

SUMMER
EDITION

VOL. 74
2024

WESTNEWS

M A G A Z I N E

ROOTED
in
LOVE

Ephesians 3:17-19

West Lutheran High School
WLHS.NET

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There are new faces around campus

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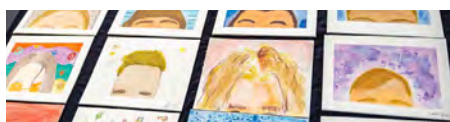
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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Ephesians 3:17-19: "...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Our theme passage for the 2023-2024 school year comes from these words from Ephesians, and serves as a unifying message for our entire Twin Cities Metro Conference. Through these words, we hope to build a student body that, rooted in God's love, in turn shows that love to one another.

The 2023-2024 school year had a student body of 212 students, with our freshman class starting the year with a record of 70 students. We are hoping through data we have collected to have an enrollment nearing 230 students in the next three years.

Due to the growing enrollment we experienced this year, West added two teachers giving us 17 teachers total. Tony Perry joined us serving in our social studies department and Max Holmes joined us from MLC in the science/STEM department. At the end of this 2023-2024 school year, Dr. Susan Decker moved on from West to accept a call to teach English at Martin Luther College and Rev. Jon Ladner has retired.

On April 13, West held its annual gala fundraiser with the theme "Mastering Education," which celebrated the school's 45th anniversary. The event brought in over \$154,000 to be used for construction of a 30x60 transportation garage and storage facility.

We pray that God continues to bless West Lutheran High School in the future as richly as He has in the past!



DAVE GARTNER

West Lutheran High School
Principal

PEOPLE TO NOTE IN 2024

Board of Regents Chairman
Pastor Josh Mayer
pastorjmayer@gmail.com

Principal
Dave Gartner
dgartner@westlutheran.net

Vice Principal
Jason Hahn
jhahn@westlutheran.net

Dean of Students
Nathan Veach
nveach@westlutheran.net

Creative Director
Jennifer Olson
jeolson@westlutheran.net

NEW FACES AROUND CAMPUS



Maxwell Holmes
STEM, Science
New In 2023



Tony Perry
Geography, History
New In 2023



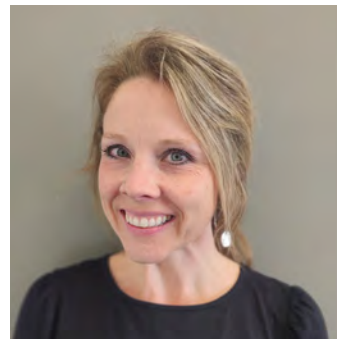
Rev. Bruce Janisch
Mission Advancement
New In 2024



Nancy Mischke
Mission Advancement
New In 2024



Rev. Isaac Cherney
Campus Pastor
New In 2024



Jennifer Olson
Creative Director
New In 2024



Rachel Olson
Educational Support
New In 2024



Autumn Class
Educational Support
New In 2024

BITTERSWEET GOODBYE



Dr. Susan Decker
2013-2024

Congratulations on your new position at Martin Luther College as their English Professor!



Rev. Jonathan Ladner
2002-2024

Thank you for your service and dedication to West Lutheran! Happy Retirement!



Becca Figueroa
2023-2024

We are going to miss your big heart and multi-tasking skills! Well wishes for the next chapter in your story.



*When you see these new faces around school be sure to **welcome** them! Our faculty and staff are a precious gift to our students. It is also hard to say **goodbye** to some of our favorite people! They will be truly missed.
Sincerely,
Your West Family*

EVENTS.

PITCH N'DAYS

Wise Penny Thrift Shoppe

The 3rd annual Wise Penny and WLHS "Pitch N' Days" volunteer event was held on May 29-31! Warrior families fulfilled their volunteer hours for the Wise Penny by sorting through 331 boxes of clothing and other donated items. They sorted, priced and repackaged items to be sold at the store. This year, we added a new task: researching the value of vintage items and collectibles, particularly vintage books, pinback buttons, and Pez dispensers. Volunteers with previous eBay experience created listings on Wise Penny's eBay site to sell high-value items. What a successful year-Thank you to all the volunteers donating over 400 + hours of their time!



THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

April 8, 2024

The solar eclipse of **April 8, 2024**, also known as the **Great North American Eclipse**, was a total solar eclipse visible across a span covering parts of North America, from Mexico to Canada and crossing the contiguous United States. Mr. and Mrs. Hahm, along with Pastor Kaesmeyer, traveled with a number of West students on a mission/science trip to Greenwood, Indiana, to work with Light of Life Lutheran Church and to see the total eclipse. They had clear skies!



TOP GOLF FUN

Give To The Max

The 3rd annual Top Golf kick off event for 2023, Give to the Max, raised over \$10,000! With over 100 attendees, the event was a fun way to celebrate West Lutheran High School and enjoy some interactive golf with fellow parents and staff of our school. This event is set for November of 2024. Stay tuned for more details as you don't want to miss out on this memorable night!



THE WEST GALA

Mastering 45 years of education

The West Lutheran annual gala is our biggest fundraiser of the year and goes to support a variety of needs for the school. This year it was held at the Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park on April 13th, 2024. The theme was golf to go along with "Mastering 45 years in Education" and to follow the official Golf Masters that was happening on the same weekend! It was fun to socialize, bid, eat and enjoy everyone's company that came out to support our school. Looking ahead, the next Gala is set for April 5th. More details to come, along with a save the date reminder! Mark your calendars for the fun and fellowship!



WEST WEIGHT ROOM

Updates and Excitement

After eight months the new weight room has arrived with much excitement! The remodeled room includes updated flooring, hand painted Warrior shield logo, other wall paint and mirrors. We have added 2 new ellipticals and 2 new treadmills, as well as a multi-use weightlifting system which includes 4 bench presses, 4 squat racks and rubberized lifting plates and dumbbells. We will now have 2 sets of kettle bells for each system. In addition, we have added brand new plyo boxes, TRX bands, 4 movable benches, and 6 olympic barbells. As a result of all these upgrades, there will be more open floor space in the middle of the weight room for various core, agility, and dead lifting workout space that we didn't have before. Prayerfully these upgrades will lead to improvement of physical education classes and the entire athletic program.



TRAVEL ABROAD

Europe and Costa Rica Trips

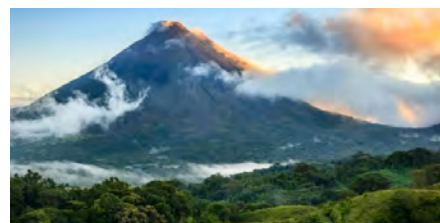
European Trip 2024: This year's West Lutheran travel abroad trip was a European WWII themed tour that went from June 3-12. The trip took us to the countries of The United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Austria. Along the way, we explored the cities of London, Paris, Munich, Nuremberg, and Salzburg. Throughout this trip we learned about the various backgrounds and the roles that each country played during World War II. Some of the highlights included exploring the famous WWII battleship HMS Belfast on the 80th anniversary of D-Day, viewing St. Paul's Cathedral, seeing the Tower of London, and the walking upon the Zeppelin Field. As we journeyed, we discovered the many sights, sounds, and tastes that these amazing European cities had to offer. From the sounds of the bustling Covent Garden in London, to tasting culinary cuisines in Paris, to watching the River surfing in Munich, many memories were made with family and friends that will last a lifetime. Stay tuned for the next European Trip offering that will be launched this September. We hope you will consider traveling with us in 2026!



Costa Rica Trip 2024: The Spanish programs from West Lutheran and St. Croix Lutheran Academy partnered up this past June 2-10 for an amazing trip to Costa Rica! God blessed the trip by keeping us healthy, safe, guiding and directing us, and by giving us great weather!

Along with 20 hours of instruction at the Intercultura Spanish Immersion School on Sámara Beach (Pacific Coast), students (along with teachers Amy Filthaut and Sarah Sauer) enjoyed home stays with Costa Rican families, authentic Costa Rican food, shopping, surfing in the Pacific Ocean, beach volleyball, beach bonfire, kayaking and snorkeling, two zip lining adventures, a night walk in the tropical jungle, seeing Mount Arenal (an active volcano) and swimming in the natural hot springs at Baldi.

We praise God for providing this awesome opportunity to our students. Not only did their Spanish-speaking abilities drastically improve, but they had a lot of experiences that will serve them well in the future.



MISSION TRIP

Utah Trip

Utah Mission Trip 2024: This year's mission trip to Logan, Utah was a great success! The theme was *Putting Faith Into Action*. The group members established new and lasting friendships with like minded Christians, discovered the satisfaction associated with planting the seeds of God's Word and gained new insight through devotions, discussions and personal experiences of engaging Mormons with the gospel.



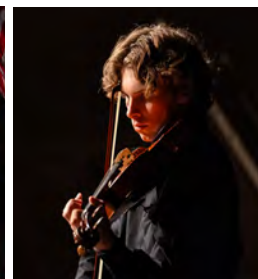
FINE ARTS.

EXPLORING TALENT BEYOND MEASURE.

S *Song. Melody. Notes. Voice. Percussion.* This past school year was an amazing one for our musical department lead by Mrs. Kari Hahm. With four concerts highlighting the musical talents of our choirs and bands, we packed the house. Our traveling choir, the Accents, visited association churches worshipping God in song and praise. Also, West students attended band fest and choral fest to learn new techniques from clinicians and perform with students from other schools.

ACCENTS, CONCERT CHOIR & BAND

Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter



GHOSTLIGHT

Fall Show



LITTLE RED

Winter Production



THE DROWSY CHAPERONE JR.

Spring Musical



D **Drama. Theater. Stage. Lights. Action.** The 2023/2024 school year was an exciting one for the West Drama Department. We offered three performance opportunities to our students. The fall show *Ghostlight*, directed by David Denninger, was a unique production that utilized traditional stage acting, live foley sound effects, as well as video recorded segments to captivate the audience's imagination, with a surprising twist at the end.

A winter production was added to our regular theater lineup. We sent 16 West students to our 6 association schools with a production of *Little Red*, a playful, comedic retelling of the classic *Little Red Ridinghood*, written and directed by Lisa Denninger, geared towards children in preschool through fourth grade.

We ended our theatrical season with the musical comedy *The Drowsy Chaperone JR.* With music led by Kari Hahm, artistic direction by Lisa Denninger, and choreography by Lexie Swenson, this unique show filled our performance space with applause and laughter. A show with pastries, bakers, gangsters, flappers, an overactive walking stick, a blindfold, roller skates, eye-rolling puns and a refrigerator - what more could you want?

ATHLETICS.

WARRIOR PROUD. WARRIOR STRONG.

BASEBALL

The Warriors baseball team made progress this year in its 2nd season after the program restart. We had 35 players in the program spread across three different teams. Our varsity team finished the season with a 5-14 record, finishing in 5th place in conference play out of 7 teams. Seniors Matt Olmanson and Shaun Larson both earned 1st team honors, and freshman Ethan Fehrenkamp earned honorable mention. With the vast majority of our players as underclassmen, we are looking forward to making strides next season.

LACROSSE

The 2024 lacrosse season was a short but sweet one! With five seniors and one junior from West Lutheran High School on the varsity roster, we dominated over the other co-op schools in playtime and both offensive and defensive talent. West Lutheran High School will have a strong presence going forward with many underclassmen playing in the future. The season ended with a bang as the varsity team won their final two conference games vs Holy Angels and Southwest Christian.

TRAP

The West Lutheran Trap Team had a great spring 2024 season. We had 21 shooters on the team, with a lot of strong scores. We had 5 "Perfect 25" rounds (25 shot out of 25 possible) this season: Conor Asleson (2x), Bennett DeRosier, Ty Dorweiler and David Fritze. The team competed in the annual Plymouth Cup and out of the 4 schools that competed, we placed 2nd with 823 out of 1000. We recognize our 2 Seniors that have graduated and had their last season with us, Ava Dale and Emily Alderman. We appreciate our sponsors and all the support!

SOCCER

Boys Varsity Soccer had a great season with a record of 3-3-2. Three varsity players received conference awards last year- Aaron Schuler, Henry Rolf, and Gabe Miest. West coaching staff is working on building a program that will be a legacy for years to come. We are looking forward to the upcoming season with new guys and an awesome Senior class to lead.

BOWLING

Both JV and Varsity did very well this year! Varsity had their best Team Average ever and because of that, they made it to State! We had 2 bowlers make the All-Conference Team- Tyler Jeska and Trevor Knight!

VOLLEYBALL

Varsity Volleyball ended their season with 2nd Place in the 4A Sections. It was a tough day of matches but the girls pushed through! Congratulations on a great season and to Rachel Voss who won coach of the year!

FOOTBALL

The co-op football team, the Providence Lions, 3-7-0 overall record.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross Country team had a great year. The boys had a very successful season and won conference, sections and state! They are back to back state champions! The girls also had an awesome season. They won the conference championship and had several PR's during the season.

TRACK AND FIELD

Track and Field had a successful 2024 season! The program continues to grow with a record of 42 students participating in track and field. Six athletes were named all-conference and two were all-conference honorable mention. In addition, two runners qualified for the state meet. Jack Nelson qualified in the 1600m (Finished in 6th place) and 3200m races and Jake Pfothenauer qualified in the 1600m. The team also succeeded at the school and academic level- they broke 13 school records in relays and individual events. Also, both girls and boys teams achieved the Academic All-State Gold Award with an average GPA of 3.75 or higher. God continues to bless the West Lutheran student-athletes as they achieve in school and on the track.

HOCKEY

Six West Lutheran students participated in a co-op with Providence Academy Lions Hockey for the 23/24 Boys High School Hockey season. The Lions play in the very competitive metro Section 2A of the MSHSL. Season highlights included traveling to Warroad, MN to participate in the Hockeytown Holiday Classic and winning the Section 2A quarterfinal game. The Lions concluded their season with a 11-15-0 record.

SOFTBALL

The West Lutheran Softball team recently ended a historic season. The team won the Section 4A tournament to qualify for their first ever state tournament, winning Fourth place overall! To add on to the achievements - Coach, Ashley Beise, earned the Section 4A Coach of the Year and Pitcher Eleanor Rolf made the All-State Tournament team! Congrats to the whole team!

ROBOTICS

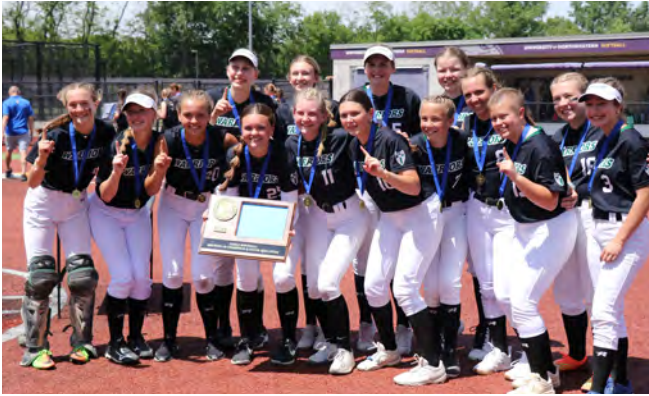
At the State Championship in February, our West Lutheran Robotics team, The Aluminum Warriors, brought home the Judges' Choice Award and a Nano Division Finalist Award. We also had two students, Connor Weibeseck and Nate Speidel, qualify as finalists for the Stratasys Scholarship which covers 3D Printing, Coding, Engineering, and Project Leadership. Connor Weibeseck walked away with a Stratasys Scholarship for the Coding Award which he also won last year!

BOYS BASKETBALL

Boys Varsity Basketball made it to the Section Championship! Though it was a loss against Heritage, we were able to walk away with Section 4A Second Place! Senior Isaiah Ronning broke the West Lutheran All-Time Leading Scorer school record of 1,749 by scoring a 3 point shot in the early minutes of the game vs. Parnassus on February 26th.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Girls Varsity Basketball team finished 4th in the MCAA with a 14-14 record overall. In the game against Liberty Classical Academy on the 21st, Marissa Tusler broke the West Lutheran Girls Varsity school record for the most points in a single season with 502 points. Congratulations Marissa!



CLASS OF 2024

CLASS VERSE: "SURELY YOUR GOODNESS AND LOVE WILL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER." PSALM 23:6



VALEDICTORIAN
BRENNA ANTONSON



SALUTATORIAN
SHAWN BARE

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY THAT HE SHOULD GO

We are so proud of the 2024 West Graduates! Each one has chosen a path that leads to great things. We will be praying for you! Blessings and Grace,
Your West Family

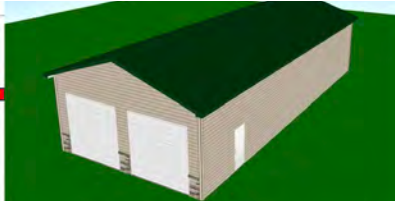


STEPS AHEAD.

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT.

West's enrollment continues to grow and storage and transportation have been stretched to the limits. Various items for West programming have spilled into hallways, posing potential security and safety risks. Additionally, our current bus is parked outside, which leaves it exposed to the harsh elements. In late 2023, a contact in the transportation industry provided the opportunity to upgrade our current bus and add a second bus. The buses are scheduled to arrive at West in **August 2024!**

This summer, we plan to construct a 30x60 transportation garage and storage facility to the east of our baseball field. It will be called the **WARRIOR DEPOT**. This new building will not only house our expanded bus fleet and outdoor equipment, but also provide additional cold storage for various departments, clearing clutter and freeing up valuable space within the school.



2024 FUNDRAISING STATS

Thank You!

SUSTAINABILITY FUND RAISED

87,000

THE WLHS GALA RAISED

120,000

GIVE TO THE MAX RAISED

53,000



The West Lutheran Legacy

continues with you!

DONATIONS will go to help the following

OPERATIONAL
NEEDS

BUILDING
IMPROVEMENTS

MARKETING &
RECRUITMENT

SUSTAINABILITY
FUND

SCHOLARSHIPS &
TUITION ASSISTANCE

MISSION
ADVANCEMENT

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Email: _____

Association Church Membership: _____

Alumni or related to? Graduating Class: _____

Email Me News and Events about WLHS _____

Please Make Checks payable to: WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

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Acct # _____ CVV _____ Exp Date _____

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wlhs.net/giving



3350 Harbor Lane North
Plymouth MN 55447

UPCOMING DATES

8/7/24 - ORIENTATION NIGHT

8/19/24- FRESHMAN FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

8/20/24- GRADES 10-12 START DAY

10/7/24- HOMECOMING WEEK

10/27/24- FALL CONCERT

**SCHOOL EVENTS
CALENDAR
@ WLHS.NET**