



Ben Powell VII, '33

“It was loving for my two kids, and from what I can tell it’s loving for my three grandchildren who go there. Because it’s a school that’s run for the kids.”

Even though Clark, Winnie, and her three kids all have very different personalities, the one thing that hits everyone the same about the school is the loving atmosphere. “It was loving for my two kids,” Rick notes, “and from what I can tell it’s loving for my three grandchildren who go there. Because it’s a school that’s run for the kids.”

Most of the changes Rick and Jan have seen in the school is growth. The school grew from 96 students to over 450 in Rick’s experience with the school and St. Mark’s added middle school and early childhood in that time. “But,” Rick adds, “it still has that close feeling where every kid knows that he or she is wanted. In other schools, students might not feel wanted or even known. That is not going to happen at St. Mark’s.” They all also love the faculty and staff and as Winnie puts it, “how friends are like family.”

Having multiple generations at the same school means from being a parent to a Board member to a grandparent, St. Mark’s can be trusted to give not only a first-rate education but also make every student in the family feel special. Rick says, “As a grandparent—the best job on earth, by the way—I can say I really feel good about the education that little Ben is going to get from being 3 years old to 8th grade, as much as Claire, as much as Leigh. I have great comfort and confidence that my precious grandchildren are going to be treated beautifully and that’s priceless. I don’t care what the tuition costs. That’s what matters.”

When looking at the future of St. Mark’s, every member of the family has different wishes for the school. For Rick, he’d love to see St. Mark’s buy neighboring property so it could have a playing field and a little more space. For Leigh, she would love to see Splash Day stay throughout Lower

School but otherwise, Leigh says, “I think it’s a perfect school the way it is.” Claire would love to have Advisory closer to the lockers but doesn’t see much else that St. Mark’s can improve. Winnie would love to continue to invest in our facilities and programs while maintaining its truest sense of self: “a steadfast commitment to community and growth in a child-centered environment.”



Claire, Ben, Leigh, and Winnie Powell in blue for Spirit Day