

Why I Teach in an Episcopal School

By Tim Brockway - Fourth Grade Teacher - St. Albans School

When I started my career at St. Albans School in the August of 1986, I never envisioned that I would still be around 32 years later. The majority of my time at St. Albans has been spent in the classroom teaching Form C (Grade 4). St. Albans is a place where one does not think about the day-to-day routine as work, but rather as a calling. St. Albans allows an educator the freedom to explore many facets of the curriculum, while simultaneously challenging both students and educators to grow and learn. I am very fortunate to work with a new group of intellectually curious fourth graders each year. My goal is to make a positive impact on every student and to develop not only their minds, but to expand their wide-ranging interests in the world around them. I look forward to the time a student has his "aha" moment when he fully comprehends a concept presented in class. I am very fortunate to work with a gifted faculty, each bringing their own strengths and passion for teaching.

St. Albans is a school with a strong sense of history and tradition. Its fourth headmaster, Canon Charles Martin, was known to use the phrase, "Choose the hard right over the easy wrong." We endeavor, on a daily basis, to challenge students, while at the same time, lead boys to be men of great character. Service to others is strongly rooted in the framework of the school. Our bi-weekly chapel services provide the boys with the moral and spiritual education to help them make good choices. Homilies are often given by fellow lower school students, as well as faculty, along with the lower school chaplain. These talks resonate with the boys and they often remember them years later. St. Albans strong sense of community is prevalent during, not only chapel services, but during lunch in our refectory, where the tradition of eating "family style" at a table filled with students of various grade levels - grades 4-8 - allows for positive interaction among the students and teachers at each table. There are even moments, during recess, where boys learn valuable lessons about how we treat our fellow students, and many "teachable" moments occur outside the classroom.

St. Albans boys are exposed to a demanding curriculum, a remarkable arts program and vigorous sports activities, that allows each boy to leave the school with strong sense of himself, as he ventures onto the next phase of his life.

Why do I teach at an Episcopal school? I go back to the school motto, "Pro Ecclesia et Pro Patria," (for Church and Country). St. Albans instills in every student the strong sense of the spiritual, moral, intellectual rigors it takes to be a St. Albans man. One of impeccable character, whose sole purpose is to lead a life of service to others.