



# THE WARRIOR WITNESS

August 2023

## WELCOME BACK WARRIORS!

### A message from our Headmaster

Dear WHCS Family,

It is hard to believe that another school year is upon us. I hope and pray that everyone enjoyed a blessed and relaxing summer. While everyone has been away, we have been getting the building ready for the arrival of our students. I sincerely appreciate all our summer and custodial staff who have worked hard to prepare the building for this upcoming school year.

I look forward to seeing our students and parents return to WHCS for the 2023-2024 school year. When you return, many of you will be happy to see a brand-new shade-covering system for the front of the school. This addition should give our students and teachers some relief from the hot Florida sun. I am thankful that God has provided us with a state-of-the-art campus to house our school. While it is not the most glamorous part of the building, I often jokingly say that my favorite part is the foundation. This is because if your building has a weak foundation, it doesn't matter what the rest of the building looks like. Truthfully, I don't often think about the school's foundation, but I don't need to because I know it is solid.

Foundations are also crucial in our Christian walk. In Matthew 7, Jesus says, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." At Winter Haven Christian School, I promise you that we build our curriculum based on the foundation of God's Word, the Bible. The importance of Biblical worldview is vital in this world of ours. I am thankful that you have entrusted your child to us in this endeavor. Here is to a great 2023-2024!

In His Service,

Joseph T. Klein Ed.D Candidate (ABD)

# LOOK

## What's New!



# FROM OUR PRINCIPALS

Here we go!! Another blessed year at WHCS!

I am so excited to have the life back in the school....which is our students! May God bless and guide us as we honor Him this year and learn more about trusting Him! I look forward to growing together as a Family in Christ!

**Jeanette Venable, Elementary Principal**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6



As your child begins another year at WHCS, I am sure you are taking a moment to reflect and wonder "Where has the time gone?" As this picture of our little graduate reminds us, they will have completed their high school career in the blink of an eye.

We are excited to be on this journey with you to lay a solid Biblical foundation for your child.

Welcome new WARRIORS and welcome back WARRIOR Nation. We pray for all our families as we look to God for peace in these days. Christ Is My Firm Foundation,

**Jeannette R. Williams**

**MS/HS Principal & 9th Grade Bible Teacher**



# HELLO!

## Meet Our New Elementary Staff

BACK TO  
School

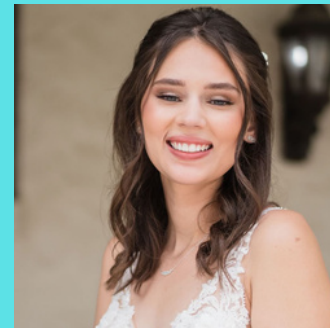


### Jordan Kelley: Preschool

This is Jordan's second year at Winter Haven Christian and she is so excited for a new year and a new position at WHCS! After being a stay at home mom for several years, Jordan decided to go back to work. What better place than being here with her own children!

Last year she served in the clinic and the cafeteria and this year she will be starting a new journey in preschool. When Jordan isn't working she enjoys traveling to new places and loves being outdoors, especially offshore fishing with her family.

She has been married to her husband Tyler for 9 years and they have 2 sons together, Hollice and Harrison. She is a proud member of Westwood Missionary Baptist Church and she can't wait to see what God has in store for her and all of the children at WHCS this year!



### Caitlyn Fowler: Kindergarten

Caitlyn Fowler grew up in Nebraska, but just got married and moved to Florida. She is 22 years old and attends Northridge Baptist Church. She's wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember. Fowler has been working with children in one way or another for the last six years.

When she's not teaching she enjoys reading, playing golf and going to theme parks. Teaching at Winter Haven Christian is really important to her because she wants to be able to openly share her faith with her students. A verse that has really impacted her life is Joshua 1:9



# HELLO!

## Tracy Braisted: Preschool

Tracy Braisted has been married to Patrick for 12 years this September. She graduated from Polk State College and worked with the Polk County School Board for 12 years mostly with the Special Ed department. She also coached PE and worked as a CDAT for VPK.

Tracy loves decorating for the holidays and attending craft shows. She also enjoys shopping at thrift stores for bargains. Her favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13 and her favorite song right now is “Thank God I Do” by Lauren Daigle.



## Rachel Minter: 5th Grade

Rachel Minter has been married for 22 awesome years to her best friend Jason Minter. God has blessed them with six beautiful children ages 19 to 6. They attend First Presbyterian Church Haines City where Jason serves as Senior Pastor.

Rachel is a Florida native from Panama City. She earned her BA in Christian Counseling from The Baptist College of Florida and an MS in Counseling and Psychology from Troy University. She has worked in education as a teacher and a counselor in the public, private and homeschool settings for the past 20 years.

Her hobbies are exploring new places with her family, reading and cooking. Her favorite verse is Zephaniah 3:17 which “gives a wonderful picture of the kindness and love of God our Father in drawing us into His powerful presence by His grace,” she said.





# HELLO!

## Meet Our New MS/HS Staff



I was saved at the age of seven as a result of the vacation Bible school ministry in my home church in New Jersey. Following high school, I attended Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. It was while attending BJU that I was challenged through the Word of God to be open to the ministerial call. During this time, God made it clear to me that He wanted me to serve Him in some capacity. It was during those years that I surrendered to God's call to the ministry.

I have served in ministry in various capacities from youth pastor to senior pastor. Most of my experience, however, is in Christian schools. In total, between teaching and administration, it's been my privilege to serve in the Christian school ministry for 37 years.

My wife, Michelle, and I were married July 18, 1981 at First Baptist Church in Troy, Michigan. We have five children. Our daughter Beth is a travel nurse and is currently stationed in Atlanta, Georgia. Brandon currently serves as a youth pastor and assistant pastor at Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. Brandon and his wife Jessica have three children, Colton, Alaina, and Makayla. Bryce, along with his wife Jaynie, currently serves as discipleship pastor of a church plant in Durham, North Carolina. Brett lives in Florida and works in the secular field. Our last child, Bradley also lives in Florida and works in the film industry.

I am happy to join the WHCS staff this year. I look forward to what the Lord will do in the lives of students in which we serve.

### **Ron Hamilton** **Middle School Bible**

I was born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and raised right here in Winter Haven. After graduating from Winter Haven High School, I attended Saint Leo College and played baseball. I graduated from Warner Southern with a degree in Education and began my teaching and coach career.

After 20 years of teaching and coaching, an opportunity to work in the construction field was placed in my path. Currently I am a Construction Manager for Highland Homes and am looking forward to teaching again at WHCS and hope to inspire students to seek a path in the construction industry. I have been blessed to have an amazing wife, Veronica, and also have five children that range in age from 14 to 20 years old.

### **Cliff Bard** **Construction Academy**



# HELLO!

Hello, my name is Amy Etheridge. I am excited to be joining the WHCS team as the Middle School History teacher! I got my BA in Educational Studies from Warner University. I am a proud member of Heartland Church in Winter Haven, Florida. I have been in education as a substitute teacher since 2016 and have been a teacher since 2020 in both public and private school settings. My hobbies include reading, hiking, and camping. My favorite verse in the Bible is Psalm 23 as it is a constant reminder of God's presence in our lives. I cannot wait for the school year to begin!



**Amy Etheridge**  
**MS History**

Stace Alcalá is a seasoned science instructor with 20+ years in Christian education. His primary areas of instruction include Anatomy/Physiology, Biology, and Forensic Sciences. With 30+ years in high school science and 14 years at the collegiate level, his passion for God's Creation can easily be viewed when walking into the classroom. His areas of interest include skeletal rearticulation, hydroponics gardening and flats fishing in the Gulf. After nearly 40 years of marriage to the favored high school history instructor, Sheri Alcalá, he is now only 46 steps from her classroom door!



**Stace Alcalá**  
**HS Science & STEM Academy**

Greetings! My name is Eric Sheely and I am joining Winter Haven Christian School as the new middle school math teacher. I met my wonderful wife, Marissa, at our church, Faith Baptist and we've been happily married for almost 11 years. I graduated from the school of Engineering at the University of Florida with a degree in Digital Arts and Science. I have worked at Universal Orlando for the past 14 years and recently felt GOD guiding me down this new career path. I am an avid runner and love Legos and camping. I am thrilled to become a member of the Warrior family!



**Eric Sheely**  
**MS Math**

# THINGS TO KNOW

## MS/HS policy

### OUTERWEAR & PE DRESS

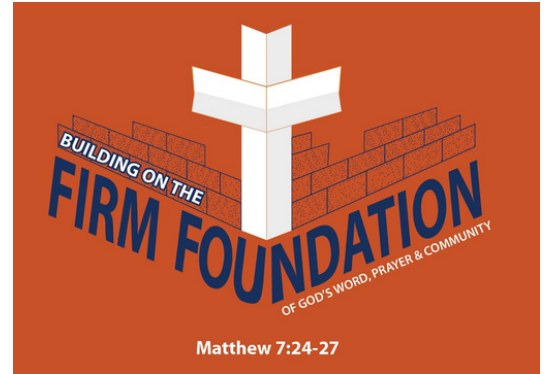
PE dress is required for 6th-9th graders who are taking PE.

- **SHORTS:** Solid blue(royal/navy), black or gray fingertip length athletic shorts. No spandex or leggings.
- **SHIRTS:** Solid blue(royal/navy), black or gray t-shirt w/ no words on it or a MS/HS spirit t-shirt.


Only outerwear ordered from WHCS can be worn.

### NO PHONE ZONE

Upon arrival on campus, all personal electronic devices, including smart watches, and phones must be turned off and stored in the student's backpack. Once inside the building, all students are required to check in and secure all phones and/or smart devices into the Phone and Smart Device Locker located at the Middle School/High School entrance. (Smart watches are considered watches that can be paired to a phone or have a SIM card allowing them to send/receive texts, data, or any type of communication.) Any phone or smart device found on campus will result in demerits and a possible suspension for the offense. Once the school day has concluded, the students will return back to the Phone and Smart Device Locker to check out their units. At this point, students will keep their devices off and will stow them in their backpack while on campus. Once again, failure to comply with this policy will result in demerit(s) and possible suspension being issued for the offense.




Our middle/high school theme for the 2023-24 school year.



**WINTER HAVEN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
**LUNCH MENU**  
2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR


<b>MON</b>	Publix Subs: *Ham & Cheese* *Turkey & Cheese* *Roast Beef & Cheese*	
<b>TUE</b>	Culver's *Hamburger *Cheeseburger *2 Chicken tenders *Grilled Cheese	Small Meals: \$5.00 Large Meals: \$5.50
<b>WED</b>	Cici's: *Salad w/ Dressing^^ *Pasta Marinara *Pasta Alfredo	
<b>THUR</b>	Chick-Fil-A: *Chicken Nuggets *1/2 Grilled Chicken wrap *Regular Sandwich *Spicy Sandwich *Mac & Cheese	
<b>FRI</b>	Pizza Hut **Cheese Pizza **Pepperoni Pizza	

Small meals include 1 snack and a drink. Large meals include 2 snacks and a drink.  
^^Salad includes 2 cheesy breads.  
\*\*Additional options are on FACTS



*Change in Policy for Delivered Lunches*

**Delivered Lunches: Families who have their child's lunch delivered to the school via services like Door Dash or Uber Eats, must ensure that the lunch is paid for and delivered to the main office on time. If the lunch is delivered to the school after their child's designated lunch period is over, the student will not be allowed to eat the meal in their classroom and may have to go without lunch for that day. For this reason, WHCS discourages the practice of having a child's lunch delivered. (From page 23 of the WHCS 2023-2024 General Handbook)**



# WARRIOR SPORTS

## Come Cheer On Our Warriors!!

### CROSS COUNTRY



Aug. 19 - FCA CC Preseason Invitational @ Lake Minneola HS  
Aug. 26 - Jim Ryun FCA Invitational @ Holloway Park  
Sept. 2 - George Whitmire Invitational @ Lake Region HS  
Sept. 9 - Frostproof Invitational @ Frostproof Elementary

### BOYS VARSITY FLAG FOOTBALL



Aug. 25 - Vs. Classical Christian School of the Arts @ Home  
Aug. 31 - Vs. Legacy Christian Academy - Away  
Sept. 5 - Excel Christian Academy @ Home  
Sept. 8 - Classical Christian - Away  
Sept. 12 - Genesis Prep @ Home

### GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 17 - Geneva @ Home  
Aug. 18 - Life Christian Academy @ Home  
Aug. 22 - Oasis Christian @ Home  
Aug. 24 - Excel Christian Academy - Away  
Aug. 25 - Hillsborough Baptist - Away  
Aug. 31 - Life Christian Academy - Away  
Sept. 5 - Candlelight Christian @ Home  
Sept. 7 - Solid Rock Community @ Home  
Sept. 12 - Families Instructing Students  
Homeschool - Away



### GIRLS JV VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 17 - Geneva @ Home  
Aug. 18 - Life Christian Academy @ Home  
Aug. 31 - Life Christian Academy - Away  
Sept. 5 - Candlelight Christian @ Home  
Sept. 7 - Solid Rock @ Home  
Sept. 11 - Mulberry Christian @ Home  
Sept. 12 - Families Instructing Students  
Homeschool - Away



### GOLF

Sept. 11 - Jenkins Invitational @ Eaglebrook Golf Club  
Sept 19 - All Saints Invitational @ San Lan Course

### EXCITING NEWS!

- New WHCS Athletics Facebook page
- Inaugural year for WHCS Flag Football
- New uniforms for all Varsity sports teams
- WHCS Volleyball will host the CFAC State Championship Tournament Oct. 26th-28th!



# REMINDERS

## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

Equipping Students,  
Changing Lives,  
Impacting the Community



## **Dates to Remember:**

August 9 - First Day of School

August 15 - Booster Club Bash @ 6 p.m.

August 15 - MS English Preview with Mrs. Windham  
2:30 p.m or 5:30 p.m.

August 21 - Yearbook Photos

August 23 - Vision & Hearing Checks

Vision: K5, 1st, 3rd, 6th

BMI: 1st, 3rd, 5th

Hearing: K5, 1st, 6th

August 28-Sept. 1 - Elementary MAP Testing

August 30 - MS/HS Fall Pep Rally

Sept. 1 - Early Release

Sept. 4- No School Labor Day

Sept. 5-8 - MS/HS MAP Testing

Sept 11-15 - Book Fair

Sept. 11-15 - MS/HS Spiritual Emphasis Week

Sept. 14 - MS Retreat

Sept. 15 - HS Retreat/Preschool&Elem - Grandparents Day

**Follow our social media pages!**

**Facebook: Winter Haven Christian School**

**WHCS Athletics**

**Instagram: @whcswarriors**