

# Man Alive!



To Our Western Families & Stakeholders,

What a tremendous year it has been! Thanks to the steadfast support and contributions of many within our special community, Western Academy is thriving. Our campus continues to expand, and we have several exciting capital projects either completed or underway – most notably, The Barn, which will be a multi-use gymnasium for our boys that reinforces the “look and feel” of our unique campus. Additionally, Western is now enjoying its strongest financial position in school history. None of this would be possible without the extraordinary effort, displayed daily, from our Western staff and families.

In what has recently been a most inauspicious period, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to our faculty for navigating through the various challenges beset by COVID-19. Their wisdom and resolve were particularly essential during this past school year. During periods such as these, we all gain a deeper appreciation for organizations possessing the unwavering conviction in aspiring for what is true, good and beautiful. Our faculty has been a shining example in pursuing such a noble cause resulting in what I believe is one of the most admired learning environments in the area.

We sincerely hope you enjoy our latest edition of the Man Alive! Annual Report. On behalf of the boys, faculty, administration and board, we remain deeply grateful for your trust and support.

Onward!



Preston Young  
Board of Directors, Chairman



# Faculty, Board, and Staff 2020-2021

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*Our passion is to help parents raise boys to become men capable of transforming  
the world because they see what is true, do what is good, and love what is beautiful.*

# PRIOR YEAR ACTUALS 2020-21

# Financial Report 2020-2021

## PRIOR YEAR RECAP

Western Academy is pleased to report its strongest financial position in our 11-year history.

For the 5th successive year, Western Academy had full enrollment and a record-breaking number of campers in the Summer Camps. Income from tuition and summer camp programs yielded 9% above budget. The fundraising efforts: Annual Drive, Events, and Major Gifts, all performed above the estimates. In the spring of 2020, Western Academy applied for and received the CARES ACT SBA Loan for \$625,000. Western fulfilled the loan requirements and received forgiveness for the loan. The normal operating income exceeded the budget by 9% at \$5.765 MM (vs. \$5.282 MM plan).

Normal operating expenses for the year was \$5.177 MM (vs. \$4.964 MM plan), over the budget by 4%. Operating Expense line items kept within reasonable variance from the budget. Notable increase of the expense came from the additional staffing cost incurred by the successful summer camps.

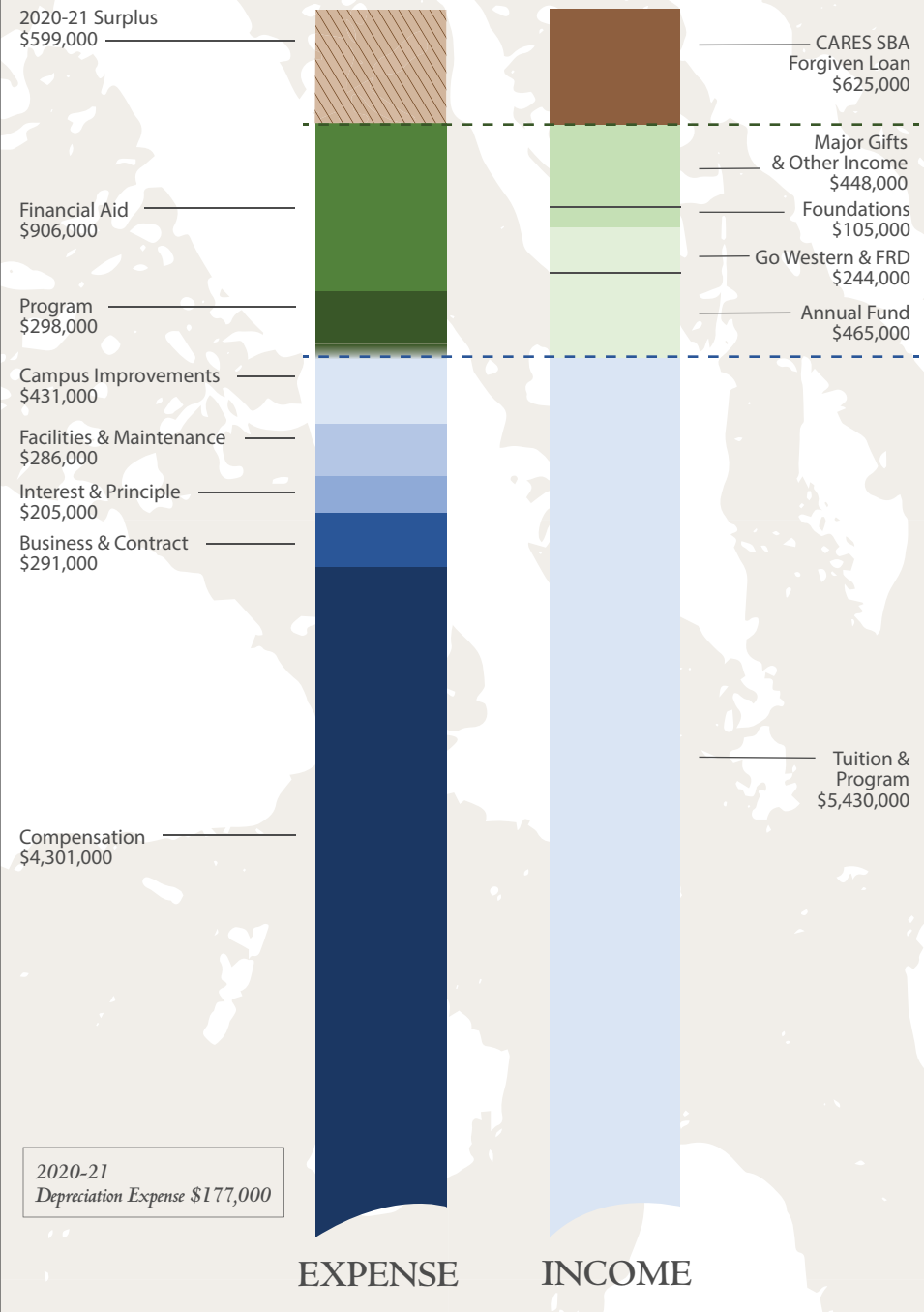
For the year 2020-2021, Western Academy reports a net income of \$284,000 (vs. break even plan) on our income statement. Considering extraordinary income and capital expenditures, Western reports a \$599 k cash surplus for Phase I Allocation. This amount was deposited according to the Surplus Allocation Model which distributes 25% toward capital improvements for the campus and 75% toward the Emergency Cash Savings.

## OTHER NOTABLE FINANCIAL POINTS

Western Academy purchased a .5039-acre property, 1525 Butlercrest in October of 2020. This purchase was made in anticipation of the capital project of The Barn which required the additional land and property. By the end of the year, the capital raised for The Barn summed up to \$2.66 MM, from a target of \$3.0 MM. (Additional details on 'Raise The Barn' Campaign in the following pages).

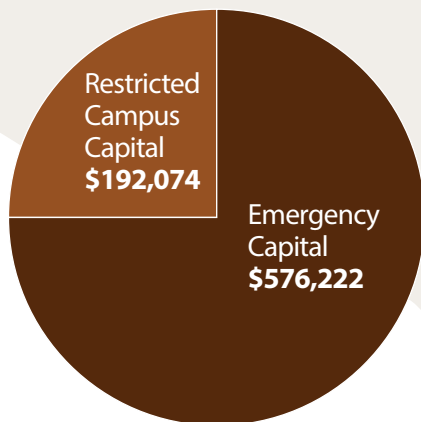
Western Academy consolidated its capital debts of \$2.878 MM at an interest rate of 4.25% fixed loan for a 20-year term through First Horizon/Iberia Bank.

Of all the financial success of the year, Western Academy is particularly happy that the school granted a total of \$906,000 in financial aid and tuition remission to keep the school accessible for many of our beloved families and boys in a year of uncertainties. Through the generosity of our families, teachers, the Board, and friends of the school, Western enjoyed a tremendous year of phenomenal growth of both our boys and the whole Western community.



## 2020-21 Surplus Allocation

The Pie Phase I



<b>Cash in Reported Year for Allocation</b>	<b>599,000</b>
Plus Prior Years	169,000
<b>Total Cash for Allowances</b>	<b>768,000</b>

<b>The Pie - Phase 1 Allocation</b>	
Emergency Capital (75%)	576,000
Restricted Campus Capital (25%)	192,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>768,000</b>

# Raise the Barn!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN  
2021

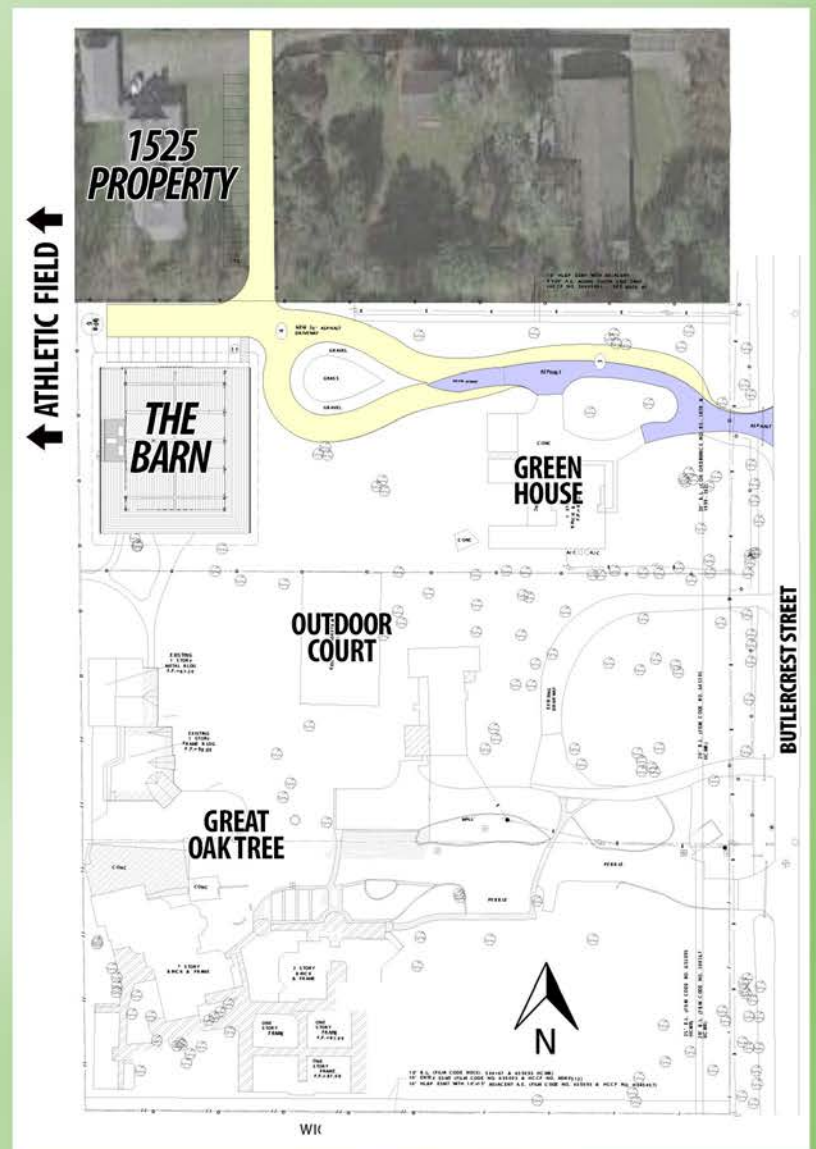
Harkening back to the pioneer days of our country, small town families worked together in ‘barn raising.’ Our predecessors worked hand in hand and built great spaces for gathering the community. Western Academy is boldly launching its first major capital campaign in the very same spirit. The whole community is called and invited once more to help grow Western Academy and **RAISE THE BARN!**



Western Academy plans to build an all new indoor-outdoor multi-purpose gymnasium from the spring through fall of 2021. *The Barn* will allow Western to expand its campus capabilities to host indoor sports competitions, hold indoor events, provide an indoor play space, and add to its summer camp venues. The *Barn* will be used and enjoyed by the boys, parents, teachers and guests of Western Academy for many decades to come!

*The Barn* will be located on the northwest corner of the campus. This new building inherits the aesthetic elements of our beloved school; rustic, and nestled within nature. *The Barn* will blend in naturally with the daily activities of our campus life. Along with this building, the campaign includes the recent acquisition of a quarter acre of adjacent land and property, 1525 Butlercrest, which further advances Western Academy toward its final land footprint. 1525 will also provide restroom, parking, and storage for *the Barn*.

Phase One is the construction of the new building and phase two will be the remodel of the house.



## FEATURES:

### THE BARN

- 12,000+ square feet of indoor/outdoor space
- Tournament level basketball court
- Practice Courts
- Other sports: volleyball, tennis, floor-hockey
- Indoor/outdoor facility for Western events
- Mass and play space for rainy days
- Extended covered patio

### 1525 BUTLERCREST

- Restrooms
- Parking
- Storage
- Maintenance
- Additional Land

## RAISE THE BARN CAPITAL COST

Architect & Engineering	\$ 145,000
Site Prep/Demo/Detention/Parking	\$ 300,000
Building Construction and Materials	\$ 850,000
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	\$ 350,000
Contingency	\$ 160,000
Construction Services	<u>\$ 195,000</u>
	<b>\$ 2,000,000</b>

1525 Butlercrest Property	\$ 635,000
Remodel Budget	\$ 365,000

<b>CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,000,000</b>
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Construction costs are estimates from current market values according to the architectural design and pre bid pricing from local contractors. Slight changes are anticipated due to site conditions and improvements as final plans move forward.

## FUND RAISING TOTALS

Funds Raised (2020)	\$ 500,000
Funds Raised (2021)	<u>\$ 2,171,000</u>
<b>TOTAL RAISED</b>	<b>\$ 2,671,000</b>

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,000,000</b>
Remaining Funds Needed	\$ 329,000

The Barn will be in construction through the 2021-2022 school year. The boys will experience witnessing a true 'barn raising' right in the campus. Join us in the Spring of 2022 for the ribbon cutting event!

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# Annual Drive 2020-2021

In a year of daring and uncertainty (including icy snow), Mr. and Mrs. Tre & Carla Banks, parents of Harrison (6th) & Tillman (4th), led our Annual Drive campaign. Along with the Class captains, they garnered an impressive **100% participation** in pledges from Western Families, Staff, and Board. In an outpouring of generosity, Parents, Grandparents and Friends of Western gave the highest Annual Drive total in our history. We thank all **280 donors** to this year's Drive!



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In Memoriam - F. William Othon  
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## ANNUAL DRIVE LEADERSHIP

Chair Couple: Carla & Tre Banks

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Heather Cody	3B
Heather Harkrider	4A
Courtney Hencke	4B
Sofie Fernandez	5A
Jill Sherman	5B
Lindsay Zanovich	6A
Sara Beth Smoter	6B
Sarah Graham	7A
Heather Chenoweth	7B
Diana Pearson	8A
Margaret Parmenter	8B

## ANNUAL DRIVE HISTORICAL GIVING





*February 27, 2021*

**GO WESTERN!**  
**BOOTS AND BLUEJEANS**  
*Band of Heathens*

Western Academy families and friends gathered for the Go Western! Boots N' Blue Jeans to enjoy an evening of great food, auctions, and entertainment. The Band of Heathens performance was underwritten by the **Abello Family** (Colin WA '18). The Berg Hospitality Group generously donated the food and drinks for the night. The event raised an astronomical \$285,000. The Paddles Up fundraising portion brought in \$84,000 for equipment for The Barn. The night ended with an old classic where the audience enjoyed dancing and singing Country Roads. In spirit of the House competition, Mr. Justin Hebert's **House Shields** brought a new fundraising competition between the parents, the House of the Raven won bringing in \$5,000 out of the collective effort of \$14,000. With the help of Western families and local supporters, Western Academy appreciates every sponsor and donor making this year's event the best ever!

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Mr. and Mrs. Adam Thompson  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Valentin  
Mr. and Mrs. James Walker  
Whataburger  
Xpedite Coatings

## Volunteers

Katie Arndt  
Alberto & Veronica Barud  
Brenna Beaver  
Katie Beirne  
Dawnell Callahan  
Ruth Carroll  
Felice Chen  
Tyler Corder  
Sarah Cosgray  
Angelo Directo  
Brian & Holly Efting  
Kristen Erler  
Jose Pablo & Sophie Fernandez-Cueto  
Julia Florey  
Michelle Forrester  
Tricia Greaves  
Faith Gutierrez  
Courtney Hencke  
Natalie Higgins  
Katrina Jackiewicz  
Rhoda Lorraine Johnson  
Pete King  
Monica Kolf  
Lindsay Laudadio  
Jeremy & Stacy Lord  
Kattie Mattingly  
Christine Mediamolle  
Martin Montalvo  
Becky Neeson  
Evelyn Nordin  
Diana Pearson  
Emily Pritchett  
Erin Robleto  
Phoenix Rutherford  
Hillory Shearer  
Sara Beth Smoter  
Kelley Twardowski  
Gambriell Wagner  
Sandy Walker  
Michael West  
Anna Winter  
Maki Yordán



# Founding Roots

## DINNER

April 24, 2021  
Junior League of Houston

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### Volunteers

Kingsley Andrews  
Brenna Beaver  
Jennifer Bishop  
Carol Directo  
Rhoda Lorraine Johnson  
Diana Pearson  
Emily Pritchett



After a year of absence, the Founding Roots Dinner came back strong last April 24th. The proceedings of the night began with a robust (and now considered legendary) House Toasts followed by impressive performances by boys. Charlie Miggins (WA '17) gave his reflections and fond memories of his beloved school. Present in the Dinner were his fellow classmates, now graduating from high school and flying off to college. Mr. Richard Gosselin, a founding family, and parent of three Old Boys, described how the Scholarship Fund provided a way for his and current families to send their boys to Western. In true Western fashion, the Houses are in competition to raise the most funds for scholarships. The House of the Green led all the other houses winning with contributions of over \$45,000. With the help of two generous challenge gifts, the Founding Roots Dinner raised \$88,000 for the evening. We thank all who attended and donated to the Scholarship Fund.



*\$52,778 Event Funds Raised*  
*\$35,000 Matching Donation*  

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**\$87,778 TOTAL**



# Class of 2021



## 2020 GRADUATES ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOLS

Aristoi Classical Academy  
Episcopal High School  
Frassati Catholic High School  
Gregory the Great Academy  
Houston Christian High School  
St. John XXIII College Prep  
St. Thomas High School  
Strake Jesuit College Prep  
The Saint Constantine School





Alex Baba, Rowan Bishop, Dominic Block, Edward Bocoock, Jack Bowden, Pablo Caranti, John Devine, John Dodson, Leonardo Esparza, Gabriel Espinosa, Mateo Figueroa, John Garliss, Wyatt Glueck, Rafael Gomez, Bennett Groover, Jackson Hebert, Jonas Henderson, Santiago Jimenez, Dylan Lau, Berhane Linbeck, Landon Lord, Aidan Lynch, Charlie Mohr, Bowen Moore, Joseph Nichols, Henry Omanga, Luke Omanga, Mateu Orendain, Matthew Parker, Matthew Parmenter, Greg Pearson, Ian Riches, Nathan Robleto, David Roman-Pavajeau, Louis Saylor, Spencer Sierra, Robby Silas, Jackson Simmons, Grayson Smith, Reese Stetzel, Jun Valentin, Luke Webber



the life of a

# Western Boy

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By fully engaging his heart, mind, spirit and body to all things true, good and beautiful; Western Academy is an educational adventure tailored for boys. Every boy, a mystery even to himself, discovers himself, others and the beautiful world within the forested grounds of Western Academy. Inside these pages, we are given sight of the vibrant life of boys at Western. We walk through the gates and steal a glimpse into his life in the school. Because true growth is rarely sudden and conspicuous but rather hidden and underneath the surface, within these pages we catch a few flashes of boys on their way to becoming *Men Fully Alive!*









# Academics

Academic excellence is the foundation of any good school. The advanced and integrated approach to the academic places Western Academy at the top level of private schools in Houston.

Teachers work with parents to develop the intellect of the boys. This process must start with a passion for learning and love of wisdom. Hence, educating the intellect must start from the heart. Boys are born with a curiosity about the world. He has been gifted with a natural capacity for wonder at the marvels of creation and inventions of man. All things are interesting when understood in its full context and as parts of the whole. Math, literature, Latin, Science, Language Arts, and Religion are delved into deeply as subject matter that make up the academic curriculum. The experience of learning and finding answers from the smallest things all the way up to the Big Things in life is the overarching driver that makes the academics of Western aim further and deeper than most schools. This approach to academics aim well beyond the standards and requirements set by most schools. The majority of Western Academy students place two grade levels higher compared to their peers according to the Stanford IO standardized test.





## Faculty

The quality of formal education received by a boy depends greatly upon the quality of his teachers. Just as important as the subject matter they teach, the faculty of Western Academy aims to model the ideals and ideas of Western Academy. Every teacher brings to the boys an authentic enthusiasm about their subject matter that positively infects these boys with the same interest in all things. The faculty works as a team to give the boys the big picture of reality, and the sensitivity to appreciate the smallest of elements within it. Together with the parents, the Western Men, his teachers, prepare boys with the academic skills and habits, their hearts, and creative minds to become young men who truly seek and who are willing to defend what is Good, True, and Beautiful.

Western Academy's faculty are varied in personalities, degrees and fields of interest but all have these qualities in common: a passion for learning and culture; a drive for professional and personal excellence; an ability to understand boys and lead them; an eye for details; a personal commitment in helping boys develop the study habits (work ethic) and personal growth; an ability to keep perspective; to see failure as a part of growth; and lastly but just as important, a good sense of humor.

# Sports

While Western believes in winning the competition, the school maintains that sports are not an end in itself, but a means. Sports serve as a mean to deepen one's commitment, friendships and working with his fellow students to achieve something good. Good sportsmanship is paramount as is winning. A Western boy does not sacrifice one for the other but learns to achieve both. It is not enough to win but to win well. Western Academy sports aim is to build his manly confidence, to get up, try again, to be gracious in defeat and humble when victorious.

Physical Education is part of his daily schedule. It is no secret that boys need to move. In daily P.E., his coaches give him a fun filled variety of training in strength, agility, gamesmanship, and endurance.

Competitive school sports in the middle school include team sports such as football, basketball, baseball, rugby, and soccer. Western Academy coaches provide high-level training for their student-athletes, while developing the skills and character of a young sportsman. For those boys who lean toward individual sports, wrestling, cross country, track and field are available.

Aside from developing his physique and the enjoyment of playing sports, at the end of his years at Western, through these daily challenge of play, we hope he has won for himself that enduring All-American virtue called GRIT.





*Give thanks to God for the gift of sport, in which the human person exercises his body, intellect and will, recognising these abilities as so many gifts of his Creator.”*

*- St. Pope John Paul II*







## *Libertas Selectives*

Western Academy is experienced by each boy in a different way. The Libertas Selectives are specialized classes offered to middle school boys. These 'electives' offer a wide opportunity for the boys to expand their fields of interest. Every selective is a way to discover more concentrated knowledge in a particular art or skill. In his three years in middle school, a Western boy might graduate with a hand-made belt, a newfound aptitude in brass or string, greater knowledge and appreciation of the fine arts, theatre production, handling tools, a handcrafted wooden chair, and many more.

The Libertas Selectives affords him the time to test his patience and mettle in learning something new. In the long hours of the afternoons he is given the time to develop these arts and skills. He learns early on that specific satisfaction of work done well. As the academics lead him to a love of learning, the Libertas Selective Classes are ways to hone his love of doing. As an added bonus, the Libertas Selective classes are fun.





# Houses

Similar to many traditional English schools, all students are placed in one of four houses: House of Raven. House of Shell. House of Green. House of Water. Each house is derived from the school's magnificent coat of arms. The houses cultivate camaraderie, leadership, and a healthy rivalry among boys. These houses serve as families within the larger family-like community of Western Academy. Student leadership is orchestrated through the Houses. Throughout the year the Houses compete in a full array of challenges: chess tournaments, academic projects, poetry, short story competition, athletic events, and many more. The primary days of competition are festival days – days designed to give the students a sense of season and truly celebrate a feast: they know the reason for the feast—the feast's gifts—and the enjoyment of receiving the gift.



The boys' love for their houses run deep. Knowing that their siblings and sons in the future will remain in his house breeds a deep pride for his House. This love for House is vibrant and in the full display during the festival days competition. At the end of a festival day, it can be seen in these boys' eyes, gashed knees, sometimes torn shirts that they have given all they have for their House. This love of House is so deep that the Old Boys (graduates) come back to Western at the last day of school to cheer on their House for the Heroes Race!







*There is nothing on this earth to be prized more than true friendship.*

*- St Thomas Aquinas*





## Freedom

Freedom is a core ingredient to the Western Academy way of life. A love and understanding of the responsibility of the gift of freedom should be the mark of every WA graduate. When new boys are asked what he enjoys at Western, the most common answer: FREEDOM!

Having the freedom to climb trees, wrestle, catch frogs, do his work; boys exercise their nature. The constant use of his freedom to choose allows him to make mistakes, so he can correct and adjust-the essential skill of a responsible adult life. With freedom he can take challenges, fail, try again, succeed and in the course of time, grow. Freedom allows him the opportunity to grow well -not to become destroyers, or young men of license, but to become young men of responsibility and authentic virtue. Through his use of freedom, the Western boy realizes the deeper freedom gained when he has forged the discipline to choose the truly good.

## Leisure

Our mottoes culminate with our central motto: Veritas. Truth. Similarly, our aspiration is that our students integrate their learning and their lives in the culmination of becoming men who love, have a burning zeal for, and lives in the Truth, knowing in a deep intuitive way that this is the path to true freedom and happiness. Leisure, the capacity to contemplate that which is true, good and beautiful is the always present atmosphere of Western Academy. It is in his capacity for leisure that will lead him always toward the good.

*"...precisely because we are children of God, we can contemplate in love and wonder everything as coming from the hands of our Father, God the Creator. And so we become contemplatives in the middle of the world, loving the world."*

*~ St. Josemaría Escrivá*





## Faith

The teachings and the example of Jesus Christ is the deep and abiding principle of the culture of the school. It can be said that the life of the school is permeated with a joyful Christian spirit.

The life of faith starts with the recognition and effort to live as a loved child of God, a more personal knowledge of Jesus, and an understanding of religion and worship as just and proper responses to the Creator. Along with the parents on-going moral formation of the boys, the faculty and staff are unified in interacting with the boys to assist them to grow in virtue and practice of faith.

One of our goals is to help our students to freely and truly become souls of prayer—young men who can experience “silent listening” deep within their heart and conscience. As the great thinker, Josef Pieper, reminds us: “. . . *the world reveals itself to the silent listener and only to him; the more silently he listens, the more purely is he able to perceive reality.*”





# Nature / Field Trips

To a Western boy the whole world and everything that's in it is his 'classroom.' Each grade makes several field trips to natural, historical, even sometimes whimsical places to appreciate the goodness that can be found in the world. As part of the integrated curriculum, the field trips for each grades are organized to be connected with their subjects being learned in the classroom.

Spending more time outdoors has never been a source of distress or dissatisfaction of life. Quite the opposite, countless studies unanimously conclude that nature heals as well as nourishes the entire person. Hence, his days at Western is spent outdoors -- a lot! Often, on a beautiful day, classes in literature might be found around the firepit or among the tree branches. Experiencing nature: grass, the sun, heat and cold, rain, mud, rocks, trees, animals, and his classmates, all combine to a highly energizing environment.



# Advisory

Character formation is an overarching emphasis for each boy's growth at Western Academy. Alongside of growing intellectually, our work is to help the boys grow toward manhood. Order, good manners, concern for others, personal responsibility, and a well-formed conscience are all part of his growth. Growing from the inside, the interior life of the boys is where true growth into manhood happen. Side by side with his Advisor, the boy is engaged in wholesome personal conversation, an opportunity to make an objective analysis of his own life, relationships and where he is going. The advisor's goal is to help the boy expand his realm of responsibility to extend outside of himself. With the advisor, the Western boy has a built-in friend – one who listens and meets him where he is and helps him aim higher and for the better. The advisory program builds solid bonds that Old Boys are often found in campus seeking their middle school advisor for continued conversation and plenty of laughs.



# Parents-Culture

## (EVENTS)

We are respectful of the fact that parents have the primary responsibility for the full education and well being of their children. The partnership between parents and teachers hopefully give the boys a dynamic harmony between his life at home and in school. This fruitful partnership engenders the Western culture. Events throughout the year allow for the family like atmosphere between families and the teachers. Enjoying conversation, exchange of ideas, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of each son and student, getting to know each other, all these form a wide tapestry of interconnectedness. Every Western family is part of what shapes and builds this Western Academy Culture.

Western Academy's events are completely unique to the school. Around 60 different events are scattered throughout the school year to build relationships and enhance family life. To new families, the events that Western Academy are often a very pleasant surprise. Loving effort and time are placed to make these events meaningful.

Cultural events such as the Fall Family Picnic, Fall Garden Party, Founding Roots Dinner, and Go Western are centerpieces in the school calendar. In between are relaxing family events such as Grandparents Day, Mother's Tea, and The Dad's Smokers where the simple enjoyment of people are the main reason for gathering. Educational events like Adventures in Leisure, Raising Men of Honor are meant to give parents ideas on good family living. Epiphany Evening and The Corpus Christ Procession are events for the spiritual growth of the boys and their families.





*“No other school we know maintains that spirit of free gift giving at the core of their culture. We put this party on our schedule every year. Displaying generosity and merrymaking invites the community to emulate that spirit that is Epiphany the rest of the year.”*

*- Love, Christmas cheer, and gratefulness,  
Sofia and George  
(Parents of Marco Nino, '2016)*





WESTERN ACADEMY  
1511 BUTLERCREST STREET  
HOUSTON, TX 77080  
(713) 461-7000  
[WWW.WESTERNACADEMY.NET](http://WWW.WESTERNACADEMY.NET)

