

Tenets of Our Episcopal Identity

Porter-Gaud affirms the value of the spiritual dimension of learning – integrating faith and reason – and is grounded in academic excellence. We combine rigorous and free intellectual inquiry with an unapologetic proclamation of faith in a loving God.

- **Religious Diversity**

- Because the school has an Episcopal identity, it has an integrity which enables us to be an inclusive community grounded in respect for each of its members. The religious pluralism of the school does not degenerate into “my truth and your truth”, and therefore provides a magnificent opportunity to foster respect for the religious and spiritual formation of people from a variety of religious backgrounds.

- **Community Life**

- The school’s tradition and community life flow from its Episcopal identity, which enables it to honor, celebrate, and worship God in Christ as the center of life and to care for all people as made in the image of God.
- This identity is rooted in the revelation that God by nature is love. This reality permeates all that we do in our daily life and work.
- Emerging from our Christian world view is love for our students, for their value as children of God, and for their unique gifts. This undergirds everything we do. Because love is will, we act out of love, teach love, model love, and love one another in our community as God first loved us.

- **Worship**

- Worship is one of the most universal and effective expressions of Episcopal identity and community life, and is both held regularly and is expected for all faculty and students.
- We use Episcopal liturgies, as found in the Book of Common Prayer, in chapel, on regularly scheduled, and special occasions (for example, Founder’s Day, Opening Ceremony, Lessons and Carols, Baccalaureate, and Graduation).
- The use of prayer in the life of the school, including public occasions and sporting events, is an essential expression of our Episcopal identity.

- **Service**

- Because God first loves us, we are given grace, through which we are empowered to respond to the needs of others both at home and in the world. Hereby we experience the teaching that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

- **Academics**

- The religious studies curriculum of Episcopal schools is offered for all grade levels and is as fully rigorous as any other academic course and graded as appropriate with divisional practices.
- The content of religious studies is developed by the chaplains, with input from the curriculum committee, and will be developmentally appropriate and may be provided through interdisciplinary or religious studies classes.