



WILMINGTON
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2019 Volume 1

PATHFINDER





**WILMINGTON
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

2019 Volume 1

PATHFINDER

Contents

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lesley Aulick
Shannon Bullock
Brett Dorsch
Michael McCudden
Linda Schwind
Rene Solis
Champ Thornton

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Roger Erdvig
Headmaster

Melonie Fetterman
Associate Headmaster

Gwen Campbell
Elementary/Middle School Principal

Douglas Haas
High School Principal

Dear Friends & Family.....	1
Class of 2019.....	2,3
Commencement.....	4,5
Valedictorian.....	6
Salutatorian.....	7,8
Athletic News.....	9
New Guidance Director.....	10
Mission Aligned Elective.....	10
Alumnus Visit.....	10
Warrior Day.....	11
Celebrations.....	12,13
Alumnus of the Year.....	14

2019-2020 School Verse

Finally, brothers, whatever is true,
whatever is honorable, whatever is just,
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever
is commendable, if there is any excellence,
if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about such things.
Philippians 4:8

Pathfinder 2019 Volume 1
Robin Foster, Editor
Tammy Kater, Designer

WCS Mission Statement

*Wilmington Christian School provides a distinctively Christian, innovative education
that effectively develops Godly influencers who are well prepared for life
after high school and who impact the culture for Christ.*

*Building on the foundation of Scriptural truth, we teach students to grow in Christian
character, to excel in academic proficiency, and to value mentoring relationships.*

DEAR FRIENDS & FAMILIES OF WCS,



“So rather than pretend that our values don’t impact our teaching, we’ll tell you straight out that our Biblical values shape everything we do at WCS.”

Some naively assert that education is morally neutral, and that school is only about learning ABC’s and 123’s. We at WCS categorically disagree with that assertion, recognizing that all learning happens in the context of a school’s values. In fact, it’s impossible to have a values-neutral education since what is taught in the classroom is always a direct reflection of someone’s idea of what is valuable enough to study. So rather than pretend that our values don’t impact our teaching, we’ll tell you straight out that our Biblical values shape everything we do at WCS, just like alternative values shape what goes on in other schools.

It seems that not a week goes by that we don’t hear another outlandish story from the wild world of modern education—sad stories that naturally emerge from the dominant values and ideas of our secular culture. A student in Ohio was recently suspended for posting Bible verses on student lockers and bulletin boards. In the United Kingdom, another student was kicked out of class and ultimately not allowed to return to school after publicly asserting that there are two genders—male and female. Parents in a California school district kept their kids home from school to protest the radical pro LGBT agenda being foisted upon their elementary-aged children. Clearly, the values and ideas that drive education today are largely at odds with Biblical values.

For the 2019-20 school year, we’ve chosen Philippians 4:8 as our theme verse. To counter the mass of negative, untrue, and immoral ideas that drive today’s culture, Christian young people need to heed Paul’s wise words. “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about such things.”

This is our starting place for helping our students to become Godly young influencers—to shape a person’s outlook and habits, good seeds need to be planted in their hearts and minds. Paul’s words resound today just as they did for the ancient church in Philippi, and we certainly need constant reminders to combat false ideas with those that are true and honorable and pure.

We offer this edition of the Pathfinder as our answer to all the bad news we consistently hear about education, and our hope is that you’ll see plenty that is good, honorable, and commendable in these pages.

For His Glory,
Dr. Roger Erdvig
Headmaster



CLASS OF 2019



Dejah Allen
University of Delaware



Jacob Arnoldy
Cairn University



Jordan Bonifacio
East Carolina University



Irene Botbyl
Lebanon Valley College



Kamani Conteh
University of Maryland
Baltimore County



Abby Donnelly
Georgetown University



Luke Duran
University of Delaware



Hannah Eleutheriou
University of Delaware



David Hausheer
Delaware Technical
Community College



Huajing Huang
Purdue University



Rachael Iorii
Southeastern University



Jordan Lee
Virginia Wesleyan University



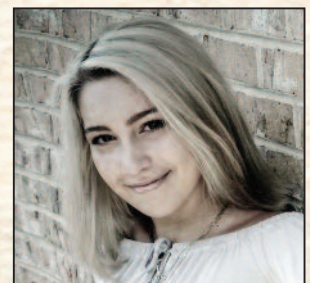
Joshua McCudden
University of Pittsburgh



Sarah McGrail
Colgate University



Andrew McNeill
University of Pittsburgh



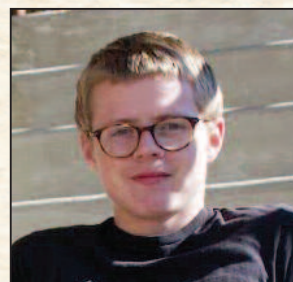
Charleese Myers
Alvernia University



Sara Sanchez
University of Delaware



Julia Small
Grand Canyon University



Hunter Smith
Delaware Technical
Community College



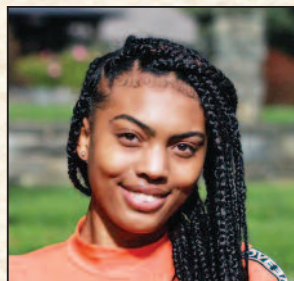
Ashley Thomas
University of Delaware



Noah Bradbury
Messiah College



Luke Campbell
Delaware Technical
Community College



Janae Carter
New York Institute of Technology



Matthew Chaffin
Delaware Technical
Community College



Hannah Erdvig
Lumerit Unbound College



Macey Esper
Colorado Christian University



Spencer Graybeal
Florida Southern College



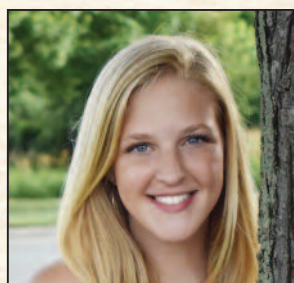
Zixu Han
Rutgers University



Tong Lin
Northeastern University



Yuan Liu
University of Washington



Anna Lockard
Lancaster Bible College



Brendan Malone
George Mason University-
Honors College



Amiah Perkins
University of Delaware



Grace Pitman
University of Delaware



John Rettig
Liberty University



Keilah Reynoso
Susquehanna University



Olivia Thompson
Clemson University



Benjamin Wehmeyer
University of Delaware



Jack Wriggins
Millersville University



Wei Xie
University of California-San Diego



On Saturday, June 1, 2019, Wilmington Christian School had 40 seniors graduate in its 41st graduating class. With the ladies wearing white and the gentlemen wearing red, this year's gowns were adorned a little differently. For some, the hoods of the gowns had more pins than usual. A new tradition has begun for graduates to decorate their hoods with any pin they have received throughout their WCS education. Once the familiar tune of "Pomp and Circumstance" was completed, the graduates were seated and the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Mike McCudden, gave welcoming remarks. Following the welcome, was senior parent, Mrs. Ann Thompson who gave the senior class scripture reading from Isaiah 43:2.

The graduating class was challenged this year with the word "Follow." Elementary Principal and senior parent, Mrs. Gwen Campbell spoke about how words evolve and have different meanings throughout generations. She alluded to words such as "hangry" and "photobomb." She said the word "follow" today has much meaning in the social media world, and that sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram have coined this phrase as being very popular. Mrs. Campbell then transitioned to the importance of following Jesus Christ, and that the word has an even more powerful meaning than how it is used on social media. She referenced that, in the Bible, Christ told people several times to "follow Him," and that the senior class should do likewise. After a few other anecdotes, and personal stories, she

concluded her speech with the phrase, "Keep calm and follow on."

Shortly after the challenge, the faculty and staff were recognized for their years of service. Mr. David Bird and Ms. Pam Love were asked to come to the stage as they were recognized as having served at Wilmington Christian School for 35 years. Once seated, history teachers Ms. Sharon Duncan and Mrs. Jami Stephens were recognized for their many years of service. Ms. Duncan has served at WCS for 39 years, and Mrs. Stephens for 25 years. They received an enthusiastic applause for their contribution to the school, and the lives of the students and families they touched. Shortly after, the yearbook dedication was given to English teacher Mr. David Bird, presented by editor Abby Donnelly.

The student awards were then presented by Mr. Doug Haas. Receiving the following department awards were: Brendan Malone for Bible; Abby Donnelly for English, Foreign Language, Social Studies, and Science; Janae Carter for Visual Arts; Tong Lin for Mathematics; and Amiah Perkins for Music. Additionally, there were several athletic awards: Hannah Erdvig received the Chris Landa Memorial scholarship, Kamani Conteh and Brendan Malone received Outstanding Athlete awards and Wendy's Heisman Nominations. Additionally, there were countless other awards.

Before the valedictorian speech, Senior Advisor Nancy Cowchok recognized the senior class officers: Olivia Thompson (President), Kamani Conteh (Vice President), Noah Bradbury (Treasurer) Ashley Ann Thomas (Secretary), and Julia Small (Srgt. at Arms). The senior class president Olivia Thompson then rose to the



CLASS VERSE

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.*

Isaiah 43:2

podium to present the senior class gift of funds to help repair the lockers in the high school.

Immediately following the senior gift, the valedictorian, Abby Donnelly, spoke humorously and poetically about her remembrance of a valedictorian speech she heard at WCS during her freshman year. She recalled listening to the speech, and the speaker made the main focus of the speech on the phrase “put salt on your ketchup.” Likewise, Abby used a similar technique and spoke of her love for chocolate. She said that she knows that eating it daily will add pounds to her body, and is not good for her health. Her challenge to the class, however, was to stay close to God, and to remain in His word daily. She concluded her speech with a scripture reference from Proverbs 3:5-7, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

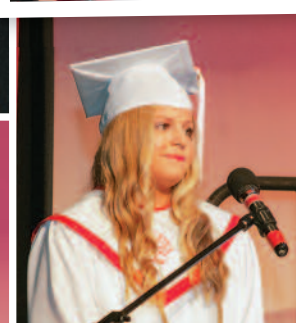
Salutatorians Noah Bradbury and Hannah Erdvig separately challenged the class on how important it is to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Noah reminded the class and the audience that there is something bigger than getting good grades, excelling in sports, or being talented at a musical instrument. He said that it is only through Jesus Christ that we are able to accomplish anything in life. Hannah’s speech was also filled with Biblical references and challenges that a relationship with Christ is the most important experience in life.

Olivia Thompson, Luke Campbell, and Amiah Perkins gave the final student addresses. Olivia’s speech also addressed one of her favorite sweets. She confessed to the audience that she has a love for iced tea, and

that this love began when one of her southern family members made sweet tea every time she visited. Anecdotally, she has grown to love Dunkin’ Donuts iced tea, but the south has the best tea. In closing, she mentioned how important it is to be kind to one another, and do good even when it is difficult. After she was seated, Luke Campbell gave his speech about how difficult it was for him to write a speech. He said that he had help from his mom when she mentioned the book *All I Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten*, and that reference should help him with his speech. He laughingly mentioned that he repeated kindergarten and then took the audience down memory lane of his WCS years. When Amiah stepped to the podium she cautioned the audience, “Hang in there guys, I’m the last one.” She said that instead of giving a usual speech, she wrote a poem based on this year’s yearbook theme, “A Thread in the Grand Design.” In the rhythmic poem, Amiah spoke of life being greater than what is in front of us, and that the class should cling to Christ.

Around 20 minutes before noon, the graduates were asked to turn their tassels, and the 41st senior class became graduates of Wilmington Christian School.

*Celinda Conteh
HS English Teacher*



Abby Donnelly

VALEDICTORIAN

“How you start doesn’t define how you finish. Ultimately, through God, you can start with nothing and end with something.”

Good morning graduates, families, and faculty, I’m Abby Donnelly. Today is a big day. It’s June 1st, 2019. Arguably one of the most important days of our lives. You know what that means, it’s National Hazelnut Cake Day. A day for celebration. By some off chance, it is also the day we graduate high school, and step off into our future.

But, I cannot begin without first thanking my family. My barn-full, spontaneous, and beautiful household makes everyday an honest adventure; I love you and all your craziness to the moon.

To my teachers, I cannot thank you enough for being pushers, dreamers and doers, negotiators, listeners, Christ-like leaders, and inspiration. You’ve stretched my mind and challenged my heart.

To the Class of 2019, I’m proud to be on the same stage as you. Thank you for shoving me outside of my comfort zone, away from my schoolwork, and into the most unforgettable moments.

When I sat in these same auditorium seats four years ago, I heard a speaker from my sister’s graduating class give a speech about ketchup. And four years later, I stand in front of you still remembering her speech everytime I dip my french fries. You may say, Abby, that’s because she’s a great speaker with a great

message, or you have serious infatuation with tomatoes. And to both, I would agree. But I also think that there’s a certain stick to speeches that relate to something, I think we can all agree our lives center around: food.

He is an unconventional hero, but Milton Hershey paved the way for my childhood aspirations. Hershey, the brilliance behind the world-changing company, Hershey’s, gave me the tools I needed to succeed:

chocolates. My chubby fingers kept ahold of every inspirational Dove chocolate wrapper I emptied. What I admired about chocolate was its opportunity to start and end as a completely different treat. What started out as chocolate morsels, I melted and made into peanut butter cups. The opportunity was endless. Best said by both Lindsay Lohan and Mr. Liu,

“the limit does not exist.” Hershey’s initiative to make change happen, ending with something completely different than what was started with became a core value for my sugar-filled body.

However, as my age increased, so did the number on the scale, and I figured it was an injustice to my vascular health to have three meals a day with one pillar of the food pyramid. As I reflect on my high school years, I realize that, like chocolate, many things started and ended completely differently. The yearbook started blank and ended as a story. I learned how Ms. Duncan started on a date and ended climbing out the bathroom window. Four years ago, on the first day of freshman year, I started teary-eyed, quiet, and honestly pretty scared of Ms. Love, the cafeteria line, and “time of your life” they call high school. I am ending today excited, emboldened, and ready to use my voice for God’s glory.

It’s also the end of losing my voice cheering in the gym. The end of having to always make sure my locker is completely shut, I sure hope it is right now Ms. Schefflen. The end of the guarantee of seeing my friends everyday at the crack of dawn. But every ending is also another beginning, another opportunity to make change happen.

As philosopher, Renaissance man, and leader of the Free World, Forrest Gump, asserted, “Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re gonna get.” But, you do know who God is. And through Him, you can take your box of chocolates and make it what it needs to be. How you start doesn’t define how you finish. Ultimately, through God, you can start with nothing and end with something. The same God that aligned the stars that mapped Harriet Tubman’s road to freedom, lit up Van Gogh’s mind, and guided the shepherds to our Savior, sees the same stars in your eyes. Don’t wish on shooting stars, but be one. Like chocolate, make change happen, the world is your chocolate factory.

Class of 2019, when you’re reaching for the stars and walking across the moon, remember you have the ability to make anything, something. Most importantly, while you’re changing, exploring, failing, starting over, and succeeding, know that God is unchanging, unfailing, and never-ending. I hope when you walk out these doors today and face your future, you know that you’re not the finished product. That while today is an ending, it’s also the beginning. I hope you stick your head out the window, find the stars, and put your faith in God who has an entire plan for who you are. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”



Noah Bradbury

SALUTATORIAN

Good Morning. Thank you to everyone who came out this morning to celebrate the class of 2019.

When I realized that I would be speaking today I thought long and hard about what I would want to say. I kept thinking about what is the most important thing in life? How can we have good futures? What makes someone successful? I don't believe meaningful success is about obtaining wealth,

When asking myself what matters most to have a successful life, immediately this verse came to mind. Our relationships with God and others are two things in life that we need to prioritize.

Having a successful life begins with a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Not only does God offer us salvation, He also promises to never leave us. This promise can guide and comfort us as we face both the good and bad times ahead of us.

The second key to success hinges on our relationships with one another. None of us would be on this stage here today without the love and support of people who invested in our lives. Shout out to my mom.

Knowing what God says is most important in life is a truth that has given me a tremendous amount of peace throughout my high school career because it's a reminder that an A on a test, a lay-up on the court, a job promotion, or getting into the college you wanted is not what is most important. If we are able to see life through the big picture we can recognize that life is so much more than that A+, your career, college, or making the game winning shot.

I encourage everyone here today to invest in the people God has placed in your life. Seek the opportunities to make new friends, hang out with old friends, look for the fellowship of a church, and yes try and call your parents a couple times a week.

There is a popular phrase in basketball that goes "Ball is life." I often would think about this phrase and God's word thankfully has shown me how sad and untrue that phrase is. Life is so much more than any goal we want to achieve. Life is about our interactions and influence with others. If we focus on what is most important which is loving God and loving others, we can have peace and joy each day and know that we are living as we are commanded.

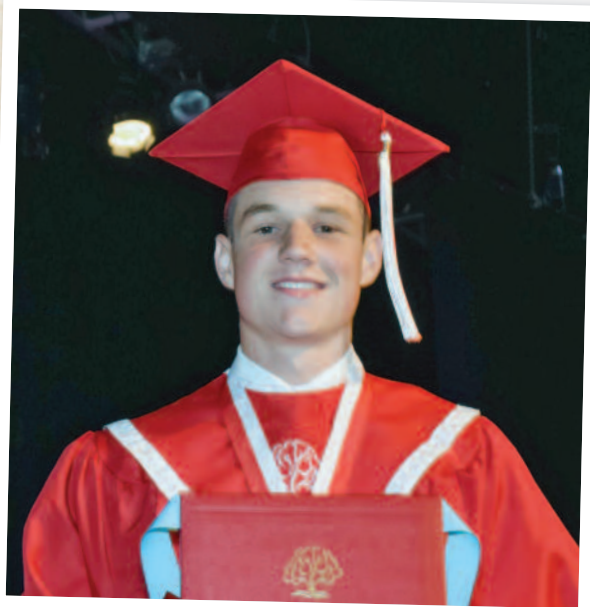
Class of 2019, as we journey through life, I encourage you to not focus on whether you make the shots you take but rather that you would focus on what team you play for, and the type of teammate you are. That is how you will be able to win the game of life.

achievements, or even graduating. Those are nice accomplishments, but there's got to be more to live for.

Today it seems that we have our whole lives ahead of us. There is truth to that. Today marks the end of high school and the beginning of a new chapter in life. The reality is that none of us know what the future holds. We should be prepared to work hard, have fun, make new friends, and learn new things. But Scripture reminds us that our lives are like a vapor in the wind. We should be careful not to put all of our energy into the things that don't really matter for eternity.

Recorded in the book of Matthew, Jesus was asked what commandment was the most important. He replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

*"If we focus
on what is most
important
which is
loving God and
loving others,
we can have
peace and joy
each day and
know that we
are living
as we are
commanded."*



Hannah Erdvig

SALUTATORIAN

*“God is placing
each of us
somewhere
where he has a
plan for us”*

Wilmington Christian class of 2019, today is our final day. It is going to be such an exciting day, celebrating the completion of our 13 years of education. We may feel pretty proud and on top of the school right now, even maybe on top of the world. But let me bring us all back to reality. The 40 of us here on stage today are only .008% of the high school graduates in the North East this year. That is a very slim percentage but we still have the ability to make a great change in the world. Esther from the Bible was also a tiny percent of the Jewish population in Persia at that time, and she definitely played a life changing role in their lives.

Just like Esther, each of us, no matter where we end up in the next few years, will also be faced with situations where we need to stand up to the world and be the light for Christ. In Esther 4:14, Mordecai told Esther that maybe she had become queen for “such a time as this.” God is placing each of us somewhere where He has a plan for us for “such a time as this.” Esther had to choose to risk her title and position to protect the Jews from complete annihilation. But she was filled with wisdom and took four steps of action in order to prepare

herself to stand up for truth. I challenge you, that as you go into these next years of college, that you will embrace the truth that God has specifically placed you there for “such a time as this” and use Esther’s actions to help you find your purpose in God’s plan.

We can find Esther’s advice in Esther 4:14-16 which reads,

“And who knows but that you have come to this royal position for such a time as this?” Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go, gather

together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

First, she found herself a mentor, who advised her in a time of confusion and uncertainty. Her mentor, Mordecai, was right alongside of her giving her encouragement and advice when he could not step in and directly do anything to solve the issue. Mordecai was Esther’s cousin and knew her well and loved her dearly. Find a mentor for yourself who has similar qualities, someone who is older and wiser and has a deep relationship with Christ.

Second, she asked the Jews to fast and pray alongside of her. A whole network of people were backing her and being her support. Look out at the crowd guys, we all have that group of people supporting us right now and they can continue to be our support when we head off to college this year. More than just your family and friends here, I challenge you to find a group of solid Christians, at school, who will be your support and hold you up.

Third, not only did she expect the Jews to fast and pray, she personally sought the Lord. Next year we may be surrounded by people who do not have any desire to seek the truth of Scripture, but it is of the utmost importance that we take that time to seek Christ. When we face situations where the Lord is being dishonored, we cannot just sit back and watch others do the praying. We need to seek the Lord and stand up in our responsibility as children of God for ourselves.

Finally, Esther had a humble, selfless heart. Great favor was shown on her when she became queen but she chose not to just to take that gift and keep it to herself. Her lens on life was different. She saw her position as queen as an opportunity to save others. Her humility and selflessness showed through her words when she said “And if I perish, I perish.” Our diploma today signifies a gift of education that each of us have received. We could use it in many ways to please ourselves, but instead, like Esther we need to use it to please the Lord.

As you walk off the stage today, getting ready for your new life, you may be thinking you are going to college to play basketball, or to play volleyball, or to learn how to build bridges, or to study to be a doctor; all those things are great but in addition to them I want you to find the reason why God has you there for “such a time as this.”





NEW WCS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Mr. Fetterman brings a wealth of experience to his new role with WCS. He recently retired from an executive leadership position at Bank of America in human resources, and many of the skills and giftings honed through years of leading successful teams will be put to great use in our Athletic Department. Additionally, Mr. Fetterman has been a competitive athlete all his life, from lead positions on high school teams to D-1 baseball in college, and most recently, a series of successful Ironman Triathlon events. His history with WCS athletics serving as an assistant coach for boys' and girls' varsity basketball has proven him to be an expert in drawing out the best in our students, both athletically and spiritually.

Mr. Fetterman has a passion for harnessing the power of sport to develop young Christian athletes into Godly influencers. In his new role, his primary focus is to be the spiritual and departmental leader for all aspects of athletics at WCS, ensuring that the vision and mission of WCS are effectively

applied through the entire athletics program. This broad purpose statement includes such responsibilities as casting vision for athletics; creating and developing a set of goals and expectations for WCS athletes (the "Warrior Way"); developing a highly qualified coaching staff; mentoring student-athletes; and creating and implementing a multi-year athletics strategic plan.

When asked for his thoughts on his new role, Mr. Fetterman said:

"I am honored to be the Athletic Director at WCS, and I thank God for leading me to this opportunity. I believe athletics is a key part of an amazing curriculum that WCS offers, and with that, I expect athletics to be in line with the high expectations we have at WCS. I look forward to creating the right atmosphere for all athletes to grow their character and their relationship with Jesus Christ through the vehicle of sport."

Congratulations to our signed athletes.

Jake Arnoldy
Cairn University



BASEBALL



Janae Carter
*New York Institute
of Technology*

BASKETBALL

Kamani Conteh
*University of
Maryland
Baltimore County*



VOLLEYBALL



Brendan Malone
*George Mason
University*

**CROSS COUNTRY
& TRACK**

NEW GUIDANCE DIRECTOR

WCS is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Jonathan Ekeland to the position of Guidance Director. Mr. Ekeland brings over 20 years of experience in Christian school guidance to his new role,



most recently serving as the Director of Guidance and Admissions at The Christian Academy in Brookhaven, PA. We welcomed Mr. Ekeland to the WCS team in early July, confident that he will bring fresh and innovative approaches to supporting our students as they discern and pursue God's purposes for their lives.

MISSION-ALIGNED ELECTIVE

WCS's mission is to cultivate Godly influencers— young people who have the desire, character, and skills needed to make a difference in the culture. One doesn't have to look too far or too long to see how desperately our culture needs young people who can provide positive influence towards that which is right and good and true.

In a brand-new elective taught by headmaster Dr. Roger Erdvig, high school students have the opportunity to explore how they can influence people and the culture around them. The text book for the course is called *Understanding the Culture*, by Dr. Jeff Myers of Summit Ministries, which gives students exposure to many of the hot-button issues that are boiling up both locally and on the national level. Abortion, legalized drugs, euthanasia, human sexual identity, and other important topics will be studied

so that students can participate in discussions from a position of factual knowledge and not merely from opinion or hearsay.

Additionally, the course will provide specific strategies for how to influence others including: logical argumentation, public speaking, and writing "white papers." To gain practice in influencing others, students will interact and learn from local community leaders, participate in the annual Delaware Leaders' Prayer Breakfast, and work on real-world projects that can positively influence the local community. Additionally, time will be spent each week carefully examining current events from a Biblical worldview perspective.

This elective puts the WCS mission into action and will ideally help to develop students who are well prepared to live lives of Godly influence long after high school.

ALUMNI VISITS

Peter &
Kitsa
Eleutheriou



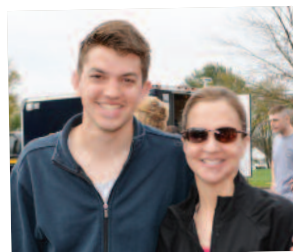
Morgan Tomazine



Danny Hamm



Kelly (Ogle)
Lockard &
Spencer Lockard



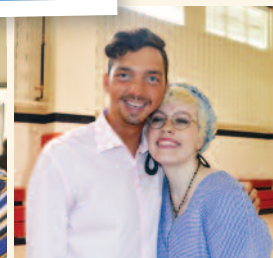
Jack Wehmeyer &
Mom Karen



Ryan, Brady & Macey Esper



Allie DeHart, Mr. Haas &
Te Nayza Minor



Isaac Barrick &
Emma Donnelly



WARRIOR DAY

"Warrior Day was a great day...loved the setup...it kept them challenged and interested...the students loved every minute." This past spring, our Warrior students and their families were invited to participate in a day filled with fun activities. Stations of obstacles, skills, competition, and water fun filled the athletic field on a picture perfect day. This year elementary, as well as middle school students, participated in a day that challenged them to demonstrate understanding in a culmination of learned sports skills. Unity and school pride could be seen throughout the field area with

everyone wearing their favorite Warrior Wear. The day was such a success that our High School students expressed "Hey Mr. Haas, what about us?" So for next year, what say you Mr. Haas?

*Pam Love
Assistant Athletic Director*



CELEBRATIONS





ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

JOHN LAWRENCE PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The Distinguished Alumni Award seeks to honor those who – long after they leave the halls of WCS as students—are living out the values and mission of WCS as mature Godly influencers. I can hardly think of a more deserving recipient than our guest of honor this evening.

John Lawrence, after graduating from WCS in the mid 90's, went on to study at Penn State and then went to work in the banking industry. However, when he perceived the challenges faced in his local community and the state of Pennsylvania as a whole, he left corporate America to run for and be elected to serve as a State Representative for the southern Chester County area, where he has served since 2010.

John embodies our mission to develop mature Godly influencers who are: authentic disciples of Christ, servant-leaders, life-long learners, and creator/cultivators. He and his family are faithful members of Sycamore Hill Church just up the road in Hockessin where he serves as a Sunday school teacher. He leads through serving, giving countless hours to his community and refusing to take many of the perks offered to PA State Legislators. I could go on and on about his committee assignments in the state-house, his legislative record, and his ongoing agenda to bring wholeness to what's

broken in the southern Chester county culture.

But, I also have the privilege of knowing John Lawrence personally. He has gone out of his way to serve WCS— and me— through wise counsel and thoughtful insights, being an ambassador to other families on behalf of the school, and even going on early elementary field trips with his daughters. He frequently guest teaches in class and chapel, including holding mock legislative sessions with our future Godly influencers.

However, most of all, I respect his integrity. John is who he says he is, and he is the same wherever he goes. I've seen him in a public debate in front of hundreds, many of whom did not share his values and were clearly there to support an opposing candidate, and I've seen him at the local Giant in jeans with his family. And perhaps most notable, I see the fruit of his personal life in the authentic joy and peace I see in his wonderful daughters and wife.

Please join me in celebrating and honoring the Godly influence that John Lawrence brings to our school, our community, and the entire State of Pennsylvania as we award him the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2019!

Dr. Roger Erdvig
Headmaster

