

WINTER 2019

chalkboard

TRAINING AND NURTURING CHILDREN FOR GODLINESS AND EXCELLENCE

Inside:
Standing firm in
our roots: Biblical
integration at
WCGS



WHAT ARE YOU STANDING ON?

From Mr. Clum

A primary focus at WCGS is partnering with Christian parents to help form and shape our students' biblical worldview, the framework of ideas and beliefs through which a Christian interprets the world and interacts with it. This is critical to our mission. George Barna, of the Barna Group,* found that by the time a teenager is 13 or 14, their worldview is primarily set. By this age, students have developed personal convictions about Jesus, His life, death, and resurrection. So, by the time an 8th grader leaves WCGS, their worldview is well in place. That is not only humbling, but a great responsibility for our teachers, coaches, and staff.

To say that one's biblical worldview is important is an understatement. It is the lens that shapes one's ideas, faith, and views of the world. A biblical worldview is based on the Word of God; it's the foundation of everything.

At WCGS, we partner with you as we seek to help your children think biblically in our ever-changing world. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength" (Mark 12:30). This is accomplished through biblically integrated instruction. We seek to inform our instruction by establishing the biblical purpose, focusing on worldview assumptions, and asking worldview questions.

As I conclude, let me share a definition of a biblical worldview as articulated by a recent WCGS graduate. "A biblical worldview is what a person believes to be true about the world based on the Bible, so that he or she thinks and acts as Jesus would. The Bible is true and teaches me how to view God, creation, people, right and wrong, and my purpose in life." Continue to pray with us as we seek to give our students the tools and foundation to stand upon as they discern Truth and seek to live a life of transformation.

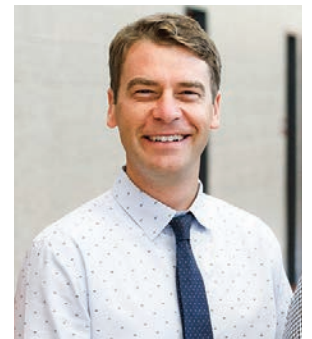


*A market research firm specializing in studying the religious beliefs and behavior of Americans and the intersection of faith and culture

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

From Mr. Brooke

Light. The word is used over two-hundred times in Scripture to properly define the power of such a force. If any one of us was in a dark room and needed to see, needed to navigate, we would search for a light. Light has the ability to penetrate and pierce darkness even if it is not all that large. Light can transform a space and allow for so much more to be known. I am thrilled to share that, in my interaction with Wheaton Christian, the light of Christ is shaping the entire experience. The message of Jesus and the good news is infused into each subject, teacher, and extracurricular activity. As students participate in the adventure of life, there is no shortage of darkness in our



world. I am in awe of the work that is being done at this school to ensure that the light of Christ is evident, clear, and known.

While I began my interaction with Wheaton Christian as a six-year-old, it has been just a few months in an Associate Head of School role. I have been inspired by the team, encouraged by our families, moved by our students, and excited about being the school for future families. There is no doubt that the strength of the school rests in the humble and appropriate approach that this is God's school. As we seek to educate, train, and nurture these children for godliness and excellence, we will continue to place the light of the world at the very center of our efforts. It is through His grace, by His power, and for His glory that we partner with families to raise up students who will simply change the world.

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12



Coming Up...

Dec.
31

Year-End Giving
Deadline

Feb.
20

K-3 Vocal Music
Concert

Mar.
3

Ladies' Salad Social

Apr.
20

Fine Arts
Solo Recitals

Apr.
23-25

Jr. High Musical

CHECK-IN





Sticking to our roots

BIBLICAL INTEGRATION AT WCGS

Since its founding, Wheaton Christian Grammar School has been committed to educating children through the lens of God's Word. Its mission statement says, "Wheaton Christian Grammar School exists, under the authority of God and His Word, to educate, train, and nurture children for godliness and excellence, equipping them to engage and transform their world for Jesus Christ." Integrating a biblical worldview into our students' education is at the core of what our school is. The desire is to not only provide an excellent education, but to care for each of our students' hearts.

This desire is why WCGS was established. Parents longed for the Word to be a part of their children's education. Back in 1941, a group of parents gathered together because they saw a need for the truths of the Bible to be present in "plastic young lives." So they decided to form a school that would do just that. It took a lot of hard work, but the dedication to its mission is what helped drive the school into what it was and continues to be today.

Now, as WCGS is in its 78th year, we are working harder than ever to ensure that our students are receiving a rigorous, yet biblically firm education with Christ at the center of their learning. All of our faculty and staff are believers in Christ, who dedicate their lives at WCGS to teach Truth to God's children. These faculty members go the extra mile and dig deeper with our students to find the true meaning of each subject.

In science and math, children are being taught to understand God, creation, mankind, moral order, purpose, and biblical authority as they apply their talents for God's glory. In English, reading, and literature, students are learning how communication and words are all part of being image bearers of our God, who created the universe by speaking it into existence. In history, our students learn how to examine the past and see the growth and redemption the Lord has done in our world. The list can continue on for all our classes and co-curricular activities because at Wheaton Christian Grammar School, getting a Christian education doesn't just mean adding a Bible class to the schedule.

“Every person who works at WCGS is invested in the lives of the students we teach and in pointing them to Jesus. I am excited to integrate a biblical worldview into all aspects of my teaching each day. Helping students to look at every subject area and see how these subjects can be looked at through the five biblical worldview components is such a wonderful opportunity as we guide our students, from the youngest to the oldest, to have a strong biblical worldview.”

– WCGS Teacher

Aside from a biblical worldview being molded and taught inside the classrooms, our faculty and staff work outside of the classroom to nurture their students' hearts. One of the ways is through the time spent maintaining spiritual portfolios, an individual file unique to each student that contains Godsightings and reflections on spiritual growth throughout each year the student has been enrolled at WCGS. During the course of each school year, faculty and administration put items in each student's portfolio that shows the Lord's faithfulness. These could be from prompts and activities in class that showcase a student's heart, as well as little notes of milestones or memories a faculty member wanted to include. Whether the

student attends WCGS for one year or nine years, students will receive their spiritual portfolio at the end of 8th grade when they can look at it, reflect, and see how God and His Word were integrated into everything they learned.

Another example is monthly chapels that give all students in grades K-8 a chance to gather and worship together.



To help the students get the most out of the messages, they are split up into three different age groups so each message is delivered in an age-appropriate manner. We look forward to this time each month when we can all gather as the body of Christ.



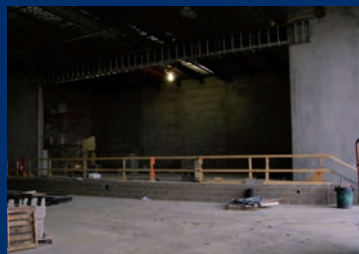
As our students transition into Jr. High, WCGS believes that the power of community and small groups are important to helping support them. This is why each week, faculty and staff take the time to lead a Connect Group. This is a small group of boys or girls in grades 6-8 that discuss chapel, relevant topics, and build community together. Connect Groups are a highlight of the students' week as they get challenged to grow spiritually and ask questions to deepen their knowledge and relationship with the Lord. These are just a few of the countless examples that show the extra care that our faculty and staff display to nurture the hearts and minds of our students.



Integrating a biblical worldview is at the core of WCGS. One of the top comments from our alumni and parent surveys each year is about how our teachers truly care for the whole student and want all of them to grow in their faith. We thank God for the opportunity we have to minister and care for our families and their children.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Winter 2009 was a busy time for the construction of our campus on Taylor Drive! Can you tell what parts of the school are pictured on the right? It's hard to believe that we have been in our building for 10 years!



Faculty Spotlight: Cindy Kremers

Cindy's journey to WCGS started when her husband's job relocated their family to Illinois. While trying to decide which suburb to move to, her mother-in-law, a kindergarten teacher at an ACSI school in Ohio, recommended moving to Wheaton so that their children could attend WCGS. Later on when they visited the school, she could feel that the Spirit of the Lord was present and knew this is where their children needed to be, so they made the move.

Shortly after settling in Illinois, she started teaching at a local preschool until a position opened as a teacher's aide at WCGS. She interviewed with Steve Clum, was hired, and then two years later, a half-day Kindergarten teacher position opened, and she has been impacting the lives of kindergarten students here at WCGS ever since. "God is so good, and He had such amazing plans for me just as my life verse, Jeremiah 29:11, says: 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

Working at WCGS has been a blessing to Cindy. The care and love displayed by the families, faculty, staff, and administration are unique to any other place she has ever worked, especially with how the school partners with its families. She considers it a privilege that she gets to help grow their children in so many ways, but most importantly in their relationship with the Lord. She continues to feel His presence daily as she teaches and interacts with the students and their families.



"I feel that we have a strong curriculum in which kindergartners are being taught the skills they need in order to be successful throughout their school career. I also love the fact that we integrate our faith into all subject areas, looking at everything we teach with a biblical worldview."

Aside from the academic curriculum that prepares the kindergartners well for their education, she specifically points to the Bible curriculum as a strong point in the kindergarten program because even as young children, these students can start experiencing a personal relationship with the Lord. Students spend time memorizing Scripture and worshiping God through songs and learning Bible stories that show God's faithfulness, love, and sovereignty. Even as 5- and 6-year-olds, these students can learn how the stories and promises of the Old Testament point to Christ and the redemption He brings because He came to live, die, and be raised again. Children are being taught the Truth.

It is hard for Cindy to put into words all the ways God has touched and changed her life since coming to teach at WCGS. Seeing the tender hearts of her students remind her that simple faith is the best kind of faith. They see things and notice things that point her back to Jesus daily.

"I am so thankful that God has given me the opportunity to be at the Grammar School for almost 20 years. He continues to stretch and grow me every day that I work in this wonderful place."





Grandparents' Day 2019

Thank you to all who attended Grandparents' Day this year! We are grateful for each and every one of you! It's always a privilege to host those who mean so much to our students. We are praising God for such a special day. We hope to see you next year!



A Giving Opportunity

As we quickly approach the end of 2019, we want to make you aware of the financial need for our Annual Scholarship Fund. Our goal for 2019-20 is to raise \$500,000, and we are excited to announce that, as of writing this article, God has raised \$163,000 towards this goal! We are grateful that God has provided this amount so far this year, but would also like to encourage you to partner with us by giving to the school as you consider your year-end giving. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 we read, "You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.'"

We are grateful for those who have already given to the Annual Scholarship Fund, and would desire that we would receive 100% participation from all who are reading this issue of the *Chalkboard*. Since over 35% of our student body receives financial assistance to attend WCGS, we encourage you to joyfully consider the investment and difference your gift will make in the life of our students. Thank you for your consideration!

Have a blessed holiday season!

Alumni News



WCGS Math Specialist and 2006 graduate, Alyssa Zarn, and her husband, Adam, welcomed their first child, Asher David, into the world in June 2019.

Have any updates you'd like us to feature or would like a WCGS onesie for your little one? Let us know!
Email us at: communications@wheatonchristian.org

Thank you to all of our alumni who generously donated items for our Scholarship Benefit and Auction this year!

Angela and Scott ('99) Broman,
Jeff Brooke ('98),
Sophie Lindquist ('15),
Shannon (Willis) McDonald ('96),
Jeannie and Jon ('97) Nielson,
Marc Painter ('97),
David Petersons ('04),
Jolene (Papendick) Powell ('92),
Marybeth Sauter ('74),
Amy (Schock) Soule ('01),
Ty Seager ('12),
and Alyssa Zarn ('06).

BEST OF THE MIDWEST HARVEST FEST

WCGS'S ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT & AUCTION

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated (near or far) in our 2019 Scholarship Benefit and Auction! Because of our community's generosity, we were able to raise \$113,700 towards our \$500,000 goal this year for the WCGS Scholarship Fund.

This year's theme was "Best of the Midwest Harvest Fest" and featured traditional Midwestern food, music by our Jazz and Honors Strings ensembles, and a fun "live" auction with hosts: Mr. Brooke, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Clum, and Mr. Painter. Those in attendance were also blessed to hear from a current school family on what the scholarship fund means to them. The Peacocks have been a part of the WCGS community for 5 years and their experience has been made possible by the generous donations of those who give to the Scholarship Fund. You can watch the full interview on our website at: www.wheatonchristian.org/tuition-assistance.

