

## Together Under God at West Lutheran High School

West Lutheran High School offers Christian secondary education to anyone who desires a high school education based on the Word of God in the Bible. God's Word tells us about the foundation of our life together with Him and with each other. It tells us of the grace of God, the love that led Jesus to live a perfect life on earth and to suffer and die in our place. It tells us that all who believe in Christ are brothers and sisters in God's family. Christian high school education at West Lutheran means "taking captive every thought and making it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). We accept the Bible as God's word and it is the foundation of our school both in and out of the classroom. It also allows us to learn about our relationship with each other as members of God's family and helps us make sense of our experiences together in this life as meaningful for our eternal life.

God's Word is our strength and comfort. It is our moral compass. Living together under God at WLHS means providing mutual Christian support and encouragement as well as honest accountability to each other. Together we discover opportunities to use our gifts faithfully and to be witnesses of God's love in faithful service to our Lord. This gives purpose to our lives.

### What You Can Expect From WLHS

The faculty and staff of WLHS promise to meet your needs in Christian love to the degree that is possible. You can expect excellence in teaching and teachers. You can expect a variety of opportunities to develop your spiritual relationship with God and to express that relationship through service and leadership. You can expect to be treated with respect, fairness, honesty, and caring. Furthermore, you can expect the focus of each day to be on God's Word and that his Word will make an eternal difference for you, accomplishing all that God desires in your heart and life (Isaiah 55:11). The Christian faith and our Lutheran heritage will be taught in our classrooms and will be expressed in our school culture.

### What WLHS Will Expect From You

You will be expected to give your best effort, with a cooperative spirit, in your classes and in extra-curricular areas such as athletics, music, drama, and student government. Academic integrity is expected, meaning that you are not to cheat on homework, tests, and exams or plagiarize in papers.

Our "We Believe, Teach, and Confess" statement summarizes the theology that will be taught in our classrooms and during chapel. Students at WLHS are expected to be willing learners of God's Word. You will be expected to respect the theology taught at WLHS and to respect those who teach and lead, even if you do not believe exactly what WLHS teaches. You will be expected not to discredit or invalidate the theology taught at WLHS or live in blatant disregard for the moral principles of the school.

A key component of the mission of our school, "to use the Word of God to prepare youth as disciples of Christ," is to teach youth to obey everything God commands in His Word. As a student here you will be expected to conform your life to the values of God's Word. Specifically...

- that God's Word describes the human body as a temple. The underage use of alcohol and the use of illegal drugs is a violation of civil law as well as God's law. WLHS prohibits the presence and use of alcohol or drugs on campus at any time.
- that God's Word protects people's wellbeing. Bullying and violence, theft and destruction of property, gossip and slander are all contrary to God's will and are damaging to the harmony of life together under God. WLHS prohibits this type of behavior, while instead, promoting, as God's Word encourages, a life of integrity and honesty in relationships.



- that God’s Word reserves sexual intercourse for the marriage of one man and one woman, as his gift and for the sake of families. The Bible condemns as sin premarital sex and the trivializing of God’s gift of sex in pornography, sexually aggressive behavior, sexual harassment, and homosexual acts. WLHS prohibits these behaviors and advocating for these behaviors.

WLHS recognizes that all students have a sinful human nature and, therefore, may fail to live out God’s moral expectation consistently. The Christian walk is about forgiveness and restoration. We approach discipline, above all, as a matter of sin and forgiveness. The goal of all disciplinary interactions is for the student to acknowledge his/her sin and to seek forgiveness from those who have been wronged, as well as from their Heavenly Father. For Jesus’ sake, forgiveness is freely given.

Vital to Christian discipline is accountability. Student at WLHS will see themselves as accountable to God, to civil authority, and to the school’s administration in accord with this statement of understanding. Students will also see themselves as accountable to each other. In this Christian community people both give and receive correction as well as encouragement in the spirit of Christian love and support.

WLHS expects you to be open about any of your student’s past difficulties with behavior as well as any court-related judgments for breaking the law or other police actions. Failure to disclose this at the time of registration will be viewed as grounds for dismissal.

The Parent & Student Handbook states consequences for violations of WLHS policy, for the good of the whole community and for the personal spiritual growth of violators. Disciplinary actions, too, are issued out of Christian concern for students. Students and families are expected to respect decisions made by WLHS administration in regards to disciplinary actions, even in cases of disagreement.

Students may be encouraged to transfer to another high school if it becomes apparent that their convictions and lifestyles are contrary to the beliefs and values outlined in this document, the Parent & Student Handbook, and the “We Believe, Teach, and Confess” statement. Students may be dismissed from WLHS when there is an unwillingness to live under the will of God in this statement of understanding. WLHS faithfully works with students who may be wrestling with their beliefs and moral values. However, when a student’s position persists or hardens in opposition to the school’s mission and convictions, honesty and love dictate that they discontinue their enrollment at WLHS.

## **What WLHS Desires For You**

West Lutheran High School sincerely desires that students grow in the grace and knowledge of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We desire that students develop their gifts and abilities and they use their time at WLHS to help discover future plans that God has for their lives. We desire that students learn how to witness their faith to others, prepare for post-secondary education or meaningful work experiences, and become faithful Christian leaders in their families and communities. All of the academic and extra-curricular programs offered are intended to accomplish these things.

**By signing below you indicate your willingness to participate in the WLHS community as is described above. May God bless our relationship according to His will.**

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Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_