

Dear High School Families,

I pray that these summer months have been a season of relaxation and rejuvenation as you have spent time with family and friends, making memories that will be cherished for years to come. While I and the rest of the high school team have been able to share in these moments with our own families as well, we have also been working to prepare for the 2025-26 school year and can't wait to welcome students and families back to our campus. I have no doubt in my mind that this school year is going to be one of the best as we partner together to equip students to live extraordinary lives for Jesus Christ.

I am thrilled to be a part of Westminster and am honored to have the opportunity to not only lead our Upper School but to pursue Jesus alongside this school community as we look to realize our theme for this year, "Flourishing Together." As we step into a new school year, this theme and the verses on which it is based (Hebrews 10:24-25) will serve to guide us. While we will spend the year unpacking these verses, I look forward to seeing how our students "stir up one another to love and good works," as they are challenged this year. I am also excited to see how new initiatives, such as our service learning program, provide new opportunities for our students to live out their faith and flourish together. However, before we dive into these things, here is some information that I hope is helpful as we prepare for a new school year.

New Team Members: Before joining the team at Westminster, I was told how amazing the teachers were. Having met a number of them already, I can confirm that this is true. The teachers at Westminster are top-notch, and we are excited that the Lord continues to bring great educators our way! The following new teachers will be joining us this fall:

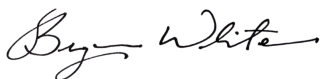
- *Coach JD Chaplain* - Though not a teacher, Coach Chaplain will be a key member of our Upper School team as he serves as the Athletic Director (and Middle School Dean of Students). Extracurricular activities, including athletics, are an integral part of school life, and we are excited to have Coach Chaplain at the helm.
- *Ms. Gabrielle Barends* - Coming to us from London, we are excited to have Ms. Barends join us this fall to teach French courses. Known for her creative and engaging approach to teaching, we couldn't be more thrilled to have her join our team of exceptional teachers.
- *Mrs. Christine Zhang* - Though Mrs. Zhang is not new to the Westminster school community, she will be taking on a new role this year as she teaches our Yearbook course and serves on the Academic Support team.

Important Dates & Events: As we prepare for the start of a new school year, there are a few dates and events that I want to bring to the forefront, as they are critical in launching us into a new school year:

- **August 11, 2025 - New Student Orientation (Knox Hall), 11:00-12:00a a.m.:** This event is for all High School students and parents who are new to Westminster.
- **August 11, 2025 - Returning Student Locker Set-Up, 1:00-4:00p p.m.:** All returning students, including freshmen, are welcome to stop by this afternoon to set up their lockers. Students may also do this on the first day of school.
- **August 12, 2025 - First Day of School:** This day will be a half day. After enjoying the senior parade to kick off the year, students will rotate through each of their classes. Lunch will not be served.
- **August 13-15, 2025 - High School Retreat (Ridge Haven, NC):** We are going to “hit the ground running” with an all high school retreat during the first week of school. This will be a great opportunity for students to build relationships, be challenged in their faith, and flourish together right out of the gate!
- **August 25, 2025 - High School Parent Night, 6:00-8:30p p.m.:** This evening will be a great opportunity to meet your child’s teachers and learn more about their academic experience. We will begin with a brief meeting in Knox Hall and then parents will rotate through their student’s schedule.

I am looking forward to a great year as we pursue the Lord and flourish together! In the meantime, enjoy every last drop of summer and know that you and your child(ren) are being prayed for as we look to a new school year.

With great anticipation,



Bryan White
Head of the Upper School