



Educational Philosophy

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School

- Each student is a unique child of God with the potential for academic excellence.
- Enrichment and differentiation meet the needs of each student.
- An interdisciplinary approach teaches the core skills for success in the 21st century.
- We partner with parents to understand and support each student.

The Whole Child. The educational philosophy of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School is inspired by our core belief that each student is a child of God, blessed with a unique intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual life. As educators, we see our responsibility as enabling students to discover their different learning strengths and styles, to fulfill their potential for academic excellence, leadership and service to others, and to recognize a shared common humanity. We act intentionally to inspire each student to become an inquiring learner, to lead with humility and the courage to care, and to be a good friend who listens and acts unselfishly. These goals are captured in these words from our mission: Learners, Leaders, Friends.

Meeting the Needs of Each Student. To fulfill this vision of education, we offer enrichment, support, and differentiation in small classes led by dedicated and effective teachers who teach to each child's needs. We have high expectations of our students. Successful choices for personal excellence, academic achievement, and career fulfillment in the 21st century will require the foundational skills of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Our interdisciplinary approach combines aspects of the humanities, mathematics, arts, technology, and the sciences from preschool through grade 8. We place an emphasis on innovative and problem-solving learning, engaging play, and meaningful practice, giving students many resources to draw from in finding their way forward. Our students learn both to self-govern and to share in community, growing in awareness that they can learn as individuals and learn from each other as a class. We direct our students towards independent thought, objective learning, functioning successfully as individuals within a community, a strong and growing sense of self in the world, and a spiritual appreciation of God's grace and purpose in their lives.

Parents and School Partnership. Just as St. Martin's Episcopal School prepares students for success in an interconnected world, we also recognize a special relationship with the families of the students entrusted into our care and guidance. Based on mutual respect and effective communication, parents, and teachers form a partnership with the good of the child at its heart. Oriented toward outcomes in the child's interest, the parent-teacher team is an integral part of our whole-child educational philosophy. Ultimately, at St. Martin's each child is known and loved, a value grounded in our spiritual foundation. Through understanding each individual student, teachers are able to build meaningful and supportive relationships and both challenge and encourage each student towards academic and personal success.