



chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



50 YEARS
WESTMINSTER
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
1976-2026

CELEBRATE THE STORY

WINTER 2025-26

Celebrating
the Story

Highlights from
Around Campus

Alumni Spotlight:
Clark '77 & Cindy '78 Neuhoff

The Beauty of Biblical
Generosity at Westminster

Our Golden Anniversary

A NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." – Psalm 145:4

Westminster Christian Academy has reached its Golden 50th Anniversary. Gold represents enduring value, excellence, prosperity, and timelessness. God has graciously enabled WCA to provide enduring value by offering an excellent education for the children of Christian parents, an education rooted in timeless biblical truth and delivered by caring, world-class Christian teachers and staff.

In the pages that follow, you will read how God has demonstrated His faithfulness and prospered the sacrificial work of those who came before us. Our Golden 50th Anniversary is a time to acknowledge and celebrate the leaders, faculty, staff, parents, and others who devoted themselves to establishing a Christian school marked by academic excellence, faithfulness to God's Word, and a caring Christian community.

Each chapter of Westminster's story bears witness to His steadfast love and guidance, reminding us that the same faithful God who built this school will continue to sustain it. This milestone is also an occasion to reaffirm our unwavering

commitment to God's Word and our mission. We honor our past by remaining steadfast in our calling for the future.

With hearts full of gratitude for what has come before and with our eyes fixed on what lies ahead, we will build upon the solid foundation we have inherited and continue developing a school that prepares and equips young men and women to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.

May these reflections deepen our gratitude for His provision and renew our commitment to the work that remains.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barrett Mosbacher". The signature is written in a dark blue or black ink.

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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.

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On Campus

NEWS & EVENTS



ORCHESTRA MAKES HISTORY WITH PRESTIGIOUS MMEA INVITATION

Westminster's upper school orchestra has been selected to perform at the Missouri Music Educators Association (MMEA) In-Service Workshop/Conference in January 2026. Each year, the MMEA Conference invites only a handful of ensembles to perform at its annual gathering, which celebrates excellence in music education in Missouri.

This recognition is a historic first for Westminster, with our orchestra one of only five schools in the state to receive an invitation. WCA is also the first private school orchestra in Missouri to ever earn this honor, and this invitation reflects the hard work and dedication of our students and faculty in Westminster's music program. Out of five school orchestras chosen, only one middle school, three high schools, and one university were invited to perform at the 2026 conference.

"I'm thrilled that we have the honor of performing for Missouri's music educators!" says Orchestra Director Carrie Roberts. "As the first private school orchestra in the state to be invited to share at this conference, I'm pleased that our hard work and commitment to excellence have been recognized."



CORAL LAB BRINGS CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

On August 8, sophomore Abbey Baker cut the ribbon at the grand opening of our brand-new coral lab. The lab allows students to work with federally protected Atlantic stony coral through a unique Marine Special Activities License from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, under scientific research, to 3-D scan and monitor the growth rates of coral fragments over time. With this license, Westminster is the only high school and one of only 29 institutions worldwide allowed to carry this specific coral genetic material.



STUDENTS UNITE IN PRAYER

On Wednesday, September 24, the Westminster community came together in a powerful moment of prayer led by students on the Spiritual Life team at See You at the Pole. This annual, global event unites believers from around the world who gather at flagpoles to lift up prayers for their schools, communities, and nations. At Westminster, the morning was filled with worship, reflection, and a shared commitment to faith as students and faculty prayed together for guidance, strength, and unity.



STUDENTS HONORED IN NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Over 1.5 million students submit their PSAT scores to the National Merit Scholarship Competition each year, with roughly 16,000 selected as semi-finalists. This year, two of our students were selected as semi-finalists: seniors Adam Schelker and Enoch Wong. Along with our semi-finalists, three students received NMS commendations: seniors Ava Fichter, Avunker Pieris, and Elise Snyder. Congratulations to all five of these outstanding students!



LITTLE WOMEN A HUGE SUCCESS

This past fall, our incredible students took to the theatre stage to perform *Little Women the Musical*. This coming-of-age musical, based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott, is full of adventure, joy, love, grief, and so much more, following sisters Meg, Beth, Amy, and Jo March played by sophomore Aden Schwamb, junior Norah Burke, and seniors Megan Lawson and Josie Mosley, respectively.

FROM SWAMP TO STAGE

In November, our 7th-9th grade thespians put on a hilarious performance of the DreamWorks film-inspired musical *Shrek the Musical Jr.* The show tells the story of everyone's favorite ogre, Shrek, played by freshman Josiah Butz, and his rescue of Princess Fiona, played by freshman Emily Roberts. Throughout the musical, Shrek leads a cast of misfits from beloved fairytales on an adventure to rescue a princess and discover what it means to belong.



GOLD: 50 YEARS BOLD

Homecoming 2025

To mark our celebration of Westminster's 50th anniversary, Homecoming was a uniquely golden experience. Along with thrilling Carnival rides, inflatable obstacle courses, and dozens of student-run game and food booths, this year also included petting zoos and a first ever alumni family BBQ tailgate. The two-day event was an incredible time as the entire Westminster community—alumni, current students and families, and future Wildcats—gathered together.





WESTMINSTER COLLECTS BIBLES FOR THE PHILIPPINES

This year, we launched the 1,000 Bibles Project to collect and deliver Bibles and devotional books to Presbyterian Theological College (PTC) in Dumaguete, Philippines.

Founded in 1995, Presbyterian Theological College is home to nearly 200 students training to become Gospel preachers and pastors. The College also supports four local churches and several villages around Mount Talinis. Many families in the area long for a single copy of the Bible in English so they can read it daily and grow in their faith.

The project quickly grew beyond expectations. While the original goal was to collect 1,000 Bibles in one week, the WCA community came together with overwhelming generosity. **In just four days, over 1,900 Bibles and devotional books were collected.**

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN JAPAN & KOREA

As part of our global partnerships program, a group of Westminster students and teachers traveled to Asia over the summer to visit two private Christian schools and host English camps for local students.

In Japan, the team visited Global Christian Academy, a 5th–12th grade boarding school, where they led an English camp that included activity time, debate, word games, and theology.

In Korea, the group ran an English camp for elementary students at Saemmul Christian Academy. Westminster and Saemmul have been closely connected for many years. Every summer since 2012, Westminster students have traveled to Seoul to host an English camp, and each January, Saemmul students visit St. Louis to take classes at WCA. We are so grateful for this partnership and the ways God is working around the world!



REFLECTIONS ON SIN, HOPE, AND RESTORATION IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Last summer, students from the Class of 2026 journeyed to South Dakota for a week of adventure, reflection, and meaningful conversation. Led by a group of WCA teachers, the trip was packed with unforgettable moments: kayaking the Belle Fourche River, biking the full 109 miles of the Mickelson Trail, hiking through the Badlands, and dealing with tents and flat tires.

But beyond the scenery and the challenge, students had a chance to explore how God is bringing Shalom—peace, wholeness, and restoration—to a world marked by brokenness. Through conversations about places like Wounded Knee and the sacred Black Hills, and through the beauty of creation itself, seniors were invited to wrestle with the weight of sin, the hope of redemption, and their role in God’s ongoing work of restoration.



RENAISSANCE DAY BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE

On Friday, September 5, 10th grade students stepped back in time during a special Renaissance Day in Western Civilization class. The day blended hands-on creativity, historical learning, and a spirit of fun competition.

Students first explored linear perspective by studying the methods developed by the 14th-century Italian architect Filippo Brunelleschi, widely considered to be the founding father of Renaissance architecture. Students then recreated Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam*. While messy, this exercise illustrated the connection between faith and the arts by reflecting on the concept of *Imago Dei*—that all are created in the image of God.

The final exercise of the day required students to lie on their backs and create a work of art on the desk above them, mimicking Michelangelo's method for painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling. This fun challenge gave students a greater appreciation for the artistry required of Renaissance masters.



A WHALE OF A PARTY

On October 7, juniors in American Lit. wrapped up their unit on *Moby-Dick* with a themed party. After weeks of reading and analyzing Herman Melville's challenging literary classic, they celebrated by eating a whale cake and participating in *Moby-Dick*-themed hands-on activities.

Moby-Dick; or, *The Whale*, written in 1851, tells the tale of Captain Ahab's manic quest to hunt a giant white sperm whale named Moby Dick in revenge for biting his leg off. Told from the perspective of sailor Ishmael, the novel explores themes of class, social status, good and evil, and the existence of God.



A DOCUMENTARY IN THE MAKING

Recently, a group of Westminster students and faculty traveled to Maui, Hawaii, to produce a documentary film about the island's ongoing recovery from the Lahaina wildfire. Throughout the trip, the team conducted interviews and captured footage focused on several key themes: native Hawaiian heritage and traditions, environmental conservation and challenges, and stories of recovery and community.

For the students involved, it was an intense, hands-on learning experience in documentary film production. They filled essential roles, including directing, hosting, filming, photography, editing, and media coordination, all while gaining valuable experience in both the creative and logistical sides of filmmaking.



FALL TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

GO CATS!

CROSS COUNTRY

Boys — The boys cross country team won the Class 3 District Championship and finished the season in 2nd place in the Class 3 State Meet. Juniors Cruz Thomas (6th) and Theo DeBoer (26th) were individual medalists, with Thomas setting a personal record and the third-fastest time in school history (16:04.50), just 0.4 seconds behind former standout David Everett '11.

Girls — Junior Bella Holohan was Westminster's individual state qualifier for the Class 5 Cross Country State Meet, finishing in 66th place.

ESPORTS

The varsity esports team had two players, competing in Super Smash Bros. solos, advance to the MOSEF State Tournament (Fall Brawl). Freshman Jakob Kekhaev finished in 5th place, and freshman Jake Gentry finished in 9th.

FIELD HOCKEY

The field hockey team finished the season in the Sweet Sixteen round of the playoffs.

FOOTBALL

Westminster football ended the year with its third straight winning season, finishing with a 6-5 record. A new school record for longest punt return was also set this year with junior Charlie Beckemeier's 94-yard touchdown.

GOLF

Girls — Senior Caroline Domyan qualified for the State Meet for the third time in her high school career. This year, the Meet took place at Sedalia Country Club, where Domyan finished T-41.

SOCCER

Boys — Led by 12 seniors, the boys soccer team finished the season with a 17-4 record after a narrow loss in the District Semifinal.

SOFTBALL

The softball team finished the season with an impressive 23-8 record. The Wildcats won the Class 4 District 2 Championship and ultimately ended their season in the State Quarterfinal.

SWIM

Boys — The boys swim team qualified for the State Meet in three events (200 Medley Relay, 100 Free, 100 Breast) led by freshmen Tyson Brooks and Jason Kraft and juniors Harrison Frost and Jack Stewart. Frost earned two medals at State while setting two new school records, bringing his personal total to five individual records.

TENNIS

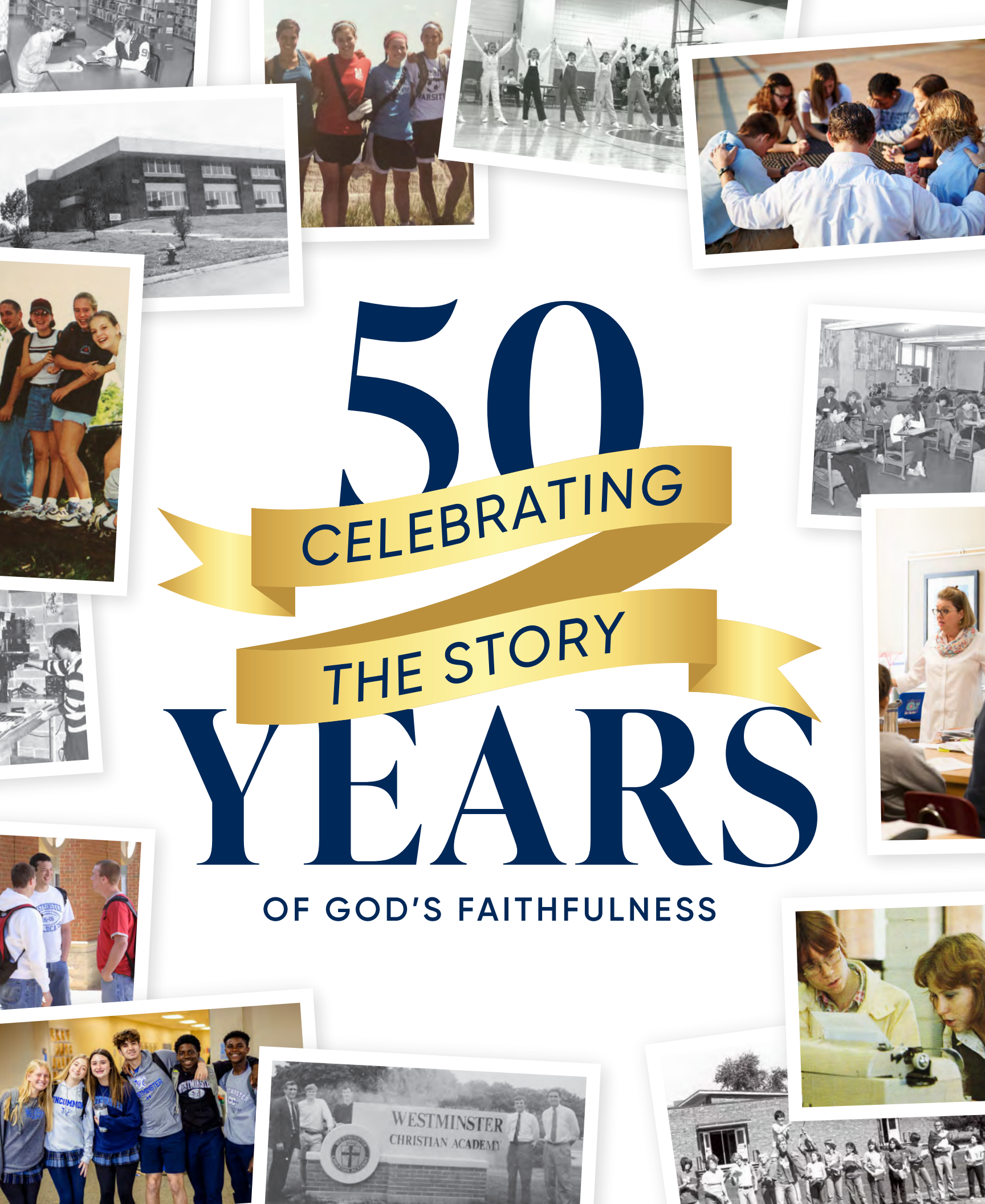
Girls — The girls tennis team won the District Championship with a 5-4 win over Parkway West. Seniors Edde Sue Doehring and Hadley Hackmann also qualified for the State Doubles Tournament.

VOLLEYBALL

Girls — The girls volleyball team finished the year with a 26-8-1 record, ending their season as the Class 5 District 3 Runner-Ups. Seniors Sophia Arana and Vivian Sharlow eclipsed a career milestone of 1,000 assists.



View team schedules, scores, and more at wcawildcats.org.



50

CELEBRATING

THE STORY

YEARS

OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS





"In the beginning Westminster Christian Academy was only a thought...a dream. In 1976, thanks to the diligence in work and the faith of a few teachers and parents, this dream became a reality as Westminster opened its first successful year with seventy-two students. Everyone—teachers, parents, and students—throughout the many stages of planning, organizing, building, and finally blossoming, had a strong faith in God, and He opened many closed doors. These people toiled for the glory of God and a firm Christian education."

FIRST PAGE OF THE 1976–77 WESTMINSTER YEARBOOK



One of the most common icebreakers in St. Louis is the question, “Where did you go to high school?” And it is understandable why it is asked so frequently. The St. Louis area boasts over 60 public high schools, but that’s not all. Our city is unique with over 200 private, independent schools, serving over 15,000 students. And yet, in the midst of a congested educational market with declining enrollment numbers, Westminster Christian Academy is thriving. When we opened for the 2025-26 school year in August, Westminster had 970 students with 98% retention. How? Westminster continues to serve students of Christian parents because from the day we opened for the very first time in 1976 to the day we opened for our 50th school year, God has remained faithful.

The dream of opening a Christian high school in the St. Louis area began in 1970 when Dr. George Knight moved to the city to accept a position at Covenant Seminary. With previous experience in founding a Christian high school in Philadelphia, Dr. Knight collaborated with other Covenant Seminary faculty members to bring this dream to life. Christian schools, such as Covenant Christian School and Twin Oaks, already existed in the county, but they ended in 6th grade. Dr. Knight and the others with him recognized a need in St. Louis for a Christian middle and high school that

students from these elementary schools could feed into. With the idea in mind, a board of directors was formed to begin developing the groundwork for this new school.

“What if someone told you they were going to start a Christian high school? But then, they added, ‘We have no money, no church to partner with, no major financial backers, no facility, and not a sufficient number of students.’ Your first reaction might be, ‘Did you fall on your head? Are you living in the real world?’ As ridiculous as this may sound, that is exactly what the WCA Founding Board Members were facing in late 1974–75,” says Bobby Duck, one of Westminster’s founding board members. “But despite such scarcity, the one thing we did have was a burning desire to start a Christian high school that would be God-honoring, theologically Reformed, and academically excellent. When we surveyed the St. Louis Christian high school landscape and could not find one that met these criteria, we became convinced that it was God’s will for us to start WCA and that He would provide. After all, doesn’t He own the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10)?”

With a lack of funds and a lack of classrooms, the board faced an uphill battle to make Westminster a reality. Nevertheless, they were determined that this was God’s plan,



and so surveys were sent to families to assess interest in joining a new school. One parent, Joan Kehr, was immediately sold on the idea: “As soon as I heard about the idea, I latched onto it and started praying. I thought, ‘Let’s start soon enough that they [her two sons] can be part of it.’” Despite the many odds they faced, families such as the Kehrs and the Board of Directors were determined to open Westminster in the fall of 1976.

Westminster opened its doors right on schedule in August 1976, welcoming 72 students and utilizing rented classrooms at Missouri Baptist College (now, Missouri Baptist University). “I remember we became a very close community,” says Clark Neuhoff, the first and lone graduate of Westminster’s inaugural senior class. “Because Westminster pulled from several churches, everyone knew somebody. With only 72 students and a handful of full and part-time faculty, we all became quite close. It was very much a family.” The first year at Westminster Christian Academy was a great success, and immediately, the Board looked to move to a new space to serve more Christian families in St. Louis.

After a year at Missouri Baptist College, Westminster purchased the former Des Peres Elementary School on Manchester Road in November 1977 and moved into the new

WCA campus a year later. Despite the building being in poor shape, the community of faculty and parents worked tirelessly to prepare the school for the students. And yet, though the new campus lacked certain equipment that Missouri Baptist could supply, the Westminster students and faculty were thrilled to have their own space. “I remember going over there and thinking this would be like we had died and gone to heaven because it had many classrooms, and the space would be ours,” says Sherry Blough, former art teacher and school counselor. “There was room for every teacher, even a part-time teacher, to have a room.” Unfortunately, space quickly filled up. The original prediction for Westminster was to remain at the Des Peres campus for 30 years, and that prediction was utterly blown away in a very short span. In 1978, WCA enrolled 138 students. Four years later, enrollment nearly doubled to 265. The Des Peres campus was too small; it was time to move.

Around the same time, the Special School District had purchased the former West Ladue Junior High building on Ladue Road, but it quickly became apparent that the property would become available again. And so, the Board of Directors took a leap of faith and secured a \$2.5 million loan to purchase the Ladue Road campus in the summer of 1982. “There was a period when we moved from

Manchester Road to Ladue Road, and we were going to have a cash crunch problem,” remembers Arlen Dykstra, former board member and WCA’s third head of school. “Many of us committed, and some took out a second mortgage on their home. This is no longer academic. This is my house.” So great was the faith of Westminster’s board that five board members pledged the equity of their homes for collateral so that the bank would lend the money. And their faith blossomed into a thriving school.

In 1985, Jim Marsh moved to St. Louis to become Westminster’s fourth head of school, and immediately, he faced the challenge of addressing the debt on the Ladue Campus.





To do so, each enrolling family participated in the Westminster Shares program, putting down a loan to the school that would be repaid when their last child graduated. Todd Fuller—business manager, teacher, and Westminster’s head of finance and operations—was blown away by the commitment of Westminster’s early families: “Families had to give the school \$3,000 as a non-interest-bearing loan on top of tuition. When the family was leaving the school, they could either get the cash back or donate it to the school. That was a substantial amount of money at that time—the 1990s. I’ve also heard stories about board members mowing the grass at the school. Back then, families didn’t come here for the bells and whistles. They were all in.”

The 1987-88 school year saw 439 students enroll at Westminster Christian Academy, and the school faced a significant gap between income and expenses. “Within the first three years, we were going belly up,” says Jim Marsh. Still, the Westminster community remained faithful and trusted in God to keep the school’s doors open. In 1988, a \$7.5 million campaign was launched, enabling WCA to pay off the loan on the Ladue Campus by 1993. From there, Westminster grew quickly.

During Arlen Dykstra’s tenure as head of school, Westminster became the first Christian school to become accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), and in 1990-1991, WCA was named a Blue Ribbon School by the US Department of Education. This growing reputation for academic excellence attracted more and more Christian families, and by 1994, enrollment had surpassed 500 students and was quickly approaching 600. “We had to close enrollment in certain grades,” says

Jim Marsh. “What was happening was that a family would come to us with three kids, and we’d have room for two and no room for one.” Westminster had quickly reached capacity at the Ladue Campus, which led the board to approve a \$9 million expansion to add additional classroom space and athletic fields. This new expansion would enable WCA to enroll up to 900 students, but by 2000, Westminster filled to capacity once again.

With no room to grow at Ladue, a handful of people began to pray about and discuss what Westminster would do if God opened the door to purchase the former West County Technical School property in Town & Country, Missouri. The board appointed a committee of five individuals, including Jim Marsh, to pursue this opportunity. “It got to the point where it became more of a possibility,” says Jim. “Thinking through the opportunity, not knowing what we would do with it, but at least if we could purchase the property, it would provide an option for Westminster moving forward.” A unanimous vote at a board meeting in December 2002 decided to submit a formal bid on the 40-acre Town & Country campus, which Westminster ultimately purchased in early 2003.

As the community moved forward with planning committees and town hall meetings, seeking to determine possible uses for the newly purchased Town & Country campus, a family offered to gift Westminster the funds to buy the 30-acre property adjacent to the Town & Country campus, which was owned by Central Presbyterian Church. This unexpected \$7.1 million gift enabled WCA to plan for a unified, 70-acre campus. In 2008, the Ladue Road campus was put up for sale.

In 2009, the Ladue School District decided to build a new early childhood center and

identified WCA’s Ladue Campus property as the best location. They did their own appraisal and approached WCA with an offer to purchase the property for \$18 million. “Our expectation was if we could get \$10 million for that property, we should go for it,” says Jim Marsh. Through God’s grace and general financial pledge, construction accelerated on the newly purchased campus, which could accommodate up to 1,200 students. In August 2011, students arrived in Town & Country for the first day of classes at the new campus.

Since 2011, Westminster has continued to grow and serve hundreds of families. Despite challenges, WCA has remained true to its mission to honor Jesus Christ by providing an excellent education, rooted in biblical truth, for the children of Christian parents. Every year, families come to Westminster grateful that they do not have to choose between an academically rigorous education and a Christian community. Here, we prepare and equip more young men and women, both academically and spiritually, to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ, but we do so only through God’s faithfulness. This anniversary year is not only a reflection of our past—a reflection on the countless lives God has transformed here; it is also a time to look toward and pray for our future. As we step into the next 50 years, we pray that every future generation of Westminster families will remain fearlessly steadfast in their faith. •

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” — John 15:5

Special thanks to Dr. Scott Holley for his incredible work in collecting and compiling the early history of Westminster Christian Academy.



PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
50 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Westminster's 50th Anniversary Gala

SATURDAY
APRIL 18, 6 P.M.

THE FACTORY
CHESTERFIELD, MO

Register to attend by scanning the QR code or visiting wcastl.org/gala



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY PARTNER



WILDCAT PARTNER



HOMECOMING TITLE PARTNER



1976 PARTNERS



PLATINUM HOMECOMING PARTNERS

PLATINUM SPIRIT WEEK PARTNERS



Why the Burke Family Chose Westminster — And Still Does

“Mom, is there a school I can go to where I can actually worship Jesus?”

Seven-year-old Madison’s sincere question was the moment Tim and Michelle Burke realized God was redirecting their family. They had long imagined being “the Christians in the public school.” But that vision began to shift when Madison’s faith expressions as a young girl were quietly sent home: first, Madison’s sweet Christmas ornament declaring “Jesus is the heart of Christmas,” and then a drawing of Jesus on the cross. While displays from other religions remained, Madison was told hers were “offensive.”

But God was using “the faith of a child”—their child—to lead Tim and Michelle to learn about the impact of Christian education and ultimately to Westminster Christian Academy.

Tim and Michelle first enrolled their three children, Madison, Landon, and Carson at Kirk Day School. It was a blessing to find excellent academics rooted in biblical truth. As their children grew and then transitioned to Westminster for middle and high school, they were so encouraged by the depth of community that greeted them from the first year.

Not only did Madison ’10, Landon ’12, and Carson ’15 form friendships that still endure, so did Michelle and Tim! To this day, they meet regularly with a group of WCA alumni parents. Their now-grown children have stood beside Westminster classmates as bridesmaids and groomsmen. This fall, more than a decade after their youngest graduated, the whole family returned to WCA for Homecoming and reunions.

“Westminster continues to bless us,” Michelle reflects. “It still feels like home.”

CONTINUED MOMENTS OF CONFIRMATION

Tim and Michelle felt the impact of the home, church, and school partnership right away.

“Sometimes, teens listen more closely to their teachers and coaches than to their parents,” Tim and Michelle affirm. Having other caring role models help their children make decisions academically, develop character in sports, and form meaningful friendships was a blessing. But it also showed their children the love of God, meaningful the week before Madison’s 7th-grade year, when Michelle had unexpected heart surgery.

Before classes even started, Westminster families stepped in to help and serve the Burke family by organizing carpools, bringing meals, and praying faithfully.

“Madison had a wonderful first day of middle school, and I was in the hospital,” Michelle remembers. “That was the love of Jesus in action.”

The Westminster years that followed became some of Tim and Michelle’s most joyful memories, especially when all three children were at WCA at the same time in Carson’s 7th, Landon’s 10th, and Madison’s 12th grade year. From Saturday afternoon football and cheerleading to orchestra and student government to Tim and Michelle serving as PAW presidents, “it was a full, joyful season of life,” Michelle says.

REAL, LASTING IMPACT

Now that Tim and Michelle have three grown children, they look back and believe two things stand out as **Westminster’s most lasting gifts: Westminster provided a solid biblical worldview and a Christ-centered community** that continues to walk with them through life’s joys and sorrows.



"Through the good and the hard, Westminster has prayed for us, celebrated with us, and walked alongside us... there is something special about doing life with brothers and sisters in Christ who know and love your children."

Tim and Michelle’s children left Westminster prepared for college and life. “Our kids were in a Christian school for 14 years,” Tim says. “That was money well spent.” The Burkes’ gratitude quickly grew into a desire to give back.

GRATITUDE SWELLING INTO GENEROSITY

When Tim and Michelle learned that tuition does not cover the full cost of a Westminster education, they began giving what they could, trusting God to multiply it. And over the years, generosity has become part of their family story, through service, volunteering, and eventually through including Westminster in their estate plans.

“We want to help continue this legacy for future generations,” Michelle explains. “Westminster’s mission has never wavered. We want it to keep preparing young men and women to engage and change the world for Christ.”

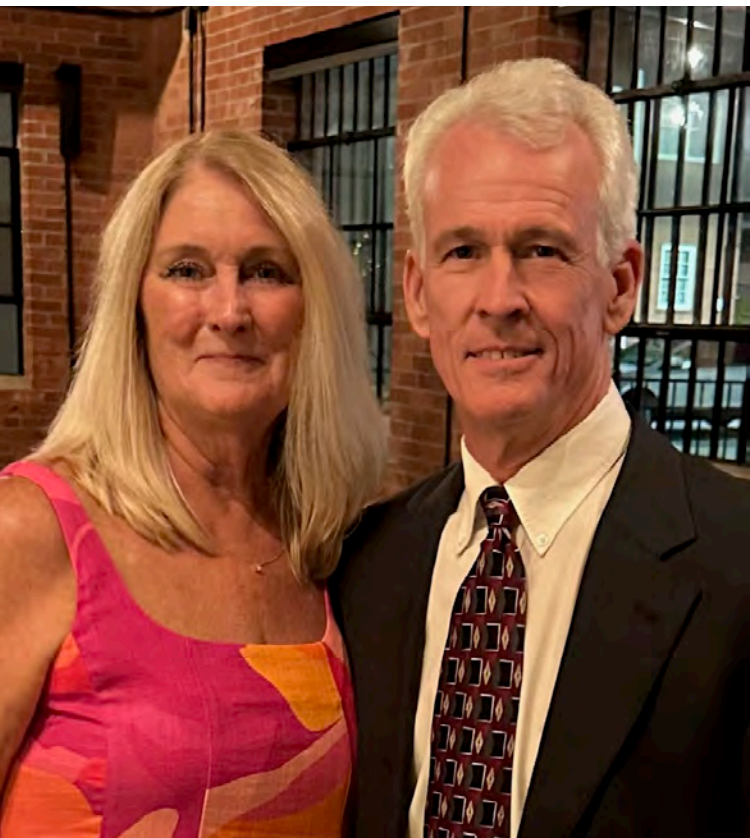
In fact, Michelle still remembers hearing former Head of School Jim Marsh ask, “Where would St. Louis be without Westminster?” Her immediate response: “That would be sad.”

“We give because Westminster is blessed to be a blessing—and so are we,” Michelle adds. “For 50 years, Westminster has honored Jesus and equipped students to serve the world. It’s a joy to help bless the next generation.”

Tim and Michelle don’t claim Westminster, or their own family, to be perfect. “We’re all broken,” Michelle says. “But God’s hand of blessing has been evident again and again.”

Their two decades with Westminster have grown into a legacy of gratitude, one they have joyfully planned to extend beyond their lifetime.

“By including Westminster in our estate plans, we pray the Lord will continue the mission and vision of this school,” they share. “Even when we are in heaven, our gift will still be here, pointing students to Jesus.” •



Finding a Different Kind of School

**CLARK '77 &
CINDY (ROBARDS) '78
NEUHOFF**

For the past 22 years, Clark Neuhoff has coached nearly a hundred companies in building stronger, healthier organizations, but his business instincts were first demonstrated in a deal he negotiated back in 1976.

In the spring of his junior year, Clark realized he only needed one more elective to graduate high school; however, in a meeting to ask whether it would be possible for Clark to attend high school part-time and start taking some college classes, his principal suggested that Clark would be better served to complete another full year of high school coursework. Clark disagreed.

As his junior year ended, Clark began hearing about a group from Covenant Presbyterian preparing to launch a Christian Jr. and Sr. high school. Wishing he had an option like that five years earlier, Clark approached WCA Board President Dr. George Knight and board member Chet Massot the following Sunday after church. Clark proposed a savvy but straightforward arrangement: if Westminster allowed him to begin taking college courses, he would complete his final high school credit there, giving the new school something it did not yet have: a senior “class.” The founders took his idea to the Board, and before long, they agreed. Soon after, Clark met with Missouri Baptist College to request early admission, where he was pleasantly surprised to find that the Director of Admissions, Arlen Dykstra, was also a member of his church. It was clear that God was opening doors as Clark enrolled at WCA as the lone senior in 1976.

At the same time, Cindy Robards was a 17-year-old high school dropout when she first heard about WCA. She had always been a good student, but when the hostile environment of multiple city public schools became unbearable, she decided to drop out, get a job, and pursue a GED. A year later, at a youth summer camp, she met a friend who told her about a new Christian school launching that fall. Cindy immediately came home and applied. She worried she wouldn’t get in or fit in, but never imagined how Westminster would become a community where she would find lifelong friendships, love, and life-changing generosity.

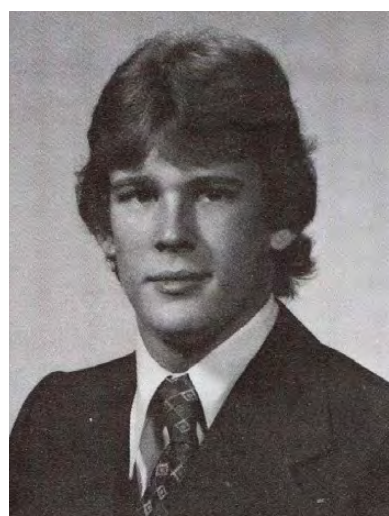
When Cindy was accepted to WCA, her parents supported her decision to return to high school but told her she would be responsible for the full tuition of \$750. Although it was

a stretch, Cindy immersed herself in academic and student life while working evenings and weekends to afford the cost. She remembers with great joy experiences like voting on the mascot, and, with a few other lifelong friends, deciding to form the first cheerleading squad, complete with uniforms sewn by one of the moms.

On her first day at WCA, Cindy met Clark. After spotting him across the room, sitting with a group of teachers, she was surprised to learn he was, in fact, a student when they both arrived in the same Physics class later that day. She ended up having to drop the class, but she stuck with the guy. “We met on the very first day and saw each other across the auditorium,” says Clark. “I was sitting with a teacher, John Boles, who had worked with my youth group and was the only person I recognized. Cindy guessed I might have been a teacher as well. But when she found out I was a student, she thought, ‘What a stiff, he’s sitting with the faculty.’ I did win her over, but not until the end of the first semester.” As spring arrived and the school year drew to a close, Clark and Cindy had grown extremely close and knew their relationship was something special. However, just as everything seemed to be falling into place, Cindy learned that tuition would double the following year.

“I wasn’t sure if I could work enough hours outside the school day to afford \$1,500, but I really wanted to stay,” Cindy remembers vividly. “While I was still trying to figure out if I could swing it, someone who clearly knew my situation made an anonymous donation to cover just over half my tuition, making it possible for me to come back for my senior year and graduate, something only two of my five siblings accomplished. To this day, I don’t know who made that gift, but I think I’ll find out in heaven!”

Both Clark and Cindy came to Westminster looking for a different kind of school, and what they found was so much more than just a good education. They encountered a community of faith that changed the trajectory of their lives. At the same time, both were integral to building a school culture where lifelong friendships are forged, foundational beliefs are nurtured, and lives are shaped in ways that echo through generations. The first of many Westminster-made marriages, Clark and Cindy now live in Chicago and are the proud parents of three married children and grandparents to 12. •



Top left: Cindy, second from top, on the cheerleading squad. Top right: Clark, third from left, on the basketball team. Middle: Westminster students gather for announcements at Missouri Baptist College, 1978. Bottom left: Clark's senior photo. Bottom right: Cindy's senior photo.



A Note from Your Alumni Relations Coordinator

It's never been a better time to be a Wildcat! We are working hard to expand our alumni connection points and have enjoyed several successful inaugural events in 2025. Our Homecoming tent was packed with good food, great conversations, and nostalgic connections. We also launched a regional alumni event with a vibrant, heartfelt gathering in Kansas City. And we had our very first 40-year reunion with the class of 1985.

As we look ahead to our 50th Anniversary Gala on April 18, 2026, I encourage you to join us for what promises to be an unforgettable celebration. This isn't just about looking back—it's about celebrating the story that God has written at Westminster, and it won't be the same without you.

Our alumni are not only a beautiful reflection of our school's past; you are among the most powerful forces shaping our future and continuing the legacy of what God has been doing here for 50 years. To that end, we want to stay connected to the fullest extent that you desire. Our alumni newsletter and all communications are sent via email. If you are not currently receiving those, please visit wcastl.org/alumni or scan the QR code on page 19 to update your contact info with us. Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat.

Kelly Beckemeier Johnston '97

Class Notes

ALUMNI NEWS



'85

Patrick Ayers has quite a unique job... as Santa Claus! Known locally as Santa in the Lou, Patrick takes part in many events throughout the year, and especially during Christmas time. He can also be spotted each year at Busch Stadium on Opening Day.



'05

Nate and Ashley Aucker both recently went on the trip of a lifetime to Zimbabwe with their family, where they got to see the incredible work of Help One Now and meet their sponsored child. They were also blessed to go on a safari and visit Victoria Falls. They were joined by Nicole Feltes '03 and her family for part of the adventure.

'97

T.J. Brennan currently lives in Chicago with his wife of 21 years, Kimberly, and their 13-year-old twins, who are entering 8th grade.

'10

Blair (Rallo) Stokes lives in St. Louis with her husband, Cody, and their daughter, Stella. They own Dive Bomb Industries, an industry-leading performance apparel company.



'01

Maria Gabriela Calderon currently lives in Miami, Florida, with her husband, Luis Burgos, and their children Gabriela, Carolina, Victoria, and Luifran. After graduating from WCA, Gabriela received her Master's in International Commerce and Policy from George Mason University and currently works as a Fellow in Latin American Studies at the Cato Institute.



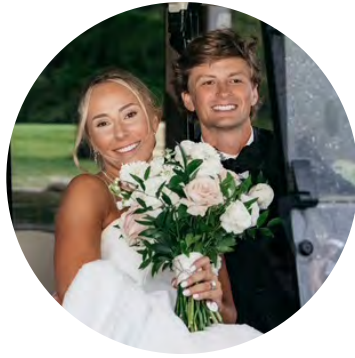
'12

Laura (Hammann) Jackman and her husband, Cooper, welcomed their son Christian to their family on July 27, 2024.



'13

Steven Davis spent part of his summer climbing Mt. Timpanogos in the Salt Lake City area of Utah, overlooking the town of American Fork, where he currently lives. When he's not climbing mountains, Steven teaches junior high History and coaches high school football in American Fork.



'19

Zach Gross married Molly McPheeters on October 18, 2025.



'21

Caleb Moellenhoff recently graduated from Missouri S&T where he gained hands-on experience in biomass-to-fuels research. He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Chemical and Biological Engineering at Princeton University, researching sustainable biofuel production technologies.

'14

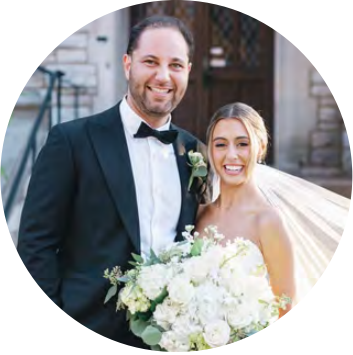
Jenni (Jurgenson) Darby and her husband, Greg, welcomed their son, Mason Lawrence Darby, on October 21, 2025.



Cole Hintz married Corinne Watters on May 24, 2025. Kyle Farrell '19, Will Gore '19, Jake Rattan '19, Ty Jones '19, Cam Coffee '19, and Cole Coffee '19 were all part of the wedding party. Cole has also recently begun his graduate program at the University of Alabama to earn his MFA in Acting.

'22

Sterling Webb has made his mark in SEC Football, becoming Mizzou's starting defensive tackle (#10) this season.



'18

Parker Gelber and Elizabeth Meeks were married on November 15, 2025. Lauren Bauer '18, Anna Bohlman '18, Luke Heintz '18, George Meyer '18, and Mollee Trost '18 were part of the wedding party. Elizabeth was also walked down the aisle by her older brother, Christian Meeks '15.

'25

Sean Gross recently earned a spot on Mizzou's roster as a long snapper.

'20

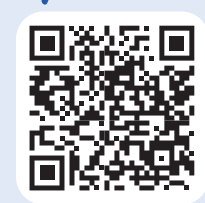
Justin Fuller spent last summer circumnavigating the globe, taking international law coursework in Madrid, Spain, in June before spending July interning at a law firm in Shanghai. He also had the opportunity to stop and say hello to some friends in South Korea on his way back home in August.

Ethan Rush is currently serving as a U.S. Army officer with the 41st Field Artillery Brigade in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

IN MEMORIAM

Jared Patrick Dare '10 went to be with the Lord on Monday, November 10, 2025. Jared was a beloved husband and a loving father. His intelligence, determination, and kindness made a lasting impression. To his loved ones, Jared will be remembered most for his deep love of family, and the joy he brought to those around him.

Updates



Alumni, if you would like to be included in the next issue of Chimes or receive our monthly *Wildcat Tracks* newsletter, please update your information by scanning the QR code or visiting wcastl.org/alumni.

Alumni Reunions



CLASS OF 1985 • 40-YEAR REUNION

Back Row Left to Right: Harriet Muschany, John Bacon, Brett Miller, Katie Kemper, Georgann Hancock, Susan Luedde, Debbie Welcher, Rick Hendricks, Matt Hearne

Front Row Left to Right: Dale Port, John Kramer, Cindy Dolan, Eric Jost, Patrick Ayers, Julie Gruender, Cheryl Blum, Christy Galba, Bethenny Suttle



CLASS OF 2000 • 25-YEAR REUNION

Back Row Left to Right: John Biebel, Sarah Surgener, Tim Dreher, Chris Hseu, Matt Peterson, Brian Edwards, Pat Goessling, Lyndsay (Stegmann) Borage, Jeremy Borage, Mike Peters, Caroline (Taylor) Tubbesing

Front Row Left to Right: Ginelle Brobbel, Heather (Trauth) Tarticchio, Cassie (Fischer) Dreher, Becki (Kozeny) Null, Beth (Abbott) Ladage, Meghan (Hunt) Goessling, Teresa (Fisher) Ingram, Amanda (Drissell) Baca



CLASS OF 1990 • 35-YEAR REUNION

Left to Right: Stephen Henschel, KC Walter, Shannon (Privott) Walter, Christian Vincent, Angie (Wall) Kimmel, Susie (Weber) McMillan, Bob Stulac, Jennifer (Fiala) Campbell



CLASS OF 2005 • 20-YEAR REUNION

Left to Right: Emily (Smith) Purves, Charles Minnick, Julie (Breck) Hyatt, Eric Yoon, Stephanie (South) Stair, Andy Spalding, Derrick Langeneckert, Ashley (Allen) Aucker, Megan (Munson) Machea, Nate Aucker, Ben Krumsieg, Amy (Dixon) Selby, Stephen Babb, Ben Bowman, Andrew Miller, Rachel (Tarter) Brown, Chuck Parson, Spencer Bubenik, Kate (Tepper) Forrester, Jessie (Fisher) Gray, Mike Rohlfing, Megan (Valli) Minnick, Lauren (Hunt) Jarrell, Ashlynn (Savage) Saks, Daniel Hoover, Greg Ayers, Emily (Ottson) Weber, Colin McCall, Megan (Schmidt) Christianson, Jeff Christianson, Libby (Dunn) Rice



CLASS OF 2010 • 15-YEAR REUNION

Back Row Left to Right: Sam Heyl, Shay Smith, Karlton Smith, Zack Dorton, David Rasche, Billy Rock
Front Row Left to Right: Shelby (Massot) Archer, Kristin (Kilpatrick) Childers, Madison (Burke) Loethen, Danielle (Pfyl) Fishel, Courtney (Pfeifer) Li, Aaron Krumsieg, Michael Scott



KANSAS CITY ALUMNI GATHERING

Caroline (Eaton) Arnsmeier '03, Carson Burke '15, Julie Cox '87, Laci Chard '10, Heidi (Eaton) Heathcock '04, Jon Hoffman '99, Kelly (Beckemeier) Johnston '97, Kim (Wills) Lisby '03, Mike Preston '84, Bob Reymond '83, Sheri (Sebastian) Reymond '83, Sebastian Schnellbacher '95, Michael Scott '10, Sarah Shoemaker '18



CLASS OF 2015 • 10-YEAR REUNION

Left to Right: Egan Moylan, Alex Kessel, Sam Peterman, Trevon Gooch, Corey Weinberg, Sydney (Stillman) Weinberg, Jacob Chimento, Sarah Jane Fiala, Ashton Kratky, Jordan Harvey, Karagen Rogers, Whitney (Dykstra) Normile, Mary Kathryn (Hancock) Collins, Jack Southwell, Olivia Bauer, John Moeller, Hannah Ruckman, Marissa (Rasch) Hogan, Christian Meeks, Elizabeth Schmidt, Josh Keane, Aleeah Harden, Ricky Breneman, Emily (Sulewski) Shields, Luke Shields, Riley Adkisson, Matt Weber; Not Pictured: Tripp Worley



ALUMNI SOCCER GAME

Left to Right: Sam Hunsicker '16, Levi Weik '24, Sean Appelbaum '15, Landon Ingram '25, Coach Legters, Jack Linton '16, Josh Tischler '04

The Beauty of Biblical Generosity at Westminster



By Shannon Kekhaev
Director of Development Operations

Jesus taught us in Matthew 6:3-4, “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

Jesus always has a way of telling us what our hearts need to hear—even when it comes to something He calls us to do regularly—be generous! This wisdom speaks to the “why” behind generosity. It’s not for recognition or praise by people, but as an act of love, faith, and obedience to God.

As the Director of Development Operations at Westminster, it’s both humbling and inspiring to see this spirit of generosity fill our community in countless, beautiful ways. It’s a legacy that began from Westminster’s first days—from families anonymously covering another student’s tuition to early board members putting up their homes as collateral when big financial decisions needed to be made to move Westminster forward.

Through it all, these acts of generosity, while quiet, are worthy of celebration—because they elevate God’s provision through His people and the impact we can make when we live with a posture of gracious, open hands.

Every year since I began serving at Westminster, I’ve received envelopes with anonymous gifts given simply to bless teachers, encourage a coach, or meet an unspoken need. One deeply moving tradition is the gift of an annual full-need-based tuition grant for a rising 10th grade student, given anonymously in honor of the late Joshua Fisher. This gift not only honors Joshua’s memory and family, but also allows a student to continue their Christian education.



Every corner of Westminster’s campus echoes with the fruits of generosity sown in faith, humility, and love.

In fact, you’d be surprised by how many “things” we have on campus that were donated. But even more importantly, I don’t think we’ll ever be able to quantify the number of lives that have been changed because of the humble generosity of others at WCA.

While we may never know all the names behind so many acts of kindness (and that is part of their beauty), I think it’s important for our community to know that they happen regularly and thoughtfully, fueled by hearts led by God to serve and help others, and our school, simply because it is right.

At Westminster, we celebrate this culture of giving, the kind that flows from hearts full of gratitude and trust in God. It is a reminder that the greatest gifts are often those inspired by Jesus and His Word, given in secret, witnessed by God, and received with grateful hearts. May we continue this legacy for the next 50 years and beyond. •

Shannon Kekhaev serves as Director of Development Operations at Westminster. She loves to connect with members of the Westminster community to hear their stories and share how God uses generosity, prayers, and service to advance Westminster and change the lives of students and families.



AN INVESTMENT IN WESTMINSTER CHANGES LIVES

This year, we celebrate the story of God’s faithfulness to Westminster Christian Academy for five decades! As we celebrate, we also invite a renewed commitment and call to invest in our mission and vision to help more students engage the world and change it for Christ.

\$1 MILLION FOR THE WESTMINSTER ANNUAL FUND

Our goal this academic year is to raise \$1,000,000 to support the institutional needs and priorities at Westminster: Serving families. Equipping students. Supporting teachers. Investing in the future starts now.

GIVE \$50 IN HONOR OF 50 YEARS

We invite everyone in our community to participate in the blessing of giving. Consider a one-time or recurring gift of \$50 in honor of 50 years of life-changing impact. Visit wcastl.org/give to make a gift today.

50 LEGACY GIFTS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

We must lay a strong foundation for the next generation of students. Our prayer is for 50 families to share their intention of including Westminster in their will or estate plans. Sharing your intent helps Westminster plan for the future and allows you to share any purpose for your meaningful gift. Scan the QR code to learn more.



QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the impact of generosity at Westminster, please contact Shannon Kekhaev, Director of Development Operations, at skkhaev@wcastl.org or 314.997.2901 ext 6424.

“Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.”

PSALM 40:5



Westminster Christian Academy
800 Maryville Centre Drive
Town & Country, MO 63017
wcastl.org 314.997.2900

WESTMINSTER



2025-26 Students of Alumni Parents