

St. James School

Annual Report 2018

On August 17, 2018, the school committee, along with the blessing of the vestry, voted to open St. James School.

To address the needs of our school children and parish children, Wilson Hall was refurbished to house 2 classrooms, a children's library, Godly Play room and an office. Along with the renovation of Wilson Hall the outdoor play area was totally reconstructed to be a developmentally appropriate outdoor play area and learning environment. All of this was made possible by the incredible support of the Parish through fund raising efforts, monetary donations and in-kind gifts.

We opened our doors to one class of 2 1/2 - 3 year olds and one class of 4 year olds. We have 20 students enrolled with 9 highly qualified, experienced and dedicated teachers and staff who share an enthusiastic commitment to challenge young minds.

The enrichment classes, taught by highly qualified teachers, include Spanish, yoga, Kindermusik and movement, outdoor play and weekly story time.

This fall, our students participated in many onsite field trips and special events in collaboration with St. James Children's Ministries to include All Hallows Eve Festival and the St. Nicholas Breakfast. Our students have also participated in outreach projects for Ecumenical Ministries of Baldwin County.

Our children are also developing an understanding of what it means to be in relationship with God through weekly worship in the chapel. By learning to pray together, lifting their sweet voices in song, and wondering through Godly Play, they are becoming confident in their own spirituality and developing a sincere compassion for others.

As we look to the future, we will build on this strong foundation with more exciting initiatives. We are in the planning stages of incorporating science and technology enrichment into our program. We are also beyond thrilled to announce we will be adding a Kindergarten class to our offerings in 2019.

It has been a true honor to serve as Director of St. James School. One of my primary goals as Director of St. James School is to help foster an exceptional learning environment to meet the developmental needs of children of the Eastern Shore in an inclusive Christian community. The support for the school by the Rector, Wardens, Vestry, School Board, Staff and parishioners is an example of the mutual care and concern we share as we carry out our mission to "Introduce children to Christ in a nurturing environment by providing exemplary preparation for future learning."

Respectively submitted,

Shelley E. Miller