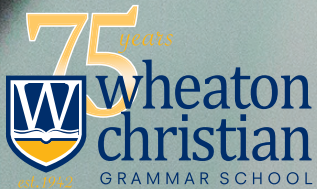


chalkboard

TRAINING AND NURTURING CHILDREN FOR GODLINESS AND EXCELLENCE

SUMMER 2018



HOW GOD IS AT WORK AT NU

NU Quarterback, Clayton Thorson,
and Soccer Player, Ty Seager, share

GRADUATING THE CLASS OF 2018

79 graduates were commissioned
to high school on May 31
in front of family and friends

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ERIC JOHNSON

Why he loves to teach 6th grade
Bible and Social Studies at WCGS

FROM MR. CLUM

As I reflect upon the 2017-2018 academic year, my heart is drawn to those who invest so much in the lives of our students. Our teachers have poured themselves out for the children under their care. Allow me to give you a glimpse into the hearts of two teachers. One is a veteran teacher who is retiring, and the other is beginning her career and has resigned due to her husband's residency match in North Carolina. I believe these reflections will give you greater appreciation for the school and the difference it is making in the lives of your children and our teachers as well.

"It has been an honor to serve the Lord at WCGS for thirty years. I have been privileged to work alongside so many faithful and dedicated colleagues who have strengthened and encouraged me along the way. I am humbled and blessed beyond measure to have had the opportunity to teach and serve the many children and families who have touched my life and brought me so much joy during this time. I am so very grateful to the Lord for allowing me to serve Him in this very special place – Wheaton Christian Grammar School. Please know that I will continue to uphold in prayer this wonderful school and the administration, faculty, and staff who continue to do the Lord's work here." - Donna Dominguez.



"My years at WCGS have been two of the most fruitful, joyful, humbling, and challenging years of my life – in short, they were two of the very best! God's plan and provision were evident through His guiding me to this school. I have grown personally, professionally, and spiritually as part of the WCGS family. Most crucially, I have felt called to connect with my sweet students and have learned so much from their hearts, their strengths, and their struggles. I am forever changed by my students and love them dearly! I have been so thankful for an administrative team that models servant leadership every day and does an incredible job of supporting its staff and students. Of course, this community of teachers has been one of the sweetest blessings of all – what incredible role models, mentors, and friends! This school is impacting lives

for the Lord in a big way – mine is one of them! I'm thankful for the opportunity to be a part of His kingdom work at WCGS." - Susan King

We give thanks for the WCGS faculty and staff. God has called them to serve in a special place. Thank you for encouraging them in their calling.

Thank you for a wonderful Golf Outing!

We had a wonderful day at Cantigny Golf for both the 18-hole mixed event and women's brunch and 9-hole event. Thanks to our participants' generosity, we raised \$65,000 for the WCGS Scholarship Fund! This will have an immense impact on WCGS students and families. Check out the recap video on our Facebook page. We hope to see you next year!



Would you like to receive the *Chalkboard* through your email instead of regular mail? Let us know! Email us at: communications@wheatonchristian.org

Class of 2018 Commencement



On May 31, 2018, families, friends, graduates, faculty, and staff all gathered at College Church to celebrate the commencement of the 79 graduates in Wheaton Christian Grammar School's Class of 2018. This time included special music from the instrumental and vocal ensembles, student testimonies, prayers from graduate parents, awarding of diplomas, and words of encouragement and a challenge from commencement speaker, Mike English. The theme of his speech was "Two Celebrations and Two Invitations."

"In a few minutes, right about at this spot on the stage, we are going to have the opportunity to participate in two separate celebrations. The handshake on this stage is a symbol that you have completed all of the requirements to be called a graduate of WCGS. And, at nearly the same time as the handshake ends, you are going to extend your left hand and Mr. Rathbun is going to hand you your diploma, and a second celebration begins with your commencement."

As these students are stepping into the next part of their education, Mike offered them two invitations. The first, to accept Christ's invitation to be on His team. The second, that they are always invited back to the knowledge they gained about God's Word through lessons in classes and from teachers during their time at WCGS. He reminded the Class of 2018 that they have been given a skillset and foundation that will help them through the rest of their lives.



Mr. Clum concluded the evening recognizing departing faculty and staff, as well as thanking parents for investing in their children's lives. Forty-one out of the 79 graduates are the last of their families to attend WCGS, with these families combined adding up to 371 years at Wheaton Christian Grammar School. Two graduating families have had at least one child in school at WCGS for 20 years! What a legacy! There were many tears the day prior after the 8th grade luncheon as students and parents were emotionally moved walking out of the school for the last time.

In this year's graduating class, 70% of students graduated with High Honor Roll or Honor Roll. Students will be dispersed in the fall to 10 different high schools including Wheaton Academy, Wheaton North, and a variety of other local schools.

The Class of 2018 is special to Wheaton Christian Grammar School as they are the last students to have attended WCGS at the 530 E. Harrison campus. There are many new beginnings for both the graduates and WCGS as we welcome a new generation of students to our school. Past and present, God remains at the center of WCGS, and we give Him all the glory and honor for all that has been and will be done at Wheaton Christian Grammar School. Congratulations, Class of 2018!

What Happened on Campus this Spring?



5th graders with their newly hatched chicks



6th graders erupting volcanoes in science



Career Day in 1st grade



Easter Chapel



Dr. Seuss Day with many Cats in the Hat!



Parents at *Continuing the Discussion...*



Fine Arts Recitals



Spring Orchestra Concert



Spring Pops Concert



5th graders at Outdoor Ed



Kindergarten Mother's Day Tea



1st grade releasing butterflies



Jr. High Spring Musical *Cinderella*



3rd grade Pioneer Day



Field Day



Spring Band Concert

Coming Up Next School Year...

**Aug.
20**

Back to School Open Houses

**Aug.
21**

First Day of School

**Aug.
30**

Back to School Night

**Sept.
28**

Fall Family Fun Night

**Oct.
12**

Scholarship Benefit

**Nov.
20**

Grandparents' Day

PLAYING FOR CHRIST

WCGS Alumni and D1 Athletes at Northwestern University

Imagine stepping behind the offensive line and shouting out signals in the Big House (University of Michigan Stadium) or the Horseshoe (The Ohio State University Stadium). Think of working a 22cm, 32- panel ball around the soccer field and towards the opponent's goal along the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan. WCGS grads **Clayton Thorson** ('10) and **Ty Seager** ('12) are doing exactly that at Northwestern University. As the quarterback and forward on the football and soccer teams, they are enjoying college athletics and the competition of the Big Ten Conference.

You might wonder about the joys and challenges of a D1 student-athlete as a Christian on a secular campus. With the Lord's help, Clayton and Ty have embraced this incredible opportunity. Whether reading their Bibles, seeking spiritual guidance from friends and leaders in Athletes in Action on campus, or leading a Bible study alongside other Christian teammates, these two young men are learning the importance of a Christian community full of believers actively pursuing Christ every single day.



When asked about ways in which God has grown and stretched them while at NU, knowing how best to share their faith came to the forefront. Clayton referred to 1 Peter 3:15, "Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." The emphasis is on how we give our defense – and that is with gentleness and respect. "I've found that this is extremely important when discussing my faith with non-believers," said Clayton. "Listening to teammates and friends share about their beliefs and backgrounds is one of the most important things to do because then we can know where they are coming from and help them feel loved and heard by Christians. Once they feel loved and heard, they are also more likely to listen to this 'hope' that we have."

Ty adds, "It has been a privilege to read and discuss God's Word with several teammates on a weekly basis who have ranging beliefs from atheism to Hinduism. I believe growing up in a Christian school such as WCGS has allowed me to be bold in my faith and stay on a path of faithfulness through high school and at Northwestern University."

Clayton and Ty look back to their years at WCGS where their education gave them a strong foundation in their faith. Memorizing Scripture, pursuing excellence in all things, developing strong friendships, and having faculty and staff who were intentional in training and teaching them how to be men of God helped shape them into the people they are today.

We encourage you to visit the WCGS website to read more about our conversation with Clayton and Ty. As they continue their journeys representing the Lord well at Northwestern University on the gridiron and soccer field this fall, we wish them God's best.

For the latest news and stories on Clayton and Ty, check out www.nusports.com.



Clayton and a friend
at recess



Ty Seager during
Field Day

Faculty Spotlight: Eric Johnson

Working at Wheaton Christian Grammar School has allowed Eric Johnson, 6th grade Bible and Social Studies teacher, to bring all of who he is to his job. After making the move to Wheaton a few years ago, Eric and his wife were praying for a job closer to home as he spent over 10 hours a week commuting. When a 6th grade teaching position opened up, he applied, and the Lord answered their prayers with this job just minutes from home.



Eric loves to work with this age group because they learn and develop so much spiritually, academically, and socially. "As one of my co-workers said, '6th graders come in as elementary kids and leave as young adults.' I love opening the Old Testament and showing them God's great love from the epic of Eden, to the covenants, to the highs and lows of the judges. Seeing students wrestle with and grasp the complexity of the past and present in World Studies is a remarkable endeavor that I look forward to daily."



Eric considers the ability to have an impact on his students' lives as one of his highest callings and greatest joys as a teacher. Being present is one of the ways he supports his students, whether it's hanging out in the hallways outside of class, or supporting them in their various activities. "I am blessed to be in a school where God has been on the move for over 75 years."

Missions Weeks: Go for Gold

One of the unique and most anticipated parts of the school year are the 2 weeks of missions emphasis in March. Over these two weeks, our students and faculty volunteer their time to serve others in the community, learn from missionaries, collect supplies to help those in need, and raise money for at-risk children in the Dominican Republic through Kids Alive International. This year's theme was "Beyond the Gold" and focused on different spiritual attributes that were represented by the Olympic rings: Blue – Know God, Yellow – Love God and the lost, Black – Build relationships, Green – Pray for opportunities, and Red – Tell others. The theme verse was 1 Corinthians 9:25, "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."

Students heard from Olympic Speed Skaters, Nancy Swider-Peltz, Jr. and Jeffrey Swider-Peltz, Jr., on how to train for the Olympics and for our ultimate prize in Jesus. Although this focus was for two weeks out of the school year, students are not putting out their lights for Jesus; they are fueling them to continue to share His love with others.





**Look at
these little
ones in their
WCGS attire!**

Alumni: Have a new little one? Email jdegroot@wheatonchristian.org to get your *free* WCGS onesie and send us your picture!

Investing with a Difference in Mind

Why invest financially at WCGS? This is a question we recently asked a number of our young alumni. Enjoy reading why Melinda ('93) and Mike ('98) give financially to the school.

Melinda writes, "I give back to the school because I believe in the mission of WCGS. We seek to develop in children a heart for the Lord and to provide children with a biblically-based education that will support them throughout the rest of their lives. I feel very fortunate to have had the benefit of a WCGS education from Kindergarten through 8th grade."

I see its influence in my life even 25 years later and enjoy giving back so that other children can experience the same blessings that WCGS has given to me.

"Every gift counts, no matter how big or small. WCGS gives so much to its students and families, and it is incumbent upon those of us who have benefitted to joyfully give back so that the school's mission can continue to thrive."

Mike shared, "From an early age, my parents instilled in me a heart of generosity, giving back to the Lord what He has graciously given us. Generosity has many elements to it, and one I believe in is giving financially. When we give financially, we are obeying God and doing what is uncomfortable, which helps us grow and be who God has called us to be."

"I choose to give to the Grammar School because I believe in it. I believe in a Bible-based education that is teaching the youth of today a different way of learning. I can still remember my days as a student there, being taught the importance of giving among so many other incredible biblical applications that I still apply daily to my life. A faith-based education challenges and encourages you to see God in every area – from math to English, history, and science. **Having the opportunity to attend the Grammar School from a young age has impacted my life and is a big reason why I choose to give back – to see past, present, and future students experience an education founded on biblical truth.**"

"It's often hard to step out and do the uncomfortable things that God asks us to do. It helps when we are reminded that God isn't out to take from us, but rather to *bless us* through our giving."

As we step out and give with a heart of generosity, we get to experience the amazing blessing and provision that only God could make happen in our lives.

We encourage each of you to invest in Wheaton Christian Grammar School because you believe in its mission and value the difference it makes in each life.

**Know someone
who would be a
good fit for WCGS?**

We have openings in many grade levels! Refer a friend and tell them to contact Kim Norbeck at (630) 668-1385 ext. 216 or email knorbeck@wheatonchristian.org

Come Aboard! Scholarship Benefit 2018

Save the Date!
10.12.18



Come aboard for a night of
merriment, regale, and treasures.

Now accepting auction items



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www.wheatonchristian.org



Send your feedback or ideas to
communications@wheatonchristian.org.

