









Where Learning Comes Alive: Monica Adams Discovers the Heart of Principia School

Principia welcomed seasoned St. Louis broadcaster, Monica Adams, to campus this past fall to get a glimpse into what makes this PreK through grade 12 day and boarding school so unique. She arrived full of curiosity and enthusiasm after hosting a live interview with Head of School, Terry Grigsby, who shared Principia's whole-child approach to education. Grigsby emphasized Principia's focus on seeing every child as limitless, noting, "We want to cultivate a student's intellectual, spiritual, and ethical capacity," he continued, "Principia changed my life, and it has changed lives for 127 years."

After Monica came onto campus and met students eager to share what makes life at Principia meaningful, and faculty and staff who embody the School's vision of academic innovation and experiential learning, she exclaimed: "I want to go back school!"

While touring the School building and state-of-the-art Simon Field House on Principia's 360-acre campus, Monica was moved by the sheer breadth of programs offered, character education, and clear theme of love and community. From next-generation learning spaces to theater and sustainability programs, athletics, global travel, monarch gardens and yes—even chicken coops. "We had nothing like that when I went to school," Monica mused. "What kid would not want to wake up and go to this school?

What surprised Monica most wasn't just the impressive facilities or the beautiful campus—it was the sense of deep connection she felt among students and faculty, and the opportunity for experiential learning. "Community, camaraderie, family, and overall love. It's all about love and feeling connection," she said, a simple statement that captured the spirit of Principia where relationships are just as important as grades and students feel supported and seen.

This immersive tour of Principia School brings together students, educators, and leaders from across campus to share how learning comes alive—through academics, theater, athletics, sustainability, spiritual life, and boarding. Viewers hear directly from Principia's faculty and students as they reflect on what makes this community distinctive, supportive, and deeply engaging.

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