

Upper School
NEWSLETTER

December 7, 2020



Humanities Day! Congrats Purple Kingdom!



Representatives from each “kingdom” get ready to launch their catapults.

And endurance produces character. . . .

-Romans 5:4 (ESV)

“Stopping at third adds no more to the score than striking out. It doesn't matter how well you start if you fail to finish.”

— Billy Sunday

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

Calendar Items (Deo Volente...God Willing)

- Monday, December 7 - Students in grades 9-11 can access PSAT scores through the student's email sent by the College Board
- Tuesday, December 8 - Virtual PTF Meeting 6:30pm
- Wednesday, December 9 - Chapel led by Mrs. Halleland
- December 11 (grades 7-9 only) and 14-17 (all grades) - Upper School Exams (schedule [HERE](#))
- Friday, December 18 - Noon Dismissal for Christmas Break

Logistics / Communication

- Look for school closures/delays on the WCA app, text alerts, or local news sources.
- **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.

Academic Updates and Highlights

Congratulations to George Cottenden, Humanities Day individual winner!

Humanities Update: This week we are spending most of our time looking to and preparing for our Midterm Exams! Did you know that exams at WCA are not just an opportunity to measure how much students learned, but also an excellent opportunity for students to solidify, connect, build upon, and express their knowledge?

To that end Humanities students participate in a two-part exam. One half of their exam is objective multiple choice covering all of the content from the semester (History, Bible, Literature, Poetry, History Timeline, etc). The other half is a written essay for Dialectic students and an oral exam for Rhetoric students. The prompts for this second part of their exam build upon the knowledge they have but require the students to make connections and to interact deeply with important ideas.

Did You Know?

Midterm exam grades for students in grades 7 and 8 are added to their 2nd quarter grades. For grades 9-12, quarter 1 is worth 45% of the semester grade; quarter 2 is worth 45%; and the exam is worth 10%. The high school students' semester grades are what is calculated for their cumulative grade point average.

College Counseling Office News

- PSAT scores are in for grades 9-11. Students should check their school emails for instructions on how to log in and get their scores.
 - 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.
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Table Talk (What to talk about around the dinner table)

Finishing Well

Each student runs at his own pace; each one's pace waxes and wanes; however, each one can finish well. Today students received study guides and/or instructions about how to prepare for their exams. If your student has a history of not finishing too well, here are a few ways that you might consider encouraging them to do so:

1. Pray with and for them.
 2. Sit down with a calendar and mark out times during which the student will study for specific subject tests. Breaking down the seemingly insurmountable task of studying for multiple subjects will greatly alleviate students' stress.
 3. Encourage students to eat well, get enough sleep, and arrive at school on time.
 4. For students who are progressing well at preparing for exams, perhaps ask them what their plan is.
 5. Encourage students to study together during work periods and option time. When possible, group study can be a fruitful endeavor.
 6. Write the exam times on the home calendar. (Note: Juniors and Seniors do NOT have to be in the building during exams. Regular uniforms are required.)
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Handbook Highlight

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

Cheating

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight. Proverbs 12:22

Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out. Proverbs 10:9

Cheating includes copying homework, handing in another's work, collusion, plagiarism (see "Definitions" below), and unauthorized assistance from any person and/or source on homework, assignments, exams, tests, or quizzes. If it is determined that a student has cheated, the student will be subject to the consequences outlined below.

Definitions of Cheating

Plagiarism –Everyone who submits written work to the school must be the author of his/her own work. When a student uses facts or ideas originating with others, he/she must make it clear what is his/hers and what is not his/hers. *Failure to make such a distinction is to be guilty of offering, as one's own, what is in fact someone else's.* To misrepresent one's own work knowingly is to defraud the school and, more seriously, the Lord.

Collusion – *Two or more persons collaborating to produce or construct the wording and/or syntax of entire phrases, sentences, and/or paragraphs that are in turn presented as a single person's work.* As such, collusion is a form of copying another's work. (Word-for-word phrasing, identical syntax, and/or verbatim sentences on two or more students' papers or quizzes are examples of collusion.) It is a student's responsibility to clarify the boundaries each teacher sets for collaboration on specific assignments.

Disciplinary Consequences for Cheating

- The teacher involved or the appropriate administrator will inform the student's parents of the incident.
 - The student will receive a "0" on the initial submission of the assignment regardless of its nature.
 - If the assignment is a project or major paper, the student will resubmit or submit a new assignment to the teacher, devoid of cheating, for a new grade at a time set by the teacher. The teacher will average that grade with the grade of the original submission "0," and the average of those grades will constitute the final grade on the assignment.
 - The administration may take formal disciplinary action in addition to the academic consequences if he/she deems such action appropriate. Repeated incidents of cheating in a school year will warrant a recommendation to the Board that the student in question be expelled. If an honors student has cheated, it will result in the immediate loss of the privileges of the Honor's group (including membership).
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Schedules

For the midterm exam schedule, click [HERE](#).

Weekly Bell Schedule

	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 the opportunity to demonstrate all students have learned during exam week
 - For Christian education
 - For the students' steadfast pursuit of learning and appreciation for WCA
 - For a fun-filled Humanities Day
 - 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!
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Prayer Requests

- For earnest and effective preparation for exams
- For the continued ability to meet for in-person instruction
- For new drivers in inclement weather
- For restoration (physical and financial) 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 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

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

Micah 6:8
