



SPRINGWOOD SCHOOL

Educating for Today, Tomorrow, and Eternity

October 8, 2015

Gabe Gross speaks at Springwood School

On Wednesday, October 7th, Gabe Gross spoke at the school's weekly "Sessions" 7th – 12th grade assembly. This week's assembly was sponsored by the Springwood FCA. Gabe Gross shared his testimony with students putting his athletic accomplishments in perspective to the importance of his personal faith as a Christian. He provided the students at Springwood with the inspirational message that even after playing in the Iron Bowl as the Auburn QB and making it to the World Series in MLB, that his personal relationship with the Lord is his most important accomplishment. He noted how climbing to the top of the professional athlete level was not the "end all be all" that defined him, but rather that his Faith in serving his Lord was most important.



Gabe Gross (right) with Springwood Sophomore Zach Guy (left)

Background on Gabe Gross

Gross grew up in South Alabama lettering in football, basketball and baseball at Northview High School in Dothan. He noted how he grew up in an athletic family with his Dad playing football at Auburn prior to a four year career in the NFL. His family ties to Auburn University made it a natural fit when Gabe signed an athletic scholarship to play both football and baseball for the Tigers in 1998.

An injury to the Auburn starting quarterback saw Gabe thrust into the starting role as a freshman on the plains. He started in the 1998 Iron Bowl as the Tigers starting quarterback and became a rare two sport athlete at the collegiate level. He became an All-SEC baseball player at Auburn and decided to stop playing football at Auburn so he could devote his full attention to his baseball career. He was a three-year starter at Auburn from 1999-01 hitting .375 for his career and .430 during his 2000 season when he was named an All-American. He remains today in Auburn's top-10 career offensive categories in seven different statistical areas.

In 2001, Gabe was selected as the 15th overall pick in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft by the Toronto Blue Jays. In August of 2004, the Blue Jays promoted Gabe from their Triple A Syracuse club to the major leagues. By September he had belted his first major league home run off the Oakland A's. On December 7th, 2005, Gabe was traded to the Milwaukee Brewers for Lyle Overbay.

He made his debut with the Brewers on April 4th and hit a pinch-hit home run to give the Brewers a victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates. By the start of 2006, his Brewers teammates nicknamed Gabe "the Southern Gentleman" for his politeness and well-mannered attitude both on and off the field. In April of 2008, Gabe was traded to the Tampa Bay Rays for a pitching prospect. He finished the season hitting 13 homeruns and driving in 38 RBI's playing for the Rays. He helped the Rays win the American League Championship Series and played for the World Series title falling to the eventual champion Philadelphia Phillies. In 2009, Gabe went on to play for the Oakland Athletics before retiring from Major League Baseball in April of 2011. He returned to Auburn to complete his undergraduate degree in 2012 after playing seven seasons in the major leagues.