



A LION FAMILY LEGACY

Rick Kellogg and his wife Jan needed a preschool for their first born, Clark, who had been in an early childhood classroom at the University of Houston. That’s how they found St. Mark’s Episcopal School. Clark was two at the time and the U of H program stopped when he turned three. It was Jan’s idea to check out the Episcopal school close to their neighborhood. “She trooped over there cold,” Rick recalls. It was 1983 and she immediately fell in love with the school. “The spirit of the teaching hooked her right then and there. She said to me, ‘You need to come over here,’ *and ditto*. **Love at first sight.**”

Clark and Winnie, Rick and Jan’s youngest, both graduated from St. Mark’s. So naturally, when it came time for Winnie, and her husband Ben Powell, to look for a school for their oldest daughter Claire, she thought of St. Mark’s. Ben was impressed by the level of engagement of middle school students with adults throughout the process. Winnie adds, “He appreciated that the students were articulate, confident, and proud to represent their school. I loved that. And although there were updates to the campus and curriculum over the years, the heart and soul of the school has not changed.” Now all three of Winnie and Ben’s children, Claire, 6th grader, Leigh, 3rd grader, and Ben, kindergartener, all attend St. Mark’s and will graduate from here.

Kids are first, everybody else comes second to that, and that’s the way it should be.” Rick and Jan could easily see in 1983 that everything at St. Mark’s served to further the education of the kids. Winnie loves the community. She adds, “The community of families, faculty, and staff is like an episode of Cheers: everyone knows your name and we take care of each other. My husband, Ben, and I also are continually impressed and grateful that St. Mark’s teaches

The school has changed a lot since the 80s when Clark and Winnie first attended, but in Rick’s opinion, the growth has not hurt it but helped it.

Rick’s favorite thing about St. Mark’s remains the importance of teaching. “Back then, almost forty years ago, St. Mark’s was a Mother’s Day Out program to start with and had not invested the capital necessary to transform itself to a school. St. Mark’s has made that investment over time and that has fit it well. The spirit of the teaching is the aspect of St. Mark’s that hasn’t changed.



Winnie, '98, in Mrs. Jackson's Pre-K class