THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

A HEART OF GRATITUDE: A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FROM DR. KELLI DIERS

As we prepare to gather with family and friends for Thanksgiving, Dr. Kelli Diers, the Head of School at Faith Academy of Bellville (FAB), shared a message of gratitude:

I personally feel grateful for all of the people who make Faith Academy the special place that it is. Think about every department: early childhood, elementary, junior high, high school, everybody in the offices, all of the staff positions, our FALCON Center ® program, the people who work behind the scenes to make sure our campus is what it is, our custodial staff, and our awesome lunch ladies who cook food from the heart every single day for our students. I wish I could list every one of our 125 faculty and staff members by name, because it takes everyone to accomplish the mission we are all called to at Faith Academy.

KNIGHTS SUPPORTING KNIGHTS

Our students—the reason we are all here—give us so much to be thankful for. In my first semester at Faith Academy, I have witnessed the love students have for one another and for learning. One of the things I've been so grateful for is seeing the camaraderie and how they support one another. For instance, I love how our student body showed up during our volleyball and football playoff games. Even our littlest Knights, the Knight Lights pep squad, came out to support all of their older leaders. That camaraderie exists across campus, and I think it's something we can continue to build on, grow, and be grateful for.



PLACED HERE BY HIS HAND

Our teachers, whom I give thanks for every day, choose to teach at Faith Academy not simply because it's a job, but because it's a calling. The Lord has placed us here by His hand for this season. This is evident in the way teachers and staff show up for the students at the games and events, despite having families and responsibilities outside of school. It's a big assignment, but we're honored to be called to educate this next generation, who will go out and be difference makers everywhere.

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PARTNERS IN RAISING THE NEXT GENERATION

We recognize that parents are the true educators of their children, and we're grateful that they trust us with the most precious gifts God has given them. In this partnership with our families, we share the responsibility and opportunity of raising the next generation for Christ. Together, we are educating our students spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

The time and support our Faith Academy alumni give as they continue to return, pour into, and support our students mean so much. When two of our alumni return to teach at Faith Academy, and many former students choose FAB for their own children, it's a testament to the standard of excellence we aspire to here.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

I'm profoundly grateful to be at a school where we are free to worship. In chapel, students from elementary through high school now help lead worship in the chapel band, and some even stand up to speak. Watching them use their gifts to point their classmates to Jesus is one of the greatest joys of my week.

That faith continues to grow beyond chapel. For the first time this year, Faith Academy offered a three-day spiritual retreat to our high school seniors. The Cross Encounter retreat gave these young adults the opportunity to learn and grow in their personal relationship with Jesus. As they launch into their next chapter, our seniors carry a firm foundation, along with gratitude for the education they've received and the sacrifices their parents made to send them here.

Our faculty and staff also had the opportunity to experience Cross Encounter, as they have had every fall and spring for several years. Those three days drew attendees closer to the Lord and to one another, and they returned to campus refreshed and reminded of why we're here. When we remember that every person is made in the image of God, it changes how we teach, lead, and love our students.

FAITH IN ACTION

Faith Academy has a tremendous spirit of service. Currently, our entire campus is gathering donations for our annual food drive, with more than 800 non-perishable food items ready to benefit our local food pantries. We're also in the midst of filling Operation Christmas Child boxes to spread the love of Jesus around the world. Our mission goes beyond academics. We seek to develop young people of character who step up to serve others.

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On the subject of gratitude, I'm excited to share our first Annual Impact & Stewardship Report, which traces Faith Academy's history, shares highlights from last year, and shows where we're headed. We're grateful for the foundation built at Faith Academy over the last 32 years, and in January, we'll roll out our strategic plan detailing our vision for the years ahead. We're thankful for the opportunity to honor the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to the future. The 2025-2026 Annual Impact & Stewardship Report is available on the Faith Academy website at www.faithacademybellville.org.

We'll never be the same group again, but we'll always treasure the time we have and the difference we can make during this season. The entire FAB family wishes our Bellville community and beyond a Thanksgiving of warm memories, gratitude, and, of course, tasty food.

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Dr. Kelli Diers, Head of School

