



ESD

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY MEREDYTH MOREDOCK COLE

Ideally, a school is an inclusive community of children, parents, and teachers all dedicated to the healthy development of its students. Children possess varying degrees of intelligence, maturity, and confidence, combined with curiosity, energy, and anxiety. The best schools meet students where they are, then provide challenge, nurture, inspiration, and structure so that each student can reach his or her full potential.

Those who teach, and those who parent, need equal parts of kindness, intelligence, creativity, patience, and faith, faith in children and faith in the process itself. Teachers are the catalysts for the information and experiences which fill young minds. Curriculum and students are not enough. It is more a teacher's responsibility to open minds, inspire questions, and provide encouragement than it is to reach quantitative results. In the best classrooms the focus is not only on achievement but also on creating a positive attitude about learning.

Learning that encourages communication, self-awareness, empathy, and resilience is as valuable as that which results in the development of critical thinking and analytical abilities. Effective communication skills and the ability to problem solve are elemental to the process of maturity. A mature student will be better equipped to deal with the complexities that exist in our society. Knowing how to take care of oneself and how to care for others are critical skills in a mature adult; education is the formation of character.

Children become what they behold; this joint venture between parents and educators must reflect a shared understanding of a school's mission. A strong working partnership brings structure and stability to the rocky period of adolescence. I find enormous satisfaction working in a school where both adults and children are engaged in learning. The curriculum, the students, and my colleagues are all works in progress, re-evaluating and adapting constantly in an effort to reach the ultimate in inclusiveness without losing core values. As society changes and education takes on monumental responsibilities, what is taught and how it is taught require constant innovation.

The vision and collaboration required of educational leadership is empowering and energizing. Having an opportunity to shepherd an organization as dynamic as a school requires a leader who is both principled and practical, who leads from the head and the heart, and who models learning as a lifelong commitment.

THE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF DALLAS MISSION STATEMENT

THE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF DALLAS PREPARES YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FOR LIVES OF INTELLECTUAL DISCOVERY, INTEGRITY, AND PURPOSE. THE SCHOOL DEVELOPS THE UNIQUE TALENT AND POTENTIAL IN EACH STUDENT AND EMBRACES SOUND LEARNING, DISCIPLINE, AND FAITH AS ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF AN EDUCATED CONSCIENCE.