

Parent Newsletter

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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 these topics:

- Christmas Reflection
- Encouraging PSAT Results
- Kingdom Community
- Kingdom Community: Who We Are

We are thankful for our community at Wheaton Academy; we have a wonderful group of students and families. Having the opportunity to work with you and your child is truly a privilege.

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

Christmas Reflection

As we are celebrating the Advent season, preparing our hearts and minds for Christmas, I am struck by the power of gifts. Most of us experience joy when someone gives us a material gift—like that sweater we have been wanting, a Starbucks gift card or even that newly released piece of technology. We also find joy when we receive intangible gifts of encouragement, a kind word, focused time, or compassion and empathy. In thinking about Christmas, we invest both time and energy on the gifts—finding the right gift at the right price for the right person.

But all our energy seems to be for naught if our focus on gift giving does not cause us to reflect on the gift of salvation that God has given us. Imagine willingly leaving Heaven—a place of no tears, crying, illness, or hurt; the place of light, life and love—to come into the world, into the darkness. Jesus came willingly because of His amazing love for us, His beloved children whom He created in His own image. John reminds us, “In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4-5).

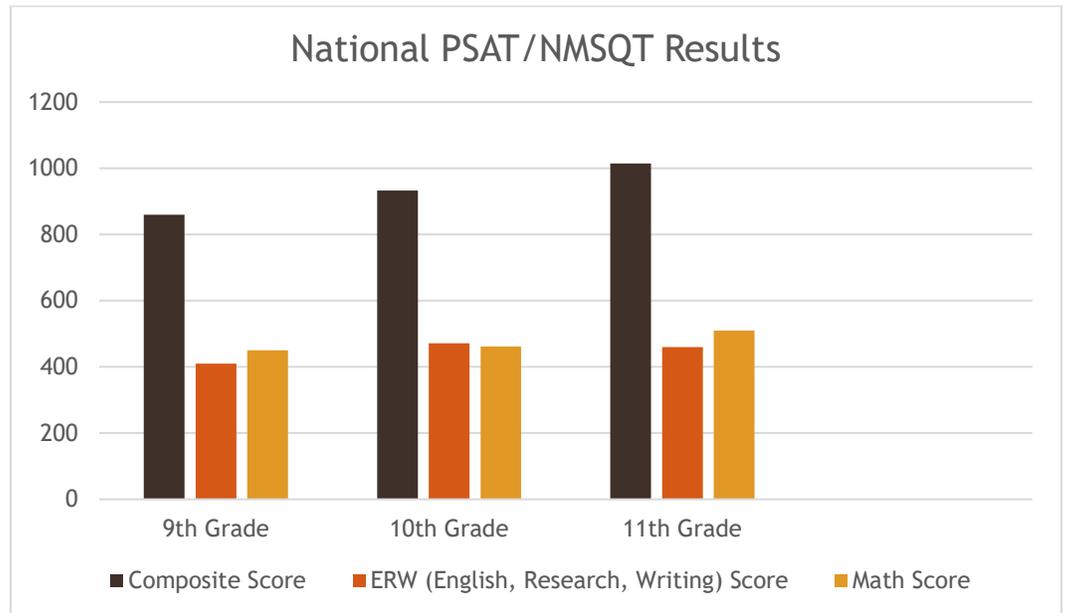
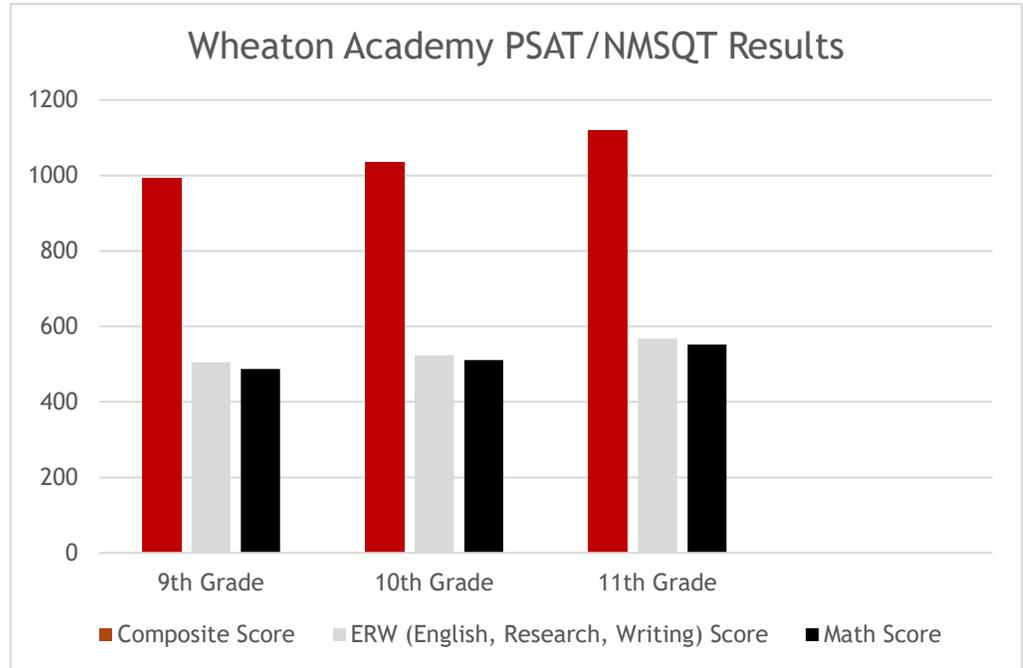
Jesus is our gift: “The Word became flesh and dwells among us” (John 1:14). Jesus has come to be with us—to be the gift of life, love, hope, joy, and truth. So, as you think about your gifts this Christmas, I pray that you would rejoice in the gift we have been given.

As the angel reminded us, “Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10). Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May this be a season of joy and hope as you experience the blessing of celebrating the most profound gift that has ever been given.

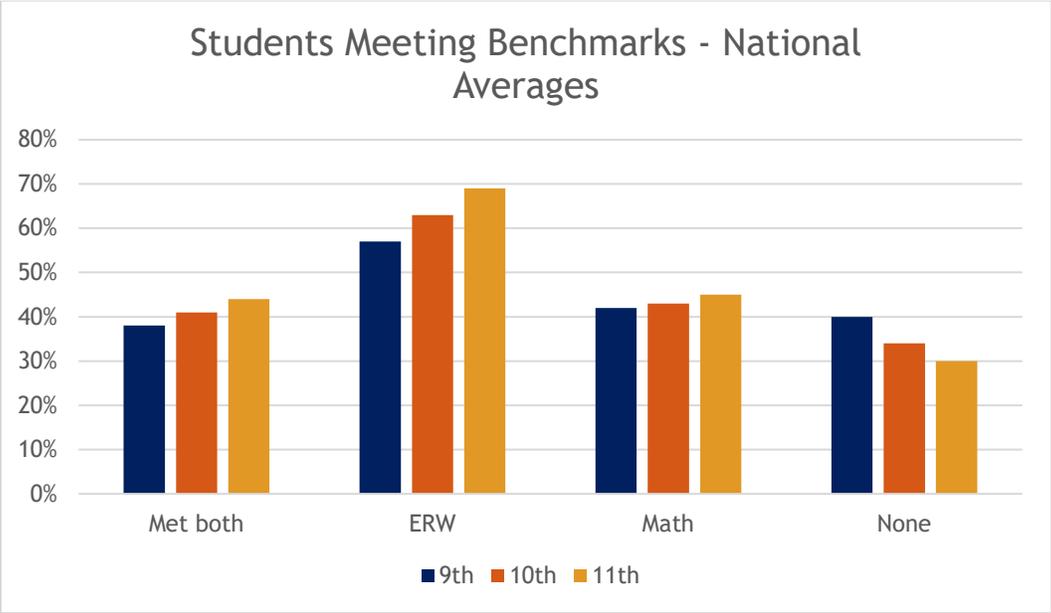
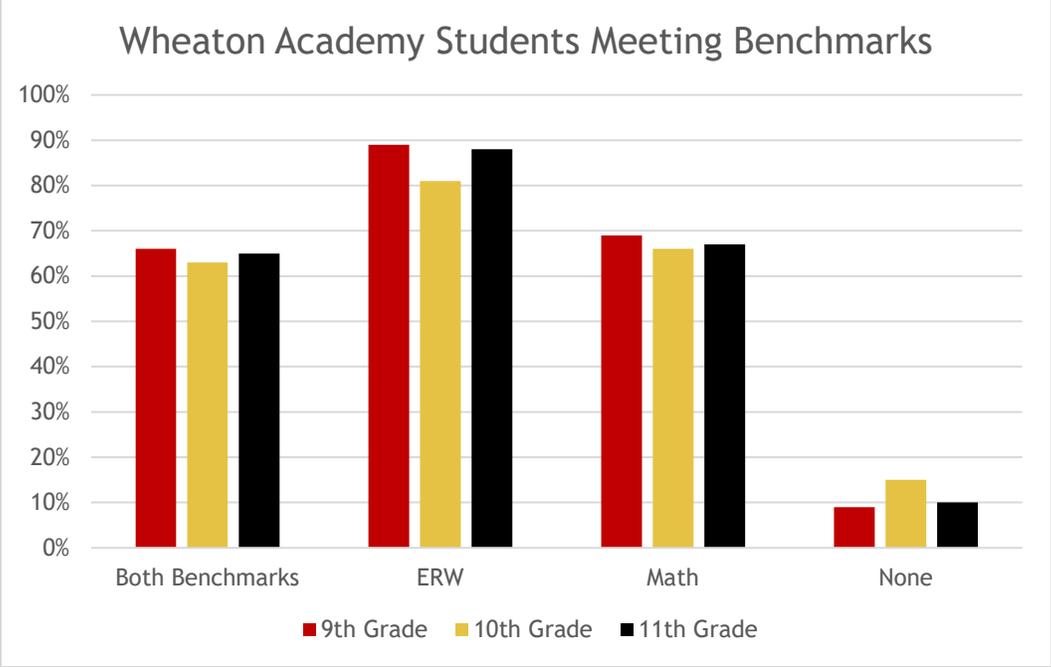
Encouraging PSAT Results

We are pleased to share some of our PSAT results with you from our October test. Wheaton Academy students are outperforming their counterparts around the nation but seeing the growth in each grade level from last year to this year is even more exciting. Both our 10th and 11th grade classes saw their scores increase from last year, demonstrating their growth in the key areas of Math and Evidence-based Reading and Writing. You will be receiving your student's test booklet, as well as instructions for accessing the score. You can also access numerous resources, including a personalized review from Khan Academy, to help your student prepare for these important tests.

Wheaton Academy students are outperforming their counterparts around the nation.



We are also pleased to share with you that this year on April 9, Wheaton Academy students (grades 9-11) will be taking the SAT at school. This opportunity allows students to continue to gain experience with taking this test, as well as possibly to use the score for college admission. More information will come after the holiday, so be watching for the details. While test scores certainly are not the full picture, they are important, and we are proud of our students' achievement this year.



*Wheaton Academy exists
to advance God's
glory...and be used by
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Kingdom Community

Wheaton Academy is committed to ensuring that our community is a safe place for all students to learn and grow, so we are intentionally working to create and maintain a Kingdom Community. The world around us is fractured in many ways, and a variety of people provide their vision of ways to fix the division, hate, and brokenness. Wheaton Academy exists to advance God's glory, and as Jesus taught us to pray "Thy kingdom come—on earth as it is in heaven," we seek to be used by God to build that kingdom here on earth. So with the kingdom of God as our standard for the way to bring healing, unity and love, we want to help our students think about the meaning of Revelation 7:9-10: "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

Two things are clear: God's Kingdom will include people from all types of backgrounds, races, and ethnicities, and the purpose for all in His Kingdom will be to worship Jesus, the source of our salvation.

We are committed to looking at issues through this lens and striving to nurture growth in students through relationships, excellence and service. Our hope is that the Wheaton Academy community will be a clear picture of the love, respect and honor that God calls us to in His Word.

Kingdom Community: Who We Are

Kingdom Community is rooted in the following beliefs about who we are in our humanity:

- **We are created in the image of God (*Imago Dei*).** God created man and woman in His image, and we are all deeply valued by our Creator.
- **We are sinners in need of a Savior.** We are born into sin, which separates us from God, unable to save ourselves. In His mercy and grace, God reconciled us through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **We are a new creation.** Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are a new creation. Our identity is now in Him rather than in ourselves.
- **We are members of the body of Christ.** Believers are united through Christ, one body with many members. According to Galatians 3, our unity in Christ supersedes and breaks down societal labels we have for ourselves or others. Our individual and shared identity is first and most importantly in Christ. We celebrate our differences and relate to others from that identity in Christ.

We have a variety of groups working to help with the development of this Kingdom Community, including a parent advisory group and a student advisory group. For Community Time this fall, our students made the following video to share this vision with the community. I want to share the link with you, as it represents what Wheaton Academy is striving for, but I am also proud to see the leadership of students and their investment in our school.

Here is the link for you to watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOdUqJ77IjY>