

**A teacher affects eternity;
he can never tell where his influence stops.**
– *Henry B. Adams*

Mark Crotty – Mark Crotty became the Head of School at St. John’s Episcopal School in 2010, yet at his core, he is the quintessential teacher. As the school’s leader, he taught the entire community, from pre-k students to parents, the importance of lifetime learning. While long considered a hallmark of a St. John’s education, in Mark we saw what a lifetime learner looks like. Rather than lecture or exhort, he consistently and often quietly, simply lived it. He challenged us to think deeply about the important issues that face students, families, educators, schools, even society. Throughout his tenure, Mark championed transformative programs and changes that advanced St. John’s. But arguably, his greatest gift, his enduring legacy, was to challenge us to reflect, to think deeply, to consider who we are, and what we can be. With his guidance and vision, the school took its 60-plus year reputation for matriculating successful, well-prepared graduates of character and gave it definition in the form of “The Picture of a Graduate.” In many ways, Mark Crotty is the frame that defines the Picture of a Graduate, teaching us all to be the best version of ourselves. Mark may be leaving us, but what he taught us will endure.

Cindy Fields – When Cindy Fields joined the faculty at St. John’s Episcopal School in 1984, there were two computers in the school to serve students as an enrichment. Now, as a 1:1 iPad school, technology is a part of daily learning. Through that arc of time, Cindy saw many other changes, and through it all, she shared her sweet, nurturing compassion with countless students. Cindy began her teaching career at Rutherford Elementary in Mesquite, before settling in at St. John’s for 35 remarkable years. During her tenure, she served in the admissions office and taught kindergarten, first grade, and finally, fourth grade. She has also been a St. John’s parent (Summer Fields Ross, Class of 1994), a valued mentor to lower school faculty, and a measured colleague, lending support and insight to all. But above all, she is known for her love for children and her keen ability to pique a child’s interest in learning. In announcing her retirement,

Cindy shared, "I will miss the spark in a child's eye when they understand something, discover learning is fun, find a connection, or tell me they want to travel to places talked about in class." It is truly St. John's that will miss Cindy and the way she helped us grow, change, and educate children.

Dora Steele – Before stepping into the life of St. John's middle school, Dora Steele spent 20 years in the corporate world. There, she provided administrative support to companies and medical institutions such as Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas Leadership Foundation, and Jones Lang LaSalle. It was while working at Jones LaSalle that Dora first learned of St. John's Episcopal School. Her co-worker and then-St. John's parent Sandy Wilson suggested she would be a great fit for the school's advancement department that was seeking an administrative assistant. She joined the staff in 2003 and soon afterward assumed her longtime role as administrative assistant to the middle school head. There she facilitated the day-to-day operations of the middle school. She also took great care with "her" eighth graders, hand-delivering their high school application packets to high school admission personnel and attending to the details of the eighth-grade graduation ceremony. Always available to lend an encouraging word of support, Dora has cared deeply for each student who has been a part of St. John's middle school for the past 16 years, and she has blessed her colleagues with her wisdom, patience, and strong faith in God. We will miss her greatly and wish her well in her retirement!

A Gift for Teaching

In keeping with the tradition begun with Trigger Butler's retirement in 2012, gifts to the Teacher Endowment Fund honor and recognize our retirees and all teachers.

Designed to provide ongoing funds to attract and retain the best faculty, the endowment supports the school's greatest asset – our teachers. A gift to the Teacher Endowment Fund not only shows our gratitude for the impact teachers have on students' lives, it continues a wonderful legacy of teaching, ensuring that for years to come, students will experience the wealth of benefits derived from educators with a *gift for teaching*.

stjohnsschool.org/endowment

Teacher Endowment Fund; c/o St. John's Episcopal School
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