

Faith in the Morning

Faith is a gift of God. These words are never more clear than at 8:00 every morning in the hallway at Covenant Christian High School. After devotions the faculty and staff trickle out of the teacher's lounge. We stand in the main hallway to finish our cup of coffee, talk about our family or the latest events, and greet the students as they arrive. Many students offer a smiling hello, while others avoid eye contact and pretend there is something important on their phone or up ahead that they want to look at instead. Admittedly the line of teachers can be an imposing gauntlet to face so early in the morning!

Faith Kamps is blessedly different. She is a gift from God for us teachers every morning. (I know she is for the students as well, but I am speaking as a teacher in this article). With her books and binder already in her arms and a bright smile on her face, Faith greets us from afar as she makes her way to the row, or circle, of teachers. She joins us every morning to discuss her day, share her wisdom, regale us with a story of her life, and encourage us on our day. In short, Faith inspires us, lifts us up, and reminds us each day that we walk together, students and teachers alike, by Faith.



Faith Kamps is aptly named for she is a gift from God that we all need in our lives; those who have the privilege of walking closest with her are truly blessed. She is not intimidated by teachers but joins us, almost as a colleague, but truly as a fellow heir of righteousness. She will give a high-five, or negotiate herself onto the table to sit next to one of us. Faith is comfortable with us and we are with her. Her excitement and joy for life are contagious, inspiring us as we set forth to begin our day. Noticeably those who talk with Faith in the morning have a smile on their face and a slight spring in their step as they head to their classrooms.

I have learned from Faith. Faith is diligent and on time. Ringing bells means she needs to get to class, a command she promptly and faithfully obeys. Even if mid-sentence, when the bell rings, the conversation is wrapped up for she needs to get going. There are other students to talk to and to walk with. Order and obedience, even on the simplest of things, are neither a struggle nor a burden, but rather a natural walk for Faith. Faith is an encourager. Rarely is there a negative word out of her mouth, and if so, she quickly clarifies and becomes flustered that we might think something negative about what she said. As such, her words always bring joy, lift up, and enlighten. Her words are as sweet as she is, and they fall on receptive ears. Faith is well grounded in life. She is fully aware of what she can and can not do and accepts that. If there is something she can not do, she either tells us a story about how she has tried or tells us of someone who is good at it. Faith is love. Pure and simple, Faith is a gift of love that God brings to us every morning that enables us to see His marvelous hand in all things, in all of our students.



Faith loves her faith. One of the most important weeks of her life every year is Special Needs Week at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds. Here she not only enjoys her week filled with crafts, games, and nightly entertainment, she professes her faith in song and deeds with those of like faith. In a recent conversation I had with Faith, she was surprised that I had attended the Talent Show at SNW because she had not seen me there herself. I told her I am naturally shy in large events and try to blend in. I am there to see

others, not to be seen myself. In true Faith fashion, she admitted that she does not like large groups either but that it is good to get a little bit of attention, sometimes. "Even teachers," she said, "should be recognized some of the time for what they do, and it is OK to be recognized." Sweet Faith. Her words latched onto my heart and have remained there ever since. Faith herself does not like attention any more than I do, but Faith, your words are true for you as well. It is good for you to receive "a little bit" of recognition for the wonderful gift you are to me, to all of the teachers, to our school, to our community, and to the body of Christ. Thank you for being an example of pure Faith.

Faith Kamps is not alone. Many live and walk a life of faith at Covenant Christian High School. They walk, talk, think and live in service of God. There is only one Faith Kamps, but I am grateful that there are many "Faiths" in my life. God is good!

Mr. Scott Van Uffelen