

KAREN BORNHOFEN

Mrs. Bornhofen has been a fixture in St. David's Lower School since the division opened its doors in August of 2003. In her role as a teaching assistant, Mrs. Bornhofen has nurtured the youngest of our students through the Lower School and watched as they have moved through the school and off to college. Mrs. Bornhofen is the parent of three St. David's alumnae: Jennifer '06, Brittany '08 and Hannah '12.



Q&A

WHY HAVE YOU GIVEN LOYALLY TO ST. DAVID'S?

I believe in the mission of St. David's School. Daily, each member of the St. David's community strives to instill the values of faith, virtue and knowledge in our students, so that they will carry these values with them beyond the classroom and throughout their lives. My husband and I are selective about the causes we support, researching to make sure an organization aligns with our values. We continue to support St. David's School each year because of the impact it has and the opportunities it offers students. Our family tries to model the verse from 2 Corinthians 9:7 – "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO GIVE TO ST. DAVID'S?

The biggest inspiration to give to St. David's is my optimism and excitement for the future of the school, students and faculty. I've had the privilege of witnessing many bright moments at St. David's over the years, both big and small: from the everyday friendships that start in kindergarten and go on to last a lifetime, to the college acceptances in senior year, celebrating many years of hard work and dedication; from the fun and games at field days to the eye-opening trips abroad to Greece or Guatemala; from the daily lessons in the classroom and practices on the field to the end-of-year exams and state championships. Every day brings new experiences to celebrate, and there is always a community of support to help weather any difficult times.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT AT ST. DAVID'S?

Hearing a graduating senior who was in our kindergarten classroom remember specific milestones from that year – learning to read, finally tying his shoes, discovering his love of math – and being thankful for the positive, caring encouragers that year. Having grown up in a family of educators, I learned from an early age the transformative power of education, which enables individuals to improve their lives and society as a whole, through the ripple effect of each individual's actions and positive contributions. In hearing the senior recount his experience, it brought me joy to reflect on twenty years of students who I have had the privilege to know, teach and encourage.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR GIVING AT WORK OVER THE YEARS?

I am reminded of the impacts of giving at St. David's every day, both on campus and when cheering on our Warrior teams at the Satellite Athletic Complex. All of the beautiful facilities where we learn and play would not have been possible without financial support through the St. David's Fund, capital campaign and Friends fundraisers. The improvements that have been made through our years of giving are beneficial to both the St. David's community and the broader Raleigh community who rent our facilities. Having a well-cared for, safe, clean, and inspiring environment sets the tone for learning, teaches students by example to be good stewards of what they are given, and reinforces to students that we have chosen to invest in them and their future. These examples, and so many more, are reasons to feel a loyal bond to St. David's School. Interact with any of the faculty or students on campus, even briefly, and you quickly realize the love for this school is genuine and big.