



# chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

SPRING 2022 • WE ARE GRATEFUL

IN THIS ISSUE:

Further Enriching the  
Westminster Education

Honoring the Legacy  
of Dr. George Knight III

An Alumni Spotlight  
on Jong Yoon Lee '14





## Choosing, Practicing, and Exercising Gratitude

DR. BARRETT MOSBACKER

The tenor of the Christian life is to be one of gratitude!

Paul encourages us that just as we received Christ Jesus the Lord, so we are to walk in him...abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)

We usually think of gratitude as a feeling of appreciation for good circumstances, but Christian gratitude is more than a feeling tied to our circumstances. Christian gratitude is a virtue and a disciplined practice that is intentionally chosen, deliberately trained, and exercised in all circumstances.<sup>1</sup> Practicing the virtue of gratitude is pleasing to the Lord, a blessing to others, and good for us.

Here are a few simple ways that we can practice the virtue and discipline of Christian gratitude:

- Count your blessings. They are all around us even in the worst of times.
- Thank the Lord at every meal—he has providentially provided it.
- Make a habit of thanking a spouse, a child, a friend, or a colleague.

In the spirit of expressing gratitude to others, I wish to say, “Thank you, Westminster community, staff, and teachers.” The last two years have presented some challenging circumstances. By God’s grace we have been able to be faithful and hopeful while constantly pushing ourselves to be better and do more. Our community has not only supported us but have been our biggest cheerleaders. Thank you for your grace, patience, and love! Our teachers and staff have also gone to extraordinary lengths to provide a Christ-honoring, world-class education to our students while navigating the complexities and challenges of a pandemic. As a result, our students have thrived while millions of others across the nation have fallen behind. They stood in the gap for our students. Thank you all for an extraordinary few years and an even brighter future.

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*Chimes* is published by Westminster Christian Academy and mailed 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. To request a free subscription, email [info@wcastl.org](mailto:info@wcastl.org).

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As a founding board member, George Knight was dedicated to the vision of Christian education.



## ON THE COVER

This issue's cover art features pop art self-portraits by students in the graphic design class. Works featured are by Caleb Adams, Joseph Anderson, Nalini Bailey, Emily Claus, Michala Crooks, Kerriann Davis, Jackson Hawkins, Riley Heironimus, Tommy Le, Darius McFall, McKenna Milberg, Dami Obanigba, Luke Ryan, and Caleb Thompson.

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Jong Yoon Lee '14



# Academics

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



### A RENOVATED, FLEXIBLE SPACE

**If you walk by the Hub** at any time of day, you will see students gathering, studying, or meeting with a teacher. For the last 10 years, this space was used as a library and archive center, but it has been reimagined and renovated to create a new atmosphere for students to enjoy. The highly-flexible Hub is one of the greatest highlights for students this year. It's available to use for small meetings or as a satellite classroom for teachers. The famous student-run coffee shop, Pawprint Coffee, anchors the space encouraging students to gather and connect. This innovative area also hosts club meetings, and small conferences while serving as a relaxing, coffeehouse-style study hall during school hours.

### INAUGURAL MOCK TRIAL

**Before Christmas break**, our Mock Trial class held their inaugural trial. Students had the opportunity to play the parts of attorneys, witnesses, bailiffs, and more as they simulated a trial court proceeding. After spending the first quarter of the school year learning about the trial process and rules of evidence, the students prepared for the case by studying witness statements, the law, and crafting questions and testimony to support their side of the fictional legal dispute. A volunteer jury observed the trial and delivered a verdict at the conclusion of the case. A compliment to the new Law and Constitution Academy within the WestminsterYOU program, this is Westminster's first Mock Trial course. Mindy LeVar, an attorney and member of the Westminster faculty, leads the Law and Constitution Academy and also teaches the Mock Trial class, which is open to students in grades 9–12.



### SENIOR REPRESENTED AT MISSOURI BOYS STATE

**Senior Sam Vestal** represented Westminster at Missouri Boys State during the 2021 summer. The American Legion Boys State of Missouri is an eight-day hands-on experience in the operation and fundamentals of government. Missouri Boys State draws together the brightest high school juniors to help lead them down the path of individual success and leadership through “doing,” not just learning. Sam was chosen as the lieutenant governor candidate for his party and spoke before the entire Boys State. He made quite an impact on his peers and built new friendships. This summer, Sam has the honor to serve Boys State as a counselor.

### TEACHER PROFESSIONALLY PUBLISHED

**This spring**, Bible Department Chair Luke Davis published two books. These books are the first two in a five-volume series covering church history for younger readers, ages 12–18. The first two books are entitled “Redemption: The Church in Ancient Times” and “Reign: The Church in the Middle Ages.” Davis teaches Church History and Biblical Ethics at Westminster and is an assisting priest at Church of the Resurrection in Chesterfield. If you're interested in reading these titles, you can find them on Amazon.



## MATH, WRITING, AND HOMEWORK CENTER ADDITIONS

**In between classes, during lunch hours, and during advisory,** students now have access to specialized, interactive spaces for additional support. The Math Center, previously located in a corner of the Hub, now resides closer to the middle school hallways to increase accessibility and visibility. The new middle school Writing Center supports student skill development and grows their love for writing. The Homework Center serves as a resource for upper school students with missing work to ensure they don't fall behind. Throughout the school day, you can now find students collaborating, and learning new concepts from engaged, willing teachers within these subject-areas.



## AN UPDATE FROM COLLEGE COUNSELING

**College decisions are rolling in** for the Class of 2022! The following are just some of the schools that have extended offers of admission to our outstanding Westminster students: Belmont University, Biola University, Emory University, Georgetown University, Spelman College, Texas A&M, University of Virginia, Vanderbilt University, Washington University in St. Louis, and more!



## LIFE LESSONS IN BIBLICAL ETHICS

**Luke Davis' classroom floor** is divided into a grid of squares as students are instructed to make their way through the maze along "the path," which provokes questions like, "what path?" Students must enter at the correct square and travel throughout the grid accurately. If they choose incorrectly, a new student has the opportunity to try, with knowledge of their previous peers' mistakes. In the beginning, many students don't realize that this exercise is meant to mimic the experience of the spiritual life — we don't know where we are going all of the time but we should pay attention to our choices and where they are leading us. At the end of the exercise, Davis debriefs with students, asking them to dialogue about the experience. This is a life lesson about making Biblical decisions that lead us on toward the good, true, and beautiful. This class exercise is one example of how Westminster teachers use interactive, memorable experiences to help students understand greater Biblical concepts.



## STUDYING SPOOKY STORIES

**English teacher Heidi Thies** led her students through an interactive unit using the classic "Frankenstein." They were tasked with writing a short, spooky piece utilizing the Gothic writing style, similar to Mary Shelley's novel. This type of writing utilizes intense emotion, employs weather to depict a character's mood, gives nature the power to destroy, and applies specific vocabulary. To gain experience in presentation and public speaking, students were then asked to read their story aloud in front of their peers sitting in the dark.



## ARE YOU FOLLOWING WESTMINSTER ON INSTAGRAM?

If not, you should be! Follow your Wildcats @wcastl for snapshots of daily life at Westminster, a look inside the classroom, announcements about upcoming community events, and more.



## LOOKING FOR MORE?

For access to even more photos, view full albums at [wcastl.org/photos](https://wcastl.org/photos).

# Arts

CREATIVE EXCELLENCE



## Black History Month Celebration Showcases Student Art

**We Are One**, our annual Black History Month program, showcased African American art and artists this year. We enjoyed learning from a professional who has extensive expertise in African American art. We were grateful for the opportunity to affirm, reflect, and celebrate our African American brothers and sisters through art! At the end of the evening, we enjoyed a special exhibition featuring the work of three of our Black students who have distinguished themselves through the maturity of their work.



## The Hub Gets an Artistic Facelift

**Westminster reenvisioned** the Hub as a more dynamic, social space for students this year. In addition to the renovation, we added a professional display for artwork to be securely hung and enjoyed. The first opportunity for students to display their art was during our annual Black History Month celebration, **We Are One**. Upper school students' work was beautifully displayed, enhancing the evening.

## AP Music Theory Students to Continue Music Education in College

**Seniors Xavier May, Ahmad Alexander, and Stewart Geisz** have chosen to continue their pursuit of music education in college, all in the city of Nashville. Xavier and Ahmad plan to attend Belmont University together, studying musical theater and commercial music while Stewart hopes to study music theory and composition at Vanderbilt University. We have seen their talents come to life at Westminster, and look forward to enjoying what they will create in the future!



## Westminster Students Recognized in Choir and Orchestra

**Year after year**, Westminster students earn district honors at the middle school and high school level for their vocal talents. Every few years we see a student earn a spot in an All-State ensemble. This year, we cheered for three outstanding students as they were honored at the state level. Senior Xavier May sang in the All-State Choir while senior Elinor Dana and junior Jon Lee represented Westminster in the All-State Orchestra. Congratulations to the following middle school students who earned all-district honors in choir: eighth graders Quentin Farquharson, Ava Fichter, Amora Johnson, Morgan McManus, Reese Ricci, and seventh grader Adley Johnston. Out of 242 available spots, the following upper school students were selected to be in the All-District Choir: freshman Charlotte Roberts, juniors Elizabeth Bauer, Zachary Leeker, and Jonah Zell, and seniors Stewart Geisz, Ian Henderson, and Xavier May.



## Junior Receives Highest Rating at State Thespian Conference

**Junior Patrick Howard** was honored at the 2022 Missouri State Thespian Conference after receiving the highest rating a student can achieve for his submission of contrasting monologues. A member of Westminster's competing Thespian Troupe 8719, Patrick received superior ratings from the judges in two separate rounds, and was invited to perform the monologues in-person, in front of the conference attendees and a panel of judges. Westminster's upper school drama teacher, Jim Butz, works closely with the troupe and Patrick. "Patrick is a dynamic and charismatic performer. He excels at both drama and comedy and has great range for a young actor." More than 1,000 students gathered at the state conference in downtown St. Louis to hear from Broadway performers, attend workshops, compete in various events, and view shows.

## Sophomore Student Photography on Display

**Sophomore Ashley Beam's photography** was on display this winter as part of an exhibition at Webster University's May Gallery. The Beginnings 2021 exhibit received more than 450 submissions but only 60 images were selected. Ashley's photo was taken as part of Mindy LeVar's digital photography course. Currently, the virtual gallery is available for viewing with plans for an in-person reception later this year.



## Art à La Carte

**Tuesday, May 10, 6:30 p.m.** — If you're interested in hearing our students' voices, experiencing their acting talents, or enjoying their artwork, we invite you on campus this spring for, "Art à La Carte." This joyous event showcases Westminster's music, theatre, and art departments. Attendees will receive a "menu" of offerings that they can experience throughout the evening in multiple locations on campus.



## Performing Arts Fills Our Theatre Again

**Our theatre came alive** this year with several spectacular performances. During the fall semester, the Upper School hosted "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon." It was a fast-paced, rollicking ride as two narrators and several actors combined all 209 Brothers Grimm stories. In November, our 7-9 grades performed the musical send-up of the early 1960s, "Bye Bye Birdie." The play centered on small-town America, teenagers, and rock and roll! Our spring semester shows include "Tartuffe," an outrageous, high-energy, fast-paced comedy in February and the classic "Cinderella," April 21-23. To purchase tickets to "Cinderella," visit [wcastl.org/tickets](http://wcastl.org/tickets).

# Athletics

## GENERAL NEWS AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



### VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**For the first time in 19 years**, Westminster's girls varsity volleyball team brought home a state championship! The team defeated Logan-Rogersville in three straight sets in the Class 4 State Championship Tournament in Cape Girardeau. During his first year at Westminster, Head Coach Ben Briney not only led the team to ultimate victory, but was also honored as the MHSVCA Class 4 Coach of the Year.



### UPGRADES TO FACILITIES

**To enhance game day experiences** in the Arena, a new 12-foot LED Scorer's Table was installed which displays high-quality video, graphics, and advertising. Within the athletic training facilities, we are adding branded decals in the weight room and on the sliding doors to instill pride in our programs. There is also a new banner in the hallway featuring our fight song lyrics! We love our facilities and are grateful to continue upgrading them year after year.

### LIVESTREAMING EVENTS

**Whether you live locally** or are out of state, bring the Wildcats wherever you are via livestream. Watch select events online at [wcastl.org/livesports](http://wcastl.org/livesports).

### TEN PILLARS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

**Offered as a new enrichment option** within WestminsterYOU, this course encourages student-athletes and those involved in extracurricular activities to learn and practice leadership principles. The freshman session serves as the foundation of this course with an emphasis on responsibility and accountability. Sophomore, junior, and senior students focus on leading by example. Students engage with the course content during their sports seasons so they are able to directly apply what they are learning to real-life situations. Read more about WestminsterYOU on page 10.



### WILDCATS EARN STL ALL-METRO RECOGNITION

**The STL High School Sports All-Metro first team** is a highly competitive accomplishment for the individuals selected as these teams consist of athletes from all high schools in the St. Louis region as well as schools in Illinois. Senior Ellie Johnson capped off her Westminster golf career with a spot on the STL High School Sports All-Metro first team alongside four other Westminster athletes last fall: Sophomore Mia Scheulen (Field Hockey), junior Emma Fairchild (Volleyball) and seniors Payton Mathews (Soccer) and Sterling Webb (Football).

### SENIORS COMPETING AT THE NEXT LEVEL

**Westminster's Class of 2022** is sending 11 students to compete in their respective sports at the collegiate level. As part of the Westminster athletic program, each of these students has grown in Christian character, developed a strong work ethic, and most importantly, learned how to honor Christ on and off the field. This fall, you'll find these student-athletes at the following schools:

Alaina Ronning — Rowing, University of Kansas  
Kharis Perona — Lacrosse and Cross-Country, Rockhurst University  
Carlie Vick — Basketball, Florida Atlantic University  
Brooke Highmark — Basketball, Belmont University  
Alex Wittenauer — Baseball, Truman State University  
Noah Leingang — Baseball, Maryville University  
Parker Smith — Baseball, Drury University  
Jeremy Sheffield — Baseball, Georgetown University  
Casen Lawrence — Basketball, Truman State University  
LJ Minner — Football, Washburn University  
Sterling Webb — Football, New Mexico State University

We look forward to celebrating additional athletes who will sign letters of intent this Spring.



## BASKETBALL

**The varsity boys** ended the season 26-2. Highlights included victories over nationally-ranked CBC, Chaminade, and 2021 State-Champions Vashon. Senior Casen Lawrence became the ninth member of the 1,000 career point club this year. The team fell in a heartbreaking loss in the Class 5 district championship game to Cardinal Ritter to end the season.

**The girls team** had an outstanding season with a 19-8 record. The team is graduating five seniors with two continuing to play basketball at the NCAA Division-I level. The team fought hard through the district tournament and finished the season with a loss in the district championship game against John Burroughs.

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## CHEER

**The cheer teams** have worked hard to bring spirit and entertainment to all football and basketball games this year. The team maintained high academic excellence in the classroom and are graduating three seniors: Maddie Freeman, Mary Lauer, and Emma Sadorf.

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## CROSS-COUNTRY

**The boys team** welcomed five new runners this season and showed great improvement from the first race to the last. At the conference meet, three Wildcats finished in the top 15.

**The girls team** finished eighth at the district meet and had two runners place in the top 15 at the conference meet. Junior Allie Lytle qualified for State and finished her season with a personal record.

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## DANCE

**The varsity dance team** was grateful to perform this season. This year's squad was made up of 10 girls who executed multiple creative, high-energy routines for fans. The team graduates two seniors in May 2022.

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## FIELD HOCKEY

**The field hockey team** played a full schedule this season. Six varsity players earned Metro League All-Conference recognition. While they will miss the leadership of their seniors next year, the underclassmen are working hard and the future continues to look bright.

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## FOOTBALL

**The 2021 football team** worked hard, with senior running back LJ Minner leading the team with 20 touchdowns. Sophomore quarterback Shephard Nye broke a school record against Lutheran South as he completed 19 of 20 passes for 298 yards and two touchdowns.

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## GOLF

**The girls golf team** won eight matches before picking up a loss, finishing their season with an 11-2 record. The team placed sixth in the Angel Classic and won the Cat Scratch Scramble. Senior Ellie Johnson shattered almost every mark in the WCA record book, won Districts for the second straight season, and placed third at the State Championship.

## HOCKEY

**The team played a tough schedule** this year, finishing 10-9-1 after falling to Parkway West in the playoffs. They picked up steam in the middle of December after three consecutive wins over Fort Zumwalt West, Seckman, and Priory. Senior Caleb Gross led the team with 13 goals and 7 assists.

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## SOCCER

**The boys team** had a very successful season with a 17-6 record. They were ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 2 for a large portion of the season but suffered a heartbreaking loss to the eventual state champion, Whitfield, in the district final. They ended the regular season ranked No. 2 in the state.

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## SOFTBALL

**The softball team** finished their season 10-13. They reached the district championship for the first time since 2018 and only the second time in the last six seasons. Thanks to the hard work of the team, the program now has a varsity, JV, and middle school team.

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## SWIMMING

**The boys team** highlighted senior Will Richards as he broke his own school record in the 100 meter freestyle race at State. Senior Jack Villa also broke a school record in the 100 meter breaststroke. In the medley relay, seniors Jacob Schloss, Jack Villa, Alex Wittenauer, and junior Larenz Giddings set a new school record with a time of 1:41.42.

**The girls team** finished the season at the State Championship meet with junior divers Sara Schloss, Samantha Lee, and freshman Anna Bernhardt earning medals. Overall, the team placed 12th in Class 1 with ten individuals earning individual State-qualifying opportunities. Throughout the season, all three relays were ranked in the top-twenty in the state.

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## TENNIS

**The girls team** finished a great season earning second place at state. Senior Avery Surber and sophomore Greta Larsen earned third place in the MSHSAA Class 1 State Doubles Tournament with victories over teams from Willow Springs and Maryville. Highlights from the season include victories over Palmyra, Clayton, and Whitfield.

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## VOLLEYBALL

**The girls team** had quite the memorable season, culminating with a state championship win. The team finished with a successful 26-8 record which included tough-fought matches over Clayton and Lutheran St. Charles. Junior Emma Fairchild finished the season with a team-high of 21 kills while senior Hailey Pritchett finished with 17 digs and 28 assists.

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## WRESTLING

**The team finished the season** with 1 state qualifier, senior Nolan Jones, who went 2-2 at State. Juniors Roger Jinkins and Aaron Chae lost close matches in the state qualifying round. The team showed incredible growth this season and looks forward to an even greater season next year.

## FURTHER ENRICHING THE WESTMINSTER EDUCATION

**AS YOU TAKE A SEAT** in Mr. Knerr's Exploration of the Great Questions enrichment class, you see students scramble to find their places as he poses a thought-provoking question about the Christian faith. A few hands shoot into the air as students begin to debate. It's not a class they're dreading, rather a class they have personally chosen to add to their schedules because of their interest. By the end of the school day, you might expect students to be tired — minds unengaged and eyes glossed-over after processing curriculum since the early morning. But at Westminster, this is when classrooms fill with like-minded peers who are buzzing with ideas, ready to engage in conversations about topics they have chosen based on their personal passions.



One of the many ways we strive to become better than we once were involves creating and adapting our educational methods to better serve our students. WestminsterYOU, a new program launched in August 2021, provides an innovative approach to learning and building community, affording our students opportunities to engage in ways that work for them, in spaces that inspire connection and customization.

For junior Elizabeth Clawson, the Exploration of the Great Questions enrichment course has provided an outlet to explore topics that interest her.

“[This enrichment course] surrounds me with other students who are interested in talking through some of the confusing topics of our faith,” Clawson explains. “Sometimes in day-to-day life at school, it’s hard to have the time to dive deeper into questions and topics that weigh heavily on us.”

Westminster’s Head of Academic Development, Micah Gall, has played an integral role in this newest program. “We wanted to give the students who had the desire to explore more specific areas the opportunity to do that, and do it in a little bit of a different way.”

Aligned with our vision, WestminsterYOU provides unique opportunities to prepare and equip this next generation of Christians to impact the world for Jesus Christ. Twice a week, our students have the chance to participate in WestminsterYOU courses creatively designed by our teachers to aid students’ exploration of topics relevant to their personal interests.

“Each enrichment or academy course should be more experiential and more community-driven than typical curriculum,” says Gall.

In order to meet various needs and interests, WestminsterYOU is divided into three sections: Enrichment Opportunities, Academies, and a Recovery program.



This year, we are offering nine diverse enrichment courses. These programs allow our students to engage extensively with content they are personally interested in, with like-minded peers, in an environment free from traditional academic pressures but that adds to their experiences.

For example, the Ocean Discovery enrichment course provides students the opportunity to explore a field of science not taught in the middle school curriculum. This course allows a diverse group of students to develop solutions for complex issues related specifically to marine life. Students engage with topics like coral reefs and their impact on God’s creation, and use underwater remotely operated vehicles to monitor ocean conditions.

Another enrichment course offered is the Creative Writing Workshop. It is a year-long opportunity for students who have a passion for creative writing to further develop their personal projects alongside like-minded, creative peers. Through this enrichment course, students are given space to walk through steps of the creative writing process while gaining feedback from peers and teachers. This course stretches the limits of standard English courses. Students are encouraged to work on novels, plays, short stories, poetry, and creative non-fiction. Within this time, teachers are available to provide guidance to generate ideas, organize, develop stories, revise, and edit.

For students seeking course credit and the opportunity to dive deeper into potential college majors, they have the option of applying to participate in an Academy through WestminsterYOU. We currently offer two Academies for students to choose from: Business or Law and Constitution. These are academic programs that exist both within and outside of our traditional seven-period day. Students in our Academies gain valuable experience in real-world situations through a multi-year experience that may include a mentor or related internship. ⇨

⇒ “Our academies offer our students a jump start into their interests. They get the chance to investigate whether something like business or constitutional law is something they’re interested in, which could help them potentially make better decisions about their future,” says Gall.

In the Business Academy, students dive into topics of business leadership, finance, entrepreneurship, and other core concepts. Students learn biblical principles of stewardship and service so they are prepared to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ. These practical principles equip students not only to work successfully in the business world, but also contribute to God’s Kingdom. We long to see our students in years to come impacting their coworkers and places of business for Christ.

In an effort to introduce students to the complex processes in our legal system, the Law and Constitution Academy equips participants with knowledge and skills pertaining to the legal system and the principles on which these are based. Students explore concepts of power, justice, liberty, and truth, which are fundamental to our constitutional democracy. Through activities that consider how the law and legal issues are essential to the functioning of politics, culture, and society, students experience ways the law affects them personally and how they, in turn, can affect the law for God’s Kingdom.



Senior Grace Fentress is enrolled in the Law and Constitution Academy this year. “It’s nice to be able to talk to my classmates on a deeper level about these things that interest us. Knowing that we share the same passion helps us expand our conversations and takes learning to a new level.”

The third component of WestminsterYOU, Academic Recovery, provides space for students to gain academic support when and where they need it. This is designed to give students time and resources each week to catch up on schoolwork or seek additional help from teachers. We also provide a Writing Center and a Math Center for students to use at their convenience, understanding our rigorous curriculum frequently requires the flexibility for students to meet with faculty and receive additional support.

In order to implement all three components of WestminsterYOU, the administrative team reimaged the traditional daily schedule. “Although WestminsterYOU is set apart from our normal school day, each of our Enrichments and Academies have connections to what we do, both academically, but more importantly they connect to our mission and vision,” says Gall.

WestminsterYOU provides our students with space to engage in content that is hands-on and experiential while remaining service-oriented. Pairing student’s interests with service opportunities allows them to lead with service, become better than they once were, and honor God in all that they do.

If you find yourself on campus on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon, we encourage you to pay close attention, as you may hear and see what is happening during WestminsterYOU — students exploring their personal passions as dots are connected and worlds are transformed. ●



# HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. GEORGE KNIGHT III

Founding Board Member of Westminster Christian Academy

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**MEMBERS OF A SMALL** Sunday school class in 1975, led by George Knight III, had no idea what God had in store when they began to pray for a St. Louis Christian school rooted in biblical truth.

Westminster Christian Academy's doors first opened in 1976, but long before that day God had been preparing Knight's heart to lead this charge. His long and fruitful ministry as a pastor, educator, and churchman spanned six decades and multiple churches, denominations, and educational institutions — including Westminster. During his time at Covenant Theological Seminary, he saw a need for children to receive a Christian education rooted in the beliefs of the Westminster Catechism.

“I remember board meetings that would last well into the evenings, as we discussed when, why, and how this school might function and grow,” former board-member John Prentis recollected. Prentis was “along for the ride” during the early stages of God answering prayers for Westminster.

Knight built a founders board of educators who prayed, studied, and fundraised for the mountainous project of establishing Westminster. He worked tirelessly, deeply resolved about the necessity for young people to experience biblical education. Today, Westminster educators believe they have a responsibility to integrate a biblical worldview into every aspect of school life. This value began with Knight and Westminster's founding board.

Jack Kramer, like Prentis, was a prayer partner during the founding stages, and has seen three generations of his family enjoy the school Knight played such an integral role in creating. In fact, his oldest daughter was a member of the first class of students to attend Westminster, when classrooms were rented from Missouri Baptist College. “George was selfless, sacrificial, and dedicated to the vision of Christian education. Westminster would not be what it is without his firmness and faith,” Kramer expressed. “He planted a seed back in 1975 that has become a beautiful forest that generations are still enjoying today.”

George Knight III went home to be with the Lord on Monday, October 11, 2021, leaving behind a legacy for which we are all grateful. •

To read the full article about Westminster's visionary, visit [wcastl.org/news](http://wcastl.org/news).





# Humble and Grateful to the Lord

BY JENNIFER SENGPIEL, HEAD OF ENROLLMENT

**G**ratITUDE seems like a simple thing to accomplish but when facing adversity or change, it can become a herculean act. Webster defines gratitude as “the state of being grateful: thankfulness, appreciative.” Again, straightforward enough but HOW do we achieve this “state”? As followers of Christ, we have been given the perfect blueprint for ultimate gratitude.

Gratitude is our school theme this year, and every day in the Grand Entry we see verses reminding us exactly how we reach the state of gratitude. “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything

in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Colossians 3:17)

The last few years have had their challenges. The antidote to the worry and concern that can come with such circumstances is thankfulness. Every day I arrive on campus, I see extraordinary acts of gratitude and kindness among our students, faculty, and staff. Through God’s divine providence, Westminster has answered the call of evolving circumstances with fresh ideas, new learning opportunities, and with an attitude of “how can we continue to be better and do more.” It can be hard to find the energy to persevere, but with a grateful heart and unwavering faith, Westminster is growing and thriving.

This year, we saw the introduction of WestminsterYOU, which created a tailored approach to teaching, learning, and building community. Under WestminsterYOU, we launched our new Business and Law and Constitution Academies and Enrichment courses, such as Apple Certification, Creative Writing and Literary Magazine, 10 Pillars Leadership Institute, Introduction to Coding, and much more. We also opened the newly renovated Hub, which is anchored by our student-run business, Pawprint Coffee. This coffee shop meets “genius bar” space fosters community and connection in an innovative yet comfortable environment. It’s a big hit with our students!

It is our honor to share these new opportunities and spaces with prospective families — and there are so many wonderful families coming through our doors! The admissions team is busier than ever. Since the first day of school, our phones haven’t stopped ringing and our tours have been booked. On October 28, we held our annual Open House with more than 520 RSVPs. This was a 40 percent increase from last year’s event. We’re meeting families from all over St. Louis County who have heard about the wonderful things we’re doing at Westminster. As one prospective parent explained, “There is quite the buzz about Westminster — how well you are seeing and educating our children during some stressful times.” Praise Jesus! We stand incredibly humble and grateful for all our blessings. •

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*Jennifer Sengpiel serves as the Head of Enrollment at Westminster. If you have questions about admissions or know someone interested in enrolling, please contact her at [jsengpiel@wcastl.org](mailto:jsengpiel@wcastl.org).*

# Community News

UPDATES FROM AROUND CAMPUS

## AFRICAN VISION OF HOPE

**Beginning this year,** Westminster students fundraised to support one of our global partner schools, African Vision of Hope, in Zambia. Our students raised enough funds to adopt 12 African Vision of Hope students to support their full educational, medical, and food costs for each of them for a year. This Christian school is committed to bringing immediate and lasting solutions to children and families living in extreme poverty. Modeling one of Westminster's core values — to lead with our serve — our students seek to serve beyond the walls of Westminster and make a tangible difference as they share the love of Christ.



## TENNIS TEAM RAISES FUNDS FOR VILLAGE OF HOPE

**As the tennis season neared its end,** the team spent time raising awareness and funds for an organization, Village of Hope, in Ghana, Africa. Village of Hope exists to save lives and serve humanity through child care, education, and healthcare. The team participated in a fundraising effort for Patricia, a young girl being served by Village of Hope, by partnering with the Kendra Scott store in Frontenac for two days. The girls spent time in-store on the first evening and raised over \$600 to aid Patricia's sponsorship. Sales were also collected online during the two-day period.



## IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING 2021

**During our annual week of giving,** students collected thousands of items to benefit nonprofits in the St. Louis area and around the world. For more than 25 years, ITSOG has not only been a competition between the different grades, but a practical way for our students to live out their faith. Student leaders delivered the collected items to several of the partnering agencies, which included school supplies, toiletries, clothing, and canned goods. Our partner agencies this year were Sunshine Ministries, African Vision of Hope, Operation Christmas Child, One Heart Ministries, Little Bit Foundation, Friends of Kids With Cancer, Loaves and Fishes, Whole Kids Outreach, and Freedom School.

## STUDENT DUO TEACHES ROBOTICS TO YOUTH

**For the past few years,** juniors Evan Jordan and Jordan LaGrone have enjoyed bringing awareness of robotics and STEM to younger students in the St. Louis community. Evan and Jordan travel to middle and elementary schools each year to present a robot demonstration and provide an interactive introduction to STEM. They found that by sharing their love for STEM with younger students, they can glorify God and bring joy to others in creative ways.

## SENIOR SERVICE

**We are God's agents of restoration** perfectly placed to bring gospel change wherever we go. Westminster strives to reflect this truth within our senior service program. Each year, our seniors have the opportunity to volunteer weekly at local St. Louis organizations and agencies. This year, students have enjoyed opportunities at Mercy Hospital, Five Acres Animal Shelter, Kirk Day School, and many others. We are grateful for how these students have chosen to represent the Lord and Westminster to our community.

## MIKE ROHLFING '05 EARNS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

**If you attend an event at Westminster,** you will likely witness Mike Rohlfig '05 in his natural element — several cameras in hand, gracefully and strategically snagging footage. His commitment to excellence and the creativity he puts into his productions has made him a fan-favorite in our community and has recently earned him international recognition. As Westminster's director of marketing and communications, Mike won several 2021 InspirED School Marketers Brilliance Awards this year. The entries were judged by a global volunteer panel of marketing experts and scored on creativity, persuasiveness, design, copy, photography, and overall appeal. Watch Mike's videos and read more about these recognitions at [wcastl.org/news](http://wcastl.org/news).





# WESTMINSTER HOMECOMING WEEKEND

**IN THE FALL OF 2021**, current students and families joined with decades of alumni to celebrate “Luau in the Lou,” this year’s theme for Homecoming. Those in attendance enjoyed a wide variety of food, thrilling carnival rides, and games for all ages. Student representatives serving on student council partnered with the Student Life office as well as many of the school’s clubs and athletic teams to make the two-day event a resounding success. Highlights of the weekend included the Westminster Dog Show on Saturday morning followed by the varsity football team’s victory over rival John Burroughs. This year’s Homecoming truly captured the spirit of the Westminster community and the joy of being a Wildcat.





A WESTMINSTER  
*tradition*  
SINCE 1989

# SPIRIT WEEK

## EVEN A FEBRUARY

**SNOWSTORM** couldn't stifle this year's celebration of Spirit Week. After a one year sojourn into the outdoors in May 2021, Westminster's Spirit Week returned to its traditional winter date and location in the Arena. While Community Night and Big Night had to be postponed due to three snow days, each class, from the seventh grade to the seniors, performed admirably with great flexibility. Special recognition goes to the middle school for designing the most creative Artboard and to the sophomore class for dancing their way to an upset win in Lip Sync. However, the seniors, Class of 2022, would not be deterred in their quest to capture The Florence Cup, finding victory in both the Film Project and Boys Poms events, which propelled them to the overall win. Congratulations to the seniors!

To view more photos from these events and others, check out [wcastl.org/photos](http://wcastl.org/photos).





# Generosity & Gratitude

BY JEREMY MARSH '91, HEAD OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.”  
— 2 Corinthians 9:11

In 2 Corinthians 9, the apostle Paul spends nearly a chapter encouraging the church in Corinth about the cycle of our sowing and reaping. He proclaims God’s abundant provision and how it leads to cheerful giving and joyful thanksgiving to God.

At the heart of the chapter is the idea that we are “blessed to be a blessing” — a phrase we use often at Westminster. As the verse makes clear, this blessing is not just monetary. Paul reminds us that both God’s enrichment and our corresponding generosity are comprehensive — “in every way” — and the result of both is thanksgiving to God.

Gratitude is our school theme this year and appropriately so. We have much to be grateful for as we consider God’s provision for Westminster and the direction He provides as we move forward as a school.

## Highlights of God’s Provision

**Our students are thriving.** During a time when most students across the country have sadly languished, Westminster students have experienced a high level of normalcy and success. We’ve had much to celebrate this year including excellent academic performance, wonderful concerts and theater productions, a state championship, and another epic Spirit Week. We thank God that our students’ ACT scores have improved compared to a significant drop nationwide.

**We are experiencing record enrollment interest.**

Westminster's enrollment is strong and we are seeing record interest with inquiries, tours, and visits at an all-time high. We praise God that we are able to partner with so many families in St. Louis who desire an excellent Christian education for their children.

**We were able to offer \$2.8 million in tuition assistance to 31% of our students.** We strengthened our commitment to the families we serve, enhancing accessibility and affordability by growing our level of tuition assistance to its highest point ever.

**We celebrate \$2.7 million in giving so far this year.**

We welcomed 44 new members to our Investors Circle this year and are blessed with 230 total, our highest membership ever. Annual and capital giving are strong thanks to our generous community, and we continue to make headway in eliminating debt.

**What We are Working On**

God has richly blessed Westminster and been merciful during a challenging season. We are now asking important questions: God, how would you have us respond? How can we become more effective? How can we be a greater blessing?

In 2022, we are focusing on specific priorities and projects. Each is designed not only to achieve the goals of our Strategic Plan but also to help us grow stronger and more effective as we pursue our mission and vision. As we do so, we will continue to innovate while remaining true to our core values as a Christian school.

**Transforming Lives through Innovative and Exceptional Programs.** We are committed to transforming our students' lives through innovative and exceptional programs that prepare them to serve Christ in college and career. We continue to invest in excellence through Christ-honoring programs like WestminsterYOU, our award-winning STEM program, and technology enhancement. Through new and existing programs, we provide students unique and relevant experiences that equip them to engage the world and change it for Christ.

**Advancing God's Kingdom through Accessibility and Service.** We are striving to advance God's kingdom by serving more families in the St. Louis region who desire an excellent Christian



We thank God  
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nationwide.

education for their children. We have increased tuition assistance, enabling more families from a range of socio-economic circumstances to access a Westminster education, and are leveraging our outstanding staff, programs, and facilities to better serve our community.

**Enhancing Sustainability and Financial Freedom.** We are committed to enhancing sustainability and achieving greater financial freedom. Eliminating debt, currently just under \$19 million compared to \$35 million ten years ago, is key to Westminster's future flourishing. We have a plan to accelerate the timeline for retiring the debt, which will unlock up to \$1.6 million that is currently used to finance annual principal and interest payments and provide the flexibility needed to achieve the greatest impact. •

*Jeremy Marsh '91, serves as the Head of Institutional Advancement at Westminster. He enjoys meeting with parents, alumni, and members of the community to hear their Westminster stories and share about the school's progress. You can contact Jeremy at [jeremymarsh@wcastl.org](mailto:jeremymarsh@wcastl.org).*



## REFLECTIONS

### A Note from Your Alumni Relations Coordinator

One resolution I made for 2022 is to be grateful every day — not just thankful for food to eat or a bed to sleep in, although these are things I try not to take for granted. Rather, to be mindfully grateful for the many ways God is working in my life.

I am grateful for the recent alumni events pictured on the next few pages. Alumni from a mix of graduation years showed up for class reunions, alumni sporting events, and Spirit Week to reminisce with old friends, play in a scrimmage, or serve as an alumni judge.

I am grateful to Westminster for sticking to a normal routine of school-wide events — athletic and fine arts related. And that our school kept its doors open, allowing alumni to return to campus for events throughout the year.

Most of all, I am truly grateful for you, the Westminster alumni community. It is a joy for me to reconnect with you and see where God has taken you since graduation. When you send in an update or stop by campus, I find hope in your energy, enthusiasm, and dedication. God continues to remind me that our alumni are simply the best. Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat!

Blessings,  
Hannah Wallace Murray '93

# CLASS NOTES

## ALUMNI NEWS



### '91

**Holly Cunningham** sold the catering part of her business, Hollyberry Baking and Catering, in January of 2020 and renamed the company Nourish Food Solutions. She continues to provide Westminster's school food service and has added two other schools, Kirk Day School and Chesterfield Montessori School, to her client list. Nourish's mission is to provide a catered school lunch program like no other in the St. Louis area, focusing on fresh ingredients, unsurpassed service, and great presentation.



### '98

**Janel Cunningham** and Mark Cooper were married on August 21, 2021. Naomi Lundius '98, Kable Cunningham '02, and Crystal (Cunningham) Hawkins '02 served as attendants to the bride.

### '03

**Neal Hopson** is an on-air host at nationally syndicated BOOST Radio in St. Louis. He has also developed "Business One Goal Global," which comprises his DJ talents, choreography/creative directing, emcee/hosting, speaking, and podcasting. Neal and his wife, Kim, have a daughter, Gabriella (3). Neal was featured in our Wildcat Tracks alumni email newsletter. Read more of his story at [wcastl.org/news](http://wcastl.org/news).

### '06

**Sophie Zavaglia** was recently promoted to partner at SWMW Law, LLC. She graduated from Saint Louis University Law in 2013 and now represents people who have become sick from using asbestos and those injured by pharmaceuticals or consumer products.



### '07

**Christine Yu Thomson** and her husband, Colin, welcomed their first child, Carson James Thomson, to the world in April 2021. The family resides in Calabasas, Calif., where they own the podcast and multimedia production company, Kast Media. Colin is the founder and CEO and Christine runs the merchandise department.



'10

**Alex Cacciarelli** married Becca Peters on October 1, 2021. Westminster guests in attendance included: Micah Mills, Jack Ross, Brooke Cusumano, Katie (Haxel) Reed, Richard Copeland, Jake Grimes, Nick Cacciarelli, Tim Reed, Chris Cacciarelli, Micheal Ferrara, Brett Park, Peter Sippel, Alex Cusumano, Nathan Smallwood, Alex Tilley, Zack Dorton, and Michael Koebbe.



'11

**Abigail Becker** married Scott Girard on September 17, 2021 in Madison, Wis. There were several Westminster alumni and teachers in attendance, including Abigail's mother, Carol Becker, who worked in the Extended Learning Center for many years, Evelyn Bowman, Ken Boesch, Abigail's sister and matron of honor Corinne (Becker) Backer '09, her brothers and groomsmen, Michael Becker '13 and David Becker '15, and bridesmaids Haley (Bergman) Derks '11, and Maggie Wenberg '11.



'16

**Caleb Curry** and Courtney Volstromer were married on October 2, 2021. Blasé Bell '16 was a groomsman.



**Madison Burke Loethen** welcomed her second little girl, Everly Sophia, on November 2, 2021. She joins big sister Reese Renee (2). Madison and her husband, Kyle, live in Ashland, Mo. Madison works part-time as a marketing specialist at Boone Hospital Center in Columbia, Mo.



**Brett Cotner** and his wife, Roro, welcomed their first baby girl, Charlotte Gail Cotner, on August 7, 2021.



**Rebecca Westrich** married Jacob Mercer on September 26, 2021. Members of the wedding party included Katelyn (Westrich) Walker '09, Celia (Avery) Meeks '16, and Sabrina Bingham '16. In attendance were fellow Westminster alumni friends Dylan Baile '16, Claire Fellows '16, Christian Meeks '15, and Erin Hunt.

'14

**Jong Yoon (John) Lee** was named to the 2022 list of Forbes "30 Under 30" in the healthcare division. Lee is co-founder of Sibel Health, a company that developed wearable skin bio-sensors to monitor vital signs in premature and newborn infants.

**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).*

# ALUMNI REUNIONS



## Class of 1986, 35 Year Reunion

Pictured: Doug Benkelman, Tonya (Davis) Cotton, Kal Dawson, Pam (Pajunen) Farley, Samer Garas, Greg Grempler, David Hearne, Heather (McConkey) Herbert, Richard Jaudes, Bridget (Linthicum) Kathman, Carol (Denckhoff) LaGue, Matt Mikula, Beth (Miller) Erman, Kathy (Golden) O'Neal, Mary (Weber) Oglesby, Tracy (Ham) Schumacher, Nelle (Walker) Stough, Lester Stuckmeyer, Sharon (Wulff) Werner



## Class of 1991, 30 Year Reunion

Pictured: Brian Ter Maat, Scott Schlueter, Shannon (Sorenson) Quinn, Nick Walker, Brian Middendorf, Barth Holohan, Jeremy Marsh, Dan Marsh, Chris Douglas, Todd Johnson, Holly (Bergeson) Cunningham, Tiffany (Oliver) Burt



## Class of 2011, 10 Year Reunion

Front Row: Brittany Wilson, Olivia Girgis, Ian Farmer, Elizabeth (Miller) Morris  
2nd Row: Sarah Hall, Steven Fitzgerald, Andrew Beck, Jordan (Klein) Beck  
3rd Row: Ben Stratton, Matt Sugg, Alec Mitchell, Emily Mitchell, Peter Sippel, Michael Rojewski  
Back Row: Drew Menzel, Kelsey (Kindbom) McAfee

# Engineered Biosensors to Serve the Nations

AN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT  
ON JONG YOON LEE '14

From learning the basics of building robots in high school to engineering intricate biosensors in college, Jong Yoon (John) Lee '14 has earned national recognition alongside some of the nation's top health professionals. He was recently named a member of the Forbes "30 Under 30" list in the healthcare division.

Lee graduated from the University of Illinois in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in computer engineering. As a research assistant with Northwestern University, he was part of a team that created wearable biosensors to monitor vital signs in premature and newborn infants. These thin, flexible, wireless monitoring systems are now used throughout the world in neonatal care units to collect vital sign data — detecting algorithms, spotting abnormalities, and tracking treatments. Ultimately, these biosensors allow healthcare professionals to efficiently and accurately care for one of the world's most vulnerable populations.

"It is an honor to be a part of developing something for a population group that doesn't necessarily have a voice for themselves yet," Lee continues, "Being able to have these sensors monitor the vital signs of the most fragile babies and adults, and distributing them across the world to places where they have very little is why I have continued to do what I do."

Lee credits Westminster's robotics team with not only sparking his interest in software engineering but also using it to advance the God's Kingdom. He's never lost sight of the team's mission to use their gifts as agents of community improvement and a canvas for self-expression. The global impact of the wireless biosensors is just one example of Lee's continued commitment.

Keeping Westminster's core value of leading with service close to him as he sends biosensors throughout the world, Lee has



personally seen how these devices serve those who would otherwise not have access to such advanced technology.

"It was one of the most eye-opening experiences for me when I went to Zambia for the first time; I got to see the faces of nurses who were so excited and thankful to have this technology."

Today, Lee works at Sibel Health, a medical technology company seeking to provide "Better Health Data for All." As a co-founder, he had the opportunity to shape its values, which focus on honoring God and His image-bearers globally. Sibel Health has deployed biosensors to more than 24 countries around the world including Zambia, Ghana, Kenya, and India.

"We really believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to have the chance to use this technology, which is why it was so important for us to deploy them overseas to developing nations."

The Forbes "30 under 30" lists recognize only 600 business and industry figures, divided into 20 different industries. The healthcare division recognized Lee because his company's biosensors are saving lives and creating a more equitable future. Westminster's vision is to prepare and equip the next generation to impact the world for Jesus Christ, and it is a joy to see Lee living out this vision so beautifully. •



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