

WINTER 2020

CHALKBOARD





FIRST QUARTER



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WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS



Portrait of a Graduate From Mr. Brooke

Every once in a while, we find ourselves in a race. Some people sign up for races while others find themselves a part of one in the middle of a family bike ride. Typically, I catch eyes with one of my children on a bike ride, and we just know the race has begun. We pedal as fast as we can until the third mailbox, and the first one there proudly yells out, "WINNER!" One important factor in any race is to know the end point. Without the finish line, one could aimlessly wander and waste valuable time and effort. At WCGS we are uniquely focused on the finish line for each of our students.

We work towards the development of key attributes that our graduates will carry into the rest of their lives. Our community is in place to help students become:

- 1) Christ-centered Individuals
- 2) Community Builders
- 3) Critical Thinkers.

Our aim is to partner with families and the local church to raise up young leaders who will commit their head, heart, and hands to the brilliant work of Jesus Christ. On the following page, you will have the opportunity to see our "Expected Student

Outcomes" (ESOs). This visual represents our vision, focus, and prayer for the student body of WCGS. The visiting ACSI Accreditation team recently stated, *"If the administrators, faculty, and staff of WCGS continue to focus their efforts on these ESOs with the same intensity that we saw during our visit, they will see their students make a dramatic impact on this world in the years to come."*

Will you join us in praying for these three attributes to take root in the lives of our students? I believe our collective focus on the finish line of WCGS could be a launching point for impact on the rest of the world!



Accreditation Visit From Mr. Clum

We believe the holistic and vigorous process of appraisal to improve one's school is a healthy endeavor. In fact, we believe this process was a key component in our being named a U.S. Department of Education High Performing National Blue Ribbon School in 2017. WCGS just completed (Sept. 27-30) another rigorous round of dual accreditation with ACSI and Cognia (formerly AdvancED). As we await the final report from the ACSI Accreditation Commission in early December, here are some highlights that will encourage you and give you a glimpse into what we learned.

The ACSI Visiting Accreditation Team commends WCGS for being a school community that truly lives out its mission, vision, and core values. The Board and administration are to be commended for successfully transitioning from a long-term

Head of School to a new Head of School with support from the school community. WCGS is to be commended for meeting the learning and social/emotional needs of our students through the Kaleidoscope program, social work services, and Student Health Services Team. Every student at WCGS is known personally and supported in his/her spiritual formation through mentoring and discipleship experiences instilling Christian values. The assessment of spiritual development at WCGS is intentional and included in the ongoing evaluation of the school's effectiveness in measuring its school-wide expected student outcomes (ESOs).

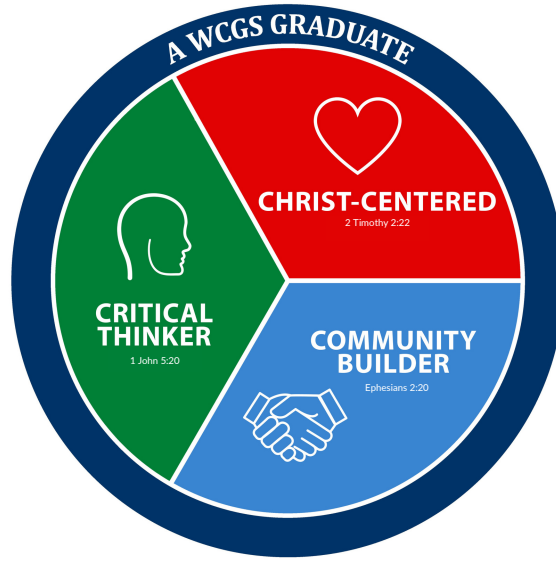
We were encouraged that both students and parents noted that teachers not only teach about the

Bible, but they model what they believe with their actions, "practicing what they preach." The ACSI Visiting Team also observed that applying a biblical worldview includes a Great Commission perspective of the world embedded throughout the curriculum that is clearly engaging for students. WCGS students have internalized a biblical worldview and can effectively challenge worldly perspectives.

WCGS participates in re-accreditation as a commitment to on-going school improvement and to assess the standards, performance, integrity, and quality of our school. It is an opportunity to recognize God's faithfulness through an assembly of passionate, talented colleagues who are truly excited to serve the Lord and the families of WCGS.

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE



A Wheaton Christian Grammar School Graduate...



IS A CRITICAL THINKER

1 John 5:20

- **Effective Communicator**
(2 Timothy 2:15, Romans 12:2)
- **Critical Thinker**
(Proverbs 14:15, 1 Thess. 5:21)
- **Responsible Digital Disciple**
(Luke 10:27, Proverbs 4:23)
- **Appreciator of Cultures, Diversity**
(Mark 16:15, Philippians 2:10-11)
- **Justice and Mercy Seeker**
(Micah 6:8)
- **Pure in Mind, Body, and Soul**
(1 Thessalonians 5:23; Philippians 4:8)
- **Apologist for God and His Word**
(1 John 5:13-14; 1 Peter 1:3-6; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
- **Creative Collaborator**
(1 Corinthians 12:14; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:8-10)
- **Discerning and Perseveres**
(1 John 4:1; James 1:2-3, Hebrews 10:36)



IS A COMMUNITY BUILDER

Ephesians 2:20

- **Respect for Self and Others** as made in God's image
(Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 2:17, 1 Corinthians 10:24, 1 John 3:1, Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 19:19)
- **Integrity/Honesty** being upright, wholesome, trustworthy
(Proverbs 12:22, 10:9, Colossians 3:9-10, Ephesians 4:25)
- **Self-Control/Self-Mastery** allowing the Holy Spirit to control
(Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Proverbs 25:28, 2 Peter 1:5-8)
- **Compassion/Kindness**, forgiving, with a servant heart, putting others needs first, concerned for the spiritually lost
(Colossians 3:12, Ephesians 4:32, Rom. 12:10, Mark 6:34, 1 Peter 3:8, Philippians 2:3-8)
- **Gratitude/Contentment** in all situations for God's provision
(Ephesians 5:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 1 Timothy 6:6)
- **Responsive to Authority** with respect, willing to listen to godly counsel
(Ephesians 6:1-3, Proverbs 12:15, 19:10, Romans 13:1-2, John 14:15)
- **Heart for the Lost** a desire to share the love of Christ with others
(Luke 19:10, John 3:16)



HAS A CHRIST-CENTERED HEART

2 Timothy 2:22

- **Prayer** privately and in community
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6)
- **Reading Scripture Regularly** to understand the story of God at work in the world and in one's own life
(Deuteronomy 17:19)
- **Scripture Memorization** of key truths from the Word of God
(Psalm 119:11)
- **Journaling** about God-sightings and applications from the Word of God
(2 Timothy 2:7)
- **Service** to others and sharing the love of Jesus through action
(Ephesians 6:7, Mark 10:45)
- **Evangelism**
(Matthew 28:19)
- **Worship** to praise the Lord and hear from the Word of God, in community
(Psalm 7:17, 30:4, 147:1)

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Mrs. Heidelman

My name is Susan Heidelman, and I have the privilege of teaching English and History to 8th graders this year! Working with these talented and energetic 8th graders in their last year of middle school brings me such joy. **I love building relationships with my students and partnering with parents to be an additional voice of encouragement, support, and truth in their children's lives.**

Our family moved to Wheaton this past July from Orlando, Florida where we have spent the last 6 years serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators. But we are not strangers to the Wheaton area or Chicago suburbs. My husband, Josh, and I both graduated from Wheaton College and prior to living in Orlando, we lived in Elmhurst for over 8 years. When we moved from Elmhurst to join Wycliffe, I'm pretty sure I said I would never return to the Chicago area because I hated the cold weather! I am learning that I should "never say never" to God, who clearly had other plans. What is so great about God, though, is that He prepares our hearts for the things He has for us; the year leading up to our move back to Chicago, my heart changed in such surprising ways, and I found myself praying that He would open the doors for us to move back. **One of the main reasons for this move for our family has been about WCGS. Jesus gave us a picture over a year ago of our family settling in Wheaton so that our family could be a part of WCGS. We are beyond thrilled to be a part of this amazing school.**

Josh and I have been married for almost 19 years. We grew up at the same church in Indianapolis, and a fun fact of ours is that we sat at the same table group in 3rd grade Sunday school class. Love at first sight??? Josh says yes. After being told there was a strong possibility that we wouldn't be able to have any children, God did abundantly more than we could ask or imagine and blessed us with 5 of them!



Our oldest daughter is a freshman at Wheaton Academy; we have a son in 8th grade, boy/girl twins in 6th grade, and our youngest daughter is in 3rd grade. In the Heidelman family, at least 5 of us are extroverts making for so much talking and activity at our house. There is never a dull moment! In our free time, we enjoy getting together with neighbors, having family movie night, and taking bike rides to downtown Wheaton to get ice cream or visit the Popcorn Shop.

I believe Jesus calls families to different forms of schooling; there are benefits to homeschooling, public school, and Christian schools. He is working in each one of those venues, and more than anything, He wants families to listen to His voice and be obedient to the place He is calling us in each season. I have taught in both public schools and Christian schools, and my kids have been in public schools, been homeschooled, and have now been in a Christian school. In each season, I believe He was working out His great purposes in our lives and for His Kingdom. With that being said, I am extremely grateful that He has called me to teach at WCGS; this is a remarkable school!

At WCGS, I have seen how our kids are hearing truth and being personally challenged in their faith by each teacher. I love that, as a teacher, I have the opportunity to encourage the students who walk into my classroom each day to seek Christ with their whole hearts and to help them see their education with a Kingdom perspective.

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

WCGS is so grateful to our community for staying involved, committing to prayer, and walking alongside WCGS as we have responded to the changes this year has held. This school year has certainly been a unique one, but each day remains purposefully grounded by our mission: **"To educate, train, and nurture children for godliness and excellence."** We have committed to community and desire to give you a glimpse into how that has looked in the first quarter of school.

Each morning, the WCGS hallways fill with air-fives, hello waves, happy dances, and air-hugs! In order to come to school, students, faculty, and staff submit a health certification form to ensure they are ready for the day. The desks in each classroom are spaced 6 ft. apart, and students continue learning from our dedicated and caring teachers. Masks are required during the school day, but smiling faces are evident in the cheerful eyes of students, in the joyful encouragements of teachers, and in the contagious laughter of friends!

Even virtual experiences have greatly embodied the strength of those in this community. School chapels have continued in their monthly rhythm, both virtually and outdoors! WCGS had their first-ever outdoor chapel in history, and each chapel continues to play a transformative role in students' walks with Christ. The WCGS Scholarship Auction was made into a virtual program, and we remain humbled and thrilled by God's gracious and generous provision through the support of our community, as the auction raised a record amount (see pg. 6)! Our 15th annual Veterans Day assembly was filmed and sent to all families to be streamed together to honor and thank those who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces, as well as to remember those who have gone before us. We were so glad to be able to send



our community a virtual program for Grandparents' Day! In addition to the program, students wrote letters to be sent to their grandparents to celebrate one of WCGS's favorite days of the school year!

The Lord has blessed us richly during a very different looking school year, and we are rejoicing after a first quarter committed to **"equipping students to engage and transform their world for Jesus Christ."**



A RECORD EVENING

God never ceases to prove to me that He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine! Even after eight auctions, I found myself worrying that we had set the goal too high and began to doubt that we could reach the goal... especially during this COVID-19 pandemic and switching to doing the whole auction and program virtually!

Through out much of the preparation, I had many questions run through my mind, wondering if people would bid or even watch the program. I wondered why in the world I thought we thought we could pull this off! I should have known that every year, God is faithful and works through this community to surpass the goal.

This year, I was truly humbled! The entire WCGS community pulled together, and we had the most successful auction year EVER! God brought an amazing team of people together to make the auction and virtual program happen.



It was especially encouraging to have new families and those who are scholarship recipients step up and donate auction items. We also had seventeen WCGS alumni donate items! It is wonderful to see the family of God give back to help others in need of tuition assistance!

Truly - *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow"* (James 1:17). Thank you, Lord, and thank you to the WCGS family for your part in launching us to the \$450,000 Scholarship Fund goal that we need to reach by June 30, 2021, our fiscal-year end.

- Joanne DeGroot, Development Coordinator

ALUMNI MENTIONS

READ ABOUT THREE ALUMNI WHO DONATED ITEMS FROM THEIR SMALL BUSINESSES

The Heavenly Lights Auction included many items donated by 17 alumni! We are so grateful for their continued involvement with Wheaton Christian Grammar School.



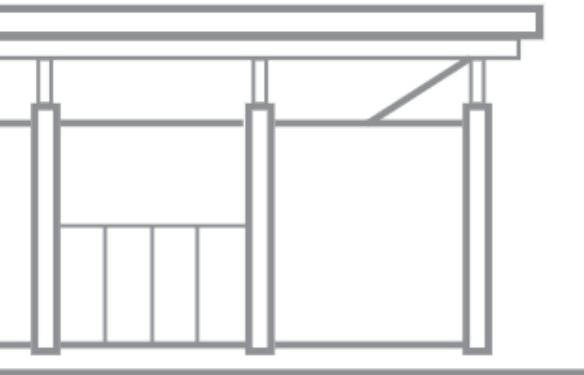
Wendy Partain: Class of '77
Susie Cassel: Class of '78

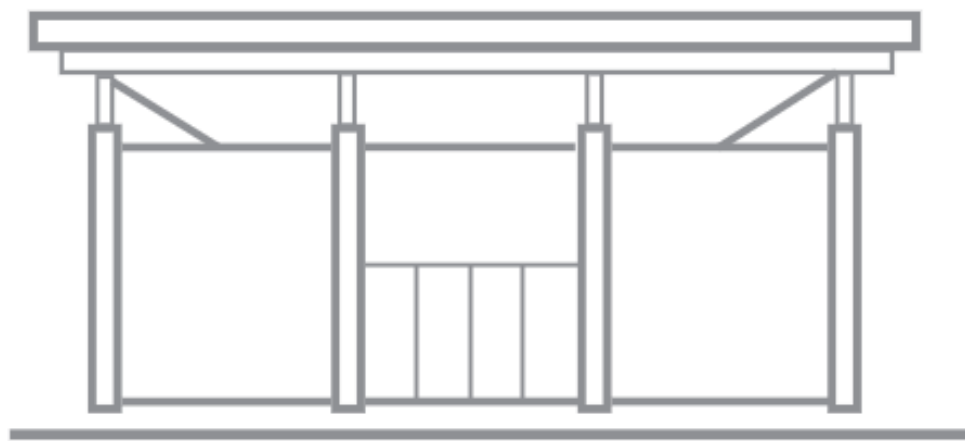
This sister duo opened *LucyBlue Knits* 13 years ago and sells warm and beautiful winter favorites designed from old wool sweaters. This year, they kindly donated a cashmere headband and a set of cozy wool mittens!



Abby Jones: Class of '15

Abby is the artist and owner of *All Sage Company*. She began creating in 2018 and sells custom Bibles, jewelry, home décor, and much more! Abby donated a beautiful piece of wall art with the WCGS year verse, Proverbs 4:23, written in calligraphy!





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WCGS is a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School