



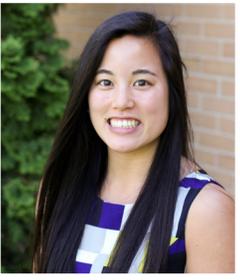
West Side
Christian School
BEYOND BELIEF

Echo

FALL 2022

WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear WSCS Family and Friends,

Welcome to our school's 140th year!

In this extraordinary year, as a school, we want to celebrate His faithfulness to our community. It is hard to fathom the number of students and families we have impacted over this span of time. We have lived and experienced so much together, from World War I and II, global pandemics (Various flus, cholera, HIV/AIDS, and COVID), presidential assassination, four school buildings operating at one time, over 600 students enrolled in 1990.

This has already been an extraordinary year in so many ways. While we all have seen significant challenges in 2022, we have also been amazed by God's provision and the faithfulness of His people. We are all doing our part to support the Christ-centered teaching and learning happening each day. Everyday is an opportunity to continue to teach and love His precious children, and help them see God's hand and care for all of us.

Here are a few highlights from this year:

1. Praising Jesus and learning more about God's love at our all school chapel in the gymnasium
2. Experiencing Christ and growing in their faith at their annual middle school retreat at the Conference Grounds (see details later in this publication)
3. Increasing the amount of time spent outdoors on our beautiful campus and in His creation (see article for more details on our outdoor education program)
4. Hiring three full-time teachers in our Educational Support Services (ie. special education) to service over 50 K-8 students in our inclusion or resource room programs
5. Welcoming new staff and families to our wonderful WSCS community

Through it all, God is present and His Word is our foundation. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. The partnership with you continues to bring us great joy. Together we will continue to have a wonderful year!

In Christ,

An Kurosu

An Kurosu
Head of School





Congratulations Class of 2022

We graduated 31 students this past spring and held the ceremony at Westend CRC. Our students are currently enrolled in seven different high schools.

WSCS Educational Foundation Golf Outing Recap



The annual WSCS Educational Foundation Golf Outing took place on Friday, June 3. Once again, The Mines golf course was filled to capacity with golfers who enjoyed a beautiful afternoon. The day was kicked off with the sounds of bagpipes and drums performed by the Grand Rapids District Pipe Band. Special recognition was

bestowed on Marv DeBoer and Vern Groenendyk as together they represent over 50 years of leadership in the role of principal at WSCS. The Foundation continues to be grateful for the strong support of our sponsorship group for this event. This year's event raised over \$48,000. These funds help grow the foundation which in turn makes an annual gift to WSCS. For this school year, the gift amount is a record \$170,000 which helps reduce the tuition rate for every K-8 student by approximately \$525/child.

We give thanks!



Loyalty Drive

CHECK YOUR MAILBOXES!

October is West Side Christian's Loyalty Drive kick-off month, where we ask for our wonderful WSCS family and friend's for financial support. So many of us in this community see the value and effects of excellent Christian education in our lives and in the lives of our parents and children as well, and are willing as a testament to that work support WSCS monetarily in the Loyalty Drive. In addition, hundreds of people volunteer, attend events, help current WSCS families with their tuition commitment, and pray for WSCS regularly. We are beyond grateful for all the ways our family shows support for WSCS, especially in this momentous 140th year of West Side Christian School!



Do you receive our latest Beyond Belief Bulletin quarterly e-newsletter?

Stay up to date on the latest school news and highlights by subscribing at wscsgr.org/wscsbulletin.



8th Grade / MS Retreat

The 8th grade class was blessed to be able to spend a couple of days growing, bonding, and learning on their annual retreat earlier this month. The group spent time lending a hand in the garden at Habitat for Humanity and listening to speakers Joy VanderVennen and Matthew Van Dongen as they challenged students to be leaders this year and take a 'step out of the boat' when it comes to their faith in Christ. Students also enjoyed time fellowshiping together at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds in Grand Haven, where they participated in group games and fellowship. They were prepared when the 6th and 7th grade students joined them at the Ground on Friday for a fun day of team games and free time at the beach, activity center, and field area. It was a wonderful couple of days where staff, students, and parents were able to cultivate community. We are thankful for the generous gifts that were donated to help offset the cost of this amazing opportunity!

Hoop House/ Outdoor Ed Update



Walking out to the school garden a monarch butterfly (or, as our spanish class says while they're learning in the garden, mariposa) joins the class. God shines His glory through the powerful outdoor learning moments our students experience throughout the seasons. As students take their learning outside you'll notice that it has a positive impact in the nearby landscape and beyond. Student-led projects increased the native plant populations creating an inviting habitat for butterflies and other important pollinators. Our school garden continues to provide fresh veggies for our Little Sprouts Childcare, a space for intentional learning for our students (including Spanish language development), and fresh produce for community families through donations to the Northwest Food Pantry. In addition, our campus now has a small orchard of fruit producing trees where students develop content skills as they enjoy a fresh seasonal snack. And later this winter, we look forward to tapping the trees for syrup. To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

We appreciate your continued prayers. We have made some progress as we work with the city through the hoophouse/greenhouse permit process. We have added a fence that is a necessary step. There is an upcoming meeting scheduled for the end of September, between Mrs. Staal and the Grand Rapids Assistant Planning Director. We're hopeful as we watch God's plan for our school unfold.



West Side Christian School
955 Westend NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

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Visit us at wscsgr.org

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/wscsgr • INSTAGRAM: instagram.com/wscsgr • EMAIL: school@wschristian.org

Upcoming Activities & Events

OCTOBER 1: Car Show: located at Westview Christian Reformed Church - 2929 Leonard St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

OCTOBER 20-21: Christian Educator Association (CEA) Convention for K-8 Teachers, South Bend

NOVEMBER 17-19: 8th Grade Play: Beauty & the Beast

NOVEMBER 23-25: Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER 3: Christmas Marketplace

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 4: Christmas Break

Write a review! ★★★★★

Do you love WSCS? One way to increase our presence online and promote our amazing school is by writing a positive review for us on Niche, Facebook, or Google. Scan the QR code for easy step-by-step instructions. To encourage more participation and as a small token of appreciation for your time, you will be entered in a random drawing for a \$50 gas card for each platform you review. You will need to use your real full name (you cannot be anonymous) when you share your story with us.



Rooted for 140 Years!

Mark your calendars for WSCS Homecoming Week May 9th-12th!

We are celebrating this incredible milestone with a week full of activities for alumni, staff, students, and families! From a wiffleball game to a night to remember at the Goei Center, to an All-School Birthday Party and Grandparents & Grandfriends day, together we are celebrating God's goodness to West Side throughout our 140 years of growing students' minds, guiding servant hearts, and glorifying Jesus Christ.

As part of the celebration, we will also be selling a limited edition vintage t-shirt and sweatshirt. Please save the date for the 140th Celebration at the Goei Center on May 11. More information will be coming soon about both the apparel and the event. Don't miss out on all the fun!

Deadline is November 1, 2022