

The Crusader Chronicle



*Fearless
Faith*

WHITINSVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Fearless Faith

Sarah Bowler, Head of School
(Class of 1995)



As we bring the 2024–2025 school year to a close, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on all that has unfolded within our community. This year, we embraced the theme of Empowered Living, grounded in the powerful truth of 2 Timothy 1:7.

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear,
but of power, love, and a sound mind.”*

These words have echoed through our classrooms, chapels, hallways, and homes - reminding us again and again that fear does not define us. Instead, we are called to live with confidence in the power and presence of God. And what a year it has been to live that out.

We saw students try new things academically, artistically, and athletically, often stretching beyond their comfort zones with courage and perseverance. Teachers modeled bold creativity in their instruction and faithful love in their care for students. Families walked alongside us with prayer and support. In all of this, we were learning to trust God more deeply.

Fearless faith doesn't mean the absence of struggle, it means choosing to trust God in the midst of it. This year reminded us that real faith grows when we rely on God's power, extend His love, and exercise sound judgment shaped by His Word. We've seen that in action in countless ways, from the smallest classroom moment to the biggest community celebration.

As we head into summer, we carry these lessons with us. We rest in the knowledge that God has been faithful, and we look forward with hope, knowing He continues to lead us. Though our school theme will shift next year, the invitation to live with fearless faith will remain rooted in our hearts.

Thank you for walking this journey with us through your prayers, encouragement, and commitment to Christian education. May your summer be filled with restoration, and may we return ready for another year of growth and grace, confident in the One who equips us with all we need.

With gratitude,
Sarah Bowler
Head of School

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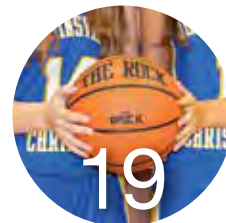
PRINTING

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ON THE COVER

Seniors from the High School Chapel Band helped lead our Night of Worship on April 30. Pictured left to right: Caden Anema, Joanna Graves, Scarlett Shaw, Belle Kling, Georgia West, and Corbin Swaim

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We welcome your thoughts on this issue and would love to hear what types of articles you would like to see in future issues. Please email Laural Plourde, Director of Advancement, at advancement@whitinsvillechristian.org with your suggestions.



THE CLASS OF 2025

A Beautiful Mosaic

On Friday, May 30, 2025, the Whitinsville Christian School community celebrated the graduation of 45 incredible young men and women. This talented and service-minded class chose 1 Peter 4:10-11 as their class verse. “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

Sarah Bowler, Head of School, welcomed all to the celebration of the achievements, the growth, and the future plans of the Class of 2025. Pastor Mike Sullivan gave the opening prayer, and Tammi Gorman, High School Principal, introduced the salutatorian and valedictorian of the class. As salutatorian, Corbin Swaim shared an address with memories, laughs, and the comforting words from 1 Corinthians 2:9, “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human



Brady Gorman, Valedictorian



Corbin Swaim, Salutatorian



High School Awards



Tom Swaim delivered the commencement address

mind has conceived - the things God has prepared for those who love Him.” Brady Gorman’s valedictory address included the message that success does not follow a single path, and that as individuals created in the image of God, the Class of 2025 is a mosaic of talents, passions, and strengths.

Tom Swaim, parent of seven WCS alumni, and co-chair of the Rise Up and Build campaign that made the Nehemiah Center a reality, was the featured speaker of the evening. He shared with our graduates that not all time is equal - time passes quickly, time must be faced with courage, and time must be enjoyed with joy. We invite you to see page 10 for more about the legacy of the Swaim family at WCS.

We thank God for the mosaic that is the Class of 2025. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord, not with a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.



Strong Academic Endeavor Awards

Grade 12 - Sebastian Araujo
Grade 11 - Jillian Lawson
Grade 10 - Alexi Gilchrist
Grade 9 - Cam Houde

Academic Subject Awards

Art - Hannah Rejmer
Band (John Philip Sousa National Band Award) - Caden Anema
Bible - George Foint
Business - Hannah Walton
Choir (National School Choral Award) - Julia Lawson and Corbin Swaim
Drama - Joanna Graves
English - Rosemary Poe
History - Emelyn DeWeerd and Julia Lawson
Math - Brady Gorman
Musicianship (Quincy Jones Award) - Caden Anema
Orchestra - Mark Yarger
Science (Biological) - Jacob Piascik
Science (Physical) - Justin Smith
Outstanding Science Award - Julia Gibbons
Spanish - George Foint
Technology - Owen Neal

Additional Awards

RIT High School Science and Math Award - Justin Smith
WPI Innovation Award - Noah Garrant
Mass. Secondary Administrators Award - Rebeca Dasilva
Senior Athlete Female - Emma Wierenga
Senior Athlete Male - Dillin McAlister and Corbin Swaim
Brandeis Book Award - Mark Yarger
Harvard Book Award - Justin Smith
Lasell Book Award - Madison Amanti
Suffolk University Book Award - Faith Najem
University of Vermont Book Award - Maria Ramos
DAR Good Citizens Award - Caden Anema

Annual Local and Memorial Scholarships

Garry and Annette Keessen Scholarship - Demetri Boermeester
Jim and Jean Nydam Memorial Scholarship - Enson Enoch
Roland and Sandra Vander Baan Scholarship - Emily Flagg
Milford Federal Savings & Loan Scholarship - Julia Gibbons
UniBank Scholarship - Gillian McGee
Groot STEM Scholarship - Julia Gibbons
Najem Family Scholarship - Hannah Walton
Fredericks Family Award, Perseverance and Personal Success - Natasha Carreiro
Leonard M. Krull Memorial Scholarship - Emma Wierenga
Sadie DeYoung Memorial Scholarship - Caden Anema
Thelma DeYoung Memorial Award for Excellence - Faith Najem
Arthur A. Wiersma Memorial Scholarship - George Foint and Julia Lawson
Eric J. Cook Memorial Scholarship - Hannah Walton
George J. VandenAkker Memorial Scholarship - Jacob Piascik
Kimberly Hannon Memorial Scholarship - Joanna Graves
Ronald D. Russo Scholarship for the Applied Arts - Amanda Cinelli
Stephen J. O’Connell Memorial Scholarship - Dillin McAlister

Founders Award

(Graduates who have attended WCS since kindergarten) Caden Anema, Emelyn DeWeerd, Julia Gibbons, Brady Gorman, Joanna Graves, Jocelyn Hackathorn, CJ Najem, Jacob Piascik, Scarlett Shaw, Corbin Swaim, Claire Tubo, and Hannah Walton

Outstanding Senior Award

Emma Wierenga

Fearless Faith for the Next Journey

Caden Anema
 Sebastian Araujo
 Mason Barnatt
 Charlotte Bartlett
 Daniel Belucio
 Amanda Cinelli
 Damian Corson
 Carter Dani
 Rebeca Dasilva
 Emelyn DeWeerd
 George Foint
 Julia Gibbons
 Katie Godin
 Brady Gorman
 Joanna Graves
 Jocelyn Hackathorn
 Ashley Jeong
 Bradley Jolicoeur
 Hyun Joon Kim
 Isabelle Kling
 Julia Lawson
 Abby Marra
 Dillin McAlister
 Gillian McGee
 Joshua Monteiro
 Siena Mueller
 William Mulroy
 Cadence Murzycki
 CJ Najem
 Owen Neal
 Gabriella Neves

 Logan O'Connell
 Hannah Ostroff
 Jacob Piascik
 Rosemary Poe
 Hannah Rejmer

 Quinnlan Rice
 Scarlett Shaw
 Alison Sim
 Corbin Swaim
 Joseph Tatulli
 Claire Tubo
 Hannah Walton
 Georgia West
 Emma Wierenga

Calvin University
 Nichols College
 Stony Brook University
 University of Miami
 Liberty University
 Roger Williams University
 Nichols College
 Westmont College
 Villanova University
 Calvin University
 Cedarville University
 University of Connecticut
 Stony Brook University
 Boston College
 Gordon College
 Messiah University
 Northeastern University
 Bryant University
 Boston University
 Worcester State University
 Stonehill College
 University Of Southern Maine
 Saint Anselm College
 University of New England
 Liberty University
 Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne
 Bentley University
 University of Massachusetts Amherst
 Springfield College
 Clark University
 Mass College of Pharmacy
 and Health Science
 Bentley University
 College of the Holy Cross
 University of New England
 University of Saint Andrews
 Massachusetts School of Art
 and Design
 Providence College
 Collectiv Academy
 United States Army
 Bryant University
 Florida International University
 Messiah University
 Westfield State University
 Anderson University
 Calvin University



SCAN TO VIEW
 THE GRADUATION
 CEREMONY

Legacy Families

Whitinsville Christian School is proud to recognize those families who continue the legacy of a Christian education at WCS.



Mason Barnatt with his mother and father, Annie (Skudera) and Brian Barnatt (both Class of 2000), and grandmother, Trudy (Miedema) Barnatt (Class of 1965)



Damian Corson with his mother, Sarah (Johnson) Corson (Class of 1996)



Julia Gibbons with her mother, Ruth (Wynja) Gibbons (Class of 1991) and grandmother, Sandra (Youngsma) Wynja (Class of 1962). Julia's grandfather, Arthur Wynja was a graduate of the Class of 1963, and her great-grandmother, represented in the photograph, was Jeanette (Oosterman) Youngsma (Class of 1933)



Joanna Graves with her mother and father, Michelle (Borghetti) and Brian Graves (both Class of 1999)



Jocelyn Hackathorn with a picture of her grandmother, Anna (Vierstra) Hackathorn (Class of 1950), who passed away in 2020



Jacob Piascik with his mother, Jessica Mahler (Class of 1995), and grandfather, George Nydam (Class of 1967)



Emma Wierenga with her grandmother, Peggy (Oppewal) Wierenga (Class of 1970), and father, Eric Wierenga (Class of 2000)

The Great Craiginski



On May 27, 2025, friends, family, colleagues, and former students gathered to honor Mike Craig as he retires from full-time teaching at WCS. Chris Vander Baan, former WCS Principal, offered a farewell speech full of laughs, accolades, and great memories.

“Mike is a one-in-a-million teacher. He comes to work early every day, around 5:30 or 6:00 AM, and leaves late. Working on the weekends is routine for this Master Teacher. Putting in late hours doesn’t make you a Master Teacher. Knowing your content and knowing your students makes you a Master Teacher.

“Many of you do not know this about Mike but he has taught at MIT for decades. At WCS he’s taught classes ranging from basic Algebra I to Trig, Discrete Math, Physics, and anything else the high

school needed of him. He is team first and always puts the needs of the kids before his own personal time. Prep periods did not exist in this man’s world. His classroom was ALWAYS open and students would flock to see him before school, during study halls, after school, and during his prep time.

“What I loved most about working with Mike as a fellow teacher and his direct supervisor is he would do whatever was best for WCS. He would teach an extra class or cover for a colleague. Mike is a teacher who knows his students personally, and while he holds them to task he also does amazing things to help them along. He loves his students!



Mike and his grandson, Theo, enjoyed the oliebollen at last year’s Homecoming

- A - ALL IN
- L - LAUGH
- T - TEACHER
- O - OBSTREPEROUS
(a Lance Engbers word)
- I - INTUITIVE
- D - DEVOTED
- S - SANCTUARY

Chris also created an acrostic to share some additional thoughts about Mike, paying homage to something he’s quite famous for enjoying – Altoids!



“Mike, thanks for decades of selfless service to your Lord and thousands of kids. You epitomize a life well-lived: A doting parent and grandparent, a master of your chosen craft, a man ever ready with a handshake, a helping hand, or a one-liner - all qualities to aspire to.

“God’s richest blessings to you and Kathy as you enter this next chapter of your life. Thank you for your friendship and for the amazing 20 years we spent serving the kids at WCHS.”

Mr. Craig was actively involved in the MITES (Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science) program offered by MIT each summer. In 2014, he attended and presented at the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America joint conference in Baltimore. While much of the content was geared toward college courses, he used a great deal of that information to develop the Discrete Mathematics course at WCS.

Years of Rocket Launches



The Swaim Family's 27-Year Journey Comes to a Close



Hannah (Class of 2021); Jacob's daughter, Hazel; Daniel, Hannah's husband; Caleb (Class of 2009); Nathan (Class of 2012); Carol; Corbin (Class of 2025); Tom; Colin (Class of 2017); Arianna Koeman (also Class of 2017 and Colin's wife); Michaela (Cannistraci), Christian's wife; Christian (he and Michaela are Class of 2019); Annika and Elianna, Jacob's wife and daughter; and Jacob (Class of 2014)

Unwavering Commitment

This spring marked a milestone that few families ever experience: Tom and Carol Swaim celebrated the graduation of their seventh child from a school they've called home for nearly three decades.

After 27 years, 53 back-to-school nights, and what they affectionately estimate as 87 years' worth of tuition payments, the family isn't saying goodbye, but farewell to their time as WCS parents.

"The first time we applied we were rejected," Tom shared, laughing. "Our son, Caleb, had a summer birthday, and was tasked with drawing a stick figure that wasn't quite up to the standards WCS required. We realized then how high standards adopted by WCS were. Our son went to public school for a few years," said Carol, "but after a conversation with my father, we realized there were some issues at the school that were impacting Caleb's personality. We applied to WCS again, and he was then denied application to the grade we wanted him to enter. We kept him back which actually turned out to be such a blessing. After a few months at WCS, my father noticed a tremendous difference in our son and noted, 'Caleb is back.' We knew then that we wanted all of the children at WCS. And we also knew that the Lord would have to provide in ways we could not see at the time."

Their commitment to Christian education never wavered, even through financial challenges, both personally and globally. "We had to prioritize to make it work," said Tom. "Our kids always asked to stay at Whitinsville Christian," they recalled. "We knew we had to trust the Lord and put Him first."

Tom and Carol have cherished the three-legged partnership between family, school, and faith community, where parents are known and heard, and where their voice helped shape the school's future. "Lance (Engbers, retired Headmaster) invited

me to take part in WCS's first accreditation process," said Tom. "It was meaningful to have a voice in this way. Later I served on the education committee, and as part of a team addressing student retention. These opportunities to help build the school were very meaningful and important to me."

"There have been so many memorable times and special experiences over the years," said Tom. "One of our early memories is of the elementary musical. It showed how all students could be involved, that there was a dedication to music and arts, and they were all doing it together. Hearing a student sing, *The Savior is Waiting*, a song my mother used to sing, was so moving." Other highlights throughout the years have included the middle school retreats, the way teachers are able to utilize their strengths, and the way each and every Swaim graduate has been prepared for college, their career, and their life in Christ.



A thank you at Mr. Engbers' retirement parade



Rise Up & Build Co-Chairs: Tom and Carol Swaim, Denise (Koopman, Class of 1987) and Tony Brookhouse, and Jeanne and John Esler





So Many Memories

In his commencement address, Tom paid tribute not only to his family's journey but also to two beloved Class of 2025 parents who had passed away too soon. "Stephen O'Connell was a key member of the team that built the Nehemiah Center," said Tom. "He will be remembered for his insistence on doing things the right way. He knew we needed to keep blasting rock in order to get the most firm foundation possible for this project." Tom also shared the story of visiting Jen and Anthony Cinelli to discuss contributing to Rise Up & Build, the capital campaign for the Nehemiah Center. "She had so many questions," said Tom. "After we answered her questions, she turned to Anthony and said, 'We need to make this happen for our girls and their friends.'"

Carol has also wrapped up her time as a preschool teacher. "I've been so blessed to share God's love with preschool stu-

dents." Carol was also an enthusiastic proponent of Rise Up & Build. "I loved showing families and visitors the renderings of what was happening at WCS while I was greeting preschool students and parents. It was so fun to share that excitement for the future of the school."

As they watched their final graduate at commencement, Tom shared, "We loved every minute. We're not leaving the school, but we will miss the roles we have played. Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to give our children a childhood that was safe and rooted in Christ. We trust the Lord will continue to bless the school, just as He has blessed our family through it."

"There are more dreams to come of course, and we hope someday to have grandchildren attend WCS," said Carol.

WCS Road Trip

Sarah Bowler, Head of School, and Laural Plourde, Director of Advancement, traveled to Michigan in April to reconnect with alumni and friends! Retired Head of School, Lance Engbers, and his wife, RoseAnn, hosted a Friday evening dinner with alumni and former WCS faculty including Herm and Eva Baker, Doug and Bernita VanderSchaaf, and Mike and Dawn Verkaik. On Saturday, alumni and friends gathered for fellowship and indoor mini golf. Where should the next WCS road trip be?



Lori (Banning) VanderWeele (Class of 1985) with daughter, Elena, and husband, Keith



Hilary (Banning) Cooper (Class of 2010) with husband, Drew, and family

Sarah Bowler with Michael MacGillivray (Class of 2020); his wife, Anna; Maria; Ben MacGillivray (Class of 2019), and Ethan MacGillivray (Class of 2023)



SOMEWHAT TRUE

Middle School Production

In February, the Middle School Drama Club delivered two amazing performances of *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*. The cast brought so much energy and enthusiasm to this comedic retelling of the classic story with familiar characters like the Sheriff of Nottingham, Maid Marian, and the Merry Men and Women. Thank you to Rebecca Snoeyink, director, and to Kate Martinka and Mary St. Denis for their help and support throughout the process.





Mary Poppins

Mary Dykstra, WCHS Drama Club Director

When I was young, the movie *Mary Poppins* was my dream world come to life. As a child, I had an extremely vivid imagination, complete with imaginary places and friends. Seeing the real world collide with the imaginative world in *Mary Poppins* made me an instant fan. Add in the amazing Julie Andrews, and my life truly became a "Jolly Holiday with Mary." In fact, my husband and I lip-synced *Jolly Holiday* at our wedding reception (instead of "Bert," I sang "Bruce!"). To me, *Mary Poppins* was pure delight.

Pure delight. If I could aspire to anything, it would be a life of pure delight. For me, drama encompasses pure delight. It is delightful working with high school students - the laughs, silliness, the short years of rapid maturity, and looking at the world outside of WCS. It is delightful working with set designers, builders, lighting experts, sound technicians, costume queens, painters, and more as the body of Christ. It is delightful telling stories and creating imaginary worlds that come to life on stage. It is delightful seeing audiences experience these stories with us. It is delightful knowing we do it all for God's glory and knowing that He delights in us and rejoices over us with singing. (Zeph 3:17)

We hope our audiences were as delighted as we were to bring to life the wonderful world of *Mary Poppins*!



Full Circle

Mary Dykstra, Director of Arts

J uly 1995. My young family pulled into Heritage Drive and was met by Doug Nydam, now lifelong friend, and a white Nydam's Landscaping truck. We were warmly greeted, and we chatted a bit before peeking into the windows of the condo where we would be staying. Our boxes and furniture were stacked neatly inside. No one had keys, so our new friend took our boys and his own young son in his truck and suggested we follow him to the Hay-Wagon Restaurant. We will never forget that first day.

Our time in Whitinsville began because my husband, Bruce, accepted a position as the Pastor of Congregational Life at Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church, and I accepted the position to be the first elementary art teacher at WCS. The school had a high school art program at the time, but the elementary and middle schools did not offer art. Teachers did some projects with their students, but my position would begin an official art program. I was so excited to teach art! The following years were spent developing a scope and sequence for the elementary art program. After that was established, we added middle



Linda Nydam, Nic Belucio (Class of 2024), and Mary Dykstra



WCHS Drama Team – Linda Nydam and Paula (Guis) VandenAkker (Class of 1978)

school to the mix, making art an official part of the overall curriculum.

The arts at WCS at that time were growing, thriving, and strong. Franz and Joanne Kuder set the stage for excellence in music, and with the new art program, visual arts were right on par. Theater was the next step to continue and sustain in WCS's outstanding arts program.

I remember the phone call from then-High School Principal, **Chris Vander Baan (Class of 1975)**. It was summer break, and I was in Michigan visiting my family. Chris called my parents' home. My mom answered and told me that Chris was on the phone, and I told her, "I don't want to talk to him." She asked why, and I told her it was because he was calling to ask me to take over the theater program - and the rest, as they say, is history.

As Linda Nydam, Doug's wife, and I braved the WCS theater world, I was able to see firsthand how fully supported the arts are at WCS. Chris Vander Baan agreed to every crazy thing we wanted to do with drama. Lance Engbers, then-Headmaster, passed along playbills of all the shows he and his wife, Rose-Ann attended. We talked about various shows, art initiatives, and WCS concerts. We celebrated the arts with elaborate

Photo below: Cast of Newsies, 2022



events, opening the school to visiting artists, and providing our student artists opportunities to showcase their work.

Moving into administration as the Middle School Principal in 2012 also gave me a new way to support the arts, ensuring that WCS continued to provide a thriving arts education with passionate and qualified faculty.

Administration also gave me a new opportunity to support those beautifully awkward humans known as middle schoolers. My time as an administrator has been filled with these amazing, silly, impulsive, deep-thinking, rapidly-developing adolescents. The WCMS faculty is made up of adults who love this age and skillfully manage the quick shifts of students who act like they are five years old one minute, and then 20 years old only seconds later.

Middle school is a vibrant time, and as I finish my years as the “MSP,” I encourage everyone to embrace these young people and provide them stability as they navigate these years! They crave authentic connections with adults. They seek to understand faith, God, and their own spirituality. They look up to older students. They are still innocent while quickly learning about the world. As I tell parents every year, they enter middle school with baby teeth and leave shaving. It is a drastic change: the largest they will have in their lifetime other than the first year of life - and they are aware of all the changes. They feel them but can't necessarily control them. So when you interact with a middle school-age person, please approach each one with grace, love, and understanding. We've all been there, so let's help make their time as positive and productive as humanly possible.

Photo below: Middle School Retreat



Jesse (Class of 2012), Sam (Class of 2019), Adelaide (Class of 2017), and Andrew (Class of 2010)

Two more children were added to our young family since our move here in 1995: four children, now full-fledged adults, all graduates of WCS. It's now July 2025. Time for another shift. Thirty years have passed in a blink of the eye since that first day.

There have been a lot of changes over those 30 years, but God's faithfulness endures. He was there when the first WCS sign was erected, when our young family moved to town, when a beautiful addition was built, and His faithfulness prevails to-day and will continue into the future.

Thirty years later, the arts at WCS are still strong and thriving, and I am excited to be at the helm as Director of Arts!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Spring Auction and the Distinguished Alumni Award



We are grateful for everyone who joined us at this year's Annual Spring Auction. Thanks to our sponsors, donors, and bidders, we raised more than \$108,000 for WCS, including more than \$25,000 as a kick-off to our playground fundraising.



This year's Spring Auction included a new component of the evening – the presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award to **Darrell Baker (Class of 1989)**. Darrell and his wife, Laurie (WCS preschool teacher), have four children who graduated from WCS: **Lauren (Class of 2014)**, **Andrew (Class of 2016)**, **Katelyn (Class of 2016)**, and **Jonathan (Class of 2019)**. The Bakers have also hosted numerous international students over the years, extending the love and warmth of our community into God's world.

When accepting the award, Darrell shared his answer to the often-asked question in school: When am I going to use this in real life?

“Well I can honestly say that I've used the line as a child, but since then, I have come to more fully appreciate the value of my 14 years at WCS. That educational experience absolutely impacted how I function - in real life. More important than learning individual facts is forming what kind of person you will be when you leave WCS. Or to put it another way: how will you distinguish yourself after your time at WCS?”

Darrell also shared that one significant way he has distinguished himself is through his children. “I've been fortunate, through the help of this community, to bring four children from kindergarten to graduation at WCS. That's 52 years of

Christian education. My oldest is a labor and delivery nurse in Minneapolis. She distinguishes herself every day

by bringing the love of Christ to moms and couples during some of the most momentous days in their lives as they bring a new life into this world. My oldest son is a project manager at one of the largest private equity firms in the world. I know he is distinguishing himself as a child of Christ every day as he brings Christ's light to a secular wealth-focused environment, as well as on weekends as he pursues his acting passion on the stage. My second daughter is a school teacher in an urban district just outside Chicago. Although she loves teaching math, she also loves investing in students by coaching volleyball with middle school girls, carrying on a legacy inspired by Mrs. (Kris) VandenAkker and Ms. (Kelly) Penning. My youngest is leading a team that helps clients navigate the best use of their retirement funds. I know these four are impacted by WCS and are impacting others every day, in real life.”



Darrell also reflected on the impact he and Laurie have had as foster parents, helping in some small way the lives of about 350 children. “I would like to think God has used Laurie and me to show those kids Christ's love - in real life.”

He encouraged all parents to multiply Christ's love through the lives of children who will impact untold scores of people for decades after they leave your care. He accepted the honor with “humility and sincere gratitude as a means of honoring my parents, family – especially my wife – teachers, pastors, and coaches that have enabled me to bring Christ's love to those I come in contact with. I hope to have accomplished what you desired for me in my real life.”





We love being joined by young golfers like Eamon, Connor, Jack, and Kyle

Golf Outing

The WCS Booster Club was the new host of our Annual Golf Outing on June 9, at Shining Rock Golf Club. We enjoyed a great day of golf, fellowship, and celebration of our student athletes and the WCS Athletics Department.

GRANDFRIENDS DAY



Grandfriends Day celebrates our grandparents and other important friends in the lives of our elementary students as they tell the Easter story!

A Firm Foundation

Alex Thomas (Class of 2004), Trustee

When I think back about the story of my life through today, with its ups and downs and twists and turns, there have been three unfailing constants: my faith, my family, and Whitinsville Christian School.

My family moved to Northbridge in 1989 with four-year-old me and my infant brother, **Andy (Class of 2007)**, in tow. The choice of town was clearly God-driven, as my parents did not actually know when they picked their new house that WCS existed. Soon after moving in, a kind neighbor bearing move-in treats on Chipper Hill Road asked my mom, “Are you a Christian? Oh, me too! You have to send your kids to WCS!”

I struggle to think of the alternative life I would have had if not for that kind neighbor ringing the doorbell. I grew up in this place – thanks Mrs. Colby for the kindergarten nap-time! I met my best friend and future wife, **Sarah (Koopman, Class of 2006)**, in these halls. I received a life-preparing education here that paved the way to college and a career thanks to all of my former teachers, a few of whom are still here 20+ years later. I fell in love with sports, both playing and watching, here. I gained an appreciation for the arts here – thanks, Mrs. (Joanne) Kuder! Actually, thanks to Mrs. Kuder for Sarah as well, given our relationship was “sparked” on an orchestra tour down in Louisiana!

“I am filled with gratitude, comfort, and pride in what this place stands for.”

I learned about the impact and necessity of community service and the critical importance of parents’ involvement as true partners of the school here. I learned the importance of embracing history and tradition here. And I learned that all of these things are nothing without a firm foundation underlying it all. I learned how to be like the “wise man” Jesus described in Matthew 7 who built his house on a rock.

When the rain fell and the floods came, the winds blew and beat on the house, it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. WCS, in concert with my family, instilled in me the faith that unlocks the eternal gift of God’s love, His grace, mercy, and salvation! This is the rock on which I stand, and on which WCS will always stand.

When I graduated from WCS in 2004 and moved to Boston, I wasn’t sure I’d ever really be back to WCS. Yes, I would visit from time to time for graduations and sporting events, but I didn’t know if I would ever again be a real part of the local community. From Boston to London and back again, it still didn’t seem like WCS was in my and Sarah’s future. But kids came...not one, not two, but three over four years and we thought back on that foundation and the foundation that we wanted for them. For us, we knew that foundation would come best for our family from one place.

Now when I drop Theo, Virginia, and Welles off at WCS each day, I am filled with gratitude, comfort, and pride in what this place stands for. I burst with joy as they sing praise songs at the top of their lungs, ask me too-deep questions about heav-



Alex and Sarah with Welles, Theo, and Virginia

en that I can’t answer, or just simply assume without having to even think that hard that God loves them and is the Rock on which they now and will forever stand. That foundation is being built and will enable them to grow and be lights in an ever-changing and difficult world. My deep hope for this year and every year beyond is that WCS can continue to provide this foundation to generation after generation, just like it has for us.



To learn more about our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, please scan this QR code or visit our website.

Crusader Athletics



Girls Varsity Soccer

Front Row: Hailey Kindl, Neola Nigh, Lara Alves, Tessa Grelewicz-Ferreira, Addison Boone. Center Row: Scarlett Shaw, Aislyn Butzke, Cadence Calarese, Madison Amati, Gillian McGee, Amanda Cinelli, Alison Sim. Back Row: Hannah Walton, Carrie Keeler, Alexi Gilchrist, Charlotte Bartlett, Kacy Brochu, Neriah Bagaya, Coach Tim Osterman



Boys Varsity Soccer

Front Row: Joshua Montiero, Jonathan Clifford, Nathan Bagaya, Ben Peck, Jaejun Lee, George Foint. Center Row: Coach Mike McAlister, Pedro Carvalho, Charlie Ramsdell, Liam Simao, Lucas Weden, Corbin Swaim, Thomas Robbins. Back Row: Coach Greg Massotti, Joey Tatulli, Ethan Hand, Matthew Taylor, Brady Gorman, Logan O'Connell, Max DeFrancisco, Dillin McAlister, Coach Bryan Johnson



Girls Varsity Basketball

Front Row: Jillian Lawson, Aislyn Butzke, Cadence Calarese, Carrie Keeler, Madison Amati, Amanda Cinelli. Back Row: Coach Emily Kriedler, Kacy Brochu, Brinley Gonneville, Charlotte Bartlett, Katie Godin, Quinnlan Rice, Coach Kelly Penning



Boys Varsity Basketball

Front Row: Tyler Rainbow, Connor Kitchen, JV Dasilva, Joey Tatulli, Dillin McAlister, Eamon Moloney. Back Row: Coach Brady Bajema, Ethan Curry, Micah Deters, Mason Barnatt, Gabe Deters, Brady Gorman, Brad Jolicoeur



Girls Varsity Softball

Front Row: Hannah Ostroff, Mollaigh Flannery, Jillian Lawson, Ashley Jeong, Neola Nigh, Emily Bastien. Back Row: Coach John Keeler, Hanna Donohue, Carrie Keeler, Emily Burkhart, Kacy Brochu, Jocelyn Hackathorn, Coach Noreen Arpin. Not pictured: Coach Jeff May



Boys JV Basketball

Front Row: Jeziah Gandia, Ben Peck, Caleb Tetreault. Back Row: Coach Charlie Kim, Jeremiah Arroyo Centeno, Matthew Taylor, Andrew Dani, Jack Post. Not pictured: Josh Lavergne



FALL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

HS Girls Cross Country
DVC Champions

HS Boys Cross Country
DVC Champions

Volleyball
State Semi-finalist

WINTER TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

HS Boys Indoor Track
DVC Champions

SPRING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

HS Boys Track and Field
DVC Championship

INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Emily Flagg – Division II Cross Country

Emily Flagg – Division IV Indoor Track
2-mile

Emily Flagg – New England Indoor
2 Mile

Emily Flagg – Division V Track and
Field 2-mile

Emily Flagg, Josie Dyke, Emma
Wierenga, and Isabella Aloise –
Division V Track and Field 4x800M
Relay



Girls Varsity Tennis

Front Row: Aimee Jolicoeur, Amelia Besong, Chloe Barker, Emma Whitsitt, Hadley DeFrancisco.
Center Row: Arielle Zdanis, Joanna Graves, Hadasyah Mestres, Alison Sim, Genevieve Tatulli,
Julia Gibbons, Indiana Hollibaugh. Back Row: Coach Russ VanderBaan, Neriah Bagaya, Charlotte
DeFrancisco, Georgia West, Avery Dertien, Alexi Gilchrist, Coach Abby Graves. Not pictured: Coach
Michelle Graves, Arya Gromelski



Boys Varsity Tennis

Front Row: Mark Yarger, Joshua Monteiro, John Kim, Joshua LaBonte, Kent Cote. Back Row: Coach
Sean Cote, Dillin McAlister, Brady Gorman, Logan O'Connell, Peter Deres



Girls Varsity Volleyball

Front Row: Julia Monteiro, Hannah Ostroff, Siena Mueller, Lucia Gaudiano, Maria
Eduarda Ramos, Hadasyah Mestres. Back Row: Coach Abby Graves, Quimlan Rice,
Rebeca Dasilva, Emily Burkhart, Hannah Rejmer, Faith Najem, Coach Kelly Penning



Girls JV Volleyball

Front Row: Amelia Besong, Eme Breault, Fiona Johnson, Emma
Whitsitt, Mya Duffy. Back Row: Yvette Solorzano, Abby Guertin,
Jensen Gonneville, Ryleigh Shanahan, Coach Adelaide Dykstra



Boys Varsity Cross Country

Front Row: Owen Neal, Brayden Alix, Joshua Hilgenberg, Jaden Ashton, Cam Houde, Demi Boermeester. Center Row: Jack Carlin, John Kim, Jude Goodson, Michael Vos, Matt Wren, Connor Neal. Back Row: Coach Steven French, Coach Chris Vander Baan, Elijah Fortna, Caden Anema, Nathanael Vos, Elliot McCabe, Coach Annaliese Wheeler



Boys Varsity Indoor Track and Field

Front Row: Thomas Robbins, Cameron Houde, CJ Najem, Alec Gazda-Tran, Demi Boermeester. Center Row: Coach Steven French, Jaden Ashton, Corbin Swaim, Pedro Carvalho, Michael Vos, Enson Enoch, John Kim, Jacob Beatty. Back Row: Coach Chris Vander Baan, Carter Dani, Daniel Belucio, Sebastian Araujo, Eli Focht, Ethan Hand, Noah Garrant, Coach Dede Guertin. Not pictured: Ian Finch, Nathanael Vos, Lucas Weden



Boys Varsity Track and Field

Front Row: Demi Boermeester, Thomas Robbins, Cameron Houde, Jacob Beatty, Owen Neal, Alec Gazda-Tran, Jack Johnson. Second Row: Jaden Ashton, George Foint, Jude Goodson, Matthew Wren, Connor Neal, Enson Enoch, Jaejun Lee, CJ Najem. Third Row: Coach Dede Guertin, Joey Tatulli, Eamon Moloney, Ethan Hand, Daniel Belucio, Joshua Hilgenberg, Thomas Barry, Pedro Carvalho. Back Row: Coach Mike Persenaire, Corbin Swaim, Ian Finch, Carter Dani, Sebastian Araujo, Nathanael Vos, Eli Fortna, Caden Anema, Eli Focht, Coach Chris Vander Baan. Not pictured: Jeziah Gandia, Michael Vos



Girls Varsity Cross Country

Front Row: Emily Flagg, Josie Dyke, Isabella Aloise, Meredith Johnson. Back Row: Coach Steven French, Coach Chris Vander Baan, Emma Wierenga, Orla Donnelly, Emelyn DeWeerd, Coach Annaliese Wheeler. Not pictured: Abisha Uttangi



Boys Varsity Golf

Front Row: Jack Johnson, Caleb Tetreault, Vaughn Mulroy. Center Row: James Pollitt, JV Dasilva, Camden Morse, Jack Post. Back Row: Jack Hutchinson, Peter Deres, Gabe Deters, Micah Deters, Connor Kitchen. Not pictured: Coach Dennis Richey



Girls Varsity Indoor Track and Field

Front Row: Addison Boone, Maria Eduarda Ramos, Katelyn Keeler, Emily Flagg, Tadala Kachaje, Tessa Grelewicz-Ferreira, Natasha Carreiro, Finch Harvey. Middle Row: Coach Steven French, Yvette Solorzano, Faith Najem, Lilyana Araujo, Josie Dyke, Meredith Johnson, Abigail Huang. Back Row: Coach Chris Vander Baan, Abigail Guertin, Emma Wierenga, Orla Donnelly, Ryleigh Shanahan, Isabella Aloise, Neria Bagaya, Coach Dede Guertin. Not pictured: Abby Flagg, Lilly Wierenga



Girls Varsity Track and Field

Front Row: Abisha Uttangi, Natasha Carreiro, Tessa Grelewicz-Ferreira, Emily Flagg, Fiona Johnson. Second Row: Aislyn Butzke, Cadence Calarese, Milla Da Silveira, Maria Eduarda Ramos, Meredith Johnson, Katelyn Keeler, Coach Dede Guertin. Third Row: Yvette Solorzano, Inez Smith, Addison Boone, Ryleigh Shanahan, Faith Najem, Josie Dyke, Isabella Aloise, Finch Harvey. Back Row: Coach Chris Vander Baan, Abigail Guertin, Lilly Wierenga, Orla Donnelly, Audyn DeWeerd, Emma Wierenga, Emelyn DeWeerd, Coach Mike Persenaire. Not pictured: Abby Flagg, Abigail Huang, Tadala Kachaje, Hannah Rejmer, Coach Jeff Curtis

We also appreciate the work and sacrifices that go into being a member of one of the co-op teams.

Congratulations to these athletes:

FOOTBALL:

Noah Garrant, Tyler Rainbow, and Sebastian Araujo

LACROSSE:

Noah Garrant and Caleb Tetreault

BASEBALL:

Ethan Curry, Josh Lavigne, James Pollitt, and Jack Post

WRESTLING:

Matthew Dudley

ICE HOCKEY:

Liam Simao

WEDDINGS



Jesse Dykstra (Class of 2012) and Haley Anderson were married on May 31, outside of Zion National Park.



Michael MacGillivray (Class of 2020) and Anna Lanser were married on May 31.



Katelyn Baker (Class of 2016) married Zachary Kirkilas on June 21.

NEW ARRIVALS



Connor and Alison (Sohigian) Dolan (both Class of 2012) welcomed Eden in October of 2024. Judah is enjoying being a big brother.

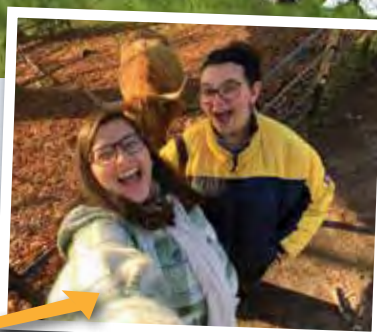


Mike (Class of 2003) and **Annika (Krygsman) Bangma (Class of 2005)** welcomed Lucy Lyn to their family on April 18.



Peter Bloem (2009) and his wife, Samantha, welcomed Tatum Lynn to their family on July 10.

The Navigators Ministry



Rose Thayer (Class of 2018) has been in Scotland for two years working with university students for The Navigators. “The ministry focuses on discipling and living alongside the lost and growing Christians,” said Rose. “The core things we do are our small groups and 1-on-1 discipleship. We meet in homes every Monday to have a meal together, read through scripture, and pray for each other. During the week, I also meet with students individually in coffee shops or on campus. I found The Navigators initially through college at the University of Maine. When choosing colleges, I wanted to find a public university that had good Christian groups on campus. I checked out a couple of Christian groups but ultimately settled on The Navigators. I loved their intentionality in going deep in scripture and seeing how the scripture impacted our lives. It is a bit of a long story of how I chose to go overseas in ministry. The short story is that it was not my initial plan, but God slowly called me through circumstances and lots of prayer. Being overseas and doing ministry full-time has truly transformed me. The experience has taught me humility, patience, dependence on God, and holding God’s truths tightly since part of working as a missionary full-time is raising support both financially and prayerfully.”

CONDOLENCES

Margaret (Twight) Spaan (Class of 1937) passed away on January 12, 2024.

Marie (Wassenaar) Haringa (Class of 1946) passed away on June 19, 2025.

Florence (Gjeltema) Jorritsma (Class of 1953) passed away on May 17, 2025.

Ronald Plantinga (Class of 1956) passed away on February 25, 2025.

Claire (Dykstra) Lajoie (Class of 1961) passed away on July 18, 2025.

Harvey Vander Baan (Class of 1965) passed away on March 13, 2025.

Bernard Van Spyker passed away on February 7, 2025. Bernie was a key architect as the WCS building moved to Linwood Ave.



WHITINSVILLE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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LET'S GET THE 
COMMUNITY TOGETHER!


Homecoming
& Giving Day!

September
25-27

