

# WKU K-8 Self-Guided Campus Tour\*

\*Created by KY Museum Education Dept. *See last page for map of tour route.*



*To the left of the building's entrance, go up the staircase and walk to the Lincoln statue in front of the Kentucky Building*



*Facing Lincoln, turn right and walk up the sidewalk closest to the road. As you walk up the hill, you will see the Felts Log House on your left. Continue, and pass the Augenstein Alumni Center on your left*



## 1 Welcome to the **Kentucky Building.**

This is where you will begin and end your tour.

The Kentucky Building includes the Kentucky Museum, which is home to several exhibits including *Instruments of American Excellence* and *KY in the Civil War*. This building also houses the Special Collections Library, which contains a variety of rare materials including books, photographs, genealogical materials, and much more.

This building was begun in 1929 by WKU's first president, Henry Hardin Cherry, "to preserve Kentucky's history and heritage." Note the columns in front of the building are each a single piece of limestone from top to bottom; very rare to find continuous columns such as these.

## 2 The Augenstein Alumni Center is

one of the newest buildings on campus, built specifically to provide alumni and the WKU community with a comfortable space to hold meetings, social events, and educational programs. The Alumni center also houses the Office of Alumni Relations and the WKU Foundation. **To the right** of the Alumni Center is Fraternity Row, where all of WKU's Fraternity houses are located. The newest addition to this area is the Big Red Statue! Big Red has served as the beloved WKU mascot since 1979. *Great photo opportunity-walk down to the statue if time allows.*



Keep walking up the hill until you see Cherry Hall **on the right**. Cross the intersection and gather at the statue.



Follow the sidewalk directly **to the left** of Cherry Hall. Pass the log building and cross the intersection to **take a right** toward the library



Walk toward the library, and then take the stairs **on your left** down to the fountain

**3 Cherry Hall** is named after WKU's founder President Henry Hardin Cherry. The English, History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies departments are all located in Cherry Hall. The cupola on top of the building houses 25 cathedral bells played daily according to class schedules. These bells and the cupola have become iconic symbols of WKU. **Check out the inscriptions on Cherry's statue. What do they say?**



**4** The **"Time and Place — Compass & Clock"** is a fountain that was constructed by students and faculty in the art department and was finished in 2006. Its features include compass points, stellar constellations and a functioning sundial (the shadow of the water tells you what time it is).



Facing Cherry Hall, follow the sidewalk **to the left** of the building and go down the stairs

Just beyond the fountain is the entrance to



**5 Cravens Library.** This is the main library on campus. This library contains WKU's circulating collections including both fictional and non-fictional works. Helm Library, which connects to Cravens at the left, houses law and reference materials. There is also a student computer lab on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

*Head back to the fountain and walk **to the left** to the Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center*



**6** The **Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center**, commonly known as FAC, houses several departments including: Modern Languages, Music, Intercultural Studies, Communication, Folk Studies, Art, and Anthropology. In the center of FAC is the Russell H. Miller Theatre, which showcases various theatre and dance productions year round.



**7** To the right is the **Colonnade**. These are remnants of the former football stadium which opened with its' first game in 1927. Today it serves as a hot spot for students to study and congregate.



*Keep following the sidewalk toward Gatton Academy. When you reach the fork in the sidewalk, **take the left** and walk on the path closest to Gatton Academy.*



**8** The **Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky** is the Commonwealth's only state-supported residential high school for students interested in pursuing advanced careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Instead of spending their junior and senior years in traditional schools, students take all their coursework through Western Kentucky University with regularly enrolled college students. Gatton Academy was listed as the number one high school in America in 2014, 2013 and 2012.



*Continue walking down the hill. Go down two staircases toward Centennial Mall, which is the center of campus.*

**The red statue called “Centennial” commemorates 100 years of unwavering dedication to higher education at WKU.**

*Veer to the right of the circle and continue to walk toward DSU.*



**9** To your right is the **Dero Downing Student Union**, which recently underwent a \$49 million dollar renovation. DSU houses the student ID Center, the Student Government Association, a Post Office, a variety of campus restaurants, including Starbucks, and the WKU Bookstore.

*At this point, the group is welcome to quietly walk into DSU and look around.*

*If your group chooses to go inside, **please exit the same way you entered to continue the tour.***



Inside, you can see several murals displaying the WKU spirit as well as another Big Red Statue. You may also go down to the Ground Floor of the building and visit the WKU Bookstore.



*Follow the sidewalk down toward the Guthrie Bell Tower. **On your left**, you will pass Minton Hall, the honors dorm, as well as the Academic Complex.*



**10** The **Guthrie Bell Tower** was completed in May of 2002. The statue and tower were gifts from Mr. Lowell Guthrie. The statue is in memory of his brother, Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Robert H. Guthrie. The tower houses 47 bells and has become an iconic symbol on campus. You can often hear the bells throughout the day and, more specifically, after a win for the Tops!



**11** To your left is **Mass Media and Technology Hall**. Located inside is the school of Journalism and Broadcasting, which has been ranked one of the top schools in the nation. This building is also a hot spot for students to study because of the 24 hour technology lab that houses computers, scanners, and printers. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is also home to Revolution 91.7, WKU's student-run radio station.



**12** Straight ahead is the **Preston Health and Activity Center**, the workout hub for everyone at WKU. Inside are several basketball courts that double as volleyball courts, 6 racquetball courts, a swimming pool, a walking/running track, and a cardio center with state-of-the-art machinery and weights. Membership is included in undergraduate tuition, so students are allowed to use this facility at no extra charge.



Facing the statue, **turn right** and follow the sidewalk to the football stadium. Cross the road at the intersection outside of the football stadium.



**13** **Houchens Industries- L.T. Smith Stadium** is the home of our Hilltopper football team and seats 28,000 fans!



**Turn right** and follow the side walk. You will soon see **Diddle Arena on your left**. At Diddle Arena, gather around the statue.



**14** **Diddle Arena** is where the men's and women's basketball teams as well as the women's volleyball team play their home games. It can seat up to 13,000 people.

The statue commemorates Coach E.A. Diddle, who coached at WKU from 1922-1964. He was the first coach in history to coach 1,000 games at one school. Diddle was also known to wave a red towel along the sidelines during his games. Diddle would often wave, toss and chew on this towel and even cover his face in times of disappointment. His red towel is now a part of the WKU official athletic logo. We wave our red towels at athletic events today to cheer on our teams.

*Continue walking up the hill.*



**15** **To the left** you can see the "**Valley**," surrounded by three of WKU's residence halls: Gilbert Hall, McCormack Hall, and Rodes-Harlin Hall. It is known as the "Valley" because when the dorms first opened, they were all-female and this area was once called, "the valley of the dolls."



Congratulations! You have completed your tour when you have arrived back at the Kentucky Building. The sidewalk to the right will lead you back to the parking lot.

We hope you have enjoyed your tour and would like to leave you with a quote from WKU's first president and founder.

*"Western does not consist of the campus and buildings. Beautiful as they are, they are dead things. That other 'thing' in the lives and hearts of the faculty, students, and alumni makes Western the great institution that it is."*

-President Henry Hardin Cherry



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### Get our WKU College Readiness Trunk!

The WKU Traveling Trunk was created at the request of Kentucky educators. This trunk contains: books, brochures, sports memorabilia, graduation items, pull up banner and a variety of Hilltopper items to set up a "WKU Booth" in your classroom. The educator guide is packed full of both print and online resources to give students a holistic view of college life, with information on campus tours, student life, Hilltopper traditions, and much more!

### How do I get one?

Visit the teachers section at [www.wku.edu/kentuckymuseum](http://www.wku.edu/kentuckymuseum)

Or call 270-745-6082 for information