



# MARCH NEWSLETTER

## LETTER FROM DR. ROSS, PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF SCHOOL

### Greetings WES Family,

Where has the time gone! The school year is passing so quickly, and we are doing our best to capture every moment for academic excellence.

We have already had an amazing start to 2026. As we enter March, we are very excited to share that all of our 8th grade students have been admitted into the schools of their choice. In fact, many of our students have received multiple full scholarships. We have students with full scholarships to Louisville Collegiate, Kentucky Country Day, Walden, and St. Xavier, to name a few. We are tremendously excited for and proud of all our scholars, but especially of this 8th grade group that is about to share West End School with the greater city of Louisville.

We also have just wrapped up our Middle School basketball season where our amazing scholars did a phenomenal job. Our Middle School athletes competed against both private and public schools, showing dominance and character throughout the season. We are extremely proud of our students!

Our Elementary scholars are now in the midst of intramural sports. They recently completed indoor soccer training and are finishing up their basketball season. It is so empowering to see our parents, especially our fathers, interact as coaches and referees during the games. Our parent involvement has been through the roof this year and we are seeing the connection between our families and the school grow exponentially.

Our "I Can Be" Wednesday presentations continue to put amazing leaders in front of our scholars each week during our morning meetings. This year, we have had several inspiring individuals speak to our students about their life journeys, sharing who they are, what they do, and what it took to reach their goals. Some of our speakers this year have included Dr. Kandis Akins (a critical care anesthesiologist), Dr. Rob Macrae (head of Louisville Collegiate), and Lawrence Herring (CEO of Patriot Group Ins.). We have had so many remarkable community leaders speak to our scholars, inspiring them to reach their full potential and to see what is truly possible, and we are grateful for their time with us.





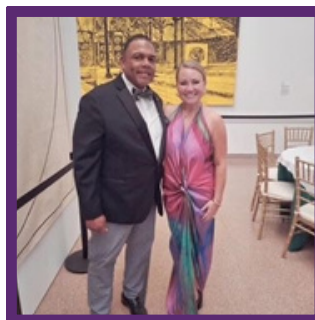
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We also are proud to announce that our school principal, Laura Ross, has partnered with the Building Industry Charitable Foundation (BICF) to help support "The Nest," a family resource center for our WES families dealing with life's challenges. With the collaboration of local realtor Teresa Morgan, the BICF has agreed to help support The Nest with shelving and resources to make the area inviting for our families. They are also collaborating with their partners to help gather resources such as non-perishable items, cleaning and laundry supplies, and basic necessities. We are so grateful to have BICF join us as a community partner!



Finally, I want to thank our amazing Board of Trustees. The West End School Board Members are truly the hidden gems of our school community. They provide sincere care and compassion to everything important to WES. With the utmost humility, they accomplish so much to ensure that WES continues to grow and thrive. I can truly say I have never been a part of a school board that works as tirelessly and intentionally towards the success of a school as ours. I am beyond grateful to their commitment and dedication to our school. It is clear that the best is yet to come for West End School!



Dr. and Mrs. Ross attend the Speed Art Museum Ball



Dr. and Mrs. Ross on Admissions Assessment Day for West End School on March 7

*Dr. Greg Ross*

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



# MARCH NEWSLETTER

## LETTER FROM MRS. ROSS, PRINCIPAL

**Hello West End School Families,**

This winter has been full of purpose, pride, and progress at West End School! As always, we are grateful for your partnership in this work. Your generosity makes each of these moments possible — from daily instruction to the celebrations that shape our school culture.

### **MAP Testing: Measuring Growth, Not Just Performance**

In February, our students completed winter **MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)** assessments. MAP testing provides us with valuable data about individual student growth in reading and math and helps our teachers tailor instruction with precision. This mid-year MAP assessment is often the toughest because students are being assessed on standards they have not received instruction on yet. Many times, scores decrease because of this. We are proud to say our mid-year assessment showed a lot of improvement.

What excites me most, though, is not just the scores — it's the growth. Our boys and girls are building confidence as learners. They are beginning to understand that progress is something to be proud of, and effort matters.

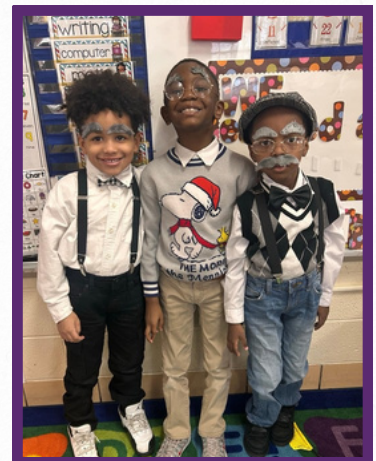
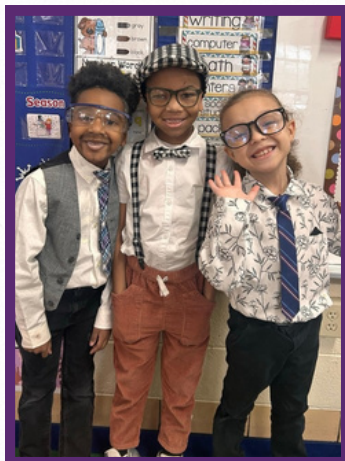
Your support allows us to provide targeted small-group instruction, intervention support, and enrichment opportunities that help every child move forward.

### **The 100th Day of School: Celebrating Persistence**

We also proudly celebrated the 100th day of school in February — a milestone that represents consistency, commitment, and resilience.

For our students, 100 days means:

- 100 days of learning new skills
- 100 days of practicing self-discipline
- 100 days of building brotherhood and sisterhood
- 100 days of showing up



In a school community that serves students who often face significant barriers, 100 days is no small accomplishment. It is proof of stability, support, and the power of community.



# MARCH NEWSLETTER

## LETTER FROM MRS. ROSS, PRINCIPAL

### Galentine's at WES: Celebrating Sisterhood & Support

This month, we also hosted a special Galentine's celebration honoring the girls in our PreK-2 program and the incredible women who support their lives.

The event celebrated sisterhood, confidence, and the joy of being part of a community that believes deeply in our youngest learners. It was a beautiful reminder that while WES has long been known for serving boys, our commitment to empowering girls is just as strong. Community matters here — and that community includes remarkable women and girls who are growing, leading, and thriving together.



As we close out the winter term, I am reminded daily that West End School is more than a building. It is a place of transformation. Every assessment administered, every celebration held, and every lesson taught is fueled by a community of donors who believe in the promise of our students.

Thank you for believing in them.  
Thank you for believing in us.

With gratitude,



*Laura Ross*

**Laura Ross**  
Principal, West End School

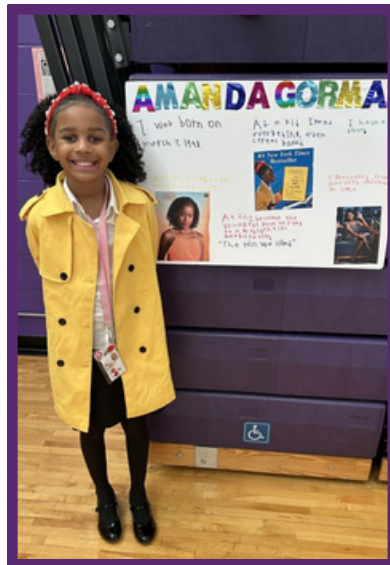
### Black History Month: Honoring Legacy, Inspiring Excellence

Black History Month at WES is not a sidebar — it is central to who we are. Throughout February, students have been:

- Studying influential Black leaders, innovators, and change-makers
- Engaging in classroom discussions about resilience, courage, and contribution
- Connecting history to their own potential and responsibility



Our Black History Month Showcase and Living Wax Museum highlighted the voices, stories, and brilliance of Black leaders past and present. We were also treated to a wonderful musical performance celebrating Black History by our new fine arts teacher, Mr. James Davis. The Middle School chorus sang and the first grade girls' class performed a traditional African dance. These events gave our WES scholars the opportunity to research, present, and reflect—building confidence while deepening cultural awareness and pride.



Our students are learning that they are part of a powerful legacy. They are not simply learning about history — they are being prepared to shape it. Representation matters. Excellence matters. Identity matters. And your support makes this holistic education possible.



# MARCH NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES

### **Manna Sponsors Field Day to Celebrate Junior Bridgeman and his Legacy at WES**

March 11, 2026 marked the one-year anniversary of the death of West End School Founding Board of Trustees member Junior Bridgeman, and to celebrate his legacy, 17 employees from his company Manna spent the day at WES running a fun-filled field day and providing lunch for the entire school!



Manna volunteers joined us for the morning meeting and then launched into the field day activities, which included tug of war, crazy ball soccer, bucket brigade relays, potato sack relays, and bean bag toss.

All of our scholars participated, from our Pre Kindergarten through Eighth Grade (almost 200 hundred kids!), and everyone enjoyed a lunch of chicken nuggets and Mac and Cheese from Mark's Feed Store. And popsicles helped cool everyone off after the intense competitions!

Thanks to our wonderful partners at Manna for this terrific field day! We miss founder Junior Bridgeman every day and so appreciate all that Manna does for West End School.



### **New Van Donated By Kosair for Kids**

We are so grateful to Kosair for Kids for donating a new van to West End School!

With the addition of the Girls' Program (PreKindergarten through Second Grade girls) this fall, we now have many more kids to transport to field trips and other off campus adventures.

Thank you Kosair for Kids!!





### West End School and our ISACS Accreditation

As part of our commitment to providing a transformative education to our scholars, West End School is proud to be accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). ISACS is a regional organization accrediting over 240 independent schools across 13 states. ISACS' mission is to lead schools in providing exemplary education while fostering environments that are equitable, safe, and just.

For West End School, this accreditation is a "seal of approval" verifying that we meet the highest national standards of educational quality and institutional integrity. Several elite private schools in Louisville also are accredited by ISACS, including Kentucky Country Day, Louisville Collegiate School, and Walden.

ISACS accreditation is a rigorous, ongoing process that ensures we fulfill our promise to our scholars through external validation, continuous improvement, and mission alignment. This year is particularly significant as our leadership team focuses on two major priorities:

- The ISACS Self-Study: Our faculty, staff, and board are currently reflecting on every aspect of WES to prepare for our formal accreditation visit.
- Growth and Expansion: This self-reflection coincides with the historic opening of our Girls' Program, ensuring our high standards are embedded in our expanded mission from day one.

We look forward to sharing updates with our community on our accreditation journey! For more information on the ISACS accreditation process, please visit our website at

<https://www.westendschool.org/isacs-accreditation/>





### West End School to Offer Free Breakfast and Lunch for 2026–2027 School Year

West End School is pleased to announce that it will participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program for the 2026–2027 school year through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). WES began participating in the programs in 2025.

As a result of this designation, all enrolled students will receive breakfast and lunch at no cost every school day. Families are not required to submit a household application or pay any fees for student meals.

This initiative ensures that every student has access to healthy, nutritious meals, supporting both academic success and overall well-being. And, it underscores West End School's commitment to serving under-resourced families in our community.





### Park DuValle Community Health Centers Has Opened at WES!

WES is excited to announce that the Park DuValle Community Health Centers has opened a health care clinic at the school to serve our students, families, and staff as well as the wider West End community. The clinic operates from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is located on the first floor of the new girls' school building.



Services provided include primary care, sick care, wellness exams, sports physicals, and vaccinations. The clinic accepts most insurances but also provides services regardless of ability to pay. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 502-916-9573, and walk-ins are welcome. You will find more information about the clinic by clicking on this link. [CLICK HERE](#)

We are so grateful to have this wonderful health care clinic available to the West End community!

### LA Dodgers Star Will Smith and Catching Hope Foundation Spread Smiles and More at WES

We are so thankful to Will Smith and the Catching Hope Foundation for their remarkable generosity! Catching Hope Foundation is a non-profit organization that Will and his wife Cara started in 2021 to help children from under-resourced neighborhoods develop the critical skills needed for leadership, self-advocacy, and self-sufficiency.

Will is a native of Louisville and a graduate of Kentucky Country Day School and the University of Louisville, and perhaps is best known as the star catcher for the 2020, 2024, and 2025 World Series champions, the Los Angeles Dodgers.



Will and Cara began their relationship with WES in 2024, donating backpacks and other gear to our students and providing funding to purchase new supplies for our sports teams. This year, every Middle School boy received brand new shoes and hoodies, a gift that meant far more than the items themselves.



The smiles on their faces said everything.

Thank you to Will and CHF for investing in our students and for the example you set both on and off the field. Watch our 8th graders share their thanks [here](#).

### **Music For A Purpose Brings Classical and Jazz Music to WES**

Violinist Julia Cash and pianist Kevin Harris brought classical violin and jazz piano into the classroom at West End School on March 2, 2026, giving our students a chance to experience incredible live music. Music For A Purpose is a musician-led charitable concert series that focuses on using chamber music to promote awareness and raise funds to support local nonprofits around the city.



Ms. Cash is a founding member of Music For A Purpose and a professional musician who has played violin for the Louisville Orchestra, the Boston Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, and the Chamber Orchestra of Boston. Mr. Harris is an internationally acclaimed jazz pianist, composer, and educator currently on the faculty at Berklee College of Music.

We are grateful for partners who create opportunities like this for our students! Check out the WAVE 3 story [here](#).

<https://www.wave3.com/2026/03/02/music-purpose-gives-special-performance-louisvilles-west-end-school/>



### Spencer's Stand Raises Awareness about Type 1 Diabetes at WES

West End School was excited to welcome University of Louisville senior basketball player Spencer Legg on Sunday, March 8 to learn more about his journey as an athlete with Type 1 diabetes and his organization, Spencer's Stand. Spencer was diagnosed with the autoimmune disease when he was just 11 but has persevered to become a Division 1 athlete and scholar at UofL.

Spencer created Spencer's Stand to empower children and families impacted by Type 1 diabetes by providing community-based support, education, mentorship, and access to meaningful experiences that foster resilience, confidence, and connection. Type 1 diabetes usually develops in children or young adults but can occur at any age and requires lifelong insulin therapy and regular blood glucose monitoring. (Type 1 diabetes differs from Type 2 diabetes, which is more commonly linked to insulin resistance and genetic and lifestyle factors.)



Special guest UofL men's basketball head coach Pat Kelsey joined Spencer for the afternoon of conversation and fellowship with WES students and West End residents who wanted to learn more about Type 1 diabetes. We are so grateful to them for educating our community about Type 1 diabetes and for spreading this positive message of perseverance and possibility to people with Type 1 diabetes. To learn more about Spencer's Stand and Type 1 diabetes, please visit the website at <https://spencersstand.com/>.

### Join WES on April 3 to Celebrate our Eighth Grade Signing Day

It is hard to believe, but our oldest scholars are preparing to leave West End School! They spent the fall and spring visiting and interviewing at high schools throughout Louisville, looking at numerous public, parochial, and private high schools, including Butler, Shawnee, St. Xavier, Louisville Collegiate, Kentucky Country Day and Walden, to name just a few.

And now the high school decisions are being made! We look forward to celebrating each Eighth Grade student's next academic journey into high school and will share the official outcomes with all stakeholders at our Signing Day, scheduled for Friday April 3 at 1 p.m. Please join us as we congratulate our Eighth Grade scholars on their high school choices!



### Soul, Art, and Community Coming to Waterfront Park August 8, 2026!

We are thrilled to announce that the 3rd Annual Sky Soul Festival is returning to Waterfront Park on August 8, 2026. This incredible event is a true celebration of live music, art, culture, and our local community—and you won't want to miss it!

The festival is bringing heavy hitters to the stage this year. While more artists are still being added, the current lineup is already spectacular:

- **Fantasia**
- **Anthony Hamilton**
- **Busta Rhymes**
- **Tonio Armani**
- **DJ Kool**
- **Plus featured local bands!**

Please wait to purchase your Sky Soul Festival tickets as our FLOW team is working with them to find some additional discounts for our families. More to come on ticket purchase!



### Event Details

- **When:** August 8th, 2026, gates open from 3pm-11pm.
- **Where:** Waterfront Park
- **Tickets:** Ranging from \$70.17 to \$301.79

A huge thank you to the Sky Soul Festival organizers for bringing the gift of music to our community and supporting our families. We hope to see you all there for a day of live music, soul, sun, and song!

### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Did you know West End School Middle School Director Michael Warren and Mentor Mr. Charles Johnson visit our West End School alums every month at St. Xavier High School?

They check in regularly with our former scholars and see how they are doing in high school, and WES former students from other high schools attend as well.

Thanks to Mr. Warren and Mr. Charles for helping our former students feel connected to and loved by WES!





February at West End School has been a powerful reminder that growth doesn't happen by accident—it happens through intentional teaching, strong relationships, and a community that believes in our students. This month, our middle schoolers have been stretching academically, stepping into leadership, and showing up for one another in ways that reflect the heart of our mission and the power of your support.

Our middle school teachers recently attended NWEA MAP Professional Development focused on accelerating student growth from winter to spring. Using strategies and insights from the training, our team has created individualized skill



plans for students and introduced MAP Goal Books to help each student track progress, reflect on growth, and take ownership of their learning. This work aligns closely with the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People—especially Habits 2 and 3—as students set clear goals and commit to daily habits that move them forward.

We are also deeply grateful for our community partners, Rob King and Amy Wobbe, who volunteer throughout the week to support our students with homework, targeted skill practice, and tutoring. Their consistent presence reinforces that our students are surrounded by adults who believe in them and are invested in their success—academically and personally.

This quarter, our middle school hosted a special Open Gym celebration for students who earned zero marks in Quarter 2—a joyful reward that recognized positive choices, accountability, and commitment to our school values. At the same time, the Student Government has taken full ownership of the SOAR Store, planning incentives, managing operations, and modeling what leadership looks like in action. This transition has empowered students to practice Habit 1: Be Proactive and Habit 6: Synergize as they collaborate to build a positive school culture.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

MICHAEL WARREN

Our Middle School Student Government has brought new energy to campus through campaign speeches, student voters, and a democratic election process that has allowed students to practice their voices, take on responsibility, and engage in civic life. These leaders are already making their mark—helping plan events, gather student input, and represent their peers with pride.

In addition, our Student Ambassadors have been assisting with school tours, welcoming prospective families, and sharing their West End experience. Their presence showcases what makes West End special: confident students who lead with dignity, respect, and high expectations.

Athletics have also been a source of pride this month. West End School proudly hosted its first Heart of a Champion Tournament, a round-robin competition that celebrated sportsmanship, teamwork, and perseverance. We're thrilled to share that WES took home the championship, a moment that reflects the discipline and unity our students bring to everything they do.

As we enter a dead period until Track Season, students still have opportunities to stay active and connected through pickleball and Boy Scouts, reinforcing healthy habits, teamwork, and community beyond the classroom.

From academic growth plans to student-led leadership, from volunteer tutoring to championship teamwork, February has shown what is possible when students are supported by a community that believes in them. Your continued investment makes these opportunities real. Because of you, our middle schoolers are not only growing academically—they are becoming confident leaders prepared for high school and beyond.

Thank you for being a part of their journey.







## Supporting Our Scholars & Families

February was a month focused on strengthening school culture, expanding family support systems, and preparing for impactful spring engagement at West End School.



While faculty led this year's Black History Month programming, F.L.O.W. concentrated on advancing structured family-centered initiatives that extend care beyond the classroom. Our work remains rooted in supporting scholars, encouraging family engagement, and uplifting our educators.

## Shoebox Ministry Collection

F.L.O.W. will officially launch our Shoebox Ministry Collection in March, in collaboration with First Virginia Avenue Baptist Church. This partnership expands our reach and deepens our community impact. Last year, we collected enough essential care items to assemble 50 shoeboxes for distribution. This year, we have set an ambitious goal of 250 shoeboxes, increasing our impact fivefold.

Each shoebox will include essential household and personal care items designed to support families facing practical needs. By establishing this as a recurring initiative during months school is in session, we are building a reliable and scalable outreach model that reflects our commitment to serving the whole child.

## Parent-Only Bingo Night

Our Parent-Only Bingo Night has been rescheduled and is tentatively planned for March 21 (it was cancelled on January 24 because of the snow). This event is designed to create a safe, engaging space for WES families to connect, build community, and enjoy fellowship together. We look forward to strong participation as we continue fostering meaningful family engagement opportunities.



## Looking Ahead

F.L.O.W. is actively preparing for:

- Teacher Appreciation Week (May)
- The Annual Sneaker Ball
- Spring Family Engagement Events
- Continued community partnerships

Because of the generosity of our supporters, every initiative we implement is designed to strengthen scholar experience, elevate teacher support, and build a thriving school culture. Your partnership directly impacts the scholars and families of West End School.



<b>March 16, 2026</b>	Quarter 4 Begins
<b>March 23 - 27, 2026</b>	Family Conferences
<b>April 3, 2026</b>	High School Signing Day
<b>April 6 - 10, 2026</b>	Spring Break, no school
<b>May 1, 2026</b>	Oaks Day, no school
<b>May 5 - 7, 2026</b>	MAP Testing
<b>May 21, 2026</b>	Last Day of School, Graduation





The Admissions Office has been BUSY the last few months! We have had over 270 applications submitted for our PreK through Seventh grade classes (another record year!) and conducted assessments at WES on February 7 (for First through Seventh Grades) and on March 7 (for PreK and Kindergarten classes). We are so excited to add a Third Grade girls' class for 2026-2027, and will continue adding an additional class of girls until we have an Eighth grade girls' class (expected in the 2031-2023 school year).

We have sent out acceptance letters for our First through Seventh Grade students and expect to send out acceptances for our PreK and Kindergarteners by the end of March. We had so many qualified and enthusiastic applicants, and it was difficult for our Admissions Committee to make the tough decisions on who should get the limited spots available. Please know that our Board of Trustees and Dr. Ross are constantly evaluating how we can continue to expand our programming while retaining quality and focus!

We will begin accepting applications for the 2027-2028 school year beginning July 1, 2026. Your investment ensures that when those families walk through our doors, they see a school that is prepared — academically strong, values-driven, and mission-focused.

### **Sixth Grade Class Now Includes Optional Boarding**

The WES Board of Trustees recently voted to change our Sixth Grade boarding requirements. Previously, all students in Sixth through Eighth Grades were required to live on campus Monday through Thursday. For the 2026-2027 school year, and in response to parental and student suggestions, Sixth grade students may opt out of the boarding requirement and attend as day students. This change will be phased in so that all Middle School students have the option to live on campus or choose to be a day student by the 2029-2030 school year.



### Courier-Journal Features Chef Kathy Cary Cooking Up Dinner at WES

Award-winning chef Kathy Cary was recently featured in a Courier-Journal article highlighting her volunteer work at West End School and her monthly dinner contributions to our Middle School boys. Kathy and her husband Will have been feeding our very hungry middle school scholars dinner once a month for the last four years!



As many in Louisville are well aware, Kathy was the chef/owner of the renowned restaurants Lilly's Bistro and La Peche and has been nominated for the James Beard Culinary award eight times (awarded semifinalist twice). She also is known as a pioneer in the farm to table movement in Louisville. At WES, though, she is "just" Miss Kathy, serving up homemade meatloaf, chicken piccata, and other delicious meals for the Middle School students who board four nights a week at WES. The kids love her food and also appreciate that she and Will have been a part of their lives these last four years. Kathy also volunteers tutoring our elementary students. We don't know what WES would do without the Carys!

You can view the full Courier-Journal article [here](#) (though it requires a subscription to read; it is well worth \$1 to sign up!)

### Middle School Dinners Needed for March, April, and May

We are so grateful to all of our volunteers who provide week-night dinners for our very hungry Middle School boys! We still have a few dinner spots to fill for March 31 and in April and May to finish out the year. This is a great opportunity for a group, so grab your friends, your family, the members of your church, your team! We ask for 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! [Sign up here](#) to help out.

**We thank our volunteers for everything you do for West End School!  
We don't know what we would do without you!!!**



### Raptor Safe Check In Reminder

West End School's new security check-in system, Raptor Safe has been a great success! We appreciate all our volunteers and visitors using the system to check in when they arrive.

# RAPTOR<sup>®</sup>

## TECHNOLOGIES

It is especially important for all volunteers to use their Raptor Safe Passport app to log in as volunteers (not just visitors) every time they enter West End School.

First, we need to know who is in the school every day in case there is an emergency on campus. And, second, we need to be able to count the number of hours our volunteers spend on campus. Many of the grants that WES receives want to know how engaged our volunteers are with the school based on their hours spent volunteering.

So, please help us by using the Raptor Safe system and log in as a volunteer each time you come to campus.

### Highland Baptist Church Hosts Lunch and Donates School Supplies to WES

Many thanks to the Jean Jones Women's Group at Highland Baptist Church for inviting Adrienne Dubins, our Director of Development and Admissions, to a lunch meeting to talk about West End School. Adrienne discussed the history of WES and provided updates on WES's growth and new girls' school and also answered questions. The Women's Group also donated school and other supplies for our students. We were so glad to meet this wonderful group and look forward to hosting them down at West End School!

### Bookstop Bus

The Book Stop Bus is an amazing program that gives away new and gently used books to ignite the love of reading.

On March 12th, they came to WES and every child was able to choose three books to keep. Additionally, teachers were given the opportunity to choose books to enhance their classroom libraries. WES thanks the Bookstop Bus for their gift!





# FUND A FUTURE LEADER

## WES Wish List

Are you looking for a way to help WES? Follow this [LINK](#) to see our wish list of school supplies, food items, and special events. You can donate the items individually or a Supply Drive makes a great group project!



## Fund a Future Scholar

Every page of this newsletter exists because someone believed.

The lessons. The growth. The breakthroughs. None of it happens without donors who invest in the belief that genius exists in every neighborhood.

West End School students are showing up every day — curious, capable, and ready. They are proof that when young people are given access, stability, and high expectations, they rise.

You made that possible. And there are more students waiting for the same chance.

### Now it's your turn.

Fund a Scholar today and put a student's future in motion.



[DONATE NOW](#)



*Thank you for reading, for believing, and for investing in the next generation of West End leaders. Because of you, we are proving that genius not only exist in our neighborhood but it thrives here.*