# Knights Fly Like Comets

## Two Loy Norrix Students Travel Beyond the Glass Walls of our School to Experience the two Solitary, Packed Hallways of Kalamazoo Christian High School

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**Students at Kalamazoo Christian focus during a quiet hour of study hall. It is typical for most students have at least one block of study hall throughout the day.**

Here it is, the first day of high school and it is finally lunch time, time to face the most dreadful decision of the day. You just stand there with your tray, ice cold milk thawing and pizza cooling, faces staring, few are familiar, but where to sit.....where to sit?

Imagine if you never had this dilemma, not because you're super popular or because you like to eat in solitude, but because your school does not have a cafeteria to begin with!

Kalamazoo Christian High School is all but a 360 degree turn around from Loy Norrix. After visiting for a day, it is easy to see the many differences between the two schools. Religion, small size, college advantages and social settings are some of these important contrasting traits.

Kalamazoo Christian High School has seven classes throughout the day, each lasting about fifty minutes. Being a small Christian community, religion is incorporated into most classes at K-Christian. Students pray three times a day; first hour, before lunch, and seventh hour. As we visited the school for a day this is the biggest difference we took notice of.

Junior Teresa Lubbers explained how religion is applied to the curriculum. "Sometimes it seems like the teachers add [religion] in because they have to," said Lubbers.

But this is not the case with all subjects or teachers. Lubbers then went on to tell how she likes having Bible class and religion as a part of her school experience. The majority of the students agreed that they like having religion as a part of their education.

It's hard to imagine Norrix with God incorporated so much into our everyday classes. K- Christian senior David Vanderhorst believes it helps establish your religious point of view.

"I think it's good to have your own opinion, there are a lot of views in the world. It is good to know what your [religious] opinion is," said Vanderhorst.

Vanderhorst, along with most students at K-Christian, said that most of the people at their school are very religious.

Mr. Bolt, a social studies teacher at K-Christian expressed that he uses religion in his classes "Big Time!"

It is apparent that religion would easily fit into history classes, but what about math and science? The LN curriculum would be completely different if we had religion as a part of each of our courses. Think about portraying abstract angels and ceramic crosses into your basic design work!

As an old fashioned bells rings and the students head to their next class, they tend to know every single peer that walks past. Their lockers are guaranteed to be in one of the only two hallways in the school. There are no worries about remembering the combinations either, these well-used lockers are lock-free!

There is not much to say about the size difference between K-Christian and LN besides that it is HUGE! Norrix feels like an entire city, while Christian feels like just one street in the city. Standing near the main office in KC, you can see almost all of the classrooms. There is one smaller hallway that branches off of the main one. From the doors accessing the gym and J-wing to the edge of the A-wing, would be about the length of Christian's two hallways combined.

Though at LN some may view the small size as sheltered, the reality is that most K-Christian students enjoy knowing everyone.

Emma Karsten, a senior, expresses that, "It's nice to smile and make a connection [with everyone]. It makes everything seem a little bit closer."

Plenty of students agree that it's nice to know everyone. A few also expressed that it gets a little crazy when everyone knows you and everything about you.

Another huge difference between LN and K-Christian is that Kalamazoo Christian, along with the fact that they do not have a cafeteria, does not provide the students with lunch. With the exception of every Wednesday where they have something called "hot lunch," they only supply a vending machine. Can you imagine with the size of Norrix, having no cafeteria and no food provided? Students are instructed to eat in their 5th hour classroom for fifteen minutes and then they have a fifteen-minute break after they eat. The special senior privilege is to eat in the commons hallway for lunch, sitting on the floor or standing.

We don't often think how huge our school is until we come across one that has 1,200 students from preschool to high school and about 400 in the high school alone.

Four hundred to 40,000, which is the average amount of students at a public university, is an enormous jump to say the least.

College may prove intimidating enough for a student coming from a public high school, with a campus miles wide and huge lecture halls, let alone having to deal with the fact that you are on your own and surrounded by thousands of others living in the same scenario. Intimidating is the briefest way to describe the college experience.

> " I think it's good to have your own opinion, there are a lot of views in the world. "
>
> -David Vanderhorst

Some may question a private high school student's ability to adapt into a university hosting 40,000 plus students. It is a prime example of a little fish in a big pond. But if you look at the opposite end of the spectrum, what if your're the big fish and get put into the little pond?

For a student graduating from a large public high school, the atmosphere at a small university such as Hope College where there are on average 3,000 students may seem more confined than it would to a student who graduated from a small private school.

The size of private colleges makes them less intimidating and for that reason much more appealing to some versus a large university. At a private high school such as Kalamazoo Christian what seems like a much safer route for the graduating seniors is to attend colleges such as Hope and Calvin College in the fall mainly because you are surrounded by others who have grown up in the same setting. But there are those who take the plunge and go for the Big 10 schools such as the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

Keep in mind private universities are not specifically intended as the next stepping stone in a private schooled child's path of education, they are open to accepting public schooled high school students who are looking for a more in-depth and personal education.

Rachel Kloosterman, a senior at Kalamazoo Christian is still undecided as to which college she will attend in the fall but feels confident that no matter where she goes, it will be possible to fit in.

"It will be hard but there's gonna be a mix of everyone and some of us will go to private schools anyway so I think it will be fine," said Kloosterman.

It is not completely uncommon for private schooled students to continue on to private colleges for their education. Private colleges possess the desirable qualities such as smaller learning communities and may feel more like home, which is something some public schooled students are looking for.

Attending a large university is intimidating to say the least, but meeting new people at such a large institution can be downright scary. Although a little overwhelming, a positive of attending a large public university is the fact that you are surrounded by different people with all different views, which some see as an advantage and others see as a disadvantage.

The principal of Kalamazoo Christian, Linda Dahnke expressed, "At private schools you get more of a one on one opportunity in the classroom, and I believe we set higher standards here. I would say we [the students] are a little bit sheltered though, it may be more shocking going into a large university."

So as we notice all of these qualities with public and private high school life, we realize that there are many different paths to success. There are always disadvantages to things, but the good things pull through in the end. Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Christian are very different but even with seeing the different views, we are all proud of our schools.

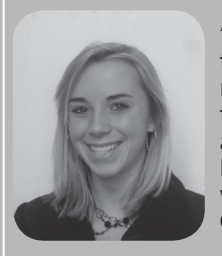
## COMETS SPEAK

### K-Christian Students and Staff Express What They Think of Norrix

**Kevin Hunter**
**Fomer LN Student**

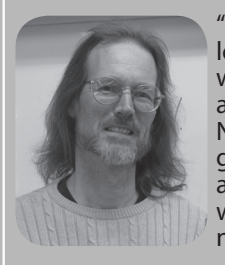
"It's hard cause Norrix was so huge, and coming to this small school [makes it difficult]."

**Anna Huyser**



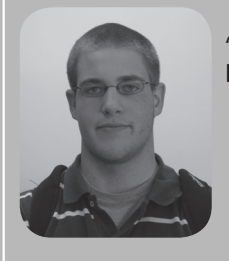
"Ive heard that there are alot more people there [at Norrix] and I know that Norrix is rivals with Kalamazoo Central.

**Mr. Potter-Social Studies Teacher**



"[Norrix] gets a lot of bad press with fighting and truancy. Not enough good things are noticed...all we hear is the negative."

**John Buwalda**



"There's alot of Po-Po there"

# Dramatic Classic "A Raisin in the Sun" Shines on ABC

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM

**From left: Sanaa Lathan (Beneathea), Phylicia Rashad (Lena), Audra McDonald (Ruth), Justin Martin (Travis), and Sean 'Diddy' Combs (Walter Lee) star in the third movie adaptation of "A Raisin in the Sun"**

**Anthony J. Hamilton**
News Editor

On March 11, 1959 history was made, as the curtain went up on "A Raisin in the Sun" at the Ethel Barrymore theatre in New York. Lorraine Hansberry became the first African American woman to have a play produced on Broadway.

Focusing on the relationships and trials of the Younger family, "Raisin" is centered around Walter Lee Younger, a chauffeur working in Chicago. He and his family live in a run down apartment in which they share a communal bathroom. The conditions of the apartment are disgusting, infested with roaches and dirty walls. Walter's mother, Lena Younger has been living in this apartment since her newlywed days, with her late husband.

On the day in question the family awaits an insurance check from the estate of the late husband and father. Ten thousand dollars is awarded to Lena, and the story begins. Walter wants to invest in a liquor store with the money whereas his sister, Beneathea wants to use it to pay for medical school. The story unfolds and Walter is eventually, after much turmoil in the apartment, granted a share of the money to do with as he pleases.

After a successful 530 performance run, "A Raisin in the Sun" closed on June 25, 1960. The original Broadway cast filmed a movie adaptation immediately after the show's close.

In 1961, Sideny Poitier, Claudia McNeil, Diana Sands, and Ruby Dee reprised their roles for the screen. Despite the powerful and emotional acting both onstage and off, no Tony Awards or Oscars were garnered for the film or Broadway production. Now over 48 years later, there is still hope for proper recognition of Hansberry's masterpiece.

In 2004, the first and only Broadway revival of "A Raisin in the Sun," was produced at the Royale Theatre starring Grammy Award winner and rap mogul, Sean Combs as Walter Lee Younger, acclaimed movie and television actress, Sanaa Lathan as Benethea Younger, multiple Tony award winner, Audra McDonald as Ruth, and most recognized for her role as Claire Huxtable on the 1980s sitcom, "The Cosby Show," and Phylicia Rashad as Lena Younger. Both McDonald and Rashad won Tony Awards for their portrayals in "A Raisin in the Sun." This production ran in New York for a total of 88 performances, closing July 11, 2004.

Now four years later, the cast of the Broadway revival reprise their roles for the screen, as did the original cast. On February 25 the third of three movie adaptations of "A Raisin in the Sun" premiered on ABC. Despite his lack of acting experience and the difficulty of taking on a role originally played by Oscar winner, Sidney Poitier, Sean Combs does a decent job as the foolish Walter Lee. He is well supported by McDonald, who plays his wife. It is obvious why McDonald earned her fourth Tony Award for her portrayal of Ruth Younger. Sanaa Lathan also does surprisingly well, having not had a hit movie in the past few years, but the star of the evening truly was Rashad as Lena Younger.

Rashad made the hairs on your body stand up during her scenes with Combs. She was the most believable of all the actors and had the best chemistry with her co-stars. Perhaps her age and experience have something to do with her ability to make the role look so effortless to play.

Overall the television movie was a nice three hour tribute to African Americans who are struggling but remember family and love must come first. After 48 years "A Raisin in the Sun" is still shining.