



Dear Lower School Parents,

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year! As we have been building, moving, working, and planning this summer, I am filled with joy, excitement, and hopefulness for what God will do at Westminster this school year. As you read from Dr. Brower's email, our theme this year is Flourishing Together found in Hebrews 10:24-25! This theme and verse are one of my favorites, and I believe it offers a fantastic opportunity for us all.

We have many things to look forward to, including new students, faculty, staff, and three new classrooms! The LS Innovation Lab is open this year, and we are delighted to offer this new learning space for students to build, create, design, and even make a mess. We have moved the LS Media Center and created two wonderful classrooms in that space. In addition to the moving rooms, we have shifted and welcomed new staff members to the Lower School team. Below are our new teachers and new assignments for the 2025-26 school year.

PK-3 - Nancy Miller - moved from Kindergarten.

1st Grade - Ella Norman – 3rd section of 1st grade.

3rd Grade - Brittany Soy

4th Grade - Katie Toomey

4th Grade – Amber Grimes

Innovation Lab – Jenni Shaver – moved from 5th Grade

We have several new Teacher Assistants – Jennifer Lewallen – PK-4, Leticia Selph – TK, Ansley Weathersbee – 1st Grade, Taylor-Ashton Hill - 1st Grade, and Colletta Portis is moving to 4th Grade. Information about all new Westminster employees will be posted on our main social media account in the upcoming weeks - @wsawildcats, and the entire list will be shared in the first Wildcat Scratch. Please join me in welcoming all the new students, faculty, and staff to our Westminster Lower School family!

Here is a special note from Dr. Oleszewski, Westminster's Director of Teaching and Learning.

It has been a busy summer preparing for the 2025-2026 school year. I cannot wait to welcome the students back on campus! This year, I will continue my work with the lower school curriculum but will expand my role to include curriculum across all of our campuses. In the lower school, we are excited for students to begin classes in the innovation lab. I will work

closely with both our innovation lab teacher and our classroom teachers to create opportunities for design-based thinking across the curriculum. This will be an incredible space for students to collaborate, create, invent, and problem solve using multiple tools and technologies. I am confident that this year will be both engaging and fruitful as we work to develop Godly leaders who are grounded in their identity in Christ. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions about the lower school curriculum. My email is ashleyo@wsa.net.

As part of our school safety plan, we have NEW carline tags for you to hang from your rear-view mirror. Please remember you may not re-use carline tags from year to year; instead, we give out new ones. Each family will receive three carline tags, and please do not lose them as they must be presented at dismissal. Handwritten tags and numbers will not be accepted. If someone arrives without an official 2025-26 Westminster Lower School carline tag displaying the student number, you may be directed to park and wait while we verify the student dismissal information. We are happy to provide an additional tag for a grandparent or babysitter, etc. Please email the Lower School Administrative Assistant, Tara Boname, at tboname@wsa.net, and she will make an extra for you. Additional tags cost \$5 each. Please note, our goal is not to inconvenience anyone, but to dismiss our students safely. Thank you for your patience as we work through this during the first few weeks of school.

Parents can pick up their carline tag August 4 – August 8 from 2:00-4:00 pm & August 11th from 8:00 – 9:30 am at the Lower School front desk. Please note Wednesday, August 13, is a Late Start Wednesday, and classes do not begin until 8:30 am on Late Start days.

We are thankful to participate in the Senior Parade drive-through on the first day of school (August 12, 2025) and ask that Lower School parents plan to leave campus no later than 8:20 to facilitate the seniors driving through the parking lot while the Lower School students and staff cheer them on.

Please make note of the following important LS dates: (full calendar is on Blackbaud).

- **Monday, August 11**
 - 8:00 – 8:30 am - New Student/Family Orientation (LS Gym),
 - 8:30 – 9:30 am – Drop In - LS Meet the Teacher - all students will have a chance to see the classroom, meet your teacher, and say hello to friends
- **Tuesday, August 12: First Day of School - Early Dismissal – No lunch served.**
 - Early Childhood – Kindergarten dismissal – 11:35 am
 - 1st – 5th grade dismissal – 12:00 noon
- **Wednesday, August 13: Full Day of School – Late Start 8:30 am**
 - Early Childhood – Kindergarten – 8:30 am – 2:35 pm

- 1st – 5th – 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
- **Tuesday, August 19: LS Parent Night (LS Gym), 5:30 – 7:00 pm**
- **Thursday, Oct 24 – Grandparents Day - Early Dismissal – No lunch served.**
 - Early Childhood – Kindergarten dismissal – 11:35 am
 - 1st – 5th grade dismissal – 12:00 noon
- **Thursday, Oct 24 – Fri, Oct 25 – LS Parent / Teacher Conferences**

I know you are ready for school, and I can say with all honesty, we are too! Thank you in advance for your prayers, partnership, and participation in helping us educate your wonderful children as we Flourish Together!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Petrey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "P".

Mr. John Petrey, M.Ed., MAT
Head of Lower School