

Upper School
NEWSLETTER

November 23, 2020



Happy Thanksgiving Upper School!



Biology students observe one of the gerbils that will be studied next quarter as they learn genetics.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

-1 Chronicles 16:34 (ESV)

“Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.”

— A. W. Tozer

(for more on this topic, see the section entitled *Table Talk*)

Calendar Items (Deo Volente...God Willing)

- Tuesday, November 24- Full day of instruction and the last day of school before Thanksgiving
- Monday, November 30 - Return to school
- Tuesday, December 1 - Humanities Day RESCHEDULED
- Wednesday, December 2 - *Virtual* college visit with Pensacola Christian for grades 10 and up at lunch. (Younger students are welcome at any virtual college visit, space permitting).
- Tuesday, December 8 - Virtual PTF Meeting 6:30pm
- December 11, and 14-18 - Upper School Exams
- Friday, December 18 - Noon Dismissal for Christmas Break

Logistics / Communication

- **Look for access to the US Newsletter on the WCA App!**
- Any COVID-19 updates relevant to the entire school can be found on the WCA App.
- Upper School intends to provide an “outdoor” option time choice for students. Please note that it is the students’ responsibility to come with the proper cold weather attire. Recess monitors will not check for proper gloves, hats, coats etc.
- **LOST AND FOUND** is located between Miss Stein’s and Mr. Whiteman’s offices. Personal items left on the floor or on top of lockers will be placed there each evening.
- If your student must be dismissed early for a sporting event, please email Miss Stein, Mrs. Zuccola, and the student’s teachers whose classes will be affected *with as much advance notice as possible*. Students should also check with classmates to get missed notes and with their teachers to get handouts or assignments and to schedule make up tests/quizzes.
- If a student needs to get a message from a parent, (if an appointment is cancelled or a ride has changed etc.), email Miss Stein (wca@westsideacademy.org) and she will get the information passed along to your student as soon as possible.
- If a student needs materials due to an absence, materials can be collected and sent home. Students OR parents may email Miss Stein listing all items to be retrieved from lockers. These items will be left at the reception desk for pick up.
- To protect teachers’ time, in lieu of texting, please direct questions to teacher emails. Click [HERE](#) to access their email addresses.

Can you help?

The Upper School is looking for games for Option Time when we have to be indoors! Please donate any gently used games that you do not need returned. Uno, SkipBo and card games welcome.

Change Wars Update

Congratulations to the House of Augustine for raising the most money for the week of November 2 and with the most “sacrificial giving.” Congratulations to the House of Lewis for raising the most money for the week of November 16. So far, students have raised over \$1600. Today and tomorrow are the last days for change wars.

Handbook Highlight

[This section highlights sections of the Upper School handbook as a reminder of school policy.]

Remote Learning Handbook click [HERE](#)

Academic Updates and Highlights

Humanities Update: We are making the most of our studies in Humanities this week as your students continue in their profitable studies of *Saga of the Volsungs*, *History of the Kings of Britain*, and the book of Romans. Consider asking your Dialectic student why the Norse without Christ were in bad moral shape and your Rhetoric student what he or she thinks of Just War Theory.

Humanities Day has been rescheduled for December 1! We need volunteers to help us out with this event. Can you stick around for the entire day and be a supervisor? Let Mr. Sasser know at csasser@westsideacademy.org.

Did You Know?

High school students have access to a large number of online resources including magazines, journals, texts, SAT/ACT test practice, and other resources through infohio.org, the library source used in high schools statewide. In addition, ANYONE in the state of Ohio can apply for a Cuyahoga County library card, with which you may access all libraries in the state with OhioLink? This is a fabulous resource to access books predominantly housed in both Christian and secular Colleges.

College Counseling Office News

- For 2020-2021 CLT / SAT/ ACT test dates and registration deadlines, click [HERE](#).
 - WCA funds and administers on-campus testing for the CLT 8, CLT 10, and CLT tests:
 - CLT - Grades 11 and 12 - Thursday, February 11, 2021
 - CLT 10 - Grades 9 and 10 - Wednesday, April 28, 2021
 - CLT 8 - Grades 7 and 8 - Wednesday, May 5, 2021
 - Praying about where God is directing your student after graduating from WCA? There are many directions. While the world would elevate the vocational factors, finances, and “opportunity,” consider first and foremost the student’s spiritual development. Is there a bible-believing church that he or she can attend? While some are led to state schools, private schools can be as affordable. Here is a list of schools to consider touring virtually or in person: click [HERE](#).
 - Looking for ACT/SAT prep help from a Christian instructor? Bill Brown offers services. Click [HERE](#) for more information.
 - Would your student like assistance analyzing his or her vocational calling? WCA teacher Mr. Eric Pfeiffer is Career Direct certified. Click [HERE](#) to read more about the program.
-

Table Talk (What to talk about around the dinner table)

An Attitude of Gratitude: Glorifying our God through Thankful Hearts

Developing an attitude of gratitude is a lifelong endeavor. We teach the toddler just learning to speak to say “Thank you” when they are small; the steady and faithful, pouring in, modeling, and correcting can bear much fruit and equip students in their young adult years to monitor their own attitudes before the Lord.

There are three subtle thieves of gratitude, especially among teens and younger adults:

1. The focus on the self
2. The focus on their own timing
3. The focus on circumstances

All three of these thieves can be thwarted by a continual focus on:

1. Who man is in relationship with God
2. Acknowledging and trusting God's timing (even when things don't “work out” from a worldly perspective.)
3. Giving thanks in all circumstances

Giving students counsel through these years can better prepare them for both the joys, trials, and difficult providences that each will likely encounter and better equip them to guide others. The student focusing on self thinks that his or her ideas are better than God's. “If only. . . “ he or she exclaims. The student focusing on his or her own timing states, “I cannot wait until. . . “ [insert: “I have my license; I go to college; I live on my own.] While such statements may come from a heart that is hopeful for the future, they can also originate from attitudes that elevate their own desires over God's will. The student who has lived through difficult circumstances— illness, loss of loved ones, financial hardship, a move across the country may continually grieve what he or she no longer “has.” Other students live actively seeking to avoid any and all difficult circumstances almost at any cost: “What if I am embarrassed? What if that boy/girl doesn't notice me? What if I get a B? Etc.”

How we (as adults) react to life's circumstances, make decisions, view our jobs, family situations, work, and more is the way that we can expect students to react. To the student who says “If only I were six inches taller, I would be soooo good on the basketball court,” we can respond by saying, “I understand what it is like wanting to be taller; however, the Lord formed you in your mother's womb, exactly has he intended.” We can also speak lovingly to the student who states “I cannot wait for 2021” by responding, “This year has been difficult, but our God is reigning. We can pray using Psalm 39: ‘Oh Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!’ I am thankful that I have THIS day, for none of us knows whether or not we will see 2021.” We respond to the student who has lost by empathizing and caring for their losses, helping them to see the ways in which God can use their circumstances to grow them nearer to him.

Thankful adults are joyful adults. May we endeavor to faithfully instruct ourselves AND our students to be regularly practicing gratitude, especially to the One who most rightfully deserves it. May you be blessed this Thanksgiving. We are so thankful for each and every one of you!

Bell Schedules:

	Chapel Day (Wednesdays)		2020 Schedule (M, T, Th, F)
1	8:45-9:25	1	8:45-9:30
2	9:25-10:05	2	9:30-10:15
3	10:05-10:45	3	10:15-11:00
Chapel	10:45-11:30	4	11:00-11:45
5A Compass Group Lunch	11:30-12:10	5 Lunch	11:45-12:10
4	12:10-12:50	6	12:10-12:55
6	12:50-1:30	7	12:55-1:40
7	1:30-2:10	Option Time	1:40-2:00
8	2:10-2:50	8	2:00-2:45
9	2:50-3:25	9	2:45-3:30

Praises

- For the students' steadfast pursuit of learning and appreciation for WCA
 - For the WCA families' grace towards one another
 - The provision of devices for remote learning
 - Noema Lectures are available online at www.westsideacademy.org or click [HERE](#)
 - Students staying committed to excellent academics and becoming leaders
 - The progress being made with the modular unit's preparation
 - For the safe return of 2 of our families' fathers who have been stationed elsewhere over the larger part of the year. God is so good!
-

Prayer Requests

- For healing for any affected by COVID
- For this year's theme of humility to be lived out through the thoughts, attitudes of the heart, and actions of WCA's students, teachers, administration, staff, and families
- For the timely completion of the modular units for Concordia, 5th, and 6th grades
- For WCA families to be united around their love for Christ, His promises, and WCA's mission
- For health for our students, teachers, faculty, and their families
- For teachers, parents, and students to teach, parent, and grow in all of the ways God desires to grow the students. To focus on what God can do in and among and through us
- For the fundraising efforts for the US's goal of providing gifts through World Vision to those in need to be fruitful and Christlike

*Act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8
