



## 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 PRINCIPAL BROWER

It was important to us that we finished strong and celebrated the amazing things God has done throughout the year as we anticipate his goodness shining in the year to come! And we did it! Our Celebration Chapel began with this year's theme verse, introduced next year's theme verse, and ended with a blessing song.

My summer encouragement for our students:

#### Love.

**L** - Look for the good in other

**O** - Overlook things that may annoy you but are out of their control

**V** - Value one another

**E** - Express your appreciation for others

**BQW. Best Quality Work.** God talks about this in Col 3:23 when he tells us, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

**Good. Bad. Better.** God made all things good. Look for the **GOOD!** Sin entered the world and messed things up. Recognize the **BAD.** God calls us to be Christian agents of change in this world. Let him use you to make things **BETTER!**

**Read.** Read your Bible every day. Try to read all the way from Genesis to through Revelation!

**Pray your ABC's.** Spend time thinking about who God is and use the letters of the alphabet from A to Z to direct your prayers of praise.

## **THANK YOU**

The cards, gifts, hugs, and well-wishes as I ended my time at WSCS are greatly appreciated. Thank you for making my last day so special.

## **BRIGHT SPOTS**

### **Clap Out.**

Last Wednesday, our 8th graders walked our WSCS hallways for the last time as our students. The halls were lined with students and staff who clapped and cheered for our graduates as we celebrated a bitter-sweet good-bye.

### **Graduation!**

It was an honor to celebrate our Class of 2026!



### **Award Recipients**

Each year at Graduation, we have the sincere joy of honoring an Outstanding Alumnus and a Distinguished Volunteer.

This year's recipient of our Outstanding Alumnus Award was Ellen Koster. Mrs. Koster's journey at West Side Christian began in 1961 when she entered kindergarten. She attended West Side through 9th grade, building a foundation of faith and learning that would shape her future. After graduating from high school and college, she found herself drawn back to the place that had always felt like home. In 1981, she returned to begin her teaching career at West Side Christian and later retired. She has continued volunteering in the classroom and substitute teaching and for nearly four decades, she faithfully has used her gifts to teach, encourage, and disciple young people.

Marsha Mulder was named as our Distinguished Volunteer Award winner. Over the years, she has generously shared her time and talents in countless ways. She has volunteered for field trips, class parties, and class trips; served as a room mom; coordinated room moms, supported staff appreciation events; participated on the 8th Grade Play Steering Committee; and helped with transportation and snacks for athletic events. No matter the task, she approaches it with enthusiasm and a servant's heart.

Her willingness to share her gifts, her time, and her love has made a lasting impact on our school community. Through her faithful service, she has helped create meaningful experiences, strengthen relationships, and make West Side Christian a place where students, families, and staff feel supported and cared for.

## **UPDATED SCHOOL LOGO and BRANDING GUIDE**

As a result of ongoing observations over the past few years, it was determined that there was a strong desire to make a few adjustments to our current branding. This Winter/Spring the Board engaged in a review of possible adjustments that could be made. The Board engaged a branding consultant who provided recommendations from an outside perspective. The recommendations were carefully guided and limited to only address certain areas of the brand, in the spirit of maintaining the core elements of the current WSCS brand.

A lot of care and thought went into not only improving certain elements of the brand, but working hard to lay out implementation strategies that the Board felt would serve our school for years to come.

The results of this work led to a Board discussion and a vote to approve the updates and implementation guidelines.

We are excited to announce that the Viking is back! See the samples below to get a glimpse of what is to come!

## **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). The office will be closed the week of June 29-July 3.

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 twice during the summer. The order due dates are Tuesday, July 7 by 9am and 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 will take place at the end June. Payouts will be reflected in FACTS.

## **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.

**THE WSCS FINANCE TEAM** thanks all of our WSCS Families for their work in enrolling their children with us next year. For those parents that have applied for tuition assistance, if you have any questions or further dialogue needed, please email [accounting@wschristian.org](mailto:accounting@wschristian.org), and we will be sure to respond and work together on any required follow up.

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

**LITTLE SPROUTS CHILDCARE.** Looking for ways to support our childcare program? Save the date for the annual car wash on June 23 and 24 from 10:00am-12:00pm and 2:00-4:00pm.

**SUMMER COMMUNITY GARDEN NIGHTS:** Join us this summer for evenings in the garden - an open invitation for families to learn, grow, and enjoy time together in community. **Beginning Tuesday, June 16, we'll gather every Tuesday from 6:45–8:00 p.m.** to tend the garden through planting, caring for beds, and learning creative, hands-on ways to reduce weeds while supporting healthy growth.

Kids are welcome to join in the garden or play on the playground while adults and families enjoy time in the garden, and together we'll enjoy the beauty (and a bit of the harvest!) along the way. Come as you are and be part of a simple, meaningful rhythm of summer growth.

**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