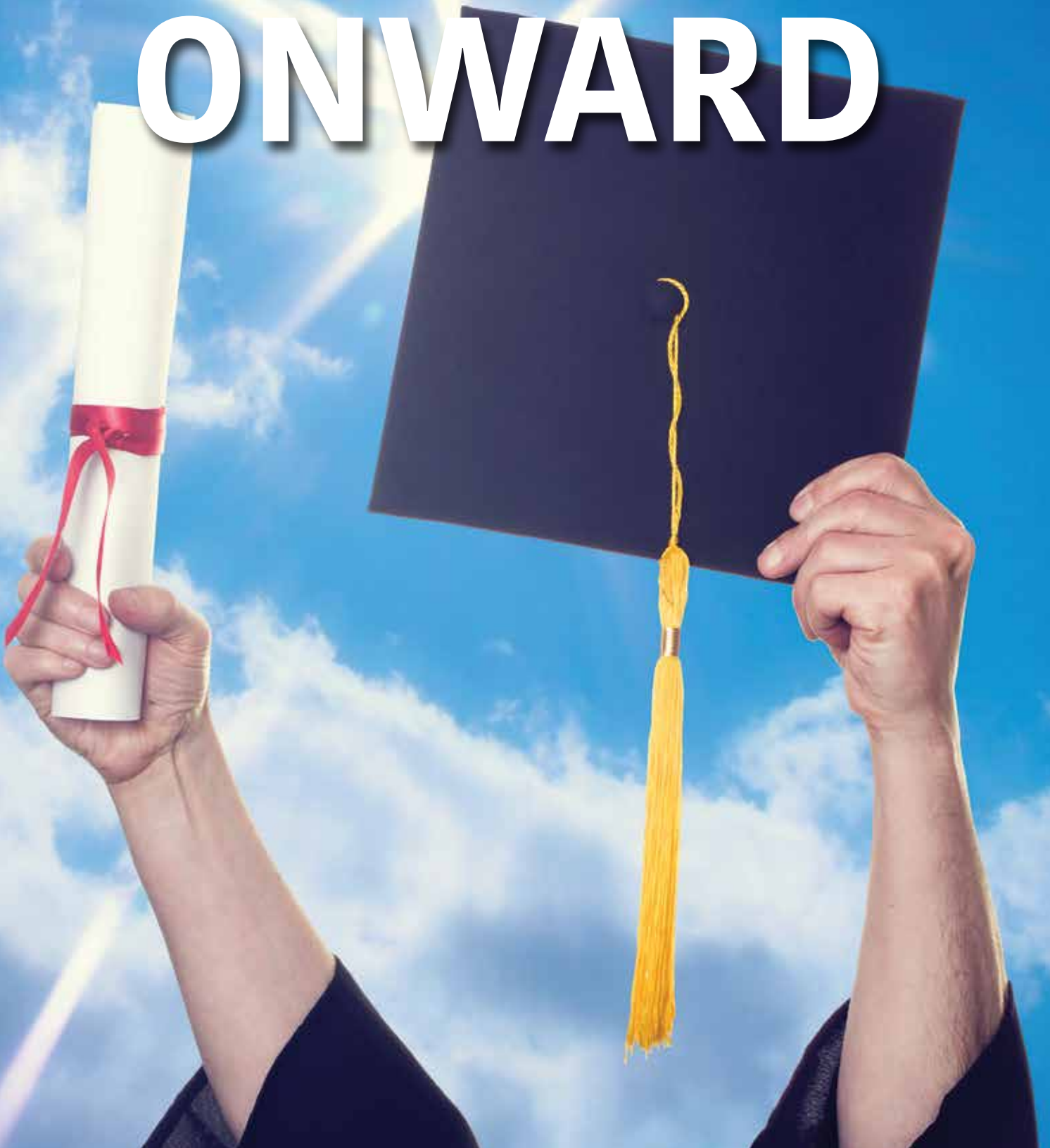


Summer 2019, Volume 30, Issue 2

The Crusader Chronicle

ONWARD



WHITINSVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Onward

– Organizational Momentum



You have to be moving “Onward.” The best way to learn to ride a bicycle is on a gently sloping surface that keeps you moving. Standing still simply does not work when learning to ride a bike and it certainly does not serve well in organizations like WCS. In fact, I wonder if there really is such a thing as organizational “standing still.” It seems to me that if you are not moving forward, you are moving backward. It really is a question of “How are we moving onward?” With the completion of one school year and the anticipation of another, we are energized by this idea of Onward. Onward is a pervasive theme throughout WCS and it is the focus of this issue of the *Chronicle*.

Forty-four students graduated from Whitinsville Christian High School on June 14, 2019. Each one is moving onward; no standing still for these new alumni. They’ll move onward into the next phase of life for each individual, prepared to make a difference in God’s world. Graduation is a wonderfully complicated event, honoring as they do, a confluence, when tides of personal history come together – past, present and future – when conflicting emotions compete for our attention – nostalgia and anticipation, pride and relief, giddy joy, and some sadness for days too soon gone by. But the essence of graduation is moving forward – Onward.



The WCS Board of Trustees has developed a Strategic Plan with assistance from Independent School Management (ISM) looking onward into the next 5 years. With 22 items and 77 tasks that require strategic attention, the process is prompting an onward perspective that will result in action for the future of WCS.

After what will be 36 years at WCS, I plan to retire during the summer of 2020. A search firm, JobFit Matters, has been contracted to work with WCS in the search for the next Head of School. WCS is moving onward with leadership for the mid-21st century in a culture that desperately needs the powerful influence of Christian education in the lives of students.

An Academic Strategic Plan has been developed through a coordinated, extensive effort by Sue Cooper, completing her work as Curriculum Coordinator. Each curriculum department led by a department head offered their vision for the future. There is a real sense that curriculum, being the framework of our education, needs an “onward” perspective to meet the global needs of our students.

In July 2017, Pixar announced a “suburban fantasy world” film entitled *Onward* with Dan Scanlon directing. The film is expected to be released on March 6, 2020. I can only imagine the onward momentum around the development of that film to meet the anticipated release. WCS has organizational onward momentum propelled by the redemptive work of Jesus Christ embedded in the reality of our time – making the world a better place as Kingdom citizens. Onward!

Lance B. Engbers
Head of School



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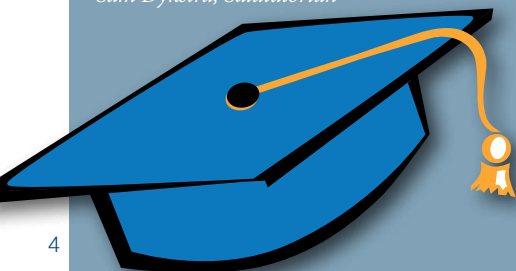
CLASS OF 2019



Tyler Gorman, Valedictorian



Sam Dykstra, Salutatorian



Commencement ceremonies for the class of 2019 were held on Friday, June 14, in the Nehemiah Center Gymnasium at Whitinsville Christian School. Families, friends, alumni, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate 44 students as they received their diplomas while class advisers, Tammi Gorman and Kelly Penning, shared memories of each student.

As part of the commencement ceremonies, Denise (Koopman) Brookhouse ('87) was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Denise shared fond memories of her time at WCS. She spoke of friendships that have remained important to her and shared what WCS has meant to her family. She also celebrated the changes the school has seen over the years such as increased course offerings, growth of the campus, and increased extra-curricular opportunities. To read more about this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, please see page 7.



Jerry Van Tol

Jerry Van Tol, retiring high school faculty member, delivered the commencement address. He shared stories of his own days as a young student, the graduations he has seen, and his 36 years with WCS. In a fitting reinforcement of the WCS mission, he shared a quote often attributed to Mark Twain: "The two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why."

Mr. Van Tol also shared, "Arie Pencovici, a frequently quoted motivational speaker, said, 'Graduation is only a concept. In real life, every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you will make a difference.' What do you need to do to graduate again tomorrow? What will be your next step in the process of graduation?"

**"But for me
it is good to be
near God."**

- Philippians 1:6

"I am suggesting tonight that Scripture tells us what we need to do to graduate again tomorrow. Philippians 1:6 assures us that we don't have to figure that out by ourselves. That text reminds us 'he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.' You can be confident that God will travel with you. But you already know that! You have chosen a class verse that says, 'But for me it is good to be near God.'"

High School Awards Ceremony



Strong Academic Endeavor Awards

Grade 9: David Randall
Grade 10: Sam Chilton
Grade 11: Anela Picotte
Grade 12: Nathan Haire

Academic Subject Awards

Art: Tori Paine
Band: Christian Swaim
Bible: Kateri Hart
Business: Jonathan Baker & Daria Pedersen
Choir: Michaela Cannistraci
Drama: Amiah Van Dyke
English: Quinn Colligan
History: Tyler Gorman
Math: Sam Dykstra
Orchestra: Ben Casey
Science (Biological): Rachel Cozzens
Science (Physical): Ben Casey
Spanish: Tyler Gorman
Technology: Bobby Whiton

Annual Local and Memorial Scholarships

Arthur Wiersma Memorial Scholarship: Rachel Cozzens & Sam Hearn
George J. VandenAkker Memorial Scholarship: Abby Karns
Eric J. Cook Memorial Scholarship: Kateri Hart
Milford Federal Savings & Loan Scholarship: Rebekah Lashley
UniBank Scholarship: Sam Hearn
Blackstone Valley Rotary Club Scholarship: Ben Casey
Thelma DeYoung Memorial Award for Excellence Scholarship: Hadley Koeman

WCS Administered Awards and Private Scholarships

Outstanding Senior Graduates: Ben Casey, Michaela Cannistraci
Jim & Jean Nydam Honorary Scholarship: Micah Hart
Carson Scholars Fund Award: Anneke Zeyl
DAR Good Citizen Award: Michaela Cannistraci
Telegram & Gazette Student Achiever Award: Samuel Dykstra
Harvard Book Award: Peter Johnson
George Washington Book Award: Katie Wren
Gordon College Book Award: Darnell Worley
Smith College Book Award: Jessye VandenAkker
Mass Secondary School Administrators: Rebekah Lashley
Garry and Annette Keessen Scholarship: Vanessa Rios

Founders Award (K-12 at WCS)

Jonathan Baker, Gabe Brookhouse, Grant Buurma, Ben Casey, Sam Dykstra, Nathan Haire, Lindsay Kellman, Christian Swaim, Bobby Whiton

Congratulations to the 97 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!



Whitinsville Christian School has been blessed to provide a Christian education to students for 91 years. That longevity means that each year we are able to celebrate graduates who are members of a multi-generation WCS family.

Legacy Families



Jonathan Baker with his father, Darrell Baker ('89), and grandfather, Herm Baker ('54)



Gabe Brookhouse with his mother, Denise (Koopman) Brookhouse ('87), and grandfather, Don Koopman ('50).



Grant Buurma with his grandmother, Cynthia (Nydam) Frieswyk ('55), father, Phil Buurma ('77), and grandmother, Kathy (Bosma) Buurma ('49)



Ben Casey with his father, John Casey ('86)



Emily Schneider with her mother, Karyn (Baker) Schneider ('86)



Amiah Van Dyke with her grandmother, Trina (Wynja) Van Dyke ('53), and father, Bill Van Dyke ('82)

WHERE THEY ARE GOING

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jonathan Baker | Messiah College |
| Sam Barker | US Air Force |
| Aaron Bell | Gordon College |
| Gabe Brookhouse | Texas Christian University |
| Grant Buurma | University of Tampa |
| Michaela Cannistraci | Southeastern University |
| Ben Casey | Calvin College |
| Nadiya Chalak | Worcester Polytechnic Institute |
| Youjin Chen | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute |
| Fan Cheng | Michigan State University |
| Maddie Clifford | University of New Hampshire |
| Quinn Colligan | Saint Anselm |
| Rachel Cozzens | Wheaton College |
| Sam Dykstra | Hope College |
| Chris Fredericks | Bridgewater State University |
| Aaron Goodell | Worcester State University |
| Tyler Gorman | Northeastern University |
| Nathan Haire | Bridgewater State University |
| Kateri Hart | Worcester State University |
| Sam Hearn | Siena College |
| Aidan Holgate | Gordon College |
| Abby Karns | Gordon College |
| Lindsay Kellman | Bowling Green State University |
| Rebekah Lashley | University of Pennsylvania |
| Christina Leduc | Connecticut College |
| Shirley Li | Penn State University |
| Ben MacGillivray | Calvin College |
| Bella Marquis | Fordham University |
| Caitlin Niu | Rutgers University New Brunswick |
| Emma Oakes | University of Alabama |
| Tori Paine | Gordon College |
| Daria Pedersen | Gordon College |
| Emily Schneider | Gordon College |
| Nicolette Scinicariello | Wheaton College |
| Christian Swaim | Calvin College |
| Justin Tulley | University of Tampa |
| Abby Upham | University of Arkansas |
| Amiah Van Dyke | Belmont University |
| Nick Visgatis | Culinary Institute of America |
| Will Watters | College of Charleston |
| Bobby Whiton | Wentworth Institute of Technology |
| Michael Xu | École hôtelière de Lausanne |
| Ray Yu | Northeastern University |
| Vera Zhang | University of Washington |

Distinguished ALUMNI

Denise Brookhouse



The 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to **Denise (Koopman) Brookhouse** at the Whitinsville Christian High School commencement ceremonies on June 14. “We are pleased to honor Denise with this award. Her commitment to Christian education is evident in her support of WCS, not only as an alumna, but also as a parent. Her leadership in the Rise Up & Build campaign to support the building of the Nehemiah Center was key to its success not only in reaching its goal, but in the professional manner in

which the campaign was run. Denise’s leadership in the community, while helping run a thriving third-generation family business certainly makes Denise a distinguished alumna,” said Lance Engbers, Head of School.

When asked about receiving the award Denise shared, “I am grateful as WCS has had a huge impact on my life and the lives of my family. It is such a great community. I am humbled to be part of a legacy of so many dedicated alumni who have contributed to WCS throughout the years.”

Denise was a graduate of WCS’s sixth high school class. “Although there weren’t as many course offerings as there are today, I was well prepared for college,” said Denise. “Our small classes allowed for a lot of interaction with our teachers, and we were able to form great relationships with them. I received an excellent education taught by caring teachers from a Christian perspective which has helped me live out my faith in my career.”

Denise was also an accomplished athlete for WCS. “I have so many wonderful memories of playing volleyball and basketball at WCS. We loved having Mrs. (Kris) VandenAkker as a coach. One particular game that stands out is when **Cindy Plantinga (’87)** stole the ball with seconds left on the clock. She passed the ball to me and I scored the winning basket in a district game!”



After graduating, Denise attended Calvin College where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in French as well as a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. She worked as a Certified Public Accountant in Michigan, and then as an internal auditor for Herman Miller. In 1996, she returned to Massachusetts and joined Koopman Lumber where she serves as Chief Financial Officer.

Hope, Owen, Tony, Denise, Gabe, and Nate



“I am grateful as WCS has had a huge impact on my life and the lives of my family. It is such a great community. I am humbled to be part of a legacy of so many dedicated alumni who have contributed to WCS throughout the years.”

Denise has served as a Trustee for Whitinsville Christian School, a member of the WCS Spring Auction Committee, and a Board member of the Whitin Community Center. She has served as a Corporator of the Greater Worcester Foundation, participating in the Scholarship Committee. She has been a member of the Board of Directors at Unibank for Savings since 2011. She currently serves on the Finance Committee at Milford Regional Hospital. She and her husband, Tony, are members of Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church. They have four children: **Nate (’14)**, **Owen (’16)**, **Gabe (’19)**, and **Hope (’22)**.

“WCS has produced so many amazing alumni doing God’s work in various fields,” said Denise. “I hope we can continue to foster a culture of pride in the institution from which these alumni came. I also hope that we can build up the Endowment Fund so that WCS can offer more tuition assistance and be affordable for all who would like to come to WCS.”

ONWARD



“We have Graduated”

By Chris Vander Baan, High School Principal

On June 14, at 8:05 p.m., 44 WCHS seniors flipped the tassels on their caps, bounced down the aisle, and hustled out of the Nehemiah Gymnasium. Onward and forward! According to Merriam-Webster’s dictionary, Onward means moving forward or continuing a journey. WCS celebrated yet another rite of passage as WE finished another school year and graduated our seniors. What a night of celebration as retiring English teacher, “King Leroy” Jerry Van Tol, challenged and blessed the seniors and audience with memories of Doon, Iowa, and reflections on “graduating.”



While graduation marks the end of a journey we call high school, it is the launching pad for adult life. The mission of Whitinsville Christian School is to nurture the academic, spiritual, personal, social, creative and physical development of students, in cooperation with their parents, for Christ-like service in God’s world. At our

very core, the staff and faculty are preparing young men and women to “move forward” and to continue the great things they have learned and experienced in their high school journeys. Forty-four amazing young minds, filled with knowledge and life experiences that have readied each one of them for the journey. Forty-three graduates are planning to attend 34 different colleges and universities around the United States and Europe. One graduate is enlisting in the U.S. Air Force. Declared majors include Business Management, Economics, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Pre-Vet, Nursing, Neuroscience, Avi-



ation Flight School, Speech Pathology, Psychology, Applied Mathematics, Finance, Cultural Anthropology, and Education. Some of our graduates will study Public Health, Hospitality, Culinary Arts, and Social Work. Some will begin their journey at Christian colleges while others will start their journey at some of the finest colleges and universities found in the United States.

It is our prayer and deepest desire for these outstanding students, athletes, actors, musicians, and children of the Creator of the Universe to be culture-changers. We hope and pray that their journeys will impact God’s world in powerful and unique ways. We hope and anticipate that some of these fine, young men and women will design buildings, create amazing artwork, sing on stage, or use their gifts and talents to make our world better, person by person. We want our graduates to be bold and confident and to demonstrate their faith in every facet of their lives.

In many ways WCS is moving onward. Our high school is forward-thinking with its use of technology and is constantly tweaking, adding, and subtracting courses and curriculum to give our students the best possible experience. I am amazed at how much change has occurred in the past five years. A successful journey only occurs if the participants have the tools, resources, and preparation necessary to understand what that future journey might be like. Our team of highly motivated teachers and our staff of innovative specialists have dedicated their lives to getting our high schoolers ready for the journey. Moving “onward” in this rapidly changing world without the proper planning, preparation, and Biblical foundation would set our 44 seniors up for failure. While WCS is certainly not a perfect place, we are completely committed to doing our very best to prepare our students to move “onward.” Pray for our graduates and pray that God continues to guide and lead WCS onward.



Onward!

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

Onward! When I hear this word I picture a group of explorers on a journey facing some type of obstacle – tough weather such as driving rain or snow, a river to cross that's overflowing its banks, a mountain range that needs to be traversed, a trail that's been lost, or some combination of these. The leader determines the team's next step, points in a direction they need to go, and with confidence rallies his team with the cry, "Onward!"

When I think of WCS in this context, we are not in a dire situation, but we do have some challenges on the horizon that need to be navigated with thought and care. The definition of onward is "toward or at a point lying ahead in space or time." The strategic plan we are putting the final touches on is a tool with goals and tasks for the next five years in order to move WCS to an enhanced state and to help ensure its longevity. Our prayer is that the strategic plan moves us onward.

Earlier this year, the board partnered with Independent School Management (ISM) to work toward developing a 5-year strategic plan. Surveys were sent to WCS students, parents, faculty, administrators and board members to determine the current state of WCS and what areas need to be addressed moving forward. We had a terrific response rate, so THANK YOU to all for your participation. ISM compiled all the survey data, benchmarked it against successful schools,



and facilitated a 4-day planning session with the WCS board and administration. At the end of our time together, we had identified 22 plan items with more than 70 associated tasks to be worked on over the next 5 years.

The goal is to have the strategic plan finalized by the beginning of the upcoming school year, accompanied by a communication plan to share with the WCS community. One item we have had to address immediately is the search for a new Head of School.



“We can see how God’s hand has guided WCS from its inception until now and believe that He has great plans for the school in the future.”

It is not an easy task to replace someone who has faithfully and successfully led a growing school for 35 years! We have partnered with JobFit Matters (JFM) – a search organization that places Christian leaders in schools, colleges, and service organizations - to help us with this search. In June, JFM visited WCS and interviewed parents, faculty, administrators, the

Head of School and board members. A survey was also sent out to parents, faculty, board members and the WCS community to gather information on the school and determine what leadership attributes are needed for the next Head of School. Again, we had excellent survey participation which was very helpful and provided useful insight. Thank you! Over the summer the Head of School job description will be finalized and distributed to several Christian networks and the screening of initial candidates will begin. Please join me in praying as we thank God for the gift He gave us for over 30 years in Lance Engbers and to

ask Him to guide us to the next Head of School for WCS.

In all the information generated by the surveys given this spring, two encouraging sentiments came through loud and clear. The first one is that WCS is fulfilling its mission. The second is that the educational experience at WCS is a very good value. These expressions are encouraging to the board and a great starting-point for launching the strategic plan. We can see how God's hand has guided WCS from its inception until now and believe that He has great plans for the school in the future. Please continue to pray for His guidance as we search for a new Head of School and finalize the strategic plan.

ONWARD!

onward!

STEM Innovation & Leadership Expo

Things our visitors had to say

The exhibitors had great hands-on activities that my 7 year old really enjoyed. GREAT JOB!!!

I most enjoyed visiting Q90.1 because I've work in sound tech here at WCS.

I really liked the Gillette display because I learned a lot about how they use robotics to make razors.

I enjoyed the U.S Army exhibit because I am interested in joining the armed forces. Seeing different ways I can contribute to the armed forces was interesting.

The Tri-tech Pathways exhibit was my favorite because of their activities.

WCS hosted its first annual STEM Innovation and Leadership Expo in May in the Nehemiah Center. The goal of the Expo was to bring together fun activities and demonstrations that would introduce students of all ages to some of the latest innovations in STEM-related fields.

We are thankful to all of our exhibitors for their support. Attendees were able to explore computer science, robotics, engineering, design, coding, science, tech entrepreneurship, and more. Through many hands-on activities and demonstrations, students were able to see how the STEM learning they experience in class applies to various careers. Most visitors stayed at the Expo for about an hour, learning about the medical industry through devices and from a physician, flying drones, performing coding activities, exploring sound engineering, and learning about product design.

Exhibitors included Interscope, P&G/Gillette, U.S. Army Soldier Center, Dr. Theresa Arpin, radio station Q90.1, Trittech Pathways, Rhode Island Computer Museum, Lampin Corporation, Blackstone Valley Education Hub, Amazon Robotics, and Hewlett Packard Enterprises.



*(L to R, top to bottom): WCS parent, Dr. Theresa Arpin, gives Meah (rising 5th grader) a quick exam
Ryan Holt of Amazon Robotics
Stepping Stone Preschool parent, Benjamin Campbell, with the U.S. Army Soldier Center
Terva Corp. offered hands-on construction activities*



Spring Auction

The WCS Annual Spring Auction was held on Saturday, April 6, at Pleasant Valley Country Club. The evening's highlights included returning favorites such as hand-crafted items, delicious home-made treats, wonderful vacations, and our favorite auctioneer, Kurt Hanson. An exciting new element added to this year's auction was mobile bidding, allowing off-site bidders to participate in the action! We appreciate all of our faithful donors and sponsors, our enthusiastic bidders, and our generous special appeal donors who helped our Robotics team procure many items from their equipment "wish list."



Top photo: Erin Thakkallapalli, Spring Auction Committee Chairperson, with Lance Engbers
 Second photo: Mary and Larry Masselink with Kurt and Jane Hanson



The winning foursome of Russ VanderBaan, Jeff Timmer, John Hendrikse, and Sam Timmer, aka The Difference Maker

Golf Outing

The Annual Golf Outing was held on Monday, June 17, at a new location this year. We had a record number of participants join us as 104 golfers gathered at Blackstone National Golf Club for a great afternoon of golf and fellowship. Thank you to our golfers and our sponsors!



Above: Warming up on the putting green
 Left: An exciting new option: the golf ball cannon!



We are blessed with many visitors to Whitinsville Christian School. Many of these visitors are attending open houses or receiving a personal tour of the campus. They visit classrooms, walk through the gymnasiums, and see spaces for artistic expression. They are gathering information, observing our community, and determining if WCS is the right place for their student. As part of this process, we receive the same question quite often: What does Christian education mean at WCS?

For more than 90 years, WCS has nurtured the academic, spiritual, personal, social, creative, and physical development of students, in cooperation with their parents, for Christ-like service in God's world. The ways in which we have accomplished that mission have changed, as they should over the years.

A Strategic Academic Plan is in the works as we approach the mid-21st century. We must prepare students for a future that will require skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and flexibility with effective use of information, media, and technology.



Outdoor learning

Inspiration. Inquiry. Impact.

A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

What does this look like?

As recently as ten years ago, we relied on textbooks which can quickly become outdated. We now embrace technology as an important teaching tool. Learning is more collaborative, interactive, and led by teaching teams. WCS has established curriculum departments and identified leaders in those areas.

In preschool and elementary classes we are developing more creative lessons, expanding fine arts teaching, and increasing cross-curricular connections to nurture a community of learners. The middle school and high school will see the advancement of project-based learning, science and engineering programs, and a focus in mathematics to improve and deepen understanding. All of our students will benefit as we improve the way we teach subjects such as fine arts, languages, and physical education, to mathematics, science, and engineering.

Does this progress mean that we leave behind the “Christian” in “Christian education?” Absolutely not.

Humanities subjects will have the goal of nurturing engaged citizens. Bible courses will continue to teach lessons of belonging, believing, becoming, and blessing.

We will continue to focus on the questions:

- **How do we retain the values of our founders?**
- **Are we conveying to students the joy and hope of “Our world belongs to God”?**
- **Do our students have safe situations to ask questions and express doubts?**
- **How do we prepare our students for Christ-like service in God's world?**



Hands-on learning



Collaborative learning



The Last Supper recreation at high school chapel

Let's meet Ruth and Meah

How does a Christian education make a difference in the lives of our students?

Ruth just completed fourth grade and has attended WCS since the first grade. She has taken math, reading, and social studies classes. She creates artwork. She plays on the playground. And like all students at WCS, she learns about God and Jesus. While all of our students are unique, Ruth is particularly special. She was adopted from China, she is legally blind, and she has albinism.

Ruth's mother, Jo Anne Stenbuck, shared, "I worried so much about her that first month. She loves school and learning. WCS did that for her. At the end of first grade she went to a pool party. Because of her albinism, she swims in full skin protection with long sleeves, long pants, a big hat, and dark glasses. When we arrived, another child asked, 'Why is she dressed so funny?' One of her classmates boldly stepped forward and said, 'This is my friend, Ruth. Her skin can't protect her from the sun. If she doesn't wear that she will get sick. I don't want her to get sick.' The teacher taught Ruth's classmates why she is sometimes different and that is ok. She had a defender when she needed it and that defender was a peer, not an adult."



Meah and Ruth showing their archery skills

During the archery unit of Physical Education, students are typically given a safe amount of space to learn the techniques. With Ruth's limited vision, she needed a partner. Meah, one of Ruth's classmates, worked with Ruth, helping her hold the bow, stretching the arrow back, and kindly, sensitively, and safely assisting her aim. Meah showed the patience, kindness, and love that we are shown by our heavenly Father. Together they hit the bullseye.

"Thank you," Jo Anne wrote in an email to Lance Engbers, Head of School. "While Ruth excels in academics, she is happy because she is part of the group, not the blind Chinese girl with albinism. She is Ruth. They say it takes a village to raise a child. We found the right village."

CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Each year the senior Capstone Projects test the stamina, work-ethic, and patience of those who choose this path. These year-long projects completed in lieu of a research paper require extensive planning, organization, determination, and most of all passion.



Michaela Cannistraci became inspired while on a youth retreat in Tennessee. “We watched a video about a student who raised money to build a well. I chose to work with ComeUnity, an organization that WCS supported last year. I set a fundraising goal of \$5,000 and began planning my events.” Michaela hosted a paint night, organized a 6K, and planned a night of worship. She also spoke to WCS students during chapel and to the attendees of an IF:Gathering. “My events and goals were surrounded in prayer and I was so excited when the final counts came in and we had raised over \$6,000 to build a well in Kenya!”

support



Sam Dykstra is a skilled photographer who is passionate about meeting new people, learning about new cultures, and exploring God’s creation. His previous volunteer work during his sister’s (Adelaide ’17) Capstone Project eventually led him to African Community Education (ACE) in Worcester. “I’m so grateful for the life I’ve led and I am so glad that the students at ACE shared their stories with me. As refugees, they’ve experienced so many hardships, some they shared with me, some they didn’t.” Sam created a photo-journal telling their stories not only through words, but through beautiful images.

stories



Ben Casey was raised to love the outdoors and has developed a passion for the building process. He merged these two interests by designing and building a tear-drop camper. After months of hard work, with a great team of family and friends, Ben towed his camper to school and slept in it the night before his final presentation! “This was much harder than I thought it would be, but I’ve learned so much. My advice to others who are considering a Capstone Project is to choose something you love, because you will never be able to stay committed to the amount of work needed if you don’t love what you’re doing.”

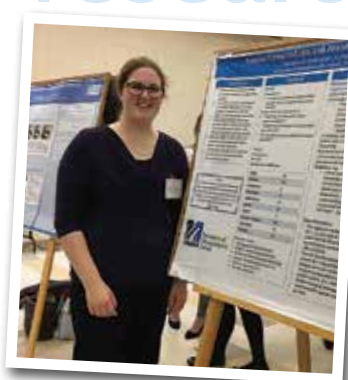
commitment





Abby Karns discovered an interest in genetics while taking a Virtual High School course on genes and diseases. Her project involved researching her own DNA and teaching genetics and DNA lessons to high school and middle school students. “I’ve learned that I do not want to be a teacher. I have a new appreciation for all of my teachers! But I discovered that I loved the research. This project reminded me that God has created each of us uniquely. There is so much precision and perfection put into His work.”

research



Rachel Cozzens was a freshman when she was introduced to Dr. Ashleigh Hillier of UMASS Lowell. They stayed in touch over the years and when Rachel began planning her Capstone Project, Dr. Hillier invited Rachel to participate in a research study addressing anxiety in college students. Rachel went through the long process to become certified in Research Ethics. “It’s important to decrease the stigma regarding mental health and the medications that offer people relief. Anxiety is on the rise and people need better access to resources.”

Tori Paine noticed the negative “self-talk” she was experiencing while completing Honors Pre-Calculus work during the summer of 2017. She realized that people have many internal feelings that aren’t true from another person’s perspective. As a talented artist, Tori wanted to create an art experience that would demonstrate the feelings of anxiety. She also introduced methods of help such as therapy, being part of a community, and a strong faith. “I

interviewed friends and family members about how anxiety makes them feel. I want people to know they aren’t alone and help is available. It’s so important to have your faith anchored in something constant.”



empathy



Daria Pederson has been volunteering with BINA Farm Center, a therapeutic horseback riding program, since she was 14. With her knowledge from business courses at WCS, she realized that BINA could benefit from producing an annual report, something they had never done before. “I wanted to provide a blueprint for an annual report, a way of telling their story to their supporters, their riders, and to the entire community. My favorite part of volunteering at BINA is to see the reaction of a rider who has achieved something new.”

involvement



Onward to Kigali

by Jake Gulinello ('14)

Throughout the last year, I have danced with farmers, ridden motorcycles through rainforests, and watched determined Rwandans create tangible economic development.

How in the world did I end up with a job in Kigali, Rwanda? As WCS focuses on how it's moving onward, it feels like an appropriate time for me to reflect on how I moved onward from WCS to East Africa.

God has certainly never left my side during my journey here. Thinking back, God began leading me to Rwanda back in high school at WCS. It was there that I was taught not only textbook knowledge about the world and how it works, but also the importance of acting on my faith and being a good steward of the passions and talents God has blessed me with. Whether it was playing my trumpet, running the soundboard, or playing soccer, WCS gave me the opportunities I needed to explore my interests.

It wasn't until attending Messiah College in 2014 as a business administration major that I began to discover my desire to live and serve abroad. I heard terms like "sustainable development" and "micro finance" for the first time. I quickly became obsessed with these ideas on economic development. To the enjoyment of everyone around me, these topics were always on my mind and therefore all I talked about. Thankfully God provided productive outlets for this new passion of mine. I joined a team of students that traveled to Zambia for two weeks to teach business development methods to a group of Zambians who were saving money together. It was during this trip that I saw firsthand the resiliency and determination of those living in the rural areas of developing countries. I saw the importance of providing a hand up for these people, rather than providing a handout.

Three years later and here I am in beautiful Kigali, Rwanda; one of the most exciting and inspiring places I've ever lived. Development is happening so quickly here, that I can write this article and sip coffee in a cafe that wasn't here when I arrived in September of 2018. There are lit tarmac roads through the city that were dirt only a few months ago. I find the pace of progress in this country exhilarating, and it provides me with daily inspiration to do my job to my fullest ability.

Through the Mennonite Central Committee, I am seconded to a Rwandan NGO called the Peace and Development Network (PDN). I assist two development projects focused



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on food security and financial inclusion in rural Rwanda. To increase food security, PDN creates farmer field schools where rural farmers can learn and practice new techniques that will make their crops more resilient to climate change, and therefore increase yields.

To work toward greater financial inclusion, PDN creates savings groups in districts around Rwanda. A savings group is made up of 25 community members who meet once per week to save money together, often only a few dollars at a time. From this collective pot of saved money, group members can take out loans to invest in income-generating activities such as small business ventures or agriculture. This is one of my favorite projects as I get to see first-

hand what Rwandans are capable of when given simple tools such as a small line of credit. With loans often less than \$100, group members can do things such as build additions onto their homes, buy more land for farming, send their children to school, and buy cows for milk.

I am fortunate enough to be able to travel around rural places in Rwanda every week to meet project participants and observe how PDN's projects are going. Each visit I am inspired by the people I meet. I am constantly reminded that Rwandans need only tools and moments of opportunity to improve their own lives. I feel like I have no place teaching people here the "American" way to do things. Rather, I am always trying to learn from those around me. Whether they know it or not, villagers have taught me important lessons in hospitality, loving others, and working toward the betterment of my community.

It is lessons like these that have encouraged me to extend my assignment here for another year. I've been in Rwanda for almost a year now, and am just hitting my stride. I am learning and growing every day, whether it be professionally, spiritually, or emotionally. Rwanda's development is by no means dependent on me, but I feel like I have more work to do here. I feel so lucky to be a part of the meaningful work PDN is doing around Rwanda. To put it simply, I am just not ready to leave this wonderful place. Here's to moving onward to another year of dancing, farming, saving, and growth!



More Classes Onward

Our high school graduates are not the only students who are moving "onward."

- Eighth graders were honored at an advancement ceremony on June 11. We wish them all a special blessing as they begin their high school years.
- Seventh graders participated in Summit on June 7. The goal for Summit is to prepare the upcoming eighth grade students for leadership for the next school year through team-building activities.
- Stepping Stone Preschool celebrated 52 of our youngest scholars on June 10 as they move onward to kindergarten!



Friends We'll Miss

A Tribute to Jerry VanTol

By Rocky VanTol

After a rich and prosperous 36 year reign, mostly in room 203 of the High School English department, "King Leroy" has decided to step away from his lectern and abdicate his classic oak desk to the next in line of succession. The era of Jerry Leroy VanTol has ended.

As every WCS high school student who enjoyed Jerry's annual Christmas chapel knows, he hails from the humble farming village of Doon, Iowa. Doon is a land known for its agricultural production: corn, soybeans, pork bellies, and stories. Of Jerry's seven older brothers and sisters, two became English teachers, and another two are nationally ranked Scrabble players. What they all have in common is the love of cultivated words. Many cold, prairie winter nights, and Sunday after-church coffee klatches infused with stories were the coin of the realm for the VanTols and their neighbors.

So in 1983, as Motorola introduced the first mobile phone, McDonalds served their first McNuggets, Toto hit #1 with *Africa*, Microsoft launched Word, *Star Wars* had the Jedi Return, and Reagan touted his Star Wars program, Jerry VanTol DJ'd his last Dordt College radio show and headed east. He arrived in Whitinsville to teach English part-time and sell hardware at Koopmans. He brought with him that rich, fecund literary tradition of his childhood. Walking into his room transported you into a separate little kingdom from the rest of the high school: green chalk boards you



"The King is retiring, long live the King"

can faintly smell, rafters exposed just overhead, actual print dictionaries topping shelves crammed full of classic paperbacks, and the desk loaded down with papers like compost.

Over the years, Jerry built the high school English department. As is the tradition, he taught Shakespeare, Twain, and the rest. But he also established a speech delivery class, and held fast to the senior paper - two things most other schools do not offer. Never a year goes by that a former student, who is then in college, returns on his or her break to express thanks for Jerry's attention to developing those skills. It is not uncommon that the college professor used that student's paper as an example for the whole class. Believe me, this happened all the time. Jerry also invested in the drama department, directing plays through the 80s and 90s. On one occasion he had to step in at the last minute and play the lead - the line heavy part of the Stage Manager in *Our Town*. The show must go on, and it did. Throughout his tenure, six or seven other English teachers have played a role in the department alongside him. He has shared the stage graciously with them all, but he has been the constant. This, while continuing to improve the curriculum by doing things like pushing to teach AP literature years ago.

I can't begin to explain how much fun it has been to work on staff with Jerry. In part, I was attracted to this school by my uncle, although we hardly knew each other at the time. We have spent many hours discussing grammar rules, teaching strategies, educational fads, Red Sox games, how much old paint to scrape off, and whether our last name has a space in it. Although house painting was work, farm boys don't shy away from that. There were many summer afternoons when I would find



On May 28, faculty, staff, family, and friends came together to celebrate Jerry VanTol's 36 years of dedication, service, and commitment to Christian education at Whitinsville Christian School.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jerry painting storm windows on a pair of sawhorses in the shade while listening to an afternoon Sox game...happiness. House painters make their money by having a good window man - that was Jerry on our crew.

Hundreds of students have benefitted from the stories, the directions, the corrections, and the quiet passion that Jerry has offered up in his courses over the years. His Midwestern-New England hybrid of reformed thinking in the literary arts has created a rich productive "field" for students to grow in. His institutional knowledge has been a blessing to the faculty when decisions are being weighed. We are grateful for his ideas, his hours, and the gallons of red ink he has patiently and lovingly spent to nurture the development of students for service in God's world, just as his own career has been one of that very kind of service to God also. Thanks, Jerry! Dilly Dilly!

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 2019-2020 school year.



Amy Cook
4th Grade Teacher



Nicole Darnell
Preschool Aide



Ann Fredericks
Preschool Teacher



Joan Pretorius
3rd Grade Teacher



Amy Stark
Student Academic Services



Michaela Van Voorst
High School Faculty and
Assistant Athletic Director



Jennifer (Wilson) Campbell ('98) and her husband, Nathaniel, welcomed William Henry on May 1.



Billy Fredericks ('14) and Julie Wieggers ('15) were married on July 6. The couple now resides in Douglas, MA.

CONDOLENCES

Gladys (DeYoung) Bangma ('42) of Uxbridge passed away on June 13. She was a lifelong member of Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church and part of a multi-generation WCS family.

Bertha (Schotanus) Pappas ('52) of Auburn passed away on April 16 after a struggle with Dementia and Parkinson Disease.

Arthur Jackson ('53) passed away April 20. He was very involved in the town of Whitinsville and served as President of the Board of Trustees at WCS.

Louis Dykstra ('58) lifelong resident of Whitinsville, passed away on May 2. Louis had worked for the U.S. Postal Service as a maintenance engineer for 20 years before retiring.

Audrey Veldhof ('59) passed away on June 3 in Zeeland, MI. After graduating from Calvin College, she was a teacher at Zeeland Christian School.

James Haagsma ('69) passed away on March 12. Mr. Haagsma owned and operated Haagsma Insurance in Whitinsville for many years and was dedicated to his many clients.

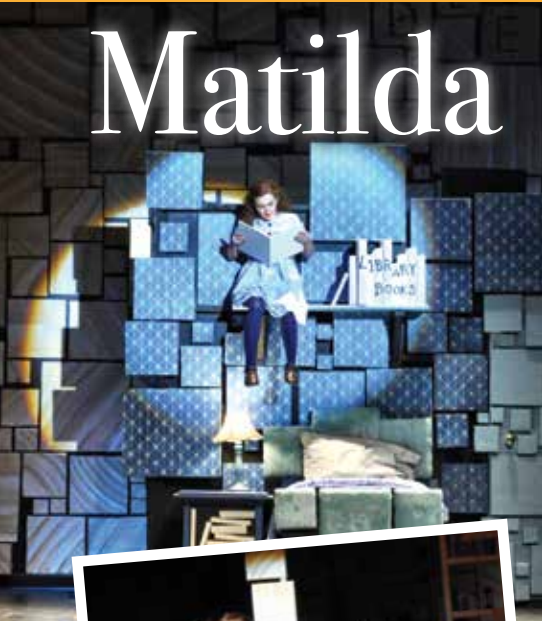
Trina (Wynja) VanDyke ('53) passed away on July 6. She was a lifelong resident of Whitinsville and a founding member of Faith Fellowship Church where she played the piano and was involved in many activities.



WHITECAPS

In June, WCS alumni and families in western Michigan joined Scott Anderson, WCS Director of Advancement, for a BBQ and Whitecaps Baseball Event. We're especially thankful to WCS alum and executive with the Whitecaps, Dean Exoo ('03), for helping to coordinate the event! If you'd like to suggest a regional event for WCS alumni in your area, please contact us!

Matilda



by Mary Dykstra, High School Drama Director

This year the HS drama department performed *Matilda the Musical* by Roald Dahl. This musical is based on the beloved children's book about a little girl named Matilda who is a brilliant child with lousy parents. The book was written in the 1970's and while being a book for children, it also has a satirical strain concerning adults and their ability to breed entitlement in their offspring. Those familiar with Roald Dahl's books, including the famous *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and many more, know that his writing often pokes fun at the idiosyncrasies of human nature.



His characters represent children with extremely bad traits, adults who don't like children, adults who idolize their offspring, and many other delightfully wacky characters. Of course, as in every good story, there are genuinely good characters and in the end, "good" triumphs over "evil" as Charlie wins the chocolate factory, James survives his trip in the giant peach, and Matilda gets a loving home.

One of the things I love about this particular musical is the fact that Matilda sees what is wrong in life and works to make it right. Even though she is a very young child, she makes a big difference in her little world. This reminds me of the passage from 1 Timothy 4:12 stating, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity..." While the story of Matilda is not a "Christian" story, it is full of a reformed way of living, Roald Dahl style.

One recurring musical theme sung by Matilda is, "...and that's not right. And if it's not right, you've got to put it right." This is what we, as reformed Christians, believe we are called to do in God's world. We believe God created the world, man sinned, Jesus came to save, and we are now in the process of restoration. This process is also known as creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.



As a cast, we talked a lot about this restoration period. We, like Matilda, looked for things in our world that are "not right" and brainstormed ways to "make it right". We looked at historical figures and how they worked to make the world a better place with examples from Martin Luther, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Gandhi, Malala, Mother Teresa, Jesus, and many more. We discussed in depth how Jesus pushed people to think creatively when they were faced with opposition. He never taught anyone to be a doormat, but rather to think of creative ways to seek justice.

We had a blast working on this amazing musical, learning valuable lessons and having a lot of fun with the characters, sets, songs and dances. It was a great show, filled with quirky, zany, extreme characters and with a wonderful restorative message. We again saw the power of working as the body of Christ, seeing so many different gifts and talents mesh together for a great production. Soli Deo Gloria!



Annie Jr.

Susan Upham,
Middle School Drama Club Director

My parents took me to see *Annie* at a theater in Kansas City for my 16th birthday. We sat in the front row and I was mesmerized. Now, nearly 40 years later, this show still captures my heart. The story line of a little orphan girl's longing to find somewhere to belong and feel loved resonates in every soul - it is the desire of every human heart.

As an adopted child myself, I understand this longing in a very personal way. As Christians, we find that desire met fully and marvelously in our adoption as sons and daughters of the Most High God. "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:18) It has been such a joy and privilege to direct this particular group of young people. Their exuberance, humor, and genuine love for what they are doing will leave you with a fresh perspective of how much fun middle school kids can be. May God be glorified!



Unite Tour

For the first time in the school's history, the high school concert band and high school orchestra traveled together for the UNITE Tour to Williamsburg, Virginia and Washington, D.C. From April 11-15, the group performed in many locations in the nation's cap-



ital, made some new friends, and had fun in Williamsburg. We're pleased to say they also received a "Superior" ranking at the Music in the Parks Festival at Busch Gardens! Thank you for spreading God's gift of music to others.

NOMA

On May 9, WCS hosted the annual Night of Music and Art. Students' artwork was on display and audiences enjoyed a variety of musical and dance performances.



Jazz Combo

WCS Vocal Ensemble



Ben and Michaela Cannistraci



Katie Wren

Night of Music and Art



Bella Marquis





Grandparents Day

On May 24, our elementary school students participated in an event to honor grandparents and special guests. The *United We Stand* program included many patriotic songs, poetry readings, and remarks from historical figures such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Special recognition was given to all guests who had served or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and each member received a special hand-made card from a student.



WCS Fall 2019 Performances

NEHEMIAH CENTER FOR ARTS & WORSHIP

October 25 - 7pm

Pops Take Flight Concert

November 21, 22, & 23 - 7pm

HS Drama Club Production

December 5 - time TBD

Elementary Christmas Musical

December 13 - 7pm

Celebrate Christmas Concert at Valley Chapel

When Onward Brings YOU BACK AGAIN

We are here for the mission: to nurture the academic, spiritual, personal, social, creative and physical development of students, in cooperation with their parents, for Christ-like service in God's World. We celebrate when our students find his or her path. One of our greatest joys is when alumni return "home" to share what they've taken with them as they moved onward from WCS into their professions. This year, we have been blessed to have three alumni who are performing arts professionals bring their gifts and talents back on campus to work with our students in chapel band, strings, and drama. All three are appreciative of the education and development they received at WCS and aim to provide students with a similar experience.

Jonas Woods Christian Recording Artist

Jonas Woods ('96), known to his WCS classmates and teachers as Robbie, is a Christian recording artist, songwriter, and worship leader who is currently touring the United States following the release of his new self-titled album on Bear Records. Jonas and his wife, Becky, refer to themselves as "musicianaries" whose mission "is not to be well known, but to make Jesus well known." Jonas started his musical career as a kindergarten student at WCS when he began violin lessons in the Strings program with Monica VanderBaan as his teacher. Throughout his years at WCS, he thrived as a musician as he participated in orchestra, choir, and other ensembles with his classmates and his family. He has

graciously returned to WCS to perform at Homecoming events. In February of this year, he and Becky gave a full concert in the Nehemiah Center for Arts & Worship and included our high school chapel band in a couple of songs. Prior to the concert, he led worship for middle school and high school chapels. "I travel all over the U.S. doing worship team development and training, so this is something I love already," Jonas said about working with our students. Following the concert, he said he would love to take our students on the road with him as his backup band. We are grateful to Jonas for taking the time to invest in our students and wish him the very best as he travels with his wife and two sons this summer. To follow his tour adventures or offer support, visit jonaswoods.net.



YES I WILL SING FOR JOY
WHEN MY HEART IS HEAVY
ALL MY DAYS YES I WILL





Sam Meade Violist and Music Educator

Sam Meade ('06) came to WCS as a transfer student his freshman year of high school. After hearing the high school orchestra play in chapel, he went home and told his mom that he wanted to begin violin lessons. She agreed under two conditions: he had to practice every single day in order to catch up to the other students in the orchestra, and if he complained

about practicing just one time he would have to quit. Well, he didn't complain and he didn't quit. In fact, he loved his instrument so much (he was convinced by Mrs. Kuder to start viola instead of violin) that he knew he wanted to major in music education with the goal of instilling a love for music and a love for God in his future students in the same manner that the WCS Strings Program had impacted him as a student. Sam recently graduated from Illinois State University with his second master's degree and returned to WCS this summer to lead the brand-new Whitinsville Christian Strings Festival (WCSF) July 15-19. Modeled after the Kentucky Christian Strings Camp that he current-

ly directs, Sam's mission for WCSF is to "give students the opportunity to grow in musical excellence under the role models of encouraging Christian performers and teachers within an energized community of fellow students, learning together what it means to develop their gifts at the highest level for the glory of God as part of who they are in Christ." He recruited an impressive group of Christian strings faculty and also created promotional videos and materials for our students, to encourage them to attend. We introduced Sam to our middle and high school orchestra students via Skype in the spring, and they were impressed with his energy and passion for music. We eagerly welcome him home!

Sarah Elizabeth Bedard Professional Actor and Director

If you've ever attended a WCS drama production, you know that we are passionate about the theater. From elementary to middle school to high school, our students, families, and community are extremely supportive and interested in our drama program. We were thrilled to welcome back to WCS a 2005 graduate who has enjoyed a successful career in the theater as she led two weeks of workshops for drama students this summer. **Sarah Bedard** is a professional actor and director in New York City and Boston, a theater professor at Bridgewater State University, and a member of the Actors Equity Association. While at WCS, she was active in our drama program and enjoyed several productions in the Krull Auditorium. Sarah is married to Jeremy Fiske, also a WCS alumnus and film industry professional in the locations department. Sarah frequent-

ly directs The Young Company at Greater Boston Stage Company and was excited to work with our students this summer, especially in our beautiful theater. Visit Sarah's website at sarahelizabethbedard.com to read more about her career. The WCS Summer Theatre Workshops took place June 17-21 for grades 3-6 and June 24-28 for grades 6-12 in the Nehemiah Center for Arts & Worship. Sarah has developed her widely acclaimed workshops to develop theater skills such as movement, acting, singing, choreography, scene work, and improvisation. We were honored and delighted to welcome Sarah back to her alma mater.



The newly formed Whitinsville Christian School Alumni Association is designed to keep our community connected. An active network is an important resource for our younger alumni who are moving ONWARD. If you would like to stay connected, have access to your fellow alumni as resources, or be that resource as others are searching for guidance, we invite you to join. Please contact Scott Anderson, Director of Advancement at sanderson@whitinsvillechristian.org or 508-372-3261.

ADVANCING onward!

Scott Anderson, Director of Advancement

Onward! Moving in a forward direction. If there ever was a word to describe the happenings at Whitinsville Christian School it is onward – not content to stay where we are, working to get better and to grow. But I believe onward has an additional and just as important meaning as it applies to WCS. That is, moving forward with our deep devotion to Christ at our school in everything we do. And why does that matter? It matters because in a world of myriad secular influences, we hold fast to our biblical theism, and so incidentally do our students. More on that later in this article, but first, below is an overview of Advancement’s onward march.

Brand & Marketing Strategy

We have re-enlisted the services of the consultant (Keating Associates) who worked with us a few years ago to conduct an institutional brand assessment. We are building from that previous work, coupled with many new insights, to develop a comprehensive brand and marketing strategy. This will focus on expanding and animating WCS’s identity, and more effectively engaging and deepening relationships with our many important audiences.

The messages and commitments expressed through this new identity will be rooted in

Drew Burkhart, in Robots and Drones class



the deep soil of WCS’s institutional mission, purpose, and vision. Accordingly, we are working to examine these core identity components, especially in the context of the essential question pondered by all our audiences: “Why WCS?” Our faculty and curriculum leaders have been engaged for much of this past year in answering this question from a learning and pedagogical perspective. That work will culminate in a new academic strategic plan which will set a new vision for our overall educational experience, and going forward, shape both what students learn and the kind of learners they become. As we move into the new academic year, this work will be coupled with similar efforts to define our vision for WCS’s faith formation efforts.

In short, the purpose, core values, and educational vision for WCS will serve as the foundation for this new marketing program, and ultimately help lead our school in achieving its strategic goals and aspirations.

ISM Strategic Plan

In a similar fashion, the work completed this past year in our new school-wide strategic plan defines a roadmap to strengthen the performance of WCS at many critical levels. In our desire to grow and advance as a premier, Christian PK-12 school, we must demonstrate our ability to achieve at a higher level. The new initiatives, programs, and practices we will launch this year and in the coming years will fortify our operational abilities and help us become a higher performing, more successful school.

Admissions

It is the primary focus of the Admissions Office, through our mar-

keting strategy, our more robust and effective recruitment efforts, and our expanded reach, to grow enrollment, particularly at the high school level, by attracting students who will enhance the experience of everyone at the school. In the past six months the school has held what are considered two of the finest open houses, from an experience as well as attendance standpoint that WCS has seen in some time. This is a model upon which we will build. In addition, we have been developing a set of best practices as they pertain to all aspects of student recruiting and on-boarding. We are also investigating additional ideas to expand our reach, including the conducting of a transportation analysis and the feasibility of offering one way/two-way van programs to satellite locations.



Rebekah Lashley ('19) will attend the University of Pennsylvania this fall

College Placement, Path Development, and Marketing to Higher Education

As a school, we are reviewing the list of highly selective schools that students have applied to over the past five years and have begun meeting with them directly for

feedback on WCS and how to best prepare our grads for entry into a highly selective school. The redesign of the High School Pathway and Curriculum Guide will be key in this discussion. In addition, we are developing an enhanced path opportunity program for those students who are looking at highly selective schools, including Ivy League schools, that will include an emphasis on taking full advantage of curricular, extra-curricular, and leadership opportunities at WCS.

Over the past few months, our college advising and support program has been expanded through the purchase of new interest, skill, and career inventories in Naviance, our college planning and tracking database. Beginning in the fall, we will be offering guidance-focused Block B sessions for students in all grade levels to begin completing these assessments, developing resumes, and providing career planning support.

In reference to the college search process specifically, juniors and their families were sent a survey in May to collect data regarding academic and career interests, college search progress to date, and support requirements for the application process. These will be followed up with one-to-one support meetings that will help them through the application process based on as much or as little support as they may need. We will also be encouraging students to attend college fairs (ours and others in the local community) and offering several workshops on college applications and financial aid. In addition, we are exploring the possibility of hosting a general college fair, aimed at attracting a variety of top colleges and universities from around the country.

Outreach and Visibility

We are working on a number of initiatives to increase the visibility of the school in a variety of areas.

As part of an overall effort to expand our reach for potential students, as well as our brand awareness, we are building partnerships with area churches and organizations. WCS recently hosted the STEM

Innovation and Leadership Expo (see page 10) aimed at presenting all students within our area the opportunity to engage with representatives from STEM-related corporations. This was a highly successful and well-attended event, and enhanced our brand as a top-of-mind leader in promoting STEM technology and educational/career opportunities. WCS will also partner with local organizations including the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce to participate in community events.

Development

Part of the overall Strategic Plan is to ensure the sustainability of the school for years to come. This five-year plan includes an increase in tuition, along with Advancement efforts geared toward providing additional financial aid and faculty enhancement. The idea behind this plan is to ensure that we are attracting and retaining highly-qualified faculty, while doing all we can to not let finances stand in the way of allowing an otherwise qualified student to attend WCS. The WCS Fund Annual Drive has now been established to support these efforts. After a spring campaign known as “Who is the WCS Fund?” we are looking forward to another highly successful Giving Day during Homecoming in September to support the annual drive.

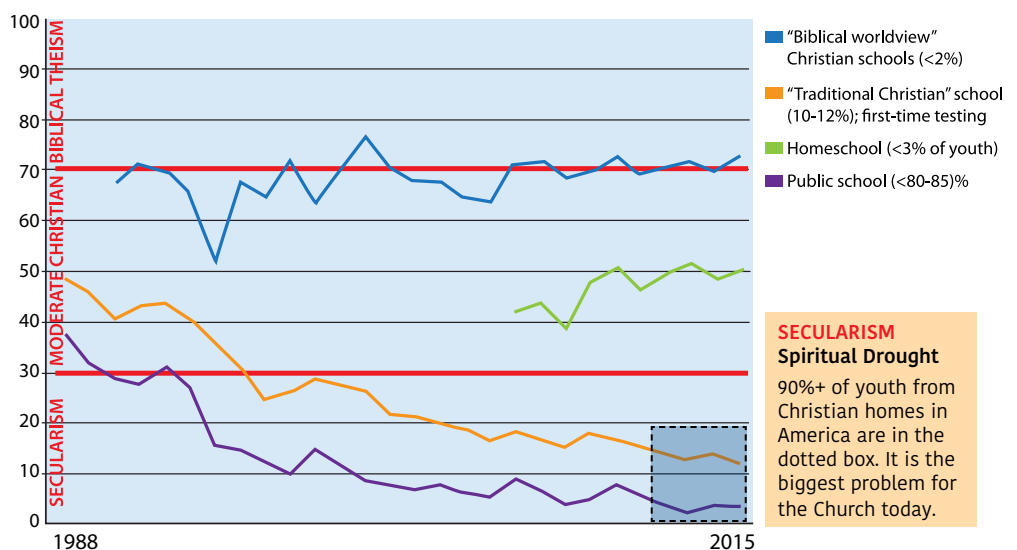
Why it Matters

A recent study conducted by the Nehemi-



ah Institute looked at students from Christian families and their maintenance of traditional Judeo-Christian values depending on their academic experience. The results of the study were obtained through the PEERs Test (a series of questions in five categories – Politics, Economics, Religion, and Social Issues), and segmented the students into three academic categories – Christian students from Biblical Christian Worldview Schools (like Whitinsville Christian School), Moderate Christian Schools, and Public Schools. The results of the PEER test demonstrated over 30 years (see the chart below) indicates a steady decline in the degree to which Christian students adhere to a Biblical Christian worldview, with the notable exception of schools like Whitinsville Christian School. What we do at this school makes a difference, and it is what we do in the name of Christ that will continue to move us in a forward direction - Onward!

“Worldview Position” of high school youth from the Christian community; approximately 100,000 students, 1,000 Christian schools.



Crusader Athletics



Girls Track and Field

Front row: Kayla Hannon, Linzy Rivera, Vicky DeBarros, Molly Lashley, Alyssa Worley, Cece LaBonte, Michaela Cannistraci, Lillie Burns. Back row: Tess Belanger, Karen Bekhet, Nicole Ramos, Bella Ibrahim, Bella Marquis, Erin Brown, Hadley Koeman, Jill LaBonte, Ella VanTol, Eliza Dowling. Not pictured: Coaches Mike Persenaire, Chris Vander Baan, Baird Lashley, Tatiana Wiersma



JV Girls Basketball

Front row: Emily Dill, Sophia Dill, Lexi Foster, Caroline Sutherland. Back row: Victoria Christo, Lillie Burns, Nicole Ramos, Bella Ibrahim, Abbi Cullen. Not pictured: Coach Bruce Dykstra



Boys Track and Field

Front row: Christian Swaim, Darnell Worley, Michael MacGillivray, Ben Casey, Bobby Gaudette, Jack Crowley, Sam Barker, Alex Kerr, Ben Piatt, Brandon Whiton. Middle row: Aaron Goodell, Connor Dudka, Nate DeGregorio, Will Piatt, Josiah Graves, Ben Linton, Dan Paharik, David Randall, A.J. Gorman, Anthony Gilbert, Joseph Thumann. Back row: Ben MacGillivray, Tommy Hannon, Cole Swiader, Dylan Anema, Jonathan Sullivan, Vinny Gilbert, Nate Haire, Jeff Curtis, Victor Pereira Mineo. Not pictured: Coaches Mike Persenaire, Chris Vander Baan, Baird Lashley, and Tatiana Wiersma



Indoor Track

Front row: Aaron Goodell, Abigail Goodell, Alex Kerr, Jillian LaBonte, Brandon Whiton, Vicky DeBarros, Michael MacGillivray, Cece LaBonte, Darnell Worley, Linzy Rivera, Jack Hearn, Lexi Ells, Sam Barker. Back row: Ben MacGillivray, Christian Swaim, Becky Dowling, Bobby Whiton, Dylan Anema, Eliza Dowling, Joseph Thumann, Bella Marquis, Niko Chalkiadakis, Karen Bekhet, Nate DeGregorio, Erin Brown, Coach Mike Persenaire. Not pictured: Sam Hearn, Jonathan Sullivan

2018-2019 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Volleyball: DIII Massachusetts State Finalists

Sprint Medley Relay Team:

5th Place Finish at New Balance Nationals

Middle School Girls Cross Country:

Dual Valley Champs (repeat)



Cross Country

Front row: Hadley Koeman, Jack Crowley, Luke Hatton, James Casey, Vinny Gilbert, Sam Hearn, Alex Kerr, Riley Plourde, Ben Piatt, Nafaika Harriott. Back row: Quinn Colligan, Anneke Zeyl, Ben Linton, Sam Barker, Anthony Gilbert, Aidan Giunta, Dylan Anema, Victor Mineo, Christian Holm, A.J. Gorman, Jack Hearn, Joseph Thumann, Lillie Burns, Molly Lashley. Not pictured: Brandon Whiton, Coach Chris VanderBaan



Varsity Boys Basketball

Front row: Ben Johnson, Seth Massotti, Will Watters, John Esler, Nathan Haire. Back row: Coach Brady Bajema, Grant Buurma, Gabe Brookhouse, Justin Tulley, Tyler Gorman, Justin Vander Baan. Not pictured: A.J. Gorman, Asst. Coach David Deters



JV Boys Basketball

Front row: Josiah Graves, Noah Massotti, James Casey, Bobby Gaudette, Vinny Gilbert, Victor Pereira. Back row: Jake Bell, Nathan Walton, Calvin Mawn, Jeff Curtis, Ben Schneider, Christian Holm. Not pictured: Coach Dennis Richey



Varsity Girls Basketball

Front row: Olivia Cutler, Ally McGrath, Alyssa Worley. Back row: Coach Kris VandenAkker, Anna May, Makenzie Gorman, Daria Pedersen, Jessye VandenAkker, Ella VanTol, Karlee Buurma, Asst. Coach Kelly Penning. Not pictured: Olivia Toothman



Varsity Volleyball

Front row: Abby Upham, Hope Brookhouse, Fiona Shaw, Anna May, Lucy Bowler. Back row: Christina Leduc, Amiah Van Dyke, Ella Rejmer, Emily Schneider, Maggie Rejmer, Olivia Fleming, Coach Kelly Penning



Co-op Golf (with Northbridge)

Tom Karns, Luke LaBonte, Will Piett



JV Volleyball

Juliana Buchanan, Annika Holm, Jia Baek, Abigail Goodell, Sophie Perkins, Ally Fogg, Hannah Bourguignon, Mel Ravitz, Mikaela Rose, Ealaisad Grady-Harper, Coach Kris VandenAkker



Hockey Co-op (with Hopedale)

Will Piett and Cam Gibbons



Co-op Lacrosse

(with Hopedale)

Jack Hearn, Carter Hall, Sam Chilton, Cameron Gibbons



Varsity Boys Soccer

Front row: Nathan Walton, Dan Paharik, Connor Dudka, Noah Massotti, Bobby Whiton, Christian Swaim, Ben Casey, Kole Wyndham, Robert Foley, Andrew Harvey, Seth Massotti. Back row: Nathan Meininger, Darnell Worley, Michael MacGillivray, Ben Johnson, Jonathan Baker, Jeff Curtis, Aidan Holgate, Nate DeGregorio, Dylan Ramos, Sam Chilton, Coach Greg Massotti, Asst. Coach Mike McAlister, Asst. Coach Bryan Johnson



JV Boys Soccer

Front row: Liam Holgate, Brandon Ramos, Ethan MacGillivray, Bobby Gaudette, Josiah Needham, Sean McGrath, Peter Cloutier. Back row: Noah Robertson, Tetreault, Honglin Chen, Sam Chilton, Caleb Deters, Ryan Cowan, Matt Godin, Zach Casey, Coach Mike McAlister



Varsity Girls Soccer

Front row: Tess Belanger, Ally McGrath, Olivia Cutler, Vicky DeBarros, Michaela Cannistraci, Tori Paine, Nicolette Scinicariello, Alyssa Worley, Katie Sprunger, Ashley Schofield, Cece LaBonte. Back row: Coach Beth Cutler, Jessye VandenAkker, Olivia Toothman, Callie VandenAkker, Makenzie Gorman, Bella Ibrahim, Ella VanTol, Karlee Buurma, Jillian LaBonte, Meghan DeGregorio, Asst. Coach Rocky VanTol



JV Girls Soccer

Front row: Meadow O'Connell, Marley Koopman, Bella Silveira, Ava Ibrahim, Hannah Lashley, Abbi Cullen, Emma Johnson, Phoebe Zeyl, Kate Crowley, Chloe Richey. Back row: Coach Mike Persenaire, Ally Weedon, Lauren Stanick, Camdyn Forget, Nicole Ramos, Alli Anema, Eliza Dowling, Emily Dill, Becky Dowling, Beth Hatton, Margaret Johnson

Dual Valley Conference All-Stars



FALL SPORTS

Volleyball

1st Team- Christian Leduc (Player of the Year), Emily Schneider

Boys Cross Country

1st Team- A.J. Gorman, Joseph Thumann (Runner of the Year)
2nd Team- Jack Hearn

Girls Cross Country

1st Team- Molly Lashley (Runner of the Year)
2nd Team- Hadley Koeman

Boys Soccer

2nd Team- Ben Johnson, Christian Swaim

Girls Soccer

1st Team- Olivia Cutler, Nicolette Scinicariello
2nd Team- Vicky DeBarros, Jessye VandenAkker

WINTER SPORTS

Boys Basketball

1st Team- Justin VanderBaan
2nd Team- Gabe Brookhouse, Tyler Gorman

Girls Basketball

2nd Team- Karlee Buurma

Boys Indoor Track & Field

1st Team- 50 yd Hurdles - Darnell Worley
2nd Team- 4x200m relay - Ben MacGillivray, Michael MacGillivray, Christian Swaim, and Darnell Worley

Girls Indoor Track & Field

2nd Team- shot put Karen Bekhet, 600 meter- Becky Dowling

SPRING SPORTS

Girls Tennis

1st Team Singles- Hope Brookhouse
2nd Team Doubles- Karlee Buurma and Fiona Shaw

Boys Track & Field

1st Team- Joseph Thumann (800m and 1 mile), Darnell Worley (triple jump), Ben Casey, Jeff Curtis, Michael MacGillivray, and Christian Swaim (4x100m relay)
2nd team- Michael MacGillivray (200m)

Girls Track & Field

Javelin- Tori Paine
Shot Put- Karen Bekhet
4x100m relay- Vicky DeBarros, Cece LaBonte, Jillian LaBonte, and Alyssa Worley
2 Mile- Molly Lashley
Long Jump- Vicky DeBarros
High Jump- Ella VanTol

Softball

1st Team- Emily Schneider



Baseball

Front row: Peter Cloutier, Lucien Forget, Micah Allen, Brandon Ramos, Matt Godin, Noah Tetreault. Back row: Coach Phil Rainbow, Josiah Needham, Colin Deres, Aidan Guinta, Tim Tsai, Daniel Bourguignon, Assistant Coach Bobby Whiton. Not pictured: Will Pielt, Lucas Silveri



Softball

Front row: Emma Johnson, Olivia Cutler, Abbi Cullen, x Dowling, Meghan DeGregorio, Alli Anema, Abigail Goodell. Back row: Coach Lina Avila, Anna May, Olivia Fleming, Jessye VandenAkker, Emily Schneider, Juliana Buchanan, Annika Holm, Asst. Coach Michaela Van Voorst



Boys Tennis

Front row: Liam Holgate, Sam Christo, Liam Menard, Sean McGrath. Back row: Dimitar Milev, Aidan Holgate, Zack Nolen, Thomas Karns, Drew Burkhart, Joanthan Baker, Coach Adam Meyer. Not pictured: Nicolas Belucio, Zachary Casey, Camden Desmarais, Brady Gorman, Luke LaBonte



Girls Tennis

Front row: Nadiya Chalak, Ally McGrath, Margaret Johnson, Fiona Shaw, Meadow O'Connell. Back row: Ally Weedon, Hope Brookhouse, Karlee Buurma, Lauren Airey, Ella Grady-Harper, Katie Sprunger. Not pictured: Coach Michelle Graves



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Music • Athletic Events • Giving Day

www.whitinsvillechristian.org/homecoming