2012 ANNUAL REPORT THE POST Oak School





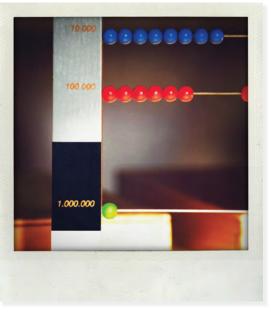
# "I listened,"

said Post Oak alumnus Ben Jawdat. "I think everyone has an inner voice that tells them what they really want to do, and I think the vast majority of people ignore it every day. Basically, people don't feel they can do what they want to do, or that it's not realistic, or particularly meaningful, or that it won't impress their colleagues. But it always seems like the most successful people are the ones who actually do what they're interested in regardless what others think."



2012

After three years of planning, the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) approved the proposal to establish the Houston Montessori Institute (HMI), a teacher training center to be housed at Post Oak. The first class begins training in June 2013.





The Post Oak High School opened in August 2012. Last year we purchased land in the Museum District, gutted and renovated the building at 1102 Autrey, hired faculty, recruited a freshman class, wrote curriculum, and initiated accreditation by the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) and International Baccalaureate (IB).



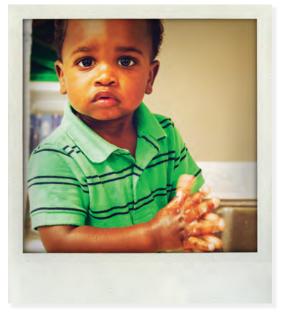
As a senior at Emory University three years ago, Ben was applying to medical school. Perhaps it was the act of writing his personal statement for the MCAT's, and reflecting upon why he wanted to be a doctor, but at that moment Ben realized that he really wanted to continue studying physics. Now he's two years into the Ph.D. program at the University of Houston, and interested in the next phase of space exploration. "It's inevitable that we're going to explore the rest of the solar system; it's just human curiosity, if not economic incentives."



This story reminds me of a comment from Lauren Fondren, who graduated from Post Oak a year before Ben. "Post Oak helped me find my inner voice," she said. Lest I think that would have happened anywhere, Lauren continued, "My high school quashed it." As an undergraduate at Middlebury College, Lauren learned Arabic and spent a year abroad studying in Egypt. (To do so, she petitioned her college to extend the "Semester Abroad" to a full year —very Montessori!) She is now serving as a foreign service officer in the U.S. Department of State.







2012

Jackson and Ryan Architects, working with the building committee of the board, is developing final plans to renovate the Bissonnet campus.



2012

Kim Sterling and Associates is guiding the board's development committee and campaign leadership on the initial phases of BigWORK, the effort to raise capital for both the Bissonnet expansion and the High School start-up costs.



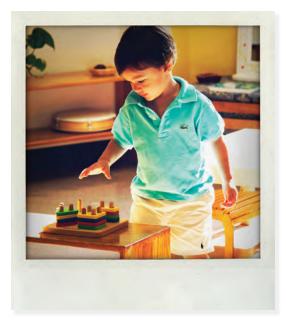
What is the purpose of education? These days, parents and students are likely to answer, "Preparation for a job, an occupation, a career or a vocation." **Vocation conveys another meaning, "which is rooted in the Latin for 'voice.' Vocation does not mean a goal that I pursue. It means a calling that I hear...** The difficulty is compounded by the fact that from our first days in school, we are taught to listen to everything and everyone but ourselves, to take all our clues about living from the people and powers around us (Parker Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak*)."



What Ben and Lauren reveal, is that a Post Oak education helps students learn to listen to their own inner voice. Yes, this will lead to a career. More significantly, it leads to a vocation—work that aligns with the most deeply held interests and values of the individual and provides more than a living wage the deep satisfaction of expressing meaning in one's life. What better preparation for life could there be?

Last year was one of major landmarks as we prepare for the future of Post Oak. You will have many opportunities to join in and to support the life of the school in the coming year. Thank you for all that you did in 2011–2012, the year commemorated in this report.

—John Long, Head of School





Admissions saw dramatic growth with a 50 percent increase over last year in the total number of inquiries, full enrollment from Infant Community through Lower Elementary, a record number of Middle School students, and the High School opening with 16 students.



# 2012



Post Oak's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary kicks off in January 2013. Faculty, staff and parents bave been at work for two years now, planning a series of celebratory events.

# Our Giving Community

Post Oak parents are generous in spirit and time as they volunteered countless hours and energy this year to present several all-school events. Our annual Welcome Dinner, Field Day, Book Fair, and Grandparents' Days were fun for our families and very well attended. Each event was tailored to the culture and creativity of this community. Thanks to all of our hard-working event chairs. (Please read the list in the back of the report for their names.)

The fall season was filled with the sweet singing voices of Elementary students in preparation for the full children's opera, *Moon Maiden*. This massive undertaking was carefully orchestrated by co-chairs Tanya Gee and Jane Greenberg. From the initial rehearsals all the way to the stage production in February, they managed every detail and creatively responded to all challenges—and there were many. Coordinating over 150 Elementary students in an operatic production is no small feat. Heartfelt thanks to our chairs and all the volunteers who brought together such an extraordinary production to help our students have a beautiful and memorable life experience.

The Post Oak community is also generous in its support for this school. Our annual fund brought in over \$260,000 and had 98 percent parent participation. Thanks to our Post Oak Fund chairs Kim and Michael Callahan. In addition, we began the early stages of our BigWORK Capital Campaign to support start-up expenses of the High School and major renovations on the Bissonnet campus. We offer thanks to each and every contributor. Their gifts are a nod of support for the work accomplished each day at Post Oak.

# 2011–2012 Financial Report

The financial stability of The Post Oak School continued during the 2011–2012 school year as we faced the financial needs of establishing the Post Oak High School. Our audited financial statements for the 2010–2011 school year resulted in an increase in net assets of \$578,195. The unaudited results for the 2011–2012 school year show an increase in net assets for all funds of \$776,579. The School experienced a slight increase in enrollment moving from an ending enrollment of 397 in 2010–2011 to 401 in 2011–2012.

Careful stewardship of the School's assets allowed us to use our cash reserve of \$1,163,667 toward the High School startup costs. This reserve will be replenished with a capital campaign directed toward both the establishment of the High School as well as the renovation of the campus at 4600 Bissonnet. The School was able to purchase three properties in the Museum District of Houston to create the High School campus and in doing so took out mortgages on the three properties as well as a construction loan for the refurbishment of the building at 1102 Autrey St. The debt service on these loans will be serviced by the operating budget of the High School. The School finished the year with \$29,367 in our cash reserve fund and was able to transfer \$5,000 to our Endowment Fund.

The investment policy of The Post Oak School Endowment directs a long-term investment approach. The current asset allocation target is 20 percent cash and fixed income, and 80 percent equities to maximize long-term returns. More than 80 percent of the portfolio is invested in low cost institutional asset class mutual funds managed by Dimensional Fund Advisors.

During the year ended June 30, 2012, the Endowment attained its initial target of \$1 million and the School was able to take a \$40,000 draw to support teacher sponsorships for the 2011–2012 school year. This benchmark has also resulted in the creation of a separate Board Endowment Committee to oversee all aspects of the management of the School's endowment.

The combined portfolio experienced a modest 4 percent investment loss of \$(43,983) for the one year ended June 30, 2012.

The School's continued fiscal discipline as well as the generosity of all of our donors has allowed us to expand our world-renowned Montessori program to support students from birth through the completion of High School.

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24,051		988,820				1,012,871
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298,790		(298,790		_		_
7,090,734	\$	690,030	\$	(40,096	\$	7,740,668
2,998,453	\$	_	\$	_	\$	2,998,453
551,776		_		—		551,776
575,590		—		—		575,590
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Consolidated Balance Sheet	General Fund		Temporary Restricted		Endowment		2011–2012 Tota	
Assets								
Total Cash and Investments	\$	2,177,337	\$		\$	1,162,925	\$	3,340,262
Net Student Receivables		50,301		—		—		50,301
Other Pledges and Receivables Net		10,546		663,802		108,000		782,348
Prepaid Expenses and Other Deposits		104,497		—		—		104,497
Interfund Receivables		4,686		38,9846				43,670
Total Current Assets		2,347,366		702,786		1,270,925		4,321,077
Land		1,837,500		_		_		1,837,500
Land-High School		2,427,092		_		_		2,427,092
Property, Plant and Equipment		4,048,826		—		_		4,048,826
Construction in Progress		1,452,529		_		_		1,452,529
Total Fixed Assets		9,765,947						9,765,947
Total Assets	\$	12,113,313	\$	702,786	\$	1,270,925	\$	14,087,024
Liabilities								
Accounts Payable	\$	194,834	\$	_	\$	_	\$	194,834
Accrued Salaries and Benefits		245,499		—		—		245,499
Deferred Income		1,910,331		—		—		1,910,331
Interfund Payables		38,985		_		4,686		43,671
Accrued Interest Payable		2,696		—		—		2,696
Other Accrued Expenses		9,735		—		—		9,735
Notes Payable		2,384,203						2,384,203
Total Liabilities	\$	4,786,284	\$		\$	4,686	\$	4,790,970
Fund Balance								
Net Assets Unrestricted	\$	7,356,396	\$	_	\$	_	\$	7,356,396
Net Assets-Cash Reserve Board Restricted		(29,367		_		_		(29,367)
Net Assets-Temp Restricted		_		702,786		_		702,876
Net Assets-Endowment		_		_		1,266,239		1,266,239
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$	12,113,313	\$	702,786	\$	1,270,925	\$	14,087,024

# Alumni Update

#### Class of 1981

#### Stephen Marchione

Stephen earned his BA in music from Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado. He began his career as a luthier in 1990. View his work online at www.marchione.com.

#### Class of 1999

#### Justin Boyar

I graduated from Thunderbird School of Global Management with a Masters in global management in April 2012. I was hired by Jones Lang LaSalle (NYSE: JLL) to work as a consultant in Panama City, Panama. In this role, I took over temporarily for the VP of JLL Vice in Panama to manage all of JLL's service lines and the needs of our clients in Panama.

In addition, I pursue business development opportunities for JLL in Latin America. This promises to be an extraordinarily exciting, challenging, and adventurous opportunity. I could not be more thrilled with the direction my life is taking, and for the opportunity to work for such a great company.

As always, I am grateful to Post Oak for helping me build a creative foundation, and for encouraging me to push the boundaries of life, growing into the person I truly want to become.

# Class of 2001

#### Abbie Kamin

Abbie worked for the Democratic National Committee in Washington D.C. in the summer of 2012. She is in her second year of law school at American University.

# Class of 2002

#### Sam Geer

Things are going good here! I'm still working at Apple to pay the bills, but I've finished the feature film screenplay I was working on with fellow alum William Wawro. Another POS alum. Jonathan Ward, is producing the film (which I will direct). We're going to be shooting in Georgia, and at the beginning of May we went out there to scout for locations. It was a great trip and we found many a beautiful place to film. We're now in the process of raising the money to finance it, and we're planning on shooting in the next spring. So, all in all, pretty exciting stuff!

Please give my regards to the rest of the Post Oak family.

#### Nick Hetherington

I am a Content Associate at ESPN where I have the awesome job of cutting highlights for SportsCenter and am currently a staff member on the show College Gameday

# Ben Jawdat

II'm in the third year of my physics PhD program, working as a research assistant and also taking classes in the physics department. During summer 2012 I worked at the Texas Center for Superconductivity at U of H (TcSUH) as a research assistant.

# Class of 2003

# Sam Boyar

I work for a small, independent oil and gas company based in Austin called Border to Border Exploration. I am a wellsite geologist and work half of the time on our rigs in East Texas and half the time doing developmental and exploration geology work in our Austin office. Due to the current high price of oil, we are very active and are drilling a lot more than in previous years. It is a very exciting time to be in oil and gas, so I am really enjoying my career path.

#### Brittany Fondren

I graduated in May 2011 with honors from Southwestern University with a major in religion and a minor in English. I live in Houston and worked at Texas Inter-Faith for eight months before starting a new job at Cornerstone Recovery, Inc., a nonprofit organization that helps teens and their families recover from drug and alcohol addiction. In August 2012 I spent a week in Japan visiting my sister, **Catherine**.





# Nick Wallace

I spent the spring of 2012 in Panama where I was taking business classes at the Florida State University campus in Panama City, getting credit towards my BBA in MIS (Management Information Systems). After completing the semester I backpacked from Panama City up to Mexico. I had an internship at Marathon Oil during the summer of 2012. I'm currently continuing my BBA at the University of Houston, and I hope to graduate in the fall of 2013.

# William Wawro

After graduating from Syracuse University in 2011 I moved out to Los Angeles without an apartment or job. While crashing on a friend's couch, I went to as many job interviews as possible. I was fortunate enough to get a job as an assistant editor at City Room Creative, a post production company that makes movie trailers.

It's been a perfect fit. I've moved into a proper apartment (no more couch surfing) and worked with fellow Post Oak alumni, **Sam Geer** and **Jona Ward**, on a feature script. I am becoming more and more acclimated with Los Angeles, but I still miss Houston, and I look forward when I get to come home for a weekend or two to see family and friends and the familiar humidity.

#### Class of 2004

# Jennie Kamin

I graduated Cum Laude from Tulane University in May 2012 with a degree in political science and a focus in American policy and practice. During my spring semester, I worked part-time as an assignment desk editor for New Orleans' local NBCaffiliate station. Right at the beginning of my college career, Louisiana created tax incentives for filming and the state has since surpassed Los Angeles in terms of production popularity. As my academic background also includes theater and communications. I have been fortunate enough to work on a number of film, news, and television projects in the city both on and behind the camera. As for recent projects, I wrapped on a film in April 2012 for the SyFy network set to air on Halloween and I worked on an independent film in New Orleans at the end of June.

#### Samantha Lubel

Samantha graduated Magna Cum Laude from Syracuse University in May 2012. She majored in child and family studies and minored in psychology and gerontology. She is working for a law firm while she studies for the LSAT and applies to law school.

# Matthew McDonald

Starting around middle school and possibly even earlier I started getting in to music, specifically playing drums. When I started at Episcopal High School, I joined band and my musical activities blossomed from there. After graduating EHS, I chose to attend Boston University as a percussion performance major and graduated in May 2012. I currently attend the New England Conservatory for my masters in music and hope that the two-year program will provide me ample opportunity to audition and scope out the job field (because my undergrad did not). I have worked with Generations Theatre Company (a Houston-based theater group headed by the Episcopal theater director, George Brock), playing every musical they have put on since their inception in 2008. Another Post Oak graduate, Stephanie Styles, has also worked with them every summer and continues to do so. During summer 2011 we performed the U.S. regional premier of the Tony Award winning Spring Awakening. During summer 2012 we performed Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, a rock musical highlighting the life of former president Andrew Jackson.

#### Christina Moser

I graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a BFA in design in May 2012. I created a personal website to showcase my work: christinamoser.com.

In May 2012 I finished up my internship with The Butler Bros. The Butler Bros are an idea production company, located on the east side of Austin. A graphic design studio started by Adam and Marty Butler, the company's core focus is promoting products, people, and ideas that are worth sharing. Some of their clients include Livestrong, The Legacy Foundation, Sweet Leaf Tea, and more.

#### Class of 2005

#### Catherine Fondren

After working in Dr. Malcolm Brenner and Dr. Cliona Rooney's Cell and Gene Therapy Lab at Texas Children's Hospital, Catherine studied in Japan for a four month semester at J. F. Oberlin University. She is in her senior year at the University of Texas in the Plan II program and was recently invited to join Phi Beta Kappa.

#### Class of 2006

#### Stephanie Styles

I am a junior at the University of Michigan where I am getting a BFA in musical theatre. I room with another Post Oak alum, **Becky Bereswill**. I performed in Houston during the summer of 2012 with Generations Theatre Company in *Our Town* as Emily Webb and *Bloody* 



Bloody Andrew Jackson as Rachel Jackson.

#### Class of 2007

#### Gray (Graeme) Crawford

Gray worked for a law firm during the summer of 2012 after completing a very successful freshman year at St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is in his sophomore year at St. John's.

#### Neva Gohel

Neva is a sophomore at Colorado College. She studied in Paris during summer 2012 and also took an art class through Parsons School of Design.

# Class of 2008

#### Alexi Beavers

Alexi attends Southern Methodist University. She received a Hilltop Scholarship and a Provost Scholarship.

# Kyle Burke

Kyle graduated from St. Thomas High School in May 2012. He attends Austin Community College and will transfer to the University of Texas in January 2013.

#### Jeffrey Davis

Jeffrey graduated from Episcopal High School. He is a freshman in the honors program at the University of Texas Cockrell School of Engineering. Jeffrey also received a merit scholarship from the UT School of Engineering.

# Hannah Fred

Hannah graduated from Kinkaid and is a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin.

#### Tom Harvey

Tom graduated from St. John's School in May 2012. He received the Department Chair award in humanities and history, the top award in that department across all upper school classes. He also received the Headmaster's Award, recognizing service to the St. John's community.

Tom enjoyed a trip to Europe with friends during the summer of 2012 and is a freshman at Notre Dame, where his brother and fellow Post Oak alum, **Michael**, is a junior.

#### Christian Martinez

Christian graduated from School of the Woods and is a freshman at the University of New Orleans.

# Luciano Posada

Lou graduated from Kinkaid and is a freshman at the University of Houston, where he studies biomedical engineering.

# Nikhil Schneider

Nikhil is a freshman studying science at The University of Houston Honors College.



#### Class of 2009

#### Josh Brenner

Josh interned during the summer of 2012 in a lab at MD Anderson studying various pulmonary functions. He also spent time in London visiting family. Josh is a senior at St. John's School.

# Class of 2010

# Amelia Eskridge

Amelia is a junior at the John Cooper School in The Woodlands. She served as co-president of her sophomore class and was voted sophomore class "outstanding student" by The Woodlands Rotary Club. She attended the National Student Leadership Conference, a twoweek program during summer 2012 in Washington, DC and New York where she participated in programs on international diplomacy.

#### Class of 2011

#### Benjamin Brenner

Benjamin is a sophomore at Camegie Vanguard High School. He spent two weeks in Greece over the summer of 2012 with his family.

#### Christian Gray

Christian, a sophomore at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, volunteered at the food program at His Way Baptist Church during the summer of 2012.

#### Rachael Levy

Rachael, a sophomore at Kinkaid, won the award for the outstanding student in advanced geometry for both freshman and sophomore classes on Honors Day in May 2012.

#### Thomas Rasor

In Episcopal High School's Honors Chapel in May 2012, Thomas received an "Outstanding Excellence Award" and, in the JV Athletic Awards Presentation, he received a medal for "Most Improved Player" from the coaches and players on his basketball team. He is in his sophomore year and plays volleyball, basketball, and baseball.

#### Megan Routbort

Megan received the "Outstanding Freshman in English" award and a bronze level recognition for community service (50 to 74 hours) in May 2012 at St. John's School. She also won first place in The Boniuk Center's Embracing Tolerance Essay Contest (ninth-tenth grade division) with her essay titled "Across the Aisle." Megan is a sophomore at St. John's.

# Jahnavi Schneider and Devina Schneider

Jahnavi and Devina are sophomores at Episcopal High School. Jahnavi and Devina volunteered at the TWRC Wildlife Center in the Baby Bird Program over the summer. They also took a driver's education course and will be getting their learner's permits soon so watch out!

#### Class of 2012

# Devin Gohel

Devin is a freshman at Episcopal High School. He traveled to Spain for a week over summer with his family (including sister and fellow alum, **Neva**). He also participated in a Putney Student Travel Program to Costa Rica for a month where he learned Spanish and helped build a school in a small community close to Liberia.

#### Other Alumni

#### Channing Allshouse

Currently in her seventh grade year, Channing demonstrated high academic standards during her first year at Kinkaid School. She was awarded the Leigh Weld Sixth Grade Award, an accolade in honor of long time middle school faculty member Leigh Weld, to the sixth grade student who demonstrates outstanding citizenship and commitment to making the school's community a better place for all students.

#### Payal Chana

Payal attended Post Oak through the second grade and graduated from Bellaire High School in 1999. She studied Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt University and received her Masters in business from Rice University. Payal's son, Dev, is in the Infant Community at Post Oak.

# Mark Christopher

Mark attended Post Oak through third grade and graduated from St. John's School in 1994. He studied at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and received his graduate degree from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. Mark is a consultant with The Arkin Group and lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife.

#### Isa Hetherington

Isa graduated from Episcopal High School and is a freshman at the University of Texas.

#### Tina Hetherington

Tina graduated from Episcopal High School and is a junior at the University of Texas.

#### Joanna Pauli Kluemper

I started at Post Oak when I was 18 months old and left after finishing third grade. I loved Post Oak, it was like a second home to me! In a nutshell, I graduated from Texas Christian University with an entrepreneurial management degree and minors in Spanish and health and fitness. I moved to Kansas unexpectedly after graduating and have lived here ever since. I met my wonderful husband at work and was married in October of 2011. My parents talk about Post Oak at least once a month. It was such a blessing to have had such wonderful teachers and faculty that were so involved and so caring.

#### Alexa Lubel

Alexa is a sophomore majoring in journalism at University of Kansas. She earned a place on the Dean's List her freshman year.

#### Alison Wong

Alison attended Post Oak through the sixth grade and graduated from St. John's School in 1992. She attended Southwestern University where she studied psychology and sociology and received her Juris Doctor from the University of Texas Law School. Alison is a trial consultant and her son, Gray, attends Post Oak in the Infant Community.

#### Jessica Wagner McCauley

Jessica, a former student and teacher at Post Oak, recently got married at The Houstonian and is currently teaching first grade at The Fay School.

# Alumni Outcomes

#### High School Admissions

# During 2012 Post Oak School graduates were admitted to the following college preparatory schools:

Awty International School\* Bellaire High School\* Episcopal High School\* The Kinkaid School\* Lamar High School\* Post Oak High School\* St. Agnes Academy St. John's School\* St. Thomas High School

#### \* Denotes school attending

#### **College Admissions**

Post Oak alumni populate top colleges and universities throughout the state, the nation, and abroad. College acceptances over the past nine years include:

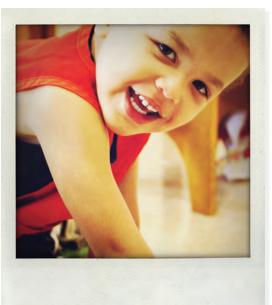
American University Art Institute of Boston Art Institute of Chicago Art Institute of Houston Auburn University Austin College Baylor University Boston University Brooks Institute of Photography Brown University California College of the Arts Carnegie Mellon University Chapman University Clemson University College of Charleston Colorado College Colorado School of Mines Cranbrook Academy of Art Denison University Drexel University Eckerd College Elon University Emerson College Evergreen State College Fashion Institute of Technology Fordham University Georgetown University Georgia Tech Gettysburg College Goucher College Hampshire College Ithaca College Kansas University Lone Star Community College Louisiana State University Loyola Marymount Loyola University, New Orleans Millsaps College New York University Notre Dame University (Honors) Oberlin College Oklahoma State University Purdue University Rhodes College Rice University Rollins College San Diego State University San Francisco Conservatory of Music Sarah Lawrence College Savannah College of Art and Design Seton Hall University Sewanee-The University of the South Skidmore College

Smith College Southern Methodist University Southwestern University Stanford University St. Edwards University St. John's College Syracuse University Texas A&M University Texas Christian University Texas Christian University (Honors) The Citadel The College of William and Mary Trinity University Tulane University University of Alabama University of Arkansas University of Arizona University of California-Los Angeles University of California-San Diego University of California-Santa Barbara University of California-Santa Clara University of Colorado-Boulder University of Georgia University of Houston University of Houston. Cullen College of Engineering University of Houston (Honors) University of Indiana University of Kansas University of Massachusetts-Amherst University of Miami University of Michigan University of Mississippi University of New Orleans

University of North Carolina University of Notre Dame University of Oklahoma University of the Pacific University of South Carolina University of Southern California University of Southern California-School of Cinematic Arts University of Texas-Austin University of Texas-Austin, Plan II University of Texas-**Business Honors** University of Texas-San Antonio University of Texas-Tyler University of Tulsa University of Vermont University of Virginia-Richmond U.S. Naval Academy Vanderbilt University Washington University in St. Louis West Point Wesleyan University







The mission of The Post Oak School, as a school accredited by AMI (Association Montessori Internationale), is to provide a superior Montessori environment and dynamic learning experiences which are designed according to the developmental characteristics and needs of children: to guide and nurture each child intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

