



No Better Time to Take a Leap of Faith Than Now!
Jamey Hein, Head of School

MAESA Matters May 2018 Newsletter

Like so many of MAESA's independent Episcopal parish schools, St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School began its roots as a church preschool nestled below its namesake's sanctuary. Apparently, the 1950s were a high-time for such organizations to sprout into education as part of their overall missions. And so began St. Martin's life as a school that has now successfully nurtured the hearts and minds of generations of local residents, who speak lovingly about their memories on the quaint campus on the banks of the Severn River in suburban Severna Park.

And like the journey of other parish schools, with its strong foothold in the community, St. Martin's expanded and added grades. Conversations naturally ensued between the school and church, with the first one occurring some 20 years ago, about building a permanent structure. Even with a campus that is half deemed "critical area" due to the Chesapeake Bay, passionate people kept voicing the need for a facility that mirrored the quality of care and instruction emblematic of St. Martin's. A middle school began in the early 2000's and temporary classrooms were leased to generate a program ending in 8th grade.

Despite its modest and uncannily quaint facilities which lack visibility from the main road bordering the campus, St. Martin's has been able to successfully prepare students, stay relevant in a competitive market, and retain families who are loyal to its mission, its teachers, and its genuine warmth. We're a modest school without lots of bells and whistles but boy do we foster confident and compassionate children full of character!

In 2016 when strategic work was accomplished between the Board and Vestry to approve a building project that would match the needs of the school and its budget. It was indeed a "now or never" decision. Shortly thereafter, little school set forth on a campaign and contractors and architects were hired! St. Martin's new 7000SF Learning Center will primarily house our 5th-8th grade program, a new school lobby and secure entrance, and new administrative offices. When all is said and done, the "hidden gem" that is St. Martin's will be prominently seen from the road and be positioned to attract new families! Fingers crossed, we hit the finish line by the end of 2018!

It has been a journey to say the least full of fits and starts, lots of big-hearted people believing in our mission, and most importantly lots of deserving students who will soon enjoy a vibrant new learning space!