

# WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## VISION

Partnering with families to provide whole child Christian education that integrates God's Word and creation into all areas of learning.

## CORE VALUES

Christ-Centered  
Academic Excellence  
Community  
Servant Leadership  
Stewardship

## A WSCS GRADUATE...

Pursues Jesus  
Explores Ideas  
Thinks Creatively  
Serves Neighbors  
Fosters Belonging  
Cares for Creation  
Communicates Effectively

## HISTORY

Beginning in the 1880s, saplings named Crosby, Rehoboth, Alpine, and Pine were planted with the conviction that a sturdy tree would grow from these humble beginnings. One and two room Christian schools were opened on Crosby Street and Alpine Avenue by Dutch settlers on the west side of Grand Rapids. These settlers desired that the schools their children attended endorse the faith values of both their homes and churches. "Train up a child in the way he should go (Proverbs 22:6)" has been the guiding principle ever since.

From these humble beginnings, a vigorous tree has grown and flourished. For nearly 140 years, the tree has spread its branches and now embraces children of many ages, races, cultural backgrounds, and Christian faith communities.

## OUR MISSION

Growing Students' Minds.  
Guiding Servant Hearts.  
Glorifying Jesus Christ.



# WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## core values



### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At WSCS, students experience the joy and wonder of learning within a safe and nurturing classroom environment. We encourage students to embrace curiosity, try new things, and grow in confidence as they discover God's world and their place in it.



### SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Our staff invests in our students as children of God, models how to lead with care, and encourages them to use their God-given gifts in service to each other and the school community. Our students lead chapels, help with school wide service projects, harvest produce from the school garden, and participate in student organizations.



### CHRIST-CENTERED

WSCS is founded on the Reformed perspective of Christian education. All aspects of teaching and learning are rooted in our belief that the Bible is the Word of God and that each child belongs to Him. We believe that God is sovereign over all creation, and we want our children to know Him, enjoy Him, and serve Him.



### COMMUNITY

Meaningful relationships developed within a Christian context help students mature in their faith. At WSCS, we foster a spirit of belonging and intentionally care for one another. Families, staff, and our extended faith community unite around our shared purpose: to bring honor and glory to God.



### STEWARDSHIP

God is sovereign over all creation. As His children, we have the privilege and responsibility to care for our world. Every square inch of our campus -- our school garden, nature preserve, classrooms, hallways -- belongs to Him. Our community's commitment to sustaining Christian education here at WSCS also includes wisely investing our time, money, and talents.

# WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## core values

### CHRIST-CENTERED

**Romans 12:2** // "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (ESV)

**Psalms 25:5** // "Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long." (ESV)

**Colossians 3:17** // "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father, through him." (NIV)

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** // "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (NIV)

**Proverbs 22:6** // "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." (NIV)

**Psalms 32:8** // "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." (NIV)

### SERVANT LEADERSHIP

**Mark 10:45** // "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for man." (NIV)

**Philippians 2:3-4** // "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others." (NIV)

**1 Peter 4:10** // "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (NIV)

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### COMMUNITY

**Ephesians 4:2-6** // "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (NIV)

**Romans 12:4-5** // For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (NIV)

**Hebrews 10:24-25** // "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another- and all the more as you see the day approaching." (NIV)

### STEWARDSHIP

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7** // "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (ESV)

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2** // "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." (ESV)

**Colossians 1:19-20** // "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." (NIV)

# WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## portrait of a graduate

A West Side Christian School graduate . . .

### PURSUES JESUS

- seeks Christ and embraces His love and promises

### EXPLORES IDEAS

- ←• engages God's world with curiosity and wonder

### THINKS CREATIVELY

- develops solutions through investigation and ingenuity

### SERVES NEIGHBORS

- ←• shows compassion and hospitality to their school, local, and global communities

### FOSTERS BELONGING

- cultivates relationships to create a welcoming environment

### CARES FOR CREATION

- ←• protects and renews God's Kingdom on earth

### COMMUNICATES EFFECTIVELY

- articulates ideas and solutions with clarity and purpose