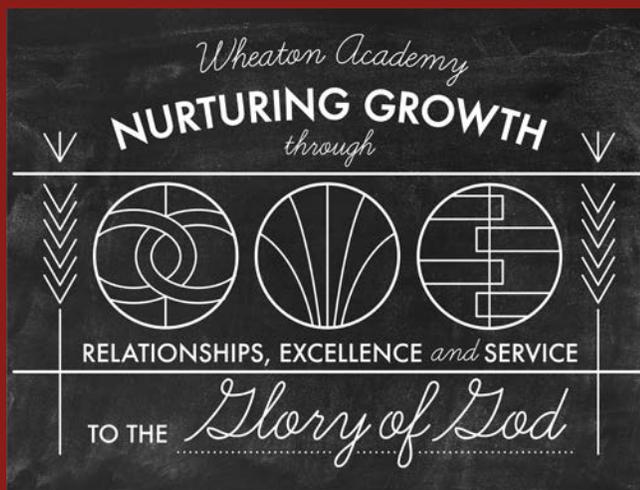


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*The mission of Wheaton Academy is to nurture growth in students through relationships, excellence and service to the glory of God.*

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Each month our administrative team wants to give you information relevant to your child's experience at Wheaton Academy as well as to talk about key issues that we face as we seek to partner in helping students know Jesus better, develop a biblical worldview, discover their gifts and prepare for God's call on their life. This month we want to talk about four topics:

- Spiritual Life Week
- Winterim
- Registration
- Renewed focus on technology

We are thankful for our community at Wheaton Academy – we truly have a wonderful group of students and families. It is a privilege to work with you and your child in the year ahead.

#### **Spiritual Life Week – The week in review**

We are so grateful for the ways God worked during Spiritual Life Week 2018. Students were inspired, educated, and challenged to participate in the "Renewed Life" that Christ provides. Over 100 students joined a prayer breakfast on Wednesday, 150 students packed the Alumni Chapel for one of our most memorable worship nights in recent history, hundreds turned prayers and struggles over to the Lord in chapel, and over \$5,000 was raised for our partners, Kids Alive. We were blessed to see students experience God in new ways as they responded to teaching and worship. It is our prayer that the seeds that were planted during the week continue to grow to impact our community as we all move forward. Thank you for praying with us for God to continue to do a profound work in and through our students at Wheaton Academy. A special thanks to Mike Foster, Steve Carter, Amaris Bullock, and Catherine Tilly who helped lead, teach, and guide our week.

#### **Winterim – A look back**

Winterim is an amazing opportunity for our students to learn and grow both inside and outside the classroom. This year, students started second semester excited and changed by what they had learned, seen, and done in the halls of Wheaton Academy and around the world.

Here is a quick look at what our students did:

- 173 students traveled – ten different trip experiences that fit our categories: leadership development (China), faith in action (Scotland), educational (Austria/Switzerland, Washington D.C., Iceland, South Africa, NYC), service and mission (Guatemala, Haiti) and adventure (Costa Rica) – These students had the opportunity to experience and serve God all over the world.
  - 155 students did internships – some of the opportunities included working in the medical field with Northwestern Medical, interning for Peter Roskam, working with a non-profit in India to serve orphans, along with other internships in science, business, engineering, and video to name a few
  - Number of students in AM classes: 290
  - Number of students in PM classes: 293
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New classes were added: Sports Broadcasting (included a trip to a Northwestern game to see behind the scenes broadcasting), American Sign Language, Women of Valor, Life Around the Table, Art of Horsemanship, Improvisation, Viral, Astronomy (our first night class that allowed students to go to the planetarium and observe the stars), Ceramics, Rocketry, Beginner Guitar and Worship Leading (in the class a student overcame her anxiety and recorded a song for her class, when everyone watched it, they were brought to tears).

These additions joined many other classes that we have offered before. In the Criminal Justice class, students worked with the DuPage County Bomb Squad and heard from alumni Stu Ziegler (security team for Nikki Haley).

Winterim continues to be a powerful time where we extend learning for our students, giving us the chance to develop our college readiness traits and help students comprehend the Kingdom Community. Thank you for your support and investment in this innovative program!

### **Registration Information**

As we move into March, the time is here to help students select classes for next year. You will be getting quite a bit of information to help you streamline this process. But for now, here are a few quick details. Monday, March 5, 2018 is our Curriculum Symposium at Wheaton Academy. This is an important night for all parents to attend where you will not only get course information, but we will also have valuable sessions for you on relevant topics: College Admissions to Selective Schools, Helping your Struggling Student Succeed, College Readiness, Information on Advanced and AP classes, Understanding Technology and Social Media, to name a few.

You will also receive detailed information on course recommendation and placement for your students. We are grateful to partner with you to ensure students are placed in classes that appropriately meet their level of readiness as well as challenge them to grow. This year, our Student Services team will meet with each student individually to help in the selection of classes in early April. We are excited to partner with you and help you with this process throughout the month of March.

### **Renewed Focus on Technology**

Escaping news and discussion about the impact that technology, specifically smart phones, has on the lives of our students is unavoidable. While technology itself is not inherently positive or negative, the ways we use it quickly can become either beneficial or detrimental. We are committed to equipping Wheaton Academy students to be able to use technology in a way that honors God and helps them be productive in school, at work, or in life. This semester, our teachers are putting in a renewed effort in each class to ask students to put their cell phones in a bag rather than have them in pockets or on desks.

We want students to be free of having the phone so close by in order to allow them to fully engage in the learning process. Each day, teachers are working to ask students to put phones away at the beginning of class and have students use them only when they are essential for the learning process. Thank you in advance for helping us with this renewed push. Early feedback from our students has been reluctantly positive. We know that, as adults, we have to help them do what is beneficial and good even if it is not easy or popular. Teachers are committed to helping students know how to use technology well, and we are thankful for your partnership with us in equipping students to honor God, even with their smart phones.