

Upper School

When I was a kid, the world looked simpler. It was easy to dream and enjoy the little things. Sure, life could be scary and hard at times but mostly my world was full of play and imagining, my creativity had no limits.

But at some point I realised things were changing and I knew the space between “child” and “adult” lay ahead of me, waiting. It’s not hard to be overwhelmed. I started high-school the way anyone does; nervous, hopeful, unsure but expectant. Soon I was navigating so many different things, and a lot of them for the first time. I was thinking and planning for my future, a future I didn’t and couldn’t understand yet. I wanted to do my best and become the best version of me, and gain the confidence to see my dreams come to life.

The thing that has made the most difference to me has been the teachers who have really believed in me – it’s almost like they see something in me that I can’t see yet. And it makes me want to be that person. My physics teacher, Mr Wong, always makes us laugh - he’s a crack-up. But deep down I know he really cares about me and he always checks to see how I’m coping with everything. He knows Physics is my hardest subject and he’s really encouraged me to stick at it and given me a lot of extra help. I wouldn’t have kept going without his support.

Since Year 9, I’ve had a bit of trouble with anxiety especially around exams but I’ve been talking to the School Counsellor which has helped me so much. She’s even been praying with me and giving me different strategies to help me focus on what I can do instead of worrying about what I can’t do. I definitely find exams easier than I used to!

My human biology teacher is so kind, she has a lot of grace for us because she gets that upper school is hard work. But every time I walk into an exam I feel this calmness come over me because I know how hard she has worked to make sure we know all the content and feel prepared.

When I leave school I want to be a professional singer/songwriter. I’m so happy I get to do one-on-one singing tutoring in school and I can notice my voice constantly improving. I’ve even had the confidence to start writing my own songs. In music we’ve been doing recording too which has just confirmed how much I want to do that when I leave school.

Being in the community at Kennedy Baptist College has been a really safe place for me to navigate these things. This stage of life can be hard. But I know I have teachers who care about me and want to see me succeed and I really feel like they invest themselves into me. I can see it’s not just a job for them.

I don’t know where life is going to take me. But I know that I’m getting ready for it at Kennedy. I’m so grateful to be in a community with so many opportunities and great support! It feels like every part of me is growing and changing for the better. I can’t wait to see what my future holds.

Lower School

I've played basketball since I was 5. I was so happy when I found out about Kennedy's Specialist Program cause I really want to play professionally one day and its helping me improve so much. We go to school early for training, so early that it's still dark in winter.

After school on Wednesday I stay late for Science Club and Mr Simmons does the coolest experiments with us. I saw an awesome Volcano experiment on Youtube and he got all the stuff for it so we could do it last week and it was so crazy! He always lets us think of our own ideas which makes it so fun!

I've always found Maths and English hard but this year I've been doing small group time in the Learning Support Centre. I'm also getting tutoring after school for English which is really helping.

I love Robotics though! It's so much fun! At the moment we're learning coding and sequencing and I'd love to find a job one day doing something with robotics. I love doing Interschool sport as well because it gives me something to aim towards when I'm training and practising.

This year my mum's been really sick which has been tough on the family. Some days are really hard and I don't even want to talk to my friends about it. But I've been going and talking to Mrs D'Sylva, the Counsellor. She's so nice and I can just talk about what's happening and she gives me ideas about how I can cope. I always leave feeling so much better cause I know I'm not doing it alone.

I'm really happy to be at Kennedy, I've got awesome friends here and we're gonna make some great memories. I'm working towards my dreams too, and that feels amazing.