



Preparing Youth as Disciples of Christ

West Lutheran High School
Principals Report
MN District Convention - June 7-9, 2022

Ephesians 2:21-22 - In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

These verses in Ephesians served as our theme passage this school year along with the entire Metro Conference. It set the tone for our students building their foundation on Christ.

West currently has 160 students enrolled, and through our association grade school visits and our data collected, we are planning for a freshman class of 50-55+. As a pleasant and unexpected blessing our next year's sophomore class continues to grow and is up by 8 students for a total of 49. We currently have 174 enrolled for the 2022-23 school year. In an effort to keep up with the growing enrollment, West has started the very initial stages of a building project in the hopes of adding classrooms and an auditorium space. May the Lord bless our efforts.

We have two staff retiring and one teacher leaving at the end of this year, Mr. Steve Merten is retiring from our Science/ STEM department after serving 26 years at West Lutheran and 42 in the full-time ministry and Carol Kieffer who is our Learning Coordinator is retiring after 12 years. We're thankful for all they have given to the ministry at West. We also will be saying a sad goodbye to Mrs. Jodi Rowe who has accepted a call to St. Mark's Lutheran School in Citrus Heights, California.

In the middle of April, West was blessed to hear that Mr. James Hahm and Mrs. Kari Hahm accepted our divine calls to teach at West Lutheran High School. James will be our Science department chair, teaching Physics, STEM, and Chemistry, while Kari will be our Fine Arts chair, teaching choir, band, music, Western Accents, and being part of our drama department. West went to Martin Luther College to receive a graduate to teach in our English department. We received Mr. William (Will) Rauh. Will is from Arlington, MN and graduated high school from Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School.. Will comes to us with a double major, elementary and secondary English. We look forward to Mr. Rauh starting July 1 and assuming his role in the English department.

This year was also a new beginning for Pastor Mark Kaesmeyer. Mark was led to accept our divine call to be our Director of Mission Advancement. This position is truly centered on building and fostering relationships with schools, congregations, parents, families, and alumni so they in turn will continue a lifelong love for West and help in its future sustainability. Mark had been serving as the associate pastor at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids, MN.

On March 26, West was once again able to have and be energized by a live auction/gala. The Hawaiian theme was loved by all and the overall excitement of the room was contagious. The event brought in \$117,000 to be used for technology and security upgrades.

West had four concerts this year, but most recently had our Spring POPS Concert, "Songs to Make You Happy." West also hosted an inaugural Art Show displaying work from our West students. One student will be pursuing an art degree in her college studies.

God is good all the time and continues to bless West Lutheran High School. Thanks for your prayers and support.

Dave Gartner
West Lutheran High School
Principal