

Chosen, Royal, Holy, Special

How this 2026 Retreat was 'Set Apart'

By Hannah Leihsing, Eagle's Eye Staff Writer

To attend a retreat means to pursue a change in life; it shows a hope to learn how to be like Jesus, a desire to seek a way to stand out, and a striving to be set apart. The 2026 retreat held true to that desire in student's hearts and introduced new bonds and connections that could last a lifetime.

Whether it was getting smacked by Mrs Wolf with a pool noodle, stealing the opposite team's flag, or roasting marshmallows on the bonfire, every QCCS student found joy within the 2026 retreat. Bonding with fellow students was a major contributor, and without the games and house rivalry, that very bond may not have been possible.

During the retreat, the houses of Israel, Judah, and Zion battled and gave it their all to gain the title of retreat house winner. The battle of the houses began with the scavenger hunt. Students were in a race against time to solve the most math equations, build the tallest cup tower, construct the most pizza boxes, get the highest score in cornhole, and lead their blindfolded captain through a maze of cones. Collecting secret items along the way helped teams gain points, but ultimately, the first team to finish got the best score. Team Israel showed great determination in this, and ultimately, its dedication paid off, securing the victory in the retreat-opening scavenger hunt.

Next, the teams battled in a round of trivia. Each question was based on subjects students have learned throughout the school year, so teams were well equipped to put up a close race. All three houses were separated by their colors: Israel was blue and red, Judah white and black, and Zion yellow and orange. Being in different grades, teams had to communicate the answers that they knew to each other. As the final answers were revealed, the banging on the tables and shouts of joy confirmed victory for Zion.

It was then time for games in the gym. All day the students had been anticipating the new game to be announced, and the uproar of laughter was the sign that it would be well worth the wait as Mr. Akers, Mr. Pluster, and Mrs. Wolf made a grand entrance in their blow-up chef costumes. The students had one objective: to carry around a pizza box on one hand while collecting the ingredients underneath the chefs' feet as they swung pool noodles with one mission in mind: to knock off the pizza box. As you could probably guess, the game was a hit.

Students competed in many different aspects within the few days of retreat, but one thing remained the underlying factor through it all, - building relationships with one another and growing closer in Godly friendships. Team building taught us



Israel Wins the 2026 House Cup Competition

how to communicate with one another and be resourceful, influencing our future and impacting our present. Although through all of the excitement of water polo, volleyball, frog races, and capture the flag, the heart of the 2026 retreat was to learn what it means to be set apart, and the sermons taught by our very own Mr. and Mrs. Steiner guided us in living out that mission.

Mr. Steiner taught that our identity comes before our activity; it comes not only from who you are, but also whose you are, and you belong to Jesus. Jesus was set apart, but he was not separate. He lived in the reality that he was God's Son, and he knew that with his whole heart to be true. In this sermon, we learn that we cannot influence the culture if we are trying to blend into the culture. Following Jesus should make us different; it's up to us: do we conform, or do we transform? Mr. Steiner left us with this very important question: If someone watched your life for one week, who would they think you belonged to?

That night, we saw a move of God; we saw people praying over others, we saw people laying their troubles at the feet of Jesus, and we saw transformation. Teachers prayed over seniors, seniors prayed over underclassmen, and the Holy Spirit moved through the room. If you could take away one thing from the 2026 retreat, let it be this: be set apart. Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing, and perfect will." Jesus did not conform to the world; he trusted his Father and knew that he had a beautiful plan.

So next time you wish to fit in, remember that you belong to God, and His will for your life is perfect.

Senior Favorite Memory

Seniors weigh in on their 4 Retreats

By Abby Bennett, Eagle's Eye Staff Writer

It's safe to say that Retreat this year was a blast, and God moved in amazing ways! As students reflect on retreat highlights, they might think of the scavenger hunt, capture the flag, the bonfire, or other fun activities, but let's take a moment to focus in on the faces we won't be seeing at our next retreat: The senior class of the 2026-2027 school year.

Our senior Eagles have experienced retreat themes of Ignite, Wildfire, Abide, and now Set Apart, and they have made some amazing memories throughout all of them. Both Jackson Merritt and Lyndon Sorensen reminisced on the third session of their sophomore year, saying that was when they truly felt a strong connection with God. "That was when I truly bent my knee to the Lord," Lyndon noted.

Catalyst members Sophie Keller and Ryanne Coder highlighted the vulnerability and honesty surrounding the most recent retreat, with Ryanne sharing her experience leading a small group. "We could get more personal with each other and talk about our relationship with God more freely," she said.

These seniors truly have their hearts set on the Lord and pour so much into our school. While Retreat will be different without them, we can reminisce on our times together and pray for them to live like they're set apart for their final year at QCCS!



Freshmen's First Memories

By Anna Freburg and Ruth Madden, Eagle's Eye Staff Writers

Our high-school retreat felt brand new with "Fresh Opinions" for freshmen. Our freshman class had an experience like none other, compared to last year's middle-school retreat.

Nathan Karl said they had "more things to do" and "more tools to better our faith." One of the most impactful parts of the theme of Set Apart was worship, Thursday night in particular. The freshmen felt a strong movement of God. Tears were shed during the final nightly session as the freshmen had a chance to receive prayer from a class they looked up to.

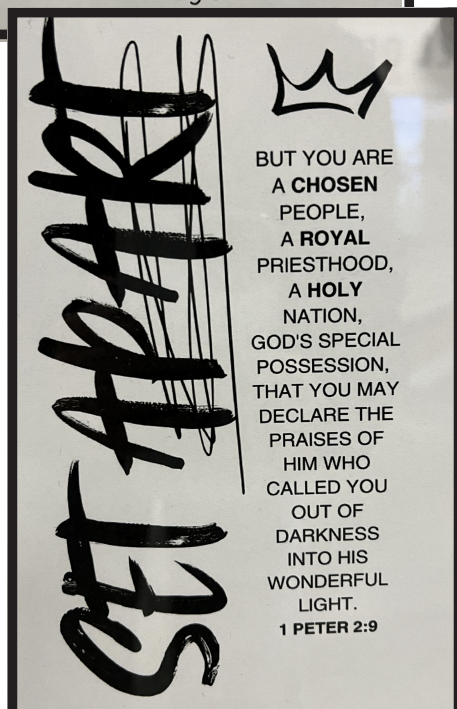
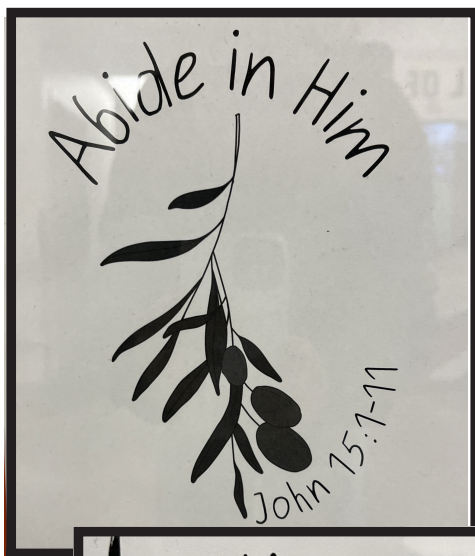
During small groups, many felt a connection with others as the Holy Spirit gave them a chance to expand and grow their faith. "You were never really alone" was a remark from Alyse Britton.

Group activities were preferred, letting the students experience the nature of God together. Being together never meant having to doing things - some freshmen sat in the hammocks with their friends, enjoying the company. This retreat definitely made new memories for all the students.

The biggest hit was capture the flag, creating fun stories, and it also had a competitive feel. It was voted as the most popular out of all of the activities. The second was water polo, being able to cool off in the pool while still being able to have fun playing a competitive sport.

The freshman boys shared a story they had from retreat, where, during capture the flag, their strategy was to go around the camp and ambush the opposing team. They walked into the forest and around the trails for a while, only to pop out the same place they went in. According to them, it was Carter's fault. More of the boys enjoyed fishing and dodgeball with their friends.

During the hot weather, many of the girls were thankful to play in the pool to cool down. Water polo and the swimming competitions were most popular with the ladies, being able to splash around with your friends. A few of the girls also mentioned the good times they had when they went to the campfire. Being able to relax after a long day, look up at the stars, eat tons of snacks, and get a good night's sleep was refreshing for this brand new experience. Our school, and this retreat, are set apart.



Devotional Mindsets

Boys Perspective

By Jackson Karzin, Eagle's Eye Staff Writer

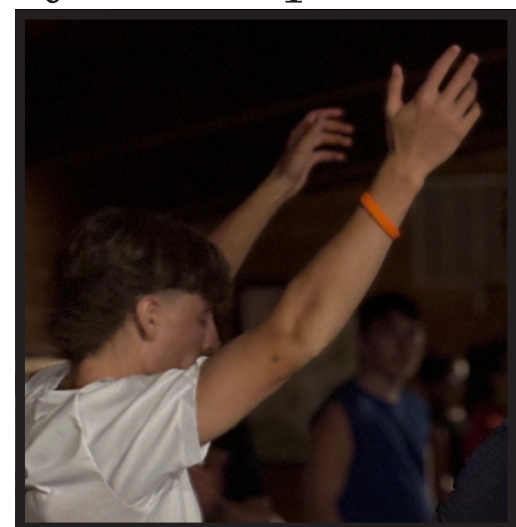
The person you are in private is the person you will become in public. As we learned during the boys' devotional at the 2026 QCCS Retreat at the Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center, you have to be set apart – not just in public but set apart within everything you do.

There is no way to be set apart if your hidden sins are holding you back. However, don't worry, because there are ways to get over these things. The biggest point from Mr. Steiner, the leader of the boys' devotional, is to get rid of hidden sins, such as telling someone you trust and having them keep you accountable. Maybe this person asks questions of you once a week or checks in with you, keeping you accountable, making sure you don't keep making the same mistake.

There are other ways, too. Noah Sexton, a senior, also told us a good way to stop hidden sin. He said if you are ever in a situation where you are about to sin, open your Bible to Psalms and read some. Then write a sticky note with the date on it. Do this every time you are about to sin and you will see the dates get farther and farther apart.

The last thing we did was write our hidden sins on a piece of paper and threw them into a fire signifying that we need to get rid of this sin, and through God we can erase it. Hidden sin is not stopping you from having a life for Jesus.

So I challenge you to live set apart, stop hidden sins, and love Jesus.



Girls Perspective

By Sophie Keller, Eagle's Eye Staff Writer

Are you really living set apart? This was the question that stopped all of the QCCS girls in our tracks as our speaker, Michal Steiner, began talking to us.

For so many girls, the concept of fitting in seems to be the most appealing. This is until you completely change yourself to fit in and still feel an empty void. Most of us believe high school is about popularity, how many friends you have, if you start on your athletic team, and who looks the best. But what happens when we graduate and all of these important things suddenly aren't so important anymore?



Michal shared her testimony, and it really resonated with many of us. She explained how much she chased the feeling of popularity, but for some reason she never felt at peace. She, like most of us, was always chasing the next best thing. What if, instead of chasing after the world, we put all of those efforts into living the life God has set us apart to live? What if we truly lived like we were set apart?

The void that we keep temporarily filling with social media and likes will never truly be filled until we surrender it all to God. 1 John 2:17 says, "And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever." God has set us apart to live a life way beyond what we could ever imagine. Finding your identity in an unchanging God is truly the only thing that will never fail you.

To finish out our night, Michal told us that she had been out wandering in the woods and had gathered heavy rocks. These heavy rocks were meant to resemble the anxieties and weight that were waiting for us when we got home. We were invited to come up and grab a rock, and then all walk down to the lake together. Once we got down there, all of us girls stood in a line as Michal prayed over us. After the prayer, she counted down from three as we all threw in our rocks. This was a great way to symbolize leaving our anxieties at the feet of Jesus instead of taking them back home with us.

Now that we are back from retreat, our hope is that we remember all that Michal taught us that night and apply it to our lives, remembering that in Jesus we are all truly set apart.

