known
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Dear Prospective WCS Parent,

Whether entering kindergarten, middle school, or high school, your child's schooling impacts the rest of his life. Research has shown a child's pathways of thinking and foundational understanding of the world are formed very early in life.

At WCS, we take the responsibility of educating your child very seriously. Simply put: we want your child to Be Known.

“Be Known means we want to know our students—your student—at the deepest level so we can teach them more than just facts and figures.”

Be Known is much more than a two-word catchphrase. It strikes at the heart of who we are. That’s because education is the science of relationships across content areas.

For example, knowing the ideas in history relate to the ones in science; the ideas in art relate to those in music or literature. A Christian education like the one your student will receive from WCS goes beyond the relationship of ideas. It points to knowing the Author and Originator of all ideas.

But education is also the science of relationships between people. Be Known means we want to know our students—your student—at the deepest level so we can teach them more than just facts and figures. It’s the caring and mentoring relationships between faculty and students formed outside the classroom that our graduates cite as the most valuable part of their WCS experience.

At large schools, students can get lost in the shuffle. Our school size and the commitment of our staff allow us to get to know your son or daughter in a very real and personal way. The WCS experience strives to have each student realize they are known and valued.

A parent of one of our students recently pulled me aside and said, “Can I speak to you for a second? WCS saved my kid’s life. My son had a bad experience at his previous school and was on the verge of shutting down. But when he came to WCS, it was an entirely different experience for him.” That’s the kind of school we strive to be for every student.

As you explore this view book, it’s my hope you will come to know us, and soon we’ll get to know you and your student.

Troy McIntosh
Head of School

Troy is pictured with his wife Julie (WCS ’85) and daughters Molly (WCS ’14), Kate (WCS ’16), and Emma (WCS ’18).
At WCS, students aren’t just taught the three Rs of reading, writing, and arithmetic. They also learn the most important R—the reason behind all things. That’s because all truth is God’s truth and everything that is taught at WCS integrates biblical truth.

“We read a lot of the same literature as public and private schools. Pythagorean Theorem is Pythagorean Theorem, no matter how you teach it,” said Tom Burns, dean of academics.

“But we have the opportunity to teach students freely that there’s a Designer who is good, who has a plan for them, and who wins in the end. Those ideas saturate everything we teach.”

Burns said a key to WCS’ success has been a demanding curriculum that prepares students for the world beyond high school.

“When it comes to academics, we set a high standard,” Burns said. “No one ever jumped higher because the bar was lowered for them. We want students to stretch themselves. That’s a hard thing, but that is a significant value. We are always putting things in front of the kids that are just beyond their current capacity to challenge them to reach further.”

The philosophy appears to be working. One-hundred percent of WCS graduates are accepted into four-year colleges nationwide. The senior class averages $4.8 million in renewable college scholarships. The mean ACT score for WCS students is five points higher than the national and local average.

“School ought to be a safe place to deal with dangerous ideas,” Burns said. “We don’t want
a WCS graduate’s college philosophy class to be the first time they hear about existentialism and nihilism,” says Burns. 

“‘No one ever jumped higher because the bar was lowered for them. We want students to stretch themselves.’”

“We don’t avoid reading something because it’s secular or because it deals with racism or that the language might be challenging. We want these tough concepts and issues introduced at an appropriate age by teachers who have a full picture of God’s grace and His Word.

A myth Burns quickly dispels is one that suggests an academically rigorous school is a cold, impersonal school.

“Every chance I get, I talk about transformative learning—learning that changes the student,” said Burns. “We want to have a school that is highly relational and at the same time, highly rigorous.

“In some ways, people buy into this bifurcation that if you are going to be highly rigorous, you have to have a cold atmosphere that’s competitive and hostile. We believe teachers can be demanding academically, but at the same time their students can know their teachers love and care for them.

“We constantly hear from alumni who thank us for preparing them for college and for life. That gives us a lot of satisfaction.”
You can tell a lot by a hug. Worthington Christian Elementary School principal Jim Parrish distinctly remembers being reassured his school was reaching a vital objective when he received a bear-hug from a particular fifth grader.

“This young man often found himself in my office,” Parrish said. “When he came to WCS in third grade, he was pretty hard. By the end of the school year, I could see cracks in that hardness. When it was time to move on to middle school, this young man kept talking about how much he was going to miss this place, how he felt at home here, and how he knew it was a safe place where he could be himself.”

This is the type of atmosphere WCS strives to provide at every level of learning, but Parrish said it is of particular importance to give elementary school students a solid start that will carry them...
“We all have the desire to Be Known. We all want to have community with someone. God wired us that way,” Parrish said. “God doesn’t want us to be on an island alone. He wired us to be with other people, to care for one another, and to watch out for one another.”

“It’s not a one-size-fits-all approach to teaching and learning. We allow teachers to be creative because every student, every group of students, is different.”

“This caring atmosphere underpins the positive learning environment for each child. “It’s not a one-size-fits-all approach to teaching and learning. We allow teachers to be creative because every student, every group of students, is different,” Parrish said. Teachers work hard to develop lesson plans that grow the mind along with the heart of each student.

“We want students to love Jesus, and we want them to love learning. These two ideas must be married,” said Parrish, “and the key is giving teachers the freedom to create unique lesson plans.”

When it’s all said and done, the expression “You can’t go home again” just doesn’t apply to WCS. “Every year we have seniors who come back to visit the elementary school,” Parrish said. “We have some who come back to shadow teachers, and some come back just to visit. That means a lot to us.”
When she taught pre-algebra at Worthington Christian Middle School, Tammi Evans taught her students a simple formula that she still uses today as the school’s principal: E+R=O.

“It stands for Event plus Response equals Outcome,” said Evans. “I often run into students who recount times when they have used the formula.”

It shows that a simple equation can make a significant impact on the development of middle school students.

Teaching students how to cope with the stresses of everyday life is an important part of the WCS experience. Evans said that to Be Known means every student is given the opportunity to grow in Christ and be successful.

“First and foremost, they are known for who they are in Christ and how they reflect Christ in the big events and the small events,” Evans said. “I am sure every student wants to be known for their academics or athletics, but what truly matters is how they reflect Christ and His character through challenging times.”

Dr. James Dobson, the evangelical Christian author, psychologist, and founder of Focus on the Family, writes about the importance of the development of middle schoolers in his essay “Treating Teens with Dignity and Respect.” He writes, “I am sure every student wants to be known for their academics or athletics, but what truly is important is how they reflect Christ and His character through challenging times.”

“Middle schoolers’ greatest anxiety, even exceeding the fear of death, is the possibility of rejection or humiliation in the eyes of his peers.”

Evans said the goal of WCS is to guide students through the awkward stages of adolescence. “In middle school, there’s a great opportunity for growth—mentally, physically, and spiritually. Students’ minds are still sponges.”

One of the strengths of the middle school is an experienced and caring group of teachers. While the average tenure of middle school teachers is 15 years, it is the fact that they feel called by God to work with this age group which makes them exceptional at what they do.

“Our teachers are unique. They are a special group who feed into the lives of our students class-by-class, period-by-period,” said Evans.

She explained that middle school’s an exciting time. “It’s a transitional time where students grow from being followers in elementary school to becoming leaders in high school. Watching that lightbulb come on is so rewarding.”

“I was kind of nervous, but right off the bat, I was welcomed. The students were helpful, and I made a lot of friends quickly. Throughout the year, all of my teachers helped me along and helped me adjust to a new environment.”

Isaac Myhal (WCS ’22)

Read Isaac’s story at worthingtonchristian.com/mystory.
High School

When a parent decides to send a student to Worthington Christian High School, Principal Dr. Scott “Buzz” Inboden doesn’t call it enrollment. He believes it is more like an investment.

“It’s hard to look at things through a dollar value point of view. For some kids Christian education is worthless; for other children, it’s priceless,” said Inboden. “We attempt to educate the whole person, including that part of a person that much of the world denies even exists.”

Inboden said when he interviews prospective parents, he tells them their tuition dollar buys three things: teaching that is based on biblical principles, a Christ-centered approach to problem-solving, and a community that is based on love.

“When you think about Be Known, one of the key elements at the high school is helping students to know God, know each other, and understand themselves.”

The four years that a student spends in high school not only determines what kind of college the student will be able to attend but it also shapes what sort of person he will be. A recent article in Time magazine states that high school “is not just the turbulent life stage of adolescence that has consequences for our later lives...but it may be time for a re-evaluation of many of our notions about what matters.”

A facet that makes WCS unique is its ability to help students with their worldview formation.

In English, for example, students are presented with a variety of viewpoints through classic books such as The Great Gatsby, The Scarlet Letter, and Lord of the Flies.

“Every book is asking one of two questions: what is wrong with us, and how do we fix it?” said English teacher Joel Walton (WCS ’06). “Some of the classics give us a very precise diagnosis of what is wrong, but there’s no prescription of how to fix it. It’s like going to the doctor and hearing you’re terminally ill.

“We need a sharpened reality. Are people redeemable? We believe the answer is yes.”

“When you think about Be Known, one of the key elements at the high school is helping students to know God, know each other, and understand themselves,” Inboden said.

The high school is divided into Houses as a way of fostering a strong sense of school community. Each student belongs to one of six Houses and will remain with that group until graduation. The Houses support and compete against each other.

“The whole point of having Houses is that everyone matters,” Inboden said. “Students find out that their ideas are getting heard. There are all sorts of ways where kids can emerge, have an impact and lead. Because students are in the Houses together, faculty, upperclassmen, and underclassmen are going to know your student for all four years of high school.”

Like most schools, WCS won’t guarantee your student will ace the ACT or get into Harvard. That is up to the individual student. But we can commit that as your student deciphers who they are and how each subject fits into the puzzle of God’s plan, they will be wrapped in a supportive and nurturing environment.

“I’m pretty shy. I didn’t want to go to an all-new school and have to make all-new friends. But everyone here was super kind to me. It was easy for me to make a good group of friends.”

Ashley Belkofer (WCS ’17)

Read Ashley’s story at worthingtonchristian.com/mystory.
Mission: WCS develops the mind of Christ in students through rigorous intellectual, creative, and physical pursuits.

Vision: WCS pursues excellence in teaching and learning out of love for God and the world He has made. Our students will develop a curiosity about creation, cultivate a love for truth, beauty, and great ideas, and exhibit wisdom that reveals God's kingdom.

School Verse: “Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105

Accreditation

Ohio Department of Education

Students

K-12 Grades

Average Class Size: 20

Girls: 49%
Boys: 51%
Total: 915

Faculty

Followers of Jesus Christ
Over 50% Hold Advanced Degrees

On Average
Professional Memberships
Held in 25 Organizations

Scholastics

7 AP Classes
Student Assessment: PSAT & ACT Aspire Score in the Top 15% Nationwide
100% College Acceptance
Average $4.8 Million Renewable Scholarships

2,400 Alumni
100 Alumni
Children Enrolled

Alumni

Bi-Annual Trip to the Dominican Republic

Evangelical
Over 100 Churches Represented

Est. 1973

2010

On Average

Officially
501(c)(3)
Approved

Over 100 Churches Represented

Followers of Jesus Christ
Over 50% Hold Advanced Degrees

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Scholastics

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2,400 Alumni
100 Alumni
Children Enrolled

Alumni

Bi-Annual Trip to the Dominican Republic

Evangelical
Over 100 Churches Represented

Est. 1973

2010

On Average

Officially
501(c)(3)
Approved
Arts

- Drama: Grades 6-12
- Choir: Grades K-12
- Strings: Grades 3-12
- Band: Grades 6-12

Spirit

- Ephesians 6:10-18

Affiliation

- Full Lunch Service Offered
- Bus Service Available
- 24/7 Access to Grades, School, and Student Information
- Uniforms Required
- Inclusion Classes/Intervention Program

Participation

- 87% Middle School Participation
- 50% Middle School Elective Participation

Participation

- 74% High School Participation
- 70% High School Elective Participation
- 87% Middle School Participation

Before & After Care for K-Fifth Grades
Discipleship

Ian Davison (WCS ’19) learns a lot more than just academics from his teachers and his peers at WCS. He learns what it truly means to follow Christ.

“The biggest thing is seeing the generation ahead of us lead godly lives,” Davison said. “The teachers here give us something to look up to. They’re willing to meet with us on their own time during lunches and before and after school. They’re ready to be very real with us.”

Discipleship is a crucial part of the Be Known experience. Research has shown students who connect with a mentor teacher tend to have greater academic success and social connection to their school.

“Who teaches at WCS is as important as what’s being taught,” said Tom Burns, dean of academics. “Students are not just cogs in an educational machine. We tie discipleship to the vocational call of being a teacher,” said Burns.

“Our teachers make a conscious effort to know each student individually—intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Students learn best when all four of those things are in place.”

“The teachers here give us something to look up to. They’re willing to meet with us on their own time during lunches and before and after school. They’re ready to be very real with us.”

Discipleship often happens outside of the classroom. While it’s not a requirement, it’s common to see teachers supporting their students at athletic events, plays, musicals, and other activities.

“There’s a sense of community here,” said Jim Parrish, assistant head of school and elementary school principal. “When a fourth grader looks into the audience and sees his teacher, that speaks volumes. The student knows that his teacher cares about him.”

Parrish adds, “All of us are called to be disciples, to not only follow Christ but to help others mature and grow in their faith. Because there’s a relationship between teacher and student, the teacher can come alongside the student to correct them, to hold them accountable, to challenge them.”

Teachers never know what kind of impact they can have on a student. Michael Clutz, a WCMS Bible teacher, stopped being Alex Johnson’s (WCS ’11) teacher in 2007, but he never stopped being one of his mentors.

“We kept in contact when he was in high school, and I’d go to watch his games,” said Clutz, who has been working at the middle school since 2006. “When he got married, I got the opportunity to officiate his wedding. That was a cool thing.”

“The curriculum is important, but I was impacted by my personal relationships with teachers. Teachers’ realness and open nature are what impacted me.”

Ethan Houts (WCS ’07)

Read Ethan’s story at worthingtonchristian.com/mystory.
When the Worthington Christian Elementary School first started its strings program 12 years ago, instrumental music teacher Renee Johnson said she wasn’t sure what kind of interest the program would generate. One student signed up.

However, over the last decade, Johnson has watched the program grow from that single student to the point where 50 percent of the third through fifth graders are involved with the program. Of that number Johnson estimates that 75 percent continue with stringed instruments in the middle school, and 75 percent of the middle schoolers continue to play with the high school orchestra.

“It’s gratifying,” Johnson said. “We are using talents that God has gifted us with and giving back to Him and other people. We want to be a huge encouragement to other people.”

David O’Roark, the drama teacher at the high school, believes allowing students the opportunity to express themselves, whether on the stage, behind a music stand, or on canvas, it is an important piece of the Christ-centered educational process at WCS.

“We are using talents that God has gifted us with and giving back to Him and other people. We want to be a huge encouragement to other people.”

“The first thing the Bible talks about is creating. Every time we do a show, we get a chance to create something,” O’Roark said. “We take a piece of paper that has words on it, and we create a world for people to get lost in for a couple of hours.”

O’Roark said sometimes the shows he selects may not be overtly Gospel-oriented, but the message of Christ just seems to come out. For example a few years ago, the high school did The Music Man, and O’Roark said there were a lot of teachable moments inside that show.

“Marian the Librarian is the only person who sees Harold Hill for what he truly is and at the end of the story, she loves him anyway,” O’Roark said. “Isn’t that the way Christ sees all the rotten-ness in us and loves us anyway?”

“Although the shows may not be a ministry show or a play about Jesus, I think there’s a lot of value in the effort of creating and giving people something to think about in a new way. We give people a chance to step back from their crazy life, be entertained, and laugh as it says in Psalms 126:2: ‘Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”’

“It’s interesting not only getting to know other students off stage, but also you get to meet their characters on stage and experience what someone is like when they are not themselves. You realize they aren’t just one thing.”

Joel Godsey (WCS ’18)

Read Joel’s story at worthingtonchristian.com /mystory.
When he took over as coach of the state powerhouse Worthington Christian High School boys’ soccer team, Dan Roads wanted to find a motto by which his team would be known. Roads summed up his team’s philosophy in ten characters: “Walk Worthy.”

“We believe that all the boys on the soccer team have been created by God to be someone who is worthy of His calling,” Roads said. “We should be responsible and accountable when we play the game, when we are in school, and when we are out living our lives. It’s our team motto to walk as a team, play as a team, and be different from the other teams that we see.”

While it is mostly associated with the boys’ soccer team, Athletics Director Kevin Weakley (WCS ’95) hopes that the “Walk Worthy” message of competing in a way that glorifies God is shown by the other 21 teams WCS fields at the high school level.

“I always tell people our number one purpose is to glorify God and to use athletics to teach young people how to draw closer to Christ,” said Weakley, who also coaches the boys’ basketball team. “I believe firmly in educational athletics. The goal of athletics is to win, but winning means a lot more than what is shown on the scoreboard.”

“Athletics can be a tremendous partner in helping students grow with Christian education,” Roads added. “It gives them a chance to take what they have learned in the classroom, in chapel, and in
church, and apply it in a real-world setting.”

In athletics Be Known is reflected in how you play the game. When you do things the right way, others notice. Roads said he has had several coaches ask him how he develops his team, not just from a success on the field standard but from a behavioral standard.

“I always tell people our number one purpose is to glorify God and to use athletics to teach young people how to draw closer to Christ.”

“They are genuinely interested in how we get our team to act the way that they do,” Roads said. “To me that’s a huge compliment.”

“Last year I was talking with a reporter, and he told me ‘You know, Kevin, WCS has an excellent reputation for doing things the right way,’” said Weakley, who has guided the boys basketball team to a 2008 Division IV state runner-up finish, five district titles, and seven district runners’-up finishes since taking over as head coach during the 2000-01 season. “When you hear that from folks who aren’t from the school and yet involved deeply with athletics that we have a good reputation, and we try to do things the right way, it means a lot.”

“In an ideal world, I’d have scored 25 points a game and been a starter for two or three years. That was not what the Lord had planned.”

Cameron Lawrence (WCS ’16)

Read Cam’s story at worthingtonchristian.com/mystory.
The journey from Jason and Vicki Moore’s house to Worthington Christian Middle School is a long one. The Moores are one of many families who travel over half an hour to allow their children to attend WCS.

“It is a huge commitment to make, but I think it has helped us grow in all aspects of spirituality,” said Vicki Moore whose sons Grant (WCS ’23) and Jackson (WCS ’21) started out in public schools but made the switch at WCS during the 2014-15 school year.

“I wish I could say there was one huge reason, but there were multiple small reasons. The biggest one was we knew what we were pouring into our boys at home wasn’t getting reinforced at school. So we made the switch.

“One of the things my husband and I talked about before making the move to WCS was we are going to have to be all in,” said Moore. Being all in means more than just driving 30 minutes to and from school. Jason helped organize a youth league baseball team for the school and Vicki volunteers to help at the elementary, middle, and high schools.

What the Moores have discovered is they have gotten back even more in return. The more they plugged themselves into the school, the more they found a community that supports them. “Through volunteering I started to meet some of the other families and other parents and to get to know the other kids, Moore said.

“When we made the decision to come to WCS, we knew it was going to be more than just dropping the kids off and picking them up at the end of the day. It had to be us as parents being all in and going to events even when our kids weren’t involved and socializing. We needed to be a presence on campus. It has worked wonderfully.”

When she speaks of the WCS community, Moore talks about the feeling of being a part of a family. “The teachers, the principals, the administration, and some of the parents we’ve gotten to know feel like they are family,” Moore said. “I feel like I could count on them for anything.”

Having started out at public schools, the Moores are glad they made the commitment to come to WCS. “I think if we had begun at WCS, we might not have appreciated the differences WCS offers,” Moore said. “Since we started at public school, we have that perspective. We have been on both sides. Believe me—WCS is so worth every penny.”

“They welcomed us into this new group of people and made my son feel like he was part of the team.”

Ralph and Misha Johnson,
WCS Parents

Read Ralph and Misha’s story at worthingtonchristian.com/mystory.
Dear Prospective WCS Parent:

Thank you for your interest in Worthington Christian Schools (WCS)! One of the most important decisions we make as parents is where to send our children to school. Think about it. Our kids will spend more waking hours at school and school activities between kindergarten and graduation than they will at home and church combined. There’s no doubt about it; a school has a profound influence on our children.

If you want a school that reinforces the Christian principles your child is learning at home and church, **WCS is for you.**

If you want a school that academically prepares your child to get into the college of his choice, **WCS is for you.**

If you want a school where your child can explore the arts, participate in athletics, develop leadership, and grow in her faith, **WCS is for you.**

If you want a school that fosters lifelong friendships, **WCS is for you.**

And if you want a school where your child will Be Known, **WCS is for you.**

“Our kids will spend more waking hours at school and school activities between kindergarten and graduation than they will at home and church combined.”

The best way to learn more about why WCS is Central Ohio’s leader in kindergarten to 12th-grade Christian education is to attend an admissions event or schedule a personal tour by visiting our website at worthingtonchristian.com/visit.

I can’t wait to meet you.

Lisa Raikes
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