

WESTERN CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

2026-2027 NEW PARENT HANDBOOK



WE'VE GATHERED ANSWERS TO MANY OF THE QUESTIONS WE HEAR FROM NEW WOLFPACK FAMILIES. WE HOPE THIS GUIDE HELPS YOU FEEL PREPARED FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR. IF YOU STILL HAVE QUESTIONS, WE'RE ONLY A PHONE CALL OR EMAIL AWAY.

WELCOME TO THE PACK!

WOLFPACK SUPPORT SERVICES

ABBY VANDEN BOSCH, School Social Worker
ABBY.VANDENBOSCH@WESTERNCHRISTIANHS.COM

Western Christian's on-campus licensed social worker supports students facing mental health and social-emotional challenges that may impact their success. She partners with families, school staff, and outside providers to ensure coordinated care while helping students access school and community resources that support their overall well-being.

MEGAN KOOIMA, Director of the Learning Center
MEGAN.KOOIMA.LC@WESTERNCHRISTIANHS.COM

As Director of the Learning Center, Megan helps students discover their God-given strengths and reach their academic potential. She supports goal setting, study skills, and confidence in learning, while also assisting with homework, test preparation, and entrance exams. Megan provides accommodations for students with learning differences to ensure every student has the tools to succeed.

MOLLY KHANG, Guidance Counselor
MOLLY.KHANG@WESTERNCHRISTIANHS.COM

Western's guidance counselor, Molly, is a licensed mental health counselor who supports students' academic and personal growth. She supports students as they plan for their future through college and career exploration, financial aid guidance, and assistance with scheduling, registration, and graduation requirements.

KAREN CHRISTIANS, Director of Discipleship
KAREN.CHRISTIANS@WESTERNCHRISTIANHS.COM

Karen serves as Director of Discipleship at Western Christian, welcoming new students and connecting them to the Western Christian community. She coordinates chapels and Faithpacks to create meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth on campus. Karen is also the primary resource for spiritual support and concerns for students both on and off campus.

WAYLON POLLEMA, Director of Student Support & Campus Safety
WAYLON.POLLEMA@WESTERNCHRISTIANHS.COM

Waylon is committed to fostering trust, building relationships, and cultivating mutual respect among students while proactively addressing challenges that impact our school community. Above all, he is dedicated to promoting a safe, supportive, and Christ-centered environment for our community.

THE PACK LEADERSHIP

BRIAN VERWOLF
HEAD ADMINISTRATOR

BRAD VIS
MISSION ADVANCEMENT

JUSTIN NEGEN
CHIEF OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS

SHAWN DeSTIGTER
JumpSTART ADMINISTRATOR

TRAVIS KOOIMA
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

DEREK KEIZER
ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

KATHY MOUW
OFFICE MANAGER

CONNIE GREVENGOED
BUSINESS MANAGER

THE HEART BEHIND WESTERN CHRISTIAN

ACADEMIC SUPPORT
DIANA KOOIMA
JOSIE VAN GINKEL
AGRICULTURE/FFA
AUBREY VAN BRIESEN
ART
KARINDA de BOOM

BIBLE
KAREN CHRISTIANS
DRAFTING
MARK FENCHEL
ENGLISH
WILLIAM ARANAS JR.
GEOGRAPHY
AUSTIN VAN VLECK

MATHEMATICS
LESLEY CHACHERE
JOE DIRKSEN
MARY DIRKSEN
SETH LEWISON
MUSIC
BRITTANY POTO
AMIE SMIT

MUSIC
LYLE VAN RAVENSWAAY
P.E./HEALTH
KATIE REITSMA
PHYSICAL SCIENCE
MAX WOLGEN
SPANISH
WENDI MINDERHOUND

DROP IN FOR A VISIT

Our office is open on Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM. Kathy Mouw, our Office Manager, is available at (712) 439-1013 to help answer questions or connect you with the right person if needed.

ATTENDANCE MADE EASY

To better serve students and keep accurate attendance records, please report all absences by emailing attendance@westernchristianhs.com or calling the front office. Your cooperation helps our office manage attendance efficiently and ensures all details are accurately recorded.

If your child will be absent:

- Please notify the school by emailing attendance@westernchristianhs.com or calling 712-439-1013.
- The student should stop by the office to pick up an absence slip.
- Before leaving, the student must show the slip to each teacher to gather missed assignments, tests, or important information.
- Assignments and tests should be completed before the absence as directed by the teacher.

If your child needs to leave during the school day:

- A parent/guardian must notify the school by phone or email.
- The student must check out through the office by completing the checkout sheet.
- Students are also responsible for filling out their attendance card for any missed time.

For co-curricular or class-related absences:

- No absence slip is needed.
- Students are still expected to check with their teachers before leaving.

USING THE JMC PORTAL

After registration, your freshman student will receive their own JMC username and password. Your family will receive a separate login as well to access JMC; if you can't find your login information or need help getting into the system, just reach out to the office—we're happy to help! **We encourage you to check JMC regularly to stay up to date on hot lunch balances, tuition and fee accounts, and progress reports/report cards, and you can also opt in to helpful email or text reminders for things like low lunch balances, missing or late assignments, and weather-related delays or school closures.**

BUSSING COMMUNICATIONS

If you signed up for bussing, your bus driver will contact you soon with their information. Please use that communication to notify them of any days or times your student will not need pickup or drop-off.

CHECK DROP-OFF BOX

If you selected monthly tuition payments during July registration, you're welcome to use the secure drop box located in the school office for tuition and hot lunch payments. Hot lunch checks are also able to be dropped off in the office, using the same drop box.

KEEP UP WITH THE 'PACK

Did you know a quick visit to westernchristianhs.com can answer many of your questions? From daily announcements and activity calendars to lunch menus and more, everything is just a click away. Don't forget to scroll to the bottom of the homepage to sign up for the weekly **Wolfpack Edge** and follow our social media pages to stay connected.

UNPLUGGED & CONNECTED

At Western Christian, we ask students to be fully present throughout the school day. Upon arrival, students should place phones and smartwatches in their assigned slot near the front office. **Please ensure all devices are powered off before first period begins.** This process also supports accurate attendance and tardy tracking. Students are expected to pick up their devices after the final bell at the end of the day.

DRESS CODE POLICY

Students are expected to dress modestly in a way that reflects Christian standards of decency. **We encourage families to review the complete dress code together** in the Parent-Student Handbook before the school year begins. In general, the following items are not permitted:

- No offensive language, pictures, or alcohol/tobacco.
- Bare midriffs, tank tops, and other revealing shirts.
- Yoga-pant leggings must be covered by tops/sweatshirts to mid-thigh length.
- Caps, hats, stocking caps, or hoods are not permitted.
- Clothing should always be neat and clean (no holes!).
- Footwear must be worn at all school functions.
- Shorts will be permitted throughout the year; they are expected to be modest in fit and length.

LOCKERS & PARKING TAGS

Students are encouraged to keep all valuables in their assigned lockers, as **Western Christian is not responsible for lost or stolen items**, and we discourage storing valuables in locker rooms. Students who drive will receive a **parking tag** for use in student parking (north of WC/east of WC in the church lot), and failure to display the tag will result in a \$10 fine. Students will have access to their vehicles when necessary with a chaperone.

TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

The following devices are not approved for classroom use as a student's primary BYOT device, including Android tablets, Chromebooks, Windows Surface RT devices, Windows 10 Version S, or iPads. Suggested accessories include a protective case or cover, earbuds, and dual-band wireless adapters (Windows devices only). Students will also benefit from having basic school supplies such as a graphing calculator, pens, pencils, and notebooks. Folders and planners will help students stay organized and keep track of assignments and schedules. Visit the webpage under "BYOT" to see the device specifications before you buy!

BEHIND THE LUNCH LINE

Western Christian offers an excellent food service program, including daily hot lunch and before-school breakfast options. Students may purchase a full lunch along with additional entrées or sides such as fruit, bread, and milk (prices vary by item). Students who are unable to drink milk due to a medical reason may have a doctor's note on file, allowing juice as an alternative. Breakfast offerings vary daily and may include items such as breakfast pizza, breakfast burritos, muffins, yogurt parfaits, and assorted drinks. All student purchases are recorded through individual lunch accounts in JMC. We ask families to keep a positive balance in their student's account and will send reminders when balances become low. Unlike many area schools, our food service program is not government subsidized and is fully funded through hot lunch payments. Our dedicated kitchen staff works hard each day to provide delicious, nutritious, and affordable meals for our students.

ATHLETICS, CONCESSIONS & THE PACK SHACK

- Activity Directors will collect participant contact information so coaches can communicate directly with players regarding practices, games, schedule changes, and other important updates. Western Christian uses the BAND app as the primary communication tool for teams and activities.
- Activity pass options include family, individual adult, senior citizen, and single-student passes. Passes are valid for all regular-season home events. Visit Bound to purchase the option that best fits your family. All 8th grade students for the 2026–2027 school year and current WC students will receive a student pass.
- Concession stands help support activities at Western while providing convenient snack and meal options for fans. Each family with a student in athletics or music is asked to sign up for one concession shift during the year. Additional details and sign-up information will be shared in August. Thank you for supporting our activities program.
- The Pack Shack is located just inside the gym doors and is open during most indoor home events, select outdoor events, and online. All official Wolfpack gear is available through the Pack Shack.
- To stay informed on new apparel and turnaround times, follow the Pack Shack on Facebook or Instagram (@WCPackShack) for updates and new releases.

OUR GIFTS FOR HIS GLORY

- Western Christian invites each student to bring glory to God through participation in our music department. Students have a wide variety of opportunities to get involved and share their gifts through music.
- Students participating in music are expected to follow the school's dress code for performances. Additional concert attire information will be shared before the October concert.
- Please contact the music department with any questions regarding classes or activities.

STATE TOURNAMENT POLICY

Students attending a state event will receive an excused absence. If students choose to stay overnight, a Parent/Chaperone form must be completed PRIOR to departure. When Wolfpack athletics qualify for state, this form will be sent to families by email prior to the event.

EXPLORING AGRICULTURE IN FFA

Western Christian invites all students interested in agriculture to participate in our FFA Chapter. Each fall at the FFA kickoff, students and parents are encouraged to attend to learn more about opportunities, activities, and involvement in FFA. Visit the FFA webpage to stay up to date on chapter events, resources, and opportunities throughout the year!