

Service at Dock reveals the value of an educational experience where faith and learning are inseparable.

"I learned to step outside of my comfort zone and I began to see how God was working through me." **Madelyn Churches** ('24) made this statement during her Senior Presentation as she reflected on the impact of the Mini-Term service trip to the Dominican Republic she experienced as a sophomore. The opening line of Dock's *Statement of Educational Philosophy* says, "Dock Mennonite Academy understands faith and learning to be inseparable." Service at Dock reveals the value of an educational experience where faith and learning are inseparable. At every grade level, students participate in service opportunities and regularly practice putting the needs of others before their own. Service becomes a way of life for students and it becomes a part of the ethos of the Dock experience. As a Mennonite school that incorporates Anabaptist faith practices, the gospel message is lived out through praying, serving others, and enabling students to grow in understanding that they can make a positive difference in the world globally and locally.

Each Friday for ninety minutes, middle school students get the unique opportunity to participate in service learning both on and off campus. Many of these students have enjoyed the experience of working with younger elementary students. This service opportunity has led students to ask for a babysitting certification class so they can continue to work with the younger students outside of school. Students



have also been part of a knitting and crocheting experience, where they learned how to create hats and scarves with the help of the Souderton Home Knitting Circle. Some of these students have continued to use this new skill to make hats for preemies at local hospitals. Service is also incorporated at the most local level, with students sometimes providing acts of service on campus.



Students also engage in a variety of service opportunities on the high school campus. One option for student *Choice Chapels* (a four-week series in the fall and spring) is participating in acts of service on campus. All juniors complete service hours as a part of their *Social Issues* trip to Washington DC. A service project including acts of service on campus is incorporated with our Sophomore Bible Class which is focused on the Jesus Story. In September, all students in grades 9-11 participate in a week-long Mini-Term course that involves off-campus service and learning opportunities. During this same time, seniors complete job shadowing and/or service as a part of senior Bible class.



Living out the Gospel by Serving Others



When service becomes a part of the ethos of the school, there is a sense that it becomes "just what we do here," and student-led service begins to happen organically. Middle school student **Avelynn Myers** used her Genius Hour class as an opportunity to create a plan to fundraise and raise awareness for Keystone Opportunity Center, raising \$1,050 by hosting "Avelynn's Mini-Cafe" at the Franconia Mennonite Church's Mom's Market. High school students in **Mr. Matt Moyer's** Recreational Games class planned activities for the MCIU (Montgomery County Intermediate Unit) Pre-K students that used classrooms in Dielman Hall. **Leah Al-laty** ('24) got the ball rolling with this exciting plan and Mr. Moyer shared that, "Leah had the idea but didn't just stop leading there, she remained an important leadership presence throughout the experience." These are just a couple examples of the many that could be shared of how Dock students look for opportunities to serve others, understanding that they can make a positive difference in the world globally and locally.

