

CHARGER PRIDE

Wayne Country Day School senior Will Fickling, Jr. has been selected as a Morehead-Cain Scholar to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and we could not be prouder or more sure that he earned this amazing opportunity. Candidates are selected based on the tenets of *LEADERSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, CHARACTER, and PHYSICAL VIGOR*. According to the Morehead's Scholar Selection Team, fewer than 4 percent of the candidates this year would become members of the Class of 2025, placing Will among a strong and select group. They noted:

"The purpose of the Morehead-Cain Foundation is to identify and invest in promising leaders, challenging them to have a profound impact on the people and pursuits that define their lives. We are confident that Will will leave an enduring legacy at Carolina and beyond; we are thrilled to offer him this unique opportunity."
An Eagle Scout, avid athlete, and community service volunteer, Will exemplifies each of the Morehead-Cain's tenets.

LEADERSHIP

Ask anyone who knows Will and you will hear that he leads by example every day. He may not hold a specific office or have a lofty title, but his actions really do speak louder than words.

Will isn't the kind of leader who prides himself in the number of office titles he carries or ribbons he can display. He shows us all what leadership is by being an example. Watch him pull a group together to collect food for our community, work with the United Way to "Fill the Theatre" for the needy, step in early-on in the Covid-19 pandemic to provide personal hygiene items to those who did not have easy access, and you will witness how contagious his sense of duty can be. Along with a keen sense of humor, Will's open and genuine support of his teammates and classmates are things we all note and appreciate.

SCHOLARSHIP

A diligent, conscientious, and curious student, Will's teachers all remark on his gift of observation, his academic goals and willingness to "do the work" no matter what is required of him. His advisor, Connie Whaley remarked;

"Will actually designed an elective class for the 2020-2021 school year. He prepared Powerpoint presentations, researched videos, contacted speakers, and created a syllabus (pages and pages) of curriculum and activities for the elective class. Will set up ZOOM interviews with professional players. One of the best days of this school year was being able to sit in on the class when the guest speaker was Eric Montross. Sure, Mr. Montross talked about basketball (college and professional), but what he said about setting goals in life and the focus and hard work needed to obtain one's goal's was powerful."

PHYSICAL VIGOR

Will is currently the captain of the varsity golf team, and has also been a member of the varsity soccer and swim teams and JV basketball team. He has earned the "most committed" award for swimming and "Coach's Award" for basketball. His hard work to rehabilitate from a craniotomy in 2015 has taught him the value of determination and effort. Diagnosed with a brain tumor 6 years ago, Will has met every physical challenge he has had to face. Refusing to give up doing the things he loved, he persevered and continued to be both a valued and valuable member of our Charger sports teams. What an example he has been for our athletes and their understanding of what it means to be physically challenged and to work hard at winning!

CHARACTER

No matter the day, the place, the situation, Will ALWAYS chooses to do the RIGHT thing. This is a trait he seems to have been born with and makes an even more important example for his peers. His recent dedication to, and care for, his beloved late grandfather "Steve", was a strong and loving testament to a man Will considered a role model and his best friend.

Will's Words...

Will says he tried very hard not to get his hopes up too high about being selected for the Morehead. He credits his family for helping him keep realistic expectations, but he says he still "hoped very hard". Carolina has always been his dream school, so being accepted to the Honors College and receiving the Morehead-Cain has surpassed anything he wished for. He learned a lot this year virtually with the other 159 finalists. All of their events and meetings were conducted online due to Covid-19 restrictions. He is looking forward to the challenge of the Outdoor Leadership program offered to recipients this summer and hopes it will be one based in Alaska. As far as future plans, Will is remaining flexible and open to possibilities. He knows he wants to major in Business at Carolina, earn his MBA, and eventually work for or own a company that is sports-related. And he always wants to do work that will give back to his community, wherever that is.

Words of EXPERIENCE... "I am very excited for Will. The Morehead-Cain Scholarship offers extraordinary opportunities for growth as a student and a person. I look forward to watching Will's journey through the program and at UNC. Congratulations on your accomplishments Will and best wishes for your time at UNC!" - **Susie Wooten Sumner WCDS class of 1990 Morehead Scholar UNC class of 1994**



Words from friends and family...

"When I heard that Will had received the Morehead-Cain Scholarship, it was one of the proudest and happiest moments I have ever felt. I looked back and remembered this kid that I have grown up with and have been friends with since I was 4, and saw him get into his dream school with a full-ride scholarship nonetheless. He deserves everything that has been given to him because he has gone through so much in his young life. I know Will is going to be successful and this scholarship solidified that belief even more." - **Dylan Brown-WCDS Class of 2021**

"One thing that anyone who knows Will would say about him is that he is a very goal oriented and determined person. He is always down to go the extra mile that others might not want to go to in order accomplish his goals. I am very excited and proud of Will for getting the Morehead-Cain scholarship." - **Thomas Sumner -WCDS Class of 2021**

“Will has always been a hard worker and has been a devoted student from day 1. I have always had faith in him to do great things and I couldn’t be happier for him. I hope he takes this amazing opportunity and has a very successful future not only as a student but also on whatever path he chooses.” – **Ben Stuber, WCDS Class of 2021**

“We are so excited for Will! This scholarship will give him some amazing opportunities and experiences of which he can’t wait to take advantage. We are so appreciative of the teachers and staff of Wayne Country Day School for the top-notch education, guidance and support that they have provided Will throughout the years. We are proud to be members of such a fantastic school family!” – **Marjorie and Tye Fickling, Will’s parents**

...and a few more words from “the wise”



*“Will Fickling is not afraid to make his own path in the world. He leads others by the example he sets in the classroom, on the athletic fields, and in the community. He is an Eagle Scout, a Lifeguard, and a scholar, but most importantly, he is a genuine, caring individual. If Will sees a need or a problem, he always jumps in to help, not for recognition, but because he wants to be a part of the solution. Will is a leader and an inspiration in all that he does.”***Dr. Steven D. Taylor, Interim Head of School**



”Will Fickling is a remarkable young man. He has faced challenges with a strength, courage, and determination that few

can match. Will's journey to where he is today is a story of perseverance, hard work, and self-discipline...Will inspires me. His presence at WCDS reminds me of my blessings and his actions encourage me to do more and to do better. He has a "no excuses" attitude towards solving problems that motivates others. I will miss him when he leaves Wayne Country Day, but I am happy that he will be able to go forward with his dream of attending CAROLINA. I look forward to hearing from Will in the future. I know that good things are in store for Will and those who are fortunate enough to know him." - **Connie Whaley, English Instructor**



"Will was one of the sweetest preschoolers I ever taught. He was always so polite, helpful, and selfless. He was already showing good character traits even as a 4 year old."

- **Cheryl Warren, Preschool Director**



"Will is one of the most conscientious students I have taught. He is dedicated to learning, and dependable and honest in all his activities. He continues to overcome obstacles with resilience, and is a role model for his generation." - **Dr. Ralph Smith, Physics Instructor**



"I met Will in March 2018 during my job interview at WCDS. At the time, I sensed that he was an exceptional person. The past three years have confirmed my initial opinion." - **Joel Ratcliff, History Department Chair**



"Will's life is a testament to the power of staying the course and 'running the good race' with honor, perseverance, and character."- **Cathie Hooks, Intermediate School Director**



"Will understands the value of family, friends, and the importance of kindness. He is dedicated to his education, yet not afraid to say he is not exactly sure what major or career path he will follow. In the walls of this school this little boy has grown into an intelligent well-spoken young man. He sets high expectations for himself and brings out the best in those around him."- **Fran Shaw, Upper School Director and College Counselor**



“When I met Will for the first time, he came to ask me if he had done his summer annotations correctly. His copy looked like an accordion file due to the level of detail he put into his notes and observations. Could you believe he was worried he didn't do enough? Above and beyond doesn't begin to describe the quality of work he still strives to complete. Even more, he is kind, encouraging to those around him, and stands up for what is right. I will miss his encyclopedic knowledge of NCAA basketball and his healthy sense of humor which comes out just at the moment everyone in his class needs a little levity. WCDS is lucky to have known him all these years, and UNC Chapel Hill, his dream school, will be better just having known him.” - **Jessica Butts, English Department Chair**



“Will is an excellent student with a high degree of motivation. He always strives to do his best and is very dedicated and serious about his schoolwork. Will is a pleasure to teach and always contributes to our class discussions In AP Psychology. He has all of the skills needed to be a highly successful college student.” - **Luke Vail, History Instructor**



“I still love you even though you’re a Carolina man.”-
Karen Barfield, Art Instructor



“I knew way back in 7th grade Art that you had an endless wealth of determination and strength of WILL. Boy, were you named appropriately! I will never forget you working on that “shaggy” sketch of a dog, never giving up on a task that was so very difficult for you at that time in your life. So proud of your achievement and can’t wait to see what future you create for yourself and all those others you wish to help!”- **Pam Diffie, Art Instructor**