

# 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:

- Chapel Theme 2019-2020
- Off-Campus Learning Day, September 20
- Upcoming PSAT
- Opportunity for Senior Class

We are thankful for our community at Wheaton Academy--a truly wonderful group of students and families. We regard the opportunity to work with you and your child in the year ahead as a unique privilege.

THE MISSION OF WHEATON  
ACADEMY IS TO NURTURE  
GROWTH IN STUDENTS  
THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS,  
EXCELLENCE AND SERVICE  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD

## CHAPEL THEME 2019-2020

We have a cycle of four chapel themes so that a student will experience each one in the series over their four years at Wheaton Academy. The themes are Story, Journey, Life, and Hope. This year, the theme is Journey. Our journey through life is characterized by ups and downs, success and failure, joy and grief. Through them all, we have been equipped by God to persevere and remain faithful to His purpose for our lives. This year, we will explore eight sub-themes of Journey.

**September** Journey: Image Bearers (How do we live and love like Jesus on our Journey?)

**October** Journey: Learning from Finishers (What can we learn from those who have finished their journey?)

**November** Journey: Celebrating Progress (Marking progress, driving stakes, expressing gratitude on the journey thus far)

**December** Journey: Destination Earth (The Word became flesh, the ultimate journey of Jesus to earth)

**January/February** Journey: Unexpected Turns (Pressing on through disappointment/pain/grief)

**Spiritual Life Week** Journey: Reals vs. Feels (Pursuing truth in a "feel good" society; learning discernment)

**February/March** Journey: Who's with Us? (Looking beyond ourselves, celebrating diversity, helping others)

**April** Journey: Rescue (Embracing what we could not do for ourselves)

**May** Journey: Experiencing Joy/Delight (Celebrating the school year, reflecting on God's faithfulness and goodness)



This theme is coupled with our year verse, found in Philippians 2:2-3: "Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves." This verse is not only a high call for students but also a powerful connection to our vision for a Kingdom Community.

## OFF-CAMPUS LEARNING DAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Since Wheaton Academy is committed to preparing students for learning in different types of scenarios that they will face in both the present and the future, periodically during the year we have "Off-Campus" learning days when teachers are involved in professional learning and growth. In the past, when teachers were learning on campus, students had a day off, but because of our technology and 1:1 initiative, we can take advantage of this day for learning. This practice not only maximizes our instructional time but also teaches students valuable skills in preparation for the possibility of taking an online class in the future.

We have given our teachers instructions on ways to structure these learning days, and they will communicate specifically with students about their respective classes. **However, in our partnership, we would ask you as parents to honor that this is a school day in non-traditional form. Students should expect to spend 6-8 hours during the day in "learning activities,"** and while the activities do not necessarily need to happen between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and will not happen on campus, we wanted you to know for your planning purposes.

Thank you for your partnership and support as we endeavor to help students learn in new and innovative ways on Friday, September 20.

## UPCOMING PSAT

On Wednesday, October 16, our school will administer the PSAT 8/9™ to all freshmen and the PSAT/NMSQT to all sophomores/juniors. These exams focus on the classroom skills and knowledge your child will need to be successful in college. The PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT will allow Wheaton Academy to help your child in several ways.

- Test results show your child his or her strengths, work needed to be college-ready, and ways to stay on track from 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- After the test, your child can strengthen essential skills and knowledge for the PSAT/SAT with free personalized practice on Khan Academy®.
- Online reports are provided to students and educators, allowing them to act on test results and access additional practice in areas that need improvement.
- Scores qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program via the PSAT/NMSQT (Junior year).
- Scores connect students to potential scholarships via the PSAT/NMSQT (Junior year).

Colleges and universities accept both the ACT and SAT for admissions purposes. Some students prefer to take either the ACT or the SAT; others take both exams and see which score will serve them better for admissions and scholarships. Wheaton Academy is now a test center for both the ACT and SAT examinations at various points throughout the year.

As you approach the October 16 testing date, you can support your child in these important ways:

- Make sure your child is on time to school this day, is well-rested, and has a good breakfast. School will begin at 9:00 a.m. however we recommend students arrive

### KEY DATES TO REMEMBER:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 –  
OFF-CAMPUS LEARNING DAY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 –  
PSAT TESTING FOR GRADES 9-  
II; SENIOR CLASS WORKSHOP

earlier than this to find their testing location. Some students with alternative test plans may need to arrive earlier as well.

- Explain to students the value of this test both for now and the future as you seek to navigate the college admissions process.
- Encourage students to do their absolute best on the test.

**On October 16, we will dismiss school at 12:30 p.m. after the testing is complete. This day, although only a half-day of school, is critical not only for Wheaton Academy to gain valuable data on ways to continue to support our students' achievement but also for each individual student as this test will be valuable in preparing students for the college admissions process.** Thank you in advance for your support in having your child at school and ready for this important day. If you have questions, please feel free to contact any member of our Student Services or Administrative team.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR SENIOR CLASS

On October 16, we are excited to be able to provide our senior class with training, from a Biblical worldview, for engaging others in difficult conversations about issues in our culture. We believe this training is consistent with our commitment to College Readiness as well as to building a Kingdom Community. The training will focus on holding fast to Biblical truth when interacting with people who hold different views.

In order to provide this valuable experience for our seniors, Karen Jones, from Sacred Leadership Solutions, will be on campus to engage our seniors in a workshop. Karen is a friend of Wheaton Academy who has provided training for our faculty and staff over the past few years.

This workshop for the senior class will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., concurrent with our all-school testing for other students. This half-day of school will offer benefits equivalent to a conference where intense learning takes place in a compacted time. We are excited about the unique opportunity this workshop will provide for our senior class in helping them to develop as Christian leaders and influencers.