

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### Mission Statement:

The mission of Christ Episcopal School is to develop responsible, self-sufficient, creative students, aware of their own uniqueness and worth, by providing a superior, enriched academic education in a safe environment and in the context of Christian faith and values.

### The Purposes and Objectives of the School:

The major purpose of elementary education is to ensure opportunities for children to develop-intellectually, socially, physically, emotionally, and spiritually-to their fullest potential. The most important responsibility of the staff at Christ Episcopal School is to provide all students with the opportunity to develop fully their intellectual and cultural potential. The faculty and staff are committed to developing a desire in children for knowledge and learning, and through a wide variety of instructional techniques, to teach the skills that will facilitate learning, creativity, and the development of critical thinking skills.

All faculty and staff strive to encourage self-motivation and to provide the skills that will enable students to become independent learners in an environment where dignity and self-esteem are nurtured. The cohesiveness that is Christ Episcopal School comes from mutual caring, respect, and interest. The faculty and staff of the school are committed to recognizing individual differences and actively strive to meet each student's academic, social, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Classes are generally small in order to provide individualized attention and to enhance close relationships among students, teachers, and parents. The program is designed for students of average to well above average ability. Parents are expected to participate in the education of their children and to support the school's program with their care, time, and resources. Because of this support, a varied, enriched, vigorous academic program, that recognizes and provides for the individual differences of students, can be offered.

The school is fortunate to be located in close proximity to Stephen F. Austin State University. The university provides resources that would not otherwise be available. University faculty can bring their special expertise to the children as need arise. Because of a good relationship with the university, additional opportunities are easily available to stay abreast of current ideas and methods and to take advantage of cultural offerings.

Educational methods employed at Christ Episcopal School ensure our students are prepared to enter public middle school. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), as set out by the Texas Education Agency, provide the baseline for the Christ Episcopal School's curriculum. Through enrichment, acceleration, and a strong academic program, students are well prepared academically as indicated by the performance of our students on the nationally-normed Stanford Achievement Test. This test is administered to children in grades one through six each spring.

Beyond the core curriculum, enrichment teachers provide instruction in Spanish, technology, the fine arts, library skills, and Christian Education. During several special emphasis weeks-Book Week, Physical Fitness Week, Science Week, and Fine Arts Week-professors from the university, parents, and individuals from the community demonstrate, perform, lead educational tours, and provide special activities for the students of the school.

The faculty and staff serve as role models in their own behavior to build self-esteem and a desire to learn in the children. They believe in and model Christian ideas and respect the worth of the individual. They teach self-discipline rather than impose punishment. The value of structure is acknowledged and made use of, but flexibility in thinking and action is necessary to live together, to try new ideas, and to allow children to grow and mature appropriately. Working together as a team, faculty and staff, head of school, parents and students, strive to create an atmosphere that builds confidence and high self-esteem so that students may become well-educated life-long learners with a desire to serve God through serving others.