

SUMMER 2021

# chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



SPECIAL EDITION

IN THIS ISSUE:

Bringing Normal Back  
with "Guys and Dolls"

We're Going  
Outside!

Presenting the  
Class of 2021



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*Chimes* is published by Westminster Christian Academy and sent to alumni, families of current students, and friends of the school. Westminster honors Jesus Christ by providing an excellent education, rooted in biblical truth as interpreted by the Westminster Confession of Faith, for the children of Christian parents. Faculty and staff enable students to discover and embrace a biblical view of the world and integrate that view into every area of life. The summer special edition is a digital publication only.

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## Joyfully Concluding the Year

**DR. BARRETT MOSBACKER**

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”**  
— Psalm 126:2

Spirit Week is a highlight of every year at Westminster, and this year was no exception. Our students showcased their talents and engaged in lively and vigorous competition. As Psalms says, their mouths were filled with laughter and their tongues with shouts of joy! Spirit Week was a capstone event to a challenging year — it was a wonderful way to end.

We also concluded the year with graduation, a significant milestone in the lives of our seniors. After leaving Westminster, these young men and women will continue their education, embark upon God’s vocational calling for their lives, start families, and become active members in their churches and in

their communities. As they begin a new and exciting period of their lives, may David’s words in Psalm 1 inspire and guide them:

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

*He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

— Psalm 1:1–3

Congratulations to our graduates, and may everyone have a safe and enjoyable summer!

# Academics

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



### SENIORS RECEIVE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

**Congratulations to the following seniors who received department awards this year!**

L to R: Caleb Moellenhoff (Math, Science), Hannah Skrobonja (Visual Arts), Nicki Mabry (Bible), Elizabeth Nolting (Performing Arts), Hayden Turley (English, Spanish), Patrick Park (Performing Arts), Zachary Allen (Physical Education), Thomas Gorline (History), Matthew Burgess (Performing Arts), Logan Mann (Visual Arts), Noah Coomes (Business & Communications), Aidan Kline (Chinese), Luke Coco (Bible, Visual Arts), Jacob Brown (French), Not Pictured: Wendy Do (Performing Arts)

### SPEECH STUDENTS PLACE IN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR DUO INTERPRETATION

The Westminster speech and debate team has been competing for three seasons, and this year they had their second appearance at the district tournament. Junior Stewart Geisz and senior Patrick Park's Duo Interpretation entry, "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon," won first place in the district tournament. They advanced to the state championship tournament, where they placed third. This is Westminster speech and debate's first ever district win and first state tournament.



### PRIZED TEACHERS

**Westminster teachers** Arlen Schwamb and Han Kim received the Arlen R. Dykstra Teaching Prize this year. Mr. Schwamb is the Department Chair for Performing Arts and Mr. Kim is the Director of Audio/Visual. The award, named in honor of former head of school Arlen R. Dykstra, is a \$1,000 prize presented annually at commencement. It recognizes the recipient's outstanding expression of the Christian worldview in his or her teaching and lifestyle. It also honors the recipient for his or her mastery of teaching matter, involvement in the life of the school, and creative and innovative presentation of curricula.

### JUNIOR SELECTED FOR STARS PROGRAM

**Congratulations to junior Angelina Spencer**, who was chosen to participate in the very selective STARS (Students & Teachers as Research Scholars) program during the summer. She will be working in the Origanti Lab at St. Louis University, where her research will focus on understanding the process of protein synthesis in human cells and how deregulation of this process can lead to diseases such as cancer and Shwachman-Diamond syndrome.



### SOPHOMORE ACCEPTED TO MISSOURI SCHOLARS ACADEMY

**Anagi Pieris has been accepted** to the 2021 Missouri Scholars Academy. Since 1985, the University of Missouri has hosted the Scholars Academy for 330 gifted students from across the state – all rising juniors. Each summer at the Academy, scholars take two courses over three weeks on Mizzou's campus (although the experience will be virtual this year), hear speakers from across the nation, and connect with gifted kids from schools of all types — rural, urban, suburban, private, and public. Westminster nominated Anagi based on her classroom performance, teacher recommendations, test scores, and written work. We are proud to have Anagi represent our school at this summer's Missouri Scholars Academy.



## Fine Arts Students Create Portraits for Children Facing Challenges

As part of **Memory Project** ([memoryproject.org](http://memoryproject.org)), seven AP Studio Art students created portraits of children around the world who are facing challenges. The portraits will be sent to the children pictured to “help the children feel valued, show them that many people care about their wellbeing, and provide them with a special childhood memory for the future.” The Westminster students who participated under the guidance of Director of Fine Arts John Sarra are Marty Briner (senior), Belle St. John (junior), Emma Harris (junior), Adeline Jowdy (senior), Zoe Lintner (senior), RJ Walker (junior), and Lily Wendel (junior). [Pictured art: Belle St. John and Marty Briner]

## Bands & Jazz Ensemble Reprise Old Favorites

The Westminster band performed their spring concert to a small in-person audience. The performance included “If I Were a Bell” from “Guys and Dolls,” selections from “Annie,” and highlights from “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.”



## Orchestra Plays Among the Stars

The Westminster orchestras performed their spring concert, themed around Psalm 19:1–4 and titled “Among the Stars,” to a small in-person audience. The performance included a Star Wars arrangement, “Skyfall” by Adele, and “Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity” from Gustav Holst’s “The Planets.”

## Student Musicians Recognized at State Festival

Four students were recognized at the MSHSAA State Solo and Ensemble Festival. Elinor Dana (junior, cello solo), Anna Enger (freshman, violin solo), and Mallory Pfuetze (freshman, violin solo) were awarded gold medals. Madison Washington (senior, violin solo) was awarded a silver medal.



## Choirs Perform Spring Concert

The Westminster choirs performed their spring concert to a small in-person audience. The performance included “Everybody Says Don’t” by Stephen Sondheim and “Into the West” by Annie Lennox and Howard Shore from “The Return of the King.” A barbershop quartet consisting of director Allen Schwamb, Sam Parker Stillman (senior), Zach Leeker (sophomore), and Stewart Geisz (junior) sang “How Deep Is the Ocean?” by Irving Berlin. Sam Parker Stillman received the National School Choral Award.

## Concert Replays

Watch the band, orchestra, and choir concerts along with a variety of other events from the year at [wcastl.org/live](http://wcastl.org/live).

# Athletics

## GENERAL NEWS AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



### SPRING SIGNING DAY

**Eight Wildcats signed letters of intent** to pursue their athletic passions at the collegiate level this spring. We're incredibly proud of these students and look forward to watching their academic and athletic careers progress at the next level. *Front row (L to R):* Hunter Freiner (Cross-Country and Track, Missouri S&T), Zoe Lintner (Soccer, University of Southern Indiana), Teddy Peirick (Lacrosse, Columbia College), Nick Lee (Lacrosse, Columbia College) *Back row (L to R):* Caleb Moellenhoff (Cross-Country and Track, Missouri S&T), Thomas Gorline (Cross-Country and Track, Concordia University, Nebraska), Luke Laughlin (Soccer, Covenant College), Zachary Allen (Baseball, Cedarville University)



### BASKETBALL TEAMS REACH NEW HIGHS

**We are so proud of our boys basketball team** for placing second at state! This was the first time the team had qualified for the Final Four since 2005 and the program's best performance ever.

**The girls basketball team** had a spectacular season and made it to the quarterfinals of their tournament for the first time since 2011-12. They finished with an incredible final record of 23-5 and a Metro League Championship.

### WRESTLING

**Eight out of 10 wrestlers** qualified for the sectional tournament at districts. Five wrestlers made it to the top 16 in the state, and Kirk Briden (senior) placed 6th at state. Congratulations to all the wrestlers for completing a challenging season!

### BASEBALL

**The baseball team** qualified for the district semifinals but ultimately fell to the eventual district champions, Parkway Central.

### BOYS GOLF

**The golf team** finished second at state, with junior Jack Wooldridge finishing in 14th place overall. In the earlier Winghaven Tournament, senior Cole Willyard finished first place individually after an exciting playoff hole.

### LACROSSE

**On the boys team**, Nicholas Lee (senior, goalie) and Jackson Selk (senior, attack) led the way in their respective areas. The team had a very strong season defensively, led by their three seniors (Teddy Peirick, Kevin Caccamo, Max Kraemer) and two juniors (Kirk Ellis, Zack Kilgore) collectively allowing only one goal in three games! Unfortunately the team was defeated in the quarterfinals of the state championship bracket.

**The girls lacrosse program** was bursting at the seams, with over 50 girls in the middle school program and over 60 in the upper school. They started their first youth team this season, which had over 20 5th and 6th graders! As a varsity team, they finished the season with a 10-7 record. This group of girls had a work ethic that kept them in games and helped them continue to win both on and off the field.

### BOYS TENNIS

The boys tennis team captured the MSHSAA Class 1 District 4 championship before going on to place second in the team state tournament! In the state doubles tournament one week prior, it was an all-Westminster final with Seth Noel (senior) and Daniel Stengel (junior) winning the state championship and Matthew Kinney (senior) and Griffin Alm (junior) placing second.

### TRACK & FIELD

**In girls track**, the 4x400 meter relay team of Sydney Bradley (sophomore), Addie Draper (sophomore), Hennessy McGowan (freshman), and Annessa Shively (senior) placed second at state.

**Boys track** enjoyed a number of successful performances at state! LJ Minner (junior) and Sterling Webb (junior) placed second and sixth in shot put, respectively. Tucker Mulick (junior) placed third in the 200 meter, while Colin Ring (senior) placed fifth in the 800 meter. The 4x200 meter relay of Larenz Giddings (sophomore), Josh Avery (freshman), Gus Wilkerson (senior), and Tucker Mulick placed seventh.

### BOYS VOLLEYBALL

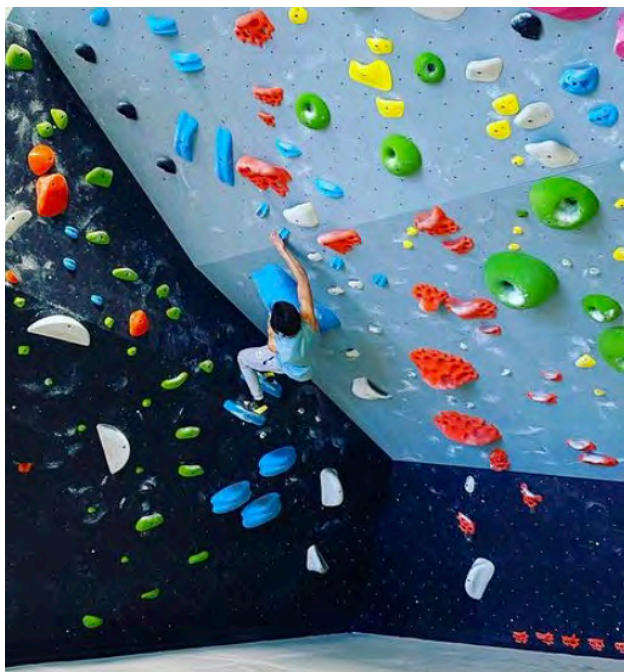
**The boys volleyball team** had plenty of new faces and seasoned seniors who grew in competition after each match. The team adapted to challenges and showed resilience against some of the bigger schools on their schedule. The season was a memorable one with the players adjusting quickly after a year off due to COVID. Unfortunately the team fell to #1 St. Dominic in the district semifinals.

### GIRLS SOCCER

Despite COVID-related setbacks, the team had a strong season and consistently performed well to qualify for the district semifinals. The competition against MICDS was tough, and the game went to a shootout after 30 minutes of overtime with a 0-0 tie. Both goalkeepers made incredible saves but MICDS edged out a win 2-0.

# Community News

UPDATES FROM AROUND CAMPUS



## New Rock Climbing Club Soars with Alumnus Guidance

Last August, when sports seasons were uncertain, upper school math and engineering teacher Maggie Sperber and alumnus David Chancellor '98 started a rock climbing club at David's gym, Climb So iLL. The club's approximately 20 members have taken on the mental and physical challenge while nurturing trust in those who are belaying them, building problem solving skills, accomplishing project goals, and learning how to fail in a safe environment. Check them out on Instagram @rcclubwcazo!

## Three Young Men Accepted to Boys State

Samuel Vestal (junior) was accepted to Missouri Boys State this summer, and juniors Cael Berkland and Zack Kilgore were accepted for the summer 2022 session (deferred due to COVID). Missouri Boys State is an eight-day hands-on experience in the operation and fundamentals of government that draws together the best and brightest high school juniors.

## New Hires & Promotions

### Head of Institutional Advancement

We are pleased to announce that Jeremy Marsh '91 will be joining Westminster Christian Academy as our Head of Institutional Advancement and newest member of the Senior Leadership Team. Jeremy is an accomplished leader, having 20+ years of educational, organization, and advancement leadership and teaching experience as well as experience as legal counsel in a variety of school and business settings.

### Upper School Principals

We have promoted Dan Burke '01, currently serving as upper school English teacher and English department chair, and hired Kim Graham as our new upper school principals. Kim received many accolades while teaching and serving as an administrative intern at Bellevue Christian School in Washington. Dan will serve as our 11th–12th grade principal and Kim will serve as our 9th–10th grade principal. Both principals will also teach two sections of upper school English.

### Assistant Athletic Director

We are pleased to welcome Ben Briney to Westminster as our new Assistant Athletic Director. Ben comes to Westminster from Truman State University, where he has served as the Head Volleyball Coach for the past 12 years. In addition, he has been an instructor in the Health and Exercise Science program at Truman State for the past 16 years, teaching both Athletic Training practicum classes and senior capstone courses in strength and conditioning.

We are grateful to the Lord for calling Jeremy, Dan, Kim, and Ben to their new roles at Westminster. Please join us in praying for them and their families and in welcoming them into the Westminster community!



## Joan Dudley Retires After 26 Years of Service

Dr. Joan Dudley, World Languages Department Co-Chair and Spanish teacher, is retiring after 26 years at Westminster. Prior to coming here, she taught Spanish at Kirk Day School, Twin Oaks Christian School, and Central Christian School. Joan looks forward to continuing to volunteer at the Botanical Gardens and is excited to “live in the library.”

# CLASS NOTES

## ALUMNI NEWS



'89

**Shonda (Collison) Johnson**, along with her husband Charles and their two boys Trent (9) and Gavin (7), moved to Birmingham, Ala. in October 2020. Charles accepted a call to be the senior pastor of Red Mountain Church (PCA).



'06

**Annemarie Heise** married Jeffrey Nordberg on October 10, 2020. Cameron Heise '03 and Gerrod Heise '04 were in attendance and their dad, Arthur Heise, officiated the wedding.



'16

**Claire Rebbe** completed a masters in accounting from Rhodes College this May and will begin work at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Louisville, Ky. Claire is engaged to marry Rhodes classmate Josh Hill in 2022.



'01

**Emily Somerville**, OTD, OTR/L, received the Alene and Meyer Kopolow Award for Geriatrics, Psychiatry and Neurology. This award honors outstanding contributions to the wellbeing of older adults in the St. Louis area as an occupational therapy practitioner, educator, and researcher.

'07

**Conor Lewis'** product idea for a magnetic pillow fort took off on Kickstarter in January where it raised over \$3 million and became the second-largest toy launch in Kickstarter history. Order a FORT today at [getthefort.com](http://getthefort.com).



'17

**Christian McGhee** graduated from the Manhattan School of Music in New York with a bachelors degree in jazz performance. He will begin his masters degree in the fall.



'13

**Annie Rebbe** graduated from Rhodes College and worked for the Banking Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. as a regulatory analyst. She is now finishing her first year of law school at the University of Memphis and will be married this June to Rhodes classmate Henry Smith. The couple will live in Memphis.

**Andrew Van Horn** was accepted to Duke University's electrical engineering PhD program to specialize in quantum computing hardware development.

'18

**Michael Thoenen** graduated from Purdue University this year with a bachelors degree in materials science and engineering. He will attend graduate school at Purdue, studying applied energetic synthesis.

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





## BRINGING NORMAL BACK WITH

# GUYS AND DOLLS

**A**fter a year with very little theatre, director Allen Schwamb wanted to bring plenty of levity to the spring musical. “I was in ‘Guys and Dolls’ in high school,” he says, “and I’ve wanted my students to have the chance to be in the show for as long as I can remember. It seemed right to me to pick a show that was uplifting and upbeat.” “Guys and Dolls” is a rollicking tale of gamblers and Hotbox girls in 1950s New York City.

The cast and crew performed the show three times to a limited in-person audience and via livestream to many community members. The cast included Elizabeth Nolting (senior) as Adelaide, Sam Parker Stillman (senior) as Nathan Detroit, Ava Berutti (junior) as Sarah Brown, and Stewart Geisz (junior) as Sky Masterson.

Putting on a musical during COVID was not without its challenges. According to Mr. Schwamb, “The biggest challenge during the rehearsal process was the unexpected absences due to actors getting sick or contact tracing. Almost every speaking role had an understudy for exactly this reason, and one understudy actually got to perform as a result of how much he had to fill in!” The necessity of wearing clear masks presented a physical challenge — Elizabeth recalls that “it was hard to sing in them and hard to speak in such a way that the audience could understand.

We had to over-pronounce our consonants so the audience didn’t have to work hard to follow the story. It was also hard to find a way to make the masks stay on our faces while we sang and danced.”

In the end, though, “Guys and Dolls” brought much-needed levity to a trying year. Elizabeth says, “It meant a lot to get to perform. I had so many other performances get canceled, so to have a live show with a live audience was a really special thing.” Mr. Schwamb adds, “Aside from the pleasure of seeing some wonderful performances by our actors, hearing some of the most iconic Broadway music ever written, and watching some very fun dancing, the most common feedback was ‘It feels like normal’ and ‘This is the most regular thing I’ve done in a long time.’”



*Above: Mr. Schwamb, bottom left, performs “Guys and Dolls” in high school.*

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*Page 8: Top right and middle right photos courtesy of Kelly Park Photography.*






# WE'RE GOING OUTSIDE!



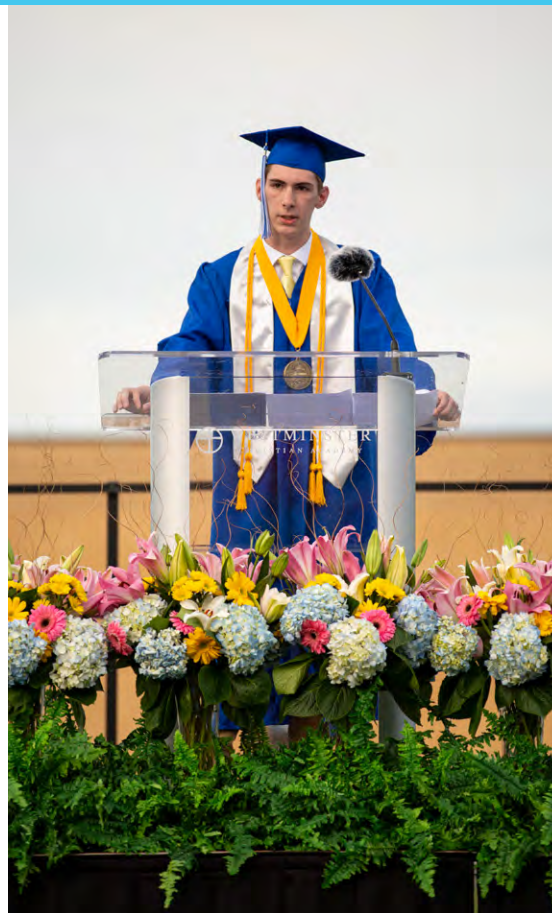
Spirit Week 2021 solidified this 32-year tradition as the most highly anticipated event of the school year. Students showed class pride through dress up days and competed against their fellow Wildcats in tug-of-war, ultimate chicken, lip sync, boys poms, film project, and hallway decorations. For the first time ever, assemblies and Community Night took place outside on the football field.

Ultimately, the senior class took home our new Spirit Week trophy: the Florence Johnson Lewis Memorial Cup. The trophy, named for the teacher who created the original Spirit Week — called Wildcat Pride Week — in 1989, will be presented to the winning class of Spirit Week for years to come.

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



PRESENTING THE  
**Class of 2021**



View more photos of the ceremony  
at [wcastl.org/graduation2021](http://wcastl.org/graduation2021)



**Congratulations to our Class of 2021 graduates!** We commend you for a job well done and we celebrate your faith, achievements, perseverance, and your love for the Lord and for one another. A special congratulations goes to valedictorian Brett St. John and salutatorian Abigail Moeller. Please join us in praying for our graduates as they leave Westminster and move towards the plans God has for them. Though the world they are going into is challenging, we pray that God will cause them to “stand firm in the faith” and “let all that [they] do be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

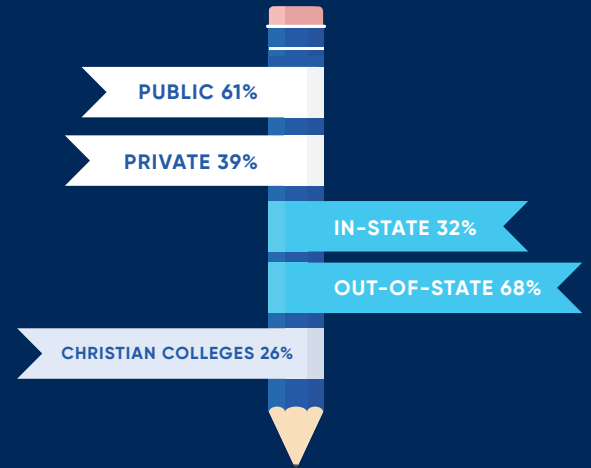


## POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANS



97% **FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES**  
 2% **TWO-YEAR COLLEGES**  
 1% **OTHER**

## COLLEGE MATRICULATION



## ACT DATA

**155 TESTED**  
 AVERAGE OF  
 TOP 25%: 32.4



## SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$17.6 M** TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS  
 EARNED

**\$110,960** AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP  
 OFFERED PER SENIOR

**30** BRIGHT FLIGHT  
 RECIPIENTS WITH  
 ACT SCORE OF 31  
 AND ABOVE

## SERVANT LEADERSHIP

**6360**  
 HOURS SPENT SERVING  
 THE COMMUNITY

**51**  
 STUDENT  
 LEADERS



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