



TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors are a hallmark of diplomacy: respected, influential individuals who serve as their country's representative abroad. The responsibilities of an ambassador are numerous and complicated – they must conduct themselves with decorum, understand the traditions of the country they serve in, and coordinate their government's presence in that nation. In II Corinthians 5:20 the Apostle Paul uses the title of ambassador to describe Christians: "we are ambassadors for Christ." What are the characteristics of an excellent ambassador? I would like to suggest three qualities that are cultivated each day at CCS: knowledge, wisdom and character.

To be effective ambassadors for Christ, we must be knowledgeable about both the world and God. Without knowledge, Christians have no means to communicate to the world and no means to distinguish the ideas of the world from the ideas of God. Colossians 2:8 warns us, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of men."

Students in the middle school at CCS pursue knowledge in many arenas. They learn about the past: ancient cultures, the Founding Fathers, great leaders of Texas. In science students explore the scientific method, the details of a cell, and the intricacies of molecules. During grades 6-8 students begin their pursuit of algebra and geometry. Students learn to critically examine what they read and then to write about and support that analysis. However, each day at Cypress Christian every student also has the profound opportunity to learn more about God and His Word. In sixth grade boys and girls begin to understand that being in relationship with God through Jesus impacts their behavior, values and worldview. In seventh grade students explore what the Bible says about character traits such as faithfulness, obedience, attentiveness, friendship, and many more. During eighth grade students examine the character of God and man's relationship to God as they learn more about a biblical worldview in contrast to other worldviews.

Ambassadors must be wise. In order to be useful, an ambassador must have the ability to present Truth in an engaging manner. I Peter 3:15 speaks to this point: "...always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." Young Warriors at CCS are challenged to hold every thought, action, decision, friendship, and conversation before the light of God's Truth. Christians are God's diplomats to the world; we must allow the Holy Spirit to guide all actions and thoughts to accurately reflect our Savior. Each communication should send a clear message to the unbeliever about the character of God. Teachers and administrators seek to guide middle schoolers to use the grid of God's Word to determine what is acceptable before God and edifying to others.



The character of an ambassador is critical for effectiveness. Those who do not know the nature of God or the Truth of the Bible will look to the ambassador to learn more about God. If we, as God's ambassadors, are not an honest reflection of our Heavenly Father, then we have misguided someone who needs to know Jesus. Middle school teachers seek to be humble and transparent as we interact with students. We want to model to them what it means to live a life worthy of the calling of God. We try to connect honestly with students who are developing their faith and learning to live it authentically before peers and the larger world. II Timothy 2:24-25 encourages believers to "... be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition." The world presses in with many false teachers whose character is selfish and duplicitous. We seek to develop young Warriors who, by their winsomeness and gentleness, will walk strong in their faith, but will also draw unbelievers toward a relationship with God.

To be an ambassador for the Kingdom is an awesome responsibility. We live in a foreign land, yet must represent our King. It is a wonderful opportunity to work daily with young teens who continue the pursuit of excellence as the next generation of ambassadors for Christ by exhibiting knowledge of the world and God's Word, demonstrating wisdom in their decision-making, and showing strength of character as they live lives sold-out to their Savior.

FROM THE Middle School Principal

MRS. IVA NELL RHEA



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