



GUIDING HEARTS • INSPIRING
MINDS • SHAPING LIVES

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CANDACE DEONARINE

CLASS OF 2008

Candace Deonarine, an alumna of Naples Christian Academy, dreamed of coming back to the Academy to teach - a dream which became her reality in 2014 following her graduation from Florida SouthWestern State College. She continues to teach Pre-K at the Academy and serves as the Preschool Director. Candace embodies Naples Christian Academy's mission of partnering with Christian parents to develop students with hearts impassioned to love God, minds disciplined to think Biblically, and hands prepared to serve.



Tell us one of your favorite memories from your time at NCA.

I have so many fond memories of my time at Naples Christian Academy -- from good times in class to crazy tetherball tournaments in middle school. Our 8th grade trip to Costa Rica certainly stands out. I remember the hot days working and helping the community, singing songs and acting out plays for the children in the neighborhood where we served. I remember the joy on their faces because of the physical and spiritual work we were doing. As 13- and 14-year-old students, we put what we learned at Naples Christian Academy into practice; we shared the good news of the Gospel. Our class grew stronger as well on that trip -- we bonded together as we served and put our faith into action.

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How did NCA impact your life? NCA provided a foundation for my faith and education; my time at the Academy shaped me into the person I am today. I learned so much about Biblical truth -- I learned how to pray and how to seek the Lord. I was surrounded by godly teachers who loved me, supported my education and helped grow my relationship with Christ. Because of excellent, experienced teachers, NCA provided an outstanding education and prepared me for higher education. Naples Christian Academy's community works so strongly together -- it's a beautiful family. In fact, my closest friends today are the ones with whom I graduated 8th grade at NCA.

What did you do after leaving NCA (high school, college, etc.)? After graduating from NCA, I attended Naples High School and participated in different clubs and programs at the school. For my senior year of high school, I did early admissions at Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW). Once I graduated high school, I continued my schooling at FSW and earned my Bachelors in Elementary Education.

Where are you today? Fulfilling a lifelong dream ever since I attended Naples Christian Academy, I am currently in my 4th year of teaching at NCA! I've taught art and 2nd grade at the Academy, but I'm currently the Pre-K Director and Pre-K teacher at the school. I also work at Chick-fil-A as the HR/Training Director and I work at my church, Capri Christian Church, in the children and youth ministry. I keep myself very busy ministering to children and youth in Southwest Florida.

How have you been involved in ministry since graduating from NCA? In high school, I was a part of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which included helping the community and sharing the Word of God through small groups and events. Currently, my job at Capri Christian Church includes spending time with others and teaching them about Jesus. I work with babies to college kids, and I get the chance to point them to Jesus through lessons, quality time, church trips, and weekly events.

What advice would you give to parents who are considering Christian education for their children? As a student and teacher, I have experienced both public and Christian education. In short, there is something special about NCA. The teachers are highly educated and devoted to their jobs; they prepare students academically, spiritually, and athletically so they can succeed when they graduate from NCA. I wanted to become a teacher because of my experiences at Naples Christian Academy -- there's no better place.

