Sean Murphy earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Dartmouth College. He then began his career at his alma mater, Albuquerque Academy, working there for 15 years while acquiring a Master of Arts degree in Great Books from St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In 2000, Sean joined Oldfields School in Maryland for four years as an Associate Head of School and Interim Head of School, and spent eight years at Palmer Trinity in Miami as the Head of School improving programming, diversity, and financial sustainability.

In 2013, Sean began his current role as head of school at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, which serves over 900 students in Austin, Texas. In 2016, Sean oversaw the launch of a new kindergarten program and facility for St. Andrew’s, making it the only K-12 Episcopal school in Central Texas. Sean and his wife Katrina have two children, Helen and Jacob, and both enjoy writing, cooking, and spending time as a family at their Wisconsin cabin.

In your own words, what is the mission of St. Andrew’s?

We are here to nurture children as they become adults. There are so many details to that process as a child grows from Kindergarten to college-ready graduates, but first and foremost we are an Episcopal school. That means teaching our students to know themselves as beloved by God and necessary to the world.

As a recent graduate, Taylor Thompson (’17), reminded me, “I am a promise and a possibility.” I want all children, every day they are at St. Andrew’s, to discover a little more about what that means.

What do you see as the most important thing St. Andrew’s does for our students?

Giving them confidence that they can thrive in any future circumstance, giving them courage and resilience. They will go on to great colleges, great careers, and families of their own, and they will always have a family and foundation at St. Andrew’s.

What is your vision for the future of St. Andrew’s?

St. Andrew’s must continue to move from strength to strength. We are a great school, but we must not rest on our laurels. The world is moving and changing so quickly that we must be nimble and thoughtful about improving and seeking excellence so that our students can do the same.

What do you want each student to feel when they come onto campus each day?

You know you are doing something right when students run into school in the morning, and walk away slowly in the afternoon. I want students to feel that everyone on campus cares about them deeply and challenges them to excel. When they go home, I want them to feel the love and support of their families and get a good night’s sleep.

What are the qualities you hope every student shows upon graduation?

Confidence, kindness, generosity, creativity, curiosity, perseverance and hope.