

In 1 Corinthians 9:22, the apostle Paul wrote that he becomes “all things to all people”. This was one of many verses we, the Central Christian eighth graders, discussed during pre trip planning time, in preparation for a week of service at Lighthouse in Southeast Canton, Ohio. Central staff gave us ample guiding in the weeks before the trip, so when we arrived, everyone knew what to expect and could focus their energy on given activities. The eighth grade Service Learning trip to Lighthouse Ministries will be something that I always remember.

CCS is unique because of the chance it gives its students to participate in Service Learning. Throughout the week, we cleaned and organized the facility at Lighthouse, as well as other projects around the neighborhood. It was amazing to work alongside my peers and know that we were helping other people while doing so! We were also privileged to connect with the kids at Lighthouse Ministries in an afterschool program every day of the week.

Another distinctive at Central is Faith Formation. I saw this portrayed through the adults who walked alongside us and used their time to pour into middle schoolers, and in a simulation called “Walk in my Shoes”. In that experience, we learned what it was like to live in poverty for one day by walking around Canton with a small group of students and a leader. For lunch, we ate in soup kitchens, building relationships with the people there. Our trip was closed with a Prayer Path time, when the entire class reflected on what we learned and asked God how we should apply this in our lives.

I am so thankful and blessed to have had the opportunity Central gave us this March in going to Southeast Canton. We learned how to treat other people; peers, adults, and the kids; how we want to be treated, and that it is so important to show God’s love to everyone we meet. In conclusion, Central provides a unique opportunity that teaches its students how to truly live out the gospel through real experiences, memorable for the rest of our lives.