

# Upper School Houses

Dear Upper School Parents,

At the end of every school year, the four Houses at Westminster Academy gather together for the House Closing Ceremony and the awarding of the House Cup. The gathering is structured intentionally to reflect our motto of "Four Houses, One Community." First, to symbolize our unity, we meet together for a formal ceremony in the sanctuary, taking time to consider the past year for the Houses at WA. We then follow this ceremony with a more informal feast in which we toast the House Captains, eat, and announce the winner of the House Cup. There is no doubt in my mind that the students excitedly anticipate getting some tasty food and finding out who has won the House Cup, yet I do believe that they enjoy the formal ceremony as well.

At 12 years old, I believe that we are out of the infant stage as a House System. Evidence of this can be seen in the healthy competition between Houses during the fall and spring field days, events that are planned and run mostly by the students themselves. It can be seen in the quality of the entries for this year's Namesake Challenge in which more students participated than ever before. Finally, it can quite literally be seen on the students themselves on Thursdays as they come to school dressed in their House attire, brightening our Upper School hallways.

We expect and hope that the House System will continue to grow. During our weekly House Master meetings, I often ask this question, "Are we building something that will still be flourishing in 100 years?" This is the filter we apply as we try to guide the students towards greatness through building improved House communities. This is a high bar we have set for ourselves, but we know that reaching for nothing short of excellence would cause us to sell the students short, as they are image bearers of God who were created for great things.

As we sit and try to imagine what greatness would look like for the Houses, it is both easy and difficult to envision. On the one hand, if we confine ourselves to envisioning simply material greatness, it is not a difficult task to imagine House banners that rival those of the greatest kingdoms in beauty and number or legions of beautiful art work that adorn the halls of WA and tell our story. Even better, if not slightly more difficult, one can imagine, as Greg Kinney says he often dreams, a live lion as the mascot of Becket House (Just kidding). All of these, except perhaps the lion mascot, are good things, and we hope that one day they come to fruition. But, if we left it at only those things that relate directly to the Houses, we would not have envisioned maturity for the House System at WA.

To envision maturity for the House System at WA by itself is difficult to do as one cannot separate an excellent House System from an excellent school. I cannot imagine a

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scenario in which the House System at WA grows into maturity but doesn't improve WA in the course of its maturation. Growth for the House System equals growth for WA. The Houses exist not as ends in themselves but as means towards improving Westminster Academy; that is the community of students, parents, faculty, staff, and administration that are dedicated to nourishing the souls of the students to love that which is worth loving.

Please join me in praying and dreaming about the next year in hopes that we continue to grow and improve the community of Westminster Academy.

Sincerely,

Anne Walker  
Director of Houses

P.S. Please take note of the 2019-2020 House Captains and House Masters listed below.

## **Athanasius House**

House Master: Jannica Gregory  
House Captain: Ella Wilson

## **Boniface House**

House Master: Conner Davis  
House Captain: Anna Funes

## **Becket House**

House Master: Greg Kinney  
House Captain: EA Hickman

## **Columba House**

House Master: Christopher Marino  
House Captain: Christley Vaughn