

A Glimpse into Life at Whiteburg Christian Academy

Warrior Window

THE MAGAZINE

2024



Grow here.
Go anywhere.



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Whitesburg Christian Academy is a ministry of Whitesburg Baptist Church.

FROM THE HEADMASTER

When Jesus called twelve men to be his disciples, He repeated two simple words to them, one by one: "follow me." Their response was equally as simple: "they left all and followed him." Jesus used the same word to call many others, but the call to the twelve was unique. For nearly three years He led them, taught them, and allowed them to witness miracles and listen as He encountered many kinds of people. The word "follow" is used in the Bible in the same way we use it today; it means to move along behind someone who is a guide or leader.

It was also used of students who "followed" a particular teacher. In other words, the disciples were His students.

Paul encouraged the believers at Corinth to "Be ye followers of me, even as I am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1 KJV). In other versions the word "imitate" replaces "follow". Jesus' disciples were students who were expected to learn from Him. Paul's readers were challenged to follow, or imitate, him as he followed Christ. What a great example that is for us as parents, grandparents, and educators. It is not enough to challenge our students to follow Christ, but we must lead them to be followers and to imitate us. We must demonstrate the person of Christ to them.

When Jesus was about to be taken up into heaven after His resurrection, He left His followers with these words, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV). Between the words "follow me" and "go into the world", Jesus disciplined the twelve. Sometimes they doubted, questioned, and often followed Him at a distance. When later empowered by the Holy Spirit, they changed the world forever.

In my early involvement with The Academy as chairman of the School Committee, we formulated mission statements, core values, and other guiding principals that eventually set the course of what kind of school we would be. These included a desire for students to be passionate followers of Christ, well trained in academics, and servant leaders in their adult lives. I remember making a statement during that time that went something like this, "God will certainly call full time vocational pastors and church staff members from among our graduates. He will call missionaries to serve in far off lands. But I feel we need future generations of strong young Christians to become educators, politicians, bankers, business owners, and all kinds of professions and live their strong Christian faith in our fallen world."

This concept can be stated more succinctly: "Grow here, go anywhere." At The Academy our students are not simply taught the Bible, they are grown to be followers of Christ. They grow in every aspect of life: physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Here, they grow so they can go anywhere God chooses to call them. "Grow here, go anywhere" is not just a catchy phrase, it is a core principle of who we are.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Reeder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerry Reeder

ADMISSIONS



Camille Barker
ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR

At the Academy, we partner with Christian parents and Christian teachers to create an environment where students are known, cared for, engaged, and challenged. Our students GROW academically, physically, and spiritually because relationships matter. The Academy has used this model to educate students for 25 years. It works because these relationships are so foundational to the success of our students, our teachers, and their families. Relationships matter just like our relationship with Jesus matters. Once this relationship is thriving, everything else falls into place.

This educational model prepares Academy students to GO anywhere. I've witnessed this with my own adult children who graduated from the Academy as well as their peers and other Academy graduates. Our students GO into the world and make a difference for Christ and a difference in our world. We have alumni who are in the military, doctors, architects, pastors, missionaries, engineers, nurses, pharmacists, teachers, etc. They are prepared and ready to GO anywhere the Lord leads them!

The Academy remains strong and continues to grow. Last year we had 834 students. This year we have 887 students. The Lord continues to bless us with new families who are discovering that a Christian education in a relationship-based school is key to their child's success.

For our Academy families, re-enrollment began January 4, 2024. Many of our grades are currently full so it is important to secure your child's seat for 2024-25. There continues to be overwhelming interest from prospective families for the 2024-25 school year. Prospective families may begin applying for any grades with open seats on January 26, 2024.

I am forever grateful to have been a part of the Academy family for 17 years and counting. Our boys started at the Academy in Kindergarten and 1st grade. Our daughter is an Academy senior this year. This school has shaped who they are as people and continues to influence their lives with friendships, lessons learned, and character built. As we continue to GROW students into young men and women who GO into the world and become passionate followers of Christ, I am constantly reminded of the impact Whitesburg Christian Academy has and continues to have on our generation and the generations to come. Students GROW here, so they can GO anywhere. Thank you, Lord, for the blessing of the Academy!





OUR MISSION

...assist Christian parents by providing students an academically excellent and Christ-centered education for life-long service to Christ.

Student ENROLLMENT

Grammar: 547 Upper: 340

TOTAL: 887 (+6.1%)

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

TK-6th

17.6

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

15.1

UPPER SCHOOL

STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO

7th-12th

14:1

11.7:1

25 years of

LEARNING, Discovery & SHARING

26 competitive AHSAA sanctioned

ATHLETIC teams

128 Dedicated and caring FACULTY, STAFF AND COACHES

25 AVERAGE ACT in class of 2023



\$4,277,418

offered in SCHOLARSHIPS



to senior class of 2022

100 CHURCHES Represented



99% of our students pursue a COLLEGE DEGREE, MILITARY SERVICE OR MISSIONS

2,132

Community SERVICE HOURS

completed by the class of 2024 (29 STUDENTS)



114 students jam in our BANDS

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW taught in ALL SUBJECTS

- Truth determines beliefs
- Beliefs shape values
- Values drive actions

76+ students & staff traveled the globe with STUDENT LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY: Orlando, D.C., London, Normandy, and Paris

19+ students & staff served with MISSION LAB: New Orleans

30 ACRES around our campus to roam, discover and explore

INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS 45

17 TEAM STATE TROPHIES

340

students involved in

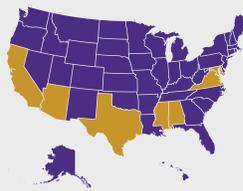
14

UPPER SCHOOL Clubs

NEW

Students: 76

Families: 71



We welcomed new families from Alabama, Arizona, California, Maryland, Mississippi, Texas, and Virginia.

887 students worship in weekly CHAPELS and study in daily BIBLE classes

GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

5 Track 2 Cross Country 1 Swimming

Take Me Home and Watch Me Grow!

'How sweet to hold a newborn baby, And feel the pride and joy he gives; But greater still the calm assurance: This child can face uncertain days because He lives.'

As parents, we can all relate to that feeling of holding our babies for the first time. There are all kinds of emotions that come with that feeling as you realize you are taking home this tiny little human and are responsible for his/her growth.



When parents decide to send their child, their most prized possession, to the Academy, we count this as an honor. We take being a part of the three-legged stool, which is the home, the church, and the school very seriously. Our desire is for the Academy to serve as a home away from home.

It is as if the children enter the Academy saying, "Watch Us Grow!", and that they do. We watch them grow from August to May each year and year after year after year. They grow physically from booster seats in the cars to being taller than many of their teachers. We see them soar academically as they begin to learn to sound out words to reading novels, from counting objects to converting fractions to decimals, from learning to write their first sentences to writing five paragraph essays, and oh so much more!



Lori Edgemon
GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Elizabeth Allen
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

One of the greatest things we witness each year is how they grow in their relationships with Christ. They begin each morning in prayer, study the Bible each day in class, see how God is present in every subject area, attend chapel weekly, memorize scripture and learn how it applies to their daily lives, so they can grow to be more like Him. What a blessing it is to witness how He works during the school day! Recently, one of our guided tours for our prospective families had to make a detour due to a teacher and student praying. We later found out this student was praying to invite Jesus into her heart! That is the best reason we have ever heard of for a detour!

Watching our amazing teachers fertilize and water our students daily is a true blessing! We are thankful they GROW HERE with us and are ready to GO ANYWHERE when they spread their wings and fly!

We are thankful and blessed to have a front row seat in watching our Academy students grow! We love our Academy family!



Mrs. Lewis and the Amos Family

Mrs. Melinda Lewis has been teaching for 18 years at the Academy. It has been so special for her to have all four of the Amos children in her first grade class. She has taught Haynes (12th), Finn (10th), Lola (8th) and now has Briggs (1st). Mrs. Lewis is pictured with all of the Amos children. We asked her a few questions:

How long have you been at the Academy?

I'm in my 18th year teaching at the Academy. When I started the Academy, I wasn't married. I was Ms. Hooper till October 2010.

Mrs. Edgemon says you live here. Tell us what you do at school in addition to teaching first grade.

I love working in my classroom! It's my home away from home. I love for my classroom to have a cozy, inviting atmosphere for learning to take place. I also enjoy tutoring during the summer and school year. Not having children of my own, I love to pour into kids' lives!

How has the Academy changed since Haynes (now a senior) was in first grade?

When Haynes Amos was in the first grade, our school was in Whitesburg Baptist Church. Our school was very compact, not spread out in different buildings. The size of the student body has increased significantly.

How has it stayed the same?

It has stayed the same in that God is always faithful to place remarkable families in our school and in my classroom.

What do you love most about teaching here?

I love that all my colleagues love being here as much as I! The joy of the Lord is in this place!!

Tell us something fun we may not know about you.

I live on a farm with six horses, five ducks, and two Dobermans: Doc and Daisy. I also have a hedgehog named Hero. We are building our home. We've just finished the screened in back porch. I'm highly involved with my church in Athens. I play the piano and sing three services each week. I'm also learning to play the mandolin.



Mrs. Lewis has had a front row seat into the magic of first grade for 18 years!



Haynes in 1st grade.

A Growing Curriculum

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



The Importance of Curriculum

The Bible tells us in both Jeremiah and Psalms that God knew us before we were born. We are created in the image of God. As an educator, I encourage all students and believe each child is a “genius” at something. They are also challenged in other areas. The Bible states clearly that everyone has received spiritual gifts and are to use them for God’s glory. In the same vein, every student is given academic strengths and gifts that should be used for the glory of God. It is our responsibility as educators to find and nurture those gifts in each child.

In any educational institution, there are 3 areas that need to be observed: environment, curriculum and instruction. Each one can be modeled in a Godly way that will educate our children to be lifelong ambassadors for Christ. In this article, I will address curriculum.

A school curriculum is the subject content that is taught to students each day. As a Christian school, we ensure that Biblical Worldview is taught throughout each class each day. Examples are “God’s Order” in Math and Science, success of Godly societies in history and the ultimate downfall of societies that were led by Godless leaders in Social Studies, and beautiful works of literature that express God’s majesty in the Language Arts. Other curricular offerings that help develop Christian leaders are high-interest electives that are in great demand in the workforce. By offering these specific classes, students are better prepared to be Godly leaders in the workforce.



Robby Parker
UPPER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Curriculum at the Academy: Q&A with Mr. Parker

You have worked hard bringing our high school curriculum to the next level with AP classes, World Language offerings and specialized electives. Tell us what you are most proud of.

To begin with, I have an Assistant Principal, Amy Bolton, who does an excellent job leading our AP program through extensive research. We are a college prep school, and I am proud that we now offer AP in three of the four subject areas. One thing I am especially proud of is that last year and this year, 100% of our seniors have taken at least one college-level class.

We are now up to 5 AP classes (Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Chemistry, U.S. History and Psychology) and will continue to add them. In every core content area, we also offer dual enrollment. I am also proud that we have advanced our world languages to now offer French and Spanish through level 4. We’ll keep growing that part of the curriculum and look forward to offering AP in the future. In English, our teachers are outstanding, and Mrs. Barnes prepares kids to be the best communicators through Dual Enrollment as well as Rhetoric where they learn to think critically and defend their faith.

Why are high-level classes important?

High level classes create thinkers. They put you in uncomfortable situations and make you persevere. You have to be a thinker and a creator and a problem solver to succeed in life. When our students go into their careers, the academic endurance and ability to persevere is going to make them leaders for Christ. We want our kids to be as prepared in the world as they can be.

What new courses does the Academy offer to high school students this year?

This year our new course offerings are AP Pre-Calculus and AP Calculus. I am proud of this because AP Classes are not just classes you can throw in and offer. You have to have a foundation, especially in math. We have worked hard on building this foundation from the 7th grade up, and are now in a position to offer the highest level of math. I am proud of our students and teachers for the rigorous training that is preparing them to succeed in these college-level courses.



Tell us the exciting news about the AP Chemistry students.

The fact that 100% of our AP Chemistry students passed the exam last May is unheard of. I have not seen that in all of my years in education. The Alabama pass rate was 57.9%, and ours was 100%. Mrs. Cox does an incredible job and this class has become a favorite for our kids. It's hard, but they learn so much. We're seeing big jumps in their ACT scores as a result of taking this class.

Tell us about the new high school electives.

We look at the most highly-demanded jobs in our region and the world. We have found that the majority are health-science related. Health needs are not going away, and the healthcare profession will always be one of the most highly demanded. Therefore we want to give our kids an opportunity to explore high-demand positions. We have incredible speakers from the community that give our students access to real-world glimpses into the medical field. We also have 20 students that are now CPR certified from their hard work in the Introduction to Health Sciences class. I'm so proud of these kids!

The last one I'll mention is the Life Skills class because it's fun! Mrs. Mokler has done a great job teaching kids how to meal plan, plant a garden, make bread, and survive in the outdoors for a week. They've done some really neat things they'll take with them for life. As we talk about technical and challenging classes, there has to be a time to have fun. That's one of those classes where they laugh. Happy kids are smart kids and good kids.

What is your vision for the future?

Our next step is seminar classes. This is something we did in Madison modeled after Thomas Jefferson High School in Virginia and Stuyvesant in New York. This will give students the opportunity to receive multiple AP credits in the same course.

Also, I pray our students leave here, not only academically prepared, but also with memories of how much they've enjoyed their time in upper school. I want our kids to have an experience where they can look back and say they've had a good time. The Lord wants us to enjoy life. I have a great time every day. These are great years and the Academy is a special place. Our kids are truly the best.

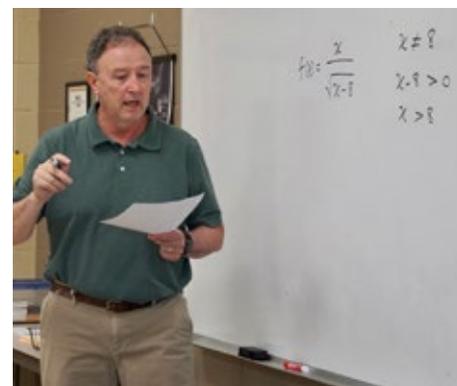


"AP classes well prepared me for college level courses. The classes taught me great time management skills and also provided me with a class at a high academic level that matches my college classes. I have many friends who have struggled in chemistry and psychology in college, but because of the AP classes I was able to take, I do not have to take these courses and can get an early start on my major-focused courses. AP classes gave me a GPA boost going into college, but the benefits I gained after college because I took these classes was a far greater benefit. Other courses such as calculus and anatomy have also made my first semester easier as well as our amazing English courses. I felt very prepared going into my first semester of college because of education at Whitesburg, especially because of the high-level AP courses I was able to take."

Joshua Dean (Class of 2023, Mississippi State University)

"Taking AP courses during my time at Whitesburg has tremendously helped me at the collegiate level. I took 3 AP courses while at WCA and they taught me valuable lessons. I took AP Chemistry with Mrs. Cox, and while I did not achieve the college credit, the next time I took the ACT following that class, my Science section score went up several points. I have no doubt that the increase in score was due to that AP Chemistry class. This resulted in a higher overall ACT score, which led to more scholarship opportunities for college. Also, as a student, all of the AP courses I took significantly strengthened my time management skills. Balancing extracurriculars with AP classes was tough, but it forced me to develop time management skills that have now put me in a much better position than my college peers. Overall, AP classes can be a challenge, but the teachers at Whitesburg will help you through it every step of the way and the courses prepare you well for life after WCA."

Jon David Looser (Class of 2023, Birmingham Southern College)



GROWING *a Legacy*

MICHELE TATE AND WARRIOR TENNIS

Michele Tate is the longest-standest coach in Academy history. Her tennis legacy started with just four girls and a JV program. After 13 years of coaching, she has grown the program to co-ed varsity and JV programs, won sectionals and coached winners at State. As she retires to spend more time with her grandchildren, we honor her legacy and thank her for the years of investment into the lives of players.



Photo from 2000: Meagan, Morgan, Madison (not old enough for WCA yet).

The Beginning for the Tates

My husband, Jeff, and I brought our kids to tour WCA in the spring of its founding year (1999-2000) for a tour. We were looking for a Christian environment that would teach above the level of our kids' heads (we did not get that at our local public school). We enrolled immediately for the fall and WCA has been life changing to this farming family. Our family met people we never would have known otherwise. My daughters lives were molded by this environment I like to call a greenhouse for their faith and academic achievement. I strongly believe that surrounding your children at home, church and school by believers gives them all they need for support to make good decisions to follow the Lord in their lives. Meagan (2010) was in the first graduating class and is now a nurse and mother of 5 children. Morgan (2012) became an architect and married Cameron Baker (2011) and has 2 boys. Madison (2015) is an engineer and is expecting her first baby in January. I loved this school for my girls and I have loved it even after they have been long gone.

In the early school years, I helped teach computer and yearbook classes on a part time basis. After leaving my job as Children's Director at my church and breaking away from my farm work, I started at the Academy at the end spring of 2009.

The Beginning for the Tennis Program

The school needed a tennis coach in the Spring of 2011 so I started coaching a JV tennis team of 3 girls. I had no idea I would be coaching for 13 years, or that I would be director of AHSAA 1A-3A area for tennis in North Alabama.

The single team of 3 led to teams for JV and varsity and then, in 2017, a boys team was started. Developing the teams was easy as our school was growing, so our teams grew. What started out as 3 girls grew to 36 players on 4 teams of JV girls, varsity girls, JV boys and varsity boys. Many great people came on board to help coach these kids. I wasn't alone for long.

In 2015, the 5th year of coaching, success came at our sectional tournament for the girls and they became the first-ever tennis team at WCA to go to the state tournament. We had a 3-year run with those girls going to state. I will always remember those special times. We shot a photograph of us pointing to the Lord, after we prayed and thanked the Lord for that success.



After the year COVID shut down spring athletics, we have been to state with our girls team every year. What a high caliber of tennis players! The spring of 2022 was a highlight of my 13 years coaching. The varsity girls won the section tournament and every doubles team won 1st in the tournament and every singles player won 1st or 2nd in that tournament. The varsity girls placed 6th in the state. We had semi-finalists at the state tournament.

The boys team reached quick success too, with just 2 years under the belt of that new team, they won the sectional tournament, went to the state tournament and placed 5th in the state in 1A-3A tennis. The boys team has gone to state every year since 2019. The 2022 season was a real highlight for me because another school record was set – our boys #1 player won 1st place at state in singles, and two doubles teams won 2nd place at state. As a team, the boys placed 3rd in the state. That same year, we had an “All State” player named from our team, who later went on to be a finalist for the Bryant Jordan Award. What a joy to see success after years of investment!

There are not many sports that you can continue to play competitively late into life, but tennis and golf are exceptions. I know senior citizens that play into their 80's. Because of that, I think it is an excellent sport to teach to all students. I'd love to see the tennis courts on our campus and grammar students learning to play tennis as part of PE. Maybe one day I'll volunteer to do that.

Coaching tennis has been a joy here– both because I love the sport and because I love getting to know so many students and forming deep and meaningful relationships with them and their parents. It's so wonderful to be invited to their weddings and even to play adult tennis leagues with them.

I truly do love these students and hope to keep up with them all of their lives. I may be the longest standing coach at the school, but there are many who have come and gone and made huge contributions to the tennis program. I'm really grateful for all of them! It takes dedication and commitment to make a difference. In the spring of 2024, I'll be helping for the last time with tennis, passing the baton to new coaches. I look forward to seeing the program grow under new, great leadership and to seeing the continual spiritual, athletic and character growth of the students who play this great sport.

Thank you Coach Tate

“There is no one else I would rather have lead me in tennis than you. You have poured into my life not only athletically, but spiritually. Thank you for being someone I could look up to and admire. You have done an incredible job coaching tennis...thank you, again, for being such a wonderful coach and mentor.”

Georgia Stewart, Class of 2023

Coach Tate had a different approach from that of my previous coaches, having a passion for the game AND playing in a Christ-like way. Because of this, I greatly benefited as a player and person. Coach Tate kept a positive attitude despite the match outcome and treated the opposing coaches with kindness and patience. She pushed us to want to be better in our skill set, mental play, and, above all, in our attitude toward others - on and off the court. Through the wins and losses, blazing hot summer camps and ice-cold winter practices, to earning a spot at the State Tournament for the first time in school history, we created many memories and learned many things; but she made sure one thing stood above the rest: there is more to being a good tennis player than just playing tennis well. Thank you, Coach - your passion for the game and playing it well, in all manners, will be sorely missed.

Mary-Elizabeth Cobb Reinhart, Class of 2015



Growing as Teachers

Academy faculty and staff have been traveling all over the U.S. for professional development opportunities this year. Our teachers strive to offer their best to students and to continually grow in knowledge, skills and resources. Grants help us provide high-quality professional development without raising tuition. We have been blessed by grants to send our staff far and wide on these enriching experiences they have brought back to the classroom:



Future of Education Technology Conference – New Orleans, LA

Heidi Simmons and Debra Kiser

“We attended multiple sessions where we learned about engaging apps and applications of current apps and programs which we shared with the Academy faculty and staff. We were able to interface with vendors about software, hardware, cybersecurity, and much more.”

AP Math Summer Institute – Tuscaloosa, AL

Wendell Cook, Angie Cowart

“We left the training excited to introduce our students to AP mathematics. We also received tons of useful materials for our students.”

National Science Teachers Association Conference – Kansas City, MO

Erika Cox, Devin Pond, Robin Hodges

“We received hands-on training for cutting edge new equipment and valuable resources. Science education, especially in our city, is so important and we are committed to staying on top of current scientific information, new equipment, and methods for teaching science in today’s culture.”

Alabama Educational Technology Conference – Huntsville, AL

Debra Riser, Nora Douglas

“We learned how to teach through ‘Tomorrow Glasses’ with Matt Miller, author of AI for Educators. We learned about teaching students about copyright, new features in Google, Apple movie making, the features of the Encyclopedia of Alabama and more!”



Get Your Teach On Conference – Dallas, TX

Melinda Lewis, Brandi Walker, Anna Kachelman, Leah Crouse, Hannah Peters, Jenna Shepard, Ashley Hill, Danielle Robinson, Bobbi Jean Newby, Jennifer Davis

“We enjoyed dynamic and inspiring keynotes and were immersed in learning experiences meant to engage and inspire us to utilize our own unique gifts and talents to make magic in our own classrooms through music, games, and dramatic play. The conference uplifted and encouraged us to be change makers - seeing the very best in those around us and ourselves.”

Southern Association of College Counselors (SACAC) Conference – Jacksonville, FL

Heather Porter

“The SACAC conference was great and had so many wonderful sessions. The most informative was regarding the changes to the FAFSA coming this year.”

Colonial Virginia

Karen Crouch, Koren Olinger and Lesa Roberts

“We were immersed in colonial Virginia and toured the museums, grounds and mansion of President Washington’s Mount Vernon estate as well as the reconstructed and archaeological sites of 17th century Jamestown and Yorktown National Park. Touring the shops, trades, and government sites allowed us to learn about colonial life from several perspectives.”



Alabama Vocal Association Workshop

Montevallo, AL

Kimberly Pugh

Alabama Art Educators Association (AAEA) Conference

Camp McDowell

Sarah Dove and Audrey Geron

A+ College Ready Fall Conferences in Science, Social Studies, Math and English

Devin Pond, Erika Cox, Koren Olinger, Claire Hoffman, Debbie Alley, and Emily Polak

Alabama Music Educators Association (AMEA) Conference

Birmingham, AL

Kimberly Pugh

Alabama Art Educators Association Fall Conference

Dothan, AL

Sarah Dove, Tracey Thompson



Growing as Leaders

The theme of “Grow here, Go anywhere” is applied across the spectrum of all that we do here, to include growth mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. The goal is to equip our students for success in any area that God chooses to call them. One attribute that we focus on, and which is applied in every area of development and life, is growth in leadership. I am often asked if leaders are born or made. The answer is yes. We all are born with certain skills, abilities, talents, and personalities that enable strong leadership. However, training, education, and inspiration can take those natural attributes and make us even stronger leaders.



Jerry Reeder
HEADMASTER

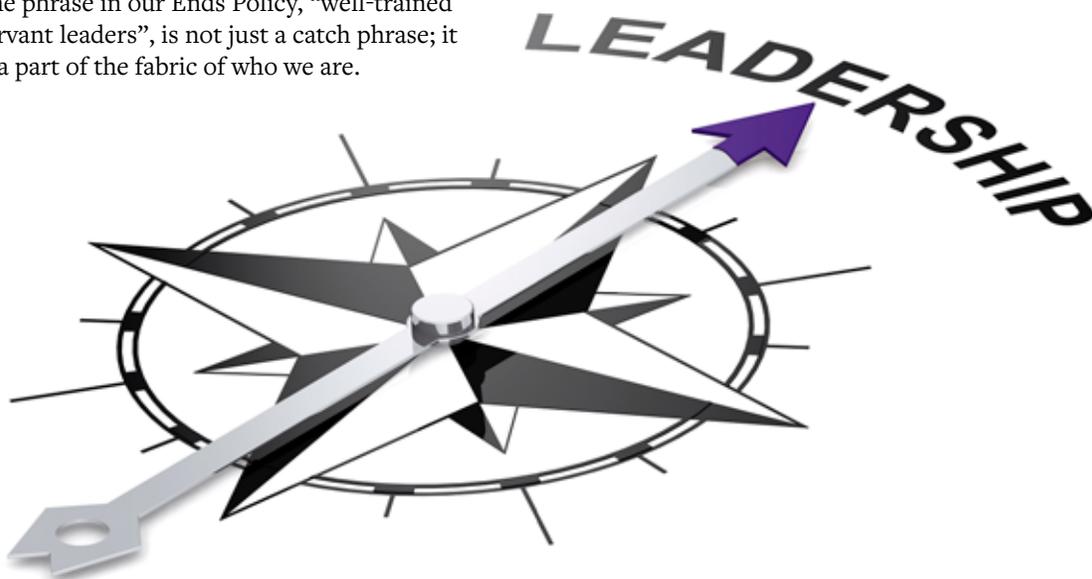
WE ALL ARE BORN WITH CERTAIN SKILLS, ABILITIES, TALENTS, AND PERSONALITIES THAT ENABLE STRONG LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND INSPIRATION CAN TAKE THOSE NATURAL ATTRIBUTES AND MAKE US EVEN STRONGER LEADERS.

The Academy strives from TK through 12th grade to develop leaders. It may begin with the simple opportunity to be the line leader as a TK class moves toward the cafeteria. Leadership is a cross curricular subject. A history lesson will point out strong leaders that influenced history. A Bible teacher will talk about King David, whom Jesus called a “man after God’s own heart”. Teachers in all grades give opportunities to lead in group or classroom activities, administrators enlist leaders for student government, coaches stress the need for leadership in practice and in competition, bands need section leaders. Throughout the school programs, the attributes of good leaders are taught.

In Upper School, various specific opportunities are given to students to advance their leadership skills. Learning and Leading is taught to every student in 7th grade. Students receive instruction in study skills, time management, and other skills needed to become lifetime learners. This class culminates in opportunities to implement those skills in various self-determined projects. High school students have two opportunities to study specific leadership traits in Leadership I and Leadership II classes. These classes involve deep studies of specific traits of leadership and study specific historical leaders through books and documentary films.

The culmination of leadership training occurs in a series of three summer trips students may take with Student Leadership University. A combination of world class leadership speakers such as Pat Williams, Sean McDowell, Jeff Struecker, Ben Carson, Graham Lacey, and John Lennox open the world to our students by showing them Christian leadership in action as well as instruction and inspiration that is life changing. These trips expose students to locations like Washington D.C., the most powerful city in the world; Normandy, where so many lives were given to secure the freedoms we enjoy today; Paris, with tours of The Louvre, Notre Dame, Rodin’s Garden; London, with tours of The British museum, The British Library, The Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul’s Cathedral, and Windsor Castle; and Oxford, with a session in Holy Trinity Church where C.S. Lewis worshipped and is buried in the church graveyard.

The phrase in our Ends Policy, “well-trained servant leaders”, is not just a catch phrase; it is a part of the fabric of who we are.





When I came to The Academy to work as the school counselor in 2010, I started doing a bulletin board for our seniors using the theme from Dr. Seuss, “Oh, The Places You’ll Go”. It would have pictures of the seniors and their post high school plans in the balloons and they would be floating away. It was a cute idea ... but the visual always made me a little sad! Every May we launch a new group of graduates into the “real world” from the Academy. Next year it’s my turn as a parent (but we aren’t thinking about that right now). At the Academy, we are constantly evaluating if we have given our students everything they need before they leave. Have we prepared them for every door to be open to them? Fortunately, the leadership of our school established a clear mission statement and ends policy from the beginning.

The mission of Whitesburg Christian Academy is to assist Christian parents by providing students an academically excellent and Christ-centered education for life-long service to Christ.

Our ends policy is that our students would be passionate followers of Christ and well-trained servant leaders.

Our wonderful college counselor, Mrs. Porter keeps a board outside her office where seniors update their plans. They are currently making pro/con lists, doing final college visits, and having serious dinner table conversations with their parents about what their future holds. The good news is that, as believers, we are not left to search for God’s will like a needle in a haystack. It is not hidden.

In the gospel of Matthew, the mother of James and John came to Jesus and asked if her sons could sit on his right and left side in the new kingdom that he was establishing.

The gospel of Mark recounts a similar occasion when the disciples were disputing who would be the greatest among them in the new kingdom. On both occasions, Jesus’ answers redefine greatness.

He says, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.” (Mark 9:35) “Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:4) “And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:27)

Success for our students will not look like what the world considers success. It will not be measured by money, status, comforts or stability. It will be measured by how they are using their gifts to advance God’s Kingdom.

Success for our students will be that they find where God is at work in their communities, their country and the world and join in. They will find where the critical needs are in our world and meet them. They will use their giftedness to do well, enjoy doing it, benefit others, and glorify God. They will be problem solvers, have courage and endurance, be able to work with and mentor others, and have an accurate view of themselves in light of God’s goodness. These are the characteristics we pray they take with them, wherever they go.



Amy Bolton
UPPER SCHOOL ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL

2024 Seniors: Off to the Races



ANNA PIERCE

Anna Pierce (Class of 2024), state champion runner, has signed to run for LSU after being pursued by many universities. Anna will be the Academy's third D1 college female runner and the second to run for a top SEC team.

Anna says, "I hope I can encourage others in their faith through running. My faith is the sole factor for why I run."

Congratulations to Anna, as the cumulation of hard work, talent, and humility continue providing much-earned recognition, and an opportunity to continue her passion at the next level. May the purple and gold continue!

RILEY WINTON

Riley Winton (Class of 2024) has committed to attend the University of Kentucky where she will join the Club Rodeo team with her horse, Diggy.

Riley says, "I am very excited to attend The University of Kentucky in fall of 2024. I will be studying equine health and science and plan on joining the Kentucky rodeo team. My future goals are to become an equine therapist and rehabilitator, as well as a horse trainer. I have been riding horses since I was four years old and have always known horses are my true passion. Even though I have faced many challenges regarding horses, God has always been there for me and picks me up when I fall."



JAMES HALE THOMAS

Congratulations James Hale Thomas for being named a National Merit Semifinalist. James Hale was joined by all of his Academy teachers since kindergarten to celebrate. To achieve this honor, he scored in the top half of 1% of all students that took the PSAT test. Producing a National Merit Semifinalist is a great achievement for any institution. We are so proud of James Hale and all of his teachers at the Academy.

James Hale says, "I'm so thankful for all of the amazing teachers and administrators who have poured into me at the Academy and led me to this great opportunity." James Hale has been offered an impressive amount of scholarships from a multitude of colleges and universities, and currently plans to attend Auburn University in the fall.

G R O W I N G I N

Faith

LEARNING GOD'S WORD: BIBLE AS A CORE SUBJECT



The Academy is unique in that we teach Bible as a core subject in every grade level. Our youngest Warriors memorize verses each week and have Bible teaching and prayer time every day. Older students not only study Scripture, but learn how to apply it to their lives and relationships. Beginning in middle school, students study other world religions and learn what makes Christianity different. Bible classes are a safe place to ask hard questions: “Why am I here?”, “What is my identity?”, “Why does evil exist?”, “How can I share both truth and love?” High school Bible classes are full of rich discussion about real-world issues. By the time Academy students graduate, they have developed a strong biblical worldview within a loving community. They leave here equipped to share, defend, and walk out their faith.



OUR VISION IS THAT IT WOULD BE SAID OF THE ACADEMY THAT THE STUDENTS ARE PASSIONATE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST AND WELL-TRAINED SERVANT LEADERS.

WEEKLY CHAPEL: WORSHIP, PRAYER AND PEER MENTORING



Students from TK-12th grade experience Chapel at the Academy. Chapel is a highlight of the week with worship, prayer and Bible teaching. Upper School Chapel gives older students the opportunity to lead and encourage others in their faith through peer mentoring and a student-led praise band.



FISHES AND LOAVES:

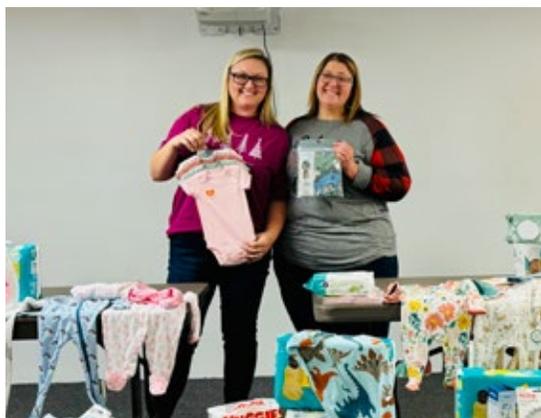
PREPARING TO MEET NEEDS BEFORE THEY ARISE

Fishes and Loaves is the Academy's frozen meal ministry. Sixth grade students, teachers and parent volunteers come together to prepare meals and deliver them when needs arise. Students find great joy in serving others in this unique way. The Fishes and Loaves meal ministry is an outreach supported by the Joy to the World Missions Market.



THIRD GRADE: SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS AT CHRISTMAS

Third graders enjoyed creating cards that included the Christmas story as well as goodie bags for the homeless in December. They also hosted a baby shower for the Huntsville Pregnancy Resource Center and delivered the gifts to the ministry.



NAHS: SHARING CREATIVITY WITH KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY



The National Arts Honor Society (NAHS) used their time and talent to bless preschoolers at Lincoln Village Ministry last fall. Mrs. Dove's students created a fun mural on the concrete in their playground area that the Little Linc students love and enjoy.



SUMMER MISSION TRIP: SHARING CHRIST IN NEW ORLEANS

Valuable Lessons

by Anna Pierce, Ella Roberts and Kaitlyn Pollard (Class of 2024)

This week was a blessing for all of us! We spent our mornings playing with kids living in an underprivileged apartment complex. Although not many kids came, we developed strong relationships with those present. We played baseball, soccer, and best of all, did face painting! In the afternoons, we split into groups taking turns ministering to the homeless, painting Mr. James's house, and volunteering with Next Gen Ministries, which is a Christian organization that ministers to high school students. We learned many valuable lessons from each of these experiences! First, while playing with the kids we learned the value of patience and being present and how that helped us connect with the kids. Although we were nervous before ministering to the homeless, it ended up being one of the most impactful parts of the trip! We learned that people are people no matter their circumstances and that getting out of your comfort zone can lead to great experiences! Furthermore, while talking to Mr. James and his wife we learned the importance of listening to others' wisdom and having joy in the midst of trials. Finally, while volunteering at Next Gen, we were reminded that even helping with the simplest tasks behind the scenes of an organization does not go unnoticed. We were also blessed with the opportunity to hear Jeremiah and Erica, who are involved with Bethel Colony South, a major housing and recovery ministry in New Orleans. Their powerful testimonies challenged us to think about how God can use us no matter our past circumstances. Overall, the trip taught each of us valuable lessons that we will be able to carry through the rest of our lives. Rising juniors, please join us next year!



Student Leadership University

One of the best things Whitesburg Christian Academy offers high school students is the opportunity to participate in leadership training over the summer. These enriching experiences inspire and equip students to leave a legacy for Christ larger than themselves. This summer 201 students, 4 chaperones and 10 parents traveled to Washington D.C. for Student Leadership University (SLU) 201, and 26 students, 3 chaperones and 7 parents traveled to London, Oxford and Normandy and for SLU 301. Students have provided a glimpse into their experience:



SLU 201: A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

by Isabell Thomasson

This summer I advanced to SLU 201 and had one of the most inspiring experiences in my life. From hearing the engaging speakers, to seeing the impactful monuments and museums, SLU 201 was an elevating experience that changed the way that I think about and perceive the world.

Throughout the adventure of 201, I listened to many inspiring and influential speakers, such as Dr. Ben Carson, Dr. Jeff Struecker, and Chaplain Barry C. Black. Although all of the speakers had valuable insights, the most impactful one for me was said by the vice president of SLU, Brent Crowe. On the first night of 201, Mr. Crowe declared the words; “Being passive is not an option.” His words helped me to understand that if I ever wanted to do anything for the glory of God, I needed to take action.

During the experience of 201, I also went to countless monuments and museums, including the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, The Museum of the Bible, and the Smithsonian Museum of American History. Although each monument, memorial, and museum held great meaning, the most life changing experience was touring the US Holocaust Museum. While silently wandering through the museum, I observed each event that led up to the Holocaust. I was especially moved when reading about all the people who took a stand and saved lives. I cannot imagine the courage it must have taken them to stand up for their beliefs, against the majority. Even one person is able to change the course for the better in a seemingly impossible situation. The US Holocaust Museum furthered my thoughts on how important it is to take action for the greater good, before it is too late.

Overall, SLU 201 was a life changing experience that I am extremely grateful to have been a part of. Every aspect of this trip reinforced my Christian values and beliefs, and it strengthened my commitment to proudly be a Christian leader. I now know I can help those around me with my words and actions, and I know one voice can make a big impact. As I reminisce about my trip, I am already anxiously awaiting SLU 301.





SLU 301: A STEP BACK INTO HISTORY

by Andrew Bolton

Bravery, sacrifice, remembrance. These are the emotions that I felt when walking upon the grounds of the American Cemetery in Normandy, France. The enormous bomb craters scattered around Pointe du Hoc gave me a sense of awe and fear; the U.S. Marines who scaled one-hundred foot tall cliffs to take out the massive gunnery placements there must have felt the same way. Walking along Omaha Beach where people today go to vacation, I envisioned, seventy years ago, thousands of men who were rushing that very same beach through gunfire, mines, and barbed-wire to ensure that the modern world could remain free.

One of the many incredible endowments of SLU 301 is their ability to not only teach us about history, but allow us to step into these moments in time where great leaders once stood to inspire others to their respective causes. We got to see many remarkable places in London, such as St. Paul's Cathedral where I heard one of the priestesses come and openly pray for all those who

were touring the building, or Westminster Abbey, where many great leaders and historical figures from England's past are buried, including Winston Churchill.

At Oxford, I got to take a stroll down Addison's Walk, the same path where C.S. Lewis once walked to collect his thoughts and ideas. Great leaders in today's world also came and spoke about how we should take what we were learning from the past and how to practically apply it to today's world. A great quote that I took away from our session with Dr. Graham Lacey was, "You cannot make a difference without being the difference". SLU 301 has been one of the most remarkable trips of my life, teaching me about the leaders of our past while paving a way to lead others to a brighter future.



Senior Internships

Before they graduate, Academy seniors participate in an internship where they are involved in real-world community and workforce experiences in a field of their choosing. This is one of the many ways College Counselor Heather Porter helps our students stand out and prepare for their future.

Mrs. Porter says, “Senior internships allow students to get hands-on experience in the real world, which is invaluable as they enter into post-secondary education. Our goal at the Academy is to graduate life-long learners who are prepared to enter the next phase of life. I am blessed to be a part of it every day!”

Thank you to the following businesses for hosting Academy senior interns and providing these invaluable experiences to our students:



Heather Porter
COLLEGE COUNSELOR

ADVANCED DERMATOLOGY

HUNTSVILLE HAVOC

PATTERSON PLACE

MERRIMACK HALL

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AND
WEATHERLY BAPTIST CHURCH
ESL PROGRAMS

AUSTIN PHYSICAL THERAPY

DR. MIRIOVSKY

MANDEVILLE PT

JUDGE RON SMITH

PRODUCING SMILES ORTHODONTICS

GLENEAGLES FAMILY MEDICINE

MATRIX BUILDERS

FOCUS PHYSIOTHERAPY

OSCO INTERIOR DESIGN

SPACE AND ROCKET CENTER
(NUTRITIONIST)

BRODOWSKI LAW FIRM

RAYMOND JAMES

LIFE CHURCH

INNOVA FAMILY PRACTICE

TYLER AMOS COVE EYE CARE

BROOKS AND COLLIER
INTERIOR DESIGN

PERFORMANCE VISION

CENTURY AUTOMOTIVE

*Thank
You!*

Internships Making a Difference



Senior internships help give Academy students an advantage when applying to highly competitive and specialized programs:

Georgia Stewart (pictured left, Class of 2023) completed an internship at a local vet clinic where she was able to see surgical procedures. This experience helped her earn early acceptance into the Veterinarian School at Mississippi State University.

Grace Townson (pictured right, Class of 2023) completed an internship at the Free Dental Clinic where she earned hands-on experience in patient care. This experience helped her earn early acceptance into the UAB Dental Program.

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**Best of luck to our Whitesburg Christian Academy teams and athletes in 2023!
- Brad, Summer, Cate, Maddie, Elle Lowery**

FINE ARTS



Jonathan Willis
FINE ARTS DIRECTOR/BAND
DIRECTOR

Our Fine Arts students have had an outstanding year already, and we have plenty left to look forward to as well! Every teacher had students representing their God-given talents and abilities at our Christmas Arts Trail in December. Thank you to the Miller Team for sponsoring the Fine Arts students of the Month. These students are being nominated by their teachers to receive a scholarship for outstanding results in the realm of Fine Arts.

In the fun (and colorful!) world of grammar school art, students have had many opportunities, and you have seen the results of their hard work on display at the Huntsville Museum of Art in the Children's Community Gallery, around campus at our Arts Trail, or in the form of keepsakes through Square One Art. They also made decorations and ornaments for Christmas!



Mrs. Dove and Mrs. Thompson have kept extremely busy putting the name of our Fine Arts out in the community through a variety of ways: Ditto Landing, Big Spring Park Tinsel Trail, The Huntsville Museum of Art, and the UAH Art Exhibit. Our newly-established National Art Honor Society has done numerous things across the area as well including at Lincoln Village.

Mrs. Cook has kept our students singin' and drummin', introducing kids to numerous musical concepts that creates roots and foundations of music that will last a lifetime, whether that be by singing or playing an instrument formally, informally, or by creating a deeper understanding and feeling of how music works even as a listener. Our goal is to create a musical environment where exposure to many different styles and forms of music will carry over and inspire students for their entire lives.

In addition to Mrs. Cook's Elementary music classes, we have approximately 90 students taking private lessons through the Academy this year! This is an incredible opportunity for students to develop musically and personally.



Choir students have had an outstanding year! We have 2 high school students and 5 middle school students participating in All-State choir. We also had numerous students (27 total) participate in the local Madison County Honors Choir. We have some very talented vocalists, so this has been a great opportunity for them. Mrs. Pugh also does an incredible job at leading the upper school praise band for chapels with Mrs. Pouliott.

Our drama kids have been working hard in groups and did a fabulous job performing at our Fine Arts Trail. They performed more than a dozen small acts, all in small student ensembles. From readings, to dances, to small plays, they have been working hard and accomplishing great things for the drama program.

In band news, we had a busy first semester with the introduction of our first ever marching band! Our show "Piano Legends Tribute" featured music of Elton John, Billy Joel and Coldplay. The students worked hard all semester on the show, and it was definitely a show to remember. In addition to that, we have students participating in All State and All District auditions next month, MPA, a band performance trip opportunity, the Private School Honor Band, and various other band events for 5th through 12th grade musicians. They have come off a very busy semester, our final performance was the High School Symphonic Band playing "Russian Christmas Music" at our Christmas chapel.

We truly have an incredible team of Fine Arts teachers. This is something so important for ALL students. Whether visual, dramatic, or musical, the arts are something where students develop skills that can last an entire lifetime.

Thanks for supporting the Arts as a school community, and let's continue to cheer on our amazing Fine Arts students. Go Warriors!



Language

Last fall, the Academy inducted its first 14 students into World Language Honor Societies. Students at the Academy begin learning Spanish in TK, take an Introduction to World Languages class in eighth grade, and are able to take four years of French and Spanish in high school. In addition to mastering foreign languages, students learn that communicating and understanding culture are means God uses to help us fulfill the Great Commission. They enjoy learning about food and customs around the world. They are encouraged to seek out ways God can use these skills to glorify Him. We love seeing younger Warriors learning prayers in Spanish and our older students serving in ESL ministries locally and on mission trips abroad. High School currently offers through level 4 in both French and Spanish, and we look forward to seeing the curriculum grow and expand with our growing student body.



Homecoming 2023





The fourth-annual Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally was a highlight of 2023! Led by Mr. Reeder, Samson and the marching band, the homecoming court, football players and cheerleaders paraded through cheering students and spectators. The Warriors showed their spirit in a big way at the schoolwide pep rally. Highlights this year were the senior boys' dance and the teacher dance off. The joy of the Lord is their strength! Days like this make us so thankful to have TK-12th grade all on one campus. The Academy family is very special. **It's a great day to be a Warrior!**



Growing as a Family



LITTLE WARRIORS AND BIG WARRIORS

Whitesburg Christian Academy is unique in that we have TK-12th grade all on one campus. This helps build bonds between older and younger students that are highly valued by all. Kindergarten-Senior buddies are a favorite tradition, and these relationships last well beyond their season at the Academy. If you walk around campus, you will often see older students leading younger ones in sports, reading, fun and discipleship.



PARENT TESTIMONIES



The Miriovsky Family

Ben, Amy, Emma (11th), Reid (7th), Penelope (5th), Ted (5th), Charlie (3rd), Jon (1st), Nora and Tommy (future Warriors)

We are so thankful to be at the Academy because we see God moving in this place. Our story takes us from Bend, Oregon having never heard of the Academy to being a part of this amazing family. We left Oregon seeking a strong Christian community for our family and trusting God to faithfully provide it. Our story at WCA begins with a Jesus loving Academy family taking our oldest daughter, Emma, into their family for 2 months. We had never met, but yet they took in our daughter with open arms. She arrived ahead of us so she could start 9th grade of high school on time while we stayed in Oregon to deliver our 7th and 8th babies. We had never even toured the Academy, but we got to witness Jesus faithfully providing in and through this place. Emma instantly became a part of the Academy family. The people of this school came alongside her and us. It seemed improbable that our 5 other school-aged children could get a spot at the Academy, but God was undaunted and provided all the spots. We witnessed God faithfully providing over and over again through this school giving us the Christian community we prayed for. Our kids are flourishing here. We are so thankful to have a school where our kids are challenged academically, but also experience teachers and staff pouring God's love into them daily and showing them Jesus. We moved across the country to a city we had visited for 2 days and to a school we had never stepped foot in. But God is so faithful, and we got to experience His trustworthiness. We are grateful to be at a place where His presence is tangible! We are so excited to be a part of what He will do here in the years to come!



The Maher Family

Jay, Holly, Emma Grace (12th), Mary Holland (6th), Matthew

We have always had a desire for our children to be part of private Christian education, but for one reason or another, we never made the move until August 2020. God used the timing of the pandemic as the initial catalyst for us to move our youngest, Mary Holland (then 3rd grade), to the Academy. Initially, we thought maybe we would give it a year to gauge the public school climate, but God had other plans. Within three weeks of Mary Holland's enrollment, Holly and I knew we had made the easiest and best parenting decision. What a blessing; we fell in love with The Academy: the teachers, academics, relationships, and the boldness for Christ. Our move to Whitesburg Christian Academy was certainly a "Covid keeper" decision. Meanwhile, our two older children were at Huntsville High. When Emma Grace was a sophomore, it became evident she was different than her peers, and she truly desired to follow Christ in her daily walk. She agreed to shadow at Whitesburg and was absolutely sold out. When she came home from shadowing, her literal words were, "It was the best day of high school I have ever had!" Needless to say, we moved Emma Grace at the beginning of her junior year, and all previous reservations became ancient history. Emma Grace is flourishing at Whitesburg Christian Academy. She has found her niche: a place to enjoy her high school experience and to pursue her passion for Jesus; we couldn't be more proud. Today, we are thrilled to say we love The Academy. It has truly been one of our best decisions, and we are thankful God led us to the Academy family. Our hearts are full and God's timing is perfect.

PARENT TESTIMONIES



The McKinnon Family

Zach, Anna, Jay (K), Davis & Libby

The Academy means so much to our family and our faith. We started Whitesburg Baptist Church in 2022 and became members. We had the honor to experience the Academy for the first time with our oldest son in TK last year. Not only was it an incredible academic springboard, but most importantly, everything is centered on its faith-based mission. I am so thankful for the blessing of the school, as an extension of the church, to spiritually develop my children, as well as me as a parent, and our family as a whole. Another reason we love the Academy is that it really is an extended family for us. The connections and relationships built in all the various capacities and outlets the school affords us are invaluable. We believe that connection is necessary to grow in our walk with the Lord and as His disciples to make disciples. Utilizing a biblical worldview to teach and grow our children is of the utmost importance living in the current world and future one ahead of us. It gives me comfort to rely on God in this way to raise Warriors for Christ.



The Webb Family

Jarren and Elizabeth, Sarah Bradleigh (3rd), Leighton (future Warrior)

As a family, we had been feeling the call to join the Academy family as we witnessed society becoming more and more “of the world” instead of “in the world”. We knew we wanted a safe, academically stringent, and above all, Christian environment for our family. Having countless family members and friends already as students only sealed the deal further that we wanted to be a part of a school community that is rooted in Christ. Sarah Bradleigh started in 1st grade and has more than just thrived. We have watched her confidence in academics and confidence in herself grow exponentially. We love our Academy home and the people here who are like family and we look forward to the day Leighton joins her big sister on campus!



The Keith Family

Joel and Mary, Izzy (1st), Kellum and Ward (future Warriors)

I was just a kid, sitting in a pew at Whitesburg Baptist when I first heard the church's plans to start a school: Whitesburg Christian Academy. At the time I could count on my hands how many students they had enrolled, and never could have dreamed it'd become what it is today. When we left the mission field and moved to Huntsville with our young family years later, we immediately started thinking about where we would send our kids to school. My husband and I both had good experiences in the public school system, but so much has changed in our world since then, and giving our kids a Christian education with a strong biblical worldview has become paramount to us. From the moment we toured the school, we knew WCA was it. We absolutely love the wide variety of opportunities this school will afford our children-- excellent education, athletics, international trips, mission trips, art, foreign language, etc. -- but most important of all is the foundation they will get in the Word of God. Here our children will be loved, taught, prayed for, and discipled. We trust the leaders here, and pray for them regularly. We are forever thankful for the partnership of this school in raising our kids to know, love, and follow Christ!



The Polk Family

Jason, Stefanie, Griffin (7th), and Connor (5th)

We truly feel blessed to have called Whitesburg Christian Academy our school for the last six years. It is so much more than a school to us though. The amazing teachers and staff who pour into our children are like family and I know my kids are genuinely loved and prayed over. Not only are they being challenged academically, but they are also learning about discipline, responsibility, strength, and perseverance. I could go on and on about all the incredible attributes they have gained while attending the Academy, but the most important to our family is learning about the love of Jesus.

My boys love going to school and are filled with happiness every day when they come home. They have made lifelong friends with an incredible bond. In turn, we have made lifelong friends by being a part of this wonderful community of like-minded families.

Deciding to send our children to the Academy is one of the best decisions we ever made. I know, without a doubt, they are receiving the best education possible while being in a safe and loving Christian environment. I thank God everyday that we are a part of the Academy family.

PARENT TESTIMONIES



The Brooks Family

Beau, Lauren, Brody (1st), Maddie Grace (TK)

Growing up in Huntsville, Beau and I both planned on our kids attending the same schools we did. After 2020, it became clear that wasn't going to be the best option for our family. Having our oldest going into Kindergarten soon, we prayed and prayed for clarity on what to do. We didn't know much about the Academy at the time, but after prayer and lots of conversations, we decided to go on a tour. From the moment we stepped on campus, we absolutely fell in love. We both experienced such a peace that we know came from the Lord. We just knew this would be the perfect place for our kids to grow in, not only their education, but it their friendships and relationship with the Lord.

After an amazing first year at the Academy, we've gotten to experience our daughter start in TK this year. Now, both of our kids are officially at the Academy and I am forever thankful. One thing I've learned is this community can't be found anywhere else. Everyone genuinely looks out for each other. The teachers and staff are all amazing and truly want to invest in the kids' families and personal lives, which I love. I know from the bottom of my heart that each day as we drop them off and they enter the building, my kids are both being taken care of, loved on, challenged, growing in their faith, and learning how to serve others. Choosing the Academy is absolutely one of the best decisions we've made as a family and we are thankful to be a part!



The Jantz Family

Jeff, Amelia, JW (K) and Lydia (future Warrior)

In 2014 and prior to our family having children, I (Amelia) had the opportunity to work in Huntsville at the St. Jude Clinic for 2 years, traveling back and forth from our home in Birmingham. I was first introduced to The Academy through a friend as her children attended WCA. Fast forward 7 years, our family of 4 found ourselves with the possibility of a move to Huntsville for my husband's (Jeff) career. With the unknown of our move, we began to pray and seek God as to where our kids should attend school. We knew that we wanted our children to be planted in a school that loved God first, believed in His truth, and would come alongside our family to point our children towards making a difference in the kingdom for eternity. After attending preview day in January 2021, we went all in with The Academy. JW began TK in January 2022 and we quickly found ourselves in a community and family that has loved us and made Huntsville feel like an instance home. How grateful we are to God for placing us here! When you walk through the doors of The Academy, you feel overwhelming joy and peace, and it is evident that the teachers and staff love being here! Our family is so incredibly thankful to be a Warrior! Proverbs 16:9 We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.



The LeBrun Family

Matt, Lauren, Everly (1st grade), Layton (TK), Lyla and Elle (future Warriors)

We are so thankful that God opened the door for our daughter, Everly, to start Kindergarten at the Academy last year. She grew so much throughout the year, both academically and spiritually.

One day last year, her sweet teacher, Libby Tanner, texted me, letting me know that Everly asked some questions during Bible time about asking the Lord to come into her heart. She encouraged Everly to talk to her parents. After school, we got the opportunity to pray with her. It was a day I will never forget. I am so thankful that her teacher was there to answer her questions and gave us the opportunity to share this special moment together.

This year, our son started TK. The week before school started, he broke his leg and was very nervous to start school. However, we were blessed to have Mrs. Tanner again. She went above and beyond to make sure he was taken care of. Mrs. Edgemon pushed his wheelchair to class each morning. After just a few days, he told us Mrs. Edgemon was his best friend. Everyone was so kind to him. It made the start to the year unforgettable.

The Academy is truly one of the best decisions we could have ever made for our children. We feel so proud to say that we are a part of the Academy family and look forward to continuing to watch our kids grow.



The Penney Family

Zack, Chris, Gaines (8th), Ruby (6th)

This year is our third year having our children at Whitesburg Christian Academy, and I can honestly say that moving our children to this school is the single best decision that we have made as parents. It's hard to really even put into words what the Academy means to us. It's something we had to experience to fully grasp, even though we knew we were going to love it before we even started on day one. For our family, the Academy means clarity in a world of confusion. Calm in a world of chaos. Peace in a world full of distress. It's a place where our kids can be honest, they can pray, they can praise God, and they are surrounded by a community who spurs them on in their faith each day.

Our kids leave our home each morning and we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are spending their days with Christian men and women who are pouring the love of Christ into them, rather than the ever-changing and bizarre views of this world. We find an incredible amount of value in this amazing school and the community of people within it. The academics are absolutely top-notch, as are the sports programs...but for us, what makes Whitesburg Christian Academy completely irreplaceable is Christ being at the center of it all. There's just nothing that matters more. "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

Academy Traditions

The Academy is full of favorite traditions that make the experience so special from TK-12th grade. Here are some highlights.



Back-to-School Prayer Walk



Grandparents Day



Kindergarten Apple Day



5th Grade Colonial Christmas



Father/Daughter Dance



Little Warriors
Dr. Seuss Week



TK Pet Day



3rd Grade Mad Scientists Day



3rd Grade Manner's Luncheon



The Warrior Walk



High School Trip to the Ark



Christmas Chapels



7th Grade Dauphin Island Trip



Homecoming Dress Up Days



2nd Grade Christmas Around the World



Tate Farms Family Night



TK Storybook Day



Fine Arts Showcase



Field Days



5th Grade Explorer Day



4th Grade Business Day



Christmas Arts Trail



6th Grade Joy to the World Missions Market



1st Grade Fairy Tale Day



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Enriching Wise Warriors



The Academy's Enriching Wise Warriors program gives our students the opportunity to learn new and fascinating skills while nurturing students' interests and gifts through enrichment.

Enriching Wise Warriors class leaders are parents, grandparents and volunteers who share their time and talents teaching different subjects and skills. Our goal is to offer multiple classes for TK-6th graders each semester. Throughout the year's our students have participated in home economics, scrapbooking, arts, crafts, robotics, coding, chess, science experiments, lego building (and much more!), along with a variety of sports skills classes.

Upper School students also have an opportunity to join in the fun! High school students assist teachers and look forward to working with Grammar students throughout the year during the three-week EWW sessions.

All proceeds from Enriching Wise Warriors go toward purchasing needed items for our growing Grammar School. Over the last several years, EWW has raised over \$10,000 and provided supplies for the Grammar School's art department, library and instruments for the Grammar music program. Teachers have been able to purchase bibles, classroom supplies, rugs, flexible seating, books, iPads and games.

Thank you to Mrs. McGlathery and everyone who has made Enriching Wise Warriors successful, meaningful and fun.



ALUMNI UPDATES

Awards & Honors



Congratulations to **Bianca Rost** (2023) for being recognized as the Dancer of the Year at Alabama Youth Ballet Theatre. She is studying Social Work at Mississippi College.



Isaiah Matthews (2023) was selected as a Freshman delegate to the SGA at Huntingdon College. He is a delegate for the Campus Activities Committee, a Business Club Member and a Black Student Union Member.



Mary Grace Olinger and **Joshua Dean** (2023) were selected for Freshman Reach at Mississippi State University. They were two of 90 students selected and will begin their involvement with the Student Association.



Evan Hite (2023) was commissioned to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. This is a huge honor. He is passionate about the program and shared his experience with Academy high school students in January.



Congratulations to **Melanie Ponce** (2018) for winning the Most Outstanding Biology Major at The University of Tennessee Southern in 2021.



Sara Grace Clark (2020) was selected as a Samford Ambassador to represent the university and build relationships with donors, alumni, the Board of Trustees, and other community members. She is one of only 32 ambassadors on campus.



Congratulations to **Hannah Tarwater** (2018) for winning the Auburn University Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award (2022) and the AUSPY Award for excellence and inspiration.



Congratulations to **Justin Rutledge** (2011) for being awarded as Company Grade Officer of the Year - Army - 2023 from the National Guard Association of Alabama as well as being awarded to the top Alabama National Guard company-grade Army officer and Air Force officer annually. He also received the Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award (from the National Guard Association of the United States) and was awarded for outstanding leadership and professionalism at the national level. He was one of 22 Officers to receive the award across the United States in 2023.

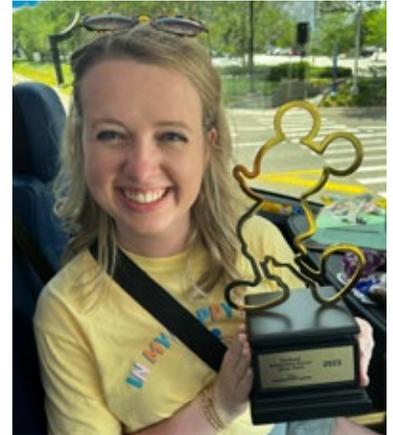


Please follow Whitesburg_Christian_Alumni on Instagram to keep up with our Academy alums.

Spotlights

Kristen Denman CLASS OF 2015

I am in my 4th year of teaching Kindergarten-5th grade music in Saraland, Alabama. I also direct a 3rd-5th grade show choir! My show choir was selected to perform at Walt Disney World in April and won a Golden Mickey trophy for their performance. I also traveled to Los Angeles, CA with Redemption Church, my church in Mobile this summer. We worked with a new church plant in L.A. and shared the gospel and prayer walked throughout the city.



Luke Johnson CLASS OF 2023

I attended New Student Indoctrination (NSI) for NROTC on July 20, graduated August 7, and officially became a Midshipman (MIDN) in the U.S. Navy. My officer training has begun at Auburn with the end goal of commissioning as a Student Naval Aviator into the Navy. One of my duties as a MIDN includes flag detail for home football games, and I held the Alabama flag during the Mississippi State game. I've plugged into Auburn Community Church and also joined a local Bible study group for outdoorsmen called Revelation Outdoors, where we have weekly Bible studies and a weekend trip every semester. I'm hoping to step into smaller leadership roles in Naval ROTC and Revelation Outdoors over the next couple semesters, and will continue studying mechanical engineering at Auburn.

Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior

ORANGE DAY

The Academy family loved celebrating Matthew Richardson's 25th birthday on Orange Day in October. We love Matthew and continue to pray fiercely and unceasingly.



WARRIOR COLLEGIATE ATHLETES LOVE TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER EVEN WHEN THEY FACE OFF.



Caroline Dooling, Emma Cape and Brynn Holbrook (2021)



Jon David Looser (2023, football at Birmingham Southern) and Jacob Dean (2023, Huntingdon College). Former Warrior teammates came to support these two whose teams faced off at the collegiate level.

ALUMNI UPDATES

On Mission & Sharing the Gospel



Haley Kretz (2021) – I spent 9 months after high school doing a gap year called the World Race and spent time in Guatemala, South Africa, and Ecuador. I hope to move overseas after graduation from Mississippi College.



Hannah Blankenship (2018) accepted a job with Reformed University Fellowship where she will ministering to international students at Texas A&M University.



Macy Cox (2023) – This past summer, I had the opportunity to go to Budapest, Hungary and work a camp with kids. I was able to help teach them English, sports, and most importantly the gospel.



Ben Cox (2021) I went to New Orleans on a mission trip and was an intern with WBC last summer. I mentored younger boys and developed relationships to help them in their walk with the Lord.

Celebrations



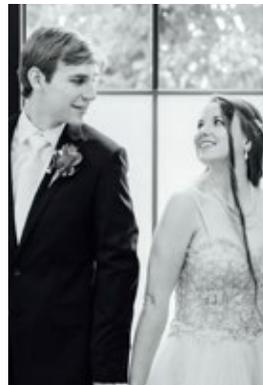
Bo Barker (2018) got engaged to Erin Butler last summer. They will be married in July of 2024.



John Sanders (2012) is getting married in December of 2024.



Andrew Smith (2016) and Sarah Harmon (Class of 2019) got married on July 14, 2023.



Amber Richardson (2016) married Neil Shimer on March 19, 2022.



Savanna Harris Naugher (2019) got married in June of 2022 and welcomed her baby daughter in September of 2023.

Alumni, please tell us what's happening in your life! Email theacademy@whitesburgchristianacademy.org.

No Task Too Small

ALYSSA TURNER'S VISIT TO THE ACADEMY

Alyssa Turner, Creative Content Manager and Confidential Assistant for Governor Kay Ivey, spoke to high school students about how the Academy prepared her for her exciting career. Since graduating in 2018, Turner has worked for Coach Pat Dye, The Oaks Agency, Auburn's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, and now the Governor. Katherine Thomas (10th grade) shares how Miss Turner's speech inspired her.

When Miss Alyssa Turner came to speak to our class, I was surprised at first to hear her talk about how “no task is too small.” Because of her role in Governor Kay Ivey’s office, I expected her to talk about the major projects she’s been on or places she has gone throughout the state. She briefly mentioned those topics, but she spent a lot of time telling us how servant leadership got her to where she is today. My three main takeaways from when Miss Turner came to speak to us are to have servant leadership, to have accountability, and to have open-mindedness toward any task.

The first thing that stood out to me was her emphasis on servant leadership. I found it interesting how being a servant leader helped her through her journey into politics. Although as Christians we are supposed to be servant leaders, I have always wondered if that would put you behind in your job. Miss Turner proved to us, however, that servant leadership can help you excel in the workplace. Her servant leadership has helped her lead her employees well and has benefited her in her current job. She spoke about how lacking servant leadership in politics can quickly lead to egocentric qualities which can create a toxic and unproductive workplace. Servant leadership also forced her to have a sense of accountability.

Another take away from Miss Turner’s talk is her sense of accountability. I thought people in politics always pointed the blame toward someone else, so I was intrigued when she talked about having accountability for herself and her team. She spoke about how being a servant leader also means working towards a goal with your coworkers and taking responsibility for the results. This was an aspect of student leadership that I had never really thought about.

My final take away from Miss Turner was that “no task is too small.” This means that no matter what rank or position, people should do any task asked of them to the best of their ability. Taking on every task asked of you and completing it thoroughly shows servant leadership and accountability to the people around us. Thinking of ourselves as “too good” to do a task is not the way Christ told us to live. Just as Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, we can do the little things for others and that can make a difference. Miss Turner became respected where she worked because of her attitude that no task is too little for her. I want to mimic this quality of hers because it is a respectable mindset while also aligning with how Jesus told us to live.

I am glad Miss Turner talked about servant leadership instead of what she has done because it felt more relatable and applicable to my life. Since the day she came and spoke to our grade, I have seen opportunities to have servant leadership, to have accountability, and to have open-mindedness toward any task. I am starting to see that having the mindset of “no task is too small” really helps me appreciate the little things. It also helps me appreciate the others who do the little things for me every day that I never know.



THINKING OF OURSELVES
AS “TOO GOOD” TO DO
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CHRIST TOLD US TO LIVE.
JUST AS JESUS WASHED
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THINGS FOR OTHERS
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The First Graduate's Child to Come to the Academy

Mary-Elizabeth (Cobb) Reinhart (Class of 2015)'s son Judah (Kindergarten) is the first second-generation Warrior to attend the Academy! We are thrilled to welcome him and asked Mary-Elizabeth a few questions:



Adam, Judah (K) and Mary-Elizabeth (2015)



The Class of 2015



1) **Mary-Elizabeth, tell us about your family.**

My husband, Adam, and I have been married for 6 years. We both attended college at UAH and met while taking a ballroom dancing class. We have Judah (5), Kit (4), and baby #3 due in February.

2) **Please tell us about your experience at the Academy.**

I attended the Academy 4th (2007) -12th grade (2015). Most of my Academy years were spent at the old campus (WBC), it wasn't until halfway through my junior year we were able to move into the current upper school campus. When I attended, the school was very small numbers-wise, which made everything feel very close and tight-knit; everyone knew everyone, and it felt like one big family where the older students knew the younger students by name and interacted with them on a daily basis. The teachers and students were very close as well; I felt like they really cared about each of us, our spiritual lives, education, and us individually as people. Looking back, I really feel like the schooling experience I received was very rare, especially in today's society.

3) **What do you value most about your time here in hindsight?**

There was definitely an overarching goal of leadership, legacy, and scholarly excellence that Whitesburg sought to instill in its students. The seminars, trips, classes, and projects we were a part of what helped to form my outlook on the world and my part in it. As I look back, I think that environment paired with the small class sizes and the relationships with teachers/staff who genuinely cared about me as an individual helped to guide me as I grew up, shaping the way I would choose to conduct my life, which will ultimately extend to my children as well- and that to me is invaluable.

4) **How has the Academy changed since you were a student?**

When I say the Academy was small, I mean it was SMALL (haha). I had 21 kids in my graduating class, which was the largest class in Whitesburg history up until that point. I had 6 girls on the volleyball AND tennis team as a senior. Everything was done at a very small scale. When I attended the tour for Judah, I was amazed at the growth, not only in student numbers, but in opportunities (clubs, sports, extracurriculars, etc.) available to the student body that just weren't during my time at WCA. I am thankful that my kids will get to experience a similar close-knit environment to what I had, but with the added benefit of more opportunities.

5) **How has it stayed the same?**

I think though the school has grown immensely, the integrity of the mission that the Academy sets out to instill and accomplish through its students has remained the same, which is honestly a feat.

6) **What do you love most about having Judah go to the same school you did?**

So far, I have really enjoyed sharing memories of where I used to play volleyball, where I had classes, where my old locker was, where I used to park. He thinks it's cool that he goes to "Momma's school". It makes me happy to be able to share this with him.

7) **Adam, is there anything you would add?**

Each morning at drop-off I ask Judah what we are going to do today. He will answer with our family motto: "stand firm and love well". One morning I told him that each day we all have a choice to make, we can speak life, or we can speak death. He paused, then he looked at me and said, "or you can speak Spanish". Each day we strive to walk in His way and demonstrate His love to our children. We know He has big plans for our family, and we are very grateful to be part of the Academy family.

8) **What is Judah enjoying most about kindergarten?**

Judah is thriving in kindergarten. Each night at dinner we go around the table and say what the best part of our day was. Judah will typically answer with recess with his friends, going to the library, or making arts and crafts.

A Message from the Pastor of

WHITESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

IGNITE. Our vision at Whitesburg Baptist Church is to ignite a movement of authentic followers of Jesus, impacting the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have been blessed greatly with people, resources, and opportunities that we use to joyfully invest in the lives of families through the ministry of Whitesburg Christian Academy. The results of this investment are evident as the students excel academically and grow in Christlikeness through the dedicated leadership of the Academy faculty and staff. Our prayer is that generations of Warriors who are passionate followers of Christ will ignite that same passion in others.

This is an exciting time to drive through the Academy campus. We see construction steadily progressing on the gym project. We see parents actively involved in the academic life and extracurricular activities of the students. We see the next generation of leaders and servants being developed each day.

Since Whitesburg Christian Academy opened its doors in 1999, it has been a ministry of Whitesburg Baptist Church. We are blessed with a wonderful group of church members who serve on our school committee. The committee is composed of five members who are nominated by the church's Nominating Committee and elected by the membership of the church. They volunteer their time by serving five-year terms with one member rotating off and a new member being elected each year.

The Academy Committee members are faithful Christ followers who deeply believe in our mission and vision at WCA. They oversee the governance policy for the Academy and are responsible to evaluate and monitor adherence to said policy by the headmaster. Each month, the committee meets to review policy governance and financial reports of the Academy. The financial reports are then provided to the Finance Committee of Whitesburg Baptist Church for review and approval. Under the leadership of the Senior Pastor and Senior Associate Pastor, Philip Slusher, the current committee is made up of the following members:

Jerry Reeder, Headmaster Whitesburg Christian Academy
Ron Huskey, Chairman
Brayn Burkhart
Jennifer Ezell
Molli Fields
Eddie Richardson

In closing, let me express my gratitude for allowing us the joy of serving your family.

For His glory and praise,

Dr. Darryl L. Craft
Senior Pastor



Darryl Craft



Philip Slusher



Ron Huskey



Brayn Burkhart



Jennifer Ezell



Molli Fields



Eddie Richardson

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Growing Our Facilities

There is nothing like big construction machinery, big holes in the ground and huge piles of red dirt to create excitement. While the gym project experienced many delays in the design, engineering, and funding phase, actual construction has experienced great weather and is progressing rapidly under the direction of project foreman Harbert Cook of JohnsonKries Construction Company. In just a few weeks the project is moving ahead of schedule toward a projected completion date of mid-February, 2025.

The gym is the first step in a long-range campus development plan that has been designed by the architect firm of Chapman-Sisson. This plan includes the footprint of current buildings, the gym now under construction, and



Jerry Reeder
HEADMASTER



future buildings, to include a cafeteria, fine arts building, athletic facilities, and eventual removal of modular buildings and expansion of the upper and lower building. The current gym project will cost about \$16,000,000. To date \$8,479,832.18 has been pledged and given. We have \$1,313,079.52 given outside of pledges. We continue to ask the Academy Family to prayerfully consider making a pledge and/or gift toward this project. All operational costs of The Academy are covered by tuition and fees and capital expenses are primarily raised through donations.

Last fall I met with a small group of Academy families that had already made significant pledges to review the gym project. At the same time, I presented the long-range campus development plan for the first time, along with a new and different plan to raise money for the implementation of future building projects. All was received enthusiastically and I was greatly encouraged by that response. We are going

to ask that group to lead us in inviting a much larger group to attend an Academy Vision for Growth dinner in late February. The campus development plan and funding plan will be presented at that time. Throughout the spring months this plan will be presented in various ways to the entire Academy Family.

Growth is exciting, and watching each step of God's working in and through The Academy has been a wonderful 15-year experience for me. I expect the next 15 to be even better.

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THE QR
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TO GIVE
TODAY!





Building the Home *of the* Warriors

Thank You!

Whitesburg Christian Academy is grateful for every single supporter of the Building the Home of the Warriors campaign. Thank you for helping further the Academy's mission of providing students an academically excellent and Christ-centered education for life-long service to Christ. By supporting this next important step in campus development, you are helping pave the path to the future. You are investing in more than a building; you are investing in generations of students. This list includes 100% of the Academy's full-time faculty and staff.

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Joshua & Hope Tate
Steve & Jackie Tate
Jeremy Roy & Jocelyn Tatum
Rebecca A. Taylor
Joachim & Tracey Thoenes
Joseph & Heather Thomas
Ron & Sally Thomas
Mia Thomasson
Kevin & Tracy Thompson
Layne & Kelli Thompson
Ray & Young Thrasher
Carlin & Lesley Tighe
Brian & Alison Trefry
David & Crissy Tucker
Phillip & Alison Turner
UPS
Dewitt Uptagrafft
John & Debbie Vandiver
Billy & Amy Varnon
Virginia M. Wellman Gift Fund
VMware (Broadcom)
Brian & Shannon Wagoner
Amy Walczak & Michael Clark
Richie & Brandi Walker
John & Jessica Wallace
Richard & Vida Wann
Grant & Jessica Warfield
Kathy & Billy Wells
Joseph M. West
Beth Wester
Jo Ann Wester
John & Marianna Wester
Frances Westmoreland
Donnie & Leigh Weston
Charles & Korda White
Joshua & Lana White
Tony & Kathleen White
Ryan & Jennifer Whitley
Weston & Miranda Wilkerson
Marty & Amanda Williams
Jonathan & Sarah Willis
Andy & Wendy Wilson
Derek & Lisa Wiseman
Darren & Michele Woodruff
Linda Woodruff
Dexter & Candace Wright
Rod & Tina Young
Rob & Kathy Youngren

ATHLETICS



Jeff Bell
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Whitesburg Christian Academy athletics is off to another great start in 2023-2024. The Academy Girls Cross Country team, under the leadership of Mark Marshall and Eddie Richardson, are your 2023, 3A State Champions. Anna Pierce won the individual Cross Country State Championship.

The Academy Girls Swim Team are the 1A-5A Sectional and State Champions. Will Neville, from our Boys Swim Team, won two individual State Championships this year. The Academy swimmers are coached by Joachim Thoenes and Bill Neville.

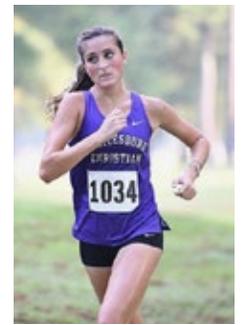
The Varsity Football team ended the season winning their last two home football games. The Middle School Football team posted a strong 5-3 record. The future of the Warrior Football program looks promising with several Varsity starters returning and many talented Middle School players moving up to Varsity. Warrior fans packed the stadium AND "Big Game Bob" made Friday night lights spectacular.

The Varsity Girls Volleyball team continues to improve with talented players. Coach Carley Rodriquez is excited about the future.

The Academy Boys and Girls Basketball teams are off to a great start. Both teams will compete for Area Championships and be in the state playoffs.

I thank the Lord daily for the opportunity to be a par of the Whitesburg Christian Academy family. This is truly an awesome place. As Athletic Director, I love watching our athletes and coaches represent Christ on and off the court.

GO WARRIORS!





BY THE NUMBERS

3 COACHES COMPETED IN PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES

7 SUMMER CAMPS

13 COACHES COMPETED IN COLLEGE

17 STATE TROPHIES

15 SPORTS

30 UPPER SCHOOL TEAMS

45 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS

75% STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS

75 LITTLE WARRIOR CHEERLEADERS

132 K-6TH FLAG FOOTBALL PLAYERS

140 MEDALS

132 K-6TH SOCCER PLAYERS

#WARRIORSTRONG

Wyatt, Riley, Miller, and Tucker

WINNING WARRIOR SMILES



Limbaugh
ORTHODONTICS

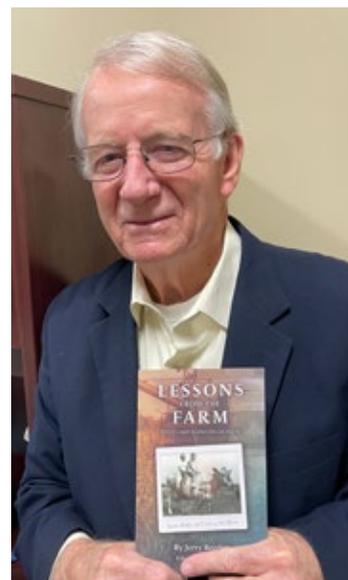


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Mr. Reeder's New Book: "Lessons from the Farm"

Mr. Reeder, what inspired you to write this book?

I come from a family of story tellers. I use stories from my life to teach the lessons I learned and to illustrate Biblical truth. I use these to instruct and inspire students and staff at The Academy, and in teaching a life group at Whitesburg Baptist Church. I have long been encouraged to put my stories in a book. I connected with Mary Keith to work with me as my editor, to help me convert oral stories into written form. Her vision was bigger than mine, she saw that the stories could be integrated in a way to tell a much bigger story, essentially the story of my life.



What do you hope your readers will take away from it?

I hope readers will find inspiration to persevere in their walk with God. Life is hard for every generation, and it is hard in different ways. This generation doesn't have to milk cows, pick cotton, and sleep in Alabama heat without air conditioning. But it does have its own form of trials and tribulations. I hope readers will be able to see that God's truth is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow and is as applicable to this generation as it was to mine.

Anything else?

I hope that the humor and interesting stories will not only teach and inspire, but will simply be fun to read.



Headmaster Jerry Reeder with Academy parent Mary Keith (mom of Izzy in K) speaking to Mrs. Chandler's English class.

Mary, what was it like working alongside Mr. Reeder as his editor?

I was constantly amazed by Mr. Reeder's humility and willingness to be open to my ideas and suggestions. Writing your story is vulnerable; inviting someone else to critique it even more so. But Mr. Reeder welcomed my edits, thoughts, and suggestions at every turn and was open to the book changing and evolving as we went. He respected me and valued my opinion, and man, that makes an editor's job pretty easy! And truly he was just great fun to be around and work with.

Why are you excited to share this book with your friends and family?

I'm excited (and proud!) to share this book with others because I know the value it holds. I've never read anything like *Lessons from the Farm*. It's full of so much godly truth and wisdom, but the farm in particular is just a really special place to be. I can't wait for others to get to experience it.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Testimonial from a reader: "Just as you stated, 'When we've made it through the combine, we're called to turn, strengthen, and encourage our brothers and sisters who are also struggling.' You have done just that through your book, and I am so grateful for it. This book continues to touch my soul."





WHITESBURG
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

a ministry of Whitesburg Baptist Church

7290 Whitesburg Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

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BELIEVING
HIS WORD

WALKING
HIS WAY

