

October 2011

Dear Cornerstone Staff and Prospective Parents,

My name is Doris Johnson, and I graduated from Cornerstone in 2009 after having attended school there since the 5th grade along with my two older brothers, who are now in their final years at West Point and the United States Naval Academy. I know I'm also speaking for them when I say that Cornerstone is an excellent school, and I am honored to tell you how Cornerstone has shaped my life and why it is such an amazing school.

A prospective parent of a high school student once asked me years ago what makes Cornerstone so special. After all, Cornerstone doesn't have the highest-ranked athletic teams, the best arts program, or the coolest campus, so why should someone send their child to Cornerstone? Besides the fact that it's a Christian school, what makes it so different from the public high school down the street? What's the point of sending your child to a school where they're "sheltered" and fed the truth, only to then send them to a state university where they won't know what to think anymore?

After thinking it over for a few seconds, my answer to the parent was this: Cornerstone isn't great because it teaches its students what to think; rather, it teaches students how to think. When we graduate and continue on into higher education or step into the work force, we'll be equipped with the tools we need to discern between right and wrong. We'll know how to both serve others and lead groups, thanks to the many leadership classes. Every teacher at Cornerstone teaches its students about the world in light of what God's word says, and so we'll have a Biblical view of mathematics, the arts, and history (something I took for granted until I started college).

My teachers at Cornerstone helped me learn lasting truths: that living a successful life means being a giver instead of just a receiver, being a leader who knows how to serve, and being an achiever who gives all glory to God. I learned that while it's important to study hard and to excel in my academics, true success can't be measured by the number of diplomas, positions, and honors I am given but in hearing of the words "Well done, good and faithful servant."

That, to me, is more important than going to a school with the best campus.

I hope that these few words of mine have given you a glimpse of the value of a Christian education. Now that I have graduated, gotten married and hope to have children of my own one day, I look at Cornerstone in a new light. I now see it as the kind of school I want my kids to attend, because I know they will receive the same excellent education that I received.

God bless you all!

Doris Johnson

Class of 2009