



“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.”  
**Colossians 3:17**

## WSCS COMING EVENTS:

<b>December</b>	4-8	Hearing / Vision Screening
	5	Middle School Christmas Concert at 6:30pm
	7	5th Grade Band / Orchestra Christmas Concert at 8:45am
	8	K-8 Early Release - Dismiss at 11:30am
	15	Staff vs. 8th Grade Girls Volleyball game at 3:30pm
	19	BUDS 2:15-3:00pm in the gym
	20	Staff vs. 8th Grade Boys Basketball game at 3:30pm
	22	Christmas Chapel at 9:40am - Everyone welcome!
	22	Half day -- K-8 dismiss at 11:30am for Christmas Break
<b>January</b>	8	Classes Resume

**WSCS CHAPEL SCHEDULE:** Parents and grandparents are always welcome to join us for chapel. A complete list for the 2023-2024 school year can be found [HERE](#).

**MS CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Our middle school band, orchestra, and choir students have been working hard to prepare a night of worship and song for you and your family! During the concert, the following groups will perform in the gym: 6th grade band, 6th grade choir, 6th grade orchestra, 7th/8th grade band, 7th/8th grade choir, and 7th/8th grade orchestra. We hope you can come and celebrate the birth of our Savior this evening, December 5 at 6:30pm!

**5TH GRADE BAND AND ORCHESTRA** are giving their winter performance for parents and supporters on Thursday, December 7 at 8:45am. The band will perform in the band/music room. The orchestra will perform in the orchestra/Spanish room. Please check in through the office and then head down to the music rooms.

## TRIP

**CHRISTMAS ORDERS:** In order for gift cards to be guaranteed before Christmas break, the ordering deadline is next Monday, December 11. Any orders placed after that date MAY arrive before break, but are not guaranteed.

## HOT LUNCH

The monthly hot lunch calendars can be found here: December 2023

**Wednesday, December 6:** Beef Dippers or Mini Pancakes

**Thursday, December 7:** Walking Beef Tacos Strawberry Yogurt

**Friday, December 8: Early Dismissal - No Lunch**

**Monday, December 11:** Cheeseburger on Bun or Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal

**Tuesday, December 12:** French Toast Bites or Pretzel w/ Cheese Sauce

Please contact Nancy Michaels, [nmichaels@grcs.org](mailto:nmichaels@grcs.org) with any questions.

## PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS

**Wednesday, December 6:** K. Huffman, J. Woolpert (Elem); P. Buth (MS)

**Thursday, December 7:** J. Nyenhuis, S. Bloem (Elem); P. Buth (MS)

**Friday, December 8: Early Dismissal - No Volunteers Needed**

**Monday, December 11:** L. Dykema, J. Hekman (Elem); Volunteer Needed (MS)

**Tuesday, December 12:** R. Hendricks, S. Herrmann (Elem); Volunteer Needed (MS)

Additional playground volunteers are needed! If you are not able to help out monthly please sign up to help on specific days for October [here](#) or contact Emily at [eschab24@gmail.com](mailto:eschab24@gmail.com).

## TECH BYTE

Snap Map has hot spots of live content. In Protect Young Eyes recent [Instagram Reel](#) Instagram post ([Face Book post](#)), Isaac showed how "Snap Map" shows live footage from anywhere in the world, including the conflict in Israel and Gaza. Parents, please be aware (and remember, nothing monitors Snapchat).

## STAFF UPDATES

**RETIREMENT:** Lori Pott will be completing her 40th year of teaching this year. Her dedication and love for WSCS is evident and appreciated. She is looking forward to spending more time with her two children and grandchildren during retirement. Please join in thanking her for her service and commitment to our community.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** Emily Steenwyk is not planning on returning after her maternity leave. She is taking a leave of absence as she has been called to stay home with baby Samuel. We are thankful to God for the blessings of each one of you. Jordyn Peless, Interim 5-8 Resource Room Teacher, will be in this role permanently through this school year (2023-2024).

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** West Side Christian School is looking for a qualified paraeducator who is a team player and loves children. He/she must love the Lord whole-heartedly. We are seeking someone who always sees potential in others, motivates individuals, and helps students grow in their academic, behavioral or social areas. The paraeducator will work in a variety of settings: in the classroom, resource room, playground or other outdoor areas. This is a part-time position with up to 35 hours/week during the academic school year. If you are interested in joining our staff, please apply online:

<https://wscsgr.org/employment-opportunities/>

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**2023 LOYALTY DRIVE UPDATE:** A big "Thank You" to the over 100 donors that have participated to date in this year's Loyalty Drive which kicked off last month. We are grateful for the financial support that has been received and ask that you continue to pray that God richly blesses this important initiative.

**THANK YOU!** The PTA wishes to thank all who participated in this year's Christmas Marketplace which took place last Saturday. Thanks to all who helped set up, served concessions, and cleaned up after the event. We're grateful for another "sell out" where all vendor space was claimed. The large crowd that attended got lots of Christmas shopping done. FYI, next year's event will be December 7.

**ILLNESS GUIDELINES - WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME?** A school year brings many wonderful things. Unfortunately, illnesses also tend to make an exuberant appearance as well. While we understand that illness at home can impact schedules and routines (for both parents and children) we urge you to review our illness guidelines and policies here at WSCS. There are some instances where students must stay home for 24 hours or more. We thank you, in advance, for your help. [WSCS Illness Guidelines](#)

**TRANSPORTATION CHANGES:** Any changes in your child's transportation at dismissal must be made by email, phone call, or note. We ask that transportation change requests be made by contacting the school office at 616-453-3925 **by 2:00pm** to ensure proper communication to staff and student(s). Accountability and safety of your child is extremely important to us. Any requests made after 2:00 may not be granted, and your child will assume regular after school transportation arrangements. Thank you for your help in this important matter.

### **DURING ATHLETIC EVENTS:**

- Students below grade five (5) should be supervised by a parent or another adult.
- Students should make advance arrangements to attend an athletic event. Students are not to use the phone to obtain the parent's permission to stay for after school activities.
- Students attending an event in the gym are to remain in the gym.

**CHRISTMAS ART PIECE:** We're looking for some young artists to contribute a "banner" to be visible during our upcoming all-school Christmas chapel. The chapel will focus on four themes: Love, Joy, Peace, and Hope. If your child is interested, details can be found [HERE](#). Please turn in submissions by Friday, December 15.

**CSI ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT:** This is the next step in our accreditation process. This week we have special guests at our school from CSI and area Christian schools to assess compliance with standards, identify school community strengths, and make recommendations for improvement.

**WSCS APPAREL SALE ENDS MONDAY, DECEMBER 11!** Buy your WSCS school spirit wear and gear today at <https://westside-threads.com/>. You can pick up your purchases on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 21 & 22. Thanks for your support and pride in WSCS!

**HELP FILL A TABLE:** What a blessing to hear our students at chapel speak and lead our school through this giving opportunity. "Let's help fill a table! Let's use our hands to give to others and share Jesus' love as we collect food, hats, and gloves along with some encouraging notes. This is a great opportunity for us as a school to spread Jesus' love throughout our community."

- [King's Table Ministries](#) has partnered with our neighboring school, KEC Oakleigh, to come alongside their staff and families to provide support and needs within their classroom and home. **We are looking for donations of new or gently used hats and gloves for their K-8 students. Use the [sign-up link](#) to ensure we get the appropriate sizes.**
- [Northwest Food Pantry](#) serves the northwest side of Grand Rapids by offering emergency food and support to those in need. **We are collecting [food items or personal care needs](#) to stock their pantry.**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

*The following events or opportunities are shared by our community members*

**BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP:** Looking for some ways to improve your basketball skills? Boys Varsity Basketball Coach at Calvin Christian High School, Matt Veltema, is once again leading a boys basketball camp on Saturdays in January (1/6, 1/13, 1/20, and 1/27). This is a great camp to develop your skills while working on the team aspects of the game. 4th through 6th graders will be from 9am-11am and 7th and 8th graders will be from 11am-1pm. The camp will be held at Calvin Christian High School's gym. More information and sign ups can be found [HERE](#).