

Serving in the sun for Belize



Laurent Bonczijk / NEWBERG GRAPHIC

Some students from CS Lewis Academy are revving up for a Central American ministry trip to Belize.

By [Laurent Bonczijk](#)

The weather this spring break has been chilly, to say the least, and the rest of the week promises more dark and dreamy days in the Willamette Valley. But that doesn't faze C.S. Lewis Academy teacher Vickie Fivecoat and her world religion class: They'll be in Belize, where the temperature should be in the mid-80s and the sun shining.

Preparing for the mission trip, the second of its kind, was a focus of the world religion class, Fivecoat said. She was put in touch with Ladyville Baptist Church by Praying Pelicans, a ministry that encourages volunteers to "adopt" a church or program to create long-term ties.

Belize came to mind, Fivecoat said, because the former British colony is the only Central American country whose national language is English. She said mission trip participants are often unable to communicate with the local populace, which she feels is a detriment to the experience.

It's an experienced group of travelers: of the 15 students accompanying Fivecoat and her husband Bruce, only two will be going abroad for the first time. And while all seem excited for the tasks at hand, their interests vary.

"We will be working at a prison and an orphanage," said Sarah Schwartz of the mission work ahead. But fellow student Vas Walker seemed stoked about a different aspect of the trip: sports and construction. He said the group will help with the construction of a structure on farmland owned by the local church. They also plan to play soccer and basketball with local kids, hoping to expose them to Jesus Christ through the sports, said Andrew Perry.

"We're not going down there just for kicks. We feel the Lord is asking us," Perry said.