J.W. REED CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Monthly Reed

OCTOBER 2, 2026 - VOL 1.| ISSUE 1

WELCOME BACK WARRIORS!



Media Productions Class Photo; J. Hawthorne

By Daniella Pruitt

The halls are filled once again. There are smiles on faces. Learning and homework are in the air. Welcome back, Warriors! Whether you're returning from previous years, or just now joining us, we're glad to have you.

This is a special year here at J.W. Reed Christian Academy. We have nine graduating seniors, making this our largest senior class so far! In addition, two of these seniors have attended JWRCA for their entire school career! Plus, there are five others who have been here most of their school years. As well as two who left for some time but are back better than ever. Each senior has their own unique story and journey. We are excited to celebrate as they reach this important milestone!

This year is also unique because out of the 74 students enrolled, a large majority of them are in high school and junior high. It's a big shift, because the elementary side has traditionally carried more students. As the school year continues, and staff and students settle into their routines, we are excited to see what each Warrior will accomplish throughout this school year and beyond.

With God as our head, we expect this year to be full of excitement, new friendships, and higher heights reached. Let's make this year a great one. Let's go, Warriors!

What's New?

This year, our school has welcomed newcomers such as Jazelle Bahena, an 11th grader; Timothy Bush, an 8th grader; as well as our many preschoolers and elementary students. For the upper grades, additional electives have been offered such as Spanish and Media Productions. Plus, Music, Computer Lit, and Art return.

A Special Note:

This is the very first issue of our school's newspaper. Our goal is to provide our community with all the updates and information they could ever need about our school. We hope you enjoy it.

TMR STAFF

Daniella Pruitt - *News Reporter/ Editor*
Tavar Butts - *News Reporter*
Myla Long - *Feature Editor*
Elijah Morishita - *Photo Editor*
Abrielle Ratliff - *Sports Reporter*
Melayna Brown - *Design Editor*
Simone Henlon - *Events Reporter*

Question of the Month

What Are You Looking Forward to This Year?

Queenie Morishita '29 - Anticipates excelling academically and maturing in her spiritual walk with God.

Cameron Higgins '34 - Eagerly awaiting school events like Spirit Week and Winter Wonderland.



IN THIS ISSUE:

Pg. 1
Welcome Back Warriors!
What's New?
A Special Note
Question of the Month
Pg. 2
Our School
Building Something New
Pg 3:
Meet Us
Pg 4:
The Elementary Edition
Pg 5:
Senior Spotlight
Pg 6:
Beyond The Score
Pg 7:,
Student Spotlight
Pg 8:
Warriors on the Move
Upcoming Events
Warrior Wordsearch

Our School



PHOTO: AON Studios, LLC The current location of J.W. Reed Christian Academy at 1619 E. University Ave., in Des Moines.

by Myla Long

J.W. Reed Christian Academy has been in existence since 2011, starting out as a homeschool cooperative based at 1619 East University Ave.

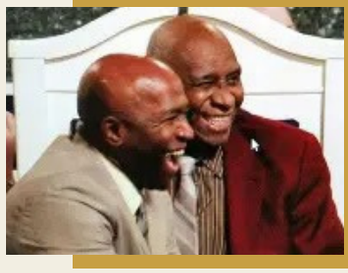
The vision of the academy's founders, the late Bishop Jeremiah Reed and Dr. Willie Mae Reed, was to create a safe learning environment where children could grow, receive a quality education, and develop a strong understanding grounded in God's word.

Over the years, the academy has grown from its humble beginnings into a flourishing classroom-based school. Its tremendous growth shows how God's protection and provision have continually blessed the school.

In December of 2017, Pastor Dwight Reed, the youngest son of Bishop and Mother Reed, took over as pastor of Christ Apostolic Temple and immediately devoted his energy to making sure the legacy of his parents who invested in J.W. Reed Christian Academy would be preserved. Under his leadership, the school started the accreditation process in 2023. One year later in January 2024, accreditation became a reality, aligning the school with state educational standards and more.







PHOTOS Top: The founders, the late Bishop Jeremiah and Mother Willie Mae Reed. Middle: Presiding Bishop Dwight A. Reed and First Lady Jordan Reed. Bottom: Father and son. Courtesy: AON Studios, LLC

Building Something New

Since receiving our accreditation, our school has continued to grow and move forward. God has blessed us and is continuing to bless, opening new doors for our school to become better and stronger.

From welcoming new students to partnering with East High School to give our students opportunities to participate in sports, we have come a long way.

Yet we are still on a journey to fulfill our founder's dreams and aspirations for the school. The vision and mission to equip, challenge, and inspire students with a biblical foundation that recognizes the needs of each student in a safe, caring, and creative academic environment, continues to live in us and guide us. Indeed, the sky is the limit for JWRCA!

Meet Us

NEW AND RETURNING STAFF AND STUDENTS!

MR. KEITH WILSON

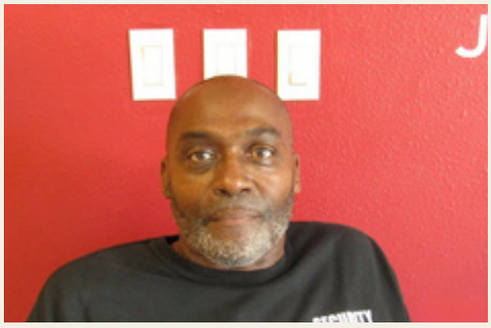


PHOTO: Gabriel Weber

Mr. Keith Wilson is the new security guard who is enjoying his time so far at the school.

“I feel honored and privileged to be a part of the school, and excited to help keep everyone safe and supported.”

His main job is to protect the students and make sure conflict is resolved easily.

“I just want to make sure everybody is safe and secure. I’m not saying there won’t be any problems. I'm here to make sure the school is protected for the the kids.”

He also enjoys the way the children make him feel welcome.

“I just love how the students respect me and make me want to keep coming every day.”

JAZELLE BAHENA ‘28

A new face has joined the halls of J.W. Reed Christian Academy this school year. Jazelle Bahena, an 11th-grade student, recently became part of the school community. As she settles into her new surroundings, Jazelle is meeting new people, getting familiar with her classes, and experiencing what life at J.W. Reed is all about.

When she first arrived, Jazelle was nervous but felt welcomed by everyone. “Everybody is nice and welcoming. I just really like being here now.”



PHOTO: Gabriel Weber

Jazelle says she is excited about more opportunities because the high school she used to attend had an enrollment of 2000 students, compared to 22 students at JWRCA.

“I am excited to try different sports and have more job opportunities, and I would so love to take college classes to be better prepared for life ahead of me.”

Jazelle says that it’s a lot quieter at the academy, and she enjoys the teachers being more relaxed. “The teachers being less stressed makes me feel as if I'm doing something important.”

“It also helps because if they were stressed all the time, it would ultimately affect the way they teach me.”

MS. SHERINA DAVIS



PHOTO: Esiah Morishita

Ms. Sherina Davis, also affectionately known as Aunt Pudge, has returned to JWRCA. During her previous years she was a very popular teacher among the students, and they are excited that she has returned. In her previous stint at JWRCA she had taught numerous classes on various grade levels. She is now teaching and nurturing the Preschool children.

“Coming back to teach the little ones feels completely right. It brings me so much positivity and joy. I’m really looking forward to staying organized and ready for this school year. The kids give me such great energy and vibes. I absolutely love it! They inspire me to push past my own limits and believe in what I can achieve.”

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW STAFF AND STUDENTS

by Tavar Butts

THE ELEMENTARY EDITION

BIG LEARNING, BIG ADVENTURES

Take a look inside J.W. Reed's elementary classrooms, where students are learning, creating, and growing together every day.



Ms. Sherina "Pudge" Davis' Pre-K and Kindergarten class take part in another day of learning and fun.

Every classroom has its own personality, and much of that comes from the teacher leading it. Elementary teachers work hard to create classrooms where students feel comfortable asking questions, trying new things, and learning from their mistakes.

From hands-on activities to everyday lessons, teachers help students build the skills they need for the next step in their education.

ELEMENTARY VOICES

From favorite subjects to favorite activities, students have plenty to say about their school experiences. Some enjoy reading and discovering new stories, while others love creating, playing, or spending time with their classmates.

Their enthusiasm reminds us that learning doesn't always look the same for everyone. Every student brings their own interests, personality, and ideas into the classroom.

by Daniella Pruitt



Elementary math teacher, Mrs. Tanisha Butts, works with the first grade class.



Third grader, Eliana Fugazzotto, and the 3rd & 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Davonna Ricks, go over a lesson on the in-room monitor.



Students in Mrs. MeChelle "MeMe" Brown's 2nd & 3rd grade class work together during a classroom activity.

PHOTOS: Esiah Morishita, Gabriel Weber



J.W. Reed Christian Academy's veteran teacher, Ms. Annette Wright, works with her 5th and 6th class during a science lesson.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Meet Simone Henlon ‘27, one of our seniors who is making the most of her final year!

by Myla Long



PHOTOS: Gabriel Weber

Simone has been attending J.W. Reed Christian Academy since preschool, and throughout her years here, she has grown tremendously. Simone has a light about her that you can both see and feel. She is funny, kindhearted, and most importantly, loves God deeply.

Simone has a special tradition that she shares with some of the students and even some of the teachers. She often says, “Jesus loves you.” While some might think she simply says it out of habit, Simone says it to remind people that they are loved by the highest power. She also reads the morning Scripture over the intercom to help start our school day.

Simone enjoys learning, especially about astronomy, and she has a strong passion for music. She is also a very talented musician. At her church, she plays the drums during church events and services. She also sings at her church and has a singing group with her two younger siblings called The Flares. Her dedication to both her faith and talents is one of the many things that makes her stand out and inspire those around her.

Outside of school, Simone is a huge fan of Mario and enjoys playing video games. She was also the first speaker for our annual Youth Takeover. She didn't just allow God to use her; she became an inspiration to both younger and older generations. She encouraged everyone to let God arise within them. You simply had to be there. The Spirit of God truly took over!





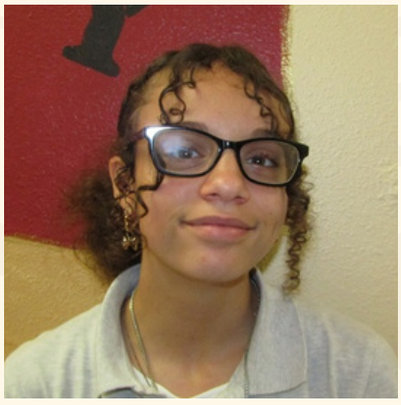
SIMONE HENLON SNAPSHOT

1 — Senior year
2 — Big sister
3 — Ways Simone shares her musical talent: drums, singing & The Flares
4 — Her love for God and learning.

“Jesus loves you.”
— Simone's reminder to the J.W. Reed community

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Meet



Lidiyah Fugazzotto

Our one and only 9th grader!

Starting high school can be a big change, but Lidiyah is taking on the challenge with enthusiasm. As the only 9th grader at our school this year, she has a unique experience that not many students can relate to.

GETTING TO KNOW LIDIYAH

Lidiyah is an expressive and creative student who loves making things and working with her hands. She is also a talented artist and enjoys fixing things, including working on car engines. Whether she is creating something, fixing something, or solving a problem, Lidiyah enjoys figuring out how things work.
But school isn't the only place where she likes solving problems. Lidiyah enjoys figuring things out in everyday life, too!

Inquiring Minds

1. **How does it feel being the only 9th grader?** "Well, it feels great but also lonely because nobody else is in 9th grade. But on the good side, I have some classes with other students, so that's good."
2. **What are you looking forward to this year?** "Making sure I stay on task. I want to be a straight-A student, so I'm going to work extra hard."
3. **What do you enjoy most about school?** "I enjoy my math class when it's just me because I feel like I focus more, and it's enjoyable because of Sis Ivory."
4. **How has this school impacted you?** "By allowing me to focus more and helping me feel more comfortable being myself around other people."

A Freshman With Big Goals

Being the only 9th grader may make Lidiyah's high school experience a little different from the rest, but she is ready to make the most of it. She is determined to stay on task, work hard, and reach her goal of becoming a straight-A student. With her creativity, positivity, and love for solving problems, she is ready to take on whatever this school year brings. No matter what class she is in, Lidiyah finds a way to bring her own creativity and uniqueness to it.

By Myla Long, PHOTO: Gabriel Weber

BEYOND THE SCORE

by Abrielle Ratliff

The school year is starting and that means so are sports! Here's what the J.W. Reed Christian Academy Warriors have in store for this exciting fall season as they gear up to dominate the field, court and swimming venues. Athletes prepare for the pressure in diverse ways. Our athletes were asked, "How do you get mentally ready for a game?" Our Warriors each have their own special pre-game rituals to get into the zone.



PHOTO: Courtesy Amber Hill

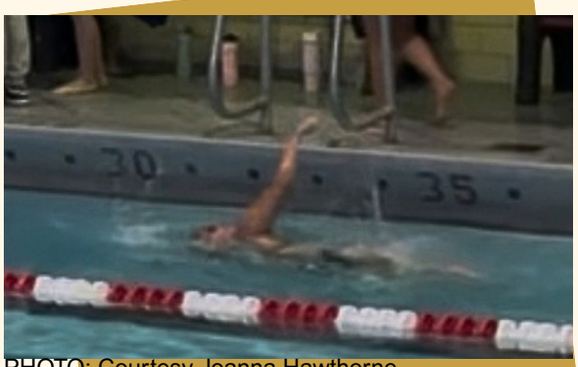


PHOTO: Courtesy Joanna Hawthorne

First is our **volleyball standout, Jayvin Hill '29,** whose action-packed season runs from August to October. To get mentally prepared, Jayvin relies on prayer and positive coping mechanisms, like tapping her fingers to stay grounded. She also likes to talk things out with teammates to build confidence. Finally, she makes sure she looks good for her game, proving that a stylish look leads to a great performance.

Next, our **swimming star, Gianna Weber '29**, takes over the aquatic venue from August to November. Gianna gets ready to compete by focusing her mind through prayer and talking strategy with her coach. Before she gets on the deck, she locks in by listening to high-energy music to get her adrenaline pumping before diving into the pool.



PHOTOS: Gabriel Weber

Last but certainly not least, our **football powerhouse, Brandon Henlon '29,** keeps his motivation high with a special card from his coach. Serving as a powerful reminder of who he is, this card offers him self-affirmation and encouragement before every game. He also meticulously memorizes his plays. Brandon is ready to bring his absolute best to the field for a fantastic season.



These are just a few of the amazing athletes who are Racking Up wins this fall! Stay tuned to see what our winter athletes are up to next season.

WARRIORS ON THE MOVE





Abrielle R. '28 (left) and Elizabeth M. '29 (right) hand out bags of popcorn, adding a classic treat to the festivities.



Jerrel P. '27 (left) and sister Daniella P. '28 help setup and serve event attendees.



College Prep teacher, Dr. Wilbur Smith

9-11 High schoolers worked to earn hours toward their Christian Service graduation requirement at Christ Apostolic Temple's Family & Friends Fun day, an annual community event held at Pete Crivaro Park in Des Moines.

9-27 High school College Prep teacher, Dr. Wilbur Smith, invited the class to a day of enrichment at the Des Moines Civic Center to see the Des Moines Symphony's production of UNITY – AMERICAN MOSAIC & WEST SIDE STORY.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10-12 Spirit Week! Taking place on October 12th through the 16th. Monday - "Marvel Monday", Tuesday - "Toon Tuesday", Wednesday - "Western Wednesday", Thursday - "Throwback Thursday", and Friday - "Warrior Spirit Day."



Students from the College Prep class enjoyed a day at the symphony, thanks to Dr. Smith's generosity.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE NEXT?

Got ideas for the next issue of The Monthly Reed? Give your suggestions to any of the Media Productions staff and see if yours gets picked.

Look for the next issue of The Monthly Reed on October 30, 2026.



Can YOU find 8 others?

W	K	Q	R	H	A	E	N	O	M	I	S	L	V	B	G	B	W	L	R
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E	E	E	M	F	C	M	Y	V	X	L	P	F	W	X	A	P	Z	M	Z
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B	V	O	Z	O	Q	N	W	T	V	B	Z	L	I	T	H	F	T	C	P
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D	J	O	L	Y	A	G	Q	R	Y	Z	C	D	D	U	F	A	E	L	Z

JW Reed
Jesus
Fall
Fun Times
One God
Leaves
Football
School
First Day
Learning
Monthly Reed
Bonus Word: Simone

WARRIORS WORD SEARCH

Answers will be in next month's issue.