

SPRING 2019

chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Leading
with Our
Serve

IN THIS ISSUE:

Leading
by Example

Why Leadership
Experience Matters

Called to Life-
Giving Work





Servant Leadership and the Leader's Character

DR. BARRETT MOSBACKER

GODLY, CAPABLE LEADERSHIP is vital to every human organization from the family to the nation. People, organizations, communities, and countries seldom rise above leadership.

This is one reason we at Westminster are delighted to expand our student leadership opportunities. One of our central goals for student leadership is to raise the standard for our student leaders' character. A leader's character is essential because character matters in leaders—a lot. In his excellent book, "Conviction to Lead", Albert Mohler writes: *Character is in fact the only secure foundation of leadership itself—any form of leadership... The effective leader knows that the expectation of character begins at the top. Those we lead will expect us to live and to lead in alignment with our convictions... This is the leader's responsibility—to deal with him or herself.*

Mohler goes on to outline the most essential character traits of effective leaders: **honesty, dependability, loyalty, determination** (what I call GRIT), and **humility**.

Leadership is not about title, popularity, self-fulfillment, or self-actualization. Leadership is about serving, which requires humility. "Leadership begins when you are more concerned about others' flourishing than your own," Andy Crouch writes. "Developing the skills, awareness, confidence and humility that is involved in actually helping people and teams flourish is the work of a lifetime."

There is no better example of effective and humble leadership than Jesus, of whom it is written: *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves ... though [Jesus] was in the form of God ... he emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant.* —Philippians 2:3

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Academics

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

CLASSROOM CONNECTION: LEARNING EMPATHY

Heather Marsee's 7th grade honors English class spent some time this past February learning to think from the perspective of someone who is not like them. After doing research on disabilities, the class visited with students at Promise Christian Academy and created a disability awareness video as part of this lesson on empathy.



NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

Westminster's three semifinalists were named finalists in the 64th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Seniors William Vestal, Aaron Kampmeier, and Alec Bequette are now eligible to receive a National Merit Scholarship and the distinguished Merit Scholar title.

NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Student Life Office is excited to announce that student council will return to Westminster next fall. StuCo will provide additional leadership opportunities to students and give the student body a means to voice their opinion. "Our student body is one of the largest constituencies within the Westminster community and they've never had an official voice in the operations of the school," says Dani Butler, head of student development. "Student Council gives them a channel to share their voice." Elections are currently underway and we look forward to the contributions the council will make to our community next year.

FACULTY RECOGNITION: DAN BURKE

English Department Chair Dan Burke '01 joined an elite group of St. Louis area educators as a recipient of the 2018 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. This award recognizes teachers for their passion for teaching, their impact on student learning, and their knowledge and creativity in the classroom.

Now in his tenth year at Westminster, Burke exemplifies these qualities. He's served the Westminster community in a variety of capacities, including cross country and track coach, teacher mentor, freshman team leader, and more.



BUDDING JOURNALIST RECEIVES REGIONAL AWARDS

Lea Despotis (junior) recently earned two silver key awards in the 2019 Missouri Writing Region of the Scholastic Writing Awards Contest for her reporting in the student newspaper. More than 800 students submitted their work for consideration of this award. Her winning pieces, "Thinking Outside the Bubble" and "Time to 'Kill the Tea'", will be published in *Missouri Youth Writes* this June.



PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARDS

Jessica Kunkel (senior) and sophomores **Izzy Cancila, Elsie Payne, and Bridget Sullivan** were all named recipients of The President's Volunteer Service Award. The President's Volunteer Service Award is the premier volunteer awards program, encouraging citizens to live a life of service.



Mr. Layton and Dr. Emerson

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: AARON LAYTON

Aaron Layton was selected to serve on the Christian Racial Equity and Inclusion (CREI) collaborative team. The CREI Center is a new organization that will launch in 2020 and will focus on helping leaders promote racial equity and inclusion in Christian organizations and society. As part of this team, Mr. Layton will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Michael Emerson to update Emerson's book, "Divided By Faith," which Mr. Layton uses in his Christianity, Race, and Culture class at Westminster.

JESSICA KUNKEL EARNS STARS & STRIPES AWARD

Jessica Kunkel (senior) received the American Heritage Girls highest honor, the Stars and Stripes Award. To earn this award, Jessica had to design and implement a service project in her community, among other requirements. For her project, she helped build seating and eating areas for her elementary school's playground and daycare, Firm Foundations Christian Academy and the Firm Foundations Daycare in Arnold, Mo.



CYBORG CATS

Seventy-one students accepted the challenge to strategize, design, prototype, and build a robot that can quickly deliver cargo and hatches to fill a rocket and cargo ship for the 2019 FIRST Robotics game, Destination: Deep Space. While the engineering team was busy building the robot and game field, the business team was writing awards, contacting sponsors, and designing t-shirts, banners, and brochures. The Cats competed in two FIRST Robotics competitions last month, the St. Louis Regional and the Central Illinois Regional. Throughout the process, students learned engineering and design skills and gained technical and valuable leadership expertise, but most importantly, they learned to work together as a unified community who seek to impact all aspects of Creation for the glory of Christ.

Arts

CREATIVE EXCELLENCE



Student Featured in 2019 Emerson Young Artists' Showcase

Paige Wibbenmeyer (senior) had a piece of artwork featured in the 2019 Emerson Young Artists' Showcase at the St. Louis Artists Guild. Her painting, "Dissociation", was on display March 7–30. Emerson Young Artists' Showcase is a juried, all-media exhibition of artwork created by high school students. The annual Young Artists' Showcase has supported artistically inclined students for more than 60 years.

Theatre Program Wows Audience with Twelfth Night Performance

Westminster's theatre program took on Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in February and delivered a fantastic production. From the costumes and the music to the high-quality performances delivered by Westminster students, the show was exceptional. Bravo!

Zavaglia Takes the Arts by Storm

Raphaella Zavaglia (senior) is quite the artistically-gifted young woman. This past winter, Raphaella and Mr. Sarra had their artwork selected for display in the Young Artists and their Teachers exhibition at Lindenwood University's Boyle Family Gallery. Raphaella was also one of only 16 students in the district selected for the Missouri All-State Choir and performed at the Missouri Music Educators Association convention.



Jazz St. Louis

Daniel Herrera (junior) was selected to participate as a pianist in the 2018–19 Jazz St. Louis All-Stars group, which is the flagship performing ensemble of the well-regarded JazzU education program. More than 120 student musicians auditioned for this elite group.

Faculty Recognition: John Sarra

Fine Arts Director John Sarra's artwork is featured in the group exhibition "Layered Place" at Intersect Arts Center. According to Exhibit Curator Charis Norell, "Layered Place" invites viewers to reevaluate their definition of landscape and consider the multiple "layers" of the multi-faceted modern landscape. This group exhibit delves into humanity's tumultuous relationship with nature, visual metaphors for place, social and cultural identity, family heritage, and way-finding. Mr. Sarra's work will be on display until April 30.



Classroom Connection: Celebrating Black History Month through Art

This past February, art students throughout Westminster learned about artists like Alma Woodsey Thomas, Kehinde Wiley, Elizabeth Catlett, and more. Tasked with creating pieces inspired by their work, students created oil paintings, watercolors, graphic design, and more to display in Westminster's gallery outside of the Black Box Theatre.



Save the Date!

April 25–27: Join us for this year's musical production, *Meet Me in St. Louis*. For more information visit wcastl.org.



Following in Mr. Schwamb's Footsteps

How Alex Cross' passion for the piano led him to pursue a career in music education

"MOST OF THE COOL OPPORTUNITIES I've had at Westminster, Mr. Schwamb has been behind," Alex Cross (senior) says. "Playing for the choirs and the musicals, doing a show at COCA—my first experience at The Fox was walking through the stage door. How many people can say that?"

Alex came to Westminster four years ago hoping to find opportunities to improve his skills on the piano. Even before his move to St. Louis, Alex and his mother were trading emails with Allen Schwamb, Westminster's performing arts director, to find out what the school could offer a student passionate about the piano.

"I really like playing the piano, so at first I was seeking out more opportunities to do that," Alex says. "Then, I started connecting with people because we were all doing the same things, and I wanted to use my skills to help those people."

"There's a similarity between the performing arts and sports in this way," Mr. Schwamb says. "You get in for one reason, really connect with the people, find a community that you love and appreciate, and you start doing things for them. Alex connected with the kids in the choral program and wanted to do anything that would aid them."

Alex started accompanying the chamber choir on the piano his first year at Westminster, and his involvement as an accompanist has grown every year since. This year, his senior year, Alex is not only the accompanist for all Westminster choral groups—middle school and upper school—he was also the assistant student music director for *Twelfth Night* and will be the assistant student music director for *Meet Me in St. Louis* later this month.

He credits Mr. Schwamb for these opportunities that are a bit unusual for a student. "Alex's heightened involvement with the plays this year arose out of his taking on more responsibility over the past two years," Mr. Schwamb says. "He helped out a lot last year and the year before, so 'assistant student music director' was a natural progression and good opportunity to further his education."

In the fall, Alex plans to attend Hope College where he'll pursue music education with an emphasis on vocal. It's an interesting choice when you consider Alex generally accompanies choral groups rather than sings in them. "Alex only sings under duress," Mr. Schwamb jokes.

While this might be true, Alex is confident in his decision nonetheless. "I want to follow in Mr. Schwamb's footsteps. He's had a big influence on me," he says.

"I try to teach all of my students how to lead people to excellence but still be kind and good in the process, which is hard," Mr. Schwamb says. "I hope Alex has picked up on that." •

Athletics

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS AND GENERAL NEWS



SKIPPY KEEFER AWARD

During the winter season, seniors Dani Mabry, Morgan Sickels, and Kiley McKee (not pictured) were nominated for the Skippy Keefer Sportsmanship Award. The award honors Skippy Keefer, who served as athletic director at John Burroughs for 25 years and helped found the Metro Women's Athletic Association. Each year, a senior female athlete within the association is recognized for exemplary athletic participation and sportsmanship.



COLLEGE-BOUND CATS

To date, four Wildcats have signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Next fall, you'll find these students pursuing excellence in academics and athletics at the following schools: Dani Mabry: Lacrosse at Rockhurst University, Blaise Matheny: Baseball at Missouri State, Jimmy Obertop: Baseball at University of Michigan, and Sarah-Elizabeth Williams: Volleyball at University of North Alabama. We have another signing day this spring, so check out wcastl.org/news to find out who else will be taking their skills to the next level.



THAT'S A LOT OF POINTS!

The Wildcats leading scorer for the past three seasons, Kiley McKee (senior) recorded her 1,000th career point at a home basketball game against Lutheran South in February. What a way to celebrate Senior Night!

NEW TEN PILLARS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Westminster Athletic Department wants to help train and empower student-athletes to be leaders on our teams, in our school, and in our community. The new Ten Pillars Leadership Institute (TPLI) will provide training on the "Westminster way" of leadership by focusing on how to both lead and support others as they lead. Coaches have already nominated 100 athletes for the inaugural three-day leadership training in May.



SUPPORT YOUR WILDCATS THIS SPRING!

Spring sports are well underway. Make sure to get out there and support your Wildcats! Competition schedules can be found on our NEW website. Just visit wcastl.org/athletics and find out when your team is playing.



DANCE

This season the varsity dance team was better than ever! The team performed at a few football games, numerous men’s and women’s basketball games, and competed at The Yvonne Cole Lindbergh Invitational in December where they placed first in the 1A Pom category. During Spirit Week, the girls made an incredibly exciting hip hop debut. The team spent the season working very hard—always striving to perform for their Audience of One— and couldn’t be more thrilled with how it paid off!

WRESTLING

At the beginning of the season, the team saw two of its veteran stars go down to injury and a very young team was left to sink or swim. They had a huge task ahead, starting with their own tournament, where the boys showed a lot of promise that was recognized by opposing coaches.

A week before districts and the last dual of the year, one of the Wildcat’s veterans, Patrick Andrews, returned from his injury and the team was ignited for the postseason. The Cats entered the district tournament with 10 boys—their fullest varsity lineup of the year. Patrick, the lone senior, qualified for the state tournament and ended the season on a high note at the state tournament.

BASKETBALL

The boys basketball team had a good season, finishing 17-10. They also had a very competitive and unselfish team, as 8 of the 10 losses were by three points or less and their largest loss was by seven points. The Wildcats won their last four regular season games and defeated every team in their league. They ended their season in the district semifinal, losing by one-point. Seniors Jerram Adams, Blake Jewell, Isaac Johnston, Trey Klein, and Luke Linam played great this season. Isaac Kaup, team manager, is also a senior. Junior Brennan Orf led the Wildcats in scoring this year at 16.8 points per game, while senior Jerram Adams also averaged double figures at 10.1 points per game. The team’s seniors have a bright future and we are excited about the future of the program.

This season, the varsity girls basketball team focused on bringing an UNCOMMON attitude and effort in the areas of selflessness, courage, communication, preparation, and conditioning. The team had a successful season, finishing 19-8, and picked up a third-, second- and first-place finish in their three tournaments. Over the course of a long season, they worked daily to improve in practice and games, pursuing excellence and fighting to become the best team that they could be. The team entered the district tournament as the third seed and won their first-round game against Viz. The Wildcats then defeated the No. 2 seed, Ladue, in the semifinals. In the championship, the girls lost a hard fought game 52-56 to No. 1 seed Parkway North. The program says goodbye to five seniors this spring, but will continue to build a competitive program that intentionally uses the game of basketball to honor and glorify God, representing the work Christ is doing in our hearts and lives.



HOCKEY

This year’s hockey roster featured an extremely young team, with eleven underclassmen filling the bench. Literally pouring blood, sweat, and tears onto the ice, the Cats fought hard all season long. When the time came for the Wickenheiser Cup playoffs, the Wildcats held off the number one seed, Duchesne, for as long as possible. It was a “best out of three games” for Westminster to advance, and the Cats had tied two of them. This led to a mini-game where, again, they drew a tie. Then came a shootout, and, in the final moments, Duchesne managed to score the game-winning goal. Although the Wildcat’s season did not end with the winning cup in hand, the young team breeds much potential and the seniors leave them with a heavy heart.



GIRLS SWIM & DIVE

The varsity girls completed a successful regular season with a 13-2 record, a second place finish at the metro conference, and seven state qualifiers. After losing 17 seniors last year, there was some question as to how the team would respond. A thrilling five-point win against Viz and a third-place finish in the Ladue Invitational established the Wildcats as a team to beat. Current seniors set examples in godly character and perseverance as the team swam their best times at the COMO meet in Columbia to establish nine qualifying times.

The Cats qualified for three relays and 10 individual events at the Class 1 MSHSAA State Meet, medaling in two relays and one individual event. Margo O’Meara (sophomore) broke her own Class 1 record and won the state diving championship for the second consecutive year. As a program, the team finished 11th out of 42 teams.



LEADING BY EXAMPLE

How
Westminster's
faculty are
equipping the
next generation

Called to equip the next generation, a teacher's influence is undeniable. For many teachers, their leadership stops with their curriculum or at the classroom door. This is not the case at Westminster.

“Teaching’ and ‘leading’ are—in many ways—synonyms, especially in a Christian school environment,” says Micah Gall, head of academic development. “Our students learn content from our teachers, but they also learn behavior and beliefs simply by observing each of their teachers. It’s crucial that teachers understand this, and more often than not, it’s why people choose teaching as a career in the first place.”

According to Westminster's vision statement, the school exists to prepare and equip more young men and women to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.

"In order to 'engage' and 'change' anything, one must be able to lead," Mr. Gall says. "It's our hope that the leadership skills our students develop during their time at Westminster are distinctly Christian. This can and does look different from how the world defines leadership."

Our ability to achieve this vision relies largely on the leadership of our teachers. Without effective leaders in place to show our students the way, this would not be possible.

"In the secular arena, we usually define 'building the future' solely in terms of technology, business, and the occasional exceptional achievement of some kind. However, those goods are accomplished by people, and educators shape that capacity in people," says Eric Gargrave, instrumental music teacher. "Teachers build the future long before it shows up on store shelves, bottom lines, and record books. At Westminster, we are heralding that even tomorrow's tomorrow is but a footnote in a much larger Book of Life."

"Life isn't only about what you know but who you worship," says Kyle Roff, upper school English teacher. "We model or display the vision we have for our students through our own lives and behavior. More than my words, my actions and the type of person I am demonstrate and teach what I hope my students will learn."

Science Department Chair Andrew Shaw is one such example of a Westminster teacher leading a life demonstrative of what he hopes to impart on his students.

Dr. Shaw is fascinated by the relationship between science and faith. "It's part of why God put us on the planet," he says. "Culture has a tendency to worship science and dismiss faith. I'm training my students to explore the relationship between the two."

His interest in teaching extends beyond integrating a Christian worldview into his science lessons though. Dr. Shaw believes he, and all teachers at Westminster, bear a responsibility to impress upon their students the importance of community—a physical community and, specifically, a church community. ➤

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25



✦ Too often today, we let busyness get in the way of being an active member of our church. “The church is not a virtual body, we’re a real body. We need to rub shoulders with people,” Dr. Shaw says. “The internet and social media are not a substitute for physical presence. Jesus did not come virtually, he came in body. As teachers, we need to set an example for our students.”

“I think one of the biggest lies that teachers can be tempted to believe is that our content will provide the most important lessons we hope our students learn,” Mr. Roff says. “Instead, the lessons that should matter most are the lessons that motivate our students to be and to become the kind of people we want them to be.”

It’s more than leading a class through a lesson or preparing them for an upcoming exam. “Our job as Christian teachers is to not just be a lecturer standing in front of our students—they can get that on YouTube,” says Maggie Sperber, upper school math and science teacher. “Investing in their lives—that’s teaching. If we’re not investing in our students, then we’re no better than an online lecture.”



“It’s important for students to know we’re here,” Mrs. Sperber continues. “In just a few years, these students are going to be the people leading and changing our society for better or for worse. If we invest in them and are present on their terms, taking part in things they care about, and listening to where they’re at and really hearing their struggles, then maybe we can offer them a little wisdom.”

Mrs. Sperber credits leaders in her own life for teaching her that the best kind of leadership isn’t “top down,” it’s when you’re in the trenches serving with people. Throughout Scripture, Jesus models this for us: *“When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”*—John 13:12–15

Westminster isn’t the only school where teachers invest in their students outside the classroom. The difference comes in who they do it for and why they do it. “Our purpose is very different,” Mrs. Sperber says. “What motivates us is much longer lasting.”

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace...in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 4:10–11

Leadership is stewardship. As brothers and sisters in Christ, Westminster’s teachers are lead according to a higher purpose—a calling to serve the next generation for Christ and His Kingdom.

“When students leave this place, they will be asked to lead in the various spheres of influence where God places them,” Mr. Roff says. “I want the future leaders of our nation, community or fill-in-the-blank to be individuals with a strong foundation of a biblical worldview. So by empowering our students at Westminster with truth and opportunity, we can hopefully grow these type of leaders.” •



Learning TO LEAD

JESUS MODELED servant leadership for us with his entire life, “even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28) At Westminster, it is our prayer that students learn to embrace this truth as they engage in leadership positions.

“Christian leadership is different from secular leadership,” says Dani Butler, head of student development. “Christian leadership is servant leadership.”

Westminster’s student leadership program seeks to train students in Christian leadership, and while our student leadership teams have many different roles and responsibilities, they all share a common goal: to serve the Westminster community.

“At the core of every leadership team is the philosophy that we are servants first and leaders second,” says Ashley Woodall, assistant director of student life.

“Each of these teams provides students with an opportunity to practice contributing their God-given gifts and talents to something bigger than themselves.” ➡



↳ Students practice these skills through opportunities such as peer counseling, welcoming visitors and representing the school through our ambassador program, leading the community in worship as part of our chapel teams, and so much more.

“It’s important for students to be exposed to different leadership opportunities because it helps them work with different groups of people and could potentially lead to an undiscovered passion,” says Jack Martin, junior and member of the chapel leadership team.

Providing a variety of leadership opportunities for students “supports our vision to ‘prepare and equip more young men and women to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ,’” Ms. Woodall says. “As students serve on our leadership teams, they have the opportunity to practice many aspects of leadership that will, hopefully, equip them to carry out this vision once they leave Westminster.”

“As students serve on our leadership teams, they have the opportunity to practice many aspects of leadership that will, hopefully, equip them to carry out this vision once they leave Westminster.”

Serving in leadership positions also provides students with an opportunity to learn more about themselves and their God-given skills, and allows them to stretch beyond their comfort zone. “In their roles, students learn more about their strengths and weaknesses, how to collaborate and work as a team, how to work through conflict and disagreement, how to sacrifice their own wants and needs for the good of the community, how to set and accomplish, and much, much more,” Ms. Woodall says. “We can’t expect students to be able to mature and grow in these areas if we do not empower and give them a practice ground to develop as leaders.”

“You can learn something from any leadership position,” says Carter Hickel, sophomore and member of the student ambassador team. “By choosing to be a student ambassador, you learn how to be more personal, respectful, putting others before self, interpersonal communication, and a handful of other traits.”

Looking ahead to the 2019–20 school year, Westminster is looking to build on its current leadership opportunities and help students develop more of these character traits associated with servant

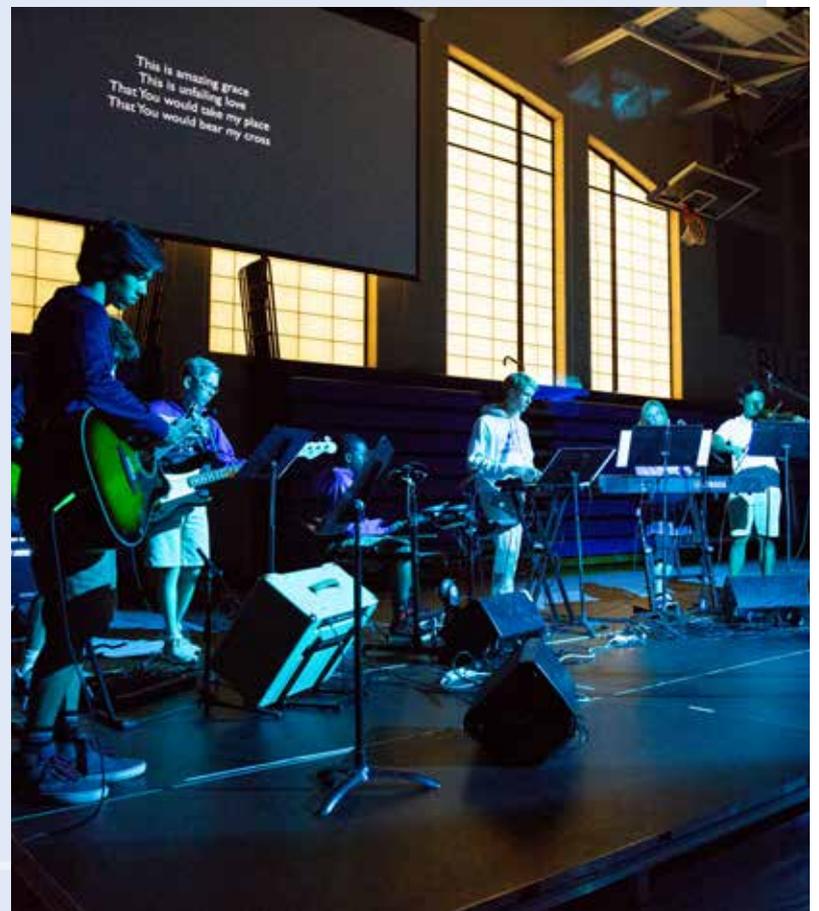
leadership by making some changes to the student leadership program. Most notably, this includes bringing back student council.

“I think that it is a great way for students to have a voice in decisions that are made at school and also will allow students to experience true leadership and responsibility,” says Isabella Francois, junior and editor-in-chief of Westminster’s student newspaper.

The athletic department is also making some changes to better train and empower student-athletes to be leaders. The new Ten Pillars Leadership Institute will provide training in the “Westminster way” of leadership that will be the standard across all Wildcat athletic programs. “We believe that training and equipping students with these skills can impact our athletic program in a way that is immeasurable,” says Cory Snyder, Westminster athletic director.

Christ came not to be served, but to serve. As we equip our students to engage their world and make an impact for Christ’s Kingdom, we pray they would develop a servant’s heart.

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:3–5) •





Why Leadership Experience Matters

BY PEGGY JOHNSON

At Westminster, we talk a lot about leadership. We believe good leadership is servant leadership, and Jesus affirms this for us in Luke 22:25-26:

“And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.”

Servant leaders focus on others, promote a sense of community, and share power when making decisions. As a school, we are committed to serving our community in this way and developing these leadership skills in our students by providing them with real opportunities through our student leadership program.

Leadership implies a willingness to embrace responsibility and the challenges that come with working collaboratively with others. Students who are exposed to and embrace this type of leadership are in high demand.

Colleges and universities want students who will be leaders on their campus and eventually in the world. Increasingly, these schools are offering merit-based scholarships for students who demonstrate leadership experience and a commitment to serving others. There aren't established guidelines for how many activities or what kind, but involvement in the school community implies a positive contribution to the student body. Students that are able to demonstrate leadership experience and a commitment to serving others in the college admissions process only add to the strength of their application.

It is our prayer that students graduate Westminster equipped to engage their world and change it for Jesus Christ. The world is in desperate need of people who are committed to serving God and those around them. In the short term, this sort of leadership experience may lead to a college scholarship but, in eternity, it could mean making a Kingdom-impact for Christ. •

Community News

UPDATES FROM AROUND CAMPUS



IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Westminster students collected more than 35,000 items to benefit local agencies as part of In the Spirit of Giving (ITSOG) this year. We were so encouraged by the generosity and leadership of our student community during ITSOG and hope you are as well. “I love that even as a high schooler, I have the opportunity to do good for my city and the resources to excite hundreds of other kids to do the same,” says Ava Hollman, junior and service leadership team member.



NEW WCA WEBSITE!

Have you visited the Westminster website lately? If not, you need to check it out at wcastl.org! We launched our new website last month and things look a little different in the Wildcat's small corner of the web.

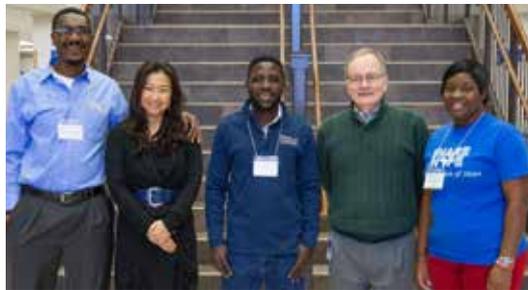
BASKETBALL FIGHTS CANCER

Westminster's Blue Crew led the charge to support Andrew Kempen (senior) and his fundraising efforts for Kick It For Cancer this past winter. With a Wildcat basketball game to help ramp up school spirit, Blue Crew organized a dress down day and half-time raffle to help Andrew meet his fundraising goal, ultimately collecting more than \$2,500.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The sophomore class, along with volunteers from the junior and senior classes, hosted several special school district schools and Promise Christian Academy for a Special Olympics Basketball Challenge Day in March. More than 200 athletes traveled to campus to compete in basketball games, practice their skills, and play carnival games with their Westminster buddies.



WE ARE ONE: A NIGHT OF COMMUNITY, CULTURE, & CONVERSATION

Westminster hosted members of the St. Louis community for “We Are One”, the school's annual celebration of Black History Month. This year's program honored the rich history and influence of the African American church and its clergy with a sermon from Dr. T.D. Stubblefield, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Chesterfield, musical performances from the First Baptist Church of Chesterfield Praise Ensemble, and tributes from Westminster students.



AFRICAN VISION OF HOPE

Two teachers and the superintendent of African Vision of Hope, a Christian school in Zambia, traveled to campus this past December to observe classes and meet with faculty, students, parents, and administrators. Their objective for the trip was to learn how to better integrate a biblical worldview into their school's existing curriculum.

Parents Advancing Westminster

Can you imagine a Westminster without the faithful contributions of our parents, without the leadership of Parents Advancing Westminster (PAW)? The vibrancy of the Westminster community depends in large part on hundreds of parent volunteers who lead, bless, and serve the school each year. As parents bring diverse gifts and passions to bear, united in their purpose to honor the Lord and bless the community, the entire school flourishes!

How Westminster Parents Bless Our School

Our parent leaders work to foster community among students and parents, provide strategic leadership, support the school financially, spur on spiritual growth, and more. They are a blessing to our students, faculty, staff, and the greater community.

Under the leadership of Lisa Rupprecht, coordinator of our parent community relations, and our PAW board, parents are mobilized in almost innumerable ways. From planning back to school picnics and gathering for fun and fellowship to supporting Student Life during special events, Westminster parents impact every aspect of school and community life.

With all of these amazing efforts, can you imagine there are new ways to serve and new teams to join? We're pleased to highlight two new teams leading pilot efforts at Westminster.

The Parent Annual Fund Team launched in February with a vision to grow parent giving. As these inspired families share their gratitude for Westminster and educate fellow parents about the importance of giving, new donors join our giving community daily!



In March, another exciting team of parents will host a trivia night on Saturday, November 16, 2019, bringing our community together for an evening of fun and fellowship.

We want to express our sincere thanks to our parent leaders for their talent, passion, and creativity. Thank you for saying, "yes!" It's not too late to offer your support. We have countless opportunities for parents to support our school with their time and talents, including the coffee bar, hosting community and class events, prayer groups, mentorship opportunities, and more. Contact Lisa Rupprecht or Carolyn Holt to plug into any one of these awesome parent teams! •

save the date
FOR **TRIVIA NIGHT!**

Join us on Saturday,
November 16, 2019, for a
night of fun and fellowship.



The senior girls rocked the arena with a fun *Newsies*-inspired performance.



Classes battled against one another in games like dodgeball, mattress surfing, and ultimate chicken.



SPIRIT WEEK ★ 2019 ★

Spirit Week 2019 marked the 30th celebration of a tradition that is arguably the highlight of the year for the Westminster community. As students rallied together to show their class pride and engage in a little friendly competition—dress-up days, games, art boards, Lip Sync, and Boys Poms—the arena shook with cheers and chants and our campus was filled with Wildcat spirit. Visit wcastl.org/news for more Spirit Week photos.



The 7th grade boys made a splash with their synchronized swimming routine.



SPIRIT WEEK REFLECTIONS

A Note from Your Alumni Relations Coordinator

This has been such a fun year for alumni events! We've had football, basketball, and hockey games, an athletic alumni happy hour, and of course, Spirit Week! Each year, we invite our alumni to serve as judges for Boys Poms and Lip Sync. Not only is this a great opportunity for alumni to stay involved, for many it's their first time visiting our new campus. I love showing our judges around and watching them catch up with their old teachers and coaches. Yes, we are proud of our building, but we are even more so of our student body. Spirit Week is their time to shine! They have so much fun competing against one another. This year we introduced a philanthropic aspect of Spirit Week. Students were encouraged to bring in coats and jackets for a local charity. Our community brought in a total of 467 coats for Karen's House, a local shelter for homeless women and children!

Want to be a judge next year? Send me an email, I'd love to welcome you back to campus! Can't wait that long? Join us for an upcoming alumni reception prior to the spring musical, *Meet Me In St. Louis*, on April 27th. Unable to join us? Stop by anytime for a tour and say hello!

Blessings,
Hannah Wallace Murray '93

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI NEWS

'91

Holly Bergeson Cunningham recently published a book chapter about her entrepreneurial journey in "On the RISE: Volume 2". During the writing process, Holly reconnected with former Westminster English teacher, Barbara Heimbürger, for help with editing.



'06

On April 5, 2018, **Kat Brown** and her husband, Adam, had their first son—Walter Joseph Brown. The Brown family lives in Jersey City, N.J., and Kat works in New York City as an account director at Ogilvy.



'93

Richard Bauman was re-elected as alderman in Ward 3 for the city of Manchester. Rich lives in Ballwin with his wife, Alyssa, and their two children.

Deborah Roby defended her Ph.D. in pharmacology and physiology from Saint Louis University on October 31, 2018. Her project focused on Alzheimer's disease and reversing impairments found in the brains of mice. She recently moved to Nashville to study diabetes at Vanderbilt University. It's been a long journey, but God has been good every step of the way!



'05

Emily (Ottsen) Weber and her husband, Jerry Weber, welcomed Zachary Weber into the world on September 28, 2018.



'07

After graduating from Stephens College, **Katie Bush** joined her parents in Dallas where she met her husband, Heath. Katie and Heath now live in Wylie, TX with their three children (ages 2, 4, and 5). Katie works in the health and wellness industry along with being a freelance writer. She is launching a podcast and YouTube channel, "From Foster to Forever" and co-writing a children's book about foster care adoption.

Conor B. Lewis spent the last two and a half years directing, producing, and taking his documentary, “Dirty Laundry”, to film festivals around the country. Recently released to the public, the film tells the story of Conor and his cousin digging into the story of their grandmother’s sudden death from a rare form of cancer, Mesothelioma, on a cross country bike tour. Friend and fellow WCA alum Mike Rohlfig ’05 helped with editing.



Allison (Thompson) Yager married Ryan Yager on April 28, 2018, in St. Louis. Allison graduated from Auburn University and Washington University School of Law, and is an associate at Katten Muchin Rosenman in Chicago.



'09
Corinne (Becker) Backer married Neil Backer on September 1, 2018. The bridal party included Abigail Becker ’11, Michael Becker ’13, and David Becker ’15. The couple met at St. Louis University School of Medicine and now reside in Lexington, Ky. Corinne is an obstetrics and gynecology resident and Neil is an internal medicine resident at the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

'14

Kaylee Noel graduated summa cum laude from Murray State University with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and was accepted into the Vanderbilt University’s community development and action master’s program.



Sydney Seabaugh graduated with honors from the University of South Florida and has completed her first semester at Vanderbilt Law School. This summer, she plans to intern with KMM Sports in Oklahoma City.



'15

Madison (Massot) Gardner married Griffin Gardner on July 14, 2018 in Chesterfield. The couple currently resides on the campus of Taylor University where they plan to graduate in May, Madison with a degree in secondary education–mathematics and her husband with a master’s degree in higher education.



Sydney Stillman and Corey Weinberg wed on January 6, 2019, in St. Charles with quite a few of their Westminster classmates in attendance! The two currently reside in Morton, Ill., but will be moving back to St. Louis in June.



'18

Betsy Bailey recently joined Phi Sigma at Lipscomb University! Betsy is pictured with fellow WCA alum Megan Johnson ’15.

Chloe Wimpfheimer created an app, Unicorn Splat, that is for sale in Apple’s app store! Outside of her normal area of interest, Chloe taught herself to code while creating the game. A portion of the proceeds go to PAVE, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering students, parents, and civic leaders to end sexual violence.

Alumni: If you would like to be included in the next issue of Chimes, please send your update and graduation year, as well as a recent photo, to alumninews@wcastl.org

BOYS POMS JUDGES



From Left: Stephen Gross '18, Grace Linton '13, Kaitlin Kittelson '15, Lorianne Hagan '97, Josh Berglar '17, Scott Rupprecht '14, Daniel Moore '11

LIP SYNC JUDGES



From Left: Tiffany Anderson '03, Laura Allen '03, Jennifer West '91, Madison Nguyen '10, Lisa Grove '08, Mike Rohlfing '05

ALUMNI HOCKEY GAME



Back Row from Left: Andrew Bateman '04, Jeff Kaufman '06, David Cascella '05, Nathan Smallwood '11, Joe Schnitzler '03, Zach Nall '17, Bradley Jones '17, Nate Hoenig '99, Jason Kelly '17, Nick Pieber '06 **Middle Row:** Kyle Bateman '07, Andrew Tipton '18, Chad Kim '03, Nate Brown '03, Coach Mike Malawy '95-'01 **Front Row:** Tim Applebaum '09, Michael Bianca '08, Daniel Kim '08, Gannon McWard '16, Jimmy Munson '08 **Center:** Coach Robert Bateman '04-'07

ALUMNI FOOTBALL GAME



Back Row from Left: Juan Mundo Si-Fuentes '08, Clayton Grass '17, Justin Blakey '18, Grant LaValle '18, Jeremiah Thompson '18, Luke Vassel '18, Tom Graham '16, Greg Schoenberg '08, Robert Davis '16, Connor Hafenrichter '16, Bob Edwards '02, Nick Ebel '16, Andrew Eichelberger '16, Brendan Bognar '15 **Front Row:** Rory Hennings '09, Jacob Hicks '13, Zach Dorton '10, Micah Mills '10, Nathan Smallwood '11, Chad Briden '18, Steven Davis '16, Mason Davitt '16, Brendan Murphy '16, Chris Heyl '16, Myles Bakewell '16, Zach Hughes '16

ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME



From Left: DJ Stewart '17, Joshua Chappeau '07, Alex Token '18, Carl Thoenen '88, Steve Webb '17, Michael Thoenen '18, Dyllan Conway '17, Trevon Gooch '15, Coach Dale Ribble, Chad Briden '18, Logan Montgomery '18

**JOIN US
NEXT TIME!**

Visit wcastl.org/alumni for info
on upcoming alumni events.

Called to Life-Giving Work

AN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON JAKE PATTON '96

Jake Patton graduated from Westminster in 1996—when “grunge music was at its pinnacle, the Panera on Ballas was called St. Louis Bread Co., and an asiago cheese bagel cost 65 cents.”

Jake attended Covenant College with plans to major in business but graduated with a degree in biblical studies—a change he credits to a mission trip to Uganda. Called to full-time ministry after college, he attended Covenant Theological Seminary and served at Presbyterian churches in Alabama and South Carolina before moving to Celina, Texas with his wife and four children to plant a PCA church, New City Presbyterian.

What led you to plant a church in Celina, Texas?

For one reason alone, the Mexican food and barbecue. Joking aside, several factors played a major role in leading us to plant. Personally, the creative and building process is a life-giving activity for me; I think I've always been geared this way. Planting a church is as close to starting a business as pastors can get. We're ministerial entrepreneurs. The idea of crafting a unique outpost, one that is created with the city's strengths and weaknesses in mind—it's energizing work.

Philosophically, after my wife and I went through our denomination's church planter assessment center, we felt a particular burden to serve an area that wasn't already saturated with multiple church options. Celina has no reformed church presence and is projected to grow rapidly over the next 30 years. It's a good time to get on the ground in the city.

What is your favorite memory from your time at Westminster?

My very first memory of WCA was sitting in Florence Lewis' office before I began attending the school. We finished the interview and she aside as we walked down the hallways, “You know, Jake, I forgot to mention, we don't have locks on our lockers here.”



Surprised, I asked, “Why not?!” She said, “Because relationships here are built on trust and they endure by grace. We trust YOU not to take what isn't yours, but if you do mess up, we'll be there for you.” I was surprised, to say the least, but more than that, I was endeared. I wanted to be a part of this community, especially if the terms were couched in grace.

Looking back, did Westminster prepare you for the life you're leading?

The first thing to come to mind is the effort to integrate faith into all of life, not to compartmentalize it or silo it into another realm altogether. We have a natural inclination to separate what we do on Sunday from the other six days of the week. Learning how to worship God through your studies now helps merge and harmonize faith and work in adulthood; this perspective is priceless.

Any advice for current Westminster students?

As a filter for making major life decisions, consider two things: close relationships and your local church. If you have a local church that preaches the Gospel faithfully and a close group of friends, you're incredibly blessed. I'd argue, most of your joy and happiness will come from these two places. I think God's designed it this way. We get most of our joy in Him through the means He's created. Sadly, I've pastored too many people who have left happy and healthy environments for “greener pastures” or “career enhancers.” What most people come to realize is they forfeited peace for the lonely pursuit of money and position. •

To read the rest of our interview with Jake, visit wcastl.org/chimes.



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JUNE
3-28

GRADES
K-9

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