



April 2025

# EAGLE NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 5 2024-2025 School Year



## LETTER FROM DR. ROSS

Dear Friends and Families,

On March 11, 2025 the world lost Junior Bridgeman who died unexpectedly while speaking at a charity event. A beautiful silent leader lost a husband. Three phenomenal human beings lost a father. Hundreds of local leaders lost their mentor, and we all lost a hero.

Do you ever get to meet a hero in real life? There is a quote that says, "Humility and reverence will make you both wise and honored." When I first met Mr. Bridgeman I was deeply impressed by his thoughtful listening skills, his humble approach, and his insightful advice. I was blown away that a man with his history and legacy could be so down to earth. Our meeting left an impact on me. How could a man that had accomplished so much and blessed so many listen so intentionally to what I had to say? Yet, he did.

What I am only now beginning to realize is how much of the impact this man left on the world.

When West End School opened in 2005, Co-founder and Board Chair, Paul Perconti, asked Mr. Bridgeman to be an Inaugural Board Member. With his heart for service, he accepted. Since that time, his wisdom, leadership, and kindness have left an indelible mark on our organization.

The family knew how much West End School meant to Junior and in an unexpected surprise, named West End School in his obituary.

Since that time, tributes have been rolling into our school that echo this man's amazing legacy. Many of the gifts include written tributes that attempt to describe the impact Junior had on their lives and organization. Reading through the comments on these tributes, plus seeing various comments made in news articles and media have allowed me to better understand the scope of his impact as it seems hundreds if not thousands have told stories of their interactions with Mr. Bridgeman. Everyone from Shaquille O'Neal to Charles Barkley not only adored him, but sought him out as a mentor.

One person summed up their experience by saying "I have never met anyone more like Christ."

There are no words to describe how much he will be missed. My goal is to make him proud by positively impacting the city of Louisville, which we all know he loved, by changing the trajectory of the beautiful and brilliant young minds here in the West End. Our school will serve as a beacon of light continuing the work of Junior Bridgeman, by choosing to make the world a better place. May we all try to emulate his heart of service.

*Dr. Greg Ross*

**Dr. Greg Ross**  
**Head of School**



**Ulysses Lee "Junior" Bridgeman Jr.**  
**(September 17, 1953 – March 11, 2025)**



## WEST END SCHOOL ALUMNI: STACIE FARRIS

Hello!

West End School is always excited to have our Alumni in the house. On 03/20/2025, several of our alumni mentored our middle school students creating a meaningful evening for all.





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:



Carlos Woods is a 2017 WES graduate. After WES, Carlos attended Walden School, graduating in 2021. While at Walden, Carlos played on the school's basketball team. Carlos is attending the University of Kentucky (Class of 2026), where he studies Kinesiology/Exercise Science and on the Pre-Physician Assistant (Pre-PA) track. His goal is to attend PA school after graduation and specialize in cardiology, focusing on assisting in cardiothoracic surgeries. Carlos describes his career goals as “building a career where I can make a meaningful impact on patients’ lives through specialized care. I aim to be a healthcare provider who inspires healthy habits within my community and rebuilds trust in the healthcare system, striving to improve the well-being of those around me. “ While at university, Carlos works as a security guard.

While his career is in its beginning stages, Carlos counts earning his CNA licence as his greatest professional accomplishment to date and looks forward to many great opportunities in the future. Carlos states that his greatest personal achievement is overcoming the challenges of his upbringing and successfully navigating college independently. Being his own parent, support system, and guide has shaped him into the resilient and determined person he is today.

### CARLOS WOODS

When asked who influenced him the most during his time at West End and why, Carlos stated, “Mr. Blair influenced me the most during my time at West End School. He instilled in me a sense of discipline and a deep understanding of life that I never expected to gain at such a young age. He encouraged us to see beyond ourselves and focus on the bigger picture—becoming well-rounded young men who could bring our community together and build strength through unity and purpose.”

During his time at WES, Carlos and his classmates had the opportunity to meet Muhammad Ali, a memory that Carlos will always treasure. As an alumnus, Carlos and a few of his other 2017 classmates won the inaugural Alumni 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, holding his own place in WES’s sports history.





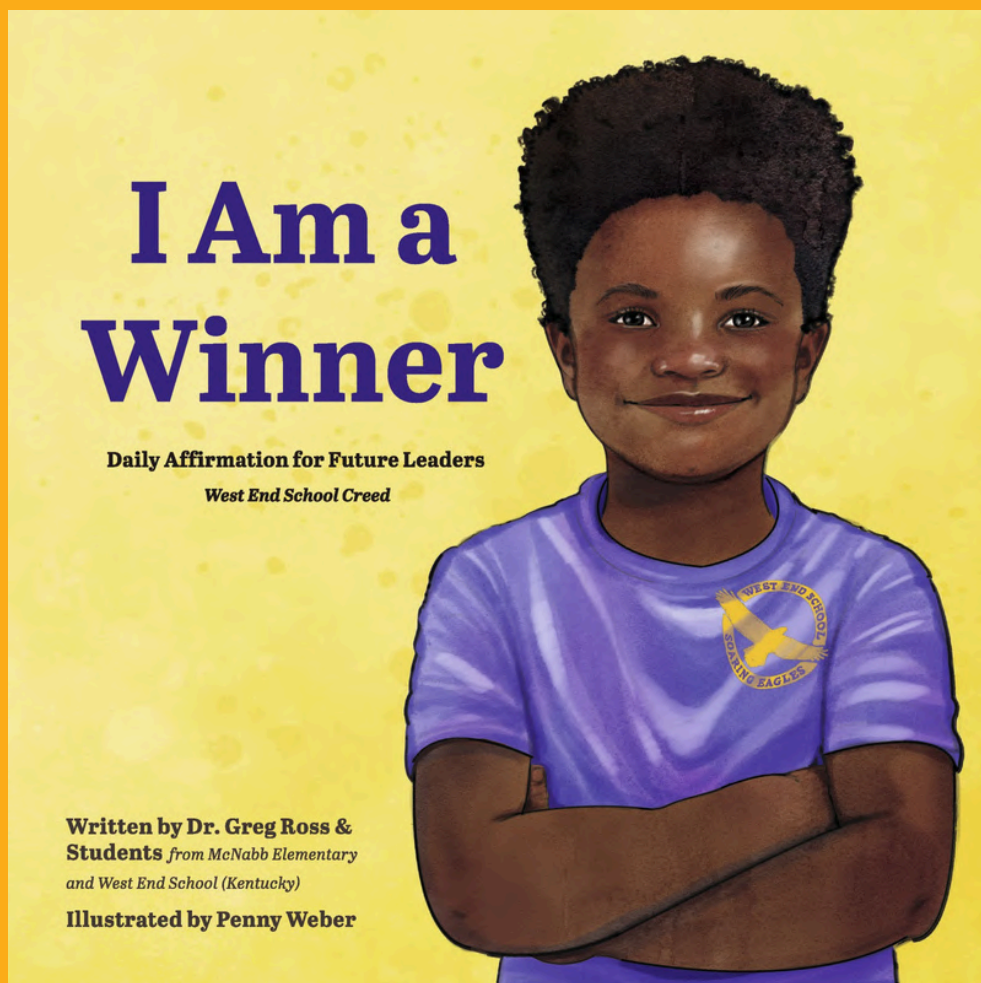
When asked what advice he would give to current WES students, Carlos said he would tell them, “Take time to listen—it’ll teach you more than talking ever could. Believe in yourself and stay true to who you are, no matter what others think. Enjoy the present, but also keep an eye on the future because the choices you make today shape the life you’ll have tomorrow.” When asked what advice he would give to current college students interested in pursuing a PA career, Carlos stated, “Discipline and consistency are key. Don’t compare yourself to others or fear being different; focus on your goals. Skip distractions and embrace hard work. Imagine the future you want and start living as that person today. Stay driven; one achievement is good to acknowledge, but the job’s not done. Lastly, don’t hope, but be certain of your future. You are the creator of your future and will achieve what you want if you are certain it is in your power to do so.”

We are proud of you, Carlos, and look forward to the amazing things you will accomplish as a Physician's Assistant A!

## WEST END SCHOOL “I AM A WINNER”

Every day during Morning Meeting, our West End Scholars say the "I Am, We Are" creed. It is powerful.

Dr. Ross has worked with a leading illustrator to create a children's book on the creed and the story of our school. We want to share the story of our school! Copies can be ordered online [HERE](#) Please leave us a review on Amazon as well.





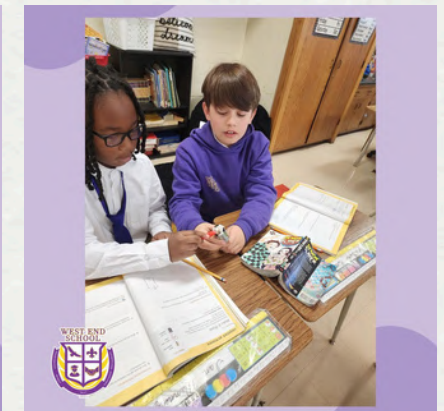
# What's happening at West End School?



We are tremendously excited about the official opening of Sharp Futures on our West End campus. This amazing collaboration is bringing so many awesome programs to our boys at West End School. Special Thanks to CJ Carter for facilitating this incredible collaboration with the Sharp Futures team. Every single member of Sharp Futures has been dedicated to enriching the life of these boys and the West End Community.



Pre-K is learning how to use technology for education.



"Make It Work" hands on inquiry exploring how electrical devices work. In this activity scholars had to use a wire, a battery, and a lightbulb to make the bulb light up. 💡





Mr. Mac chilling with his kindergarten scholars just because.



Each of our scholars belongs to an Eagle's Nest. What is an Eagle's Nest? Every student is part of a cohort that includes one boy from each grade. These cohorts stay together during their entire time at WES. Lifelong Friendships Made!



Lovely morning to read outside. Spring has sprung. These 8th grade gents will be WES grads in a bit more than a month.

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

Every day during Morning Meeting, our West End Scholars say the "I Am, We Are" creed. It is powerful. Dr. Ross has worked with a leading illustrator to create a children's book on the creed and the story of our school. We want to share the story of our school! Copies can be ordered online [HERE](#) Please leave us a review on Amazon as well.

**School Calendar details can be found here**

- April 24th, 10:00 AM High School Signing Day. Our 8th graders will reveal their chosen High Schools
- April 25th, 8:45 AM Volunteer Appreciation. Our volunteers will attend morning meeting and have a special reception.
- May 15th, 10:00 AM Inaugural Girl's Scholarship Award Day. Meet our first class of girls and their families entering Pre-K, K, 1st and 2nd in the Fall, 2025
- May 22nd, 2025 Graduations and Promotions!
  - 9 – 10am
  - 8th Grade Graduation
  - 12:30 – 1:30pm
  - Kindergarten Promotion
  - 11am – 12pm
  - PreKindergarten Promotion
  - 2 – 3pm
  - 5th Grade Promotion

For a Full Calendar including all Athletic Games please see our [website](#)



## SNEAKERBALL:

Our “Families Loving on West End” (FLOW) parent group in conjunction with Sharp Futures, held the 2nd Annual Sneakerball on April 19th. Fun was had by all.

Shout out to Chick fil A for saving the day when our food vendor didn't show. What an example of kindness!

West End School is so grateful for our partnership with Sharp Futures. Click this link to see news article from Wave 3 [Sneakerball](#)



WEST END SCHOOL

SHARP FUTURES AND FLOW PRESENTS

**WEST END SCHOOL SNEAKERBALL**

APRIL 19TH, 2025 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM DARRELL GRIFFITH ATHLETIC CENTER

MUSIC BY  
**DJ ALWAYS**

DINNER & DESSERT: CHIC FILA, HAPPY BELLY BISTRO, GIMME SOME SUGAR

**TICKETS \$25**

MIDDLE SCHOOL SNEAKER DESIGN CONTEST  
WIN \$250 TO SPEND AT ONENESS SNEAKER BOUTIQUE!  
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVE KICKS WITH \$1 RAFFLE TICKETS —  
EVERY TICKET IS A CHANCE TO WIN!

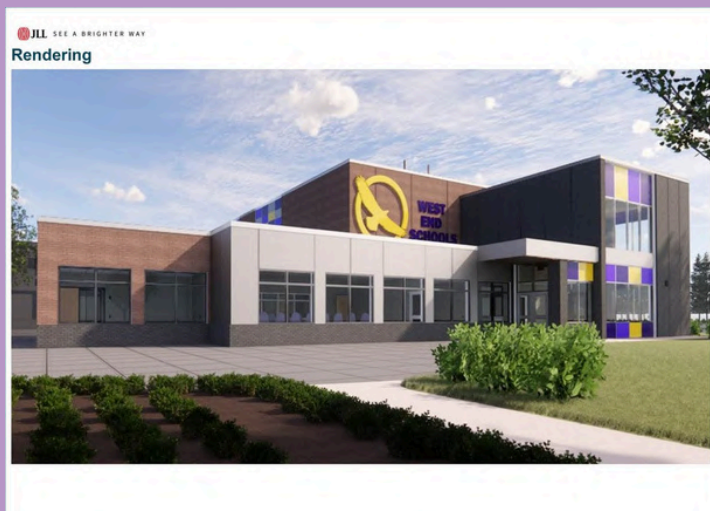
The Sharp Futures Co. Chick-filA KENTUCKIANA I LOVE BOOKS Play to Your Strengths Love Always







## ADMISSIONS: ADRIANNE DUBINS



This year, West End School has had a record number of admission applications. While we are excited to welcome all the scholars in the fall, we are saddened by the number of scholars that we had to turn away due to class limits. Please know that our Board of Directors and Dr. Ross are constantly evaluating how we can continue to expand our programming while retaining quality and focus.

We currently have all slots for boys filled for the fall and have a few remaining openings for girls in 1st and 2nd.

The new building remains on target for August 2025. Everyday you can see a change. Exciting! Feel free to stop by and see the construction in progress

The new building is on target for August 2025. Everyday you can see a change. Exciting! Feel free to stop by and see the construction in progress.





## VOLUNTEER FRONTIER : KATY BADE

West End School is deeply enriched by the time, talent and service that our volunteers bring. Every day there are volunteers serving lunch or dinner, playing pickleball, reading to children, mentoring or helping with a multiple of activities. We are full of gratitude!!!

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MRS. MARY BELLINO

Mrs. Mary Bellino has volunteered with West End School for over 9 years. She is helpful in a billion ways! She supports teachers with individual students or classes or decorates for Sneakerball. She arranges amazing field trips that allow our scholars to experience everything from the Kentucky Capital to the Airport. She has been with our 8th grade class since they were in Kindergarten!

Thank you Mrs. Mary Bellino for loving us well and teaching us so much!



Mrs. Bellino with Mrs. Daniel,  
Counselor



8th grade on a field trip to the  
airport followed by lunch at Chili's



Mrs. Mary Bellino



## COO CORNER: STACIE FARRIS



**WES Wish List:** Are you looking for a way to help WES? Follow this [LINK](#) to see our wish list. You can work individually or a Supply Drive makes a great group project.

**WES Apparel Store:** Represent WES! Go to the [Apparel Store](#) and buy some merch! Pick up available during school hours.

**Power School:** Families: If you need assistance with Power School, please email me at [stacie.farris@westendschool.org](mailto:stacie.farris@westendschool.org) or stop in the office.

## WEST END MISSION

**Mission:** West End School provides a safe and structured environment for children in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 8th in which academic rigor, character development, and responsible action establish the foundation for a purposeful life.

[Click Here to see the West End School Creed.](#)

Each child at West End School attends via a scholarship provided by Donors who are committed to proving there is genius in every neighborhood. Your support provides both education and opportunities that shape future leaders.

If you are interested in touring the school or discussing donation opportunities, please reach out to [Info@westendschool.org](mailto:Info@westendschool.org)

