

March 6, 2025

Stronger Together: The Launch of a New Chapter

In the heart of Elgin, Illinois, two esteemed Christ-centered schools - Westminster Christian School and Harvest Christian Academy - have faithfully served students, families, and the community for years. Both institutions have built a strong legacy of academic excellence, spiritual growth, and leadership development, equipping students to make a lasting impact for Christ.

Now, through God's guidance, these schools are coming together to create something new - a bold initiative that will strengthen Christian education and expand God's Kingdom. Westminster Christian School and Harvest Christian Academy are uniting to establish a new independent school set to launch in fall 2026. As part of this vision, the school will partner with local Bible-based churches that align with our mission, further strengthening our commitment to faith-based education and community engagement. This partnership brings together the rich history, strong educational foundation, and life-changing ministry of both schools to form a new institution dedicated to high-impact Christian education.

This decision follows a year of prayer, discussions, analysis, and strategic planning, culminating in unanimous approval from the Elder Board of Harvest Bible Chapel and the School Board of Westminster Christian School. More than just a partnership, this is an opportunity to combine strengths and create an even greater impact on students, families, the community, and the Kingdom of God.

A United Vision for Excellence

This partnership will bring together the best of Harvest Christian Academy and Westminster Christian School - rich traditions, strong faculty, and a shared commitment to Christian education and discipleship. This union will allow us to:

- **Enhance academic programs**, offering a broader range of courses, including additional advanced placement and college preparatory opportunities. Expand the resource department to provide greater academic support, enrichment programs, and career readiness initiatives.
- **Expand extracurricular activities**, from athletics and fine arts to leadership and service programs, allowing students to explore and develop their God-given talents.
- **Strengthen financial stewardship**, ensuring sustainability, affordability, and long-term growth.
- **Deepen spiritual impact**, fostering a Christ-centered environment where students are disciplined to grow in faith, character, and servant leadership.

A Blessing for Students and Parents

For students, this partnership means greater opportunities in academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities. They will benefit from an enriched learning environment, a larger community of peers, and increased mentorship opportunities - helping them grow spiritually and intellectually as they prepare for college, careers, and a lifetime of Christian service. As part of this initiative, the school will partner with local Bible-based churches that align with our mission, further strengthening our commitment to faith-based education and community engagement.

For parents, this partnership reaffirms our commitment to providing **the highest quality Christian education**. By bringing together the expertise, passion, and dedication of two exceptional institutions, we are strengthening our leadership and faculty to enhance the student experience. Families will gain a stronger support system, deeper community

connections, and the confidence that their children are receiving an education that prepares them for success in life and a faith-filled future.

A Kingdom Impact Beyond Elgin

At the heart of this decision is a passion for glorifying God and expanding His Kingdom through Christian education. Through this partnership, we will:

- **Equip more Christ-centered leaders** who will influence their communities, workplaces, and mission fields with biblical truth.
- **Expand outreach efforts**, locally and globally, through service projects, missions, and discipleship programs.
- **Demonstrate Christian unity**, showing the power of collaboration in strengthening the Body of Christ.
- **Expand church partnerships** with local churches that share a common vision for Christian education.

This is more than just a name change - it is a transformative step forward. This partnership will create an even brighter beacon of faith, academic excellence, and leadership, preparing students to serve Christ in all areas of life.

One Mission. One Vision. One School.

Together, we are **stronger in faith, stronger in mission, and stronger for the future**. Let's embrace this exciting new chapter, trusting that God is leading us into something truly extraordinary.

What's Next?

With the exciting launch of the new school set for August 2026, there is much to be done - and the work is already underway! We have begun by hiring a transition consultant, collaborating with our legal team, and starting the search for a rebranding company, among other key initiatives.

To guide this process, a dedicated Steering Team has been established under the authority of both boards. Over the next 18 months, this team will develop and implement a comprehensive transition strategy. They will also form and oversee Transition Teams made up of staff and faculty from both schools, ensuring a seamless and well-coordinated transition for students, families, and staff. Ultimately, the Steering Team will facilitate a smooth handoff to the new school board and administrative leadership.

During the 2025–2026 school year, both schools will continue to operate much as they do now. However, behind the scenes, significant progress will be made as we diligently prepare for the exciting launch in the fall of 2026! As part of this effort, we will also be exploring ways to bring the two communities together, fostering connections and collaboration ahead of the transition.

We understand that while this is an exciting time, it also brings many questions. To provide clarity, we have created an [FAQ page](#) that will be easily accessible to both school communities.

Additionally, we encourage you to reach out with any specific questions - we are here to provide answers and support throughout this transition. If you have additional questions, please submit them [here](#).

Together, we are building something extraordinary - **one mission, one vision, one school** - for the glory of God.

In Christ,

The WCS School Board and the HBC Elder Board