

The Crusader Chronicle

New Chapters



Sharing a favorite



Memoirs and Memories



A Farewell to Middle School



Prayer Warriors



The Four-Point Line – Writing a New Chapter



In basketball, the three-point line is 23 feet out from the baseline of the court. Professional teams have been using a four-point line, some 30 feet out, to drive the next chapter of their success as a team. Our theme for the current issue of the *Crusader Chronicle* is “New Chapters.” Any new chapter is presumably built on the preceding one, but has a vision for something different, something that develops out of the previous chapters and gives further insight into the developing story. We’ve explored God’s Epic Story as our theme for the past year. Now is the time to ask: What is the next chapter for WCS? What is the four-point line?

Our seniors (44 of them) have graduated and you can read about their commencement in this issue. A commencement is a beginning and in their cases, a beginning of new chapters. The WCS education portion of their stories has been written and they are moving into a new part of God’s Epic Story with high expectations and audacious aspirations, each of them different but all of them built on the Christian high school education. In the fall, we anticipate approximately 90 students will enter WCS for the first time, writing a new chapter in their stories.

The staff of WCS will change for the 2018-19 school year. For those who are leaving WCS it will mean a new chapter in a new position or vocational calling. For the new staff members joining our community it will mean a very different chapter in their lives — new relationships, new environment, and new expectations. For staff that continue their story at WCS it may mean different courses, different students, or different position requirements.

We have completed the initial year of a required 9th grade course entitled Principles of Engineering. Our students, as well as their teacher, have learned a lot. Mrs. Groot will sharpen her plans for the next chapter of the course. In addition, we are planning a modified block schedule for the middle and high school next year. This means a longer class period two days a week to allow for extended lab times, concentrated time on a particular area, and project-based learning. You’ll learn more about this in the back-to-school materials.

We recently invited our alumni to share any new chapters they are writing in their lives. You can find some of these responses throughout this issue of the *Chronicle*. Just look for the *New Chapters* in blue boxes.

With the completion of the \$18.5 million Rise Up and Build Campaign we close an amazing chapter in the story of WCS. I invite you to peruse the article on pages 10 -15, honoring the people who have worked so diligently and contributed so generously to make the incredible Nehemiah Center a reality. After two years of planning and construction, accompanied by the very successful fundraising campaign, we celebrate the people who made it happen.

The Board of Trustees is committed to developing a five-year strategic plan over the coming months. That too is writing the next chapter by placing a four-point line at Whitinsville Christian School. We are part of God’s Epic Story and as that story unfolds within and beyond the walls of WCS we want to hear it in all of its wonder, challenges, grace, and excitement. This issue offers a glimpse into the new chapters of God’s Epic Story. “Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.” Psalm 107:2a.

Lance B. Engbers, Headmaster

four-point line



The Crusader Chronicle

Table of Contents

Published by Whitinsville Christian School and the WCS Advancement Office.

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

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

HEADMASTER

Lance Engbers

DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT

Sonia Zeyl

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Chris Vander Baan

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mary Dykstra

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Sarah Bowler

PUBLICATION EDITOR

Laural Plourde

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Dionne Katinas

PRINTING

Kemp Publishing Inc.

2	Four Point Line – Lance B. Engbers, Headmaster
4-6	Graduation Ceremonies
7	Distinguished Alumni Award
8	Turning Pages – Chris Vander Baan, High School Principal
9	My WCS Chapters – John Casey, Board of Trustees President
10-15	Rise Up & Build – An Inspired Chapter
15	WCS Fundraisers
16-18	Performing and Visual Arts
19	Robonauts Level Up
20	Staying Open to New Chapters – a conversation with Melissa Hadley
20-21	Sharing the Remarkable Moments – Sonia Zeyl, Director of Enrollment
21	Trusting God’s Path – Billy Fredericks
22-23	Capstone Projects
24	Written in Music – featuring Caitlin Leffingwell
25	WCS Fund
26-27	Friends We’ll Miss
28-30	Athletics
31	Alumni Updates
Back	Homecoming

NEW CHAPTER

Throughout this issue, look for these New Chapters submitted by alumni.

The Crusader Chronicle is published twice a year for families, alumni, and friends of the school. For a change of address, to add someone to the mailing list, or to let us know of updates, please email advancement@whitinsvillechristian.org.

www.whitinsvillechristian.org
facebook.com/whitinsvillechristian
twitter.com/whitinsvillecs



Whitinsville Christian School held its 2018 commencement ceremony in the Janet Colby Garden on Friday, June 15, 2018. Forty-four students received their diplomas as their class advisers, Sherri Watters and Brady Bajema, shared their favorite memories about each student. The commencement address was given by Senator Ryan Fattman, and Ken and Lisa Foppema were presented with the WCS Distinguished Alumni Award.

Massachusetts State Senator, Ryan Fattman, delivered the commencement address to the Class of 2018. Introduced by Lance Engbers as “The Best of the Sutton Sammies,” Senator Fattman shared an important lesson he has learned in life in the telling of the sudden passing of his former coach, Steve Romasco. Below is an excerpt from his commencement address.



Senator Ryan Fattman

It’s my honor to be here today for the first time, and hopefully not the last, as a commencement speaker for a graduating high school class. I graduated from high school fifteen years ago. If you had told me then that now I’d be standing here giving this address, I would have told you you’re nuts. But for whatever reason,

this was God’s plan. A lot has changed in that time. But tonight I do not want to talk about how the world has changed over the last 15 years. I’d like to discuss the timeless principles that I hope never change.

Over the course of your lives, you will have the opportunity to make many mistakes. What is most character-building is not the mistakes that you make, but the corrections that you pursue.

Growing up, I saw tremendous debates at our dinner table. My mom is

a Democrat, my dad is a Republican. Although they sometimes disagreed fiercely, they were not disagreeable. They taught me a lesson from Matthew 15:18. That from the mouth flows the heart. How we communicate with one another, and how we speak to one another truly matters.

When I was a sophomore in college, my former coach called to ask if I would coach an 8th grade basketball team. I said I was not interested. I had left to go to the big city, and the big time. I was looking forward to living a life of luxury that I had never experienced before. I wanted to achieve this life by becoming a corporate lawyer. I wanted to share that life with my parents. I went home and attended the Clark University high school basketball tournament. I went to see my former coach since Sutton was playing. Right around half time, he grabbed the back of his head. He died that day of a brain aneurysm. On that day I had an epiphany. Not all that glitters is gold. No amount of money was ever going to bring him back. What I learned in his passing was that I did not need to pursue riches. But living a life worth living is truly amazing. You must give great attention to how that will come about in your lives.

Congratulations, class of 2018.



High School Awards Ceremony



Drew Quercio, Valedictorian



Elizabeth Marder, Salutatorian



Isaiah Hart and Colin Wren



Lindsey Swyers, Jada Leung, Esther Fomin, and Claire Barker

Strong Academic Endeavor Awards

Grade 9: Natalie Bolduc
Grade 10: Frankie Salvi
Grade 11: Tori Paine
Grade 12: Isaiah Hart

Academic Subject Awards

Art: Elizabeth Marder
Band: Catherine Yu & Shannon Morrill
Bible: Tatiana Wiersma
Business: Jacob Belanger & Josh Cook
Choir (Female): Rose Thayer
Choir (Male): Christian Swaim
Drama: Kate Johnson & Sarah Moschini
English: Elizabeth Marder
History: Colin Wren
Math: Jackey Ma
Orchestra: Andrew Dunlap
Science (Biological): Rose Thayer
Science (Physical): Colin Wren
Spanish: Cam Richey
Technology: Sam Paul

Annual Local and Memorial Scholarships

Arthur Wiersma Memorial Scholarship: Jada Leung & Isaiah Hart
George J. VandenAkker Memorial Scholarship: Brianna Smith
Eric J. Cook Memorial Scholarship: Jonny VanderSea
Milford Federal Savings & Loan Scholarship: Shannon Morrill
UniBank Scholarship: Sarah Moschini
Blackstone Valley Rotary Club Scholarship: Drew Quercio
Thelma DeYoung Memorial Award for Excellence Scholarship:
Sam Hearn
Presidential Spirit of Community Award: Isaiah Hart

WCS Administered Awards and Private Scholarships

Outstanding Senior Graduates: Lindsey Swyers & Drew Quercio
Jim & Jean Nydam Honorary Scholarship: Michaela Cannistraci
Carson Scholars Fund Award: Anneke Zeyl
DAR Good Citizen Award: Lindsey Swyers
Telegram & Gazette Student Achiever Award: Jakki Cloutier
Harvard Book Award: Rachel Cozzens
George Washington Book Award: Tyler Gorman
Gordon College Book Award: Ben Casey
Smith College Book Award: Michaela Cannistraci
Mass Secondary School Administrators: Claire Barker,
Grace Malabanti & Maeve Haseltine

Founders Award (K-12 at WCS)

Jacob Belanger, Josh Cook, Steven French, Sarah Haire, Julie Kaminski, Ariana Kasper, Thomas Norris, Rosemary Thayer, Joshua Vander Baan, Hanna VanderBaan, Tatiana Wiersma

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 is honored that families remain a part of our community from generation to generation.

Legacy Families



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



Hanna VanderBaan with her mother, Jennifer (Michaelson) VanderBaan ('93). Not pictured: Marc VanderBaan, father ('93)



Joshua VanderBaan with his father, Jeffrey ('78) VanderBaan, and his grandparents, Bob ('55) and Kathy (VanderBrug) VanderBaan ('56)



Jonny VanderSea with his grandfather, Phil VanderSea ('58)



Joshua Wiersma with his mother, Lisa (Guidry) Wiersma ('87)



Tatiana Wiersma with her father, Wayne Wiersma ('85), and her grandfather, Leo Wiersma ('58)

WHERE THEY

ARE GOING

- Claire Barker Cedarville University
- Jacob Belanger Bentley University
- Niklaus Chen Babson University
- Jakki Cloutier Point Loma Nazarene University
- Joshua Cook Grove City College
- Cara Cui University of San Diego
- Andrew Dunlap Cedarville University
- Esther Fomin Savannah College of Art & Design
- Steven French Gordon College
- Diana Fu Babson College

- Tim Goodell
- Sarah Haire
- Isaiah Hart
- Maeve Haseltine
- Kate Johnson
- Julie Kaminski
- Ari Kasper
- Joe Kennedy
- Mandy Laporte
- Katelyn Lashley
- Jada Leung
- Jackey Ma

- Worcester State University
- Fitchburg State University
- Community College of RI
- Sacred Heart University
- Taylor University
- Providence College
- Bridgewater State University
- Assumption College
- Nichols College
- Gordon College
- Gordon College
- Vanderbilt University

Distinguished ALUMNI 2018

Ken and Lisa Foppema

NEW CHAPTER

I am very active in a women's a Capella chrous, Vocal Harmonix. In early June of this year we will be singing on an Alaskan cruise ship.

- Cheryl Krull Marsden ('64)

The 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to **Ken ('72)** and **Lisa (Ebbeling) Foppema ('73)** at the commencement ceremonies on June 15. This is the third occasion the award has been presented to a married couple. "WCS places equal importance on school, church, and home," said Headmaster, Lance Engbers. "Ken and Lisa have shown a deep commitment to that triad. They represent three generations of WCS students, they are active members at Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church, and at their family-owned and operated Foppema's Farm, they have built a relationship of trust with the community."

Ken and Lisa Foppema both attended WCS through the 9th grade. Lisa was baptized at Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church, and Ken also became a member when they married. Ken has served as a deacon twice and an elder twice. Lisa is a member of the choir and has volunteered in the nursery at Coffee Break. Their four sons (Jesse, Evan, Lucas, and Samuel) are also WCS graduates.



Mikaela and Addison



Jack

Their grandchildren, Jesse and Kelly's children, are currently WCS students. Jack just completed 1st grade and the twins just "graduated" from preschool. "We hope our children would say that the Christian school was a good part of their growing up and their education. We believe that a Christian education is an important part of raising your children."

Lisa studied Business Administration at Calvin College. Ken received an Associate's Degree from Stockbridge School of Agri-

culture and later his Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science from UMASS. Ken's original goal was to be a dairy farmer, but that dream changed as he developed an interest in growing crops. After renting land for three years, preservation land became available for purchase. "I was faithful to God and He answered my prayers. It's a miracle how it has all worked out. It can only be God's hand," said Ken. Two of their sons, Jesse and Evan, are part of the family business. "This is God's gift to us, our kids, and the community. With this blessing we want to be a blessing to others. It's our obligation. We're very blessed and we try to pass that along by not wasting any product and donating where we're able. We donate to the food pantry and the John 21 breakfast and help in other areas when we see people in need."

Lisa volunteers at WCS with TRIP and the auction. They also faithfully support the school financially. Lisa is a past Trustee, and served on the Education Committee. "Everyone should take a turn (as a Trustee). I'm glad I did it because it made me appreciate what goes on and how things work. Now we are able to go to plays and preschool graduation for our grandkids. I'm so proud of the school and what it's become, especially with the new addition," said Lisa.

When reflecting on their own time as WCS students Lisa shared, "I definitely remember Nellie Pals. We all had her since she started the kindergarten. She was such a lovely woman, school was her life. We're thankful for the teachers we had who loved us. We had good friends then whom we still have now."



Conor MacGinnis
Grace Malabanti
Elizabeth Marder
Shannon Morrill
Sarah Moschini
Thomas Norris
Sam Paul
Drew Quercio
Cam Richey
Jackie Rose
Brianna Smith
Lindsey Swyers

Salem State University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Gordon College
Anderson University
Eastern Nazarene College
Gordon College
Quinnipiac College
Northeastern University
Clark University
Rhode Island College
Gordon College
Baylor University

Rose Thayer
Joshua Vander Baan
Hanna VanderBaan
Jonny VanderSea
Lily Vinton
Josh Wiersma
Tatiana Wiersma
Colin Wren
Victor Xing
Kingsley Zhang

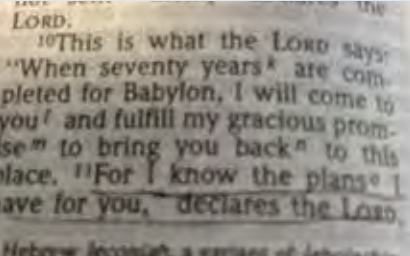
University of Maine
Gordon College
Saint Anselm College
Worcester State University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
U.S. Air Force
Emmanuel College
Assumption College
Pennsylvania State University
Brandeis University

Turning Pages

Chris Vander Baan, High School Principal

On a Friday night in the middle of June, 44 seniors graduated from Whitinsville Christian High School. God blessed all 750 attendees with amazing weather. The storms came in and out during the day and we were thankful they cleared out and left behind cool weather, sunshine, and an amazing night to close out another chapter in the lives of the fine young men and women we call the Class of 2018.

The entire ceremony is like the ending of a great book. Prior to the processional, our graduates-in-waiting meet to put on their caps and gowns. The ladies preen their hair while the guys fix their ties and show off their cool socks and spanky new shoes. There is a nervous energy that fills the room. I cherish that time as I wonder what each one of them is thinking. Are they excited? Surely. Anxious? Possibly. Do they have any idea what waits before them? Hardly. The processional



is surreal as they march down the middle of the audience. There are cheers and smiles, tears and looks of relief. I get to sit on stage where I can see everyone in the audience like an author reviewing the last revision of a book prior to sending it to the editor.

The soon-to-be graduates wait anxiously for the keynote speaker to share his words of wisdom and insight. Thank you, Senator Fattman, for sharing challenging and personal thoughts that our seniors will prayerfully remember and apply to their lives! Each student lives out their own short chapter in the book as their name is called and they walk slowly up to the podium while the class advisers share a serious and funny snippet about them. The “stories” are thoughtfully crafted and carefully delivered, and the audience gets a short but deeply personal insight into each student. A great book is rewritten numerous times, polished, and often times torn up and started over. As I stand on stage with diploma in hand waiting for each student to climb the four stairs to the stage, with the audience watching in anticipation, I have a flood of images and memories about each student. Some of the memories are ones that make me smile and some even make me cry. For the past four years, I have had the blessing of watching these young men and women from afar. I have watched them enter high school as cocky middle schoolers filled with energy and trepidation. I have watched them run, walk, and explode through the hallways of WCHS. I have seen them grow, fall, smile, cry, well-up with pride, and experience anger. I have seen them fall in love and get called on the carpet for making poor decisions. I have seen them scream out loud as they get their first “A” on a tough test and walk dejected down the hall when the honor roll is posted and their name



is not on it. I have seen many of them find their niche on stage, on the athletic field, or in the art room. I have read many of their essays and listened to them share their innermost feelings. Most have been very transparent with at least one member of our staff. Each one of them, like a great book, has had challenging chapters in their lives unveiled to me and our amazing teachers and staff.

As each student receives their diploma, I have the unique blessing of looking them in the eyes and getting a personal view of the emotions that pour out. I see relief, fear, pure joy, confusion, and confidence that this page of their short life is finished.

Every great author has an outline for the book he or she is trying to write. Most authors find a creative writing environment that allows them to get their thoughts on paper. WCHS is the environment our 44 parents have chosen to help them develop their children. WCHS takes this job quite seriously. We are blessed to have dozens of fine men and women, teachers, coaches, mentors, and staff that love editing unfinished books. Each one of them has skills and talents that are focused on changing the lives of our seniors. Each member of WCHS has an opportunity to impart knowledge, wisdom, and to work God’s plan into the lines of our seniors’ life stories. As the seniors proceed down the center aisle and await the hugs and kisses of their parents, grandparents, friends, and alumni, this chapter of their life is complete. No, it isn’t the same chapter for each student. It is not perfectly written, nor is it always a chapter filled with hope and joy. It is however, a chapter that has had dozens of God-loving mentors and editors poured into it. It is a chapter that has been loved on and prayed over. It is a chapter that has been blessed and enjoyed by many Christ-followers.

Some of our seniors will go on and accomplish *New York Times* Best-Selling List things. Others will struggle to get published. Some will take the outline, provided by loving parents and teachers, and craft amazing stories that will be talked about for generations. On behalf of the faculty and staff of WCS, I want to thank each family for the amazing blessing and challenge you have given us by entrusting the most important thing in the world, children, to us. A Christian education, taught through the lens of qualified and loving teachers and mentors, is a life-giving, life-changing gift. God only allows you and me one chance to get their story right. Let us continue to pray that the next chapter for each of our seniors is filled with joy and dependence on the Author and Creator of the universe.

Student, Parent, Trustee – My WCS Chapters

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

I appreciated this year's theme for WCS – "God's Epic Story." Often we can forget that God is still writing His story and that He is working in us, through us, and all around us as He does so. With this year's theme in mind it's fitting that this issue of the *Crusader Chronicle* would be "New Chapters." I started reminiscing about a few distinct chapters I've experienced over the years at WCS. My first chapter began in 1973 as a new kindergarten student with Miss Pals as my teacher. This chapter titled "Student" continued for the next 13 years at WCS. A lot of learning and growing took place during that chapter. Many new experiences took place such as learning to read, doing math, making friends, participating in sports, completing homework, making choices, and being responsible (most of the time). Most importantly though, the foundation for my faith in Christ was built, and WCS played a significant part in this building process.



My next WCS chapter I experienced would be titled "Parent." It was quite an event sending my first son to kindergarten 21 years ago. One views the school very differently as a parent versus as a student! Priorities shift. As a new parent, I was probably a bit over-reactive to every new bit of information that came home. If feedback was good, my child was going to be a genius. If feedback was more on the corrective side, it was time for an intervention before it was too late. But as time has gone on and as I have sent more boys to WCS, I've settled down a bit and become less reactionary. I've been able to trust God a little bit more each year and have been thrilled to watch my sons discover and develop their gifts. I am so thankful for the staff, faculty, and administration at WCS! I very much appreciate their love for God, their love for students, and all that they give to help each child develop their God-given potential.

The new chapter that I find myself in at WCS would be "Trustee." This chapter is very different from the "Parent" chapter. It shifts the focus from one's immediate family and onto the preservation and advancement of the organization as a whole. It works at answering the question, "What do we need to do in order to execute the WCS mission in accordance with the by-laws in the years to come?"

John ('86), Nathan ('14), Zach ('24), Ben ('19), Sheryl, and Joshua ('16)



It takes a high-level view at what is needed in governance, enrollment, advancement, finance, academics, compensation, technology, and capital over the long run and develops plans and policies to implement to stay effective, relevant, and meet the changing needs of students and parents. I am so thankful that there is such

“...the foundation for my faith in Christ was built, and WCS played a significant part in this building process.”

a gifted team of board members committed to doing just that. As the new board president, I am committed to work with the board to put strategic initiatives in place to ensure this happens.

So please continue praying for the students, staff, faculty, administration, headmaster, board of trustees, and WCS community that we will work together, follow the Lord's leading, and continue the mission of WCS today and into the future. God is writing over 600 chapters in the lives of our WCS students right now as part of His Epic Story. What a privilege that we get to be included in it.

NEW CHAPTER

I am married with two kids and four grandkids. In June, I went on my 11th mission trip to the Dominican Republic with a medical team. I have taken up golf in the last eight years and I love it.

– Charlotte (Wiersma) Lee ('63)



Rise Up & Build An Inspired Chapter

In March, the WCS community celebrated the conclusion of the Rise Up & Build Campaign, the largest capital campaign in the school's 90-year history. As is our tradition, no celebration would be complete without music! The annual Pops Concert provided the perfect venue to showcase talented students and alumni and reflect on the campaign themes while honoring the campaign chairpersons John Esler, Tony Brookhouse, and Tom Swaim, the Building Committee, and campaign donors.

The evening's performances were inspired by some of the great names in America's musical heritage such as Stephen Foster, Irving Berlin, and the Gershwin brothers. Encore Vocal Ensemble opened the evening as they sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" from the balcony of the Nehemiah Center for Arts and Worship. The program followed five themes found in the Rise Up & Build campaign, in the story of Nehemiah, and in American music. Passages from the book of Nehemiah, history of the campaign, and music accompanied each theme.

How did the WCS community arrive at this special evening of celebration? From the unique perspectives of the campaign leadership to its participants, the story of Rise Up & Build is a captivating one that warrants telling in this *Chronicle* feature.

TRADITION

From its founding, WCS originated out of a community desire to uphold tradition and to have God's word be central to all learning. Another important community tradition was that of volunteer labor. The inspiration for Rise Up & Build can be traced back to both, but especially to the year 1968. A special chapter in WCS history was the community coming together to build a new facility on Linwood Avenue. According to the original project architect, Bernard Spyker, in his work *Volunteer Labor* "...an immense

Rise Up & Build Chairpersons: Tom and Carol Swaim, Denise and Tony Brookhouse, and Jeanne and John Esler



2012, April

Board of Trustees approves expansion of campus

2015, February

Steering Committee formed

2015, April

Building Committee formed

2015, September

Campaign launched

2015, November

Site work begins

2016, May

Pledges total \$16.6 million, goal increased to \$18.5 million

project like this did not just pop out of the ground. No, it required the sacrifice of many dedicated people who desired the very best Christian education for their children, and for all the future children who would attend



Whitinsville Christian School.” Across the generations, stories of volunteers building the 1968 campus — some with harrowing details of bravery — are still being told.

Fast forward to 2015 — a newly formed campaign steering committee was in the early stages of campaign planning. Rise Up & Build chair Tom Swaim recalls, “We wanted to do something with this campaign that was not coming from an ivory tower so to speak. We wanted to communicate that we were all coming back to the school to do this together. Construction regulations today do not allow people to volunteer like we did back in 1968. That said, we wanted to connect with the spirit of 1968.” In the early planning stages, fellow co-chair Tony Brookhouse was reminded of the stories in the book of Nehemiah, when the people came together to build the wall of Jerusalem. Recalling the phrase that was used by Nehemiah, “Let us rise up and build,” Tom shared that phrase with the group, and there was immediate agreement to employ it as the campaign title and theme. Tom reflects, “I love the fact that this theme was Spirit-led and came right out of the scriptures.”

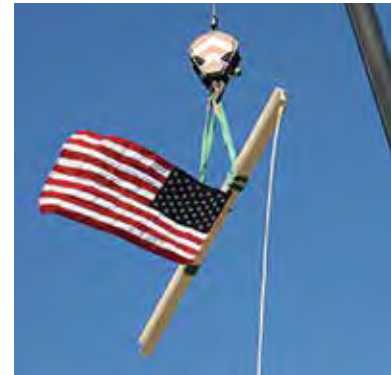
CHALLENGE & CHANGE

Awareness for the need of a significant physical change to the campus had been growing since the early 2000s. The school clearly needed space to grow enrollment, expand programs, and invest in faculty. This awareness was heightened by the findings of an accreditation report, leading to a long-range plan approved by Trustees in 2012. In the early 2000s, a design for the renovation of the Krull Auditorium into a performing arts center, a new library, and a new gym was commissioned. Unfortunately, the proposed design was too expensive and had to be shelved. Structural issues led to the prioritization of the new Library and Media Center campaign and project which was completed in 2013. Also in 2013, a

plot of land near the school became available. In order to consider buying that land, the school leadership needed a justification, which at the time was the idea of a new gym. A committee was soon formed to consider building a new gym.

“...this theme was Spirit-led and came right out of the scriptures.”

With his extensive construction experience, Tom Swaim immediately saw an opportunity to take advantage of the concept of shared cost of construction by including a performing arts space with the gym project. He was not alone. WCS Trustee and New Building Committee member Faith Lane was especially passionate that the school also needed a performing arts center, and that this project would be much stronger as a result. “When we shared the tremendous cost-savings information with interested major donors, every single one was in favor,” said Tom. The campaign chairs saw an opportunity to broaden the base of supporters. “We (the co-chairs) saw that there was a wider base – those supporting athletics, performing arts, and academics – that could be drawn from if we included the performing arts center as part of it. It became a more inclusive campaign that more fully represented WCS,” said Tony Brookhouse.



INSPIRATION & VISION

From the very beginning, Rise Up & Build was clearly wrapped in decades of prayer from the community. School leaders agree that the campaign chairs were an answer to those prayers, breathing life and excitement into the vision of our new facilities. Headmaster Lance Engbers puts it this way, “The idiom goes, ‘Two’s company, three’s a crowd.’ Not so with the tri-chairs, who led the campaign to raise \$18.5 million in less than two years. These three formed an outstanding triad of driven leadership for the campaign resulting in goal after goal being met. It was awesome to see God use these three individuals to do what one alone could not attain. They effectively engaged this whole community in support of the campaign.”

2016, May 7

Ceremonial ground-breaking

2016, October

Topping Off ceremony

2017, May

Special Preview week

2017, August

Ribbon cutting at convocation

2017, October

Debut concert in the Nehemiah Center for Arts and Worship

2017, November

Announcement that campaign goal was reached



Building Committee: Lance Engbers, Bryan Johnson, Melody Nydam, Faith Lane, Tom Swaim, and Dirk Koopman

It would be fair to say that chairperson John Esler started the conversation that brought the campaign chairs together. Seven years prior to enrolling their children in 2014, John shares, “My wife Jeanne and I toured the school, and we chose not to send our kids here. Shallow as it sounds now to me, a major factor was that we were underwhelmed by the facilities. When we came back to the school, we were welcomed with open arms.” Soon after enrolling their children, John approached the headmaster, asking if there was anything he could do for the school. Plans that had been drawn up for the new gym in 2013 were shown to John. Seeing an opportunity to make a significant difference for the school, John shared that he and Jeanne would be very willing to participate in the building project with stretch gifts of time and money. “Jeanne and I have come to realize that everything we own does not belong to us, that we are just stewards of what God has blessed us with, and that He has entrusted us to help build His Kingdom.”

Tom reflects on this unique and synergistic co-chair dynamic from his perspective, “Each one of us had a unique role. Tony is the master salesperson. He set up so many interviews for the campaign. John Esler came with a deep spiritual interest, and a desire to set a strong and high standard of extreme generosity. That was contagious with major donors first, and later throughout the rest of the school. With a family of seven, my job on the committee was to talk about all the great things that the school was doing. My other role was to say ‘I work for a construction company. I know how to manage costs. We will not be going over budget, and you will be getting what we promised.’ We made a really great team, appealing to a wide array of donors.”

“ NEW CHAPTER

Our oldest child, Natalie, will be attending Stepping Stone Preschool (at WCS) this fall. We also have a daughter, Hannah, who was born in January of this year.

– Amy (Hannon) and Scott Partridge ('06)

A campaign steering committee was formed that included headmaster Lance Engbers, Board of Trustees President Russ VanderBaan, and Treasurer Carl Rubin. A WCS Board of Trustee resolution soon passed that led to 100% of the Trustees making a cam-

paign commitment. According to then board President Russ VanderBaan, “Our goal for Rise Up & Build was to encourage the entire WCS community to become involved. As a board, it was important for us to take a leadership position and we did that by 100% support and participation from our board members.” According to John Esler, these commitments were a key ingredient for campaign success. “We had such great commitment from the board, school leadership, building, and steering committees that then translated to the much broader WCS community. There was never a question if we could get it done. We knew we would because we felt it was God’s calling and as the supreme leader, He was in charge.”

“We are stewards of what God has blessed us with...He has entrusted us to help build His Kingdom.”

In the campaign’s quiet phase of the spring and summer of 2015, the campaign chairs made personal visits to over 50 individuals and families. They brought a polished campaign presentation to people’s homes and asked them what they thought the school needed. Tony Brookhouse credits the success of these visits back to the power of being a volunteer. “As volunteers in those environments we had this unique ability to have a level of authority, but not so much that people felt threatened. We always felt very welcomed. One of the best things the board could have done was to give us, the chairs, a great deal of autonomy, and we used it to the fullest.”

WCS parents Anthony and Jen Cinelli recalled their own in-home visit. “We thought they did an extremely good job. The visit allowed us to learn details about the project, and gave us opportunities to ask questions that some might not be comfortable asking in a group, especially when it comes to money. It gave the co-chairs the opportunity to ask, face-to-face, one-on-one. It made it personal. Our experience was a great one and really led to the amount we committed.”

COMMUNITY & PARTICIPATION

Another key factor in the success of Rise Up & Build was the unprecedented response from the wider WCS community. The quiet phase of the spring and summer of 2015 was very successful, raising over \$15 million. The precedent of this success was inspirational, and spread quickly to the rest of the WCS community. In the late summer of 2015, John and Jeanne Esler hosted a campaign reception in their home for WCS faculty and staff. WCS teacher Val Kuik recalls, “I remember a wow factor for how much

had already been raised in advance of the actual public campaign. I also remember being inspired by John Esler's talk about his money belonging to God and using it for His purposes." The WCS faculty campaign launched soon after with 13 small groups, each led by a faculty captain. Teacher Sheryl Casey remembers, "In the faculty campaign, I believe everyone on my list was pretty excited about the expansion and saw the value in the project, so asking was not a hard thing to do!" In a short period of time, over 95% of faculty and staff contributed to the campaign. Student partici-



Dan Cobb of JM Coull, Sen. Ryan Fattman, John Esler, Russ Vander Baan, Lance Engbers, and Tom Swaim at the groundbreaking



Sarah Bowler, Elementary Principal, with some preschool students presenting \$1,080 raised during penny wars

pation was equally contagious. Starting in the fall of 2015, Student Council organized class penny war competitions and a campaign pasta dinner. Students of all ages combined their efforts to show their commitment, raise school awareness, and raise money.

Starting in December of 2015, a 3:1 matching campaign gift opportunity from a group of anonymous WCS donors was introduced to push the effort over the finish line. This generous challenge spurred on an additional \$3 million in campaign commitments over the next eight months. Also in December, the project's construction pricing was made known. According to Tom Swaim, this was a God-given opportunity to fully realize the project. "We were able to save enough money to include the new classroom space and the connecting bridge. We were close enough to our goal at the time that it made sense to increase the original goal of \$17.9 million to \$18.5 million and include all of the projects." In November of 2016, with 94% of the campaign goal raised, the Have a Seat Campaign was launched. Donors could choose to name a theater or gym bleacher seat after loved ones or have favorite Bible verses inscribed on a plaque. More than 110 seats have since been named. The Have a Seat giving opportunity continues post-campaign, with proceeds going to further grow the WCS Endowment Fund. (See more information about Have a Seat on page 15.)

Interest in the project provided opportunities for further engaging the community. Quarterly construction updates were emailed, monthly updates were given over coffee on Saturday mornings, and many tours were given. Project milestone events from the official groundbreaking to the ribbon cutting at convocation in August of 2017 drew hundreds of WCS community members. As construction proceeded well ahead of schedule, there was an opportunity for a "preview week" of the new facilities during the week of May 22, 2017. WCS hosted a busy week of events, including an all-school pep rally and several concerts. Alumni returned to play basketball and volleyball in the new gym.

Success & Celebration

The closer the project came to completion, the more a spirit of thankfulness and celebration started to set in within the community. At the official Nehemiah Center ribbon cutting and school convocation for 2017, Russ VanderBaan opened by saying, "Today we come together as a community to celebrate the opening of these beautiful new facilities, and to give thanks for your faithfulness to WCS throughout the years." Just prior to the ribbon cutting by students, John Esler stated, "What we've accomplished in a short period of time speaks to the commitment of many helping hands of all sizes. May our efforts inspire future stewards of WCS when challenging tasks need to be accomplished. God-willing, when people come together, and rise together, great things are possible."

On November 18, 2017, prior to the performance of *The Little Mermaid*, headmaster Lance Engbers made an exciting announcement. "I am pleased to announce that with a recent major gift, WCS has gone over its \$18.5 million goal for Rise Up & Build! No one would have thought this achievement possible at WCS just five years ago. But as Matthew tells us 'With God all things are possible.' Without the dedicated efforts of our campaign chairs

Together We Have Reached Our \$18.5 Million Goal!

NEW CHAPTER

I graduated from the USMC Officer Candidates School in Quantico, VA in 2017 and Boston University's Questrom School of Business in May of this year with a degree in Business Administration & Management.

- Steven LaDine ('14)

and their generous commitment of time and resources, we would not be celebrating the success of the campaign this evening!" Departing audience members were greeted at the Nehemiah Center entrance with a floor to ceiling banner declaring campaign victory: **TOGETHER WE HAVE REACHED OUR \$18.5 MILLION GOAL! THANK YOU!**

Soli Deo gloria!



WCS students Jakki Cloutier and Jacob Tomasino open the Nehemiah Center for 2017-2018 school year

The Rise Up & Build Campaign has broken records in terms of participation and funds raised at WCS. The following gift table illustrates how the WCS community came together to rise up and build at all levels:

RISE UP & BUILD CAMPAIGN

\$18.5 Million Gift Table

Gift Levels	# of Gifts Needed	Dollar Total	# of Gifts Received	Dollar Total Received
\$2,500,000+	2	\$7,000,000	3	\$11,628,725
\$1,000,000	4	\$4,500,000	1	\$1,567,000
\$500,000	4	\$2,000,000	2	\$1,325,000
\$250,000	8	\$2,000,000	4	\$1,502,500
\$100,000	10	\$1,000,000	5	\$501,740
\$50,000	14	\$700,000	7	\$491,000
\$25,000	20	\$500,000	15	\$432,425
\$10,000	35	\$350,000	38	\$521,235
\$5,000	40	\$200,000	35	\$206,300
\$2,500	46	\$115,000	51	\$166,235
\$1,000	60	\$60,000	105	\$154,475
\$500	75	\$40,000	62	\$36,215
\$250	100	\$25,000	43	\$13,700
Less than \$250	Many	\$10,000	220	\$9,125
Total	500+	\$18,500,000	591	\$18,555,675

Keys to the Campaign

Trust in God's faithfulness coupled with community involvement have always played significant roles in the growth of Whitinsville Christian School. Many of the early construction projects at WCS relied heavily on volunteer labor from the community to complete the work at reduced costs. Today's building codes do not allow for that type of involvement, however committee members continue to donate countless hours to further the mission of WCS.

The most recent Rise Up & Build campaign was exponentially larger from a financial aspect than any other. Campaign chairperson, John Esler, shared some of the keys to its success:

“COMMITTED LEADERSHIP – Being committed to a project and displaying confidence in it, impacts positively on the whole effort. We had such great commitment from the board, school leadership, building and steering committee that then translated into a much broader constituency of the WCS community.

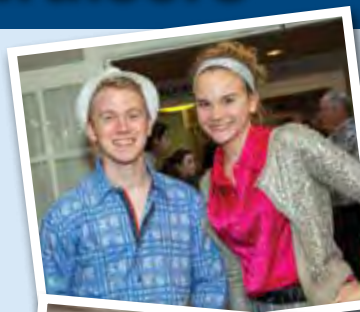
EARLY WINS – We were able to build early fundraising momentum by securing significant donations early in the process. This focus contributed to the financial viability of the project and added real validation as to its purpose.

PROFESSIONAL MESSAGING – Working with Pagano Media helped us create messaging that was consistently clear, and visually appealing. This helped people see that this project was being run with the highest standard of excellence, and it helped us communicate a clear, effective message.”

Annual Fundraisers

Spring Auction

The 32nd Annual Spring Auction was held on April 6 and was an amazing success in both fundraising and fellowship. Over \$76,000 was raised for the operating budget and an additional \$14,000 was raised for our special appeal this year, to purchase Chromebooks for the Elementary School. Performances from High School faculty member, Matt Genese and two Drama Club members, Amiah Van Dyke and Josh Wiersma, added to the joyous spirit of the evening.



RAISED
\$14,000
SPECIAL APPEAL

RAISED
\$76,000+
OPERATING BUDGET



Have a Seat



The Have a Seat campaign gives donors naming rights to seats in the Nehemiah Center for Arts and Worship or bleacher seats in the Nehemiah Center Gymnasium. By making a donation to WCS for seat-naming rights. Inscriptions can include the names of your loved ones or a favorite scripture.

PAC

Front 3 rows: \$2,000 per seat
All other rows: \$1,000
Balcony seats: \$1,500

Gym

Bleacher seats:
\$200

For more information please contact the Advancement Office at advancement@whitinsvillechristian.org.



Golf Outing

The Annual Golf Outing was held on June 11 at Pleasant Valley Country Club. Thanks to perfect golf weather, our generous sponsors, and a record number of golfers, it was an amazing day for WCS. The fellowship and friendly competition provide many laughs on and off the course.





Disney's *High School Musical*

The story of Disney's *High School Musical* is one whose story line is not new. Cliques have been around from the beginning of time. *High School Musical* is a modern day version of *Grease*, another story about groups that struggle to cross social barriers. *High School Musical* also contains a wonderful message encouraging us to explore all of our God-given gifts and talents, as well as learning to appreciate the individual complexity of others. In a fun, musical way that involves a lot of dancing, we see vulnerable, courageous characters who stand up to the norm and create a contagious wave of freedom.

It was a huge pleasure directing this production. In thinking about this story, we daily pointed ourselves back to our school's theme for this year of "God's Epic Story." At the beginning of each rehearsal, we randomly chose a cast member to tell a life story showing a personal connection to God's Epic Story. It was fascinating to hear stories where students saw God working in their lives or in the lives of family members.

This particular show also gave us another example of the body

of Christ as it is seen in drama. This story highlighted the uniqueness of individuals, and how these individuals work through barriers to find common ground. On stage, back stage, through music, technology, lights and sound, we (over 70 students and adults) are truly "...all in this together..." as the body of Christ.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Mary Dykstra, Drama Director





Kingdom Connection

In April, the entire elementary school starred in *The Kingdom Connection*, a high-energy, biblically inspired musical museum where the Bible comes to life. We met David, King Saul, King Herod, and that wise ruler, King Solomon, but the show ultimately pointed us to the one true king, King Jesus!



Dear Edwina, Jr.

The Middle School Drama Club was led by Susan Upham and Laurie Baker. These young, talented actors gave two performances of *Dear Edwina, Jr.* with a Friday evening and a Saturday afternoon show. Several of our high school students also helped by choreographing the show and training middle school students as tech team members. *Dear Edwina, Jr.* is about a neighborhood of kids who produce an advice show, complete with singing and dancing, while trying to catch the atten-

tion of a big city talent scout. Edwina receives letters from kids who are looking for advice on everything from good manners to sibling rivalry. “Couched in all the craziness are the important lessons that you should never try to be someone you’re not, and that you can’t put a price on the value of relationships,” said Susan Upham, Director.



Suzuki Concert

The 37th annual Suzuki Concert was held in May of this year. This was the first Suzuki concert held in the Nehemiah Center and over 90 Strings students from preschool age to seniors in high school participated.

End of Year Concerts Have *Special Meaning*

This year the band and chorale final concerts were bittersweet occasions as students gave their final performances directed by Joshua Lawson. **Christian Swaim ('19)** offered these words at the end of the chorale finale: “Perhaps the greatest thing that Mr. Lawson has taught me in my time with him is that music is more than notes on a page. There is truth in music. There is beauty. Time and time again he enforced the idea that music is a gift from God. That it is our purpose to use that gift to glorify and honor Him. He taught us how to worship. Mr. Lawson’s pursuit of

excellence and his love for music has affected so many of us and has touched me in such a way that I have been forever changed. Mr. Lawson, thank you for the hard work. Thank you for the teaching. Thank you for pushing us. Thank you for the laughs and most of all, thank you for teaching me what music is really about.”





Andrew Dunlap and Ben Casey



Emma-Claire Vanderslice



Candy Zhang

Night of Music & Art

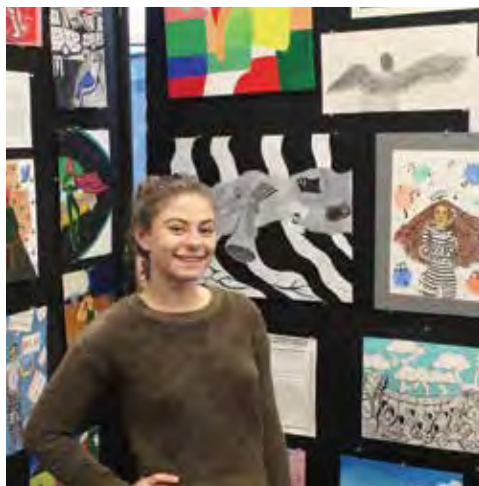
NOMA is an evening to showcase our talented students in the areas of performing and visual arts. In May, 45 students performed in a wide-variety of acts including singing, dueling banjos, and dancing. The audience was also treated to a traditional Chinese dance and music played on the pipa. Art galleries displayed work from AP Art students. Students from Neighborhood Strings, a community music program of the Worcester Chamber Music

Society, joined WCS students on-stage for a collaborative performance. Ariana Falk, Education Director of Neighborhood Strings, shared information about the program. “When I met Ariana and heard her passionately talk about Neighborhood Strings and how they use music to connect with and empower kids in their neighborhood, it sounded like a perfect match for us to explore how we might partner with them. I was so excited to welcome Ariana and some of the teens from Neighborhood Strings,” said Shari Dunlap, Director of Arts.

NEW CHAPTER

This June, I plan to retire from Grandville Calvin Christian Schools in Michigan after teaching general music and second grade for the past 42 years. I am thankful for two special teachers, Mrs. Wilma VanderBaan and Mrs. Grace Bosma, who instilled in me a love for music.

- Cindy Wassenar DeVries ('69)



Esther Fomin



Cara Cui

WCS performs with Neighborhood Strings



WCS Robonauts Level Up!

At the end of April, the Whitinsville Christian School Robotics team, the Robonauts, competed in the FIRST® Robotics Competition world championships in Detroit, MI. This was the first time in the team's 18 years of competing they have been invited to the world championships. The Robonauts were awarded a special robotics grant from the US Department of Defense to cover their registration fee. Many other donors from the WCS community also stepped forward to cover travel expenses for the team.

The theme for the 2018 FIRST® Robotics Competition was "POWER UP!" and was loosely developed around the Mario video games. "The season began on the 1st weekend in January and our team meetings instantly went to five nights a week and all day Saturday as a really special robot, Short Circuit, and team started to come together," said mentor, Don Stahl. "We went to our first of two competitions at WPI, then up to Lewiston, Maine, earning our highest ever team ranking as 4th and 5th alliance team captain. This soundly qualified us for the NE District Championship.

The competition at Boston University was tough and the team fought gallantly, and although we did much better than our first trip to the NE Championship, we were disappointed with the outcome. We were good but just not as good as we believed we could be." Thankfully the team was not down for the count. A mere four days before the start of the World Championship Competition at COBO Arena in Detroit, WCS received an invitation to the competition.

Thanks to a number of generous donors, the team headed to Michigan to compete with the best of the best. "Four hundred teams, with 40,000 participants and six competition field running simultaneously definitely let us know this was the big time! It was by the grace of God we were there," said Don. "Out of over 3500 teams world-wide and 800 championship teams in 2 world events, WCS finished in the top third of our section, which translates to being somewhere around the top 10% in the world for 2018! We are so thankful to our sponsors, the team, the parents, the administration and staff, the WCS Board,



2018 **TOP 10%**
in the world

and everyone else who supported us in this amazing 18th year of Robotics at WCS."

"This season was fantastic in so many ways, and the team has pressed forward in the face of every obstacle. God has blessed our team immensely this year and I am proud of everyone on the team and how we pressed on relentlessly to fulfill and exceed our wildest expectations," said Robonauts mentor, **Peter Osswald ('08)**. "The team really enjoyed the opportunity to travel and compete against some of the best teams in the world. We were really proud of our performance and are excited for next year," said Bobby Whiton, WCS junior, and Robonauts team member.



Front row: Peter Johnson, Hayden Arnold, Tim Goodell, Aaron Goodell, Bobby Whiton. Middle row: Lucas CaraDonna, Drew Burkhart, Riley Moran. Back row: Kyle Padelford, Jim Hackett, **Katiegrace (Youngsma) Dudley ('05)**, Brandon Whiton, Dylan Anema, Don Stahl, Sam Laird, **Peter Osswald ('08)**, **Ben Randolph ('06)**, Sam Barker, Aidan Olson, Joe Walden, **Kristen (Vriesema) Osswald ('08)**. Not pictured: Tom Karns

NEW CHAPTER

I am going back to grad school part time in the fall

– Ryan McMorrow ('07)

Staying Open to New Chapters

Melissa (LaFleur) Hadley ('99) and her husband, Matt, have two sons. Nicholas just finished second grade at WCS, Jackson is one, and they are expecting a daughter in October. Melissa is a Health Coach with her company, Destination You Fitness, who is partnered with Beachbody, LLC. Melissa was recently elected to the WCS Board of Trustees. She is an active volunteer at the school and is currently serving on the Homecoming Committee.



What drives you to look for a new chapter?

God has given each of us gifts and I don't want to waste those. Too many times so many of us are afraid to use our gifts, or we don't search deep enough to discover what they are. We have a tendency to stick with the status quo, what's expected versus what we want. I don't want any of my talents to go to waste. We're only here one time and I want it to count.

What new things are you exploring now?

I just have a feeling that there's something else that I'm not doing. It could be writing a devotional for teenage girls, an idea I've had for a long time. Right now I want to open a boot camp spin studio, focusing on women, girls, and moms who feel like they've lost themselves in being a mom and don't take time for themselves. I'd love to work with teen girls, partnering with schools, to work on esteem issues. That's my big goal. I can feel it, I can see it. But it would take a lot for it to happen.

What happens if that dream doesn't come true?

Things happen for a reason and it's a catalyst for other things. If the spin studio doesn't happen, then maybe I'm supposed to write the devotional. If the spin studio happens, I want it to be a franchise. I tend to dream big. I have a thousand ideas. Most of them come and go, but this one has stuck with me for about ten years. I'm preparing for it and praying about it. The financing would be the missing piece.

How did your time at WCS impact your faith?

If I hadn't been at WCS for all of my school years, I would have likely gotten lost in my faith walk a long time ago. I faced some tough challenges and I always had this community to come back to. If I didn't have that, I don't know where I would be.

Sharing the Remarkable MOMENTS

Sonia Zeyl, Director of Enrollment

Our tents were lined up neatly beside the Janet Colby garden, as the fire pit roared to life. We were full from our cheeseburgers and hot dogs, but there was no way we would pass up the s'mores that had been promised by the coach! Our evening of camping-out at school was full of games, scary stories around the fire pit, and lots of laughter among the fifth and sixth grade girls that made up our WCS recreational soccer team.

As we were settling in to our sleeping bags listening to the frogs, I reflected that each of these girls is so wonderful, and what an honor it is to be an administrator here at WCS. I get to know the kids at WCS and I have a relationship with them that brings richness to my days, but also brings a lump to my throat at the end of the school year when the seniors and a small handful of students leave.

Some of us who have been here a long time become

accustomed to the way things are done at WCS so we forget to reflect on them as **REMARKABLE**. Our perspective over time becomes shrouded by what we perceive as the same old thing. We've always had coaches who go above and beyond with their players. We've always had teachers who stay after school to help students. We've always had administrative assistants who bend over backward to help families and staff find what they're looking for. No big deal, right?

But now, as we take a summer break and inhale the evening air, I want to challenge us to see things from a fresh point of view. What would it be like to see WCS from the perspective of fresh eyes? I am so fortunate to meet people who see WCS for the first time. Prospective and new parents are inspired by the newness and they **REMARK** on what they see that is truly **REMARKABLE**.

A first-year WCS parent recently posted on Facebook about her daughter's National Park project. "So hard to keep it together with all the emotions – but mostly proud and overflowed with joy that she is at a school that truly honors each and every one of their students. It has built such a loving and caring environment for them. I couldn't ask for more.❤️"



Trusting God's Path

Billy Fredericks ('14)

New chapters. They aren't easy. Not only do they signify the beginning of some new, exciting adventure just waiting to be discovered, but it also represents the end of your current chapter, a part of life that has molded you into who you are today. Where I am today in my life all points to the magnificent power of our glorious God, and, you know what's coming—Whitinsville Christian School. As I look back to the big decisions I've made, they all point to the greater plan God has had for my life and trusting that plan, as well as exposure that I received in high school.

I just graduated from Calvin College with my B.A. in International Relations, and a minor in Business. Six months ago, I was terrified by the question, "So now you're a senior, what are your plans after college?" This next chapter of life comes with many unknowns still, and experiences that I am excited to figure out. Two things stick out for me. First, in just over a year, I get to marry my best friend, high school sweetheart, and love of my life, **Julie Wieggers ('14)**. God has blessed us richly over the past four and a half years with great mentors to guide us, and peers at Calvin to walk with us on our journey. Needless to say, this is probably the thing I am most excited about.

Along with that, God has been preparing me over the past four years for my upcoming career. I'm excited to say that I've accepted a job working for Massachusetts State Senator Ryan Fattman. Truth be told, I was never expecting this job offer, but I'm thrilled to be able to put my degree to work at the State House.



The point to all this has been simply boiled down as I've thought about it: Trust God, and trust that He knows what's up. From my formulating interest in politics and political beliefs in high school,

"I've learned God doesn't take you in a straight path."

to refining my knowledge and networks at Calvin, I've been preparing for this, even when at the time it seemed like it all was leading nowhere. But I've learned God doesn't take you in a straight path. His is more

like a series of "connect the dots," where everything doesn't look like it makes sense, until all the dots are connected, and you can finally see the beautiful picture He has created for each one of us.

RAVE REVIEW TALK

As I work tirelessly to advance the stories of WCS to new audiences every day, I can't think of anything that encourages me more than when a parent speaks good words about our school to their friends.

As our communications team evaluates advertising opportunities, I know the truth that is preached in every corner of the world of sales; "A single consumer voice, in the end, has far more impact than any ad could."

So each one of you has power in influencing the continued success of our enrollment growth! Could I inspire you during this break to see the things your kids are experiencing through the fresh lens of newness and then **REMARK** on what is so good about this place to others? **REMARKING** requires action – whether written or spoken. By doing so you not only encourage our team, but you also help spread the good words in our community to parents and grandparents who are looking for a joy-filled place for their kids to learn about themselves and God. It could reach a child who is longing to camp out with the mosquitos on the back field with their coach!

Use your **VOICE** to help spread the word about WCS:

- ▶ **REVIEW** like crazy – through Google, Facebook, Niche K-12 or Private School Review. Most people rely on reviews before they will set foot in our halls or even give us a call!
- ▶ **TALK** to parents while you're on the sidelines of a soccer game or watching dance class. When you tell other families about what your child is experiencing they will be inspired to check it out for themselves! And it could be profitable to you as well through our Referral Bonus Program.
- ▶ **RAVE** about us on social media. After our 5th Grade Parent Breakfast (an orientation to the middle school years for the families stepping up) a parent posted, "The way the school is approaching this stage gives me so much hope. It seems to foster this age's desire to be more independent while setting up safety rails to help them along the way. It's definitely NOT the middle school experience I had." Something like this helps appease people's anxieties, and allows for additional conversation on social media. Another parent commented on this post saying, "I have been nothing but thrilled with the middle school program!!"

Thank you for your many conversations spreading encouragement and good stories of our family and community.

CAPSTONE PROJECTS



Back row L to R – Grace Malabanti, Jakki Cloutier, Claire Barker, Sarah Moschini, Maeve Haseltine, Hanna VanderBaam, Jonny VanderSea, Andrew Dunlap, Sam Paul. Front row L to R – Jackie Rose, Brianna Smith, Lily Vinton, Esther Fomin. Not pictured: Isaiah Hart who was attending a mandatory EMT class that evening.

The Class of 2018 completed more Capstone Projects than any other WCS senior class. Fourteen students completed these year-long projects that explored the areas of service, health, the arts, and teaching. Students who choose these year-long projects over writing a senior research paper not only gain increased knowledge of their chosen subject, they learn the valuable skills of time management, coordination of resources, and effective communication. Many students acknowledged the dangers of procrastination, the frustrations of relying on others' schedules, the enormity of how much they learned about themselves, and the comfort and strength God provided along the way.

SERVICE

Grace Malabanti has been volunteering with refugee children for several years. Through her previous experience, she saw the importance of showing God's love to others and how much these children needed a mentor. "It's so important to get to know these students who are dealing with so much as individuals, as opposed to how they are sometimes portrayed in the media."

Brianna Smith began volunteering at a homeless shelter at the age of fifteen. She continued this work through her Capstone Project, coordinating several events to help veterans. "I was so affected by stories I heard from veterans, including my own parents." She held a clothing drive, she collected gift cards with hand-written thank you notes, she teamed up with the Blue Cru Club (see below) to collect Christmas gifts, and she and a team served a meal at Veterans, Inc.



Maeve Haseltine created the Blue Cru Club, a community service club, with the goal of bringing new service opportunities for fellow students. She collaborated with other Capstone students, coordinating volunteers and donations for Brianna's Christmas gift drive for veterans. "God gave me a heart for service and I want to share the ideas of kindness and compassion with everyone."

Hanna VanderBaan drew on her own experiences during middle school when she was developing her plan for mentor groups for the middle school girls. "In middle school you just want



to fit in. I wanted to let them know that it is okay to stand out, and to be yourself." Hanna recruited 16 other high school girls to lead the groups which met frequently during the school year.

Sarah Moschini volunteered at Clark Street School in Worcester last year through another student's Capstone Project. "I was touched that they remembered me and they were excited I was back." This year, Sarah and many of her fellow WCS students taught songs to the students and were excited about hearing them perform at an end of year concert.

HEALTH

Claire Barker worked closely with WCS coaches to identify common injuries among student athletes. She then developed a set of strength and conditioning workouts designed to help prevent those injuries. "Kinesiology class helped me develop this project. I wanted to make good use of the new weight room we have now and I enjoyed sharing my passion and having fun working out with the athletes." Coaches reported seeing fewer injuries and increased strength this year.



Isaiah Hart used his experience as a volunteer firefighter to raise awareness of the danger of distracted driving. He produced an event for all high school students that included an accident scene, the actions that first responders would take

(including questioning the driver), and the tragic consequences. "I'm so thankful to everyone including the student actors, the area first responders, the towing company, and so many others for making this event even better than I imagined."

Jakki Cloutier highlighted mental health awareness through speakers and activities such as yoga, meditation, and journaling. "This is such an important issue, especially at the high school age. We need to know how to take care of our mental health." Jakki also led an after-school enrichment class for elementary students called "Thinking Socially" to talk about topics like conflict resolution and dealing with emotions.

TEACHING



Jonny VanderSea has been cartooning since a young age. He used this talent to give WCS Spanish class students a fun way to learn vocabulary. "I used three characters, Honeycomb, Chuck, and Coby that I created a long time ago. I felt the students would make a connection with them since they all have their own distinct personalities." Jonny created 155 vocabulary cards and a short film. They were a hit with younger students and to Jonny's surprise, with older students too.

Jackie Rose has wanted to be a teacher since she became an aunt in third grade. "I remember Modern World History with Mr. Bajema and how much playing games made learning more fun." Jackie teamed up with Ms. Weglarz's third grade class and created several history games. She also led an after-school enrichment class called "Let's Build."

ART



Esther Fomin produced a fashion show with the message that we are all God's masterpieces. "It's important for everyone to know that they are a child of God, and they are made perfect in God's eyes." Six of Esther's fellow students modeled in the show. Esther later teamed up

with Hanna VanderBaan to present the show to the middle school girls mentor groups. All of the high school girls shared their own struggles with body image and reminded the girls to be kind to others, and to themselves.

Sam Paul created a short film, *A Happy Place*. "I thought it would be easy to come up with ideas for the screenplay, but that turned out to be the hardest part." Sam was joined by about 20 fellow students who served as actors and crew for his film. The film's premiere took place at the Night of Music and Art at WCS in May.

Lily Vinton explored the struggles that many face, through the lens of a camera. She conducted 23 interviews and used the emotions shared as inspiration for a photograph. A sneak peak of her project "Miroir" was on display during WCS's Night of Music and Art. "I was so touched by the bravery of the students who told me their stories."



Andrew Dunlap has played many pieces of music during his time at WCS. For his project he chose to be the producer rather than the musician. Andrew created a CD to showcase WCS music. He recorded songs with Encore, 8th grader Noah Allen, and several WCS alumni. "Working with professionals who also happen to be WCS alumni like Blue Light Bandits members **Ethan Bates** ('10) **Dan DeCristofaro** ('09), Aaron McCabe, and **Kathryn Haddad** ('06) was an incredible experience."



Written in Music

Caitlin Leffingwell ('08) entered the WCS Strings program in fifth grade and their mission has followed her from Whitinsville to Hartford, Connecticut. The mission of WCS Strings is to glorify God through music by working together to develop Christian character and gifts to joyfully serve others. Caitlin has been living out that mission since graduating from WCS and is taking it into a new chapter in her life, to create a non-profit that will give students from lower income areas equal access to quality music instruction.

“I was torn between a degree in music and a degree in social work when I entered UCONN,” said Caitlin. “I chose Urban and Community Studies which had a requirement for an ‘urban semester.’ I found myself in a very different environment than Whitinsville.” Caitlin began attending a church plant and met another member who was working for an after-school program in Hartford. “He mentioned the school had a dozen or so violins locked away in a closet because they didn’t have a teacher. He knew I’d begun playing on a worship team in 7th grade and he asked me if I’d like to teach. I didn’t have a teaching degree or a music degree but the answer was yes! It was a great opportunity to combine two things I loved: social work and music.”



Caitlin demonstrating the violin to a young student in March 2005 during a WCS Strings tour to the Dominican Republic

Over the last six years, Caitlin has been asked to teach at six additional schools in the greater Hartford area. “I have 80 students from many different backgrounds, cultures, and communities. I teach in charter, public, private, and magnet schools. It has become something incredible. It’s an experience my students have grown through and I’ve grown through.”

Caitlin’s experiences as a student at WCS have been influential in her current role. “Mrs. (Wendy) Groot often brought us together with food. That is still a trick that works with students today!

Mrs. Groot challenged us but was very supportive and encouraging. She was there for you any time you needed her. The teachers at WCS were focused on excellence.

Without a music degree I often feel inadequate, but the Music Theory class I took at WCS was truly a college-level class. I can rely heavily on what I learned in high school which is mind-blowing.”

“The teachers at WCS were focused on excellence.”

This year Caitlin led her third annual Music Pal Project, an idea that came from her master’s thesis to see how music can build bridges between diverse cultures and communities. “My students write letters and send videos to each other. We work on the same repertoire and they perform together. It’s a year-long fun time of bonding. My connection with my students isn’t through a similar background or set of experiences. Our connection comes through music. It bridges the gaps and we can communicate and work together to create amazing things. This emulates the WCS Strings program which has an equal emphasis of service and musical excellence. Everything I’m doing ties back to this. I think about Mrs. (Joanne) Kuder and Mrs. (Monica) VanderBaan and their lesson that music is a gift that is meant to be used as a service. You can’t typically put a bunch of kids in a room and say, ‘Okay, we’re going to get along.’ But you can say, ‘We’re going to perform together and then have snacks and by the end you’ll be friends.’ That works. I saw that often through the Strings program.”

Caitlin’s newest chapter in her life is the formation of a non-profit organization. “I started asking myself how I could push the boundaries, find more resources, and reach more kids. Now it’s outgrown me. By forming an official partnership with other music teachers, a friend from church, and parents, we can expand it and make it sustainable. This summer we’ll be filing paperwork. Our purpose is to make it so students from lower income areas have equal access to quality music instruction through the support and involvement of families from higher income areas. It will be a way to sponsor a student who isn’t in your family but is in your ‘music family.’ We want to equal the playing field and bring more diversity to the field of music. We can all benefit from each other with these bridges between communities and open doors for others.”

“God prepared me in ways I couldn’t even imagine from Strings to summer jobs to different experiences in college. Something just clicked. I was surprised to discover I am good at this, I enjoy this, it’s something that makes me feel purposeful and passionate. There is a lot of joy despite how hard it is. It’s awesome to see how God tied everything together and opened doors for that.”



Caitlin with one of her current students



As described in our feature story on pages 10-14, a bold vision emerged that became Rise Up & Build. The campaign's inspirational goal was met, and the vision is now a reality. Without leadership and widespread community participation, this chapter of the WCS story could not have been written.

We are now writing the next chapter at WCS, and it is just as exciting.

THE VISION:

1. Increasing enrollment to 700 students by 2020
2. Growing signature academic programs of innovation and excellence
3. Equipping students for personal and professional success in the world through a variety of outstanding student leadership opportunities
4. Integrating meaningful spiritual formation experiences into all aspects of student life.

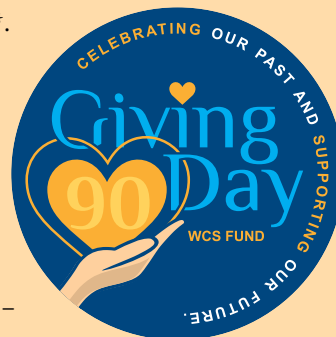


THE CHALLENGE:

To fully empower this vision on an annual basis, while keeping tuition affordable.

To respond to this challenge, we must again call for the support of our community. The WCS Fund is designed to meet the challenge, supporting the school's vision on an annual basis.

One area supported by the WCS fund is tuition assistance*. The WCS Fund currently supports over 100 families. Being able to provide tuition support is equally important in reaching our goal of 700 students and in retaining those students who already receive assistance. Director of Enrollment Sonia Zeyl shared, "We have families who are deeply invested in the school, who would do anything for the school, who depend on tuition assistance. These families have contributed to the life of the school in very real ways – through volunteering, fundraising, and service. Losing these families would be a real loss to the school." According to one family member that receives tuition assistance, "Our son is loved, cared for, prayed for, and prayed with at school. We have to be here for him. We *have* to figure out a way to keep him here. Every year we pray as a family to have enough to come back. We couldn't do it without tuition assistance, and we don't take it for granted."



Watch for more information regarding Giving Day during Homecoming.

Another area supported by the WCS Fund is student leadership opportunities. Members of our DECA club again made the top 10 in the state of Massachusetts. This is twice in the two-year history of the club. The WCS Fund supported DECA participants as they traveled to district and then state competitions. According to advisor Brady Bajema, "I am so thankful for our students – their abilities, how they carry themselves, they are amazing. Because of their family and school support, they are placed in environments where they can thrive. In the case of DECA, they are thriving in business settings." According to senior, Jacob Belanger, DECA co-leader and top 10 state qualifier, "The experience really showed us that we are prepared to go into a business field in college. You don't get this in a regular high school experience. You feel ahead of the game, more confident."

Community-wide investment in the WCS Fund allows the vision for the school — enrollment, academic excellence, student leadership, and spiritual formation — to grow and flourish annually, and ultimately over the long-term. We invite you to join the next generation of school supporters by making a gift to the WCS Fund, helping reach our initial goal of \$100,000 by August 31st and \$200,000 by December 31st.

Together, WCS alumni, families, and friends can continue to write the next joy-filled chapter at WCS, preparing students for powerful and effective Christ-like service in the world. Thank you in advance for your support!

**Previously supported by Acorns to Oaks Loyalty Fund, tuition assistance is now supported by The WCS Fund.*

NEW CHAPTER

I graduated from Messiah College in May. In August I will begin ten months of economic development work in Kigali, Rwanda, through Mennonite Central Committee's SALT (Serving and Learning Together) program.

- Jake Gulinello ('14)

Friends We'll Miss



Len Krygsman and family

A 26-Year Legacy, Len Krygsman

WCS said farewell to Len Krygsman at the end of the 2017-2018 school year at a service appreciation open house on May 29. Len's twenty-six years with WCS are marked by his character, integrity, hospitality, excellence and class. "Len not only embraced these noble characteristics, he also engaged in a demonstration of what these qualities looked like on a daily basis. Not only among his peers and students, but also throughout the Dual Valley, Len is highly respected and looked up to as a leader of impeccable virtue," said Lance Engbers, Headmaster.

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the kind words and generous gifts at my service appreciation open house. It was overwhelming and left me speechless and humbled," shared Len. "Thank you to my colleagues, the many coaches who led our teams over the course of my tenure,

to parents who have entrusted their children to WCS, and of course the many student athletes and physical education students whom I have had the privilege to work with and for. I will miss witnessing the growth and development of Christian young women and men through participation in athletics as well as the rest of what this school has to offer. I would challenge our coaches and athletes to work hard to honor God through their efforts and the entire WCS community to be Christ-like in their participation in any capacity. Remember to win with class and lose with grace and always pursue excellence. 'Good enough' seldom is!"

Thank you, Len, for your devotion to excellence, for your generous attention to detail and your solid commitment to Christ and Christian education. Well done, good and faithful servant!



Pam and Len Krygsman



Len and Pam surrounded by WCS faculty and staff



Joshua Lawson *Music and History Teacher*

Joshua Lawson is leaving Whitinsville Christian School after ten years of teaching Band, Choir, AP Music Theory & Composition, Ancient Civilizations, Modern American, and

Modern World History. "I would like to thank the students and staff of WCS for an unforgettable decade of great memories. I will treasure Choir Tour trips to various East Coast cities, especially

the tours to D.C. in 2014 and 2018, as well as the 2016 Tour to NYC. I will be forever proud of Encore's outstanding back-to-back quarterfinal performances at the International Championship of High School A Cappella, as well as their many performances at the Massachusetts State House, caroling throughout Boston, and singing at Gillette Stadium this past November. My highlight with Band was having their arrangement of the "Skyrim" theme applauded by Bethesda Game Studios and garnering over 55,000 views online. The 2016/17 AP Music Theory class will also hold a special spot in my memory for both their academic achievement and camaraderie." This fall, Josh will carry his passion for history and politics to Hillsdale College in Michigan, where he will pursue his Masters in Politics at the Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship.

Adam Meyer

Director of Advancement

“It has been a great honor and pleasure to help further the mission of WCS through our advancement efforts. I will greatly miss each of the hospitable and gifted people that make up this unique and wonderful joy-filled community.



Amelia Lawson

MS Faculty

“I am very grateful for the opportunity to work for WCS for the past five years. I came here fresh out of college, single, and inexperienced. I am leaving with five years of mentoring and guidance from Christian educators, five years of classroom experience, a cross country championship, and a husband! I will always treasure the memories my students and colleagues gave to me. God has been good to me here, and I look forward to a new adventure in Michigan!

Dr. Erin Lowery-Corkran

International Student Program Coordinator & Asst. Director of Enrollment

“I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to work with the international students studying at WCS over the past three years. They are all such a blessing to our school and have taught me so much about their different cultures as they navigate school and life in a different country. Although I will be leaving WCS to work in higher education, I look forward to continue serving the community in my role as a parent to two WCS elementary students.



Tara Haire

School Nurse

“It has been a joy to serve you in this capacity. I will truly miss caring for the students here and will leave with many fond memories. Thank you all for making this a wonderful experience.



Kailyn Kowolenko

HS/MS Faculty

“As a teacher at WCS I have had the pleasure of watching the international students that I tutor grow emotionally, physically, academically, and most excitingly, spiritually. The opportunities God has given me to share about Him with the students have been incredible. I have learned so much from them and I cannot wait to see what God has in store for each of them in the future!



Maria Jimenez

Preschool Teacher

“As I start a new journey in my life, I would like to mention what a great blessing it was to be part of the WCS staff. I'll miss the amazing preschool staff which I not only consider my friends but also my family. I'll miss my students and their parents. You'll always have a special place in my heart. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be part of your journey. God bless you all.

Crusader Athletics



BASEBALL

Asst. Coach Phil Rainbow, Aidan Giunta, Josiah Needham, Ben Schneider, Noah Tetreault, Ben MacGillivray, Lucas French, Bobby Whiton, Liam Colligan, Chris Fredericks, Connor Dudka, Sam Barker, Sam Walton, Tim Tsai, Head Coach Matt Genese. Not pictured: Sam Chilton, Frankie Salvi, Chris Staniszewski, Nathan Walton



BOYS TENNIS

Head Coach Adam Meyer, Jonny VanderSea, Josh Cook, Gabe Brookhouse, Brandon Whiton, Jonathan Baker, Tom Karns, Jacob Belanger, Luke LaBonte, Colin Wren, Asst. Coach Brady Bajema, Aidan Holgate, Drew Burkhart



BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

Anthony Gilbert, Zach Nolen, Cole Swiader, Alex Kerr, Jackey Ma, Ben Pielt, Mike MacGillivray, A.J. Gorman, Christian Swaim, Will Pielt, Darnell Worley, Joseph Thumann. Not pictured: Ben Casey, Niko Chalkiadakis, Dylan Anema, Tommy Hannon, Sam Hearn, Josh Wiersma. Coaches: Karyn Berkowicz, Mike Persenaire, Amelia Lawson



VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

First row: Brandon Whiton, Ben Pielt, Sam Hearn, Quinn Colligan, Hadley Koeman, Anneke Zeyl, Alex Kerr, Anthony Gilbert. Second row: Joshua Wiersma, Jack Hearn, Joseph Thumann, A.J. Gorman, Youjin Chen, Andrew Dunlap, Colin Wren, Dylan Anema, Coach Chris Vander Baan



SOFTBALL

First row: Asst. Coach Jeff May, Anna May, Katelyn Lashley, Olivia Cutler, Shannon Morrill, Ella Rejmer. Second row: Asst. Coach Beth Cutler, Sarah Moschini, Maeve Haseltine, Emily Schneider, Hanna VanderBaan, Olivia Fleming, Head Coach Lina Avila. Not pictured: Allison Anema, Juliana Buchanan, Kate Crowley, Abbi Cullen, Camdyn Forget, Annika Holm, Emma Johnson, Chloe Richey



GIRLS TENNIS

Esther Fomin, Victoria Christo, Fiona Shaw, Lauren Airey, Hope Brookhouse, Karlee Buurma, Ally McGrath, Rose Thayer, Katie Sprunger, Nadiya Chalak. Not pictured: Head Coach Amanda Priore, Asst. Coach Michelle Graves



GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

First row: Erin Brown, Tess Belanger, Natalie Bolduc, Alyssa Worley, Jia Baek, Vanessa Rios, Hadley Koeman, Eden Allen. Second row: Tori Paine, Ella VanTol, Vicky DeBarros, Karen Bekhet, Tatiana Wiersma, Jessye VandenAkker, Daria Pedersen, Bella Ibrahim. Not pictured: Isabella Marquis, Linzy Rivera. Coaches: Karyn Berkowicz, Mike Persenaire, Amelia Lawson



INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

First row: Eden Allen, Christian Swaim, Tori Paine, Jack Hearn, Vanessa Rios, Alex Kerr, Hadley Koeman, Sam Hearn. Second row: Asst. Coach Mike Persenaire, Isabella Marquis, Vicky DeBarros, Darnell Worley, Crescent Huang, Niko Chalkiadakis, Karen Bekhet, Tatianna Wiersma, Erin Brown, Head Coach Karyn Berkowicz. Not pictured: Maddie Clifford, Aidan Holgate, Linzy Rivera



VARSVITY VOLLEYBALL

First row: Christina Leduc, Anna May, Fiona Shaw, Abby Upham, Emily Schneider.
 Second row: Maggie Rejmer, Olivia Fleming, Hanna VanderBaan, Amiah Van Dyke, Hope Brookhouse, Coach Kelly Penning



JR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

First row: Emma Johnson, Abbi Cullen, Jia Baek, Mikaela Rose. Middle row: Lucy Bowler, Haley Auslander, Lauren Airey, Alexandria Fogg, Melany Ravitz, Natalie Bolduc. Back row: Coach Kris VandenAkker, Karen Bekhet, Anela Picotte, Fan Cheng, Nadia Gomolko, Ella Rejmer, Lillie Burns



BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

First row: Will Watters, Gabe Brookhouse, Jacob Belanger, Tyler Gorman, Justin Tulley. Second row: Grant Buurma, Nathan Haire, Josh Cook, Josh VanderBaan, Justin VanderBaan. Not pictured: Head Coach Brady Bajema and Asst. Coach David Deters



GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

First row: Shannon Morrill, Maeve Haseltine, Cam Richey, Hanna VanderBaan, Anna May. Second row: Head Coach Kris VandenAkker, Daria Pedersen, Jessye VandenAkker, Makenzie Gorman, Sarah Moschini, Olivia Cutler, Karlee Buurma, Asst. Coach Kelly Penning



JR VARSITY BASKETBALL

First row: Dylan Ramos, Ben Johnson, Seth Massotti, Nathan Walton. Second row: John Esler, Calvin Mawn, Jake Bell, Josiah Graves, Coach Dennis Richey. Not pictured: A.J. Gorman and Michael Xu



JR VARSITY BASKETBALL

First row: Hope Brookhouse, Alyssa Worley, Daria Pedersen, Ally McGrath, Abbi Cullen. Second row: Coach Bruce Dykstra, Olivia Toothman, Ella VanTol, Lillie Burns, Bella Ibrahim

First row: Josh Cook, Aidan Holgate, Connor Dudka, Darnell Worley, Jacob Belanger, Drew Quercio, Andrew Harvey, Seth Massotti, Nathan Meininger.
 Second row: Head Coach Greg Massotti, Asst. Coach Josh Costa, Mike MacGillivray, Ben Casey, Dylan Ramos, Ben MacGillivray, Grant Buurma, Jeff Curtis, Christian Swaim, Bobby Whiton, Ben Johnson, Kingsley Zhang, Team Manager Michael Xu, Asst. Coach Dan Belanger



VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

Dual Valley Conference All-Stars

FALL SPORTS

Volleyball

1st Team – Christina Leduc, Hanna VanderBaan
 2nd Team – Emily Schneider

Boys Cross Country

1st Team – Joseph Thumann

Girls Cross Country

1st Team – Hadley Koeman

Boys Soccer

1st Team – Drew Quercio
 2nd Team – Seth Massotti, Jacob Belanger

Girls Soccer

1st Team – Nicolette Scinicariello
 2nd Team – Olivia Cutler, Vicky DeBarros, Sarah Moschini

WINTER SPORTS

Boys Basketball

1st Team – Gabe Brookhouse
 2nd Team – Jacob Belanger, Justin Vander Baan

Girls Basketball

1st Team – Cam Richey (also reached the 1,000+ point mile stone)
 2nd Team – Hanna VanderBaan

Boys Indoor Track & Field

1st Team – 50 yd Hurdles – Mark Bekhet (Sr)
 2nd Team – 50 yd Dash – Colin Swaim (Sr)
 2nd Team – 4 x 200 meter – Colin Swaim (Sr), Jon Leduc (Sr), Sam Hearn (So), Mark Bekhet (Sr)

Girls Indoor Track & Field

Field Event Athlete of the Year: Tatiana Wiersma
 1st Team – shot put – Tatiana Wiersma



HIGHLIGHTS

Dual Valley Cross Country – Champs Middle School Girls
 Dual Valley Champs – Varsity Boys Basketball

SPRING SPORTS

Boys Tennis

1st Team – Singles – Gabe Brookhouse
 1st Team – Doubles – Jonathan Baker and Colin Wren

Girls Tennis

1st Team – Singles – Hope Brookhouse

Boys Track & Field

Field Events Athlete of the Year – Darnell Worley
 Overall Athlete of the Year – Darnell Worley

Girls Track & Field

Discus – Karen Bekhet
 Javelin – Tori Paine
 Shot Put – Tatiana Wiersma
 Triple Jump – Jessye VandenAkker
 100 – Darnell Worley
 200 – Darnell Worley
 2 Mile – Joseph Thumann
 Long Jump – Darnell Worley
 Triple Jump – Darnell Worley

Softball

1st Team – Hanna Vander Baan
 2nd Team – Olivia Cutler, Emily Schneider

Worcester Telegram & Gazette All Stars

Spring Track – Tatiana Wiersma



VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

First row: Cam Richey, Shannon Morrill, Sarah Moschini, Tatiana Wiersma.
 Middle row: Michaela Cassistraci, Olivia Cutler, Ally McGrath, Alyssa Worley, Nicolette Scinicariello, Katie Sprunger.
 Back row: Head Coach Beth Cutler, Jessye VandenAkker, Karlee Buurma, Ella VanTol, Tori Paine, Olivia Toothman, Vicky DeBarros, Makenzie Gorman, Asst. Coach Rocky VanTol



JR VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

First row: Zach Nolen, Bobby Gaudette, Calvin Mawn, Nathan Walton, Noah Massotti, Sam Walton.
 Second row: Tim Tsai, Josiah Graves, Sam Chilton, John Esler, Kole Wyndham.
 Coach Kevin Conway. Not pictured: Noah Allen, Peter Cloutier, Josh Huang, Jason Lopez, Tyler Yakimowsky



JR VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

First row: Ashley Schofield, Callie VandenAkker, CeCe LaBonte, Bella Ibrahim.
 Middle row: Katie Sprunger, Allison Anema, Mia Therien, Tess Belanger.
 Back row: Jillian LaBonte, Karlee Buurma, Olivia Toothman, Alyssa Worley, Ella VanTol, Coach Mike Penseiraire

NEW ARRIVALS



Michael ('03) and Annika (Krygsman) Bangma ('05) welcomed Elise Dirkina Bangma on June 27.



Brandon McGrath ('04) and his wife Alysia welcomed a daughter, Annaliese Edith, born February 17. Annaliese has a brother named Calvin William.



David Mainville ('04) and his wife, Veronica, welcomed a son Logan Jones, on April 12.



Alex Vander Baan ('05) and his wife, Ali, welcomed a son in November of last year. Rohm Alexander Vander Baan was born on November 14, 2017.



Rachel (LaDine) Perez ('12) married Joshua Perez on December 30, 2017.



Emily VandenAkker ('09) and Will Shannon were married on July 15, 2018.



1998 Reunion

Standing in back row: Nathaniel Campbell, Jen (Wilson) Campbell, Jovanna (Patridge) Tetreault, Jason Tetreault, Doug Priore, John Hendrikse, John Gifford, Mark Dahl, Mike Barnatt. Front row: Elin Johnson, Katie (Jussaume) Kackenmeister, Craig Kackenmeister, Leah (Masselink) Kyanya, Eppy Kyanya, Mandy Priore, Kerri Gilford.

PROFESSIONAL UPDATES

Owen Cooper ('08) and his wife, Toni, are planning to open a new 8,500 sq. ft. family entertainment center in Sutton, MA. They hope to have their doors open at the end of 2018 or early 2019.

Michael Madaio ('09) received his DO degree from UNE in Biddeford, ME, and started his internal medicine residency at UMass in Worcester, MA, in July.

Kristin Huizenga ('11) is earning a Master's of Science in Biological Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography. She hopes to work communicating science to the public, whether in the form of podcasting, blogging, speaking, or writing.

James Dunlap ('13) will be attending the University of Dayton's Physician Assistant program this fall.

Cesareo Contreras ('14) has received the Student Leader of the Year Award at Framingham State University for his involvement in the student newspaper as editor-in-chief.

Victoria Caswell ('15) will be joining the summer soccer ministry staff with Chicago Eagles/Missionary Athletes International.

Josh Schneider ('15) will be working with L.S. Engineering / Scott Civil Engineering Company in Grand Rapids, Michigan as a Bridge Design Intern this summer. He'll be a senior at Calvin College in the fall.



Diana Brown ('15) recently received the commission of Second Lieutenant from Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

CONDOLENCES

Peter Ferwerda, ('49) passed away in January of 2018. Peter and his wife, Janet (Dykstra), most recently lived in South Windsor, CT. In addition to serving in the U.S. Army, Peter was active with Habitat for Humanity and Mississippi Christian Family Services.

Gerald Lafleur ('42) passed away in Charlton, MA in May of 2018. The Lafleur family is one of WCS' multi-generation families.



WHITINSVILLE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

279 Linwood Avenue
Whitinsville, MA 01588

508-234-8211
fax 508-234-0624
whitinsvillechristian.org

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FALL RIVER, MA
PERMIT NO. 125

Watch for more information about Giving Day during Homecoming



WCS HOMECOMING

September 20 – 22

Join the fun! Highlights include:
Food Trucks • 5K • Carnival Games
Live Music • Athletic Events • Oliebollen

www.whitinsvillechristian.org/homecoming

A joy-filled community