ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL - 1958

Preschool Philosophy

The preschool program at St. Stephen's Episcopal Day School is grounded in the belief that young children thrive when they feel safe, respected, and known. Guided by our Episcopal identity and the understanding that each child is created in God's image, we are committed to nurturing the whole child, socially, emotionally, intellectually, physically, and spiritually within a caring and inclusive community.

Wellness is foundational to learning in early childhood. Our program prioritizes strong relationships, emotional regulation, and a sense of belonging as essential conditions for growth. Through predictable routines, responsive interactions, and intentionally designed learning environments, children develop the skills to manage emotions, build independence, collaborate with others, and show respect for themselves and their community.

Learning in the preschool is play-based, student-centered, and developmentally appropriate. Children explore ideas through hands-on experiences, purposeful play, and inquiry that emerge from their interests and questions. Teachers carefully observe, listen, and respond, embedding essential skills within play and daily experiences to support curiosity, language development, early problem-solving, and a growing love of learning.

In partnership with families, St. Stephen's preschool fosters a joyful and supportive learning environment where children are encouraged to take healthy risks, reflect on their experiences, and learn from mistakes. This foundation reflects the school's mission to educate and inspire children to lead with integrity and become forces for good in the world.