



This past spring, Reitz Memorial High School had the pleasure of hosting Dean Sikes to speak with our students and emphasize that they matter. His message of hope, resilience, and caring about others emphasized their importance to God and others in this world. The heart of the message, that because you are a human being, formed in God's image, *you matter*, resonated well with our student population and staff.

Our faculty and students enjoyed having Dean come and speak on the topic. It was our first speaker in the building in a while, and it was a good one to begin. Dean's inspirational story of hope, forgiveness of others and self, and the ability to find joy in life through making an impact on others, was one of which our school needed to be reminded. The students took the message to heart, appreciating how relatable he was, how he stayed behind to speak with them individually, and how he was able to speak to them openly and honestly about difficult situation.

We are grateful that Dean, his team, Darrell Rice with Connection Church, and all those involved with this event were willing to meet with our students and provide them the wonderful opportunity to know they are loved, cared about, and that they matter.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron Schmitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Aaron Schmitt

Principal