

THE MUSTARD SEED

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Faith Mennonite High School

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High School in Retrospect

Grandparents are very special, and at Faith Mennonite High School, we value our grandparents a great deal. On October 4, 2018, we had a wonderful opportunity of spending an evening with our grandparents at the annual Grandparents' Banquet. There was a delicious meal served and the students gave a little program to give the grandparents a peek at what they are learning. I had the opportunity to interview my grandparents, Earl and Edith Groff, asking them several questions about when they were in high school.

Were your classes loud? Did you whisper other than when you were answering a question?

We were NOT allowed to talk without permission, and we were also NOT allowed to sleep in study hall.

What was an important feature in your high school?

At Lancaster Mennonite High School, we had a chorus called Seniors Chorus, and if you sang on it and sang parts of the Messiah, that was an important thing to do. Also, there was a special singing group called Choraleers in which the director would hand-pick specific juniors and seniors to sing on it. If you were chosen, that was something to be proud about.

What do you think the main difference is between high school in the 1960s and high school in 2018?

It is more in-depth now. Back then finding answers was harder than now because we didn't have the internet. Our lessons were all done with pens on paper.

If you could re-do high school, what would you do differently?

Edith: I would try harder and apply myself more.

Earl: I don't know what I would do differently, but computers would make it easier.

What kind of education would you like your grandchild to receive here at FMH?

Knowing how to use a computer seems to be a necessity these days, as well as the basics with Biblical principles behind it. Also, anything that can be used in your career and opportunities that will come up.

How do you feel about cellphones in school?

We don't think they should be used during class, but we don't see anything wrong with using them before or after school and lunchtime. We believe the policy at FMH is very good.

If you were teenagers looking for a high school to attend, would you choose FMH?

We would definitely consider it, partly because of what we see at other high schools.

What issues did you deal with, Earl, when you were on the school board from 1991 to 1994?

TVs were a big problem. It eventually got to the point where we had to tell someone either to get rid of their TV or find a different school to go to. We also dealt with increasing tuition because we decided the teachers should receive higher salaries.

I think it would be neat to travel back in time and spend a day with my grandparents in high school. I think I would be surprised at how much has changed. They didn't have extra credit, organized sports games, or computers. I think it would help me to appreciate the blessings I take for granted. As we recount our blessings, let us strive for excellence so we can pass the blessings along to our children and grandchildren.

Maria Groff, Assistant Editor



Got SAT?

On Wednesday October 10th, the juniors took PSAT exams here at Faith with the juniors from Terre Hill. The PSAT is a practice test to get students familiar with what a real SAT might be like. The SAT and the ACT are the two primary college admissions tests administered in the United States. Most colleges accept test results from either test for incoming freshmen. Over two million students take the SAT each year.

FMH secretary Miss Swartzentruber, who graduated from The Ohio State University, explains the structure of the exam: "The SAT is made up of four sections: Reading, Writing & Language, and two Math sections (one with calculator, and one without). The Reading portion has 52 comprehension questions, based on provided passages, with a 65 minute time limit. The Writing & Language portion emphasizes language and grammar usage (again, within passages), with 44 multiple choice questions and a 35-minute limit. The non-calculator math section is 25 minutes long, while the calculator math portion is 55 minutes. There is also an important essay section of the exam which, while it is optional, is required by some colleges."

If you plan to go to college after high school, taking your SAT and getting a good score could help you get a scholarship. You are given two chances to take your SAT test, and colleges will take the best score out of both of your tests and use the best score. Some colleges offer money for impressive SAT scores. Even if your college or university doesn't offer scholarships for your SAT score, many community organizations and foundations do.

We asked English teacher Miss Beiler (who is currently enrolled at Millersville University) how it was for her to take the SAT: "The cool thing about the SAT is that you can take it multiple times. Because of this, I would recommend taking a 'trial run' during the end of junior year and a 'real' one at the beginning of senior year. At the end of your junior year, take an SAT and don't study for it. This will simply give you a feel for 'where you are at.' At the beginning of your senior year, evaluate your SAT score. Consider what college you are planning on attending, and if you need a certain SAT score to get into that college, study hard and take the SAT again. If your score is already 'good enough' to get into your planned college, you are good to go."

FMH students take their SAT exams off-campus, at local public high schools. Students interested in taking the SAT need to create an account at collegeboard.org and sign up one month in advance of a specific test date, choosing a local test center. (The deadline for the upcoming December 1st exam at Conestoga Valley, for example, is November 2nd.) If you have any plans of going to college at all, even if it is just a random idea in the back of your mind, start making plans to take your SAT. You won't regret it.

Lindsey Stoltzfus & Ashley Zook, Staff Writers

SAT Test-Taking Tips

1. Eliminate wrong answers (there will be three of them). There is only 1 correct answer.

2. Skip difficult questions. Don't get bogged down. Move on, before you've wasted too much time.

3. But don't just skip. Guess. Test-takers are no longer penalized for wrong answers.

4. Read the comprehension questions before skimming the passage. That way you are "reading for a purpose" – that is, looking for answers.



Are Sports Secondary?

Sports. They teach teamwork and perseverance. They prove the value of hard work and its rewarding affects. Yet they also distract and tend to take priority over more important life matters. Being involved in sports provides a great opportunity to learn teamwork, how to build others up both individually and as a team, how to take responsibility for one's own actions, and how to win and lose with an attitude that reflects Christ. These are lessons that go beyond the game and can be applied to life outside of the realm of sports. Yet while there are many benefits to being involved in sports, there are negative points as well. Because many enjoy the game and the competition, it is easy to let sports take away from other areas of life. They can steal time, energy, and focus that belong to other areas such as academics, spiritual life, or social life. Sports is an area in which it is extremely easy to take all credit for self yet throw blame on other teammates when mistakes are made. At FMH, we offer four sports: basketball, volleyball, soccer, and softball. Through our sports programs, we strive to teach and reap the benefits that come with being involved with the team. And although sports are a big part of school life, they need to remain in their rightful place when aligned with the purpose of our school's existence. Faith Mennonite High School is here to prepare our young adults to launch into life and the future, equipped with the best possible Christian education. At FMH, we strive to "teach excellence in academic, vocational, and biblical disciplines." And alas, sports remain as the lesser in importance.

Kelsey Garman, Editor

Staff Speak Out

We asked teachers to (1) describe the perfect student, (2) describe the perfect patron parent, and to (3) highlight Faith High School's strengths.



Mr. Paul - Dean of Education

(1) *A student with many questions who wants answers and isn't afraid to work hard.* (2) *Makes efforts to come to PTF. Eats at least one meal a day with their student(s).* (3) *Good shop classes and 91 of the best students in the county.*

Miss Jewel - Home Ec

(1) *One who puts their best forward in everything and are still achieving in all grades they get.* (2) *One who gives full support to their student and to school activities as much as possible.* (3) *The Bible program; offering a wide variety of electives for students to choose from.*



Miss Crystal - History

(1) *Someone who hangs on to every word I say. :)* (2) *Someone who is concerned about their child, asks how they are doing, and is supportive of the teacher.* (3) *I see a lot of interaction in the different grades.*

Miss Beiler - English

(1) *Someone who works hard, and someone who is willing to learn and think deeply.* (2) *They're interested in their child's life and are a good communicator.* (3) *I think we do very well with relationships.*



Mr. Harrison - Science

(1) *I think there is no such thing as a perfect student.* (2) *There is no such thing. There is one perfect person, Christ.* (3) *Christian teachers well-taught in their field, who have great love for their students and have a desire to press on to excellence.*

Calendar

Nov	2-3	Fairview Tournament
	5-9	Spiritual Life Week
	7	Report Cards Due
	12	New Student PT Conferences
	21	Early Dismissal
	22-26	Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec	13	Christmas Concert
	21	Early Dismissal
	22-Jan 1	Christmas Vacation

Alumni Feature

Arthur Kauffman, FMH Class of 2008, got his B.A. at Bethel (the oldest Mennonite college) in 2014 with a double-major in Literature and Religious Studies. He later received his Master's in Education from Pittsburg and has been teaching in urban schools ever since. Arthur is currently teaching English at a small public high school in the South Bronx where the student population is primarily Dominican, Puerto Rican, and Jamaican. In his own words: "I'm thankful for the grace FMH gave



me at a point in my life when I most needed it, like Mr. Paul letting me grab my morning Fast Break from the Accounting II stand during first period because I had overslept again or Mr. Myron letting me hand in an essay late. I try to extend that same love and grace to my students now. Faith helped expand possibilities in my future by making my world just a bit bigger, a gift I hope to pass on to my students as they negotiate their identities within the context of their local culture and community."

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