

We all share an incredibly special blessing by being a part of Covenant Christian School. In an effort to continue to increase our bonds as a Christian family, we will be sharing the stories from our faculty and staff that describes their upbringing, life before Covenant, how the Lord called them to our school, and what they love the most about CCS. I welcome any parents, grandparents, and students to set time aside to spend with me so that I can get to know you all better and transcribe your story too! Please write to me at njordan@ccssmyrna.org

Along with our current faculty and staff, Mrs. Pugh has been the glue that has held CCS together and allowed so many students to thrive for the past twelve years. We are incredibly blessed to have someone who I have personally witnessed care deeply at all times about what is truly best for our children.

Born in Mount Vernon, New York no one could have foretold the deep loyalty Phenette would one day have for the University of Alabama! She grew up in a very religious household consistently attending Sunday School and Church each week. Her family moved to Alabama when she was in elementary school and they became members of the Baptist Church. It was her time in Tuscaloosa at college that she began to understand and enjoy a personal relationship with the Lord. Unlike so many college students, she sought out like minded Christian friends which eventually led her to meet her husband Ed. Originally an Electrical Engineer Major, Phenette shifted to Industrial Management. During these years she worked for a children's home. She began to sense the nudge of the Holy Spirit's call to teach, but like a lot of us, did not think that she was made to do that kind of work.

After graduating from the University of Alabama Phenette moved to Atlanta and began working in Buckhead in banking operations. She and Ed would have their first daughter, Raven. She stayed at home for the first couple of years of Raven's life and then decided to go back to work. The work-life balance that challenges all of us became a real struggle that led Phenette to work at her daughter's daycare. She became a teacher's assistant. After the birth of her second daughter, Camille, she went to The Cumberland School and became a TA and teacher for K3 & K4 classes. After her third daughter Jessica was born, Phenette stayed at home because she and Ed felt it was time to home school the girls!

This experience became a catalyst to draw Phenette to Classical Christian education. She fell in love with Susan Wise Bauer's curriculum, became connected with a Classical homeschooling group, and went on to become their multi-leveled science teacher! As her daughters grew older and

approached the middle school years, Phenette and Ed decided it was time to look for a solid Christian school. After a negative experience where her oldest was not challenged academically, Phenette's sister told her about Covenant Christian School.

With Raven in 7th grade and Camille in 4th Phenette immediately loved the academic rigor her girls were challenged with. She really appreciated how Latin was taught and the importance of how that would benefit her daughters later in life was clear to her. She really liked the fact that the school was and continues to be a family oriented place where everyone looked out for everyone else. This made her feel like her children were safe at all times with not only the faculty and staff but also the parents! The teacher's work ethic and commitment to excellence stood out to her and she really appreciated the small student to teacher ratio which allowed the teachers to intimately know her girls and give them the attention they wouldn't find in most other schools.

In her time at Covenant Christian School Phenette began teaching K4 and K5 students. She took on more responsibility as the Latin teacher for 5th grade, and later the 6th through 8th grades as well. She would become the Preschool Director while also teaching Latin and earning her Masters in the Art of Teaching, and yes being a full-time mother ALL AT THE SAME TIME!!!

Phenette said one of the elements which stood out to her most when she was touring Covenant many years ago and continues in our hallways is the "joy in the process of the work" she sees our students engaged in today. Seeing a school where students are orderly, displaying good manners and respect to elders while combining the joyful exuberance of being a child is so uncommon in 2019.

Thank God for the work Mrs. Pugh has done every day for so many years at Covenant Christian School. Because of her efforts and example, many children for many years have been shaped into authentic Christ-like leaders who will impact our future.