

Malvern Hill Mike and Mary *A Profile of a Generation 180 Student*

For each characteristic of a Malvern student there's a tool/instrument to equip. We make decisions and disciple that our students learn and demonstrate the following traits:

1. **Biblically literacy.** We teach our students the 7Arrow method of Bible study and we revisit it often. We work through whole books of the Bible on Wednesday nights and follow the same Sermon driven discipleship program in our LifeGroups as our adults on Sunday morning (1Tim. 4:12, 2Tim. 2:15).
2. **Pursue holiness.** Holiness is caught and taught. We teach God's expectation of holiness and create chances for our students to be around other teenagers and adults who exemplify that pursuit. The pursuit of holiness happens through consistent growth in their relationship with Jesus and as students are around others who have the same goal (Prov. 27:17).
3. **Competent in spiritual disciplines.** As mentioned, Bible study is reinforced with the 7Arrows method. We teach Donald Whitney's book *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. We constantly stress the importance of Bible verse memorization and meditation. We pray in our small groups. We talk often about the honesty of the prayers in Psalms and how to model them. On our Ski Trips we study the Sermon on the Mount, and work through Jesus's model prayer (Matt. 6:7-13).
4. **Possess a Christian worldview.** Accomplished primarily through our Wednesday night sermons where we address current events and opposing worldviews. We're also intentional about choosing Equipping Studies to reinforce the Christian worldview. Recently, pastor Craig has begun teaching at Chic Filet on Wednesday mornings truths stressing the value of having a Christian worldview (Rom. 12:1-2).
5. **Actively engage in our community.** Our students lead Bible studies and in case you are unaware, they lead a lot of them. There are Bible studies every week at in at CMS, CHS, NCMS, and NCHS. We purposely plan events that allow our students to invite their friends. This limits our event capabilities as we regularly entertain over 50 teenagers, but we believe the opportunity to invite is more important. Additionally, we speak at least weekly about apologetics and our role in leading others to know Jesus through gospel proclamation and defense (Matt. 28:18-20; 1Pet. 3:15).
6. **Committed to the broader sphere of the church.** This goal is multidimensional. The broader sphere consists of different ages and opportunities. Students are encouraged to participate and serve at Senior adult supper, VBS, Fall Fest, BBQ and in the Children's ministry. This allows students to serve with spiritually mature adults developing relationships outside their normal spheres of influence. Lastly, if you've been around on Wednesday night you've witnessed the chaos that happens in the gym. We have come to appreciate this as it allows our students and children to be in the same place at the same time. They play together, they get to know one another, and they begin relationships that are likely to grow as our children move to youth and so forth (Prov. 22:6; Heb. 10:24).

The importance of developing a profile is essential to our decision making as we lead our students. By developing this profile are very specific with our choices. Decisions are made with the end in mind, whom we wish our students to become and stay diligent to our goals. These goals keep us wholistic and focused on equipping our students to become dedicated/equipped followers of Christ.

Often the specific characteristics we are seeking to foster happen naturally through our overall engagement goals. We consistently see little things like friendship development, accountability, and mentoring from the mature students happening naturally. But the natural occurrences of these characteristics are the result of experiences and opportunities—the little things matter.