



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in learning more about The Branch School. We hope you and your family are doing well during this unprecedented health event and we look forward to meeting you in person once we are able to open our campus.

At The Branch School every student is known, loved, and encouraged toward his or her singular capacities and gifts. We serve children in preschool through eighth grade and strive to develop not just academic prowess, but character and kindness as well. I am proud to say that my now grown children attended The Branch School, have fond memories of their years here, and credit the school with their foundations in learning for success in life.

You'll find a description of our beliefs and philosophy below. Additionally, be assured we offer before- and after-school care and a full slate of after-school enrichment options that include robotics, fine arts, scouting, and athletics. The Branch School is in the midst of much positive momentum, with a new playground just installed, a new website under construction, and plans to break ground on a new middle school building very soon.

Please feel free to reach out to our Admissions Coordinator, Juanita Wilson, at [wilsonj@thebranchschool.org](mailto:wilsonj@thebranchschool.org) with any questions. We are all happy to answer any questions and share about what makes The Branch School such a special place.

Kind regards,

Emily Smith  
Head, The Branch School  
[smithe@thebranchschool.org](mailto:smithe@thebranchschool.org)



## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**At The Branch School, it all begins with love.** We know that when children are loved and valued, they have the settled confidence to learn deeply and fully. Their learning, in turn, empowers them as leaders of themselves and the wider community. At Branch, our entire faculty and staff is intentionally attuned to our students and committed to bring out the best in them every day. **We believe children are unlimited;** our shared goal is to help them explore and grow their capacities in ways they might not have thought possible.

LOVING TO LEARN.  
LEARNING TO LEAD.  
LEADING WITH LOVE.

## OUR ACADEMIC PHILOSOPHY

The Branch School offers a wide-ranging curriculum, with challenging forays into math, language arts, science, and social studies across all grade levels. Shaped by our **STEAM focus and enriched by our unique commitment to outdoor learning**, our methods are project-based and interactive, with students working together to apply their ever-advancing academic understandings to real-world problems and hands-on solutions. We're committed to instilling a life-long commitment to intellectual growth in our students, tapping into their own interests to draw them toward the thrill of discovery and the joy of understanding.

## STEAM-RICH LEARNING IN OUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

**The Branch School is a leader in environmental education in Houston**, and we've been honored to share our curriculum with many other schools. We hold reciprocal relationships with the Houston Audubon Society, Urban Harvest, and the Jane Goodall Institute and have benefited from a series of grants from foundations that recognize our unique and comprehensive approach.

Project work in our Outdoor Classroom fuses science and math exploration in concrete, hands-on ways, building observational skills, measurement and math acuity, and critical thinking expertise to foster a deeper understanding of ecosystems and the natural world. From planting bulbs to document life cycles, to counting birds and butterflies to gauge the effects of climate change on at-risk species, the **Outdoor Classroom opens a world of learning to students that just can't be found in a textbook.**

## BUILDING CHARACTER THE BRANCH WAY

The Branch School was founded in 1977 in the Christian Science tradition – a faith that teaches us not to proselytize, but instead to welcome all with love and respect for their existing beliefs and traditions. **We view each child through a divine lens, as unlimited beings who can learn more, go farther, and become braver, more resilient, and more ethical every day.** While we don't teach religion at The Branch School, we teach and model Christian values. The Golden Rule, "do unto others as we would have them do unto us," is the basis of our peacemaking and ethical leadership program. Through our weekly and monthly topics, character education is taught by nurturing and developing the divinely created qualities each of us expresses.

## ENSURING BALANCE

Amid deep academic exploration, **we make time every day for play and recess**; we know even middle schoolers benefit greatly from getting out and moving, from engaging in relaxed and supportive peer-to-peer interactions, and having time to reset. Creative thinking and new approaches so often emerge from those happy playground conversations.

## THE BRANCH FAMILY

**Parents are a welcomed and enthusiastic part of the Branch community.** They volunteer as Parent Association officers, library helpers, event chairs, room moms and dads, classroom speakers, Junior Achievement volunteers, and advancement assistants. We appreciate and value their contributions, support, and loyal connection to the school.

### Quick Facts

- Preschool-8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Average class size - 12 students
- 38% students of color
- Member, National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- Accreditations:  
Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS)  
and Cognia
- Location: 1424 Sherwood Forest, Houston, TX 77043
- [www.thebranchschool.org](http://www.thebranchschool.org)

*The Branch School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.*