

SUMMER 2019

chalkboard

TRAINING AND NURTURING CHILDREN FOR GODLINESS AND EXCELLENCE



Graduation, New
Faculty Intros,
Testimonials and
more inside!



SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON

FROM MR. CLUM

Our 2019-20 Year Verses encourage us to “hold unwaveringly” to the hope we profess and consider how we may “spur one another on” to love and good deeds. The author of Hebrews is calling believers to persevere in living out their faith in obedience to God. It certainly seems like great advice for the times in which we live. The Lord does not want for us to set our lives in neutral, but He desires that we press on and continue seeking after Him.

The positive context of the word “spur” as used in Hebrews 10 means to entice or motivate. We are to entice or motivate one another towards love and good deeds. What does that look like at WCGS? Here are a few ways we can put this into practice during the upcoming school year.

- **Look for the good in others.** Practice this with your children. One’s words and actions speak loudly.
- **Treat one another with respect.** Although we are all different, we can show value and respect to others.
- **Love others unconditionally.** Love as Jesus loves us. His open arms continually invite us to experience His amazing love.
- **Care for the wounded and hurting.** Each of us has needs. Let’s be sensitive to speak life into those around us.
- **Acts of kindness.** These acts, BIG and small, speak into the hearts of people.

It is exciting to think how we as a school family can live out our Year Verses. We can hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess and spur one another on to love and good deeds because He who promised is faithful. Look for further updates on this topic as we progress through the school year!

“LET US HOLD UNSWERVINGLY TO THE HOPE WE PROFESS, FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL. AND LET US CONSIDER HOW WE MAY SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARD LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS.”

HEBREWS 10:23-24

CHECK-IN



Coming Up...

**Aug.
20**

First Day of School

**Sept.
27**

Fall Family Fun Fair

**Nov.
1**

Annual Scholarship Benefit & Auction

**Nov.
26**

Grandparents' Day

**Dec.
5**

Christmas Choral Concert

**Dec.
10**

Christmas Band Concert

**Dec.
12**

Christmas Orchestra Concert

**Dec.
20**

Christmas Gift Chapel

WCGS, A PLACE THAT FEELS LIKE HOME

A Parent Testimonial



Moving your family to a new state comes with a lot of changes. When the Donahoe family relocated from Ohio to Illinois in 2018, they were looking for a school that would provide their youngest daughter

a Christ-centered education that would grow both her heart and her mind. With mom, Paige, being involved in Christian education her whole life as a student, parent, teacher, and administrator, she knew what she was looking for in a school and had high expectations. She and her husband came across Wheaton Christian Grammar School while searching online and decided to visit along with a few other schools that were in the area.

After visiting all the schools, it was clear that WCGS was where they wanted their daughter Reese to be for school, and they could not have been more pleased with the decision. After Reese's first day of school, she came home expressing the friendliness of her fellow classmates, the welcoming atmosphere, and how helpful her teachers were. Although Paige and Michael were nervous about her transition to a new school, they knew their daughter felt at home.



But it's not just Reese who feels right at home, it's her mom, too. On the first day of school, she attended the Parent Welcome where she was able to connect with other school parents and sign up through the Auxiliary for volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Paige regularly gives back to our community by serving lunches, helping on popcorn days, and participating in our Women's Bible Study and Mom's Prayer Group. These turned out to be not only good volunteer opportunities for her, but a great way to meet other parents. By doing this, it made her feel like they had been a part of WCGS for longer than just one year.

"We view our child's education as a partnership with the school, church, and our family, so we feel we should volunteer wherever we can to do our part. We want to be a part of helping WCGS continue to be a great school, and the volunteers are a big part of that,"

The Donahoe family feels blessed to be a part of the WCGS community. Since Paige volunteers regularly, she is able to witness the students being immersed in a Christ-centered environment where showing God's love to others, living out their faith daily, and being responsible stewards are just as important as doing your best academically. "We feel WCGS is one of the best Christian schools that provide this type of Christian culture and also delivers academic excellence," said Paige. Transitions can be hard, but at WCGS, everyone in our community is treated like family, and we work hard to make sure it is a safe place for people to call home.



Graduation 2019

On May 30, Wheaton Christian Grammar School commissioned the class of 2019 to high school at a celebratory and worship-filled ceremony. This year's commencement featured music from the 8th grade members of the instrumental and choral ensembles, student testimonies, giving of the class gift, awarding of diplomas, and a few words from our Head of School, Steve Clum. The commencement speaker was WCGS graduate (Class of '80), school dad, and Wheaton College President, Dr. Phil Ryken.

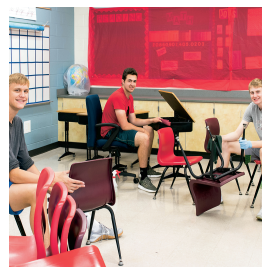
There were 76 graduates in the Class of 2019, representing 74 families. Of these 74 families, 39 of them were graduating their youngest child and have been a part of the WCGS family for a combined total of 328 years. Some of these families had children at WCGS for up to 15, 16, 17, and even 21 years!

Next year, the Class of 2019 will be attending: Wheaton Academy, Wheaton North, Glenbard West, and many more. We are excited for this gifted and loving class as they move on to high school. The Lord is going to do great things in their lives, just as He already has. Please be in prayer for the Class of 2019 as they make this transition. To God be the glory!





Wheaton Christian Grammar School's Jr. High students brought the beloved musical *Annie* to life this spring. Director and former WCGS parent, Christie King, worked with the students for three months to produce this wonderful production.



Our summer maintenance crew has been working hard the past few months to prepare our building for the upcoming school year. It's because of them that our facilities are kept in such wonderful shape to provide a safe and excellent experience for our students and their families. Thank you to this wonderful team for their hard work!



WCGS is excited to welcome five new faculty members to our team this fall! (From left to right)

- **Mrs. Kim Legel** - Half-Day Kindergarten
- **Mrs. Rachel Fultz** - 2nd Grade
- **Mr. Mike Simon** - Jr. High Math
- **Mrs. Cathy Liebenow** - Elementary & 6th Grade Music
- **Miss Claire Vabinder** - 5th Grade

You can read more about our new hires and their experiences on our website. We are grateful for how the Lord provided these members for our team and are excited for how He is going to use them in the lives of our students!



After 25 years at Wheaton Christian Grammar School, Miss Sue Lathrop retired from her position as a Kaleidoscope Educational Therapist. She has blessed many during her time at WCGS, and we are grateful for how she contributed to the hearts and minds of our students. We wish her all the best as she embarks on her retirement!



It was our joy to welcome Jeff Brooke to WCGS as our new Associate Head of School. Announced in November 2018, Jeff began his new responsibilities on July 8, 2019. Jeff is working under Steve Clum and will be mentored by Steve in the foreseeable future as he prepares to become our next Head of School. This transition will be determined by the Board of Directors as they work closely with Steve on his exit strategy and the timing for Jeff to take on the role as Head of School.

Faculty Spotlight: Daniel Huttenlock



What classes do you teach here at WCGS?

For the past few years, I have taught our seventh grade English and eighth grade Advanced English courses. I love working with our students on their writing skills, vocabulary development, and grammar abilities!

You are very invested into our school, what different roles do you play outside of being a teacher?

In the fall, I coach cross country to any interested sixth, seventh, or eighth graders. Any takers?

In the winter months, outside my teaching roles, I help coach our ACSI Speech Meet participants, which covers interested first through sixth graders who memorize, practice, and present speeches at our ACSI Speech Meet. I come out of hibernation in the spring, so you will find me out on the athletic fields again coaching track. This is currently open to fifth through eighth graders.

Why do you think it's important to be invested in your school?

I love being able to connect with students outside of daily school routines through athletics and extracurriculars like Speech Meet because it gives me the ability to see many different gifts that God has bestowed on our students. Coaching in particular opens up great opportunities for conversations and lessons that help each of us on our walk with Christ. Those of us who are runners understand why running and races are used so often as examples in the Bible (see Galatians, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians). Did I mention cross country and track are open to all junior high students? Any takers yet?

Why is it crucial for students to learn how to write?

When God created the universe, he spoke it into existence. Words, communication, and creativity are all part of being image-bearers of our triune God. The ability to communicate with words and to learn vicariously through the experience with others are gifts and the unique capacity of man.

More concretely, throughout seventh grade, we talk about how we write to make meaning out of the struggles and pain in our lives, and to share these valuable lessons with others—narrative. We write to stand up for what we believe and for those who cannot defend themselves—argument. We write to share our unique knowledge, expertise, or something we learn—information (expository). Throughout all of these genres, we write to share experiences with one another and those outside our community. It is great to see students share their works at competitions and even in letter form to others in our community—feel free to ask some of our seventh graders who they wrote to.



Beyond these ideas, writing is an excellent way to gain deeper insight. It is hard to know what you think until you see what you have to say.

How have you seen the Lord work in your life through WCGS?



I have had the unique blessing of being able to spend many formative years at Wheaton Christian Grammar School, with this being my tenth year teaching here. It is impossible to mention by name everyone who has impacted me in my ten years here, but I have been challenged, stretched, and mentored by those who have come before me.

From our wonderful administration who model Christ-like leadership, to our office staff who excel at hospitality, to our teachers who love the Lord and students, to our school families who make Christ-centered education a joyful possibility, to the students who bring us laughter and tears (we're talking all kinds of tears), to many more people, God has used WCGS to move me closer to Him day-by-day and year-by-year.

The people who enter Wheaton Christian Grammar School daily have been the hands and feet of Christ to me for many years. So, thank you for reminding me of my opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ to those who I come in contact with here and beyond.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

In May 2009, our students, faculty, and staff signed the beam that is above the main entryway of our current campus on Taylor Drive. This was installed in October 2009 as workers constructed the new building to be ready for the 2010-2011 school year. It's hard to believe we have been in our new building for almost 10 years!





An Impact and Investment for Generations

Why a 2007 graduate plans to send his children to WCGS

Will West looks back on his time at Wheaton Christian with thankfulness. As a student, he heard God's Word integrated into all content areas and was surrounded by students, teachers, and families who shared biblical wisdom and encouraged him in his own walk with the Lord. The relationships that he forged with classmates at WCGS continue to this day. Will also benefited from the intentional relationships developed with faculty and staff. WCGS had a part in building a solid foundation in Will's life. He not only recognizes that, but desires that foundation of faith for his own children.



Will remembers the Wheaton Christian community walking with him to help transform his faith and character. One of these times was when Mr. Clum and Mr. Burgess intentionally reached out and pulled he and his siblings aside to ask how they were doing and if they'd like to talk when his parents were going through a divorce. This intentionality brings warmth to Will's heart as he remembers feeling so loved and cared for at a time when it was easy to feel invisible and left behind. He also remembers how the WCGS community rallied around school families when one of his best friends was diagnosed with cancer a few weeks before 8th grade graduation. Will saw the outpouring of love and support from the WCGS community to his best friend's family as they held prayer meetings and made meals for them. He will never forget the acts of kindness he witnessed.

Because of the experience Will had at Wheaton Christian, Will and his wife, Danielle, are dedicated to sending their children to WCGS. They believe that Kindergarten through 8th grade are such formative years, and that it's crucial to build a solid foundation in Christ. It's what WCGS did for Will, and it's what they want for their children.

"We are committed to raising our boys in a Christ-centered home that focuses on Biblical values, and we believe that WCGS will support us with the commitment of nurturing and investing in our children by exemplifying Christ's love."

Investments are a major part of Will's job, so it's his opinion as a believer and a father that there is no better investment than a Christian education for his kids. He knows the WCGS faculty and staff are incredible role models for young students and is excited for his future role as a parent in the WCGS community.



Alumni News



Caroline (Scholes) Eshelman ('03) and her husband, David, welcomed their daughter Harper Kay on October 2, 2018. Fun Fact: This picture was taken the first time Harper saw her dad via Facetime after he was deployed overseas for 7 months!



Simeon Petersons was born on February 21, 2019. He is the 2nd child of WCGS Orchestra Director, David Petersons ('04), and his wife Carmen.



Charlotte Rose Nelson was born on November 13, 2018 to Kevin ('00) and Taryn Nelson. Charlotte is a familiar face around school thanks to her mom being a Kaleidoscope Therapist here at WCGS!



Katie Passon ('08) married Jim Alrutz in Wheaton, IL on June 1, 2019. Katie is the daughter of WCGS alumni Greg ('79) and Brenda Walstra ('81) Passon.



Molly Thorson ('11) and Jesse Furrow were married on June 15, 2019 in Wheaton, IL. They will be serving the Lord as missionaries in Uganda beginning in August 2019.

WCGS Principal, Marc Painter ('97) and his wife, Kendra, welcomed Colton Noah to their family on January 21, 2019. Colton is the fourth addition to the Painter family after his three older siblings; Addison, Brylee, and Logan.



Class of 2010 graduate, John Gemmel, married Liza Dennis on June 29, 2019 in a lake view ceremony in Chicago, IL. The two now reside in Wheaton, IL.



Have any updates you'd like us to feature or would like a WCGS onesie for your little one? Let us know!

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