

WCCS Partnership with Samaritan's Feet Ministry



Greetings Parents of WCCS Students,

I hope that this note finds you well and that you, and your child(ren), have had a great start to the year. It has been a particular joy of mine this year to see the educational process in action as I walk the halls and look in on our students and teachers hard at work.

As you have heard from me before, and will be hearing frequently, WCCS has a very intentional purpose as spelled out in our End (Mission) Statement: As a ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Westminster Catawba Christian School exists to educate students to bless our world as disciples of Jesus Christ. I am writing today to give you an update on one way that we are seeking to carry out this end statement with our students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

As a school, we are seeking to partner with Samaritan's Feet in their efforts to "bless our world as disciples of Christ." Samaritan's Feet is a ministry in Charlotte started by Manny Ohonme, a man whose life was changed when a missionary to his home in Nigeria gave him his very first pair of shoes as a young boy. Samaritan's Feet shares hope with children in the U.S. and around the world by washing their feet, giving them a new pair of shoes, and helping them believe that their dreams can come true.

In this last year, Samaritan's Feet began a new initiative to raise awareness for the more than 1.5 billion (that is 1,500,000,000) people worldwide who are infected with soil-transmitted diseases which could be prevented by wearing proper footwear (as per the World Health Organization, 2013). Samaritan's Feet created a "Fitness Challenge" where corporations, organizations, teams, and groups can walk together to help reach the goal of 1.5 billion steps while promoting physical fitness on a fun platform and raising funds for a cause. I am thrilled to announce that WCCS is a pilot school participating in this Fitness Challenge this fall.

During the month of September, many of the faculty and staff of WCCS have kicked off this initiative by "counting steps" and have been reminded daily of both the need for fitness as well as the blessing of clean socks and shoes that fit our feet. (As of the writing of this letter, I have personally accumulated more than 101,000 steps - mostly in early morning walks around my neighborhood!)

The next phase of our pilot program will allow our elementary students (and faculty/staff) to "count steps" for the month of October. Students will have their own WCCS pedometer that they will attach to their clothing when they arrive in the morning. Throughout the school day, we will take advantage of those teachable moments reminding students of the accumulation of steps and the awareness that so many children just like them take the

same steps without shoes. We are going to encourage students to bring in a few coins (of their own) to go toward efforts to provide shoes for children who have none. However, this is voluntary, and secondary, to the purpose of this program for us. The hope is that the students would see the gap between the way things are and the way that they should be - and desire to do something about it ("bless the world as disciples of Jesus Christ"). I would encourage parents to join in the "counting of steps" and use it as an opportunity to talk to your kids about this project. If you, as parents, also feel that tug of wanting to be a part of closing the gap, there will be opportunities to contribute to Samaritan's Feet - as volunteers and/or contributors - as we wrap up the month of October.

The middle and high school students will also be participating with Samaritan's Feet - although theirs will be in the form of shoe drives and the distribution of shoes. We have set aside Friday, November 18th, as the day for a special event for middle and high school students to join in the fun and support Samaritan's Feet in their own shoe drive. This will be tied to other events during our winter sports season that will include a "barefoot coaching" night to raise awareness and funds to provide shoes for those without! Much more information will become available about this third phase of our partnership as we press into October and our K-5 step-counting.

I am very excited that we, as a school community, can join together with another organization that is seeking to share the hope of Christ with the world as they provide shoes for children in need. What a great opportunity we all have to educate our students to bless the world as disciples of Christ!

For the King and His Kingdom,

Scott T. Dillon
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Westminster Catawba Christian School