

IMAGINE MORE A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL BROWER

When my boys, Chase and Cord, were 5 and 3 I took them to the beach where we were enjoying a beautiful, sunny day on the shores of Lake Michigan. As I lounged in the sun, watching my boys digging and building in the sand, I didn't think life could get much better. As I watched Chase build little "huts" out of sand in long rows and columns, I asked if he was building a city. He said he was. I was bold enough to ask if he was building one of the little huts for me and, if he was, would he add a little garage to mine. He sweetly, but firmly, told me, "No. I'm not building one of these for you". Playfully, I whined a little bit asking, "What? Why won't you build your mom a garage? That doesn't seem very nice". Our conversation took a turn at that moment. No longer did it seem fun or playful as Chase looked at me with the saddest face and tears forming in his eyes as he said, "But, mom - I wanted to build you a castle".

I was begging for a garage on a dirt hut when Chase wanted to build a castle for me. While I wrapped him in a big hug, I wondered how many times I had asked and whined for things in my prayers that had God shaking his head in disappointment, because he had so much more in mind for me. What a joy knowing I can enter the throne room of the King of Creation and ask boldly for his care, provision, and blessing all the while knowing He can do immeasurably more than anything I can ever ask or imagine - and I have a big imagination!

We have witnessed God's goodness in so many ways this school year at WSCS! As you read through a few of the highlights, please join me in thanking our Lord and Savior for his abundant blessings.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen." - Ephesians 3:20-21



Principal Brower poses with her son Chase at May's West Side Christian Golf Outing (page 7)

WSCS ANNOUNCES ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It is with great enthusiasm we share that **Mrs. Delia Roberts** has been hired as Assistant Principal, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. The search committee was positively overwhelmed with the number of strong candidates who applied for the position, and noted how Mrs. Roberts stood out, with her passion for the school and for all that she will bring to this position.

Mrs. Roberts has served WSCS for the last 28 years in a variety of roles including: K-8 Spanish Teacher, Preschool Director, Kindergarten teacher, and Second grade teacher. She has served as our K-5 Elementary Lead Teacher for the last four years, allowing her to focus on mentoring new colleagues as they enter the teaching profession.

The Board is thankful for the way God answered prayers in leading Mrs. Roberts to apply for and accept the role as West Side Christian's next Assistant Principal.



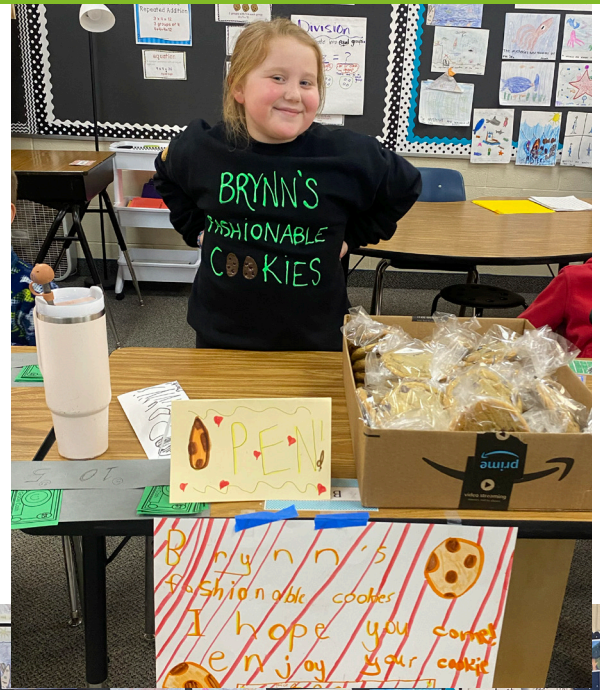
THIRD GRADE MARKETPLACE PRACTICING MONEY USE TO TEACH REAL LIFE LESSONS

By Katie TeBrake, 3rd grade teacher

The 3rd Graders enjoyed an interactive finale to our Social Studies unit on Economics by holding their 1st annual Marketplace! Students were given the opportunity to become young-entrepreneurs and created business plans that included making goods or providing a service. They advertised, earned classroom money, and were encouraged to "earn" their business expenses (under \$20 for overhead) for their shop items at home doing chores and other helpful jobs.

One third grader excitedly commented, "We actually got to experience exchanging money and giving change back and then keeping the money too!"

The creativity of our students shined through the different items students made to sell and the services they chose to offer. There were earrings, magnets, delicious baked goods, face painting and paper airplanes to name a few. One student said, "I liked that it felt like we had our own businesses and could sell stuff to people. It's fun to do! I also liked buying other people's stuff!" Our students had such a memorable time preparing, shopping, and planning their businesses and loved the excitement of being a "business owner" and some businesses even "sold out!"



WSCS SUMMER CAMPS 2025

While June means the end of the school year, it also marks the beginning of the WSCS summer schedule, which kicks off every year with Summer Camp Week. Led by passionate instructors, each camp blends fun, skill-building, and faith-based learning in a supportive, engaging environment. With opportunities to get active, explore nature, create, and grow, children make lasting memories and friendships all while discovering new talents. With fun camp options like Timbertown, Wild About Wildlife, Lego Robotics, and 'All the World's a Stage' Dramatic Arts, WSCS Summer Camp offers something for everyone!

"From nature hikes to storytelling, building to cooking, and science to play, every experience was woven with intentionality and joy!", reflects WSCS Summer Camps Director Mrs. Staal. "We're so thankful for the chance to grow students' minds through this incredible learning landscape and even more excited to see how students continue to use their gifts to serve God and others in the years ahead."

KINDERGARTEN LETTER CELEBRATION

By Peyton Mars, kindergarten teacher

Kindergarteners spent the month of May celebrating each letter of the alphabet and glorifying God for another successful school year! Students enjoyed dress-up days, such as B for Backwards and H for Hats, as well as many trips to explore West Michigan: L for Lewis Farms, S for Signs of Spring at Blandford, W at Windmill Island, T for Trampoline at Altitude Trampoline Park, and R for Roller Skating at GR Skate and Event. Parents got in on the fun while enjoying Pancakes in the Playscape for letter P, writing surprise Notes for letter N, and leading Yard Games for letter Y. Kindergarteners completed a reflection page for each letter.

Concluding the fun, all pages were compiled into a book and sent home with students after their end-of-year celebration program. Other activities during the month included: M for Mail where students learned about parts of a letter and mailed themselves a note; A for apples and V for veggies both involved taste testing different foods; K for Kale students harvested greenhouse goodies and donated them to the local food pantry; E as we exercised with our 4th grade buddies; decorating the front of school during letter C, and walking to Sandy's Donuts for a delicious letter D treat!

All events are a surprise for the students when they arrive at school each day – if you have future WSCS Kindergarteners don't spoil the surprise just yet!



GRANDPARENT'S DAY

In May, WSCS welcomed over 500 grandparents and grandfriends for one of our most well-loved events – Grandparents Day! From sweet treats and catching up with friends to tours of the school and a student-led chapel full of praise, it was a beautiful celebration of faith, family, and connection across generations. What an impactful moment it was to see many generations worshipping the Lord!





Graduating Class of 2025

8TH GRADE GRADUATES HEARTS SHAPED FOR CHRIST

Graduation is always bittersweet, and this year is no different, as we wish our 35 eighth grade graduates well in their next endeavors. For more than 140 years, West Side Christian School graduates have gone out with minds and hearts developed to serve and glorify Jesus Christ. This year's class is no exception. Congratulations on a job well done!



Graduating Class of 1925



Maci Koopmans and Aubrey Mata at this year's graduation

REFLECTIONS OF A GRADUATE

Friends and fellow graduates Maci Koopmans and Aubrey Mata reflect on the impact West Side Christian has had on their Christian lives.

Maci Koopmans

Throughout my years at WSCS I have experienced many moments where my faith has grown. At WSCS I am encouraged by my

teachers to dig into God's word and memorize Bible verses and set goals to help me move deeper into my faith. I am very glad I have had people to help walk me through my faith throughout my years at Westside, they have helped me create good habits that I will have for life. I have been able to grow independently in my faith and I have been able to connect my faith with people in my grade and throughout all the kids in middle school. When I was at our middle school retreat at the Conference Grounds I was able to share my faith and was able to pray with others. At that moment, I knew God was moving through the room and moving through the students there. My friends have come to me and

asked for prayers and support with their faith, and I have gone to them too. I am so glad that I have gotten to experience moments like this at West Side. The things I have learned at West Side to strengthen my faith will last a lifetime.

Aubrey Mata

The teachers have taught me almost everything when it comes to showing how to be a Christian. They have encouraged me in my faith and have helped me through every rough times. This year, for example, we learned about spiritual practices, which encouraged me to read my Bible more and look to incorporate God in everything I do. I've had a special bond with all of my teachers in middle school and elementary and I know that whenever I have questions or things weighing on me that I can go to them and they will help me. They always teach and encourage me to be bold in my faith and I love that.

My friends have also impacted me. I know and understand that having Christian friends is important so we can share and grow in our faith together, and I have just that with the community of students around me. My best friend Maci Koopmans is someone who has helped me stay on track in my faith and has always been there for me when I need her. It is also so inspiring to be around my peers who I have known for 10 years and watch them grow in their faith.

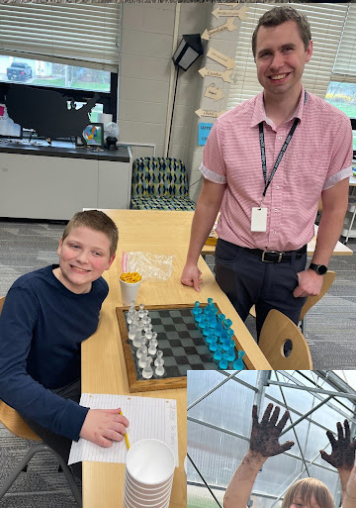
BUILDING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THROUGH BEYOND BELIEF CLUBS

As a fun way to offer enrichment opportunities for our students, we recently introduced BEYOND BELIEF CLUBS. These clubs are coached by WSCS employees who have a heart to share things they enjoy with our students. We had an amazing response with thirteen coaches offering these after school clubs this spring with a wide array of options from which students could choose! Some of the offerings were: Touring with the TeBrake's, Chess, The Creative Collection, Crafts, Service Projects, Rooted and Ready, Volleyball Clinic, A Taste of Theater, and more! Most clubs met once a week for an hour after school for six weeks with more than 100 K-8th grade students participating!

"It has been such a great way for our students to get to know other students and staff members while learning something new – a very fun way to build Christian community at our school!" expressed Principal Brower.



Craft Club: In the Craft Club led by Lauren Corell, she shares "We talked each week to start our time about how God's creativity is reflected in us as image-bearers, and students got to take turns praying to begin our time together. It was great to see students feeling bold in praying and thanking God for the talents He has given us!"



Chess Club with Mr. Chase brought out some tough competition, some great strategies for offense and defense, and applicable life lessons!

Garden Club: From seed to sale, students interested in gardening were able to sow seeds, care for young plants, and prepare



for a student-led plant sale! They developed skills in responsibility, communication, and creativity in a fun, faith-filled environment through team roles like Sign Creators, Customer Greeters, and Cash Register Operators!



THREE – A WONDERFUL NUMBER, INDEED!

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME, SCHOOL, AND CHURCH

By Rog Groenboom, Senior Pastor, Faith Community CRC in Wyoming, MI

I like the number 3.

Because...I have three WSCS Alumni children: Angie, Grant, Heidi. One, two, three. I had the chance to see each of them on the day they were born, and they each have been a joy to me every day since. They are a little community for me and demonstrate so much care for each other.

I like the number 3.

Because...it's the number of Persons in the Trinity. Father, Son, Holy Spirit. One, two, three. Three Persons in one God. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three Gods, but only one God. So mysterious. So wonderful. These Persons within God exalt each other, commune with each other, defer to each other. Each Person makes room for the other two. Infinite care is shown by each Person in this biggest community there has ever been or will be.

I like the number 3.

Because...Church, Home, School. One, two, three. Three legs, one stool. West Side Christian is one of those legs—providing our children with Christ-centered education, pivoting our children's hearts and minds toward Christ, propelling our children to be Christ-like by serving others. West Side Christian presents this vital care to the Church-Home-School community every...single...school day.

I like the number 3.

A NOTE FROM THE WSCS EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

As we wrap the 2024-25 school year, we are grateful to God for blessing us with an outstanding year of growth and new opportunities to expand the Foundation's presence within the West Side Christian School community. Donor support increased substantially this year with over \$650,000 in gifts received. Funds received come from memorials, gifts, estate gifts, and the annual Foundation golf outing. Because of this, our annual gift to West Side Christian School continues to grow each year amounting to a tuition discount of about \$600 per K-8 student this year. Current assets stand at about \$5 million which gets us halfway towards our goal of \$10 million.

The WSCS School Board and Foundation have embarked on a mission to build better connections between the two organizations going forward. Members from both groups participated in the Building Bridgers Board Mixer to build better relationships as together we share the common goals of affordable and excellent Christian education at WSCS. The Foundation was able to loan WSCS the funds needed to retire the school's long standing CSI pension liability which allows the school to no longer face uncertainty of paying into a closed pension fund which is heavily reliant on market factors. The foundation receives monthly payments from the school while achieving market rate returns on the loan. Additionally, the WSCS payment to the foundation is the same amount as it was to CSI, so the school's financial condition does not change, and the foundation's investment return is consistent with current fixed income portfolio returns keeping the foundation on track to continue increasing its annual gift to WSCS.

The Foundation Board of Trustees currently consists of these individuals: Jim Becher, Denny Bergsma, Jeff Blahnik, Josh DeYoung, Jill Helms, Jamie Koopman, Matt Hollebeek, Kurt Staal and Keith Van Wienen. Special thanks to board members Denny Bergsma and Jeff Blahnik for their wisdom, guidance, and contributions to the foundation over the past 6 years as they conclude their service at the end of 2025. A special welcome to Jamie Koopman and Matt Hollebeek who began their terms this year on the foundation board.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all West Side Christian School supporters. I continue to be amazed by the incredible support we are blessed to receive each year and all the ways God continues to bless West Side Christian School as together we grow student minds and guide servant hearts while we glorify Him. I am grateful for your continued prayers and support of West Side Christian School and the Education Foundation. Blessings to you for a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer.

In His Service,
Keith Van Wienen

AUCTION NEWS!

February's auction, promoted as an "Evening in the Alps", raised over \$80,000 to be used towards nurturing our students – mind, body, and soul. **Mark your calendars for next year's auction – 2/27/2026.**



CHURCH LEADERS INVITED TO CAMPUS FOR ANNUAL PASTORS DAY

WSCS held its annual Pastor's Day with 62 Pastors joining their students for donuts and fellowship! We are passionate about building bridges and working together to nurture kids' hearts through partnerships between church, school, and home.





CENTERED ON CONNECTION: PTA'S NEW FOCUS FOR WSCS

At West Side Christian, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is all about building up our community of families and teachers, alongside the incredible staff and leadership who make it all possible.

This year, with support from our amazing administration and school board, we've been able to shift our primary focus from fundraising to FUN-raising! While still funding important classroom and programming needs, our key priority is to create opportunities for connection and community.

As part of this work, we can look forward to PTA hosted events in the upcoming year like PreK-5th skating parties, Bunco and Bingo Nights, a Dad-Daughter event, and Family Fun Night. PTA cherishes every opportunity to bring WSCS families closer together. Additionally, we coordinate playground duty, Grandparents Day, the Christmas Marketplace, Spirit Store apparel sales, and staff meals during conferences. And, of course, we love showing our teachers just how much we appreciate them with special recognition days.

Want to feel more connected? Volunteering is one of the best ways to meet other parents, support our teachers, and get plugged in. If you have ideas for events or ways the PTA can better serve the WSCS community, please reach out at pta@wschristian.org anytime. Let's keep building this strong Christian community together!



"The PTA's support coordinating and volunteering for playground duty is such important work and appreciated beyond words," says Principal Brower.

2025 GOLF OUTING A SUCCESS

FORE! On Friday, May 30, over 140 golfers gathered at The Mines Golf Club in Grand Rapids for the 37th annual Educational Foundation Golf Outing. The rain threatened but stayed away, allowing this year's teams of golfers to gather and compete for fabulous prizes and bragging rights. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's event, which raises funds to offset the cost of tuition for WSCS families.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The West Side Christian School Education Foundation will be hosting the **2nd Annual Estate Planning Seminar on August 21, 2025**, in the WSCS library at 7pm. August is widely recognized as National Make-A-Will Month and a good time to create or update your will, which is a crucial component of estate planning. We are thrilled that Attorney Tim Visser, a WSCS graduate, will once again host the event to explore various estate planning topics including wills and guardianship, along with answering questions. Watch for details on how to register or email our Development Director, Dale Burghgraef, at dburghgraef@wschristian.org to be placed on the list!

END OF THE YEAR CHAPEL

Everyone who attended WSCS' final chapel of the year was blessed by the beautiful worship that flowed out of the gym. Students sang worship songs and read scripture and Principal Brower and Assistant Principal Roberts even performed a skit! The time concluded with the staff praying over Mrs. Kryger's retirement and 1st graders sharing heartfelt goodbyes with their 8th grade buddies. What an extraordinary community we have here at WSCS!

Reflect with us on our school year's Bible verse:

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline." – 2 Timothy 1:7

