



Faith Christian School Podcast on the FISH! Philosophy

FISH! was created when John Christensen, the chief executive officer of ChartHouse Learning, observed how animated and engaged fishmongers at Seattle's Pike Place Fish Market were in their work. They fired fish to each other when someone placed an order, filling the market with laughter and the crack of high-velocity fish hitting thick wrapping paper. Often customers were invited to join the fun. Workers gave their complete attention to each of their customers. Christensen realized that not only were the workers making a routine errand fun for themselves and their customers, they also were selling mega-schools of fish. He broke down the fishmongers' approach into four key concepts that became the FISH! philosophy. Those concepts are

- Play,
- Make Their Day,
- Be There, and
- Choose Your Attitude

These four concepts have made their way into schools through the book *Schools of FISH!*.

This year at Faith we are teaching our teachers the philosophy as well as as our students.

Principle #1. Be There- To be there for another person has a powerful effect. Think about how good it feels when someone gives you her or his undivided attention, focusing on your needs and feelings. Listening is a big part of being there, but it's more than that. There's nothing magical or mystical about it. All it takes is awareness, commitment and practice.

At school this is going to look like

1. Students listening and supporting one another
2. Teachers and students having meaningful conversations
3. Teachers and staff coming alongside one another for support

Parents can put Be There into practice by

1. Having family dinners where everyone talks about their day
2. Encouraging siblings to support one another

Principle #2 Play Psychologists say FUN is a basic human need, right up there with having a sense of control over one's life and the need to be loved. So what's keeping us from playing more at school?

That's what the principle of play is all about. At school play will encompass free time, but also play while we are learning. Teachers will be incorporating songs, games and creative projects. At home have family game night. Encourage your kids to make up games- leave the screens.

Principle #3 Make Their Day —Make their day can be a big production—giving a present, taking someone out to dinner—but it doesn't have to be. It might be as simple as holding open a door for someone, asking about a person's family, saying thank you. It might mean telling a friend, from your heart, how much you appreciate all they do for you. It moves past just being civil or pleasant—it's taking that extra step you didn't have to take. And that makes all the difference. At a deeper level, —make their day || means taking a genuine interest in the unique gifts of others.

At school we are looking for ways to encourage the talents of our athletes and honor students but we want to go deeper. As Christians we know each student and staff member are unique because God made them. We look for times to honor the special accomplishments but are also being conscious to give hugs and high fives, write positive notes, and encourage one another. The elementary school even wrote special notes on the parking lot as way to encourage our students.

What does this look like at home?

1. A note in the lunchbox or backpack
2. Encouragement as your child branches out into a new task-art, music, dance
3. A gift for no reason or McDonalds on the way home from school

Principle # 4 Choose your Attitude - The notion of choose your attitude is just that you are in control of your attitude. Success happens when we go into things with the right attitude. Too many times in today's society students aren't given the opportunity to fail and figure out how to change their attitude to a subject they don't like or approach a hard task with the right attitude. Giving them the opportunity to back up and change their attitude puts them in control of themselves. Students need to know that attitude is their choice.

This takes constant reminders of changing attitude and stepping back and letting them know that a bad attitude can change if they choose to change.

At home encourage positive attitudes. Let failure be an option so your kids can figure out how to accept it and change their attitude and try again. - This is where the principles kind of overlap. Choose your attitude/be there as parents/ and find ways to make their day.

Resources

- Our website is faithchristianse.com. You can also find our other podcasts, when we get more, on our website.
- If you are interesting in finding out more about our school, you can also check out our website or call 843-873-8464 and ask for Cindy Feagin.
- You can follow us on **Facebook** at Faith Christian School and **Instagram** at faithknights.
- FISH Philosophy Websites
 - <http://www.fishphilosophy.com/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/user/ChartHouseLearning>
 - <https://www.pinterest.com/explore/fish-philosophy/?!p=true>
- Books on FISH Philosophy
 - FISH! The Book by Stephen C. Lundin, Ph.D., Harry Paul and John Christensen
 - FISH! Tales by Stephen C. Lundin, Ph.D., John Christensen and Harry Paul with Philip Strand
 - FISH! Sticks by Stephen C. Lundin, Ph.D., John Christensen and Harry Paul
 - FISH! For Life by Stephen C. Lundin, Ph.D., John Christensen and Harry Paul
 - Schools of FISH! by Philip Strand, John Christensen and Andy Halper