



## SUMMER EDITION

"I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

(2026-2027 WSCS Theme Verse)

### **A NOTE FROM MR. MAC (McNamara)**

Hello Friends, it is great to be here and to begin serving WSCS! I and my wife Sharon are excited about this new season the Lord has brought us into.

To begin I have to say I have felt very welcomed by so many WSCS people, both current families and legacy families that I have met at church or out and about. Thank you for the kind words, encouragement, and the great stories about WSCS spanning decades.

To recap a little about myself - I am originally from Elmhurst, IL (Chicago burbs) and my wife is from Chatham, Ontario (Canada). We met at Calvin College and we spent over 30 years raising our kids and living in Chatham. We have four adult children now, spread between Phoenix, AZ and Ottawa, Ontario; and we have 7 grandchildren who are awesome. Sharon and I like to hike, bike, run, and play games (cards, Mario Kart, and board games). Before being a principal I was a Visual Arts and Shop teacher, before that I worked in Marketing and Advertising.

### **SUMMER HOURS**

Over the summer there are lots of things to do at school so I will have office hours. Tuesday and Wednesdays 8:30-2:30. Outside of that, feel free to call and we can make an appointment. One exception, I will be away the first few days of August, other than that, please feel free to stop in and say hello. I look forward to meeting you all.

### **ONE REASON WHY.**

One reason why I feel called to Christian Education is... I believe we, the Christian School, have a vital role in assisting parents in the faith formation of our children. We also have a unique role in connecting biblical truth, with the values taught at home, to every subject area of life - and that through Christ-centered education, we help prepare our children for lifelong service in every sector and sphere of life.

A favorite quote: *'There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'* ~ Abraham Kuyper

Shalom

Patrick McNamara  
Head of School & Lifelong Learner  
West Side Christian School

## ***JOB OPENINGS***

**SPANISH TEACHER**, K-8, part time M-Th

**TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TECHNICIAN**, part-time

## ***SUMMER OFFICE HOURS***

Our summer school office hours will be Tuesday & Wednesday from 8:30am - 12:30pm and by appointment at [school@wschristian.org](mailto:school@wschristian.org).

Office Hours for our Development Director, Dale Burghgraef ([dburghgraef@wschristian.org](mailto:dburghgraef@wschristian.org)), and our Business Manager, Nina VanHuelen ([nvanheulen@wschristian.org](mailto:nvanheulen@wschristian.org)), are T/W/Th from 8:30am-3:30pm. For appointments during or outside of these hours, please email them.

## ***2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR***

The **2026-2027 WSCS CALENDAR** can be found here.

## ***TRIP***

During the summer, TRIP will NOT be processed weekly. It will be processed one more time this summer on Tuesday, August 11 by 9am and will be ready for pick up the following Wednesday. TRIP will start back up in the first week of school.

The office will have physical gift cards that will be available during summer office hours. E-gift cards are also available anytime through the RaiseRight app.

Payouts for the 2025-2026 school year were added to your FACTS account at the end of June. Payouts will be reflected in FACTS.

## ***SUMMER CAMP CONNECTION***

Our campus was buzzing with activity last week! "From nature hikes to storytelling, building to cooking, and science to play, every experience was woven with intentionality and joy. We're so thankful for the chance to grow students' minds through this incredible learning landscape and even more excited to see how students continue to use their gifts to serve God and others in the years ahead," shared Mrs. Staal, excitedly!

## ***GOLF OUTING UPDATES***

**WSCS COMMUNITY GOLF OUTING IS AUGUST 22, 2026!** Join us for a fun day on the course at our 4-Person Scramble! Enjoy friendly competition, on-course contests, prizes, and fellowship with our school community. Grab your foursome and join us! 9:00 AM shotgun start! Registration coming soon!

**WSCS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING:** The 38th annual WSCS Educational Foundation golf outing took place at The Mines golf course on Friday, June 12. For the seventh consecutive year, every available spot for golf was taken for which we are grateful. It was a great weather day with sunny skies, a slight breeze, and temperatures in the mid 70's. A new feature this year was having two women professional golfers who took on the field in both a longest drive and closest to the pin challenge. The day finished with a buffet dinner and the awarding of prizes. Judging by the many smiling faces, a good time was had by all. Funds raised by this event help grow the Foundation's endowment fund which makes an annual gift to West Side Christian School. This year's gift of \$208,000 reduced each K-8 student's tuition by over \$700.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** To help you prepare for the upcoming school year a list of school supplies students in K-8th will need for the 2026-2027 can be found [here](#).

**CLASS LISTS.** This is a very complicated and important process at West Side Christian School. There are a lot of factors that are considered as we make these, including but not limited to, academics, behavior, classroom support needs, former teachers by family, friendships, gender ratio, personality, student count. Therefore, WSCS does not take formal requests. Class lists will NOT be released to families until early August.

**SPORTS PHYSICALS:** For the 2026-2027 school year sports physicals will be required for middle school students who wish to participate in athletics.

**SUMMER COMMUNITY GARDEN NIGHTS:** Join us every Tuesday from 6:45–8:00 pm in the WSCS Garden for a relaxed evening of planting, harvesting, learning, and connecting in community. Families are welcome, children can help in the garden or enjoy the playground, and participants are invited to sample and take home fresh produce and extra plants as available. Come grow with us this summer.

**SUMMER READING OPPORTUNITIES:** Students in grades K-8th grade have the opportunity to participate in a summer reading challenge. For every day that students read for 15 minutes or more, they can mark off a day on the bookmark. Each completed bookmark is an entry into a drawing for some Barnes and Noble gift certificates. Each student who completes at least one bookmark will receive a bag of goodies and a book. Our local bookstores and public libraries also offer summer reading incentives. For more information on these programs, check out the links provided.

- [GRPL](#)
- [Schuler Books](#)
- [KDL](#)
- [Barnes and Noble](#)
- [Pizza Hut](#)

Have fun and happy reading! Mrs. Kuzma

**WSCS ROBOTICS INTEREST FORM:** If your child is interested in designing, building, and programming, please complete our [Robotics Interest Form](#). Your feedback will help us plan for the 2026/2027 school year.