

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY PRESENTS

Windows

SUMMER 2020



Seniors
2020



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SUMMER 2020 | WINDOWS

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Front Cover Photo:
Class of 2020

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Plastic Lids Recycle your empty bottles and then drop the clean bottle lids in the buckets at school.

Aluminum Cans Drop off your cans in the bin outside the Upper School Lobby. These cans will be turned into cash that helps pay for playground equipment for our partners in Kenya. Please support our Hodi Project.

Westminster Christian Academy was recognized as "the #1 Best Christian High School in the Huntsville area and #5 Best Christian High School in Alabama" in August 2019, by the website Niche. These rankings were determined by SAT/ACT scores, the quality of colleges that students consider, student-teacher ratio, and parent reviews

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy As To Students: Westminster Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of our educational policies, admission policies, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

SUMMER EDITION 2020

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Accredited by CESA (Council on Educational Standards and Accountability)

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Greetings Westminster Family,

The events of the last months have been unanticipated, to say the least. It has been eye opening to see the heart and will of everyone associated with Westminster to finish well. The Senior class of 2020 had a year ending experience different than any before them. Yet, they did so with character, determination, and a stellar attitude. We were thrilled to be able to celebrate their graduation with them, albeit changed and distanced.

We are incredibly grateful to you, our Westminster families, for the gracious spirit you extended towards us as everyone scrambled to provide a level of distance learning far greater than anyone would have anticipated in January. We're also grateful for the effort, flexibility, and perseverance that faculty and administrators have poured into multiple contingency plans that will empower Westminster to accomplish our Vision regardless of what the future brings. We're here partnering with you for two simple reasons: First, to academically prepare your student(s) for whatever our Heavenly Father has for them; and Second, to disciple each student through the multiple avenues offered. I trust you will see the fruition of this extensive effort this year.

Through the end of the year, we have seen the retirements of bedrock members of Westminster, given thanks to a family that has been gracious for decades to the school, and plowed into how to make both campuses safer than ever before. We were reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul to 'redeem the time' throughout this experience. We stand grateful for the sustaining work of God through Westminster. After all, we all want 'what is best for the kids'.

Love y'all,



Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18



WCA is a covenantal school that provides quality education from a Biblical perspective.

Graduation 2020



Senior Class Verse

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

CLASS UPDATES

- \$5 million dollars in scholarship money offered
- \$2.3 million dollars in scholarship money accepted
- 67 Graduates
- 38 Honor Graduates
- 35 National Honor Society Members
- National Merit Finalist

Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates! While it was not a normal senior year with COVID-19 limitations, our seniors pressed on through many challenges and some disappointments. Several special events were canceled (Prom), some were held virtually (Senior Chapel and Awards Day), some were postponed and rescheduled (Graduation), and a new event was created (Senior Drive Through). One thing that was a constant was the strong character of our seniors who were even stronger together. Many times, we referred back to Philipians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

After the school year was disrupted by the shutdown, senior signs were delivered to the homes of each of our 2020 seniors. Westminster wanted to celebrate our seniors even while we were apart during remote learning. Then, on May 15, our seniors participated in a resource drop off/pick up drive through at the Upper School. Seniors picked up items left at school in their lockers and dropped off and returned items such as books and uniforms. Everyone remained in their car until the senior picture opportunity with our mascot, Wes the Wildcat. Each senior received their yearbook, a devotion book from our Men's Prayer Group led by Ricky Brewington, a favorite lunch from our cafeteria staff, and a special 2020 t-shirt and graduation cookie from Westminster. Faculty and staff lined the parking lot with congratulation signs, balloons, and even toilet paper, and celebrated with the seniors as they passed along the way. While this is not how we envisioned ending our school year, we wanted to honor our seniors by making the best of an unfortunate situation. Most of all, we wanted our seniors to know how much Westminster loves them and prays for their future endeavors as they move on to the next phase of life!

Our formal commencement was held on Friday, June 26, at the Von Braun Center in the North Hall. An earlier individual commencement was held on May 21 at Westminster Presbyterian Church for an international student, a military bound student, and a student working out of state. Congratulations to the Class of 2020! We look forward to seeing you on campus as alumni!





Special SENIOR AWARDS



The **Scott Lawrence Award** is given in memory of Scott Lawrence, a former student of WCA who had muscular dystrophy. This award is presented to a senior who has exhibited the qualities that were so evident in Scott's life: a love for Jesus Christ, a joyful attitude, courage when facing adverse circumstances, hope and trust in God's faithfulness despite the outcome, thoughtfulness toward those around him, a servant's attitude, and an encourager in words and deeds. This year's winner is **M.J. Gurley**. "I've had the joy and honor of teaching and coaching M.J. since the 6th grade. M.J. has such a great sense of humor that would keep everyone in the room laughing. He is also one of the toughest kids I've ever met," said **Basketball Coach Ben Cooper**. "The challenges he goes through every day to just be able to come to school and play basketball showed us what type of character M.J. has. He would give you his best even when it wasn't the best day for him. That's what I'll always remember about M.J. He made me want to be tougher. I truly love that boy and will miss him dearly. I'm excited to see what is in store for his future."



The **William Craig Aiken Scholarship Award** is named after Craig Aiken, a longtime supporter of the school. Craig tirelessly worked at the school in a volunteer capacity, even though he had no children of his own to attend WCA. This award is presented to the senior who has a servant's heart and is dedicated to placing others ahead of self. This year's winner is **Lauren McAdams**. "Lauren's character demonstrates what a 'Christ-like' young person would want to be like ... and what a mature Christian would want to model. She thinks about others in every imaginable scenario, from how she spends her free time, to helping with daily setup in preparation for swim workouts or meets," said **Swim Coach Roger VonJouanne**. "For example, shortly after the schools were shut down due to COVID-19, I received an email from Lauren asking if there were any opportunities to serve at the Downtown Rescue Mission. So while there are plenty of things that we all need to do to get through the day, Lauren isn't consumed by those things as so many people are, but rather she is thinking about the needs of others and how she might be able to help. We read phrases like 'honor one another above yourself' (Romans 12:10), or 'bear one another's burdens' (Galatians 6:2), and as you watch Lauren, you will see these passages come to life."

On March 21, 2017 **Caleb Atnip**, a 2009 graduate of Westminster, went to be with the Lord after a battle with cancer. His parents, Mike and Christina, established the **Living Life Large Scholarship** in memory of Caleb and



his love for life. Caleb loved people, his family, the outdoors, and Jesus, and he brought energy and laughter to the halls of Westminster. Each year, this scholarship is given to someone who conveys the same love of life that Caleb had and the ability to live it large. The recipient of the **2020 Living Life Large Scholarship** is **Bailey Harrison**. "Bailey took time and made it a priority to help and invest in his teammates," said **Baseball Coach Jason Anderson**. "Bailey is a servant leader who makes everyone around him better by his attitude and his actions."

Our **2020 Westminister Valedictorian** is **Nathaniel Pride**.



"Effort is the path to mastery that makes you smarter. Teddy Roosevelt said that 'the credit belongs to the man in the arena whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood.' This year's valedictorian knows what it means to put forth effort," said **Upper School Faculty Alyssa Knight**. "His determination and intellect allow him to be the type of student that is never satisfied with just knowledge. Nathaniel wants true understanding."

Our **2020 Westminister Salutatorian** is **Zadie Lakin**.



"While many see smart as the highest grades or most brilliant mind, to me, being smart means that you're confronting challenges and making progress, you're asking questions and in progress gaining deeper understanding, and always desiring to learn more," said **Upper School Faculty Alyssa Knight**. "Our 2020 salutatorian recipient, Zadie Lakin, is a combination of high grades, a brilliant mind, and incredible grit."

Congratulations to our **2020 Graduating Class** consisting of **67 Graduates** with **23** of those graduates being **Honor Graduates**, comprising **34%** of our graduating class. Our Honor graduates completed at least two foreign language classes and a minimum of two advanced placement classes while maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or above.

Westminster Christian Academy celebrates your hard work, your accomplishments, and we challenge each of you to focus on the hope and promise that God has in store for you.

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8

STATE OF THE SCHOOL

Building a Legacy

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

On March 7, we held our annual State of the School program at Westminster Presbyterian Church. A reception was held beforehand with a sign dedication to the Brockway family.

We were honored to have present William and Gertrude Brockway's daughter Freeda Darnell Vest, Freeda's daughters, Ellise Adams and husband Tom, Barbara Ellen Smartt and her husband Steve, and her four grandchildren, David and Jonathan Adams, Mary Katherine Smartt Atnip and Bill Smartt. Each of these grandchildren are Westminster Alums. Current and future wildcats also include Freeda's four great granddaughters and two great grandsons.

The Brockway family traces its lineage to William Brockway who migrated from England and settled near the Connecticut River in 1641. After the Civil War, Francis A. Brockway moved south to Madison County, Alabama, and began buying farms in Monrovia and Harvest. By the late 1940's, William A. Brockway and his wife, Gertrude, procured the acreage that is now home to Westminster Christian Academy and Westminster Presbyterian Church.

After graduating from Samford, Bill and Gertrude devoted the rest of their lives to ministering at Mt. Zion Baptist Church where Bill served as Minister of Christian Education. Bill and Gertrude have been promoted to Glory, but their love and dedication to Christian education became a permanent legacy when their daughter, Freeda, and granddaughters, Ellise and Barbara Ellen, agreed in February of 2003 to sell 42 acres of the family farm to Westminster Christian Academy. Their generous terms of sale guaranteed their patriarch's lifetime commitment to educating the generations to come in the gospel of Christ would continue.

During the reception, our Band Praise Ensemble performed beautiful background music led by **Band Director Steve Price**, while **Ivy Feld** played her ukelele for everyone's enjoyment. Our **K4** and **3rd grade** opened our State of the School by singing *Raise a Hallelujah* and four of our High School students sang *Hallelujah* joined by **Jasmine Shimer** playing the violin with **Choir Director Liz Bass** on the piano. We have so many talented students and teachers using their gifts for God's glory.

Ron Klein, Westminster Christian Academy Board President, welcomed everyone to our program. Freeda Brockway Vest, Ellise Adams, Barbara Ellen Smartt, and senior, **Nathaniel Pride**, shared the impact Westminster had made on each of their lives. Through the years, Westminster has left a lasting legacy with many families and students by providing a quality education from a Biblical perspective.

Head of School Stephen Hooks spoke about our revised vision and mission statements and future growth plans. "Westminster Christian Academy's Vision is to educate and disciple students, in partnership with Christian families, for life-long learning and service in God's world," said Stephen Hooks. "Our Mission is to provide an exceptional community, encouraging students to reach their highest potential through growth, spiritual formation, and service while surrounded by relationships that support a Christ-centered life."

Hooks shared that Westminster had the highest re-enrollment rate of 95% this past year with growth in all grade levels. We added a **K3** program and added a 3rd section of **K4** students. What wonderful blessings God has provided in record enrollments as we continue to do work for the Kingdom. As we continue to grow, one of our immediate needs is building a Lower School addition. For more information on ways you can partner with us to continue building our legacy to impact Westminster, visit www.wca-hsv.org.



Annual Fund Improvements

BENEFIT STUDENTS



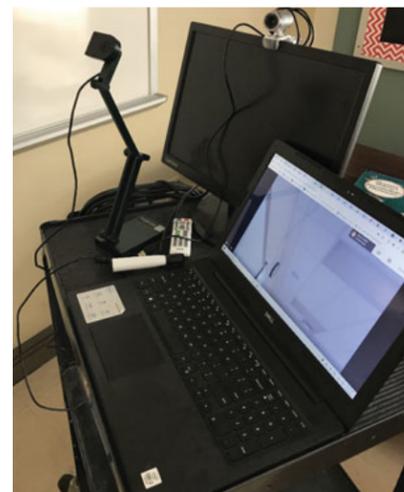
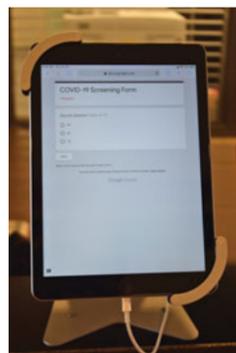
When we started our annual fund in 2013, we had two purposes: to protect our parents and staff from being inundated with fundraising efforts on a continual basis, and to be able to provide students with other important educational opportunities. Our tuition funds our basic operations but does not provide funding for enhanced offerings such as technology upgrades, band and athletic equipment purchases, tuition assistance, security enhancements, playground equipment, and other necessary items. Our annual fund helps meet these needs to benefit our students.

We never imagined that in 2020 one of our largest expenses would be safety protocol measures due to COVID-19 and how important our annual fund would be in providing these necessary items. The health and safety of our students is so important to all of us. As a result, we have installed touchless faucets and toilets, sanitation stations throughout both Lower and Upper Schools, and we have purchased gallons of sanitizer and cleaning supplies.

In addition, we have purchased 70 new chromebooks to add to our current inventory so that every middle school student can check one out for the year to aid in any remote learning opportunities we may have due to COVID-19. We have also purchased 26 Mobile Presentation Carts for our Upper School classrooms. These carts hold a monitor, a laptop, and a camera so our faculty can connect with students remotely. Students will be able to participate in their actual classroom by viewing and listening to their teacher lecture, view whiteboard annotations, answer questions remotely, and collaborate with their class. We are so very thankful for the money donated this year to make this possible.

With your help, we were able to raise \$470,000 this annual fund season. This made some much needed updates possible including purchasing additional band uniforms and some new percussion instruments. We were also able to install a baseball batting fence, purchase new basketballs and other sports equipment, and offer some wonderful additions to our Strength and Conditioning Weight Room. For security measures, we were able to purchase a Visitor Management System for both Lower and Upper School. These iPads will help in our check-in and check-out procedures as well as run background checks on anyone entering our schools. The Lower School was able to purchase additional chromebooks, new playground equipment, and outside tables with shade to enhance outside learning environments for our students. Many families also were helped with needs-based tuition assistance.

Thank you to all of our Annual Fund donors for investing in our mission and helping Westminster become better for our students. Together, we are making a difference! For more information on how you can partner with us, visit www.wca-hsv.org and click on our giving tab or contact Laura Richeson at 256-705-8214.



Faculty and Staff SERVICE RECOGNITION

As with many other events, our Recognition and Celebration Breakfast to honor our Faculty and Staff at the end of the school year was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, Head of School Stephen Hooks presented a special award and recognized the following staff individually for their service years at Westminster Christian Academy:

- 5 Years of Service: Mandy Hiller, Emily Montgomery, and Liz Bass
- 10 Years of Service: Renee Deerman, Christy Howell, John Knight, Ami Lange, Kelly Mize, Bobby Steadman, and Katie Sutton
- 15 Years of Service: Renee Bumpas
- 20 Years of Service: Karen Broome
- 25 Years of Service: Kathy Mansfield
- 30 Years of Service: Brenda Siler

We are so grateful for all of our wonderful Westminster faculty and staff. Our 2019-2020 theme verse was 1 John 3:18, "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." Westminster thanks you for loving our students and investing in their futures.

We are sad to say goodbye to Liz Bass (5 Years), Kathy Hightower (9 Years), Kelly Mize (10 Years), and Katie Willis (18 Years) as they move on to new adventures. Each of them had a tremendous impact on our mission and in the growth of our students by encouraging life-long learning and service in God's world.

We also celebrate the retirement of three long standing faculty members who will always hold a special place in our hearts and in the hearts of our students: David Hammond with 50 years of service, Dawn Baker with 28 years of service, and Cynthia Newman with 26 years of service. Each of them shared a few final reflections on their time at Westminster.

Cynthia Newman said, "One of my favorite quotes is entitled *The Calling of the Teacher* by George Steiner. 'There is no craft more privileged. To awaken in another human being powers, dreams beyond one's own; to induce in others a love for that which one loves; to make of one's inward present their future; that is a threefold adventure like no other.'

"It's hard to write a small quote about the 40 years I spent at Westminster as a student, teacher, and parent, but I think the following quote sums up my thoughts," **Dawn Baker** said. "At Westminster, I had several roles as a student, teacher, and parent, and I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to experience each of these roles. In each of these areas throughout many years, I was blessed by WCA. Westminster provides a solid foundation for teaching and learning in a Christian environment, and to me, that is priceless."

"What began as my plan to complete a one-year internship (1970-71) turned into a God ordained 50-year vocation (calling). As Francis Schaeffer, Christian apologist of the 20th century, reminds us, 'With God there are no little people and no little places.' To have had the opportunity to impart to the next generation the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is a privilege for which I am profoundly grateful." said **David Hammond**. "Due to no wise planning on my part, nor due to a streak of good luck, but wholly due to my heavenly Father's good and sovereign providence, it has been my privilege to labor in the same pleasant place for half a century. Some might think that I have failed to advance on the career ladder, but my response would be that when you start on the top rung, there is little room for advancement. The preferred term Jesus used of himself was rabbi (teacher). I have had the opportunity to heed the words of the Psalmist:

*'I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.
We will not hide them from our children,
but tell to the coming generation,
the glorious deeds of the Lord and His might,
and the wonders He has done. . .
That the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn, and arise and tell their children,
so that they should set their hope in God' . . . (78:2-7)"*

Westminster treasures our faculty and staff members and we thank them for their passion for Christian education. "The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance." Psalm 16:6



Fine Arts



Senior art students **Rachel Nay** and **Lauren McAdams** finally had the opportunity to finish their hot air balloon mural that graces the stairs going up to the 2nd floor on the Upper Campus.



Band Director Steve Price gave two senior awards. **Noah Keeter** was awarded the John Phillip Sousa Award and scholarship, which is the highest honor for individual high school musicians. **Evelyn Fleming** received the Gilmore Award and scholarship, the 2nd highest honor for individuals.



All-State Choir Festival was held March 5-7 in Birmingham at the BJCC. **Morgan Anderson, Naomi Crittenden, Edee Hiller, Belle Kelly, Callie Lanier, Kenzie Pihringer, Emma Sonnichsen, and Ella Wilhaucks** all auditioned for and made the All-State Choir. The Festival is an opportunity for students with outstanding ability and initiative to receive public recognition, to sing under the direction of nationally recognized choral clinicians, and to perform choral literature of the highest quality. The final concert was held at noon on Saturday, March 7.



The **High School Choir** sang for the last time this school year on March 12, where they performed for lower school chapel. The choir students taught 5th graders "Orphans of God" and then they all performed together for chapel.



This summer our **WCA Marching Band** completed their first week of band camp following new safety protocols. They are working hard on preparing their halftime show!



WCA Art teacher Renee Bumpas awarded three seniors with top honors in art. **Hastings Gray** received the "Monet Art Award." She has shown great initiative, leadership, and dedication through her years in Art class. Her dedication to her artwork is inspiring to others. Just as Claude Monet painted pictures of nature over and over again, Hastings enjoys the same subject matter as Monet. Her love for nature is evident as she would lose herself in her artwork by quietly working. She enjoyed the challenging aspect of the work itself. **Garrett Wright** received the "Renaissance Art Award". At the beginning of the year in Art 2, Garrett began to realize the extra work that would be involved to be successful in class. He grew each week in dedication and determination with his weekly art sketches. Garrett became more of an explorer in his art requirements each week and expressed the drawings with determination. His work evolved and it began to show that he was more of a visionary and a problem solver. **Rachel Nay** received the "Vincent Van Gogh Art Award." Rachel is a self-motivated artist with a passion to share her talents with others. She has won many honors in art competitions during the last few years. She has been diligent to work on her hot air balloon mural in the north stairwell and works tirelessly. Rachel, like Van Gogh, is expressive in her art and inspires many.



Alumni UPDATES



Daniel Killen, class of 2016, graduated from The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering. Fellow WCA Graduate, **John Parker**, also finished his degree with a double major in Finance and Economics and a minor in Spanish. Daniel, John, and another classmate, decided to make the most of the COVID-19



situation by dressing up in full hazmat gear for graduation. Their story was published by The Tuscaloosa News. You can view the story at this address: <https://www.tuscaloosanews.com/news/20200418/grads-in-time-of-coronavirus>.



Malia Skidmore ('15) finished her last quarter at SCAD on March 12, with a MFA in Illustration with a concentration in Animated and Publication Design, and a minor in Graphic Design. Malia ran cross country and track at the University of Montevallo for

2 years and continued competing and finished her eligibility when she transferred to SCAD. Malia plans to pursue a freelance career in illustration and design. To check out her portfolio and online store, you can visit her website malianicole.com.



2018 Graduate Joshua Matthewson and Samantha Wilkerson were married May 30th in a beautiful family backyard wedding. Josh recently graduated from Lawson State Community College and is working as a master mechanic for Ford. Samantha is finishing her teaching degree at Athens State. They live in Ardmore, Tennessee.



John Mark McClelland and Nicole Payne, both **2015 graduates**, were married on June 13, 2020. They are currently living in Birmingham, Alabama. John Mark will be continuing to work for Iberia Bank|First Horizon as a Commercial Underwriter, while Nicole will be a Special Education teacher at Magnolia Elementary School.

Emily Sellers, a **2018 graduate**, has been awarded the Curt Williams Memorial Scholarship at Birmingham Southern for two years in a row. The scholarship is given to students who are involved in campus life, maintain good grades and hold a job during school. She also won a Hess Fellowship this year.



Jarrett Murphy ('16) was named as one of 2019-2020 Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) Scholar Athletes. Every KCAC men's basketball team has

at least two representatives in this group. Student-athletes must have sophomore standing at the start of the sport season and maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.333 on a 4.0 scale.



Kayla Luechtefeld ('12) married Andrew Alexander on June 6, 2020 at Tune Farm in Lacon, Alabama. Kayla's brother **Adam ('17)** was a groomsman, and her sister **Grace ('22)** was maid of honor. Kerry St. John officiated at the wedding.

Sidney Ison ('16) has been honored as the second Huntingdon student to have her Biochemistry degree certified by the ASBMB (American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) based upon her score on an ASBMB examination and her graduation with distinction from Huntingdon's nationally accredited program with an undergraduate research focus.

2012 Graduate Mikaela Gold has begun medical school at Meharry Medical College, Nashville TN.

To update your contact information, email michelle.benton@wca-hsv.org. If you have an alumni update for us, email cheri.maddox@wca-hsv.org.

WCA has many graduates who are working in the medical and emergency response fields. Please keep all of them in your prayers as we continue the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are working in the medical or emergency response field and you are not listed, please email your info to cheri.maddox@wca-hsv.org.



Amberlynn Boydston Albritton, a **2013** WCA Graduate, works for a pediatrician in Birmingham, AL.



Sarah Matthewson graduated in **2016**. She is a nurse in the ER at University Hospital in Mobile, AL.



Kelsey Gordon, a **2015** graduate, works at Huntsville Hospital Women and Children's Hospital in Labor and Delivery.



Melanie Burnett Perry works as an RN in the Operating Room at UAB. She graduated from WCA in **1998**.

Emily Bray Eason graduated from WCA in **2011**. She works as an RN in the High Risk Obstetrics unit at Brookwood in Birmingham, AL.

Ashley McCrary Tomlin works as an RN in AICU at Huntsville Hospital. She graduated from WCA in **1997**.

Amy Bumpas Mullen graduated in **2010**. She is employed as a registered nurse for UAB Hospital in the Heart and Lung Transplant Intensive Care Unit.

Cornelius Oelker graduated from WCA in **2015** as a German exchange student. He works as a paramedic for the EMS in his hometown in Germany.



Mary Elizabeth Stiegler Kyle currently serves as the Director of Clinical Services at the Bowery Mission in Harlem in New York City. Mary Elizabeth graduated in **2005**.



Emma Goodwin works as an RN at Children's Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham in the pediatric intensive care unit. Emma graduated from WCA in **2015**.



Bob Webber works as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Vanderbilt Walk in Clinics in Williamson County, which is a COVID-19 testing site and at a primary care clinic in Murfreesboro, TN. Bob is a **1991** WCA graduate.



**Family.
Friends.
Community.**

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Lower School HIGHLIGHTS



Two **W.A.Y.S Basketball Teams** won championship titles this season. The **6th Grade Girls Team**, led by Coach Mike Stokes took top honors. **Savannah Stokes** and **Anna Clare Kelly**, who was a member of Coach Jeff Wilhaucks 6th grade team, both earned All-Tournament Team Honors. The **5th and 6th Grade Boys Team**, coached by John Kendall, was also tournament champions. **R.J. Bendolph** and **Tucker Hargett** were selected to the All-tournament Team.



Several **Seniors** visited the lower campus to spend time with the **elementary students** reading, playing, and hanging out.



Because of the school shut down, this year's bracelet sale for **Just One Africa** was held

exclusively online. Once again **4th graders** led in this endeavor, encouraging others to buy bracelets for their mothers and grandmothers. This year the sale raised \$4,309.04! This amount will purchase 66 water filters impacting 1,650 people with the gift of clean, safe water!

The **4th graders** held their annual **Living Museum** on March 11. Each 4th grader researched a famous person and then presented a 3 minute speech about that person. Students were stationed around the halls and classrooms, and "guests" moved from student to student learning about each famous person.



K4 students invited their dads to school for "Read with Dad" day. Students were able to lead their dads around the room and demonstrate the different ways they learn to read. They also played with reading centers and phonics games, read books to each other, made a handprint Cat in the Hat with dad, and enjoyed fun Dr. Seuss themed snacks.



In early May, all the **lower school teachers** traveled to each of their students' homes to leave a sign in each yard. Some teachers surprised their students by sneakily placing the sign in the yard, while others saw each student when delivering the sign. This was a way to encourage the students as they finished their last days of the school year. On May 16, the lower school teachers held a drive by parade on the lower school campus to end the school year. Students were able to pick up all their remaining items and their yearbook and say one last goodbye to their teachers. After the drive by parade was over, a few "fairies" left the parade signs in Coach Hook's front yard as an end of year gift.

Upper School HIGHLIGHTS

Speech and Debate Team Heads to Nationals... Digitally

WCA's Speech and Debate Team had an exceptional year. The team participated in 12 tournaments, with 32 Top 5 finishes in individual events. The team had its first Emory Quarterfinalist in school history. **Carter Rayburn, Garrett Reynolds, and Katie Suggs** were all finalists at the State Tournament. **Garrett** was the state champion in Informative Speaking and Original Oratory. There were also 6 qualifiers to Nationals - the most in school history. This was an especially amazing feat for the 2019-2020 team of 15.

The 2019-2020 team consisted of **Cole Collier, Helen Donahue, Kaitlyn Ellis, Kate Gunn, Delaney Hartman, Eleanor Lynn, Reagan Paulus, Carter Rayburn, Garrett Reynolds, Katie Suggs, Kara Tisdale, Bella Trueb, Bella Wimberly, Sophia Wilson, and Isabel Zecher**. The team was coached by **Crystal Miller and Ondreja Turner**.

Before the National Speech and Debate Tournament, those students who qualified for nationals enjoyed a celebration dinner at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Huntsville. June 15 began the NSDA 2020 Tournament. Originally scheduled to be in Albuquerque, NM, the tournament was moved to a secure online platform.

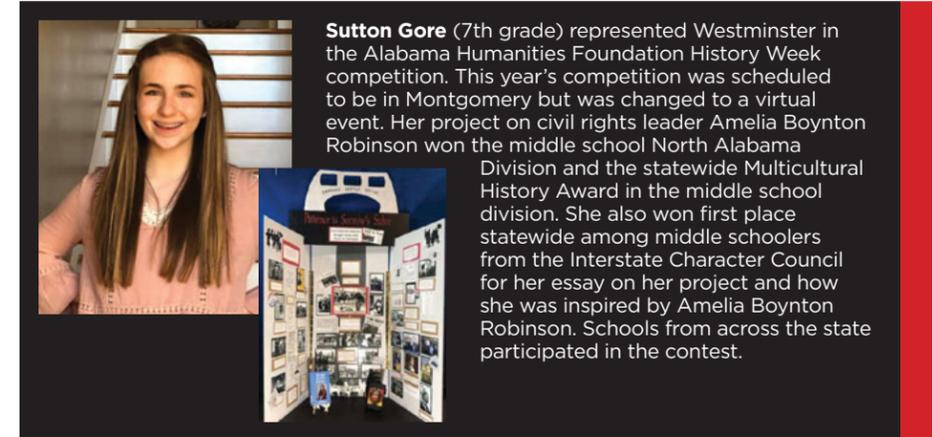
Students competed in the following events: **Garrett Reynolds** ('20) Original Oratory and Expository, **Helen Donahue** ('20) Dramatic Interpretation, **Kaitlyn Ellis** ('21) Program of Oral Interpretation, and the World Schools Debate team including **Delaney Hartman** ('21), **Isabel Zecher** ('21), and **Carter Rayburn** ('23). Students selected for the national competition represent the top 3% of Speech and Debate students in the nation!

Graduate **Garrett Reynolds** finished 12th in the nation in Expository Speaking at the National Speech and Debate tournament! Expository speaking is delivering a 5-minute original speech. Garrett competed against over 200 other students from across the nation. Placing that high puts him as part of the 1/10th of 1% or .1% of competitors in Speech and Debate. Additionally, earlier this year, Garrett placed 1st in the state in both Original Oratory and Informative Speaking. He's brought home a lot of awards this year, and represented WCA with grace and sophistication!

Congratulations to all of our Speech and Debate Team members who have represented WCA and performed so well.



Ally Goode and **Rachel Nay** received the Key Club Scholarship from the Metro Kiwanis Club of Huntsville. Roger Kapp presented the awards during a picnic at Braham Springs Pavilion.



Sutton Gore (7th grade) represented Westminster in the Alabama Humanities Foundation History Week competition. This year's competition was scheduled to be in Montgomery but was changed to a virtual event. Her project on civil rights leader Amelia Boynton Robinson won the middle school North Alabama Division and the statewide Multicultural History Award in the middle school division. She also won first place statewide among middle schoolers from the Interstate Character Council for her essay on her project and how she was inspired by Amelia Boynton Robinson. Schools from across the state participated in the contest.



The **Middle School DI Team** competed in Regionals this year and won. They outscored every team they competed against. The team would have advanced to State, but due to COVID-19, it was canceled. However, because they were the top scoring team, they were able to participate in Globals, which was held virtually. The team finished **28th** in their division, competing against approximately **125** other teams.



New 2020-2021 **Student Council Officers and Class officers** were elected through an online format earlier this semester. Congratulations to all of our new officers.

Student Council
 President - **David Johnson**
 Vice President - **Jack Aughtman**
 Secretary - **Livie Richeson**
 Treasurer - **Holly Hiller**

Freshman Class Officers
 President - **Coston Korotky**
 Vice President - **Jackson Lange**
 Secretary - **Chloe Darwin**
 Treasurer - **Tyler Kelly**
 Class Rep - **Belle Kelly**

Sophomore Class Officers
 President - **Ava Richeson**
 Vice President - **Gabe Lloyd**
 Secretary - **Ella Willhaucks**
 Treasurer - **Edee Hiller**
 Class Rep - **Carter Rayburn**

Junior Class Officers
 President - **Kate Ingram**
 Vice President - **Lauren Lee**
 Secretary - **Kate Moreland**
 Treasurer - **Sophia Wilson**
 Class Rep - **Lauren Presley**

Senior Class Officers
 President - **Eric Bishop**
 Vice President - **Bennett Lange**
 Secretary - **Cameron Kasprzak**
 Treasurer - **Taryn Brown**
 Class Rep - **Wesley Roden**



Westminster's induction into the John Knox Chapter of the **National Honor Society** was held March 4 in the church sanctuary. The ceremony was led by the NHS officers **Kate Gunn, Caroline Schlichter, Clay Doll, Garrett Reynolds, and Hastings Gray**. Twenty-seven students were inducted.

2020 Discipleship Award Winners

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Penelope Bosma	Ella Anderson	Clara Norris	Jennifer Hamilton	Hannah Krings	Natalie Byron	Lauren McAdams
and	and	and	and	and	and	and
Adrian Weekly	Micah Lyman	Zeke Carwile	Gabe Lloyd	Dalton Fancher	Matthew Thompson	Cade Rawlings

Athletics



The Top Cats for 2019-2020 are **Sam Sheppard, Zadie Lakin, Shelby Deerman, and Nathaniel Pride**. When Strength and Conditioning coach Garrett Keith started coaching at Westminster, he wanted to honor the students that go above and beyond what is normal. The Top Cat award is a career award that is meant to honor consistency, hard work, growth, and results. This senior group has done an amazing job in those categories. Each Top Cat winner is awarded a sledgehammer. "A sledgehammer represents two things to me- HARD WORK & CONSISTENCY," said Coach Keith. "Lazy hands don't pick up a sledgehammer very often. Sledgehammers are used to break up and destroy what is no longer needed. They are used to create a space for something new. The winners of this award have done that with the effort they have put into their training day by day for four years. Soft hands don't pick up a sledgehammer and use it. If they do pick it up and swing all day, they'll develop blisters and probably won't use it again. But if they pick it up and use it a little at a time then day by day they'll develop calluses and they'll have tough hands that can handle the hard work needed to be successful." The sledgehammers that each has received has a name plaque that reads "your dedication, leadership, and attitude leave a legacy that will not be forgotten."



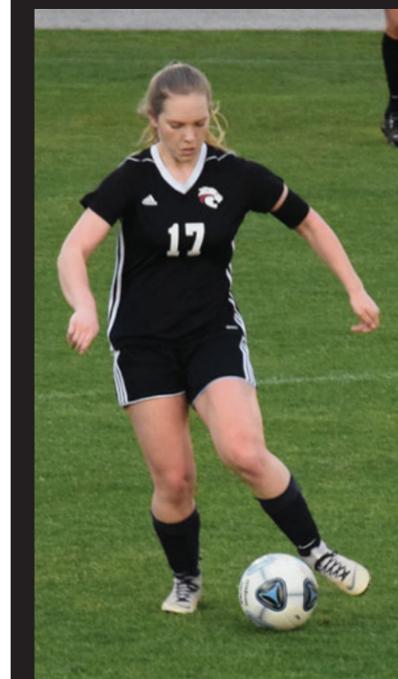
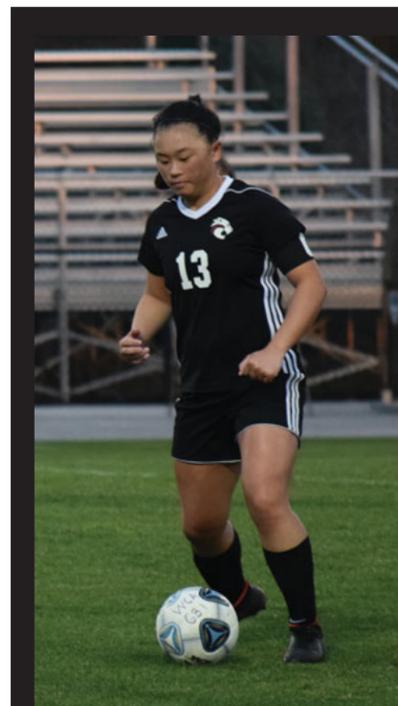
K.J. Kennedy and Zadie Lakin were given the Heisman High School Award. Recipients must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better. Recipients also need to be proven leaders and role models within their school and community. The Heisman High School Scholarship extends the Heisman prestige to our nation's most esteemed high school seniors by recognizing and rewarding outstanding scholar-athletes who understand that the most important victories not only happen on the field, but in their schools and communities. These remarkable young leaders set the example and make a game-changing difference every day, paving the way to greatness for everyone around them.



John Farmer received the Bryant Jordan Achievement Award and **Nathaniel Pride** received the Bryant Jordan Student Athlete Award. The Bryant-Jordan Student-Athlete Program was created in 1986 by the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in conjunction with the Alabama High School Athletic Association. The objectives of the program are to recognize and honor Alabama students who have by ability and effort achieved a level of excellence in the areas of academics and athletics that is commensurate with their potential and to make aware to not only athletes but all segments of the student population that it is both important and rewarding for them to strive to be the best that they can be. Only 96 scholarships are awarded annually to deserving high school seniors from schools that are members of the Alabama High School Athletic Association.



Dance Team Member **Ellie Korotky**, a 2020 graduate, and fellow graduate **Amy Vaporis** will dance as members of the Tiger Paw Dance Team at Auburn University. The Tiger Paws cheer and dance on the sidelines at all home Auburn football games, perform at SGA pep rallies, all men's and women's home basketball games, and at other select athletic events each year. Tiger Paws also serve at various community activities in and around the Auburn/Opelika area.



Juniors **MaiLin Weekley** and **Reagan Wilkerson** were selected for Girls Soccer All-State (Class 1A-3A).



Senior **Shelby Deerman** and Freshman **Ashlyn Plott** made the Girls Basketball All Area Team.

Return to Learn PLAN



Together on Campus

Accommodating at Home Learning

WCA will return to an on-campus school setting with increased health protocols in place. Online options are available for students with medical/underlying conditions that would prevent them from returning. These students will be expected to attend classes online, participate, and submit work digitally. In order to participate in clubs, extracurriculars, and athletics, students must be available and present on campus.



Together in Part

Distance Learning with a flexible weekly schedule

When health related restrictions are present, adjustments will be made to allow our students to learn in a flexible on-campus schedule. Safety protocols from our on-campus learning will continue to be followed. WCA will be at an increased level of alertness with students learning on campus.



Together at Home

Distance Learning environment

During this most restrictive setting, both campuses will be temporarily closed and the school will follow the governor's Stay-at-Home orders. All learning at the Upper and Lower Campus will be implemented through a learning management system. Teachers will provide live instruction with consistent interaction opportunities. Students will be provided with meaningful assessments and feedback. Chapel and spiritual well-being will be emphasized through our Spiritual Life Department.

Safety protocols in place: illness prevention procedures, regular disinfection/sanitation, touchless faucets and flush valves added, classroom humidity control, modified daily schedules, health check stations, classroom layout and routines.

Our team has worked to assess feedback and collaborate through virtual forums with other like-minded professionals and CESA teams throughout the United States to better equip our teachers, staff, and administrators.

In addition, a Medical Advisory Board has been established to guide Westminster Christian Academy to fulfill its responsibility of exercising care and protection for students, faculty, staff, volunteers, and parents when a communicable illness outbreak is present. This model will be administered through CDC and ADPH guidelines throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

"The leadership team has been working hard to develop the Return to Learn plan to give teachers, parents, and students a well-defined framework for the year," said **Carey VanKirk, Lower School Faculty**. "The teachers are thinking creatively and learning to use new tools that will give students the ability to demonstrate learning in and out of the classroom and also allow teachers to provide genuine feedback. We are embracing the challenges and working together looking forward to seeing our WCA family in August."

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"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." John 1:4

For over 50 years, Westminster Presbyterian Church has ministered to Huntsville and Madison County, and our single greatest ministry continues to be Westminster Christian Academy. WCA was founded on the conviction that providing the children of believers the opportunity to learn in an environment that integrates the study of the creation with the knowledge of the Creator in His Son, Jesus Christ, is a vitally important mission of the church. We remain committed to this mission and thank you for granting us the privilege of assisting you in nurturing your children in the faith.

Sunday Morning Worship, 9:30 am
Sunday School, 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship, 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night Discipleship, 5:45-7:30 pm

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