

From the Headmaster

GARHETT WAGERS



Garhett Wagers
Headmaster



St. Mark's students pose on the playground in the early 1990's

This year marks the 60th anniversary of St. Mark's Episcopal School. In 1960, members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church leadership wisely heard the hopes and dreams of some of their members, who were seeking a new educational experience for their children. A small kindergarten program was launched with the purpose of serving the learning and growth of young children in the West University area. This neighborhood looked much different then, which really speaks to the vision it took to start a school. The Episcopal church and school setting, which places a high emphasis on diversity and inclusion, couldn't fit better than in Houston, Texas and this particular neighborhood is ideal. But in 1960, who could have known that Houston would grow to be the most diverse city in the United States; a perfect location for a school whose identity as an Episcopal community is called to celebrate our uniqueness, include all who choose to join, and fight for social justice.

Even more fortuitous, in this 60th year we adopted a strategic vision for our work

at St. Mark's. As a community developed to serve young children, we continue that focus with conviction. Our strategic goals, and their intended outcomes aim to:

Clarify the scope of learning needs we are capable of serving

Support the ongoing development of faculty to meet those needs

Honor the interconnectedness of social, emotional, and cognitive learning in the lives of our children

Develop self-aware young people who will thrive in a globally connected world, through our identity as an Episcopal school

For 60 years, St. Mark's has been a community school. The word community is so important here in that we are, and have always been, an engaged community of people. Here we are known and come together in partnership so that we can best

strengthen young people for the world they will enter. This world requires children practice and develop critical thinking skills to discern truth from fiction and opinion. It also requires they are empowered to use their voice as advocates for self and others, and grow into individuals who know how to collaborate as part of a team. This is why our strategic vision is not just about the next three to five years, its is about continual assessment of those evolving needs, and fostering an environment that actively works to grow in service to preparing young people for it.

One of the things I am most proud of at St. Mark's is how we are still true to who we are as an Episcopal school and the ideals of our work founded in 1960. Meanwhile, while holding this identity as our center, we continue to evolve as a child-centered community, preparing children for what lies ahead in their lives, which is so starkly different than the world of 1960.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garhett Wagers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G".

Garhett Wagers
Headmaster