



KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Undeniably Christian. Academically Excellent.

Who's Learning Now?

"Late start day tomorrow," I say to my kids before bed one Tuesday evening.

"Hurray!" says my 10 year old. Time for video games before school!

"Sweet!" says my 14 year old. Sleeping in!

But while our students are sleeping in, having a relaxing morning, or visiting a friend's house for a ride to school, our teachers are starting their day at their normal 7:30am to get some serious work time in. What are they doing? And when students have time off next week Wednesday-Friday (mid-October) and get to enjoy some extra play time, teachers are busy at work for full days. What are the teachers doing?

We're LEARNING and collaborating together! Our professional development time – in August before school starts, during late starts, and days off for students – are all times that we really tackle the work of growing our own skills as educators, as well as collaborating to work on curriculum development, faith integration, and student learning.

I'm sure you've seen our KCS tagline "Undeniably Christian & Academically Excellent." This tagline guides much of the work that teachers do in our professional development training.

In August, we unpacked our calling as Christian educators written in the board policy: "The Kalamazoo Christian School Association seeks to provide its students with such education as shall **promote their spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical well-being**. It aims to **equip its students for living the Christian life** as members of the Christian community in contemporary society." We are consistently asking the question, "How can we weave Christian perspective, Biblical principles, and our faithlines into the daily interactions with students, lessons, units, and systems of life at school?" Teachers work together to consider this and challenge each other to think deeply about this goal for our teaching.

Next week, during our PD time on Wednesday morning, teachers will have time to meet in teams to consider how to best support students' needs and share in the

work of determining the priorities for teaching time with students. We also will spend time on Thursday and Friday at the Christian Educators Association Conference in South Bend, Indiana, learning strategies for engaging students and weaving in Christian perspective with other Christian school teachers from Michigan, Indiana, and other midwest states. We appreciate the opportunities we have to grow together as Christian educators and are so thankful to have these embedded into our school day, knowing that it depends on our families adjusting their schedules to make it happen! We also look forward to seeing all of you parents at parent-teacher conferences, and students again after a much-needed long weekend... and after all of our great learning!

- **Meghan Van Lente - Curriculum Coordinator & Instructional Coach**

