



## EPISCOPAL IDENTITY

St. Mark's Episcopal School was founded in 1960 as an educational ministry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. With the tradition of inclusion and open inquiry, Episcopal schools recognize the religious pluralism of this country and welcome students of all creeds to their programs.

The religion program at St. Mark's recognizes that we are all on a spiritual journey. We strive to help each child know they are loved by God and to foster a sense of wonder and joy. The religion curriculum encourages and welcomes wondering and questioning in a safe and loving environment.

## CHAPEL

Once a month, the school hosts an All School Chapel for students in 1st through 8th grade. All School Chapels occur on Thursday mornings, therefore once a month Elementary students will have chapel on Thursday in lieu of their regularly scheduled Wednesday service. These dates will be communicated via the school calendar.

Students are required to wear their dress uniforms on Chapel days.

Each division gathers for an age-appropriate chapel once a week that includes prayer, song, scripture, and teaching. Students are required to attend chapel and encouraged to participate joyfully and respectfully. Gathering for chapel weekly grounds our community in our Christian faith and allows us to center ourselves on God. This sense of belonging is incorporated in the classroom through the respectful treatment of one another. While strongly rooted in Judeo-Christian teaching, we also recognize and celebrate the diversity present in our community. Students of all faiths are invited to participate in chapel in ways that are appropriate to their religion.

From a young age, students are encouraged to take leadership roles in chapel by serving as acolytes and chapel readers. As students mature, they are given opportunities for more leadership in chapel planning.

Our Chapel Chums program pairs middle school students with elementary students for our monthly All School Chapel. This program fosters relationships between students, and allows our middle school students to be leaders with their younger counterparts. These relationships are carried over into other school events through the year.

### WEEKLY CHAPEL TIMES

#### Primay School Chapel\*

Wednesday mornings at 9:00 AM

#### Lower School Chapel

Wednesday mornings at 8:15 AM

#### Middle School Chapel

Thursday mornings at 8:15 AM

*\*Preschool 3s through Kindergarten*