



# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

## LETTER FROM DR. ROSS, HEAD OF SCHOOL

November 2025

### Greetings WES Family,

We are in the thick of the fall term and have had an amazing first quarter of school! We have just completed MAP testing (Measures of Academic Progress testing) to create our academic baseline for the year. This allows us to see where we stack academically against our peers. The good thing we have seen so far is that our students have retained their learning from last year and did not fall behind due to the traditional “summer slide.” Currently, our students are in the 65 percentile on a national level. We let our students know that the instructional standards are not the ceiling – the standards are the floor. It is our goal to push our scholars beyond what others expect. We will not stop until we accomplish that goal. With 3 entire grades already over the 75th percentile, we are extremely pleased about how this school year is shaping up academically.

Our commitment to community engagement continues, and we are very excited to share that West End School will house a Park DuValle Community Health Center on our campus to support our students and families through their basic medical needs. With a lot of work and communal collaboration, a full-time nurse practitioner and her team will be on-site daily to provide services to our learning community. This is a win not only for West End School, but also for the community we serve.

I also am grateful for all of the partnerships we have formed and the opportunities we have to tell our story to the community this fall. I was fortunate to be invited to speak at Second Presbyterian Church and Highland Presbyterian Church about our mission at WES. I was part of the UK/UofL Golf Scramble Dinner and given the opportunity to speak on behalf of West End School. I also have been able to discuss our initiatives at several community sponsored events, including at the Ed Brown Society Race Day at Churchill Downs, the Esquire Gala, and the Yearlings Club Annual Event. These opportunities help us to share the amazing things happening at West End School. Thank you to all of these organizations for creating these opportunities to share our story!

On October 22, 2025, I went to our state capital and shared the trajectory-changing work we are doing at West End School. Because of you, our enthusiastic supporters, we have an amazing story to tell. The lives of every young person that crosses our threshold are changed because of the dedication and commitment you give daily to seeing each of them having this opportunity. I cannot thank you enough for all you do. We are because of you.



*Dr. Greg Ross*

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



# LETTER FROM MRS. ROSS, PRINCIPAL

**Dear WES Supporters,**

We're off to a wonderful start this fall at West End School! Our students are thriving both inside and outside the classroom.

Our 1st and 2nd grade girls have begun ballet classes with our partners at the Louisville Ballet—an exciting new opportunity to build confidence, discipline, and creativity. Our girls have also begun the “WES Water Wagon” which is an effort to keep our new landscaping beautiful! Our Kindergarten and PreK boys teamed up with the Pillar Program for a heartwarming activity where they read a story and worked on a craft together. The Pillar Program is an organization that helps individuals with disabilities live meaningful and fulfilling lives. Their partnership means the world to us.

Students have been busy exploring beyond our walls on several enriching field trips to theaters and orchards, connecting their classroom learning to the world around them. Another exciting event was our Grandparent's Breakfast which had a huge turnout.

This month, our scholars took their fall MAP assessments, which help us measure growth and guide instruction to meet each child's individual needs. Rigorous instruction remains a top priority at WES, and we are confident our scholars will continue to thrive academically.

Thank you for your continued generosity and belief in our mission. Your support makes these experiences possible and helps our students grow into confident, compassionate young leaders.

Warmly,



*Laura Ross*

**Laura Ross**

**Principal, West End School**



# SCHOOL NEWS

## SCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES

### FEDERAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM COMING TO WES

Dr. Ross has been working with Bullitt County and JCPS schools to learn about the Federal School Lunch Program, a federally assisted meal program operating in public and private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides funding to qualified organizations for nutritionally balanced low-cost or free lunches for children. Dr. Ross has spent time with both districts, learning about their programs and preparing for approval to be a part of the Federal Lunch Program. This is a major undertaking, but it will have a significant impact on our students and families by funding nutritious student meals in our school and allowing WES to direct resources that would have gone to meals to other areas of the school. Stay tuned for more information on this important WES development!

### "I CAN BE" WEDNESDAYS SHOW STUDENTS HOW TO DREAM BIG

One of the exciting weekly activities we have embarked on at WES is our "I Can Be" Wednesdays. Every Wednesday our young scholars get a chance to hear from a local community leader. That leader shares three simple things about themselves:

1. Who they are
2. What they do
3. What did it take to get there

Their stories show our scholars how to push through each and every day with determination, grit, and awareness, knowing what they desire can be done! Most importantly, they show them that if others can do it, so can they! Many thanks to our first "I Can Be" Wednesday speakers:

<b>OCT. 8, 2025</b>	Dr. Kandis Akins	Medical Doctor
<b>OCT. 15, 2025</b>	Lawrence Herring	Patriot Ins
<b>OCT. 22, 2025</b>	Reylene Robinson	ThriveBy5
<b>OCT. 29, 2025</b>	Don Hardison	Merrill Lynch
<b>NOV. 5, 2025</b>	Charisse McKeller	Victim Advocate
<b>NOV. 12, 2025</b>	Kiara James	Pushing Forward
<b>NOV. 19, 2025</b>	George Calhoun	Retried ATT
<b>DEC. 3, 2025</b>	Kendrick Lancaster	Construction Contractor
<b>DEC. 10, 2025</b>	Tu Rabon	Costco GM



## UOFL LEADERS SHARE DINNER AND ADVICE

### WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLARS



WES had the pleasure of welcoming the University of Louisville to campus to provide dinner for our Middle School Scholars in September. Serving at the event were Vice President Dr. Doug Craddock, Associate Vice President (and long-time WES Supporter) Darrell Griffith, and the President of the University of Louisville, Dr. Gerry Bradley. They were welcomed by WES Board Chair, Barry Barlow. Our young men enjoyed engaging with our community leaders and were honored to spend time with them.

Dr. Bradley and his team not only served the young men dinner, but they interacted with them, had conversations with them, and took time to hear their interest and goals. This is something our scholars will never forget!





## MIDDLE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS:

MICHAEL WARREN

The energy in the Middle School at West End School is electric this fall. From high school recruitment visits to the reopening of our SOAR Store, our students are stepping into leadership and demonstrating what it means to live out the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People in their daily lives.

Over the past few weeks, representatives from DeSales, Francis Parker, Kentucky Country Day (KCD), Trinity, and St. Xavier visited campus to meet with our eighth graders.



These recruitment visits provided valuable insight into the high school experience and allowed our students to envision the next chapter of their educational journey. The excitement was undeniable—students asked thoughtful questions, reflected on how each school aligns with their goals, and are now eagerly preparing to shadow at their choice schools in the coming weeks. Experiences like these remind us that West End School's mission goes beyond academics; it's about preparing young people to lead with confidence, curiosity, and character.

Another highlight of the season is the return of the SOAR Store, where students earn claws for demonstrating core behaviors that define our school culture. The store has quickly become a favorite part of the week, reinforcing the idea that making good choices leads to positive outcomes. This initiative helps students embody Habit 1: Be Proactive and Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind as they take responsibility for their actions and strive for personal growth.

Our middle schoolers also have shown tremendous dedication during fall MAP testing. Their hard work and perseverance reflect the strong academic culture we strive to build. In the weeks ahead, teachers will guide students through setting personalized academic goals based on their data. This process not only supports achievement, it also fosters ownership and accountability, key principles within Habit 3: Put First Things First. Each student will track their progress and celebrate milestones as they move closer to their goals.

And of course, basketball season is officially underway! The court has come alive with energy, teamwork, and WES pride. Our players are learning lessons that extend beyond the scoreboard—lessons in discipline, resilience, and sportsmanship. We invite our families, donors, and alums to join us in the stands and cheer on our student-athletes as they represent West End School with excellence and heart.

Together, these experiences—academic, behavioral, and athletic—reflect the true spirit of West End School. They showcase the lasting impact of our mission and the essential role our supporters play in helping every student thrive. With your continued support and belief in our work, our middle school will continue to soar—one goal, one habit, and one success story at a time.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS:

SCOTT WHITENACK

We have had a busy and exciting fall in the Elementary School and have enjoyed so many enriching activities both on and off campus. In September, our 2nd grade class took a field trip to St. Xavier high school to see a spirited production of the comedy *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*, and our 3rd grade class got to go to Huber's Orchard for a fun-filled day exploring the family fun park and learning about the life cycle of fruits and vegetables.



In October, our Kindergarten and Pre-K boys were visited by several members of the Pillar Program to read "The Lonely Scarecrow" and make scarecrow crafts. The Pillar Program is an incredible organization that supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by promoting opportunity, choice, and connection to the community. Their time at WES was a joyful celebration of creativity, connection, and inclusion, and we were so grateful to have them share their talents with us!

Our elementary students also have shown great pride in taking care of the beautiful landscaping that now surrounds the new Girls' Building. Each day, they are learning lessons that go far beyond the garden. They explore the science of growth, practice responsibility and teamwork, and discover how care and consistency help things flourish—just like their own learning journeys.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS:

SCOTT WHITENACK



We also are so excited to begin a new partnership with The Louisville Ballet to provide ballet instruction weekly to our WES girls in 1st and 2nd grades, thanks to our Girls School Advisory Council and WES Board Member Akure Paradis, Esq. connecting with Stacey Blakeman, the Director of Community Engagement for The Louisville Ballet. Ms. Blakeman has created a plan to provide ballet classes at WES during the school day so that students do not miss key academic instruction. Ballet emphasizes creative movement, coordination, balance, strength, and discipline for our young scholars, and this partnership provides a wonderful opportunity for our girls to explore this artistic (and athletic!) endeavor.

Our elementary classrooms also have been filled with volunteers, helping with everything from reading with students, working on math skills, and creating arts and crafts activities. They support our teachers and work both one on one and in small groups. We also have volunteers that help assist in the cafeteria during lunch.

We are grateful for the support of all of our wonderful partners inside and outside WES!



## UPCOMING IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

<b>OCT. 31, 2025</b>	No School – Teacher Professional Development
<b>NOV. 24, 2025 – NOV. 28, 2025</b>	Thanksgiving Break
<b>DEC. 19, 2025</b>	Quarter 1 ends
<b>DEC. 22, 2025 – JAN. 6, 2026</b>	Holiday Break

## BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

COME JOIN US FOR A GAME

### November:

4th – WES @ KCD (B team 5:30, A team 6:30)  
 13th – WES @ Little Flock (C team 6, B team 7) No A-team game  
 17th – LKY @ WES (B team 5:30, A team 6:30)  
 19th – WES @ Class. Academy (5pm) This game is tentative on Classical side  
 22nd – 30th – Thanksgiving Break

### December:

2nd – Francis Parker @ WES (B team 5:30, A team 6:30)  
 4th – WES @ Anchorage (C team 5, B team 6, A team 7)  
 8th – Little Flock @ WES (C team 6, B team 7) No A team game  
 9th – WES @ Crosby (B team 5pm, A team 6pm)  
 11th – WES @ Whitfield (C team 5, B team 6:15, A team 7:30)  
 20th – Jan 4th – Christmas Break

### January:

6th – KCD @ WES (B team 5:30, A team 6:30)  
 8th – WES @ LKY (B team 5:30, A team 6:30)  
 12th – WES @ Francis Parker (B team 5:30, A team 6:30)  
 13th – Crosby @ WES (B team 5pm, A team 6pm)  
 15th – Whitfield @ WES (C team 5, B team 6, A team 7)  
 26th – Class. Academy @ WES (5pm) This game is tentative on Classical side  
 28th – Anchorage @ WES (C team 5, B team 6, A team 7)

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](#)



The Admissions Office has been bustling with activity, thanks to all of the publicity from the Girls' School opening and our wonderful reputation as an outstanding academic school for young scholars. We have received a large number of applications for the next academic year (2026-2027) and are busy processing them and preparing for assessment days in February and March 2026.

We have changed our admissions process a little bit this year for elementary and middle school students. We will conduct assessment testing first for all elementary students in 1st through 5th grades and middle school students in 6th and 7th grades in February (tentatively set for Saturday February 7, 2026). Families also will have the opportunity to learn more about the school and specific class routines during the assessment day.

Initial scholarship decisions for elementary and middle school applicants will be based on the assessment testing, and these scholarship finalists will then be scheduled for shadow days with their respective classes in March 2026. We hope this new format will help streamline the application process and be less disruptive to our class schedules. (In the past, we have asked elementary and middle school applicants to shadow at WES throughout the fall.)

Scholars applying for Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten will continue to have only the general assessment testing in March (tentatively scheduled for Saturday March 7, 2026). Applicants for Pre-K through 7th grade will receive an email asking them to sign up for the assessment day by the end of January 2026.

Classes generally are limited to just 15 students each to allow for more individualized attention and learning, so WES has limited space available in grades Kindergarten through 7. There are 15 slots available for each of the boys and girls Pre-Kindergarten classes. So, our best advice is to apply early!! We have updated the information on the application process on our Admissions page on the website at <https://www.westendschool.org/admissions/>.



We are grateful for our Parent-Teacher Organization called FLOW, which stands for Families Loving On WES. And FLOW absolutely lives up to its name!! Through the leadership of Mr. Jay Hunt, they are constantly doing things to support our students and families. So far this year, they have already hosted two big events: a very successful "Family Game and Movie Night" on September 6, 2025, and a fun-filled Fall Festival, complete with games, community sponsors, food, and many more activities on October 18, 2025. Thanks to all of the WES staff, volunteers, and families who made both of these events possible!

And many thanks to all of our community who supported West End School by dining at the Texas Roadhouse this fall!! Our fundraiser ran from September 1 to October 15 and was a great success, earning over \$27,000 for the school! We so appreciate this partnership with Texas Roadhouse and enjoyed great food while supporting WES.

Stay tuned for more FLOW events in the coming months. If you'd like to sign up as a volunteer or head a committee for future events, please complete this form: [\*\*Volunteer & Committee Sign-Up Form\*\*](#)





We are excited to announce that this year's West End School Alumni Board includes Ray Harbin (WES 2011), Kenny Gray (WES 2010), Nay Kaw (WES 2015), and Sam Iradukunda (WES 2016). The Alumni Board's mission is simple but powerful: "To strengthen alumni bonds, increase participation within the school while providing community connection, and mentorship pathways that our alumni can rely on."

The Alumni Board's plan is to facilitate 2-3 events each year that will gather alumni to increase engagement with one another and help build lifelong relationships by making members of the alumni association feel valued. The Alumni Board also will work with identified partners to provide resources such as career services, personal or professional development in the form of workshops, and the use of campus facilities when needed. The Alumni Board further will act as a safe haven when members of the Alumni Association are in need of help.

The Alumni Board, in partnership with other members of the Alumni Association, also will act as mentors to current WES Students by attending various school events, bridging the bond between set traditions and new beginnings. And, finally, the Alumni Board will act as a resource to the school by serving as powerful ambassadors for the school's brand in the community

### Members of the Board:

Ray Harbin, WES 2011  
Kenny Gray, WES 2010  
Nay Kaw, WES 2015  
Sam Iradukunda, WES 2016



Also, with the help of Amy Trager, we are **"Naming and Claiming"** all of our alumni that are still in high school. Our goal is to be more intentional about supporting these young scholars throughout their high school experience. We are establishing consistent meetings with the alumni at their schools and letting them know they are supported and valued.

The goal of West End School is to support all of our alumni scholars throughout their schooling, whether it be vocational or higher learning, and on to the workforce. We not only want to create great students, but amazing human beings!



## VOLUNTEER NEWS

West End School is grateful for volunteers who bring so many blessings to our school! We have volunteers helping in almost every classroom this year – reading with our elementary students, helping with arts and crafts projects, decorating bulletin boards, and working with middle school students in math and science classes.

We also have been fortunate to have groups from Christ Church United Methodist and Broadway Baptist Churches who spent extensive weekend time recently at the school helping with yardwork, mulch, bulletin boards and general cleaning.

And we cannot forget all of the wonderful volunteers who have been feeding our very hungry Middle School students dinner every week night! You have graciously filled their bellies (and our calendar!) through the end of the year. Be on the lookout for a new dinner calendar – we will need more volunteers to provide dinners beginning January 6, 2026, when we return from the holiday break.

WES is so fortunate to have volunteers from all over the city who give them time so generously to our school!! If you want to get involved, please contact Adrienne Dubins, [adrienne.dubins@westendschool.org](mailto:adrienne.dubins@westendschool.org).

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The 12th Annual Give for Good Louisville was held on September 18, 2025, and West End School donors showed up in full force to support our scholars! Thank you for helping us raise \$90,000 in just 24 hours! That's nearly 5 full scholarships for West End School scholars. We are grateful for all of our donors who contributed during this city-wide event.

And a big thank you to Kosair for Kids!! Through a generous grant from Kosair for Kids, West End School will be able to purchase a small bus or van to help transport our scholars to many experiences. We cannot thank you enough!!!

WES also gives a heartfelt thanks to Mike Vine and his team for supporting our school through the Tony Delks UK/UL Golf Scramble earlier this month. Our scholars attended the event and met some of the greatest names in both UK and UofL basketball. Also, a major donation from the event was made to the school! We are beyond thankful for this support.

Looking for an easy way to support West End School that does not cost you anything but a few minutes to register? Kroger will contribute to our school if you designate West End School through their community awards program. Here is a link that explains how to register; <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. Our number is KN734!!!



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 [adrienne.dubins@westendschool.org](mailto:adrienne.dubins@westendschool.org)