

# The Crusader Chronicle



INSIDE  
& OUT

WHITINSVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Teaching for Transformation, Inside and Out

Rick Lukianuk, J.D.



When we traditionally think of school, we tend to focus on what is happening within the doors of our school building. But just as our theme verse for the year emphasizes that we must guard our heart, for everything we do flows from it (Proverbs 4:23), there are many school activities, programs, and classes that flow outward from the doors of WCS. In fact, the goal of our educational, spiritual, artistic, and athletic programs is, in fact, to prepare our students to walk out of our doors and be effective Christians in a world growing increasingly separate from our faith.

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Teaching for Transformation  
fosters creativity, critical thinking,  
rigor, resilience, communication,  
and collaboration.

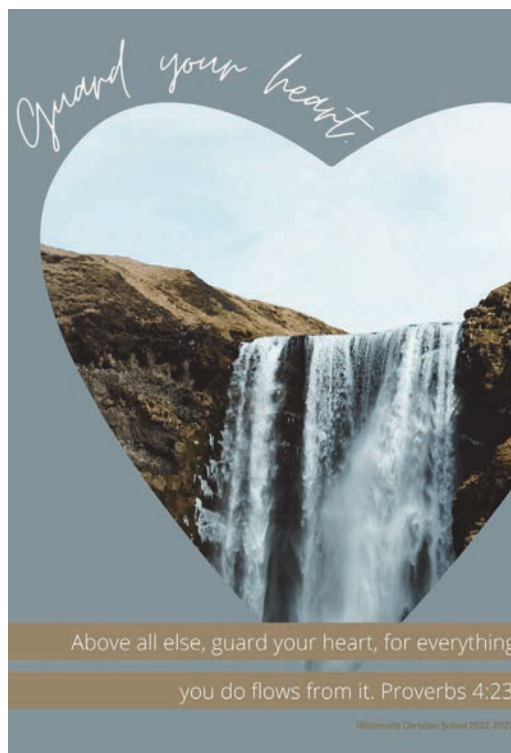
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A significant part of that training is an increasing level of engagement with God's world outside of our doors as our students grow throughout their PreK-12 years. Beginning with an appreciation of God's creation and the development of life skills in our outdoor education program, we provide an ever more complex understanding of academic, spiritual, and social knowledge as we move our students from a preponderance of cultural protection, to an ever-growing ability for cultural engagement. In our high school, this takes the form of outside service, athletic contests with other schools, artistic performances and competitions for outside audiences, involvement in churches, first jobs, and responsible social media presence. Finally, we are here to support our students and their families in making those all-important choices regarding where God is leading them after graduation.

One very important program that we are instituting to better prepare our students for cultural engagement is Teaching for Transformation (TfT), developed by professors at Dordt College. WCS is now part of a growing consortium of schools that use the existing curriculum and share best practices with each other. Every teacher in our school has been involved in training for the past year and a half. We have a group of early adopter teachers this year, and then our entire staff will implement the program next year. The "Deep Hope" of TfT is for students to see how class content connects to their faith and their role in God's story. It will show students how we are image-bearers of God, help them see God in the beauty and order around us, build community, and serve others. It fosters creativity, critical thinking, rigor, resilience, communication, and collaboration.

Examples of the success of our students' endeavors outside our doors this past fall are many. However, I would be remiss if I did not identify the extraordinary accomplishments of our student-athletes as they competed in our various fall sports. Our Men's and Women's Cross Country and Soccer teams all won District Championships and fared very well in the State Championship contests. Our Women's Volleyball team, despite being very young, had an outstanding season as well. All of our teams competed with great sportsmanship and were able to appropriately represent our school and the word "Christian" on their uniforms.

As of this writing, we are in the middle of the winter season. I hope our local fans have had the opportunity to cheer on our basketball and indoor track teams. As we look ahead, we eagerly anticipate the performances that will take place in the Nehemiah Center. We'll also be following our DECA (business), HOSA (health science), and Robotics Teams as they compete locally and nationally this year. What a great year of growing, learning, and competing inside and outside our WCS building it has already been!





# WHITINSVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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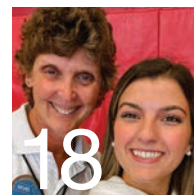
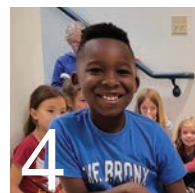
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**ON THE COVER**  
Emily Bastien sails down  
the zipline during the annual  
Middle School Retreat

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# OUTSIDE the Walls of Education

Time to play outside is almost as important as food and water to an elementary-aged student. While recess, PE classes, and sports have been meeting this need for years, Outdoor Ed has been a formal addition to the third and fourth grades at WCS since 2019. In Outdoor Ed, students explore, create, and apply their learning with hands-on experiences. The class promotes problem-solving, collaboration, and imagination! The students especially love this time because it is student-led, with no directed teaching from the teacher, unless of course they ask for additional lessons about something they observe. Over the years they have investigated habitats, created art, tapped maple trees, observed animal traits, built structures, established bartering systems, and yes, gotten muddy.

Looking outside of our walls leads us on adventures, especially when we partner with an excellent outside organization to expand on our curriculum. Worces-



ter Polytechnic Institute's Project Lead The Way has already been adopted in our high school and middle school, and has now found its way to our younger learners. Sheryl Casey (5th grade teacher) and Monica Carty (elementary STEM and Outdoor Ed teacher) attended two days of training at WPI in the summer of 2022, as well as additional WPI conferences. "This program is full of challenging components that engage students and lead them to offer thoughtful responses," said Sheryl. "The PLTW curriculum's APB (activity, project, problem-based) approach engages and educates students

to take their new knowledge and apply it to the world around them," said Monica. Students in third through fifth grade participate in activities with real-time learning, and complete projects that build problem-solving skills. "Fifth grade scientists are diving deep into a study of matter, connecting properties, reactions, and materials science, to engineering design principles and the space shuttle Challenger disaster," said Sheryl. "They are making incredible connections in their knowledge. I've been so impressed with the observations they make as we conduct experiments to discover the law of conservation of mass, or test tensile strength of different materials." During an upcoming weather unit, students will develop several different solutions to save a small "village" from weather-related hazards such as blizzards, hurricanes, floods, or earthquakes. These real-world learning experiences challenge them to think critically, take risks, think like an engineer/scientist, and own their learning, on their way to becoming life-long learners, poised for Christ-like service in God's amazing world.



PE students hit the cross country trail, searching for cards that spelled out the word TRAIL and items such as Trees, Rocks, Acorns, Insects, and Logs!

Representatives from the Blue Hill Weather Tower always deliver a great lesson on air!



## New Discoveries with Project Lead The Way





# Deep Hope, Donations, and Love

Ruthie Philip, 5th Grade

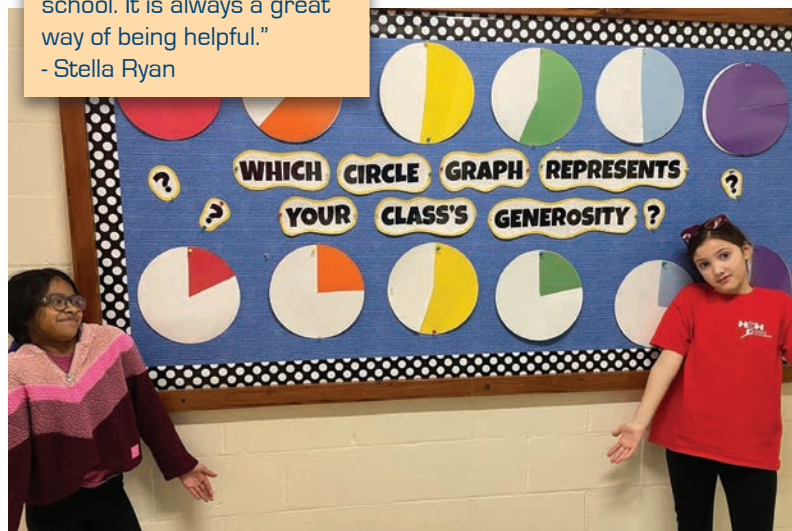


"I felt good after doing this knowing I helped other people who need it."  
- Colin Dertien

Friday, Feb 17, 2023, was not an ordinary day for the WCS fifth graders. Fifth graders were bursting through the doors of WCS elementary as early as 7:20 in the morning. Why? Well, Friday was the last day of the food drive at WCS. The fifth graders were extra busy loading the many items that the elementary and preschool students had donated to the food pantry (Northbridge Association of Churches Food Pantry) into the foyer. This was the result of all the hard work of WCS Elementary and Stepping Stone Preschool. Each class

had a goal based on the number of students in the class. Fifth graders took a survey of the number of donations brought to school. Then, the fifth graders plotted a graph based on the donations brought in each day and then they converted the donations into fractions, into decimals, and finally into percentages based on each class's goal. During math, the 5th grade kids would make (Google) slides for their assigned elementary grade informing them how far they were into their goal and giving an encouraging word. They also made little notes for the visitors of the food

"This food drive takes on a big role in our elementary school. It is always a great way of being helpful."  
- Stella Ryan



pantry with encouragement like, "You are a masterpiece" or "You are loved" etc. On Friday, after the 5th grade students were done loading the items into the foyer, they went to the food pantry to drop off the donations. There they asked all kinds of questions related to the food pantry and how it worked. Ms. Blair, the food pantry coordinator, said that when she was going through hard times, sometimes people who came to the pantry would show up on her doorstep with a casserole for her. She also said that she found joy in helping people who were in a tough spot.

You might be wondering how many items did elementary and preschool donate? Well get ready because you're about to find out! Elementary donated a whopping 1,430 items and preschool donated over 200 items! This really shows that kids can make a large impact on the world and use the subjects they learn in school to help them. This food drive is just one of the examples of this truth!



"The fifth graders also made paintings for the people receiving the food saying, 'You are God's masterpiece. Ephesians 2:10.' These paintings were our way of sharing our deep hope with the people receiving the food we donated."  
- Chloe Barker







# HOMECOMING 2022

The middle of October can bring many surprises when planning an outdoor event. We were blessed with a beautiful day on October 15, and were thrilled to welcome friends, families, and alumni at all of our Homecoming events.

The Pops Concert was held on Thursday evening and students enjoyed spirit days and a pep rally on Friday. On Friday evening, the volleyball and girls soccer teams were both in action. The WCS Club Soccer girls U10 and U12 teams joined the WCS varsity girls in a scrimmage during half-time. The younger players were thrilled to join the older girls on the field!

On Saturday, we welcomed all alumni who attended the old location of WCS on Willow Street for a special reception. Saturday was also all about the olie bollen, family-fun carnival games, corn hole, and the boys varsity soccer game.

The Fifth Annual Giving Day raised more than \$83K for the WCS Fund. Thank you to all who donated on Giving Day, attended our Homecoming events, and a special thanks to all of those who volunteer their time to make this great event happen!



*Colin (Class of 2017) and Christian (2019) Swaim locked in a strategic battle*

**GIVING DAY  
RAISED  
\$83,000  
FOR THE  
WCS FUND**



# Seeing God on this Earth

Alex Rubin (Class of 2011)

Homebody: probably the best word I can use to describe myself growing up. I loved my friends. I looked forward to hanging out on weekends and making the weekly run to Jumbo's late on Friday nights my senior year. But I never would go anywhere too far, that is, until I biked across the country at age 14. You could say this was the kick-start to my love for endurance racing and travel all in one.

I cannot even remember saying goodbye to my friends, just the excitement of heading off for another season of life: college. That excitement quickly turned to anxiety as my parents left. It was all new. And for an 18-year old kid that had the same routine for the last decade, change did not sit well with my anxiety-ridden self. But no one knew. On the outside, I was a constantly happy, enjoyable-to-be-around, laissez-faire individual. But on the inside, I was beyond crippled. Somehow, the years seemed to fly by.

I was studying accounting at Messiah College, but was yearning for something else...something outside the school that was full of adventure. The first taste of truly escaping into the wild, being free from all constraints, was during study abroad in New Zealand, where I first fell in love with the mountains and trail running. From there it was a 12-week business study abroad across Europe and Asia, where once again, the intake of *different* embraced me like a long-lost love. Having gone from living like a dirtbag in the South Pacific, to suit-and-tie meetings all across Europe, India, and China, I was craving to be back on trails again. So naturally, upon returning stateside and heading back to school, I signed up for one of the hardest 50k's on the east coast.

Graduation was, more or less, like being let loose from captivity; the choice to go wherever, whenever, was overwhelming. The adventures in college had simply been a trial run for what I was about to embark on over the next handful of years. Tossing corporate America and the thought of accounting to the wind, I headed west as all vagabonds do. Seasonal work in places like Yellowstone and Denali National Park allowed me the open space to wander, finding trails to run and explore on, fearless of whatever animals were lurking. From the Tetons and Yellowstone to Key Largo, Denali to southwest Utah, the road trips and odd jobs were endless. It was almost as if every new job I arrived at, I was ready to jump back in my car and find a lonesome road to get lost on.

Between each summer and winter season, I found a new place on the map that needed another nomad to wander through: Bulgaria, Vienna, Mexico, Peru, Iceland, Norway, island-hopping in the Caribbean...the list goes on. And when I wasn't vagabonding around a new destination, I was pursuing endurance races from marathons and ultra-marathons to Ironmans.

One of my professors during my New Zealand stint said in one of his books that the best way to see God on this Earth is through people. Having spent too many years in the food and beverage

industry, where many people too often tend to be their worst selves when dining out, made it hard for me to believe this statement. Nature had never taken away; it only gave.

It rejuvenated. I went from getting lost on road trips to getting lost on mountain runs. I always get odd looks when I say that, but there is a heightened sense of adventure when lost, in the woods, as dusk nears, forcing me to somehow find my way back...alive and in one piece is usually the goal, especially when gallivanting around in the wilds of the Rockies.

Simply put, there is the purest of joys, an awe-ness for what surrounds me amongst the mountains that is acknowledged nowhere else to this extremity. More importantly, knowing the One who put it there, and has put me here. In many ways, my ventures out into the woods and scaling peaks closely resembles my walk with God: constant ups and downs. And many times, the downs are much longer lasting than those moments of serenity on top of the world. However, the valleys are just as beautiful as the summits. The run up is, mostly if not always, an absolute grind, yet that is what makes the experience at the top that much more exhilarating. Whether it be five miles or 40, it always ends the same: a smile spread wide across my face, stoked to have been able to get into the wilderness, because it is only when we find ourselves in the wildernesses of life that we can truly learn what, and who, we need.



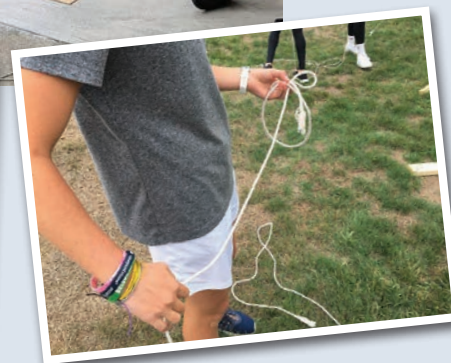


As a middle school, we love to be out in nature! God's world, sunshine, rain, seasons, plants, beauty - nature has it all. We begin the year with our middle school retreat to a Christian camp in New Hampshire. There we are surrounded by nature and we can take time to "be still and know...God." This sets the stage for our school year.



With a quick search, you can find countless research about kids needing to move, run, and play. These activities promote longer attention spans, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills needed through life. To reap these benefits, we look for ways to be in nature as much as possible. You have likely read

that other schools are eliminating recess time for this age group. WCS has extended it. Kids play on the playground and have pick-up games of football, soccer, kickball, volleyball, wiffle ball, and more. Once the snow falls, we sled down the hill and try not to run into each other.



# INSIDE & OUT in the Middle School

Mary Dykstra, Middle School Principal



Beyond the retreat, recess, and our service at Community Harvest, we use our class time to be outside, learning as much, if not more, as when we are in a classroom. Two classes in particular have made the most of our outdoor time: Outdoor Challenge and Mathematics.

WCS teachers love the math lessons found in nature! Last spring, Heather Holgate and her students started a middle school garden with the help of a grant from Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom. Students calculated the sizes of planting boxes and the volume of soil needed. The garden was tended by students in math and Bible classes, and with patience, perseverance, and love, the garden produced flowers, vegetables, and many pumpkins! The kids were thrilled to watch nature in action.

Another class with a more obvious name for being in nature is Outdoor Challenge with Mark DeWeerd. This class aims to get kids outside, learning how to use basic tools and solve problems as a team. Students are given instructions for tasks such as tying knots, building a fire, and constructing a ladder. Mr. DeWeerd's students know he is a fan of "figuring it out" and this class offers plenty of opportunities to collaborate with a partner to do just that, all while following fire safety rules of course!

See more of the Middle School garden

We are always looking for new opportunities to grow and we have plans to expand our outdoor activities in the future. I encourage you to spend more time in nature, learning about and appreciating God's world. Plant a garden, take a walk as a family, build something, or just grab the wiffle ball and have some fun!





# A Thriving WCS

Erika (Anderson) Johnson, Class of 1996  
Vice President, Board of Trustees

1928  
2028

When I think of Whitinsville Christian School, I cannot help but feel excited for our bright future, while also thinking of how far we have come. I've had many conversations with people who say Whitinsville Christian is a special place, and I couldn't agree more. I have had a unique vantage point of seeing the physical campus, as well as the inner workings, transform over the years, and I am honored to be able to contribute to the future. I am blessed to call myself an alumnae, parent, and Trustee. As a Board, we have spent time this year discussing what it means to "look in and look out" and support all of the activities that highlight this at the school today.

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**"We are in such a wonderful position as we look toward our centenary anniversary in 2028"**

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2023 marks an important milestone at WCS with the decennial reaccreditation underway. NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) will send a team to our campus for two meaningful visits. So much time and talent has been poured into the comprehensive reports being generated to showcase our school. From finances,

to educational programming, safety, facilities, international student programs, and everything in between, we will describe all we do in detail for the visiting teams to discuss and evaluate. I have been asked to chair this effort alongside two of our extremely capable staff members. Laural Plourde, Director of Marketing, is leading our team for the Foundation (think of this as the "business side" of WCS) visit in April of 2023. The Program side (the "education/student side" of WCS) is being led by Elisabeth Goodson, Library Media Center Director/high school faculty member/Guidance Counselor. That visit will take place in October of 2023. The reports these teams are producing would make any community member proud. We have successfully completed many of these reaccreditation processes over the years, and it is a wonderful opportunity for us to receive feedback and make plans for improvement in the future.

The trustees have also been working with Independent School Management, an organization with excellent resources for private and Christian schools. In 2019, ISM partnered with WCS to develop a comprehensive 5-year Strategic Plan, and it has been reviewed and refreshed annually. This is a roadmap for the future of WCS. It is easy to feel like "every idea is the best idea," but when you lean into the work done with formulating the plan, you more effectively plan where to allocate resources and energy to move

the school forward. The Strategic Plan highlights Academics, Finances, Campus, Staff Support, and Development.

We are in such a wonderful position as we look toward our centenary anniversary in 2028. It is rare for a school to reach this milestone, and one of my main roles as a trustee is to ensure that Whitinsville Christian is around for another 100 years!

One of my joys as a parent is to see my children thriving inside and outside of WCS. There are so many ways that the students are learning to love and serve. My two current students, Margaret and Sam, are involved in athletics, ski club, and student government. Over the years they have been loved and pushed by their teachers. These incredible opportunities within our school are complemented by the lessons of how to be a light outside of our school through service projects and service learning days, in addition to the learning opportunities with DECA (for future business leaders), HOSA (for future health professionals), and our incredible Robotics team.

Our mission for almost 100 years has been 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 look to the next 100 years, we are blessed that God's world contains so many opportunities, inside and outside of WCS, to allow our students to become the person God has designed them to be. We thank all of the parents who have allowed us to come alongside their children for this journey.

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**"These incredible opportunities within our school are complemented by the lessons of how to be a light outside of our school..."**

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# INSIDE&OUT in the High School

As our students enter high school, the opportunities outside of the walls of WCS increase in exciting and impactful ways. From competitions to service learning days, students serve as ambassadors for WCS, and demonstrate God's love to others.



**WCHS Chapel Band** led worship at City Church in Marlboro in November. Pastor Marc Minnerella's congregation was encouraged and blessed by their music. We are thankful for the invitations the Chapel Band receives to lead worship beyond the walls of WCS.

The **Robotics** team equips students with real-world skills in programming, engineering, and design. Team 663 is currently building their robot for this competition season, with a game theme of "Charged Up."



**DECA** prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. DECA students attended the Fall State Leadership Conference at Bentley University in October to dive into session, simulations, and leadership opportunities with their peers across the state. In November, the WCS DECA won the Massachusetts DECA Quiz Bowl. Also in November, students Ethan MacGillivray, Makenna Kitchen, Peter McHugh, and Maggie Redding represented WCHS DECA at the Massachusetts State House for DECA Day on the Hill. A citation was presented to each chapter by the legislature in recognition of their hard work



as emerging leaders and citizens. In early March, 18 WCHS students will be competing at the state level in Boston: ten who qualified with their written papers, four Quiz Bowl winners, and four who qualified with their role-play at Districts.

**Pink Night** has grown over the years, from a Girls Soccer bake sale to a multi-team, multi-fundraiser event. In 2022, WCS was honored to be a part of the annual Tree of Life celebration with Milford Regional Healthcare Foundation. This event raised almost \$18,000 for the Oliva Fund for Cancer Care. Members of the Girls Varsity Soccer team presented a check from their Pink Night events in the amount of \$2,630, and our Vocal Ensemble provided music for the event. We are grateful for this opportunity to support our greater community.







Nicolas Belucio and Julia Lawson were accepted to and performed in the Central District Massachusetts Music Educators Association **Senior Festival Choir**.



In preparation for their performance of *The Crucible*, Heather Rufo's **Theater Production** class visited the Salem Witch Trial Museum in Salem, MA. The museum is based on the actual documents of the Witch Trials of 1692. Students began their day at the museum, then walked around the downtown area to see some houses of the characters in the play. To learn more about this new class and its production, please see page 13.

WCHS students participate in two **service learning days** each year. As part of the school day, students and faculty provide community service at various sites in town including litter clean-up, special projects at Waters Farm and Daniels Farmstead, and visits with the residents at the Whitinsville Retirement Society. "How can we call ourselves a Christian school if we do not teach the students to love and serve others?" said Tahnee Kuder, faculty member and service learning coordinator. "Our service learning days are a chance for us to put this into practice outside our school walls, and hopefully strengthen our relationships within the community."



Students who are following WCHS's **STEM Degree Track** traveled to the Connecticut Science Center for a STEM Career Showcase. Students were able to meet and network one-on-one with representatives from Pfizer, UCONN Health Center, COX Communications, Lockheed Martin, and The Jackson Laboratory. Students also participated in a panel discussion where they heard from a resident pediatrician, a chemical analyst, a pharmaceutical lab scientist, and an engineer. Presenters gave insight about their journey to become the professionals they are, what their day-to-day job entails, and advice for the future. Students were able to ask questions and also participate in some hands-on activities supplied by these companies.



# Christmas Events

Christmas is a time of music and worship to celebrate our Savior's birth. On Friday, December 2, the Elementary Enrichment Choir joined the Orchestra for our first Christmas concert of the season. The following night, Vocal Ensemble, and the Middle and High School Bands and Choirs came together for a second beautiful night of music.

Stepping Stone Preschool students worked together to tell the Nativity story from Luke 2.







# A History Lesson, a Field Trip, and Storytellers

Heather Rufo, Director of Arts



WCS has a reputation for incredibly talented students. The Fine Arts Degree Track was created to support these students, and their God-given talents, who are interested in pursuing further studies in the arts. This diploma

endorsement demonstrates commitment, and could give a student an edge when applying to competitive programs. Theater Production is a new course at WCHS, designed to be a great fit in the Fine Arts Degree Track, or for any student who wants to learn more about this art of storytelling.

During the first weekend of January, Theater Production students and their student-director staged Arthur Miller's classic, *The Crucible*. This classic play dramatized the Salem Witch Trials of 1692, written as an allegory of McCarthyism, when the US government persecuted people accused of being communists in 1956. These 28 WCHS storytellers researched each one of the

character's lives in order to tell their story. These stories may be hard to hear, like much of our history is, but we are thankful that as Christians we have our faith to guide us through our broken world.

I'm very proud of the class for taking on this challenging play with such dedication. Aside from four evening tech rehearsals, *The Crucible*, was staged and rehearsed during our third period class time, with an occasional make-up lunch rehearsal. By having the first semester high school drama as the Theater Production Class, my hope was to allow students more flexibility in their after-school schedules to participate in sports or musical ensembles that would otherwise conflict. I'm thrilled that with this change, we have many new thespians at Whitinsville Christian High School!



We had a fun semester not only working on the staging of the play, but also learning acting methods, stage presence, giving and taking the stage, point of focus with blocking, and pacing and climax of a scene. Students conducted character research during a field trip to Salem, enjoyed Mark DeWeerd's history lesson, and had a discussion on the themes within *The Crucible*, character development, and more importantly how as Christians we can approach playing these roles.





# Back to the Future: A Snapshot of Where We've Been and the Vision Ahead

Jennifer Talamini, Director of Advancement

“From generation to generation, we will recount thy praise.” Psalm 79:13 was the scripture verse for the fiftieth anniversary of WCS in 1978. These words are just as true now, as we enter the ninety-five year anniversary of Whitinsville Christian School.

As we continue to welcome more and more new families to WCS, and proudly represent more than 70 churches, it is essential that we all have an understanding of our school's roots and history.

Our roots were carefully and prayerfully cultivated in 1907 by a group of fathers from the Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville. It was their desire and purpose to educate their children in a school where God's Word was central to all of learning. In 1924, the Society for Christian Instruction was incorporated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as an educational institution, and in 1928, the first students of WCS gathered for classes in the basement of the Christian Reformed Church on Willow Street.

Since then, the school has been blessed in tremendous ways and seen a variety of physical, organizational, and programmatic growth. The common themes that have remained throughout the decades of these changes has been the loyalty, determination, and support of parents, grandparents, small businesses, and our community to ensure our students and teachers always have everything they need to thrive in their journey to academic success and a robust relationship with their faith.

Today, we are blessed to have annual supporters who sacrificially offer financial gifts in support of the WCS Annual Fund, in addition to the exciting events we host throughout the year from Giving Day to the Spring Auction.

In the coming year, we are looking forward to welcoming more members to our newest addition to our fundraising endeavors. The 1928 Society for Leadership Giving is our leadership giving program. These leadership tiers have been thoughtfully named in recognition of the various parts of history that we hold dear.

**PLEASANT STREET CIRCLE** - In honor of the Christian Reformed Church where a group of fathers desired to have a school where Christ would be at the center of their children's education.

**WILLOW STREET CIRCLE** - The school where our story and first-generation families began. We pay tribute to everyone who was part of laying the foundation here at this schoolhouse.

**KRULL MEMORIAL CIRCLE** - Thanks to a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Krull, the Krull Memorial Auditorium was made possible, in recognition of Leonard Krull's parents. Leonard Krull had a deep love for Christian education and many family connections to WCS.

**NEHEMIAH CIRCLE** - In 2015, the Rise Up & Build capital campaign launched, with a theme scripture of Nehemiah 2:18. Nehemiah and his followers do what seems to be impossible because they are doing what God has called them to do. Through the generous support and tireless efforts of many volunteers, we were blessed to see our state-of-the-art Performing Arts and Athletic complex come to life.

**CRUSADER CIRCLE** - What is a school without a mascot? WCS adopted the Crusader as our mascot to honor its meaning of a person who works hard for a cause. For us, that cause is found in our mission statement, "...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."

We have been so blessed with dedicated faculty and staff who have devoted their careers to Christian education. Add to that, faithful parents and friends who have supported the cause of Christian education in the Blackstone Valley for decades. The greatest appreciation for the success, support, and love for WCS goes to God. He has seen us through 95 years, and blessed our efforts in so many ways.

*As this issue is being printed, Jennifer Talamini will be leaving her position as Director of Advancement. Jenn has a deep love for the Lord and supporting ministries. One of the ministries that is very meaningful to her is Berea Ministries in Hebron, NH. Jenn has felt God's calling to join their team as Director of Advancement. We are thankful for Jenn and her service to WCS.*

1928 Society of Leadership Giving levels	
Pleasant Street Circle	\$100,000+
Willow Street Circle	\$25,000 - \$99,999
Krull Memorial Circle	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Nehemiah Circle	\$2,500 - \$9,999
Crusader Circle	\$1,000 - \$2,499
BlueCru Young Alumni Circle Within 10 years of graduating	\$250 and above



# WCS Timeline

**1907**

The Society for Christian Instruction is formed.

**1924**

The Society was incorporated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as an educational institution.

**1928**

Whitinsville Christian School opened its doors for the first time in the basement of the Christian Reformed Church on Willow Street.

**1966**

The present 27-acre site of the school was purchased from the Whitin Machine Works.

**1968**

Ground was broken for the construction of the present building at 279 Linwood Avenue.

**1969**

Students and teachers walked from the Willow Street building to the new facility on Linwood Ave.

**1978**

WCS celebrated its 50th anniversary. A high school was added with the first class graduating in 1982.

**1993**

WCS was awarded full accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

**2013**

The Library Media Center and an expanded elementary school library were completed.

**2017**

WCS dedicated the Nehemiah Center, a state-of-the-art gymnasium, auditorium, and athletic facility.

## John T. Bajema National Honor Society



The newest members were inducted into the John T. Bajema National Honor Society on Monday, November 14, 2022. Tammi Gorman, WCHS Dean of Faculty and Instruction, served as the guest speaker for the event.

*Front row, left to right:* Kate Crowley, Carlie Paharik, Hannah Lashley, Bella Silveira, Kaylin Fogg, Meadow O'Connell, Ava Ibrahim, Grace Walton, Hayden Plourde, and Ethan Enoch

*Back row:* Sining (Niki) Guo, Annika Fortna, Delia Moloney, Caleb Deters, Justin Vos, Avery Glidden, Declan Smith, Jaquelyn McNamara, Will Johnson, and Ella Brochu

*Not pictured:* Nathan Romine



## New (and returning) Faces



**Kelly Alberts**  
Elementary PE Teacher



**Lindsay Aloise**  
Aftercare Teacher/  
Classroom Aide



**Meaghan Cartagena**  
Elementary School 2nd  
Grade Teacher



**Ashley Clifford**  
Stepping Stone  
Preschool Aide



**James Dotzler**  
Elementary SAS Para



**Stevie Fernandez**  
Middle School World  
Language Teacher



**Bethany Johnson**  
Administrative Assistant  
in the HS Office/  
Advancement



**Jason Keith**  
High School Dean  
of Students and  
Leadership/Faculty



**Elizabeth Murphy**  
Elementary PE  
Teacher



**Cindy Monteiro**  
Middle School SAS  
Paraprofessional



**Kelly O'Grady**  
Elementary Classroom  
Aide



**Lori Pacheco**  
Elementary Classroom  
Aide



**Carrie Poe**  
Middle School long-term  
sub



**Sarah Roy**  
Middle School Para  
long-term sub



**Stacey Savage**  
High School Science  
Teacher/STEM  
Coordinator



**Tricia Shen**  
Health and Wellness  
Counselor



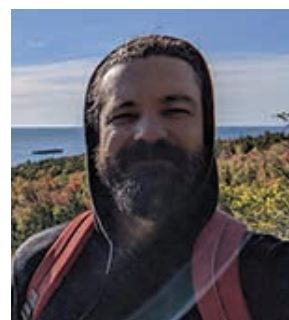
**Rachel Spratt**  
Health and Wellness  
Para/Elementary  
Classroom Aide



**Mary St. Denis**  
Elementary School  
World Language Teacher



**Kelly Styf**  
Middle School Health,  
Bible, & PE Teacher



**Rev. Mike Sullivan**  
Chaplain





**Nancy Venditti**  
Stepping Stone  
Preschool Aide



**Tricia Wozniak**  
Elementary Classroom  
Aide



**Elizabeth Zych**  
Elementary Classroom  
Aide



**Alison Zylstra**  
Middle School Science  
& Bible Teacher

## NEW ROLES

**Bethanie Chandler** - Health and Wellness Counselor

**Tammi Gorman** - High School Dean of Faculty and Instruction

**Dr. Erin Lowery-Corkran** - High School Dean of Academic Support and Administration

**Michael Persenaire** - Assistant Athletic Director

**Kathy Rios** - Guidance & International Programs Coordinator

**Kurt Savage** - Athletic Director

**Zachary Surapine** - Middle and High School Orchestra Conductor

# Dutch Apple Pie Sale

Autumn in New England means falling leaves, pumpkin spice everything, and the Annual WCS Dutch Apple Pie Sale! This community event produced 5,000 pies, with many being donated to local food pantries and first responders. In addition to raising in more than \$44,000 to support WCS, this “fun-raiser” brings together old friends, introduces new connections, and brings smiles to the hard-working teams behind the scenes and on the pie assembly lines!

800+  
DONATED  
PIES



5,000  
PIES

Raised  
\$44,000

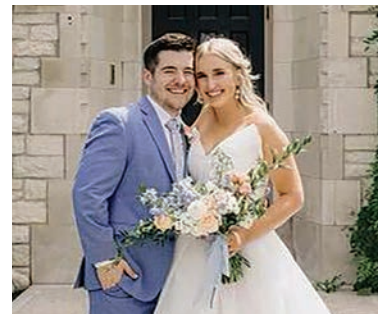




## WEDDINGS



**Andrew Green (Class of 2008)** and Nicole were married on October 1, in Cleveland, Ohio, with many alumni friends in attendance: **Austin Holt, Garrett Harden, Dave Hennessy (all Class of 2008)**, and **Peter Bloem (Class of 2009)**. **Ryan Mascilak (Class of 2008)** officiated the ceremony!



**Arianna Koeman** and **Colin Swaim (both Class of 2017)** were married on July 31, 2022, in Grand Rapids, MI.

## BABIES



**Katherine (Anderson, Class of 2009)** and **Michael Boyer** welcomed **Wesley Lucca** in October.



**Ryan (Class of 2007)** and **Elise Craig** welcomed **Charles** in early November.



**Jeffrey (Class of 2009)** and **Lauren Bloem** welcomed **Eleanor Maeve** on December 9.



**Samantha (Homer)** and **Mitch Bajema (both Class of 2005)** welcomed **Cooper William** in January.

## ENGAGEMENT

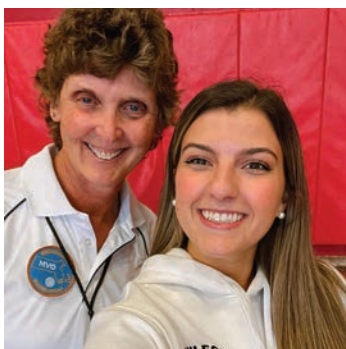


**Christina Alexander** and **Hunter Tetreault (both Class of 2011)** are engaged.

## FULL CIRCLE



Firefighter **Isaiah Hart (Class of 2018)** visited the Stepping Stone Preschool students to teach them about fire safety.



**Abby Graves (Class of 2017)** found a familiar face on the volleyball court – **Kris VandenAkker** was on-hand to referee a volleyball game at Milford High School, where Abby is a volleyball and tennis coach and teacher!

## CONDOLENCES

**Gertrude G. (De Jong) Vander Brug (8th grade Class of 1949)** of Whitinsville passed away in September in Hope Hospice Ctr., Providence, RI. She was 87 years old. Gertrude was member of the Blackstone Valley Heritage Quilt Guild and was a Legacy Quilter. She was also a longtime member and Calvinette Counselor at Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church.

**Theodore (Ted) S. Koopman (8th grade Class of 1950)** passed away in Brooksville, FL, on December 1, 2022. He was born on November 18, 1936, in Northbridge, MA. Ted grew up, and raised his family, in the Pleasant Street and Fairlawn Christian Reformed Churches. Ted was full of life and always happy to share a story, a laugh and a smile with everyone.

**Gordon Ernest Kooistra (8th grade Class of 1951)** passed away in December. Gordon attended Pleasant Street Church and Whitinsville Christian School, and graduated from Northbridge High School. After serving in the military, he graduated from Moody Bible Institute and gained his single-engine pilot's license to prepare for a career in missionary aviation. He later joined Wycliffe Bible Translators and served in Colombia, South America, for 30 years with his wife, Shirley.

**Suzan Mosczynski (8th grade Class of 1977)** passed away in September in Douglas after health complications. She was educated at Whitinsville Christian School, Worcester Academy, and graduated from North Smithfield High School in 1981. Suzan owned and operated her family farm "Oko Farm" in Douglas for many years.



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**We are grateful for our generous donors. This donor list reflects gifts given in the calendar year 2022.**

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John and Heidi F Williams  
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## Honorarium Gifts Were Given On Behalf Of:

**Hope Brookhouse's  
Graduation**  
Peter and Cheryl Bechunas

**Avery and Colin Dertien**  
Carolyn Motta

**Kayla Hannon's Graduation**  
Peter and Cheryl Bechunas

**Chris and Laurie Vander Baan**  
Zachary Wojtowicz

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## Memorial Gifts Were Given On Behalf Of:

**Kay Baird**  
Glenn E and Deborah N King\*

**Gladys Bajema**  
Alex and Alexandra Vander  
Baan\*

**Lynn Bajema**  
Rian and Debra Harpie

**William and Jennie Baker**  
Richard Baker

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Shirley M Bangma

**Louis Bangma**  
Shirley M Bangma

**Helen Banning**  
Jeffrey and Pamela J Bajema  
Cynthia Baker\*  
Eleanor J Baker  
Michael L and Annika B  
Bangma  
Shirley M Bangma  
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Glen and Helena W Bloem\*  
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Alex and Alexandra Vander  
Baan\*  
Robert L and Kathryn G  
VanderBaan\*  
Keith and Lori J VanderWeele  
Wanda VanderZee  
Earl and Karen J Wielsma  
Bernard S and Minnie Wiersma  
Donna L Wiersma  
MaryAnn Wiersma  
John and Heidi F Williams

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**John Casey**  
John D and Sheryl L Casey\*  
Lois Casey

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Anthony Cinelli  
Ray Cinelli

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**Michael Cnossen**  
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The Eric & Krista Gray Family  
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David and Kimberly Wynja

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MaryAnn Wiersma

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## Upcoming Events

**WCS**

**37th Annual  
Spring Auction  
Pleasant Valley  
Country Club  
April 14**



**WCHS Drama Club  
Presents  
The Descendants  
April 27-29**



**Retirement Open  
House  
May 30**



**Graduation  
June 2**



**Annual Golf Outing  
Blackstone National  
Golf Club  
June 12**

Please visit [whitinsvillechristian.org](http://whitinsvillechristian.org) for more information and for our full schedule of events.