

# Episcopal Identity

THE REV. KRISTIN SULLIVAN



Ella Pancamo, '23, holding her Paschal Candle after being baptized in elementary chapel



Rev. Kristin Sullivan,  
School Chaplain

One of the best parts of my job is helping students make deeper connections to their faith, whatever faith that may be. Recently I began one of my classes by telling the students that we were going to be learning about the Muslim holiday of Ramadan, which would soon be starting. The first question, and one that I answer often, was “why are we learning about a Muslim holiday if we are an Episcopal school?” To the amazement of the students I told them that we had a lot of Muslim students in our school, as well as Hindu, Sikh, Jewish and students of many other beliefs. Part of what makes an Episcopal school special is that we are not merely tolerant of those who are different than us, but we embrace, encourage and welcome people of all faiths into our communities. The Baptismal Covenant that Episcopalians follow says that we will seek and serve Christ in all people, loving our neighbors as ourselves. We live

in an increasingly diverse, multicultural, and digitally connected world where our students will need to be able to work and connect with different people all over the globe. Our Portrait of a Graduate says that in addition to being active learners, our students will be “ethically and spiritually motivated to make a positive contribution to the community and the world.” This part of our mission is woven into every part of our life from chapel, to the classroom, on the playground, and beyond.

We teach and learn about other religions because it makes us a better community. When we understand the beliefs of our friends and neighbors we have a window into their lives and we learn that there are many more things that tie us together than pull us apart. When we learn about other religions we strengthen our own faith by asking questions and thinking about the way that we connect to God, and that is always a good thing!