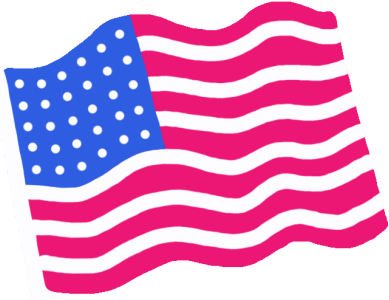




# THE WARRIOR WITNESS

November 2023

## We Salute Our Veterans!



Our annual event to honor our Veterans was a big success with a record turnout!



# Thank You WHCS Veterans



Matthew Rice has been at WHCS for two years in the Computer Lab helping students grow in their knowledge of technology. Mr. Rice enlisted in the Navy in Cleveland, Ohio in 1983. He soon was stationed in Florida where he went to college and enrolled into the Navy's Nuclear Power Program. He became a Machinist Mate on a submarine and was sent overseas to Italy for two and half years.

He was on a submarine sailing around the Mediterranean Sea. He visited many countries including Israel, Greece, and Tunisia. Mr. Rice says that "Israel was the most wonderful place I ever went to." He saw many places where it is believed that Jesus and his disciples once visited. He encourages everyone to pray for that wonderful country.

In 1989, Mr. Rice left the Navy and met the woman who is now his wife. They moved to Ohio where Mr. Rice finished college and earned a job working for Allstate Insurance. After traveling all over the country for his job, he decided to retire and move to Florida. Thank you Mr. Rice for your service!

-- By WHCS Sophomore Raija Fiskum



Officer Derrick Doles is a former Navy Military Personnel. Officer Doles had a scholarship to go to Troy State University after high school, but he declined the offer because his parents wanted him to go to a different college. Instead, Doles ended up going into the Navy to learn discipline and to be a part of their track team.

Officer Doles was in the military for four years and he continued to be on the Navy's track team. His favorite part about being in the military were the friendships he made with multiple people. He says that all the guys he was friends with in the Navy had one goal: "We all had one mission in mind: to keep our country safe." Another thing Officer Doles enjoyed most while in the military was traveling. Thank you for your service Officer Doles!

--By WHCS Sophomore Kennedy Kivi



What is a Veteran? Many people would simply say “someone who has served in the military.” Honestly, that phrase is a serious understatement. Eric Graham, Athletic Director at Winter Haven Christian School, knows exactly what a Veteran is.

Veterans are “people who saw the country bigger than themselves. They are people who wrote a blank check to defend this country at all costs.”

Graham joined the Army in 1994 at 19 years old. He served six years, primarily deployed in the Continental United States as well as some other locations.

“I had always thought about joining the Army because my Dad was in the Army. I had almost joined the Marine Corps, but they told me that I would have to be on a ship for 6 months and I do not like ships, so the Army it was. I was always taught by my father to always be willing to do what is right and needed. I felt that it was right for me to serve a cause bigger than me.”

Graham served in the 2nd Infantry Division, 2nd Armored Division and the 4th Infantry Division. Veterans Day is a day when we can recognize that those brave men and women said to the face of the enemy, “you have to go through me.”

He grew up in Lakeland and graduated from Lakeland Senior High School. This is his fifth school year at WHCS. Thank you for your service Mr. Graham!

**-- By WHCS Sophomore Hezekiah Villnueva**

# ELEMENTARY

## WE LOVE OUR LOCAL PASTORS!



## RED RIBBON WEEK WAS A BLAST!



# WARRIOR SPORTS

WHCS JV & Varsity Volleyball  
Are 2023 CFAC Tournament  
Champions!



Follow us on  
Instagram  
& Facebook:  
@whcssports  
WHCS Athletics



# WARRIOR SPORTS



## Basketball



**Boy's Varsity:** 11/16 @ Crossroads Christian  
11/28 @ All Saints  
11/30 vs. RLCA  
12/1 @ MBLA  
12/7 @ Excel Christian  
12/8 @ Oasis Christian  
12/11 @ Geneva Classical  
12/12 vs. Ridge Christian  
12/14 vs. Excel Christian

**Boy's JV:** 11/16 @ Crossroads Christian  
11/30 vs. RLCA  
12/4 @ TBA  
12/7 @ Excel Christian  
12/11 @ Geneva Classical  
12/12 vs. Ridge Christian  
12/14 vs Excel Christian

**Boy's Middle School:** 11/30 @ TBA  
12/1 @ TBA  
12/7 vs. TBA

**Girl's Varsity:** 11/28 @ All Saints Academy  
11/30 vs. RLCA  
12/1 @ MBLA  
12/4 @ TBA  
12/7 @ Excel Christian  
12/8 @ Oasis Christian  
12/11 @ Geneva Classical  
12/14 vs Excel Christian

# WARRIOR SPORTS



Maggie Morrisey joined cross country two years ago because of her father. The fact that her father did cross country when he was younger really inspired her to see where the sport would take her. Morrisey's friends also encouraged her to join the team. Her favorite part about cross country is the competition because no matter what happens out on the course the team is very encouraging and they push each other to do their best. However, cross country is not all fun and games. Morrisey, an 8th grader, said that her least favorite part about cross country is: "Training in the heat, especially here in Florida. It gets really hot in the summer months."

Morrisey's ultimate goal is to place top three in a varsity race. But this season wasn't the easiest for Morrisey. Early this season, she injured the growth plate in her hip. The injury developed over time because of constant activity. It was treated with six weeks of physical therapy, a lot of rest and no hard activity.

## ***CROSS COUNTRY***

### ***RUNNER READY TO COME BACK***

### ***STRONGER NEXT SEASON***

Morrisey said she was disappointed she could not run with her friends this season, but she was happy to see cross country from a new angle and cheer on her teammates. She was excited to heal and was able to run the last race of the season.

Morrisey intends to take cross country with her into college. She wants to use her skill set in cross country to gain scholarships. She also just really enjoys running and doesn't want to stop competing. Nevertheless, cross country is not the only sport Morrisey enjoys. Morrisey also participates in archery, cheer, dance, and Morrisey will be joining track and field for her first season this spring. She is looking forward to returning to full strength next season and we are all excited to watch her reach her full potential.

-- By WHCS Sophomore Cecilia Walls

# REMINDERS

## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

Equipping Students,  
Changing Lives,  
Impacting the Community



## Dates to Remember:

- Nov. 15 - Great American Teach In (Elementary)
- Nov. 16 - 5th Grade the Way Center
- Nov. 17 - Elementary Walk of Thanksgiving
- Nov. 17 - MS/HS Service Field Trips
- Nov. 17 - Early Release
- Nov. 20-25 - Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 28 - Construction Academy to Manning Building Supply
- Nov. 29 - MS/HS Winter Pep Rally
- Dec. 2 - Carols in the Park
- Dec. 7 - Preschool/Elem Christmas Program
- Dec. 15 - Kindergarten to WH Extended Care Center
- Dec. 15 - Early Release
- Dec. 18 - Jan. 2 - Christmas Break
- Jan. 3 - Students and Teachers Return
- Jan. 8-12 MS/HS Spirit Week
- Jan. 11 - HS Community Service Hours Due
- Jan. 12 - Homecoming Game
- Jan. 12 - Early Release
- Jan. 13 - HS Homecoming Event
- Jan. 15 - No School MLK Day



**Follow our social media pages!**

**Facebook: Winter Haven Christian School**

**Instagram: @whcswarriors**