans were excited to return to the fields, courts, and the stands to experience athletics at WCS once again. In addition to the new school records set by many athletes, many of our teams had banner years – a great compliment to our dedicated athletes and especially our fantastic coaches that have brought many of our programs to new and historic heights this year.

### BASKETBALL

Nic DeNorscia  
(Player of the Year)  
Nathan Lapham  
Noah Massotti

### CROSS COUNTRY

Jack Crowley  
(Runner of the Year)  
Justin Vos  
Jack Carlin  
Peter McHugh  
Evan Hand  
Molly Lashley  
(Runner of the Year)  
Emily Dill  
Fiona Donnelly  
Sophia Dill  
Rebecca Dowling  
Eliza Dowling  
Emelyn DeWeerd

### GOLF

Will Pielt

### INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Dylan Brown  
Nic Belucio  
Jack Crowley  
(Runner of the Year)  
Ethan Enoch  
Corbin Swaim  
Cece LaBonte (All  
Around Athlete of  
the Year)  
Jill LaBonte  
Lexi Foster  
Kira Simoncini  
Eliza Dowling  
Rebecca Dowling

### SOCCER

Noah Massotti  
Dan Paharik  
Caleb Deters  
Meadow O'Connell  
Kate Crowley

Hannah Lashley  
Gillian McGee  
Margaret Johnson  
Cece LaBonte

### SOFTBALL

Abbi Cullen

### TENNIS

Brady Gorman  
Hope Brookhouse  
(Player of the Year)  
Ally Weedon  
Margaret Redding  
Alison Sim  
Spring Track and  
Field  
Jack Crowley  
Justin Vos  
Dylan Brown  
Corbin Swaim  
Ethan Enoch  
Sean McGrath

Nic Belucio  
Daniel Belucio  
Colin Gava  
Peter Cloutier  
Delia Moloney  
Cece LaBonte  
Meadow O'Connell  
Kira Simoncini  
Sophia Dill  
Emily Dill  
Eliza Dowling  
Molly Lashley  
(Runner of the Year)  
Becky Dowling  
Avery Glidden  
Jill LaBonte  
Margaret Johnson  
Emma Wierenga

### VOLLEYBALL

Hope Brookhouse



# Crusader Athletics



## Varsity Girls Basketball

Front row: Delia Moloney, Katie Godin, Gillian McGee, Amanda Cinelli, Abbi Cullen, Chloe Richey, Ava Ibrahim. Back row: Coach Emily Kreidler, Coach Kelly Penning, Emily Dill, Margaret Johnson, Sophia Dill, Charlotte Barlett, Nicole Moraes Ramos, Trinity Ezedi, Quinn Rice, Coach Kris VandenAkker.



## Varsity Boys Basketball

Front row: Wenxun (Jason) Jiang, Bobby Gaudette, Noah Massotti, Isaiah Plantinga, Zach Casey, Nic DeNorscia. Back row: Coach Brady Bajema, Ben Schneider, Caleb Deters, Nathan Lapham, Ethan MacGillivray, Christian Holm, Team Manager Pedro Ramos. Not pictured: Vinny Gilbert, Aidan Giunta.



## JV Girls Basketball

Front row: Amanda Cinelli, Delia Moloney, Ava Ibrahim, Madi Amati, Eden Cabral. Back row: Gillian McGee, Quinn Rice, Sophia Dill, Noelle Champigny, Trinity Ezedi, Coach Emily Kreidler. Not pictured: Charlotte Bartlett.



## JV Boys Basketball

Front row: Joseph Tatulli, Brady Gorman, Dillin McAlister, Liam Mulroy, Brad Jolicoeur. Back row: Sebastian Araujo, Jimmy Dudley, Mason Barnatt, Matt Godin, Zach Casey, Isaiah Plantinga, Coach Spencer Gorman.



## Girls Tennis

Front row: Elisavet Tzimogianni, Natasha Carreiro, Maggie Redding, Meah Ryan, Carolyn Whiton. Middle row: Joanna Graves, Alison Sim, Scarlett Shaw, Julia Gibbons, Bryn Rufo, Amelia Besong. Back row: Coach Michelle Graves, Ally Weedon, Hope Brookhouse, Anela Esler, Georgia West, Ellie Dishington, Naomi Swanson.



## Boys Tennis

Front row: Brady Gorman, Liam Menard, Dimitar Milev, Justin Smith, Sam Christo. Back row: Pedro Ramos, Joe Aubut, Ethan MacGillivray, Jeremiah Bourguignon, Peter McHugh, Elijah Allen. Not pictured: Coach Nathan Lookwhy.





## Boys Track and Field

Front row: Hayden Plourde, Corbin Swaim, Jack Crowley, Will Johnson, Ethan Enoch, George Foint, Nathan Romine, Josh Monteiro. Middle row: Asher Bell, CJ Najem, Jack Carlin, Elijah Tetreault, Daniel Belucio, Sean McGrath, Evan Hand, Colin Gava, Caden Anema. Back row: Justin Vos, Declan Smith, Micah Allen, Matt Godin, Dan Paharik, Nicolas Belucio, Dylan Brown, Ben Linton, Peter Cloutier. Not pictured: Noah Robertson, Coach Mike Persenaire, Coach Chris VanderBaan, and Coach Dede Guertin.



## Indoor Track

Front row: Eve Gergis, Eliza Dowling, Cece LaBonte, Lexi Foster, Kira Simoncini, Tori Foster, Josh Monteiro, Sam Christo, Megan Foellmer. Second row: Becky Dowling, Callie VandenAkker, Jill LaBonte, Abby Goodell, Hannah Walton, Corbin Swaim, Loreto Godinez Simon, Erin Wyndham. Back row: Coach Mike Persenaire, Ethan Enoch, Jack Crowley, Nicolas Belucio, Dylan Brown, Daniel Belucio, Evan Hand, Coach Chris VanderBaan. Not pictured: Wiktor Borucka, Hannah Dodge, Declan Mitchell, Noah Robertson, Emma Wierenga.



## Girls Track and Field

Front row: Kaylin Fogg, Meadow O'Connell, Hannah Lashley, Molly Lashley, Kira Simoncini, Lexi Foster, Tori Foster, Delia Moloney, Megan Foellmer. Second row: Abby Goodell, Jill LaBonte, Becky Dowling, Fiona Donnelly, Sophia Dill, Cece LaBonte, Ava Ibrahim, Tory Fredericks, Cadence Murzycki, Loreto Godinez Simon. Third row: Michaela Clifford, Angelina DiColella, Eliza Dowling, Avery Glidden, Hannah Walton, Ella Rejmer, Erin Wyndham, Elyssa Pastor, Eve Gergis. Back row: Kate Crowley, Emelyn DeWeerd, Margaret Johnson, Callie VandenAkker, Nicole Moraes Ramos, Emily Dill, Annika Fortna, Molly Burkhart, Emma Wierenga. Not pictured: Allison Cinelli, Hannah Dodge, Coach Mike Persenaire, Coach Chris VanderBaan, and Coach Dede Guertin.



## Softball

Front row: Chloe Kelly, Maddi Amati, Alli Anema, Emma Johnson, Meghan DeGregorio, Abbi Cullen, Abby Wozniak, Hannah Ostroff, Eden Cabral, Emily Bastien. Back row: Coach Lina Avila, Jillian Lawson, Bella Carolino, Camdyn Forget, Katie Godin, Chloe Richey, Raegen McAlister, Emma MacCarthy, Coach Tanya Anema, Coach Emily Kreidler. Not pictured: Finch Harvey.



## Cross Country

Front row: Jack Carlin, Eliza Dowling, Molly Lashley, Carolyn Whiton, Alison Cinelli, Erin Wyndham, Abby Wozniak, Delia Moloney, Sol Calado, Cadence Murzycki, Becky Dowling, Eve Gergis. Middle row: Jack Crowley, Evan Hand, Liam Menard, Owen Neal, Hannah Dodge, Emily Dill, Annika

Fortna, Fiona Donnelly, Sophia Dill, Alli Anema, Emelyn DeWeerd, Riley Plourde, C.J. Najem. Back row: Coach Annaliese Vander Baan, Coach Chris Vander Baan, Peter McHugh, Aidan Giunta, Liam Mulroy, Justin Vos, Sebastian Araujo, Jonah Duncan, Ben Linton, Caden Anema, Nicolas Belucio, Declan Smith, Colin Gava, Coach Joel Alberts. Not pictured: Molly Burkhart.





## Varsity Girls Soccer

Front row: Kate Crowley, Chloe Richey, Hannah Lashley, Bella Silveira, Abbi Cullen, Amanda Cinelli, Gabriella Ferraz, Cece LaBonte, Margaret Johnson, Meadow O'Connell. Back row: Coach Rocky VanTol, Gillian McGee, Emma Wierenga, Hannah Walton, Meghan DeGregorio, Nicole Moraes Ramos, Charlotte Bartlett, Hannah Pollitt, Ava Ibrahim, Camdyn Forget, Jill LaBonte, Callie VandenAkker, Coach Mikaela VandenAkker, Coach Beth Cutler.



## Varsity Boys Soccer

Front row: Elijah Tetreault, Logan O'Connell, Corbin Swaim, Sean McGrath, Kole Wyndham, Dan Paharik, Noah Massotti, Michael Vardis, Dillin McAlister, Declan Mitchell. Back row: Coach Mike McGrath, Pedro Ramos, Brandon Moraes Ramos, Zach Casey, Caleb Deters, Charles Palmatier, Ethan MacGillivray, Dylan Brown, Coach Greg Massotti, Coach Erik DeGregorio. Not pictured: Noah Robertson.



## JV Girls Soccer

Front row: Ailish Mitchell, Carrie Keeler, Jillian Lawson, Milla Silveira, Amanda Cinelli, Hailey Kindl, Addison Boone, Alison Sim. Back row: Chloe Richey, Gillian McGee, Camdyn Forget, Lilly Wierenga, Charlotte Bartlett, Emma Wierenga, Maddi Amati, Hannah Walton, Bella Silveira, Coach Mike Persenaire. Not pictured: Ava Ibrahim.



## JV Boys Soccer

Front row: Wyatt Abongwa, Jacob Pielt, Ethan Hand, Evan Mahoney, Josh Monteiro, Jake Fogg, Benjamin Peck, Michael David. Back row: Nathan Taylor, Pedro Carvalho, Gabe Deters, Matthew Taylor, Ian Finch, Connor Kitchen, Dominik McAlister, Coach Mike McAlister. Not pictured: Mason Barnatt and Joseph Tatulli.



## Varsity Volleyball

Front row: Lois Powers, Abby Goodell, Quinn Rice, Maggie Redding, Ellie Dishington, Emma Johnson, Annika Holm. Back row: Coach Kelly Penning, Ally Weedon, Gabi Bobolia, Hannah Rejmer, Ella Rejmer, Hope Brookhouse, Juliana Buchanan, Coach Kris VandenAkker.



## JV Volleyball

Front row: Ashley Jeong, Emma Oosterman, Neola Nigh, Julia Monteiro, Lucia Gaudiano, Maria Ramos, Kelsey McCormick. Back row: Eden Cabral, Faith Najem, Niki Guo, Emily Burkhart, Abigail Guertin, Hannah Ostroff, Hadasyah Mestres, Coach Tahnee Kuder. Not pictured: Genevieve Tatulli.



We are thankful for the partnership of area schools who offer co-op teams. These teams provide additional opportunities for WCS athletes, allowing them to pursue their passions for sports that WCS is not able to offer during a given year. We celebrate the success these athletes have found on these teams and appreciate the additional dedication necessary to participate on a co-op team.



### Co-op Alpine Skiing

Liam Menard



### Co-op Hockey

Will Piatt



### Co-op Baseball

Wesley Burns



### Co-op Golf

Micah Deters, Hyun Joon (John) Kim, Camden Morse, William Piatt



### Co-op Wrestling

Caleb Tetreault, Elijah Tetreault, Matthew Dudley, Ella Brochu, Noah Tetreault, CJ Najem, Jack Post.  
Not pictured: Noah Garrant.



### Co-op Lacrosse (with NIPMUC)

Chris Dudley and Jimmy Dudley



### Co-op Football (with NIPMUC)

Peter Cloutier, Chris Dudley, Micah Allen, Matt Godin, Jimmy Dudley



#### Girls Soccer

Best record in school history  
CMass Champions  
DVC Champions (1st in school history)

#### Girls Cross Country

DVC Champions  
District 2 Champions  
2nd Place in DII State Championship Meet

#### Boys Cross Country

DVC Champions

#### Girls Track and Field

DVC Champions  
District E Champions  
State Champions (1st in school history)

#### Girls Tennis

Undefeated Regular Season  
DVC Champions (1st in school history)  
CMass Champions

#### Co-op Lacrosse

CMass Tournament Champions



# Celebrating 40 years with Kris VandenAkker



A true WCS legend celebrated the end of one chapter, and the beginning of a new adventure at the end of this school year. Kris (Woldman) VandenAkker has been a force in the lives of students (and many children of those early students) since 1982. She has taught Physical Education, Science, and Health. She has CPR trained many staff members. She has coached numerous teams (including WCS's first volleyball team). She has logged and timed countless miles in the Monthly Mile and Annual Fun Run. She has led a girl's Bible study. But most importantly, she has taught our students what it means to be a follower of Christ, and to care for their minds and bodies as temples of God.

On May 26, friends and family gathered to celebrate Kris at a retirement reception. Her best friends and co-workers/coaching partners, Terry Ebbeling and Kelly Penning, offered words of admiration, adoration, and fond wishes.

When I met Kris, the first thing she asked me was if I wanted to live with her the next school year. I believe the conversation went, "Hi, I'm Kris Woldman; would you like to live with me next year?" as she had found a great, inexpensive apartment on Cottage Street that would be perfect for two poor Christian school teachers. We lived together in that apartment for a year and a half. She was already

and Kris were a perfect, sports-minded match. During that time, both Cary and Greg, our future husbands, made lots of trips up the three flights of stairs that led to our apartment in John Baker's home – with Mr. Baker's keen eyes following their every movement! Cary and Kris became engaged during the summer of '84, and were married the next June. They had two children, Abby and Tyler, with Kris continuing to teach and coach as they grew up.

As the first-ever PE teacher at WCS, Kris developed the PE program for kindergarten through high school. Before she was hired, classroom teachers taught their own PE classes. Needless to say, the teachers and students were happy to have a dedicated PE teacher who brought a strong curriculum—one that continues on today.



Without a doubt, Kris, you have made a difference at WCS. You have been a shining light to our faculty and have touched the lives of so many students and families over the years. Your dedication to and support of the school have been remarkable, and your influence on young lives will live on long after June 9, 2022. You may be leaving WCS, and you most certainly will be missed, but your impact will always be a part of the history of this school. – Terry Ebbeling

dating Cary, who had been told there was a new PE teacher that he had to meet. Obvious to everyone, Cary







**Kris has many roles:** a wife, a mother, a friend, a coworker, a leader, a role model, a coach, just to name a few. Each of these roles could be thought of as a layer of Kris. And, as I was thinking of the “layers of Kris,” all I could think about was how many times I have seen her WHIP off an article of clothing - whether it be a riled up discussion about a Dual Valley All-Star Meeting or in over-time during a basketball game, Kris is known to shed layers. This metaphor also rings true of her character, in that she is so authentically herself that it does not take much effort to see who she is to her core and what has mattered most in her life and her career. Let’s reflect on the **first layer:** Kris’ early years at WCS.

In 1982, Kris Woldman applied to WCS and was consequently invited to visit and teach a middle school PE class as part of her interview process. Dick VandenBerg recalls “Kris was supposed to teach a PE class, but she had nice clothes on and was not dressed for it. At one point she had to shoot a free throw and she missed the rim.” In spite of her failed free throw attempt, Kris was hired and her love for WCS and WCS athletics was born.

**Layer 2:** Kris as a volleyball coach. Throughout the first 10 years of the program, Kris fondly remembers coaching volleyball of all kinds. Any opponent that entered the gym became susceptible to join the “Krull list,” as the ceiling in the Krull—to this

day—often plays an interesting role in the outcomes of games. Kris would summarize her early years of coaching volleyball as “just lots of fun.”

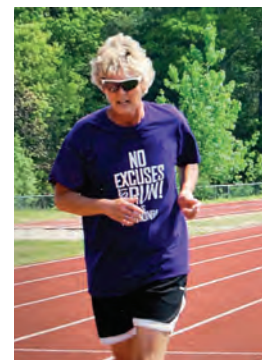
**Layer 3:** Kris as a basketball coach. Kris has been the head WCS basketball coach for 40 years. From the early years, Kris looks back on driving all over the place—no phones, no GPS, just a map, and often at night, on New England roads which were not Chicagan Kris’ cup of tea. Kris remembers beating Hopedale for the first time (don’t we all, as coaches) and having the honor of being the first WCS team to qualify for a district appearance in 1983.

John Vriesema shared, “My job as assistant coach was to make sure she didn’t get kicked out of a game by the refs. I had to hold her back from going onto the court. I would love to have made a video of her gyrations and facial grimaces on the sidelines when a call didn’t go her way.” But, I’ve also seen the other side. The van rides when she conversed with girls about applying to college, the Saturday morning early practices (with donuts supplied), the devotions before practice to unite our teams. These moments, and seemingly infinite others like them reveal the most central layer: Kris’ legacy.

Kris has made it evident to all that she loves WCS, WCS Athletics, and more specifically the girls programs at WCS. She has been at the forefront of promoting and fighting for all that is WCS girls’ athletics, which, with her leadership, has seen much

success. Having made ripples and sometimes waves in the athletic community, Kris proudly received Basketball Coach of the Year in 2005. Throughout her basketball coaching career, she amassed 439 wins, 29 seasons of district qualifications, and coached over 400 players. But, even before mentioning these personal coaching accomplishments when I asked her, Kris pointed first to the players on her teams. She recalled how fun it was when a player reached 1,000 points and her name on the banner. Even after making an All-Star Team, getting 1,000 points, or graduating out of the volleyball or basketball programs, there is more in which Kris finds accomplishment. She values her players and shares that she enjoys “After they graduate, going to weddings, seeing them be successful moms, business people, still having relationships with them 30 years later.” She realizes that the coach and player relationship is very special, and that it comes with a different bond than in the classroom. When asked, Kris shared that “the most important thing for me as a coach is that the kids present themselves as Christians when they’re competing, that I work with the kids for them to be like that, and that I demonstrate it myself.” As a regular attendee of the high school girls Bible Study over the past 7 years, I can affirm that the way Kris pours Christ’s love into WCS students is a true blessing to behold. This is Kris’ legacy. This is her inmost layer.

Whether you personally have called her Kris, coach, Mom, or Mrs. V, we have all been blessed by Kris VandenAkker. She is a woman of many layers, each layer more evident than the next. She is hilarious, she is inspirational, she is crazy, she is God-honoring, she is loving, she is my best friend, she is WCS’ Mrs. V, she is our coach. — *Kelly Penning*





# A New Chapter **chris Vander Baan**

At the beginning of the school year, Chris Vander Baan shared the news with the high school faculty and staff that this would be his last year as High School Principal at WCS. This decision came after much prayer and we are grateful for Chris for his devotion of four decades of his life to Christian education. We are thrilled that Chris will be continuing his role as Coach at WCS. We offer our prayers of thanksgiving for Chris's leadership, and for our high school in its upcoming transition. Thank you, Chris, for your servant leadership with our students!



## “Educator and Principal”

Chris was my principal for 23 years, but more importantly he was my mentor, thoughtful listener, and man of wise counsel. His joy and exuberance are catchy. Who remembers him singing in the hallways? Often! Chris's faith in the Lord permeated all he did as coach, teacher, and principal. Most important were the students as Chris nurtured all aspects of their lives. I loved when he popped into my classroom. He knew which students to joke with, which ones to encourage, which ones to speak that word of kindness. Chris significantly impacted the art and craft of my teaching through his observations, challenges, and encouragement. I know that my life as a woman of faith was deepened by observing Chris's relationship with Christ. I am forever thankful for Chris's Godly leadership and love of Whitinsville Christian School. – *Wendy Groot, WCS Faculty (1995-2021)*

## THE BILL BELICHICK OF WCS!



## “Coach”

It has been a true honor and joy in my life to work alongside Mr. Vander Baan. He has been a friend, leader, and mentor that I am simply inspired by. Coach Vander Baan has built one of the most respected Cross Country and distance running programs in the state of Massachusetts. His career record, long list of championships, and number of banners hanging in the rafters point to how successful he has been as a coach. However, a true coach does not define success by the number of accomplishments, but by the lifelong impact on young people's lives. He has positively impacted and changed the lives of so many student-athletes here at WCS. I can say this with full confidence because I was one of those student-athletes. The best coaches, in my opinion, are teachers at their core and Coach Vander Baan is a master teacher. He leads a life full of passion, faith, and love and this pours into every area of his life including coaching. Coach Vander Baan will forever be connected to WCS Cross Country and distance running because he is the inspiration, the architect, and the builder. He is a WCS coaching legend! – *Brady Bajema (Class of 2006), WCS Athletic Director (2018-2022)*

HE IS A LEGEND AND  
WILL BE SO MISSED!

## “Dad, Mr. Vander Baan, Coach”

These are just a few of the names I've called you these past 29 years, in addition to the important other roles you played as a mentor, leader, coworker, son, husband, father, principal, uncle, and opa. From the time I was an elementary student, I remember you prioritizing your students, school, and family above yourself. There were countless nights when you would come home to tuck us in, only to head back to school to keep working, or talk to parents over the phone into the late hours of the evening. Your passion and love for the growth of the school is unmatched and I've come to know these late nights and early mornings as status-quo throughout my life. They were never a burden to you because you truly enjoyed what you did. Through your selflessness you've inspired those around you to grow and







challenge themselves, instilled the importance of reliance on one another in times of need, and reinforced the necessity of a safe environment for your staff, students and athletes. Above all, your faith in God has remained steadfast despite life's many obstacles and certainly continues to serve as an inspiration to others.

Dad, you remain the driving force behind my passion for pursuing a career in education. I am in awe of your tireless commitment to bettering the lives of those around you and emulate your thoughtful approach to being a leader. Being a principal was never a "job" for you, but rather a journey toward improving the lives of those around you:

I remember countless summers where you would offer simple yardwork to a student who needed a job, or simply a way to stay out of trouble.

I remember your willingness to take in international students who had no place to stay, and treated them like your own children.

I remember you officiating weddings for former students and even serving as the best man for a couple of them.

Although your involvement varied in each of these examples, your serving as a role model and, in some cases, a father-figure epitomizes your kind heart and endless generosity.

This generosity didn't end with acts of kindness at home, instead extending into your role as a school leader. Early morning coffee-fueled meet-ups before school were commonplace as you ensured your coworkers had everything they needed to succeed and reinforced the importance of working as a team. As a true leader you sought constructive feedback from other principals in the area and were indefatigable in your pursuit for perfection. Humility was something you actively sought, and continue to seek, often to the detriment of not giving yourself credit where credit's due. One instance involves your receipt of the Central Massachusetts Cross Country Coach of the Year after leading our girls to an undefeated season and district championship. I'd be shocked if you mentioned this incredible accolade to more than

**BEST CROSS COUNTRY  
COACH HANDS DOWN!**

## FAREWELL

It has been a wonderful school year filled with challenges and victories, ending with a celebration of the Class of 2022 at our graduation ceremonies. These students have done an amazing job juggling school work, drama, athletics, robotics, part-time jobs, friendships, and COVID. Whitinsville Christian High School is not a perfect place but I believe the gift of this Christian education is the best investment you can make in your children. I truly believe WCHS is an amazing school where teachers and staff get to know your children as the wonderful young men and women God has created them to be. Whether it is directing a Strings group, teaching a young athlete how to throw a javelin, or working out an intricate AP Calculus problem, our teachers are deeply invested in their passion for teaching and working with young people. God has blessed this high school in many ways for four decades. Our staff is second to none! Thank you to all of the parents who have given their child this amazing high school experience. I want to thank you all for allowing me the privilege of working with your children! When I was 19 years old and trying to decide on a career, my mom and dad told me to "do something you love." My wife, family, faculty, and all of you have allowed me that incredible blessing. I have enjoyed every bit of the journey! God be praised!

- *Christopher Vander Baan (Class of 1975)*



five people; your accomplishments at WCS were kept subdued so those around you could enjoy praise and acknowledgement.

Dad, thank you. Thank you for inspiring me. Thank you for motivating me. Thank you for showing me what it means to be a leader. And, most importantly, thanks for being my dad. You've been a rock in my life through good times and bad and I don't think words could ever express what you mean to me. Although I'll miss your singing in the hallways, I'm grateful to have had this year together. It is something I will always cherish. - *Annaliese Vander Baan (Class of 2001) Director of Student Academic Services*

**TRULY A BLESSING IN OUR LIVES.**







## Spring Auction

"We are thrilled to be back together in person." These words were spoken at so many events this year, and they were especially true for our Annual Spring Auction. After two years of virtual events, the Spring Auction returned to Pleasant Valley Country Club for a fun



evening of fellowship, entertainment, dining, and bidding – all in support of WCS! The event was a wonderful time to celebrate with faithful auction-goers, and to welcome many of our newer WCS families. Thanks to our generous donors, sponsors, and bidders, we were able to raise more than \$92,000 to help us deliver upon the mission of WCS. Thank you!



Whitinsville Christian Scramble Monday, June 13			
Russ VanderBaan + Jeffrey Timmer + Noah Timmer + Sam Timmer leading at -18			
POS.	FOURSOME	TO PAR	TOTAL GROSS
1	Russ VanderBaan + Jeffrey Timmer + Noah Timmer + Sam Timmer	-18	54
2	Chris Walach + Eddie Lee + Marc Santos + Kyle Hoffman	-18	54
3	Wayne Salo + Ron Halterman + Dick McGrath + David Halterman	-15	57
4	Ted Partridge + Matt Pollard + Scott Partridge + Bill Rufo	-12	60
5	Brad Mancini + Emad Sadeek + Michael Turano + Imperial Cars	-11	61
6	Bryan Wiegiers + Cal Wiegiers + Tim Wiegiers + TBD TBD	-11	61
7	Mark Travis + Andrew Boyd + Brett Saunders + Nick Rossi	-8	64
8	Bryan Gava + Bob Gava + Colin Gava + Dan Vitale	-8	64

## Golf Outing

God blessed us with a beautiful June day for the Annual Golf Outing! We are so grateful to all of the golfers (from the competitive to the casual) for making this a fun day. We also want to thank our generous sponsors for their support of the event. The 2022 Golf Outing was one of the most successful to date, raising approximately \$20,000 to help us deliver upon our mission.



# Friends We'll Miss

We pray for a blessing on the next chapters in the lives of our faculty and staff members who are not returning to WCS in the 2022-2023 school year.



Christie Crossen



Shelly Cullen



Hannah Eckstrom



Charlie Kim



Denise Whiton

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### ENGAGEMENTS



**Katelyn Lashley and Josh Vanderbaan (both Class of 2018)** got engaged this summer after graduating from Gordon College.



**Aaron Wheeler and Annaliese Vander Baan (Class of 2011)** got engaged on a recent beach day.

### WEDDINGS



**Claire Barker (Class of 2018)** and Colter Kaneversky were married in December of 2021.



**James Dunlap (Class of 2013)** and Shelbie Weightman were married in June. The couple is currently living in Albuquerque.



**Michael Dunlap (Class of 2016)** and Lauren Jelderks were married in July.



**Scott Ebbling (Class of 2013)** and Mariana Adami were married in June.



**Hannah Swaim (Class of 2010)** and Daniel Griffiths were married in June.





**WHITINSVILLE**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Whitinsville, MA 01588

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whitinsvillechristian.org

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# Homecoming & Giving Day!

## October 14 & 15 2022

### LET'S GET THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER!

[www.whitinsvillechristian.org/hc\\_giv\\_day](http://www.whitinsvillechristian.org/hc_giv_day)