

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool Builds Community

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool

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At Christ Church Episcopal Preschool (CCEP), we take our mission statement seriously, and continually measure ourselves against the goals expressed therein. In particular, we work hard to “create community among families, school, and church.” We are blessed with an amazing community of families who support one another, volunteer readily in the school and in its outreach efforts, and enjoy sharing time with each other. We recognize that such communities do not happen by accident, so we cherish and nurture not only our current family community, but also the larger community of alumni families, parishioners, and faculty members.

Parents are regularly part of our weekly chapel services, and turn out in great numbers for “Family Chapel” on the first Tuesday of each month. We welcome parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends to sit among the preschool children and participate in the songs and prayers, which they do enthusiastically. Parenting classes are offered a few times each year—in the morning right after drop-off, or in the evening in the home of one family or another.

Faculty Chapel is part of most in-service days and the teachers provide input into the kind of chapel experience that is meaningful for them. Often, it is just quiet time with candles available to light and place on the altar, with some meditative reading provided. Sometimes it is an opportunity to share “pows and wows” (“what’s going great in my life right now, and what I’m finding challenging”).

Faculty lunches or happy hour a few times each year are strictly social times, but allow us the opportunity to break bread and share stories in a way that is hard to accomplish in the rush of a regular school day. Likewise, we have social times for parents, such as “Moms’ Night Out” or a “Nine Holes Anywhere” afternoon.

The communities formed in the classrooms with teachers and students are filled with fun, love, and learning, of course, but by also focusing on our adult communities, we are able to build strong and lasting connections that are still enjoyed by families and faculty members who may have left our school a decade ago. We are grateful for each other and our shared love for CCEP.