

The **W**arrior **W**ORD

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE UPPER SCHOOL



WARRIOR STORY

by Bailey Grace Curtis, 10th

Heart and Attitude

What would you classify as a Warrior? According to the Oxford Dictionary, a Warrior is someone who is brave and an experienced soldier or fighter. In my opinion, Maverick Thompson fits that definition to absolute perfection.

Maverick is an extremely brave young man in the 5th grade who has gone through some difficult trials recently, including an extensive surgery that left him with a walker. In most cases, many patients might be down or complain about this scenario, and that is completely understandable. Maverick is an exception to the normalcy though. Even though he has every right to be upset and grumble about his circumstances, he does the complete opposite.

We had the opportunity to interview Maverick and his schoolmates in Mrs. Denman's class. What we heard was a precious and beautiful story. Maverick has had a tremendous impact on his classmates, grade, and school. His peers explained that their brave friend does not take shortcuts. He will say no to the elevator, allow his friends to take

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COVER STORY

by Carter Cochran, 7th

Making History

What if you were able to play on a team that made school history? Well, that is exactly what our varsity basketball boys' team did this year! Their incredible season began with a lot of change: the exciting completion of Warrior Arena and a new Hall of Fame coach. The boys' team first met with Coach Harding on February 27, 2025. Coach Harding, the AWA Coach of the Year, quickly earned the players' respect and began introducing a new system of play during spring and summer training.

The first regular-season basketball games for our varsity team were an exciting time in school history. For the first time, Warrior Arena offered students rows of bleachers to stand and cheer together in a student section, every row filled and wearing white! The arena was packed with warrior families excited to cheer on their team! On top of that, our team dominated their first several games, giving fans plenty to cheer for. #0 KD Ragland-Morris stated, "It's great to finally be able to play in a place we can call our own... It's just an entirely different atmosphere in Warrior Arena."

Our students cheered on our team during our send-offs before every game. #3 Tripp Mason said, "It is great to see everyone come out and support us," when asked about the student body after the Elite Eight game in Jacksonville

After our Sweet 16 win, the players were asked what it felt like to get into the Elite Eight, and #5 Thadd Landman responded by saying, "I've been going to this school since first grade, and we've never made it past the Sweet 16, so I would say it is really special to me seeing the school grow in sports."

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Warrior Story continued from Page 1

his backpack, and conquer the stairs like a fighter. When there are long walks between buildings, Maverick never says a word to protest. He truly is a Warrior that inspires everyone around him. Students in the same class as Maverick are navigating this long journey right beside him. They help him in any way they can: carrying his backpack from class to class, encouraging him, and praying for him. The whole 5th grade made prayer bracelets to remind each other to pray for Maverick during his surgery.



Maverick shared that the book of Psalms has really motivated him through this season. His friends express that he has gotten better everyday because he is relying on the Lord. His light has shined brightly and spread like a beam that lights up anyone around it. One of his close friends expressed that Maverick has always been there for everyone and shown his kindness. He always puts others before himself even in times of struggle. His whole class agrees that Maverick is a Warrior because of his heart and his attitude. Everyone around him is extremely proud of Maverick and who he is. The Lord has used Maverick as a reminder that we should always depend on God in everything we go through. The Holy Spirit has grown amazing qualities in each of these students. Mrs. Denman explained that everybody is willing to help Maverick and wants to help Maverick because of who Maverick is.

This young man's story is one of the most inspirational ones I have heard. Through Maverick we see that it takes one person to start a ripple effect of God's love. It just takes the right Heart and Attitude.



INTERVIEW

Teacher Talk with Mrs. Cox

by Luke Tumminello, 11th



Mrs. Cox is a beloved secondary teacher who has taught classes such as AP Chemistry and Human Anatomy for over twelve years. On March 6, Luke Tumminello interviewed her about her role at Whitesburg Christian Academy.

What's your favorite thing about teaching?

I love when I can see on a kid's face that they've made a connection to something I've taught them that they didn't know before... it may have been something that they were curious about or something they were confused about, and they're like, "Oh, I've wondered about that!" and you can see it on their face. That's fun to me.

Why did you choose to teach at Whitesburg?

Well, I taught in public school until I had my oldest child, and then I stayed home with him and he started school here. Both of my kids went all the way from kindergarten to graduation, so I had gotten to know what the school was about. I liked the Christian foundation, and I actually heard Mr. Reeder speak when my oldest was six months old. I heard him talk about the school, and I looked at my husband and I said, "I want my kids to go to school there." At the time, I thought I was done teaching. Later, I had started subbing, and I just really liked being a part of the school, and I liked the foundation that they gave the kids. I had been subbing for a while and then a teacher left mid-year, and Mr. Reeder asked me if I wanted to work here, so I did.

What's something school-related that has changed since you were in school?

Technology, for number one. We didn't have cell phones or computers. There *were* computers, but you didn't have them at your house. This is going to sound bad, but I think they held us to a higher standard with the material we used to learn... I think some of that comes from technology, and I think attention spans are different. But it's my job as a teacher to figure out how to teach whoever's in front of me. So if their attention span's not long enough, I have to adapt to make what I'm teaching them more applicable, so that they're interested in it enough. I think I'll know that it's time to be done [teaching] when I can't do that anymore. When I can't adapt how I teach to fit the students, then it's time for somebody else to do it. So far, I've been able to do it.

What is your favorite hobby?

I love to travel, take pictures, and read. I like fiction, I'm not a big non-fiction person. I like historical fiction, romance novels, and Christian fiction, but I don't care much for non-fiction. I get enough of that at school.

What is one thing you'd like to tell all the students?

I hope they know I care about them and that I love them. Enjoy high school. Do the work because you're going to benefit from it, but have fun with it... and try not to be bored by it or bogged down, because it really is making your brain bigger and smarter.

INTERVIEW

Q & A with Mr. Scott

by Sunday Ezell, 7th

Mr. Scott, Whitesburg Christian Academy's new principal, has kicked off the year with a bang and has made a name for himself in our school's history. Sunday Ezell interviewed him about what he thinks of the school so far.



What inspired you to apply to be the upper school principal?

I was drawn to the Christian education atmosphere. I retired from a public school system to be part of Christian education.

How has your faith affected this choice?

My faith has grown since working here. Being around Christians every day has drawn me closer to the Lord.

What is the most fun part of your day as a principal?

Interacting with students, definitely. The students are the best.

What's the hardest part of your day?

Sometimes, there aren't enough hours in the day to do all the things you want to do in the day.

What inspired you to pursue a lifetime career in education?

When I went to college, I made the choice to be a teacher. This is my 31st year in education, and I love it every year.

Who was your favorite teacher or principal growing up, and how has that person influenced the kind of figure you are?

I had a middle school math teacher and a coach of mine. And he made a big impact with me personally, with my walk with the Lord, he was a fine Christian man.

Where do you most see God working at The Academy?

I love the praise and worship time that we have in the chapel, and I love the peer mentoring that we have every other week. When we are all praising God in unison, I see students worshipping with students; it's really powerful.

Tell us about your family.

My wife and I have been married for 25 years. We have a son, Spencer, who's 23 years old and graduated from Alabama last year, and is now a teacher in the Tuscaloosa County School system. We have a daughter, Sydney, she's 20, and she's at the University of Alabama as well, and she's an elementary education major. We live right here in Huntsville.

What was your favorite subject in school?

My favorite subjects are probably science and math. I'm a former science teacher. I taught middle school science.

What was your favorite sport?

I love all sports. Basketball and football are right there together, and whichever ones are in season, so if we went from fall to winter, I'm just going to have to go football, basketball, and soccer.

What is your favorite thing to do for fun?

I love to go fishing with my family. Sometimes it's just me and Spencer or just me and Sydney. Sometimes it's all of us.

What's your favorite thing to eat for lunch?

At school every day, I have a ham sandwich or a turkey sandwich that my loving wife makes for me on a daily basis.



FAITH IN ACTION

Easter at The Academy

by Alana Boyett, 8th

Whitesburg Christian Academy shows their faith and love for God year round, but how do we celebrate Easter and teach the students all about Jesus' resurrection? Upper School holds a special Easter chapel every year where students can worship, learn about Jesus' sacrifice, and discuss God's love for us. Upper school teachers also include a Biblical integration into all of their lessons to help students see how God's love affects our everyday lives.

The Grammar School participates in many Easter traditions. Some of the teacher's favorites are: TK painting the crosses, many grades making resurrection rolls, and learning about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. 4th Grade takes time to go outside, be in God's creation, and reflect on Jesus' sacrifices. They then go inside and light a candle that can never be extinguished to represent Jesus' light that will never go dark. Easter is a special time at Whitesburg Christian Academy where students can learn the story, worship God, and reflect on His sacrifice.

SPORTS REPORT: BASEBALL

A Fresh Start

by Jake Moffett, 7th



With many critical starters graduating, Whitesburg Christian Academy is taking a rebuilding year on the diamond. The Warriors are in this new era coming off a historic 2025 season, when they finished 25-12 and made it to the AHSAA 3A State Quarterfinals. This success was led by a lethal senior pitching staff backed up by star Luke Holbrook picking up a 400+ career strikeout total before committing to the University of Montevallo.

To replace this, a wave of talented freshmen and underclassmen have taken the stage. While the varsity team suffered heavy defeats to St. John Paul II and Albertville, they showed their lofty potential in defeating Decatur Heritage 16-2 in a dominant display. This is led back by return star pitcher senior left-hander David Parks who logged the most innings on staff last year.

Joining him in the rotation is physical switch hitter Cason Hill. New heads of this elite group are Hays Ainsworth, Henry Nuwayhid and Blake Holland.

Also, the warriors JV and Varsity team went to Florida during spring break and played the gulf coast classic II that had 50+ teams. Separately, middle school is on a 4-5-1 performance currently under Coach Cooper, setting the program up well for the future.

Looking ahead the varsity will have many challenges against the tough Area 15 schedule when facing Decatur Heritage and Brewer as they fine-tune consistency this rebuild year.

COACHES CORNER

Q & A with Coach Adcock

by Maddie Lowery, 9th

Coach Adcock, our varsity football coach, has had a tremendous impact in the lives of our students. From growing up in a Christian household, to finding his passion for coaching, Coach Adcock has been an inspiration and mentor to our students.

What is your testimony?

I grew up in a Christian home, always in church. I knew the Lord, but when I went off to college I strayed away from God and wasn't living the life I needed to live. I met my wife and we decided that we wanted to live for Christ by actively living out our faith instead of just pretending. I got married at 32 and my wife and I decided we wanted to be a Christian family and raise our children in the church. I grew up always knowing the Lord, but as I went through adulthood and my marriage I have continued to grow in my faith and actively live it out.

What inspired you to coach?

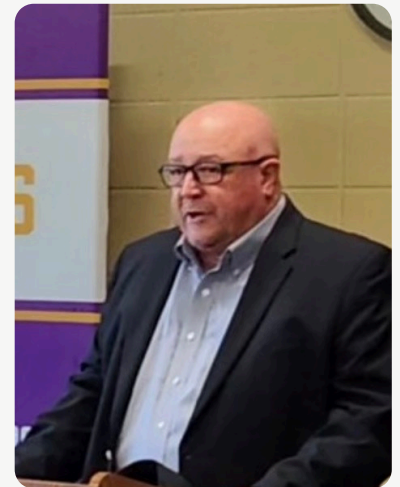
I loved athletics, but two coaches I truly admired as men and the way they handled our team. I always had a love for sports and got a marketing degree and worked in a grocery store for a bit. Eventually we sold the store and I went back to college to get an education degree and began volunteer coaching, and my coaching career just continued to progress.

Why did you join the Academy?

I had retired from coaching in January of 2023 after coaching for 43 years and I thought it was time for me to get out of it. I was not tired of it but I was tired with a lot of the things I was wrestling with, and I had another job opportunity. I worked for Pepsi for a little bit and I did marketing locally for a bit. One day I got a call from Coach Bell. My wife and Coach Bell went to high school together and I had known him for a long time. He talked with me about this job opportunity and my wife said, "You are not tired of coaching. Every night I come in here and you are watching film." I knew I wasn't tired of it, I knew that this offered me something that was different than what I had been used to and I accepted the challenge. I came over here and saw how genuine the people were and this was a need that fit a desire I had in my heart.

How do you incorporate Christ in your coaching?

Everything is a lesson, and we talk about our core principles being commitment, character, and class, and we talk to them about how you have to commit yourself in a way that honors God in what you do. You know we are dealing with guys, and sometimes guys act like guys, but that's ok because Jesus took a bunch of fishermen who weren't walking around in three-piece suits and nice haircuts, they were rough and tough men. So I take this opportunity because football is a rough and hard sport that you have to pour a lot into to teach the kids how to hold yourself and how to act under pressure.



SPORTS REPORT

The Rise of Track

by Ethan Kennamer, 7th

Track for 7th through 12th is one of the best things I can write about because it has been one of my most exhilarating times this year. Running against high schoolers is a unique challenge, especially for a 7th grader like me. Every time I line up at the starting line and see my competition, I feel a mix of excitement and nerves. It's intimidating, but it also motivates me to push harder than I ever thought I could.



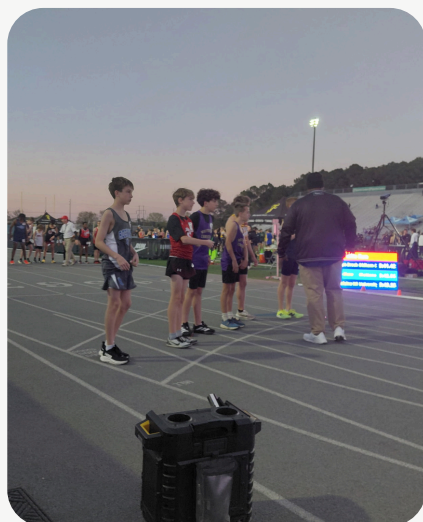
To help guide the new athletes, Joseph Bolton has been promoted to mentor the younger runners. His leadership has been invaluable, providing encouragement, guidance, and tips to help newcomers improve their times and build confidence.

I had the chance to speak with Graham Cochran, who joined the track team later in the season after the Whitesburg Warriors basketball team reached the Final Four. Graham shared, "It's been great so far. It makes you compete against yourself."

I asked Liam Norton what it's like to run at practice and do club soccer at the same time. He said, "It's tough, but you have to push through. It's fun to have teammates who are there also." I think Liam has shown us we need to live to our best self. We will fall, but with help from others we can make it. The Warriors have had really good PR's (personal records), and we have had some places also.

I would say the Warriors have it in first place no matter what because we cheer each other on, always. And, no matter how we do, we will always have Christ's gifts in us. Every meet, some of us gather up before our races and pray with other teams. I have to say the Warriors have done so well this season. I think we would go to a final based on how we treat each other and how God is with us. God shows us other people's talents, and we see how much work God has put into us.

All in all, track might be one of the hardest things with school, other sports like soccer and basketball, and even a newspaper is pretty hard—but as the Warriors, we must push through.



Dad Jokes

Why don't melons get married?

They cantelope.

Never go on an all almond diet.

It would just be nuts!

Why don't scientists trust atoms?

They make up everything!



FASHION

Prom Pointers

by Rosie Smith, 8th

Spring is coming, and before we know it, it'll be time for one of the most anticipated events for juniors and seniors—spring formal, better known as Prom. Lots of girls are already picking out the dresses that they want to wear, but others might not be so sure what they want to wear or what they should wear. If that's you, then this article is here to help!

This year, the venue for prom will be at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens and the theme is Tangled, like the movie. We would suggest an assortment of light purples, greens, and other pastel colors. There has also been a noticeable rise in the popularity of butter yellow. You could also try some lace-up backs and floral details; maybe even wear flowers in your hair.

On that note, you could be very in character with the theme by wearing your hair in braided updos or half-updos. You could make them long and flowy with curly tendrils in the front. For makeup, glowy, pink, glittery looks with long, lifted lashes are perfect! For jewelry, maybe go with a flowery, simple necklace and earrings, perhaps with pastel gemstones. You could also go with gold or silver high heels. Basically, your whole look would be very youthful, delicate, whimsical, and dreamy, emulating the iconic character Rapunzel.

Prom will be on April 11th at 6:00. Whatever you end up deciding to wear, everyone is going to have a great time. Whether you are a senior returning for another night of partying with friends, or a junior finally going to the long-awaited event, prom will be amazing!

SENIOR REPORT

More Than a Class: Thank You to My Senior Family

By Annika Kallas, Homecoming Queen

When people talk about their senior class, they usually say the same things. They say their class is special. They say they are close. But I can honestly say that our class really is something different, and I feel incredibly lucky to be a part of it.

Over the past few years, we have grown up together in ways I do not think any of us expected. We have sat through classes, survived evil Calculus tests, laughed at things we probably should not have laughed at, and made memories that will stay with us long after graduation. Somewhere along the way, this group stopped feeling like just a class and started feeling like a family.

One of my favorite memories of all of us together was junior year Bible class. What was supposed to be a normal class discussion almost always turned into a full debate. Someone would bring up a point, someone else would completely disagree, and suddenly the entire class was passionately arguing theology, philosophy, or sometimes things that barely even related to the lesson anymore. Looking back, it is funny



how serious we could get over those conversations, but they were some of the best moments we had. Even when we disagreed, we respected each other, and somehow the debates always ended with everyone laughing.

What makes our class so special is that our friendships don't stop when the school day ends. Even outside of school, we still want to spend time together. Sunday Senior pickleball became one of those things that perfectly shows who we are as a class. What started as a simple plan turned into something we all looked forward to. Whether we were actually playing pickleball or just standing around talking and joking

with each other, it was another reminder that the friendships in this class go beyond the classroom. Another thing that makes our class unique is the way our time at Whitesburg Christian Academy has shaped our faith. Through Bible classes, chapel, and conversations with teachers and each other, we have had the opportunity to ask questions, challenge our understanding, and grow stronger in what we believe. Even those junior year debates were part of that growth. They pushed us to think deeper and understand our faith in a more personal way.

As we get closer to graduation, I am so thankful not only for the friendships in this class but also for the spiritual growth we have experienced together. Whitesburg Christian Academy has given us more than an education. It has given us a foundation of faith that we will carry with us wherever life takes us next. No matter where we go, the lessons, friendships, and faith we built here will always be a part of who we are.



TECHNOLOGY

AI and the Future of Work

by Ella Grace O'Brian, 9th



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the modern workplace, and today's graduates are entering a job market that looks completely different from any other before. Whether you are deciding on your major for college, or heading straight into the workforce, AI and its future impact on jobs is something that is necessary to take into consideration. While it may seem threatening to your desired future, experts say that this new technology, like all others before it, is likely to just reshape the desired areas for human labor rather than eliminate it entirely.

AI systems are projected to be greatly utilized in the entry-level workforce and may eventually replace jobs like lawyers, finance professionals, and consultants because of their great usefulness in analyzing large quantities of complex information and reliability. Dario Amodei, CEO of Anthropic, has recently shared his concern of unemployment in these areas in the upcoming years if the leading companies don't find a way to regulate their AI's use. In an interview on 60 Minutes, he said, "In many of the white-collar service industries, a lot of what they do, AI models are already quite good at. Without intervention, it's hard to imagine that there won't be some significant job impact."

Even in careers that are not directly related to technology, the impact of AI will change how people work. What is important to understand is that in the next ten years, most of these jobs that feel "threatened" by this new technology will most likely be completely fine, just reshaped. For example, doctors and nurses will utilize AI programs for analyzing medical images and creating diagnoses, teachers will use it to create more personalized programs for their students, and journalists may rely on AI tools to sort through large amounts of information in order to research and write more easily. Along with the changing jobs, artificial intelligence will also open up new opportunities for graduates and new areas of high-demand positions. As businesses and companies adapt to use new AI tools, they will need new workers who understand how to use, manage, and improve those systems. Jobs related to cybersecurity, data analysis, and software development will become increasingly in high demand, which is also more likely to pay well for base positions.

At the same time, human abilities that AI cannot replicate are becoming more valuable as well. Skills such as creativity, critical and emotional thinking, communication, and ethical decision-making remain essential to the workforce and are in less threat of quickly being replaced. Employers in all areas of work are always looking for people who work well with others and can make thoughtful judgements - areas that humans will always have the clear advantage in.

For today's high school graduates, the message is clear: AI will reshape the future of work, but it will never mean the end of opportunity. Research future jobs you have considered and understand the effect AI will have on it in the future. Develop those valuable emotional and relational skills that will never be able to be replaced. Those that are willing to learn, adapt, and work alongside AI as it continues to develop in the future will be well positioned to greatly succeed in the ever-changing job market.



by Harper Drieling, 9th

COMICS



by Ben Douglas, 8th



by Stirling Turnbull, 9th

Cover story continued

Our team strode into the Final Four feeling excited and pumped. Our students came out to cheer on our team, all wearing the gray Final Four shirt. Our team dominated the first half against Southside Selma. However, Southside Selma made a comeback in the second half, and our team unfortunately lost by two points.

Our varsity players weren't the only people on the bench that night. Aslan Taylor and Jadon Williams attended every varsity game to cheer on their team and hand out water to the players. #21 Graham Cochran moved up to Varsity once the JV season ended, and he said, "Being a JV player and getting to be around the varsity team while they made school history was a great experience. It showed me the level of work and focus it takes to win and pushed me to get better every day. Watching and playing with those guys helped me grow and made me even more motivated for the future."

Now that the season is over, it is time to turn our eyes to what will happen next year! Our varsity boys' basketball team has a bright future, and when asked what he was looking forward to the most next year, #12 Brooks Cochran stated, "Next season I'm looking forward to making another deep run. Last year was really fun, and we made a lot of memories, and I hope to continue that into next year."



Samson's Scoop

Samson has the Scoop! Long ago, these kids went to school. They learned much, dreamed big, and grew up to work at The Academy! Anyone who can match the faces to the names will win a **free scoop of ice cream** from Samson outside at lunch on newspaper launch day!



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THE WARRIOR WORD STAFF

Publisher: Bailey Grace Curtis
Layout/Copy Editors: Luke Tumminello, Stirling Turnbull
Logo Design: Luke Tumminello
Comics: Ben Douglas, Harper Drieling, Stirling Turnbull
April Columnists: Alana Boyett, Carter Cochran, Bailey Grace Curtis, Sunday Ezell, Annika Kallis, Ethan Kennamer, Maddie Lowery, Jake Moffett, Ella Grace O'Brian, Rosie Smith, Luke Tumminello
Staff Sponsors: Mrs. Katie Taylor and Mrs. Dee Dee Johnston

Have an idea or want to join the team?

Email us at warrrior.word@whitesburgchristianacademy.org

Samson's Scoop Choices:

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 Mr. Bailey
 Mrs. Crouch
 Mrs. Edgemon
 Mr. Fuller
 Mr. Hutcheson
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