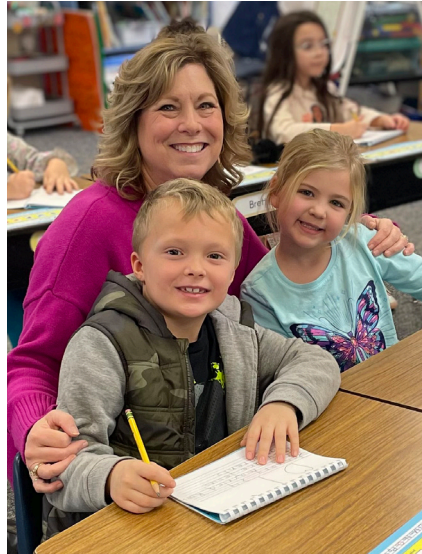


NOTE FROM MELISSA BROWER, INTERIM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Stepping out of retirement into the role of Interim Head of School at West Side Christian School was not what I had planned, but it is everything I needed and more! Having been in education for more than 35 years, my heart for the Lord and its beat for Christian education has never been stronger, and I am so happy God called me to this amazing place.

At WSCS, I see evidence all around me pointing to the ways our King of Kings is at work in the lives of teachers, students, and families. Whether in the lessons observed, prayers said, songs sung, or conversations shared, I know with great confidence that our students are learning more and more to see the world through a reformed worldview lens. Woven throughout lessons and activities, our students are challenged to look for three things – the good, the bad, and ways to make it better. We are reminded that God made all things good. Where's the good? We talk about sin corrupting the world and all that is in it. Where's the bad? And, we celebrate the truth that Jesus came to reclaim, restore, and renew us so we can be Christian agents of change for Him. How do we make things better?

Standing on the faith foundation set more than 142 years ago by those who began this incredible Christian school, it is my honor to serve in this role as "Principal Brower". I am committed to the mission of WSCS to grow students' minds, and guide student hearts, and glorify Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory!



ADMISSIONS OPEN

Registration for early childhood and pre-enrollment for Kindergarten-8th grade is now open for the 2025-2026 school year! Start this journey with us or learn more by contacting us today at: wscsgr.org/contact



GET INVOLVED!

West Side Christian's auction is Friday, February 21. Join us and support WSCS's mission.

For more information and to get tickets, visit: wscsgr.org/auction25

GIVING TUESDAY "HOME AWAY FROM HOME"

We are continuing our Giving Tuesday initiative and inviting you to be part of the "Home Away From Home" campaign to update student lockers.

Learn more and give at: wscsgr.org/support-wscs



MORE THAN A GREENHOUSE

By Janet Staal, Director of Outdoor Education

Step inside our school greenhouse, and you'll feel the warmth—not just from the humid air nurturing vibrant plants but from the curiosity and growth radiating from our students. This isn't just a space for growing produce; it's a haven where students' minds take root and flourish.

Imagine students gathering to organize a school-wide taste test, inviting peers to savor greenhouse-grown veggies in a flavorful fried rice recipe. This project requires students to utilize many of the skills they've learned at WSCS: calculating portions using math skills, crafting reflective essays that integrate their language arts learnings, even exploring the health benefits of fresh greens through green smoothie samplings. Growing alongside the thriving plants, students collaborated to solve real-world problems, like designing and installing a drip irrigation system and learning persistence and teamwork along the way. Here, every activity is a chance to connect their hands-on efforts with a greater purpose.

After completing a project, they reflect on Psalm 90:17, marveling at how God establishes the work of their hands for His glory. We're thanking God for how this community contributed to such a dynamic addition to our learning landscape.

The greenhouse is more than a place for plants—it's a living classroom where students grow in knowledge, faith, and skills that will sustain them long after the last harvest.



In November, the 8th graders continued the long standing tradition of presenting a winter play by performing "Moana Jr"! Through song and dance, they brought Moana, Maui and all the story's characters to life, sharing this epic journey with important messages of selflessness and courage.

The WSCS Lego Robotics Team, named the "Crazy Coral Chickens", competed in the state robotics championship meet in January. Their first robot run scored 210, a West Side Christian top score! We are so proud of the hard work and dedication from the team and their coaches, Doug Howerzyl and Michelle Terrell.

WSCS' Exploratories focused on careers this year. Speakers shared about their careers, their interests, education, and how they live out their faith in the workplace. A fireman, policeman, funeral care director, salesman, hospice nurse, two adventure leaders, and many more participated in this year's event.



STUFF-A-BUS

In a display of compassion and teamwork, WSCS families joined together in a school-wide "STUFF-A-BUS" effort to make a difference in the lives of local children facing food insecurity. Food donated during this effort went to Hand2Hand, a Christian ministry serving West Michigan communities.

Our 5th grade students led, organized, and promoted this year's project, and learned, among other things, the power of giving back. On the day of the delivery, these 5th graders, along with their teachers Mrs. Hohn and Mrs. Selvius, packed into a bus and made their way to the Hand2Hand headquarters to make the delivery and to learn more about the organization.

"One of the things we emphasize to our students is the importance of community and service," said Mrs. Hohn. "By partnering with organizations like Hand2Hand, students not only learn about food insecurity, but also about the impact they can have when they come together for a common cause."

For Hand2Hand, this delivery was more than just a donation; it was a reminder of the power of community collaboration. "We are so grateful for the support of the West Side Christian Community. These contributions make a real difference in the lives of children who face hunger," said Mrs. Selvius.



FOURTH GRADE PARTNERS WITH SENIOR FRIENDS

For several years, WSCS 4th graders have been paired with a "Senior Friend" from Westend CRC or Edison Christian Rest Home, building relationships across generations and sharing evidence of God's faithfulness. A highlight this year for 4th grade teacher Mrs. Kryger was the special connection made between each of the Senior friends and the WSCS students.

Read more on the blog! wscsgr.org

Glorifying Jesus Christ



OVERFLOWING WITH PRAISE

More than 900 voices joined in celebrating the birth of Christ when our K-5 students led our Elementary Christmas Worship Service on December 3, 2024. Led by Mrs. Oosterhouse and accompanied by Mrs. Bouman, students spent weeks learning about the order of a church worship service, including the purpose of each part and ways they could lead a meaningful service together for parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends.

"Through the words, prayers, Scripture, and songs of our young students, our guests were welcomed into a special time of worship. Our focus was set on Christ, and it was beautiful. Not only was the gym filled with people, it was overflowing with praise for our King!" shared Principal Brower.



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God's Goodness

RETIREMENT CALLS MRS. KRYGER'S NAME

Within minutes of meeting Mrs. Kryger, you know she has a deep and wide love for the Lord, Christian education, and West Side Christian School. It is with strong bittersweet emotion that we share Mrs. Kryger's news that God's call to retirement has whispered her name.

It is with great appreciation that we share a few highlights of ways Mrs. Kryger has contributed to our school community over her 34 years at WSCS. Her dedication is evident through her service on various committees. She has inspired and helped to shape countless students all while pointing them to Jesus. Mrs. Kryger has served on the afterschool STEM program, and also played an important role in helping to plan and organize Field Day for many years. Her leadership in connecting students to Senior Friends has bridged generation to generation. Hundreds of cookbooks containing student recipes have been treasured and collected by parents as siblings went through fourth grade.

Mrs. Kryger is truly a prayer warrior for both her students and colleagues, always lifting others up and gifting them with the sense of belonging. She faithfully attends many school events, demonstrating her commitment to our current and former students. Her encouraging spirit is infectious; she takes time to check in with her colleagues, ensuring they feel valued and loved. Additionally, her warm welcome to new staff members, making a point to introduce herself and welcome them, reflects her caring nature and dedication to fostering a positive school environment.

Thank you, Mrs. Kryger for your commitment to the Lord, Christian Education, your students, colleagues, and WSCS. You are greatly loved and wished the best.



We will be celebrating Mrs. Kryger and her retirement at our Fine Arts Night, April 24. Please plan to join us!