

Mrs. Sugg: A life of faith and literature

Exploring the story of a longtime PCS teacher

by Hannah Hudson

For nearly four decades, Presbyterian Christian School has been shaped by the steady presence and deep commitment of English teacher Mrs. Betty Sugg.

Since joining the school in 1986, she has become known for her strong work ethic, her love of literature, and the faith that guides every part of her life and teaching.

Before arriving at PCS, Mrs. Sugg taught in Austin and Houston, Texas, working in both public and Christian schools.

She also served as a dyslexia therapist and taught adults who struggled with reading. Her path into education was unexpected.

"I never wanted to be a teacher, but God pushed and plopped me where I needed to be," she said.

She credits early mentors for encouraging her during

difficult years in Austin, where she often felt unprepared. Over time, teaching became something she genuinely loved.

At PCS, she has taught a lot of different grades starting at fourth grade.

She especially values the depth of American literature for eleventh graders and the life lessons embedded in senior English.

She often assigns memorization, not for grades but for personal growth.

"Literature relates to life," said Mrs. Sugg. "I hope students carry something meaningful with them when they leave PCS."

Faith is important to her daily routine. She describes herself as a morning person, waking at 4:45 a.m. ready for the day ahead.

"The Lord has given me another day, and that's pretty cool to think about," she said.

Mrs. Sugg also prays reg-

ularly for her students and believes it helps her understand them more deeply.

"Sometimes when I pray for people, I feel like I know them better than I really do." Mrs. Sugg said.

Outside the classroom, one of her favorite traditions is an annual family beach trip that began when her children rented a beach house for her 65th birthday. The tradition has grown to three houses and includes her nine grandchildren.

"It's not a holiday, but it reaches the status of a holiday," Mrs. Sugg said. "We just sit, listen to the water, and enjoy being together."

She also enjoys reading, poetry, and caring for her three indoor cats.

She prefers hardcopy books over digital ones and surveys her students each year, noting that they consistently choose hard copies as well.

Her colleagues speak highly of her dedication. Mr. Ian Pittman describes her as one of the most diligent teachers on campus, noting that she arrives before most and leaves after nearly ev-

eryone else. "Her best trait is her sense of humor," said Mr. Pittman. "But she's also one of the most caring people I know. If you need prayer, you go to Mrs. Sugg."

He also addressed her reputation for being tough, explaining that her high expectations come from wanting students to give their best.

"If you give her your best, she'll move heaven and earth to help you succeed," Mr. Pittman said.

Coach Phil Smith shares similar admiration.

"She inspires me, her thoroughness, her love for students. she reminds me of my own high school teacher," Coach Smith said.

He also emphasized her spiritual grounding.

"She reflects the light of Christ in everything she does."

Mrs. Sugg continues to influence PCS through her faith, and her commitment to helping students grow academically and personally. Her presence remains a steady and meaningful part of the Bobcat family.



HANNAH HUDSON

Mrs. Sugg poses with seniors Lilly Bradley and Kayden Mangum during class

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