



Humanities Day Tomorrow (Deo Volente)!



Students enjoying one another's company playing Uno during option time.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

-Philippians 2:3-4 (ESV)

“It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in Christian community with one another.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

Calendar Items (Deo Volente...God Willing)

- Tuesday, December 1 - Humanities Day
- Wednesday, December 2 - Pensacola Christian College representatives will be visiting for grades 10 and up at lunch.
- 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 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.

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 Lewis for winning the opportunity to select the gifts that the Upper School’s fundraising efforts will purchase. Students raised over \$1700 feeding, serving, busking, and collecting!

Handbook Highlight

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

School Closing Due to Inclement Weather

In the case of inclement weather, the administration may decide to close the school for part of or for the entire school day. A school-wide text message and email will be sent to parents in the event of a school closing. The closing will also be posted on some local radio and TV stations. Parents should use their own judgment concerning safe driving conditions to ensure the safety of the children. Should school close before the normally scheduled time, parents will be notified as soon as possible by text message and/or telephone.

Academic Updates and Highlights

Humanities Update: It is a very exciting week in Humanities at WCA. Lord willing, tomorrow will be our rescheduled Humanities Day! For the rest of the week, students will continue in their studies. In Miss Prentis's class students are going deep in their study of Martin Luther through various texts. Mr. Sasser's classes are studying the *Saga of the Volsungs* and *Idylls of the King*. Ask your students about Humanities Day after tomorrow!

Did You Know?

Humanities Day is an annual all-day event during which students participate in simulations, competitions, and activities that align with the time period studied in Humanities that year. In the past, students have simulated the US government, and last year students competed in city-states. Not to be confused with Practicum Day, Humanities Day aligns the students' affections with enjoying the study of the time period, whereas Practicum Day allows for students to present their capstone projects for the year.

College Counseling Office News

- Representatives from Pensacola Christian will be coming to present to students this Wednesday.
 - 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)

Learning and Living in Christian Community

It is amazing to watch students navigate the social scenes that emerge from their times walking to class, collecting books at their lockers, eating lunch, and using their option time. For some students, socializing is their favorite part of school, while for others, social interaction is exhausting. As creatures made in their Creator's image, however, we know that relationships matter. Many teenagers seek out relationships for their own benefit: feeling like they "belong," having fun and laughing together, getting "support"-- both academically and emotionally. Often teenagers attempt to avoid the hard parts about relationships: considering others first, sacrifice and service, treating relationships as something to be cared for, and repentance and forgiveness. We repeatedly see, however, that when students and adults alike, operate in humility, God blesses their efforts.

The students who build lasting, loving communities with the greatest success are those who first seek the Kingdom. In doing so, they look not only to their own interests, but also to the interests of others (Philippians 2). They live sacrificially, helping others when they have the opportunity. These students often do their homework at home and come to school willing to help other students during work periods or study with struggling students. In addition, those who live in community well do so with humility, understanding that relationships need to be nurtured. This means that they ask questions of their friends and teachers: "How was your Thanksgiving? How is your new puppy? Does your sister like the college she chose? Did you have a restful Thanksgiving Break?"

Perhaps the most necessary behavior in keeping and maintaining relationships is the act of confession, repentance, and forgiveness. If and when a student sins against another, relationally equipped students confess their transgressions: "I am sorry that I used your pencil without asking"; repent: "Could you forgive me?" and forgive: "I certainly forgive you, but I do not want you to use any of my things without first asking." This process of confession (admitting one's offense), repentance (asking for forgiveness and committing to make every attempt to turn 180 degrees from such offenses in the future), and forgiveness (meaning that while there might still be consequences, the particular offense is not one that will be repeatedly brought up or paid for) is a lifelong practice. Beginning in the teenage years, students can become well equipped for lifelong relationships with spouses, other family members, co-workers, friends, and their church family members.

Ask: Why are relationships important to you? How do you practice considering others first, sacrifice/service, caring for relationships, and forgiveness? Which is the most difficult? Easiest? Which one could we practice more in our home?

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 enthusiasm to bless the ministry of World Vision with our Change Wars collection
 - For Christian education
 - For the students' steadfast pursuit of learning and appreciation for WCA
 - For the WCA families' grace towards one another
 - 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 new drivers in inclement weather
- 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 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
