

SPRING 2020

chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



P R E P A R E • E N G A G E • C H A N G E

IN THIS ISSUE:

Fulfilling the
Westminster Vision

A Partnership
Fueled by Hope

Changing the
World for Christ





Prepared, Engaged, and Changed!

DR. BARRETT MOSBACKER

“God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life.”

—John Piper, “Don’t Waste Your Life”

Piper’s statement is a beautiful reflection of our vision for our students. We “**prepare** and equip young men and women to **engage** the world and **change** it for Jesus Christ.” In doing so, we teach them to enjoy and display the beauty of God in this world.

We prepare our students by providing a biblically-informed, world-class education within a caring Christian community. This is a holistic education that develops their minds and nurtures their souls.

We engage our students in deep thinking, hard questions, and practical life skills. We are not seeking to encase them in Christian bubble wrap. Instead, our teachers and coaches challenge our students to reach higher intellectually and in Christian character so that they are salt and light in this world.

One of my favorite TV shows is “Star Trek: The Next Generation”. I like the show in part because it is a study in leadership. Captain Jean-Luc Picard follows many of his important decisions by issuing the command to “engage”. In academics, athletics, and the arts, we engage our students so that they are prepared to lovingly and effectively engage and serve Christ in college, career, church, and community.

By God’s grace, **we change** students through God’s word, our teaching, and our example in partnership with the home and the church. We seek to change students so that they, in turn, can be used by God to change their corner of the world.

Prepared, engaged, changed—this is our vision and our passion for our students!

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chimes

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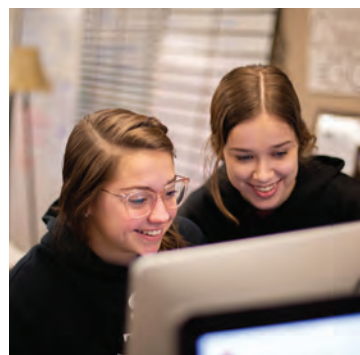
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Liz Forkin Bohannon '04



Academics

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



CLASSROOM CONNECTION

As part of the Westminster Reading Initiative, the middle school is focusing not only on helping its students develop a love for reading but is emphasizing the communal aspect of reading as well. “We want to help students look at reading with joy versus like eating the vegetables they don’t like: important to do but devoid of joy and passion,” says Heather Laughlin, middle school English teacher. How are they accomplishing this? Students are participating in book talks and book clubs as part of their classwork. Teachers are also sharing about the books they read for pleasure, and students are “speed dating” books as they discover how to find books that catch their eye.

SCHOLAR BOWL TEAM QUALIFIES FOR QUIZ BOWL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Did you know that the scholar bowl team brought home Westminster’s very first MSHSAA state championship in 2005? While it’s been a few years since the big win, the Scholar Bowl team is experiencing no shortage of success. With the regular season behind them, the 13 students comprising the JV and varsity teams are looking ahead to the MSHAA district tournament later this month and the National Academic Quiz Tournaments’ High School National Championship in May.

CYBORG CATS: MID-SEASON UPDATE

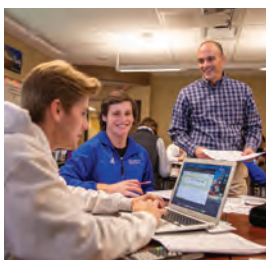
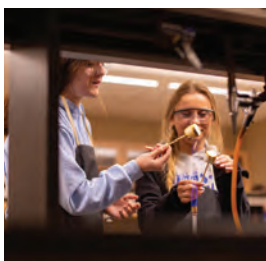
The Cyborg cats are hard at work designing, building, and programming their robot for this season’s competition, “Infinite Recharge”. Decisions have been made on the drivetrain and team members are finalizing plans, beginning to prototype their scoring and elevator systems, and finishing the game field. In late February, the Cats engaged with the local robotics community and hosted St. Louis teams for practice using Westminster’s game field. The Cats on the robotics business team are diligently working on finding sponsors and planning outreach events. With their first regional match behind them, they’re looking forward to a great season.



NEW COURSE HELPS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS DEVELOP BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Led by Kable Cunningham and Barbara Murray, Westminster’s 8th grade Bible curriculum has been transformed into a worldviews class devoted to helping students grasp the deep tenets of a biblical view of the world, so they can identify cultural beliefs that don’t align with it.

On one level, this new curriculum is designed to lay the foundation for upper school Bible courses, which culminates in a senior-level worldviews class. But on another level, the goal is to help students understand the world in which they live and to more fully embrace the ways in which a biblical lens helps make sense of all that is around them.



ARE YOU FOLLOWING WCA ON INSTAGRAM?

Want to hear more about what's happening in the classroom at Westminster? Follow [@wcastl](#) on Instagram to find out why chemistry students were making s'mores with Bunsen burners, how one Spanish classroom became a mini-city, what really goes on in Mr. Fuller's accounting class, and more!

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: LUKE DAVIS

Bible Department Chair Luke Davis will publish his book, "Tough Issues, True Hope: A Concise Journey through Christian Ethics" this May. The book tackles contemporary moral matters in a thorough, yet concise, manner and is designed for inquisitive high schoolers, college students, and Sunday School or small group ministry. In his review, Head of School Emeritus Jim Marsh described the book as "...an invaluable resource for teachers, parents, youth leaders, and anyone involved in educating and discipling young people. The complex issues and conflicting messages of a secular, social media-driven, and divisive culture make discernment of truth, beauty, and right from wrong extremely challenging"



AN UPDATE FROM COLLEGE COUNSELING

College decisions for the Class of 2020 are underway! To date, Westminster students will attend Yale, Washinton University in St. Louis, Northwestern, Johns Hopkins, Rhodes College, Texas Christian University, Baylor, and Southern Methodist University. More decisions to come, so stay tuned!



800 NEWS RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED NEWS SITE AWARD

Westminster's 800 News team was awarded the School Newspapers Online (SNO) Distinguished News Site Award for their excellent reporting and digital presence. The Distinguished Sites recognition program provides news staffs with a set of standards to help their publications excel online. "It was such a great honor to receive this award because it shows that we have what it takes to compete with large public schools in the journalism field and that an objective outside source recognized our hard work," says Isabella Francois, editor-in-chief of The Wildcat Roar. "We were the 11th school in the country to receive this award and it really reflected our hard work!" The achievement of this award would not have been possible without the hard work of every division of Westminster's 800 News media company.

Arts

CREATIVE EXCELLENCE



Student Musicians Earn All-State Recognition

Elinor Dana (sophomore) and Daniel Herrera (senior) shared their musical gifts at the Missouri Music Educators Conference in Osage Beach this past winter after receiving all-state honors. Daniel was selected as the only piano player for the All-State Jazz Band and Elinor earned a spot with her cello in the All-State Orchestra!



Faculty Recognition: Allen Schwamb

Each year, Emerson recognizes educators in the St. Louis metropolitan area who stand out among their peers for their excellence in the classroom. Westminster is excited to announce that Allen Schwamb, performing arts department chair, has been selected as a 2019 honoree for this prestigious award.

Mr. Schwamb is the epitome of an educator who goes above and beyond what is required. He has an unrivaled passion for both the content he teaches and for the students with whom he works. This work ethic and passion combine to produce incredible results, to which anyone who has attended a Westminster concert or musical can attest.

Mr. Schwamb has dedicated his career to sharing his passion for music and performance with his students, and this dedication has paid off time and time again. Students, parents, and colleagues all agree: Westminster is incredibly blessed to have Mr. Schwamb as a member of our faculty and community.

Thespan Society Travels to State Conference

In January, members of Westminster's newly formed Thespan Society traveled to Kansas City for the State Conference sponsored by the International Thespan Society. Students participated in workshops and competitions, listened to theatre professionals, visited with representatives from various colleges and universities, and more.

Westminster students competed in several categories, including solo musical performance (Elizabeth Nolting, junior), independent film (Matteo Zavaglia, junior), solo monologue (Michael Lee Jr, senior), and duet scene (Ella Polski and Hannah Stevenson, seniors). Performances were judged on a scale of fair to superior and the Wildcats earned superior ratings in almost every category.

"The most valuable takeaway from this trip is that it is almost always a good thing to extend yourself and your program into uncharted territory," said Jim Butz, drama and speech teacher. "We learn by being challenged in new environments, and I think our students came away knowing that we do in fact have an excellent performing arts program here at Westminster."



Student Photography on Display

This past winter, Allie Shreves (junior) and Mark West (senior) had their photography work displayed in a juried exhibition called Beginnings: The High School Photography Exhibition at Webster University's May Gallery. Students from twenty-two area high schools applied to have their work displayed in this annual exhibition.



Celebrating Black History Month through Art

Art students spent the month of February studying and creating art to honor Black History Month. They learned about artists like Amy Sherald, the Gee's Bend Quiltmakers, and Alma Woodsey Thomas and created their own pieces using the work of these and other African American artists for inspiration. A special exhibit was displayed in the Gallery showcasing their work and information about the artists who inspired them.

Musical Theatre Program Wows Audience with *Godspell* Performance

Six sold-out shows of this year's musical delighted audiences in the Black Box Theatre. Featuring the characters of Jesus and his disciples, *Godspell* presents biblical parables and the passion story in a unique, captivating, and colorful way. Bravo to the cast, crew, musicians, and Director Allen Schwamb!



Save the Date!

April 23-25

A timeless tale of “whodunit”, Agatha Christie’s *The Mousetrap* strands seven strangers at Monkswell Manor during a blizzard. A police sergeant arrives unexpectedly, worried that a murderer-at-large is among the guests of the manor. Don’t miss out on the suspense—join us this spring!

Men’s & Women’s Chorus Update

This year, the choir program launched a new initiative and offered a men’s and women’s chorus during the first semester. In making this change, the department hoped to create broader general appeal and increase individual mentorship opportunities for students in the areas of singing and leadership development. The choruses performed for their peers at various assemblies and the men’s group even took to the halls for a bit of caroling during the holiday season.



Athletics

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS AND GENERAL NEWS



SUPPORT YOUR WILDCATS THIS SPRING!

The spring sports season is well underway. Make sure to get outside and support your Wildcats! Team schedules can be found on the Westminster website at wcastl.org/athletics. Go Cats!



FIVE CATS SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

To date, five Wildcats have signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Next fall, you'll find these student-athletes hitting the books—and the field—at the following schools: Luke Engelmeyer—baseball at Maryville University, Lauren Gates—softball at SIU-Edwardsville, Reese Earleywine—softball at the University of Southern Mississippi, Brennan Orf—baseball at SIU-Edwardsville, and Bennie Anderson—football at Yale University. The athletic department will host another signing day for student-athletes this month.



MARGO O'MEARA SMASHES STATE RECORD

Junior Margo O'Meara crushed a 29-year-old state record and secured her third consecutive diving title at this year's state championship. Margo overtook the previous record (523.5 points) with her ninth dive of the night and ended the competition, which consisted of 11 total dives, with a final score of 636.5 points. Former record-holder Julie Grimmer Smith (Nerinx Hall '91) was in attendance to congratulate Margo.

BRENNAN ORF BREAKS 1,000 CAREER POINTS

Over the course of one week, senior Brennan Orf scored more than 26 points to eclipse his 1,000th career point. During the Lindbergh Tournament, which the Wildcats went on to win, Brennan scored 8 points in the team's game against Jackson and 18 points against Riverview. He scored his 1,000th and 1,001st points in a way that best exemplifies his career: with a half-court pass from teammate Casen Lawrence and a one-on-one drive to the basket against a defender. Brennan is only the ninth boys basketball player in school history to reach this milestone.





BASKETBALL - GIRLS

The girls basketball team achieved new levels of success this season and finished 23-5. With a 3-0 start and a win in the Troy Tournament championship, the Wildcats built on their theme “Be Fierce” with the daily pursuit of individual and team excellence in all areas. The program made its first appearance in the prestigious Visitation Academy Christmas Tournament, where they were seeded 7th and finished 6th. The Wildcats beat No. 3 seed Parkway Central before falling to No. 4 seed Kirkwood. The team also participated in its first annual Play4Kay breast cancer awareness game this season. Ranked No. 6 in the St. Louis-area small schools pool and undefeated in conference play, the team ended their season in the district championship game as the district runner-up.



BASKETBALL - BOYS

The boys varsity basketball team finished the regular season 21-4 and defeated Priory in the district finals, making the Cats this year’s district champs. The Wildcats were led by five seniors: Bennie Anderson, Zach Benes, Lane Davis, Matt George, and Brennan Orf. Drew Liddle (junior), sophomores Luke Beachy, Matt Buchanan, Casen Lawrence, Caleb Thompson, Sam Vestal, Austin Vick, EJ Williams, and freshmen Aydan Trawick and Kobi Williams have all contributed to the varsity team this year. The team made an outstanding effort and played well together with a competitive spirit! At the time of printing, the Cats were preparing to play St. Mary’s in a Class 4 state sectional game.

HOCKEY

The 2019–20 Wildcats were a very different team from the previous season. The Cats graduated five seniors and lost another five players, but were a better team for it. A closer team with a higher competitive level, they accomplished some special things this past season. The Cats season started out slow with a record of 1-6, but the team finished the regular season 11-9-1. The team’s great turnaround included a win over a very good Edwardsville team and a tie against conference champions Rockwood Summit. The team advanced in the Wickenheiser Cup postseason playoffs but ultimately fell to Oakville in the semifinals.



WRESTLING

The team had a strong showing at the MSHSAA Class 3 District 2 Championship where Brett St. John (junior) qualified for the state tournament. Nolan Jones (sophomore) and Kirk Briden (junior) were one match short of qualifying. At state, Brett lost a tough first match but went on to win his next match in the first wrestleback round. He fell 3-0 in the second round to end his season.



SWIM & DIVE - GIRLS

The girls swim and dive team finished the regular season with an outstanding 12-1 record. The team earned a first-place finish at the Metro League Conference meet and qualified a number of swimmers/divers and relays for the state meet. At state, Margo O’Meara (junior) secured her third consecutive diving title breaking the overall state record held since 1991 and a third-place finish in the 50 Free, Samantha Lee earned seventh place in the 500 Free, and the Cats earned another seventh-place finish in the 400 Free relay, which included Samantha Lee (freshman), Camryn McMurry (senior), Grace Skiljan (senior), and Lauren Zone (senior).

FULFILLING THE WESTMINSTER

VISION

**Business and
Communications
Students are
Equipped to
Change the
World for Christ**

As Christians, we are called to view work as an opportunity to serve our Creator. Tim Keller once said, “our daily work can be a calling only if it is reconceived as God’s assignment to serve others.” Rather than leaving students to discover on their own how to approach work as a “mission of service”, the Business and Communications Department has taken this on as one of its responsibilities.

“Our big picture is equipping students to see their future vocation as not just a task of work but a means to accomplish something for the work of Christ,” says Business and Communications Department Chair Jonathan Horn. “God is going to place these students somewhere as professionals with the purpose and intent of hopefully, working toward restoration in that field.”

In short, the department strives to bring Westminster’s vision to “prepare more young men and women to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ” to fruition.

Work is one of—if not our primary—means for working toward restoration in the places we live. “To graduate students from Westminster without first equipping them with the understanding that the purpose of work is for restoration is a disservice,” says Scott Vonder Bruegge, director of educational technology and curricular innovation. “We’re fighting against the popular belief in culture today that work is for your own benefit, rather than for fulfilling who we are as image-bearers and as agents of restoration.”

The department’s focus on servanthood in courses like newspaper, finance, and marketing teaches students how to turn their future occupation into an opportunity to make an impact on their world for Christ and His kingdom.

“We’re empowering students to contribute to the community,” says visual storytelling teacher Han Kim. “What better way

to learn servanthood than by actually serving others? God created us to be in community—we’re only as good as what we can accomplish as a team.”

This spirit and passion for servanthood frames the student perspective and, hopefully, resonates with students as they complete their coursework.

“One of the biggest things Mr. Vonder Bruegge talks about is being an image bearer for Christ in a professional work environment,” says senior Bennie Anderson. “What I’ve seen with the newspaper this year is how powerful a group can be when everyone is working in unison to reach a common goal.”

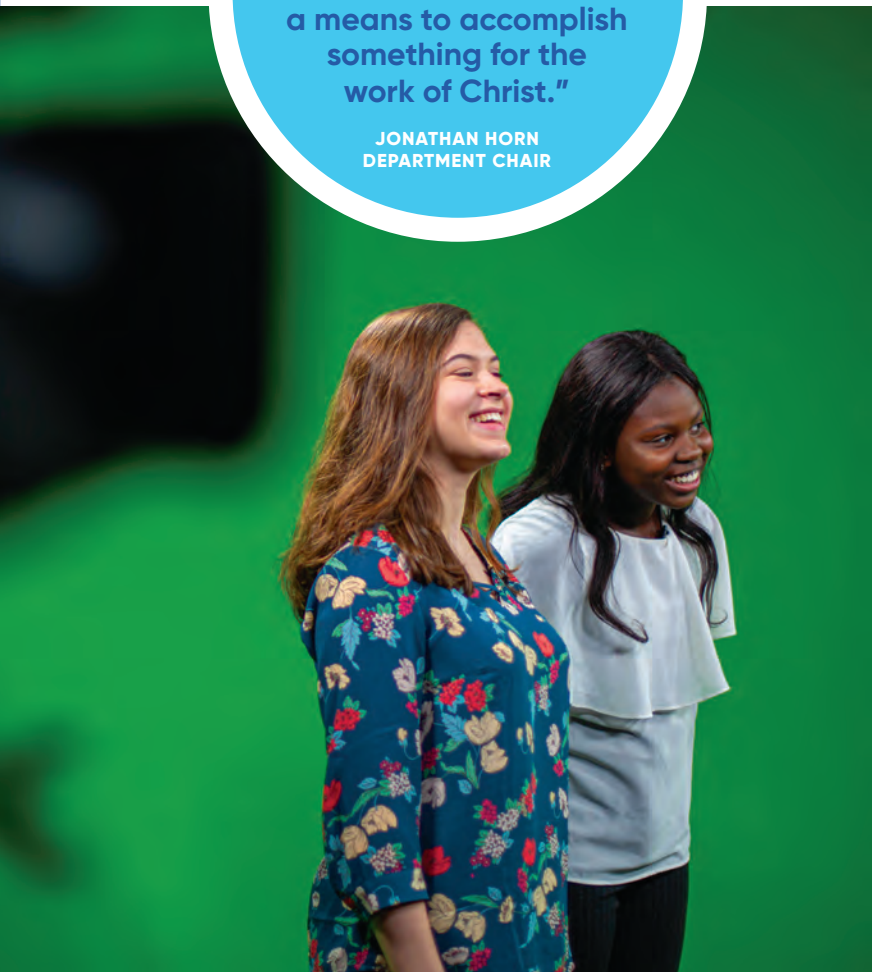
“Working on the paper has caused me to view work as an extension of who I am rather than just a job that needs to be done,” says Isabella Francois, senior and editor-in-chief of The Wildcat Roar. “Journalism is a broken profession (as is everything else) and there is always a temptation as a journalist to sacrifice quality and integrity in order to get a story out. However, in stressing that who we are as journalists reflects who we are as Christians, [Mr. Vonder Bruegge] has instilled in us that what we do in newspaper is more than a job, it is a way that we can make an impact on our community.”

The Business and Communications Department does its best to model a professional work environment. Students are constantly presented with real-world projects that, no surprise, come with real-world challenges, successes, and sometimes failures. In fact, the department ↗



"Our big picture is equipping students to see their future vocation as not just a task of work but a means to accomplish something for the work of Christ."

JONATHAN HORN
DEPARTMENT CHAIR



views itself as more of a small media business rather than a traditional academic department and does its best to operate as such.

“I firmly believe you cannot divorce doing and knowing,” Mr. Vonder Bruegge says. “It’s not enough to have a body of knowledge—that by itself is nothing. On the flip side, performing without a body of knowledge doesn’t work either.”

Pawprint Coffee, one of two senior entrepreneurship courses offered, is an opportunity for students to carry out this concept of “knowing and doing”. Through operating an on-campus coffee shop, students apply the lessons they’ve learned in their marketing and finance courses among others.

“I’m constantly asking students, ‘How do we create value for the school community through Pawprint Coffee? How can Pawprint make Westminster’s culture better?’” says business teacher Brian Maloy. “Pawprint is about more than increasing our profit. We’re always looking for ways to increase sales, but we’re doing that with the mindset of ‘How are we going to do that and make someone’s day better?’”

This desire to add value to the Westminster community extends beyond Pawprint. The Business and Communications Department faculty frequently meet to discuss questions like: “How do we provide something that people want to be a part of?” “How do we add value to Westminster and the marketplace within our courses?” “How do we help our

students reclaim the world of marketing, media, and finance for Christ?”

One way is by exposing students to organizations and experiences beyond Westminster’s walls.

Students in Mr. Horn’s entrepreneurship course seek to create restoration through real-world work that meets a real-world need for a real-world audience by serving as an auxiliary member of an organization’s team. Projects include everything from serving as a marketing intern with Westminster’s Athletic Department to revamping a nonprofit organization’s digital presence and overhauling its social media strategy to launching a video production company that creates short marketing videos for local Christian elementary schools.

“All of the projects focus on restorative work and helping people; they’re support roles for someone else’s mission,” Mr. Horn says. “While we are the Business and Communications Department, we’re less about business and more about vocation and supporting the work others are doing for Christ.”

Seniors Jaela Ginger and Lauren Zone are working on a website redesign and social media strategy with Sunshine Ministries, an organization committed to providing high-quality Christian social services to those in need in the community. They meet with the directors of the nonprofit weekly to discuss their progress on the new website and talk through the organization’s needs.

“Our project is hands-on and specifically benefits an organization that helps the community in a lot of ways,” says senior Lauren Zone. “The website we’re creating will help people who might need Sunshine Ministries’ services. We feel like our work is actually purposeful because of their mission.”

Lauren and Jaela’s experience is just another example of the Business and Communications Department helping students to see how their future vocation can—and should—be about more than just checking off a list of meaningless tasks. Work is part of being an image-bearer, and the Business and Communications Department is intent on equipping students to chase the Westminster vision and change the world for Christ. ●

“All of the projects focus on restorative work and helping people”





A Partnership Fueled by **HOPE**

Westminster Announces Partnership with African Vision of Hope

WHEN THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF HOPE, it often refers to a living hope with power and the ability to produce change in life. As John Piper once said, “Christian hope is a strong confidence in God, which has power to produce changes in how we live.”

This is precisely the mission of African Vision of Hope, a Christian organization committed to bringing immediate and lasting solutions to children and families living in extreme poverty. African Vision of Hope confronts the root causes of poverty by providing opportunities for children to be educated, grow up healthy, develop leadership and economic skills, and learn about God’s love.

Earlier this spring, Head of School Dr. Barrett Mosbacker announced a new partnership between Westminster and African Vision of Hope. As part of this partnership, Westminster will work with the nonprofit to implement its first Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program.

“We are blessed to partner with African Vision of Hope in giving their students hope by teaching them the STEM skills they need to survive and prosper in the 21st century,” Dr. Mosbacker says. “Our partnership gives hope to those who otherwise would have none.”

This summer, six members of the Westminster community will travel to Zambia and take the first steps in launching the STEM

Initiative, a five-year plan involving the design, implementation of, and continued support for African Vision of Hope’s first STEM program.

While this is Westminster’s first visit to Zambia, African Vision of Hope has already made multiple visits to Westminster’s campus to learn more about integrating a Christian worldview into all aspects of education, engage with students and staff, and worship with the Westminster community during Chapel.

“This summer is more of a vision trip,” says Karen Bowman, global education coordinator. “Our goal is for our STEM teachers to visit with African Vision of Hope teachers, discuss their wants, and assess their needs for this STEM curriculum. We want to create a practical curriculum that will teach things that benefit their daily life.”

The STEM Initiative is just one of many ways Westminster and African Vision of Hope plan to support and serve one another over the coming years. On a larger scale, the two organizations hope to build a cross-cultural relationship, share best practices in Christian education, and carry out the biblical mandate to love and serve one another as neighbors through this partnership. •



Senior Reflections

As their senior year draws to a close, two members of the Class of 2020 reflect on their time at Westminster.



HEIDI HIGHTOWER

My four years at Westminster have elapsed quickly, but in reflecting on my time, I have truly enjoyed every moment of my high school career. Westminster has presented me with countless opportunities throughout the years that have allowed me to become highly involved with the school.

My experience in clubs such as Veterans and First Responders Club and Medical Club have exposed me to many new people and ideas. I have played on the girls volleyball team throughout high school and have been captain for the past two years. Additionally, managing the boys volleyball team in the spring, and participating in the summer strength and conditioning program has allowed me to engage in all aspects of the athletics program.

Many school organizations have also encouraged my growth as a leader. Since my junior year, I have served with the Cultural Ambassadors guiding many international students through the American high school experience. I was also voted by my peers to be an officer in the newly formed Student Council here at Westminster during my senior year. Serving on the Student Council has challenged me to balance my time while serving my community.

Looking back, the sheer number of opportunities offered to grow and choose my own path has been a blessing. Westminster has trained and equipped my mind, body, and spirit to prepare me for whatever future God has in store. I will be forever thankful to Westminster for providing me with these many formative opportunities.



BRAYDEN WALL

Westminster has taught me a tremendous amount, be it in the classroom or on the athletic field. These lessons have genuinely shaped me into the man I am today.

The most important aspect of this development has been due, in large part, to the excellent teachers and coaches here at Westminster. They have modeled for me what it truly means to be a man of Christ in a society that is growing further and further away from Him. My coaches, while using the Ten Pillars, have taught me that sports are about more than winning and losing. At the end of the day, what matters most is if we performed our best to glorify God with our actions. All of these adults have served as wonderful role models for me, from teaching me to be accountable to myself and to others and doing the right thing even if that decision goes against the popular choice. All of this would not have been possible if I did not attend Westminster.

I will always cherish the memories I have made at this place, from winning Spirit Week as a senior to becoming close friends with those in my grade. Above all, I will remember that Jesus is the reason for all that I have. So as I leave Westminster, I will remember the things I learned here because they have helped me be a better friend and student but most importantly, brought me closer to Jesus.



2020 Vision

BY PEGGY JOHNSON

We've reached the middle of second semester, which means it's time for a vision check. Twenty-twenty vision requires re-visiting that powerful statement that animates our commitment to preparation, engagement, and change, the Westminster vision statement: *Prepare and equip more young men and women to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.*

Westminster has always been deeply committed to preparing young men and women to compete in the world while living out Christ-like devotion for God and His glory. What has changed are society's basic assumptions about the world. The understanding and embracement of a Christian worldview are no longer a given. Our vision statement reflects this reality.

As we equip our students to engage a world that doesn't share our worldview and seems, quite often, even hostile toward it, we are required to develop new, creative, and sometimes unconventional approaches to engage the world around us. We constantly consider how our students can better prepare for the challenges represented by a rapidly changing culture.

To this end, Westminster's athletic program trains students to excel while also communicating the Christ-centered values of sportsmanship and competition. The world is shrinking as the reach of technology expands; our students use cutting-edge technologies to engage the world in ways not dreamed of a decade ago. In the arts, we prepare young men and women to communicate in increasingly creative ways while preserving our gospel-honoring commitment to be bold and compassionate witnesses for Jesus Christ.

Our vision statement aspires to train our students to be world-changers. This is a lofty aspiration, but we are confident that the partnership of home, church, and school community promises the best hope of realizing our God-shaped goal. Westminster is poised in this first year of a new decade to renew our passion for this vision. Join us in praying for this kind of 2020 vision for our school community. •

Community News

UPDATES FROM AROUND CAMPUS



SOPHOMORES HOST SPECIAL OLYMPICS ON CAMPUS

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

BOOKS COLLECTED FOR KENYA

Last summer, Lea Despotis (senior) had the opportunity to study at Yale University as a Yale Young Global Scholar with students from all across the world. After becoming friends with a young woman from Kenya, Lea was surprised to learn that many communities in Kenya have limited access to books. As someone who adores reading, Lea felt compelled to try and provide Kenyan children with the same opportunity to read and to learn that she has been blessed with in her life. This past winter, she ran a book drive at Westminster and collected more than 200 books that will be sent to a small library in Kenya through the African Library Project.

HOOPS FOR HEROES

Tommy Briner, senior and athletic department intern, helped organize a Hoops for Heroes fundraiser to benefit Tiny Superheroes. Against the backdrop of a Wildcat varsity basketball game, Westminster hosted a raffle and half-court shot contest to raise money for this amazing organization that seeks to empower children as they overcome illness or disability. The event raised more than \$600 for Tiny Superheroes.



WE ARE ONE

Westminster hosted its annual celebration of Black History Month, We Are One, on February 13. This year's program recognized historic educators and educational institutions in St. Louis. Guests from the Westminster and the broader St. Louis community enjoyed hearing from Dr. Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, superintendent of The School District of University City, the West Side Missionary Baptist Church Gospel Choir, and Westminster students.

CAMP WESTMINSTER

Sports, art, music, and lots of adventure!

At Camp Westminster, boys and girls in grades K-9 can choose from more than 30 different half-day and full-day camps. Options include STEM Camp, Outdoor Adventure, Basketball Skills Development Camp, and so many more— there's something for everyone! Camp Westminster takes place June 1-26. Visit wcastl.org/camp-westminster and sign up for a summer of fun today!



Steps of Faith

BY JIM MARSH

I have had the distinct privilege of serving Westminster for more than three decades. It has been an incredible blessing to witness the growth of Westminster through the transformational steps of faith that are the hallmark of the school's history. This faith journey has been led by godly, faithful traveling companions including faculty, parents, students, churches, board members, and donors committed to fulfilling the school's vision to equip more young men and women to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.

Steps of faith taken by school leadership at critical moments have enabled Westminster to open its doors to **more** Christian families and grow exceptional educational opportunities for **more** students. The list of God's providential work and answered prayers is a long one; some highlights include:

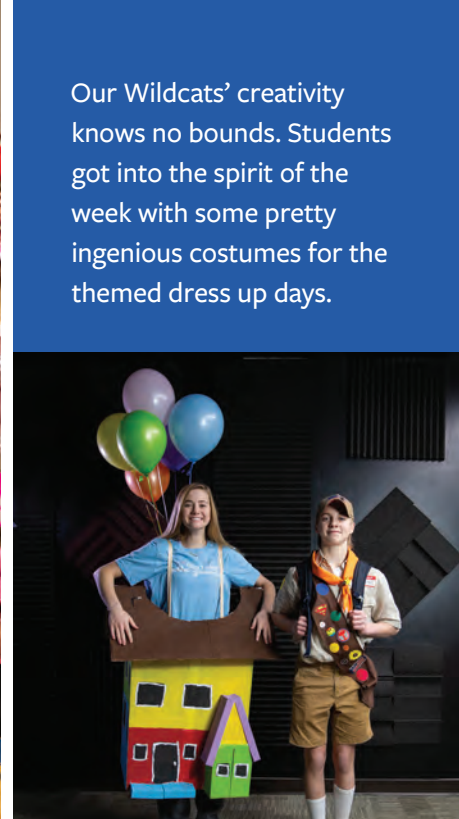
- The gift of the land for our Town and Country campus came at just the right moment to propel us forward with the development of the new campus.
- When the Westminster Board stepped out in faith to sell the Ladue Road campus, voters in the Ladue school district unexpectedly approved a bond issue that made the move to Town and Country possible. Westminster launched a capital campaign and campus development plan that established Westminster's beautiful new home for the 2011–12 school year.
- By God's grace, we are now positioned for our next step of faith: With a new five-year strategic plan (2019–24) and feasibility study, we are prepared to reach higher as we strive for educational excellence and ensure the sustainability of our school for many years to come.

I am especially grateful for Westminster's commitment to honor its vision and mission to prepare **more** young people to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ. Throughout its history,



Westminster has made prayerful decisions to keep its doors open to all Christian parents who desired a Christ-centered education for their children. Waiting lists and saying “no” to qualified families at the Ladue Road campus led to the development of the Town and Country campus. When families looked to Westminster to serve the special learning needs of students, the Learning Center that currently serves 14 percent of students was established. When we made a commitment to reflect the Kingdom of God on Earth within our community (Revelation 7:9), Westminster took steps to significantly expand diversity. When we made a commitment to enable our students to better know and engage the world for Jesus Christ, we launched Westminster's global partnership program and formed relationships with schools in South Korea, China, Africa, Spain, and France. In all this, we praise the Lord for enabling us to serve and equip **more** children of Christian parents.

Serving as head of school, and now head of school emeritus, has provided me with a front-row seat to the Lord's miraculous work at Westminster. This journey has been marked with joy beyond measure. I look forward to witnessing the Lord's continued leading and the next steps of faith the Westminster community will take! We are just getting started! •



Our Wildcats' creativity knows no bounds. Students got into the spirit of the week with some pretty ingenious costumes for the themed dress up days.

The lip sync performances had the crowd dancing in their seats as they performed to tunes from "High School Musical," "Hannah Montana," "Mamma Mia," and more.



SPIRIT WEEK 20

JANUARY 27-31

WEEK 20

The classes battled against each other in everything from tug of war to ultimate chicken to chariot races—the classic Spirit Week games. One new addition this year (and an instant favorite) was mathletes vs. athletes.



Spirit Week 2020 solidified this 31-year tradition as the most highly anticipated event of the school year. Students rallied together to show their class pride and competed against their fellow Wildcats in Westminster favorites: ultimate chicken, mattress surfing, lip-sync, boys poms, and more. Additions like the Cool Cat, class cheers, a Spirit Week hype video, and the faculty film project took Spirit Week to an entirely new level. Despite several upsets throughout the week, the seniors came out on top and were named champions on Big Night.



Check out more from Spirit Week on our Instagram highlights! Follow us @wcastl



The boys showed off their dance moves in some exciting poms routines full of break dancing, flips, and other impressive tricks.



A new addition to Spirit Week this year, the Cool Cat was awarded each day to the class with the best sportsmanship.



Faculty surprised students with a film project of their own this year, *The Academy: A Star Wars Story*. Watch “Kylo Roff,” “Sperber” (the chosen one), and “Obi-Wan Knerrobi” in action at wcastl.org/youtube.



How do they come up with this stuff? Students were tasked with creating their film project around an original storyline this year and the final products did not disappoint!



REFLECTIONS

A Note from Your Alumni Relations Coordinator

It's finally spring...no, wait, it's snowing again! The seasons here in St. Louis are never a sure thing, but one thing we can always count on here at Westminster is Spirit Week! And this year was no exception! The students really came together to work on class team games, hallway decor, boys poms and of course, the always favorite: lip sync. Per usual, the Class of 2020 seniors came out as the big winners by the end of the week.

Our alumni are a big part of Spirit Week too! We had two fantastic groups of alumni judges come back to campus to help determine the winners of boys poms and lip sync. It's always a fun mix of graduation years and a guaranteed blast of an afternoon. Want to get on the list for 2021? Drop me a note (hmurray@wcastl.org) and let me know! Other recent alumni events include the annual men's and women's basketball games and men's hockey game. These games had great turnouts and alumni really enjoyed catching up with each other!

Be sure to see the end of the "Class Notes" section for pictures from all our alumni happenings and join us next time. We'd love to welcome you back to campus!

Wishing you a wonderful spring!
Hannah Murray '93

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI NEWS



'83

Sheri (Sebastian) Reymond reunited with Lania (Duck) Leuellen '85, Lisa (Duck) Looper '83, and Toby (Howe) Rost '83 to celebrate her daughter's wedding over Thanksgiving weekend.

'88

Andrew 'AJ' Meyer moved to Monument, Colo. three years ago with his wife, Melissa, and their two children, Joe (19) and Josh (8). AJ works for USAA and is loving the Colorado weather, mountains, and fly fishing. "Trout fear me...sort of...maybe...depends on the day."

'90

Michael Miller was recently honored as "Daniel of the Year" by WORLD magazine for his ministry to children in Honduras through The Micah Project.



'94

Joanna Reiso Browning and her husband, Garrett, welcomed Lillian Joy (Lily) on October 21, 2019.



'03

Dan Pernoud and **Lily (Strand) Pernoud '04** were blessed with their first child, Holly, in September 2019. Dan is a dentist at his practice, Lily Dental, in Creve Coeur, Mo., and Lily is a mental health therapist at Agape Christian Counseling Services.



Ashley Reinecke married Joseph Rieser this past October. The bridal party included Kara (Eckman) Skrodzki '03, Mollie Hunt '03, Lindsay (Hunt) McLaughlin '03, and Ashley's sister, Emily Paulk '11. Anna (Moss) Rosales '03 traveled all the way from the Republic of Colombia to attend the wedding.

'07

After teaching elementary school for many years, **Lindsay Loyd** accepted a teaching position at Westminster this school year. She now teaches English in the middle school Learning Center. Lindsay will graduate in April from Missouri Baptist University with a master's degree in curriculum and instruction.



'08

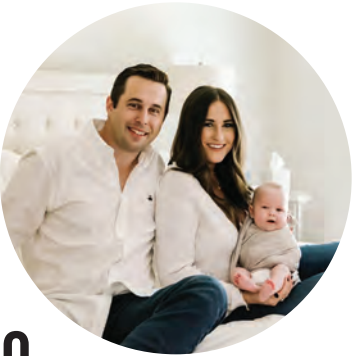
Lisa Hoover Grove choreographed Westminster's recent production of *Godspell*. She has choreographed and/or co-directed nine other Westminster theatrical productions since 2008—three of which were honored at the St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards.



Madison Burke Loethen and her husband, Kyle, welcomed Reese Renee on August 26, 2019. Cool uncles Landon Burke '12 and Carson Burke '15 are smitten.



Jeremy Ebert married his wife, Madison, in July of 2019. The couple currently lives in Jackson, Tenn. where Madison works as a nurse and Jeremy works for Kellogg's.



'10

Hillary (Franz) Cripps and her husband, Cody, welcomed their first child, Davis Stafford Cripps, on July 2, 2019, in Dallas. Davis was diagnosed with hydrocephalus and, at just two weeks old, underwent brain surgery. After 48 days in the NICU, Davis went home and has been thriving ever since! We know many in the Westminster community were praying for the Cripps family during this time. Hillary and Cody extend their thanks.

Christian Nicole Davis is a TV writer currently living in Los Angeles. In the past year, she has worked as the writers' production assistant on the writing staff for shows such as "Boomerang" on BET Networks and "Queen Sugar" on the Oprah Winfrey Network.

'12

Laura Hammann graduated from Southern Methodist University in three years with two degrees and high honors. She currently works as a mentor teacher and reading specialist in the Dallas suburbs. Laura is completing her master's degree in education on a full scholarship at SMU and plans to pursue her doctorate.



'14

Morgan Grimm graduated from Clemson University with her master's degree in education last December.

Haley Woolbright released her first album "Hindsight" on November 30, 2019.



'13

John Barry graduated from Lindenwood University in May of 2017 with a degree in finance and graduated in August of 2018 with his MBA in finance. John married his wife, Cassie, in St. Louis on May 25, 2019. Tim Holley '02 officiated. The couple currently lives in Nashville where John is employed with H.T. Hackney as a regional sales manager.

'15

Joseph Curtis interned with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) last summer in southern California. When Joseph returned to school in the fall of 2019, he started—and now leads—the FCA ministry at Northwest Missouri State University and has a group of 40 co-ed college student-athletes who regularly attend and participate in FCA events.

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

'16

Nick Ebel has made a name for himself as the infamous University of Alabama “Shaker Skirt Guy” and was recently highlighted by CBS Sports in the piece, “Dr. Pepper Pride & Passion: The Ballad of the BAMA Superfan”. Roll Tide!

'17

Soccer star **Kirsten Davis**, currently a junior at Texas Tech, has led the league in points and goals and was named the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year along with being placed on the All-Big 12 First Team as a unanimous selection.

IN MEMORIAM



Aaron White '96 passed away unexpectedly from a stroke on June 23, 2019. Upon graduation, Aaron attended Taylor University where he met his wife, Jessica. Aaron and his family resided in Fishers, Ind. He is survived by his wife and their three children, Isabelle (5), Isaiah (6), and William (9). We look forward to the day we will see him again in God's Eternal Kingdom.

BOYS POMS JUDGES



Left to Right: Lily Duell '15, Hayley Woolbright '14, Chris Cacciarelli '13, Natalie Bell '13, Grace Linton '13, Scott Rupprecht '14, and Zach Hampton '12

LIP SYNC JUDGES



Left to Right: Ryan Tomlinson '01, Lisa Grove '08, Mary Wynn '14, Kendall McDonald '14, Jamie Bell '00, Tim Dreher '00, Cassie Dreher '00, and Heather Tarticchio '00

ALUMNI WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME



Left to Right: Kiley McKee '19, Kristen Keys '19, Claire Sanden '19, Jordan Haeusser '18, Taylor French '17, Leah Menzel '09, Brooke Cusumano '13

ALUMNI MEN'S BASKETBALL GAME



Back: Coach Smith, Austin Vick '22, Jerram Adams '19, Chad Briden '18, Joel Johnson '16, DJ Stewart '17, Luke Linam '19, Michael Beck '06, Logan Montgomery '18, Brendan Bognar '15, Coach Ribble, Jackson Smith
Front Row: Dominic Cusumano '18, Zachary Hughes '16, Jordan Hawkins '16, Trevon Gooch '15

ALUMNI HOCKEY GAME



Standing: Coach Dave Ganz '01-'05, David Cascella '05, Jake O'Brien '10, Thomas Meyer '15, Andrew Bateman '04, Kyle Bateman '07, Jason Kelly '17, Matt Brown '01, Bill Franz '08, Levi Wright '18, Connor Dolan '17, Daniel Kim '08, Jimmy Munson '08, Coach Robert Bateman '04-'07
Kneeling: Nate Hoenig '99, Khris Stillman '06, Michael Bianca '08, Nate Brown '03, Sam Haupfear '19, Nick Pieber '07, Daniel Kaufman '09

JOIN US
NEXT TIME!

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

Changing the World for Christ

AN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON LIZ FORKIN BOHANNON '04

After graduating from Westminster, Liz Forkin Bohannon '04 earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and moved to Uganda with the hope of writing about issues facing women living in extreme poverty. God had other plans though. Today, Liz is the co-founder of Sseko Designs, an ethically made handbag, apparel, and footwear company, author of "Beginners Pluck: Build Your Life of Purpose and Impact Now", wife to Ben, and mother to Theo (3 ½) and Will (1 ½).

What's the story behind Sseko Designs?

While in Uganda, I met an incredible group of female scholars who tested into college but didn't have the financial (or social) support to continue their education. In response, I started Sseko Designs. We employ academically gifted young women during the nine-month gap between high school and college and provide them with a college scholarship.

Why did you write "Beginner's Pluck"?

As I've built Sseko and especially as I've grown into this new role of leading thousands of entrepreneurs who are launching and growing their own businesses, I've become increasingly aware of how stuck and paralyzed many people feel. We were all created for a purpose, but oftentimes the idea of "finding" our purpose can lead to feeling overwhelmed and discouraged. I came to realize that a lot of the common "inspirational" self-help language is actually contributing to a growing sense of anxiety, analysis paralysis, and burnout.

As I led my teams in Portland, Uganda, and our sellers across the U.S., I developed some core leadership principles that challenge some of that 'status-quo' lingo and saw firsthand how those mindset shifts created a sense of freedom, energy, and empowerment. So, I wrote "Beginner's Pluck" as a way to share my story and the lessons I've learned over the last decade of building a life of purpose, passion, and impact.



What are some of your favorite Westminster memories?

I am so grateful for my time at Westminster! Mr. Baldwin taught me so much about Jesus as a servant leader and the power of proximity and relationship. I loved doing improv with Mrs. Klemm—we use the famous "Yes...and!" rule at our company! I'd pay legit money to be back in Dr. Holley's AP English Lit class—he nurtured in me a love of story, critical thinking, and dialogue. I'm forever grateful for my dance team coach, Jenna Immergoat, who helped develop me as a leader and I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the glory of Spirit Week and lip-sync where I realized I *really liked* rallying people around a common goal!

Do you have any advice for current students?

You were created *on purpose and for a purpose*. Like a strand of DNA, you reflect a unique aspect and sequence of The Divine, and therefore you will leave an imprint on the world in a way that no one else can. Every day that you spend being paralyzed by fear and caught up in other people's opinions of you, is one less day we get to experience the gifts you have to give.

When you actually start to believe that you were made on purpose and for a purpose, it will unlock you to make some serious magic and create freedom for others to do the same. •

Liz had so much more to share than we could fit on one page. For the full, unedited interview, visit wcastl.org/news.



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JUNE
1-26

GRADES
K-9

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