



Holy Spirit

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Dear Community members of HSES,

We are nearing the end of our first quarter, and it is with gratitude that I let you know of a few of the many highlights and give you some heads up as well;

- We have totaled over a week of **Professional Development** for all faculty;
- The **Middle School Science Lab** is up and running;
- Over one-third of our students attended our **Late Start Enrichment activities**;
- Several **Professional Learning Community** groups have been formed;
- **Ready “U”** After School Enrichment is flourishing and still accepting participants;
- Students and faculty have traveled to **Colorado’s Noah’s Ark, Florida’s Marine Lab and Texas’ Enchanted Rock**;
- **S.A.I.N.T. time** has been successfully implemented offering Sustained Silent Reading time, Advisory, Individualized instruction, Networking and Tutorial time for Middle School students;
- Lower School students are participating in **D.E.A.R. time**;
- 8th graders are visiting **high schools**;
- We are talking **“gardening”** on campus to help us become more “green”;
- CEC is creating an **Early Literacy Library**;
- We have bids on getting some **shade for the playground** soon;
- **Fam Fest** is right around the corner—Peace Out!
- We are reading about our upcoming **Grandparents and Special Friends Visit Day and Book Fair**;
- Sports are up and rolling and we are exploring ideas of **a new Athletic Complex** on campus!!; and so much more...

It is important for you to know when we make changes in our faculty. We have been fortunate to have **Mrs. Bobbye Gardner** teach our students for nearly eight years, most recently in 4th Grade. Mrs. Gardner has shared that she and her husband are going to be moving to Boerne, Texas, where they excitedly join their children and grandchildren. Glancing through her file, I thought I’d share Bobbye’s Personal Mission Statement:

My mission is to promote academic growth with a blend of creativity and proven instructional techniques in a nurturing Christian environment where children feel accepted and enjoy learning.

We want to thank Mrs. Gardner for her dedicated years of service. Those of us who have children pass through her classroom can say that she has certainly met her objective, and has forever stamped precious memories of lower school years. She is making plans to move out of Houston by the end of the year, but her last day at Holy Spirit will be October 14th. Join us in wishing her and her family the very best.

The beauty of having a tight knit community is that we did not have to look very far to find our next faculty member. **Mrs. Courtney Schultz** will become the new 4th Grade teacher. You may know Courtney as a parent, substitute or active volunteer at HSES. A Summa Cum Laude graduate of Texas Tech University with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a Reading Specialization, Courtney recently served in a long term substitute position in our Middle School, and has years of elementary teaching experience in the Austin Independent School District as well as experience as a Preschool teacher, Sunday School teacher, Art teacher in Dubai and enjoys gardening, tennis, home projects, traveling and of course, reading. After side-by-siding Mrs. Gardner over the next couple of weeks, she will become the Language Arts teacher in 4th Grade. It is beautiful to have Mrs. Schultz join faculty the year that her daughter, Hayley spends her last year here as an eighth grader. Welcome Courtney!

It is beginning to feel like home, as Alexander and I are approaching the anniversary of our first visit to campus in October of last year. I hear it is official when you get Texas tags on your cars, add a Texas telephone number, and plan to play on the Faculty basketball team when they play the students soon—I am proudly here, boots and all, and appreciate how warmly you have received us. For many beautiful reasons, it seems that we've been here longer than nine months. I hope you join me in believing that we are adding to, what is already a beautiful foundation. We can do this because you truly join hands with us, INSPIRE us, and trust us to provide rigor and relevance to your child's learning experience. Thank you for the opportunity.



Lori Preston
Head of School