

Faith Statement

Emily Kanitz

Hi my name is Emily Kanitz and I am a sophomore at Hopkins High School. I'd like to start off with a prayer, will you bow your heads and pray with me. Dear God thank you for this opportunity to share my faith and I ask you for the ability to speak from my heart. Amen.

God first said "yes" to me before I knew anything and he loved me even though he knew I was going to make mistakes. He sent his only son, Jesus, to die on the cross for my sins. I believe it's my turn to say "yes", to loving, believing, and trusting in God. Saying yes also means to spread his word, wisdom, and light into the world. Now that I have said yes I would like to tell you about being a christian and having faith in Jesus Christ.

A living and active faith in Jesus Christ is important to me because he gives me strength to push through, and calms my anxieties. He also believes in me and gives me confidence. It is important to me that He is in my life to help guide me through a crazy unknown future that is ahead of me. My relationship with Jesus has made me a better person, friend, daughter, and sister. The presence of God at school gives me confidence (to raise my hand, and speak in front of the class) and eases my worries about tests, essays, and grades. My relationship with Jesus at home has made me grateful for all I have (food, house, family, and friends). My relationship and faith in Jesus has given me beautiful things but has also helped me through the tough times.

My grandpa had brain cancer back when I was two years old. Luckily they got all of it and he ended up living for 11 more years, my grandpa was in the oneth percentile for living that long after having brain cancer. My mom told me that whenever my grandpa would go into surgery or when he was scared he would repeat the bible verse Phillippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me". My grandpa is the first and only person who has died that was close to me. When he died I was in shock and was confused why God would do this to me and my family. One bible verse that gave me comfort during that time was Jeremiah 29:11 " For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". That helped me understand that God has plans for everyone and He will help you prosper.

To continue in the covenant God made with me in baptism, I became a student leader. So that I can continue to see my christian friends at church and help spread God's love and words and remain in his family. I want to serve and help people whenever I can whether its direct or indirect. Next I would like to tell you about the bible verse I choose and why its important to me.

The bible verse I choose is Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". I choose this verse because it gives me comfort and strength in what my future might hold and that I can trust in God and He will fill my life with joy and happiness.

My faith statement piece represents how God has been present in my life. First I have a ski boot which represents skiing, I've been skiing since I was two years old and to me it is something that represents family. Every year I have always gone on a ski trip with my family and extended family, which is like 25 people. Although sometimes it's not

the actual skiing that makes it memorable, its the drinking hot chocolate by the fire and laughing that is. Next I have a softball which has the bible verse I choose written on it. Softball is another big part of my life because it represents friends for me. Some of my teammates are my best friends and all of them are my friends. Going to out of state tournaments and eating out with them between softball games are some of my favorite memories. And lastly I have a photo cube with photos of everything that has brought me joy and happiness throughout my life.

Finally I would like to end with a prayer, will you bow your heads and pray with me. Dear God thank you for the gift of faith and for the ability to say "yes" to you. Amen.