



# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

September 2025

## LETTER FROM DR. ROSS

Greetings WES Family,

Welcome back to school! The months have flown by since our spring graduation, and now we are on track to complete our first month of school. While we may have been officially on summer break these last few months, we collaborated with so many of our current students, alumni, staff, families, and community partners in diverse and creative ways. What a productive summer we have had at WES!

We started off the summer with a Staff Jumpstart in early June. This gave our new teachers for the girls' program a chance to meet our current staff from the boys' program. This bonding process was carried over to our amazing new and excited families for our girls' and boys' classes in our WES Family Academy held in early July. The WES Family Academy was such a powerful experience for our students who were able to meet their teachers and also for our families who had the opportunity to ask questions and become more comfortable with our school environment.

Our alumni also have been key participants in our summer activities. Many of our alumni who are currently in high school or in college worked on campus to clean up our buildings and also to help with technology, communication, and overall school growth. We also were grateful to have Amy Trager provide an amazing Alumni Cookout Experience for our young men in late July. Mrs. Trager helped organize the event, supported the young men getting here, and created an amazing experience for our young men. With nearly 30 alumni here this summer, it was truly a success.

Finally, we kicked off our school year with a special prayer meeting supported by our Board members and families. Rev. Awkard, John Fleming, Dan Hall and many others came out on Saturday, August 2. to lead our families in prayer and set the tone for a successful school year.

All of the hard work throughout the summer has led to a tremendous start to the school year as we welcomed over 90 new students (boys and girls!) to our campus on August 7. The halls are once again filled with activity and joy as the school year gets underway. This year promises to be our most successful to date—the excitement has just begun!

We are so grateful to all of our WES community and supporters who make this school possible—we could not do it without you!



*Dr. Greg Ross*

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





## LETTER FROM MRS. ROSS, PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends of West End School,

The first week of school is in full swing, and I can honestly say—it's electric! As the new principal, I've had the privilege of standing at the heart of the action: watching students step onto campus with brand—new shoes and big dreams, teachers greeting them with open arms, and our community rallying together to write the next chapter of the WES story.

This year feels especially momentous because of several exciting changes:

### ***1. A Historic Milestone – The Launch of Our Girls' School***

As you know, for the first time in WES history, we've welcomed a full group of young women to our campus. Their energy and eagerness to learn have been inspiring, and our schedules have shifted to ensure both our boys' and girls' programs thrive while sharing resources, faculty, and a unified vision.

### ***2. Schedule Changes to Support Growth***

With the addition of the girls' program, we've reimaged our school day to maximize collaboration and enrich the student experience. This means coordinated class times, expanded enrichment offerings, and shared community events that bring all students together in meaningful ways.

### ***3. Welcoming New Faces***

Our faculty has grown along with our student body. This year, we've welcomed talented new teachers in many areas—each bringing fresh expertise and passion to their classrooms. (Please see below for more information on the new additions to our WES family.)

Together with our returning faculty, they are all committed to providing an exceptional education grounded in character, leadership, and service.

Standing in the hallway this week, I overheard a student say to a friend, "This feels like my second home." That's exactly what we want West End School to be—a place where every student belongs, dreams big, and is surrounded by a community that believes in them.

Your generosity makes this possible. Thank you for helping us open these doors, expand these programs, and create a future that's brighter for every child who walks our halls. With gratitude and excitement,



*Laura Ross*

**Laura Ross**  
**Principal, West End School**





## LETTER FROM PAUL PERCONTI



### WES WELCOMES GIRLS TO THE CAMPUS FOR THE FIRST TIME

On August 14, 2025, we celebrated more than just the official ribbon cutting for our new Girls' Program, we celebrated a dream realized. This moment was years in the making, built on hard work, dedication, and the steadfast support of people in our community.

The launch of our Girls' Program is a powerful milestone, not only for West End School but for the entire West End community. It represents a new chapter in our story, one that expands our mission of providing educational excellence, leadership development, and character building to even more deserving scholars.

To everyone who stood with us that day, thank you for believing in our vision and walking alongside us on this journey. Your commitment and support have helped turn possibility into reality.

This ceremony became a community celebration, too, and we are proud to have welcomed Governor Beshear, Mayor Greenberg, Representative McGarvey, Brown-Forman Board of Directors Chair Marshall Farrar, Councilwoman Tammy Hawkins, and so many other state and local leaders to our school.

If you weren't able to join us for the ceremony, we invite you to watch the full celebration through the link [here](#). Better yet, we invite you to schedule a visit to see our incredible scholars in action. We would love to welcome you and share the energy, joy, and promise that fill our halls every day.



With deepest gratitude,

**Paul Perconti**  
Co-Founder, Board Chair Emeritus  
and Girls' Capital Campaign Leader





September 17, 1953 - March 11, 2025

### HEARTFELT THANKS FOR DONATIONS IN HONOR OF JUNIOR BRIDGEMAN

Last March, we mourned the loss of one of our founding Board members, Junior Bridgeman. Mr. Bridgeman was an accomplished businessman and entrepreneur, a talented athlete, an amazing mentor, and a great friend to WES. He had been an integral part of the WES community since it started 20 years ago, and his wisdom, leadership, and kindness have left an indelible mark on our organization. His commitment to helping WES provide an excellent education and a structured, supportive learning environment has shaped the lives of so many WES students and graduates.

We are thankful to the Bridgeman family for highlighting Mr. Bridgeman's dedication to West End School, and as a result, we have been privileged to receive many thoughtful donations in honor of Mr. Bridgeman over the last few months. We are sincerely grateful for these gifts and for the continued support of the Bridgemans and the community.

#### **Honoring the Life of Rishabh Mehrotra**

West End School is deeply saddened by the loss of a former member of the WES Board of Trustees and dear friend of WES, Rishabh Mehrotra. A graduate of Tufts University and the Harvard Business School, Mr. Mehrotra was a serial entrepreneur and seasoned CEO, leading several technology-enabled businesses in the U.S. and abroad. After his tenure on the WES Board, Mr. Mehrotra remained closely involved with WES, and his family continues to be actively engaged with our school to continue their legacy of support.

In honor of his life and the values he held dear, his family has created the Rishabh Mehrotra West End School Scholars Fund, <https://bit.ly/RishabhMehrotra>, to advance educational opportunities for young men at WES. Each year, a scholarship will be awarded to fully cover a student's tuition at WES, opening doors to learning, opportunity, and hope. In this way, Mr. Mehrotra's commitment to mentorship and education will continue to shape lives for generations to come. The WES is so grateful to Mr. Mehrotra's family for establishing this scholarship to benefit WES students.



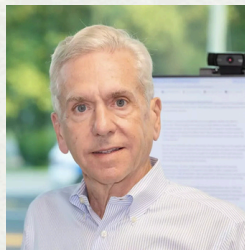


## Welcome Justin Bridgeman to the West End School Board of Trustees

We are excited and honored to announce that Justin Bridgeman has graciously agreed to join the WES Board of Trustees! Like his father Junior Bridgeman who served as one of the WES Inaugural Board members, Justin is humble, quick with a smile, and an astute businessperson with a passion for education.

Justin is CEO of Heartland Coca-Cola, a major distributor of Coke products in the Midwest. He is a proud graduate of the Male High School in Louisville and Morehouse College. Justin and his wife, Rhonda, have two children and reside in Kansas City, Missouri.

## 2025 WES BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Board Chair



**Paul Perconti**  
Board Chair Emeritus

**Russell Awkard**

Pastor, New Zion Baptist Church

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Community Volunteer

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**Bill Crawford**

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WES Alumnus

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President, Reality-Check Consulting Inc.

**Jackson Woodward**

CEO, Horton Fruit Company

**Justin Bridgeman**

CEO of Heartland Coca-Cola





## SCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES

### WEST END SCHOOL PRAYER SERVICE: AUGUST 2, 2025

Thank you to our Board of Trustees members, community leaders, and WES families for making our Day of Prayer a success. We appreciate the love and support along with the many prayers that cover our amazing scholars and educators. Our year is off to a great start!

Special thanks to Dr. Greg Ross, Former Board Chair Dan Hall, Evangelist and Intercessor Dr. Willie Mae Patterson, Board Member Reverend Awkard, WES Counselor Raushanah Daniel, and our WES Chaplain Pastor Adam Carter for leading this special service to kick off our school year.



**Willie Mae Patterson**



**Dr. Ross**



**Pastor Adam Carter**





# SCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES

## WELCOME NEW WES STAFF

There are so many new faces at WES this year! We are excited to welcome several new teachers and administrators to the school, as well as welcome current staff into new positions, including:

### Administration and Staff:

**Dr. Greg Ross** - President and Head of School

**Laura Ross** - Principal of WES

**Michael Warren** - Middle School Assistant Principal and 7th/8th Grade Math

**Scott Whitenack** - Elementary School Assistant Principal and 6th Grade Math

**Jewel Vasser** - Dorm Director

**Brendon Ford** - Finance Officer

**Artrice Hansberry** - Office Manager

**Raushanah Daniel** - School Counselor

**Adrianne Dubins** - Advancement, Admissions and Volunteer

### Girls' Program:

**Mackenzie Taylor** - PreK Girls

**Terrika Waddlington** - PreK Girls Assistant

**Destiny Carter** - Kindergarten Girls

**Bobbie Barlow** - 1st Grade Girls

**Kailie Hubsch** - 1st Grade Girls Assistant

**Hannah Nett** - 2nd Grade Girls

### Boys' Program:

**Josiah Price** - PreK Boys

**Ashley Bellucci** - Kindergarten

**Cody Price** - Kindergarten Assistant

**Dai Turner** - Kindergarten Boys Assistant

**Aaron Love** - 1st Grade Boys

**Tim McCullough** - 1st Grade Assistant

**Megan Shook** - 2nd Grade Boys

**Malinda Jones** - 4th Grade Boys

**Ian Elmore** - 5th Grade Boys

### Middle School:

**Jalen Stone** - Middle School ELA

**Alex Maddox** - Social Studies

**Bilal Wilson** - Science

**Michael Warren** - 7th and 8th Grade Math

**Scott Whiteneck** - 6th Grade Math

### Special Areas:

**Albert Shumake** - Music

**Donyalle Jackson** - Art

**Ian Elmore** - Middle School Orchestra

**Ameer Daniel** - STEM and Library

**Jeremy Hedges** - PE

**Charles Johnson** - Student Liason





### MIDDLE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS: MICHAEL WARREN

At West End School, middle school is more than just preparation for high school—it is the time when students step into leadership, test their voices, and begin to see themselves as the young men and women who will shape the future. This September, our 7th- and 8th-grade students will take another important step on their journey.

On September 4, our middle schoolers will attend DePaul's High School Night, an event designed to open doors, spark aspirations, and connect students to the next stage of their education. We were proud to participate in this event last year, and this fall we are eager to continue strengthening our relationship with DePaul.



For our students, opportunities like this are about more than exploring options—they are about envisioning themselves as confident, prepared, and ambitious young leaders ready for high school and beyond.

This year, we are also launching a Middle School Student Council—a platform that enables students to develop leadership, collaboration, and advocacy skills. Rooted in the principles of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey, this council will enable students to put into practice habits such as being proactive, thinking win-win, and seeking first to understand, then to be understood. Through this new initiative, middle schoolers will not only help shape their school environment but also learn the essential habits of leadership that will serve them for a lifetime.

Moments like High School Night and the launch of the Student Council are more than calendar events—they are opportunities for our students to demonstrate the impact of West End's educational approach. They highlight how our middle schoolers are preparing for high school with confidence, vision, and purpose, and how they are practicing leadership in ways that honor our core values: perseverance, respect, trust, forgiveness, and responsibility.

As we celebrate these milestones, we are reminded that the support of our donors makes it all possible. With each step forward, our students prove that the West End School story is one of growth, leadership, and lasting impact.





### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS: SCOTT WHITENACK

The school year is off to a great start! Our elementary school welcomed four new classes of girls in Pre-Kindergarten through Second grade and a new class of Pre-Kindergarten boys. The halls are buzzing with activity as we enthusiastically launch into the new school year!

We are so excited to field a new **cross-country team** of boys and girls in Kindergarten, first, and second grades! We have 15 student-athletes participating, and we are confident we will grow the team each year to include more kids. Our first meet was on Saturday, August 16 and was a big success.



**Cross Country WES Group**



**Cross Country WES Run**

We are particularly grateful to Grant's Giving Foundation for their generous donation to the new cross-country team. Grant's Giving Foundation was established to honor the memory of Grant, an athletic, competitive, and good-natured little boy who was extremely well-loved in his small community of Goshen, Kentucky. The goal of Grant's family and friends is to keep his legacy alive by providing funds and equipment that will give others the opportunity to love athletics as much as Grant did. We are so appreciative of this meaningful donation to the WES team!

Iroquois Hill Runners also has been a generous supporter of the new cross-country team. Founded in 1979 by an avid group of South Louisville runners, this organization has evolved into a group of runners, walkers, and friends who are dedicated to hosting fun, affordable events for the running community. The Iroquois Hill Runners' awarded WES with an amazing grant donation that will help our cross-country and track teams with equipment, jerseys, and travel. Thank you, Iroquois Hill Runners, for making a difference in the lives of our students!





## SCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES

### UPCOMING IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

**MAP testing** will be held September 23- 25. MAP testing, which stands for measures of Academic Progress, will be conducted for grades 1st through middle school and is being used as our baseline data point. Based on these results, teachers will be able to come up with a game plan for how to tackle student struggles through goal setting and small group instruction.

We are excited that the **2nd Grade is going on a field trip** to see the Wizard of Oz at St. X High School on September 12. The show is produced by the St. X Performing Arts student program and is based on the classic L. Frank Baum story of Dorothy's adventures in the magical land of Oz, specially tailored for elementary school audiences. This show should be a fantastic experience and we are thankful to St. X for inviting our WES students to see it.

### UPCOMING IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

- September 11: Open House from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- September 12: Progress reports will be out
- September 23-25: MAP Testing
- September 23: Retakes only. (Picture Day was August 26.)
- September 29 through October 3: Fall Break

There is always so much going on at WES! New events are added to the calendar all the time. For a Full Calendar including all Athletic Games please see our [website](#)





## FAMILIES LOVING ON WEST END SCHOOL



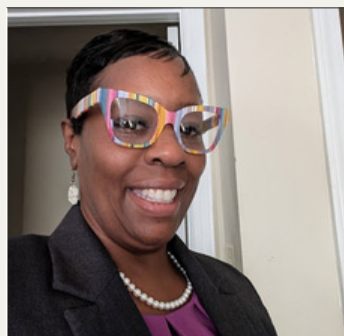
The school year is underway, and we are excited to announce the 2025 - 2026 leadership team for WES's family association, FLOW – Families Leading Our West End:



President: Mr. Jay Hunt



Vice President:  
Mr. Virgil Ryland



Treasurer:  
Mrs. Alkeshia Blackmon-Boone



Secretary:  
Mrs. Lanay Washington

We are honored to serve our school community and look forward to working together to create opportunities, celebrate achievements, and ensure our Eagles continue to soar.

To kick off the year, we invite you and your family to join us for Family Game & Movie Night on Monday, September 6, 2025 at 7:00 PM. This special event, open to the Girls' and Boys' Schools, will start with fun, interactive games for all ages, followed by a family-friendly movie. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.





It's the perfect chance to relax, connect, and create lasting memories while strengthening the bonds that make West End School so special.

If you'd like to sign up as a volunteer or head a committee for this event, or for future events, please complete this form: [\*\*Volunteer & Committee Sign-Up Form\*\*](#)

**We can't wait to see you there! ♥**





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Stephen Stivers (WES '14) has recently stepped into his new role as Vice President of Partner Management (AA Cobrand Portfolio) at Citi. A graduate of the Louisville Collegiate School and Tufts University in Boston, his journey to this position included completing the competitive U.S. Personal Banking Leadership Associate Program (AVP track), a two-year rotational development program at Citi. Stephen gained experience across key areas, including Business Operations, Credit & Collections, and Cards Digital Strategy.

Congratulations, Stephen! WES is so proud of you!



## NEW ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Mrs. Evelyn Wuang, a member of Second Presbyterian Church, has created an ongoing college scholarship in honor of the legacy of her brother Peter T.K. Wu. Mr. Wu believed in the power of higher education to transform young people's lives and wanted to make it easier for them to afford to go to college.

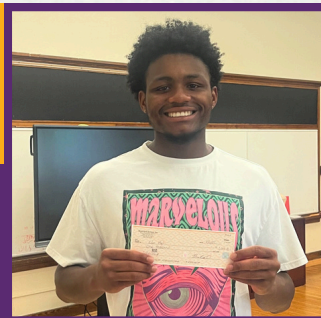
Mrs. Wuang wants to ensure that West End School alumni have the support needed to attain their college aspirations and has created this scholarship to provide WES graduates with a \$2,000 gift to be used at the college or university of their choice.

This year, we are pleased to announce the two scholarship recipients:



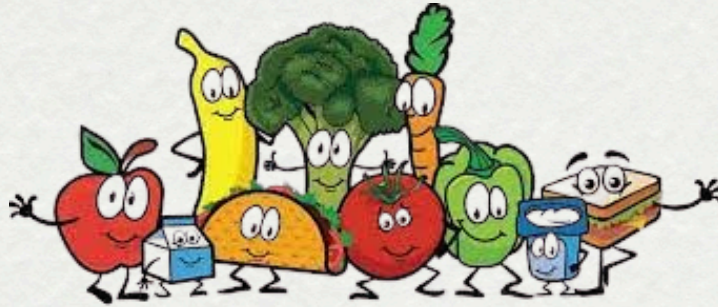
Keith Brown  
Senior at Heidelberg University  
Collegiate 2022, WES 2018

Ty High  
Senior at Berea College  
Walden 2021, WES 2017



For 2026, Ms. Wuang has generously increased the gift to \$4,000 for WES graduates heading to college. For more information on how to apply for the scholarship, WES graduates should contact Adrienne Dubins at [adrienne.dubins@westendschool.org](mailto:adrienne.dubins@westendschool.org).





### DINNER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our school community is growing, and so are our HUNGRY BOYS! Did you know that WES serves dinner to our Middle School boarding students four nights per week, and our dinner program is completely handled by our generous volunteers? Please join the team by providing dinner any evening Monday through Thursday. You can do it once per week, once per month, or just one time! And, you can either cook food or bring takeout – the boys will be happy with whatever works for you!

This is a great opportunity for a group effort, so grab your friends, your family, the members of your church, your team! We need 60 servings. We'd love for you to stay and serve, as well, but if dropping off is best, that works, too.

The boys eat promptly at 6pm. We have a full kitchen to get things warmed up and lots of ideas for what you can bring for dinner! Click [HERE](#) to sign up! Have questions or need ideas? Email at [adrienne.dubins@westendschool.org](mailto:adrienne.dubins@westendschool.org) for more information.

**THANK YOU, KATY BADE!**



Pictured here: Katy Bade, Volunteer coordinator, and Crevon Blackmother, Grandmother to Several Students

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteer coordinator, Katy Bade. Katy volunteered at WES for several years before graciously taking over as our volunteer coordinator. She has organized the activities of literally hundreds of volunteers from all over Louisville who have helped out in the classroom, as cleanup crews, and providing middle school dinners, among other activities. Katy also has been an integral part of our administrative team, helping out with the inaugural girls' program and wherever she was needed. Katy is "retiring" from WES this month to pursue exciting new opportunities – taking care of her new grandkids!!

Katy, thanks so much for everything you have done for WES – we will miss you and hope to see you again soon!!





SUPPORT WES

## SOCCER SEASON BEGINS

It is Soccer Season! Please join us for a game to cheer on our Soaring Eagles:

Thursday, Sept 4th @ KCD (JV 5pm Varsity 6pm) Pizza to Follow

Tuesday, Sept 9th @ Anchorage (JV 5pm and Varsity 6pm)

Monday, Sept 15th @ LKY (JV 5:30 Varsity 6:45)

## FUND A FUTURE LEADER

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

[DONATE NOW](#)

If you are interested in touring the school or discussing donation opportunities, please email Adrienne Dubins at [adriane.dubins@westendschool.org](mailto:adriane.dubins@westendschool.org)

## GIVE FOR GOOD LOUISVILLE RETURNS THIS SEPTEMBER

**SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, September 18th from Midnight to 11:59 p.m.**



Get ready to be part of something extraordinary! **Give for Good Louisville**, the region's most generous day of giving—powered by the Community Foundation of Louisville—returns on **Thursday, September 18, 2025**, from **midnight (12:00 a.m.) to 11:59 p.m. (ET)**.

**#GiveForGoodLou** isn't just a day to donate—it's a moment that ignites kindness, fuels hope, and unites people of all ages to uplift our community. Since its launch in 2014, this powerful day has raised over \$70 million for local nonprofits across Kentucky and Southern Indiana!

If you are passionate about education and the West End School, please mark this date on your calendar. Every dollar counts and often qualifies our school for matching opportunities or additional prizes through the Community Foundation.

If you are interested in helping with a matching gift, please contact [adrienne.dubins@westendschool.org](mailto:adrienne.dubins@westendschool.org).

**Let's rally together to make this year's Give for Good the biggest ever for WES!**