The WESTLAKE Insider

WINTER/SPRING 2025

TODAY . TOMORROW . ETERNITY

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL *Stacey Walter*

Welcome to The Westlake Insider!

Such a Time as This: Answering the Call to Expand God's Kingdom

In these two short years at Westlake Lutheran Academy, God has been moving powerfully, shaping our community for the good of His Kingdom. It is a true blessing to be called to this ministry, united in our mission: ***"Preparing students for today, tomorrow, and eternity."*** Together with our families, we achieve this mission through our foundational pillars:

WALKING WITH JESUS

Our top priority is providing a faith-based education where Christian values permeate every aspect of the student experience. Through worship, prayer, and time in His Word, our students are nurtured in a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ.

LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

Westlake is more than a school—it is a community where teachers genuinely know and love each student. Guided by the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), our parents, staff, and students model Christ-like actions, fostering an environment rooted in grace, mutual respect, and fellowship.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Through a research-based curriculum, student-centered instruction, and expanding enrichment opportunities, we equip our students to be courageous leaders who serve Christ in a changing world. Our holistic approach fosters spiritual, intellectual, social-emotional, and physical growth, preparing them for a life of service and purpose.

As we reflect on our journey, one pressing need became clear: a high school. With the support of LEAH, we are thrilled to announce that our high school program will begin with 9th grade in Fall 2025. This exciting new chapter is made possible by our outstanding teachers, whose commitment to excellence and dedication to students and families serve as the foundation of our success.

To further support our educators, we are exploring ways to increase collaborative planning time and provide professional development focused on enhancing instructional practices.

Additionally, we have embraced a refreshed identity, returning to our original name—Westlake Lutheran Academy—and unveiled a new logo to strengthen our brand within the community. Our student-led chapels continue to be a hallmark of spiritual and leadership development, empowering our students to take ownership of their faith journey.

We also celebrate God's financial blessings, with giving surpassing expectations and enrollment exceeding 205 students. These milestones are a testament to God's faithfulness and the collective efforts of our community.

As we look to the future, let us move forward together, inspired by His call and committed to expanding His Kingdom.

IN CHRIST,

Stacey Walter

HEAD OF SCHOOL, Westlake Lutheran Academy

A YEAR OF PROGRESS

Westlake Lutheran Academy has truly been blessed! We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support through giving, volunteering, and lifting our school up in prayer. Your generosity is making a tangible difference in the lives of our students and advancing the mission of our school. For the 2024 calendar year, total giving to WLA reached an impressive:

$585,898

That includes the gala last spring, the annual fund, and gifts to various special projects. In a year end update, total giving to the Annual Fund in 2024 totaled $158,470. **Over the past year and a half, we've seen exciting developments thanks to your generosity:**

> **REBRANDING: New signage featuring our refreshed logo is now proudly displayed on the building, bus, and trailer.**
>
> **ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT: Donations have supported curriculum upgrades and professional development through the Teaching Better Institute, enhancing the educational experience for our students.**
>
> **CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS: We've added an athletic field and a new metal building to house our weight room, in addition to significant facility upgrades like landscaping, fresh paint, and improved gym lighting.**
>
> **FUTURE PROJECTS: Thanks to funds raised at last year's gala and the LEAH investment, we are excited to break ground on a new entrance off Katy Gaston, which will include parking. We are also working with architects on plans for a new classroom building, details of which will be shared in the final article of this issue.**

With these advancements and more on the horizon, the future is very bright for Westlake Lutheran Academy! We are excited to move forward with our Advancement Plan, which aligns with our mission and our goal of providing every student with an excellent Christian education.

GO WILDCATS!

Bret Walter

CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

7TH/8TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM SECURED THE #1 SEED IN THE WEST DIVISION TO PLAY FOR THE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP. THIS IS THE 1ST TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TEAM AND COACHES!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 26: Robotics Showcase
March 29: Westlake Lutheran Academy Gala
May 2-3: MS Presents the Musical *Aladdin*
May 7: Westlake Lutheran Academy Dance Recital
May 8: LS Spring Music Concert
May 13: MS Spring Music Concert
May 20: 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony
May 21: Kindergarten Celebration

ANDREW STRUCKMEYER

Theology teacher

Over my 12 years at Westlake it has truly been a blessing to see how God has used and continues to use Westlake for His purpose. When I came here in 2013 fifth grade was our highest grade and it was our first ever year of athletics. There were moments when things looked impossible or where we were asking God what his plan was, but he provided. It is such a blessing to look back now and see how much God has grown us from then. We've added grades, a building, extra-circulars, and next year a high school. We have former students going to colleges all over the country and even some playing Division-1 sports. I can't wait for my own children to be old enough to join the Westlake family and to get to be a part of what God is doing in this place. When I visited Westlake for the first time in 2013, God made it abundantly clear that this is where I was supposed to be. Twelve years later I still feel the same. Westlake has always felt like home to me, made even more true by this being the place I met my wife. This school has always been a place where you can feel God working in and through His people. My prayer is that you and your families continue to partner with us in helping Westlake continue to be an instrument that God can use for His glory.

"THIS SCHOOL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN FEEL GOD WORKING IN AND THROUGH HIS PEOPLE."

REBECA GIBSON

Kindergarten teacher

Our journey with Westlake Lutheran Academy began in 2000 at Crosspoint Lutheran Church. It was there we were introduced to Mr. Glen Gerber, the future Head of School of the Lutheran Education Association of Houston's (LEAH) new campus. At the time, the vision of Westlake existed only in the hearts and prayers of its founders.

God gave Mr. Gerber a deep passion and unwavering dedication to the mission of this new Lutheran school.

A DREAM TAKES SHAPE In 2008, Westlake Lutheran Academy officially opened its doors. In its inaugural year, the school had combined classrooms for grades 2-3 and 4-5. For our family, enrolling our daughter at Westlake was an intentional decision, motivated by a desire to provide her with a well-rounded, Christ-centered education.

Despite Mr. Gerber's steadfast commitment, the school was unable to launch its middle school program at that time. This led us to seek another Lutheran school for her middle and high school years.

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL In the summer of 2010, God called me to Westlake. Every day, I have the privilege of praying with and witnessing to my students. I cherish the freedom to express my faith openly and to live out my calling as an educator in a Christ-centered environment.

LOOKING AHEAD WITH FAITH Today, there is renewed energy and focus on expanding Westlake, including the addition of a high school. Our prayer is that Westlake will continue to grow, attracting individuals passionate about Christ and committed to providing Christ-centered education to generations to come.

"EVERY DAY I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYING WITH AND WITNESSING TO MY STUDENTS."

THE FUTURE OF WESTLAKE

AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE OF WESTLAKE LUTHERAN ACADEMY, WE SEE AN EXCITING JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE HORIZON.

what's next?

THE 42-ACRE CAMPUS, ACQUIRED YEARS AGO BY THE LUTHERAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON (LEAH), WAS A VISIONARY STEP THAT LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR US. THE FORESIGHT TO SECURE A LARGE PROPERTY IS A BLESSING, PROVIDING SPACE TO EXPAND ACADEMIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR OFFERINGS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS.

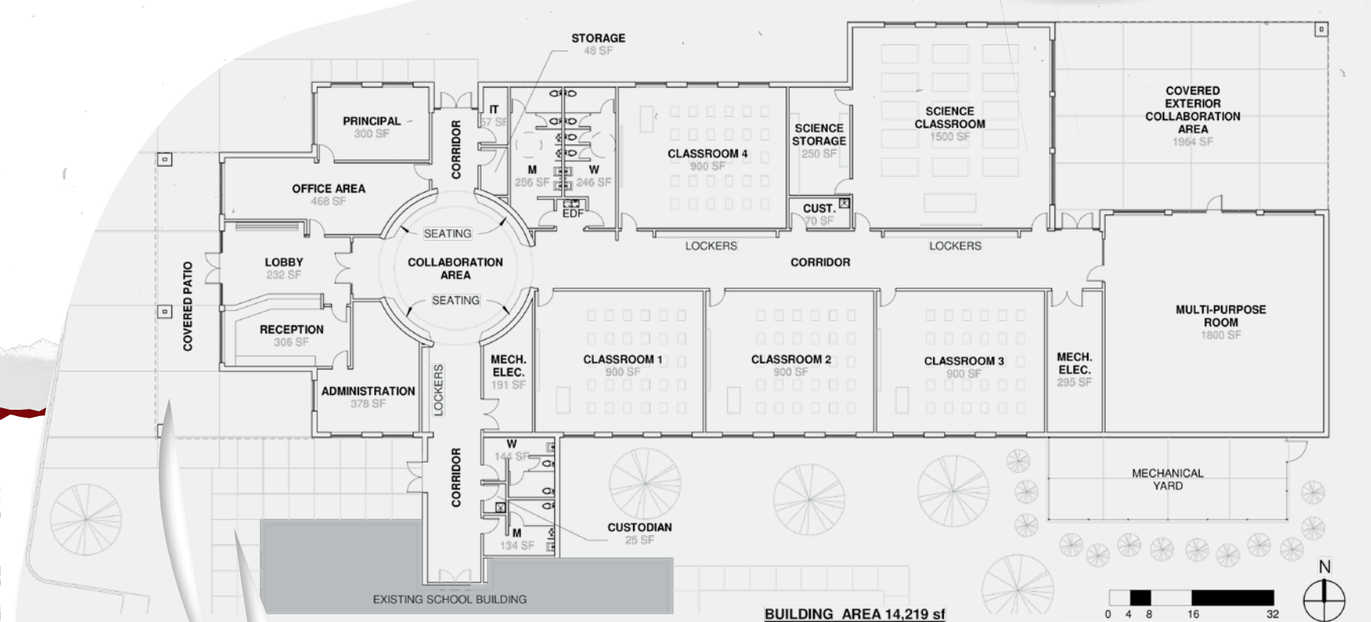
We have worked with our architects to build out a Master Plan for our 42-acre campus that meets our long-term vision. Having a clear plan, we're able to take the next step in the journey of WLA. In talking with many of our families and the staff last year, we determined that adding an entrance off Katy Gaston was essential. This will help our families enter and exit campus and connect infrastructure to future facilities. Adding parking to the entrance helps with event parking needs and provides space for future high school student parking. We've been working through time consuming traffic studies and storm/detention challenges and are moving toward breaking ground on the project. The first phase of our next giving step includes a new classroom building and upgrading our lower school playground. The building is essential to support growth and the addition of HS over the next four years while upgrading the playground is a high priority for our lower school families and staff. The upgraded playground will provide a safe, engaging, and enjoyable space for our children to play and grow. Future giving and proceeds from our Gala this spring will go toward this phase.

In the latest revision of the classroom building seen here, we've taken feedback from staff and current 8th grade students. There will be state of the art academic spaces highlighted by a 1,500 square foot science classroom where students will have unique engaging hands-on experiences. We'll have a bistro-like collaboration area and an 1,800 square foot multipurpose room that can be accessed for chapels, lunch, meetings, etc. The multipurpose space and science classroom will connect to a 1,964 square foot covered patio for collaboration, activities and social space.

As WLA grows, so too will our campus. The Master Plan envisions future buildings that will further enrich the educational experience. We are particularly focused on designing spaces that foster collaboration, creativity, and community, with areas for both academic learning and extracurricular activities to accommodate the needs of our growing student body.

THE JOURNEY TO THESE EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS IS JUST BEGINNING, BUT IT'S A JOURNEY THAT WE WILL TAKE TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY. YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN OUR EFFORTS, SUCH AS THE UPCOMING GALA, IS CRITICAL TO MAKING THESE PLANS A REALITY. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR FAMILIES, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS PARTNERSHIP AS WE BUILD A STRONGER FUTURE FOR WESTLAKE LUTHERAN ACADEMY.

LEGEND		
EXISTING	1	EXISTING SCHOOL BUILDING
	2	EXISTING PARKING / PAVING
	3	EXISTING DETENTION POND
PHASE I	4	KATY-GASTON RD. DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE (FUTURE PARKING - 60 SPACES)
PHASE II	5	6,700 SF CLASSROOM BUILDING
PHASE III	6	DRIVEWAY EXTENTION (FUTURE PARKING - 170 SPACES)
	7	FOOTBALL FIELD WITH TRACK
	8	PRESS BOX & SEATING
	9	MEETING HOUSE WITH RESTROOMS
	10	SOCCER FIELD
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT	11	PLAZA
	12	30,000 SF MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY
	13	COURTYARD & WALKING PATHS
	14	24,000 SF UPPER SCHOOL ADDITION (2 STORIES, 30 CLASSROOMS)
	15	DRIVEWAY EXTENTION (FUTURE PARKING - 110 SPACES)
	16	DRIVEWAY EXTENTION (FUTURE PARKING - 220 SPACES)
	17	16,000 SF MULTIPURPOSE FIELDHOUSE
	18	TENNIS COURTS
	19	CLUBHOUSE
	20	INDOOR BATTING CAGES
	21	BASEBALL FIELD
	22	SOFTBALL FIELD
	23	PRACTICE FIELD
	24	PAVILLION
	25	40,000 SF INDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITY
	26	30,000 SF AUDITORIUM & FINE ARTS BUILDING ADDITION



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PREPARING STUDENTS FOR TODAY, TOMORROW & ETERNITY

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE, AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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