Spotlight on Leadership

The leadership team at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School sets the tone and culture for the entire community. Learn a little more about their philosophies and beliefs in this spotlight series.

- Scott Zimmerman -
Director of Social and Emotional Learning

Scott began his work at St. Andrew’s in 2015, and he and his family are full-time members of this wonderful community. His wife, Amy, works in the Lower School and they have children in each of the three divisions; Gehrig, in tenth grade; Annie, in eighth grade; and Adelynn, in fourth grade.

In your own words, what is the mission of St. Andrew’s?
I believe we are a formational community. We are a community that meets a child where they are in their journey to adulthood and works to provide a safe place for each person to learn more about who they are and how to discover their unique place in the world.

What do you see as the most important thing St. Andrew’s does for our students?
I value how St. Andrew’s intentionally works to broaden each person’s understanding of themselves, their relationship to others, and their relationship to their city and the world. Developmentally, young people are often described as self-centered and egocentric; however, many times I’ve seen the reverse being true in our community.

Our young people think outside of their own needs and are acting with compassion in service and care for one another and their larger communities—it’s inspiring. And, through our Service Learning, Diversity and Inclusion and SEL programs, we commit significant time and resources to offering growth in this area.

What do you want each student to feel when they come onto campus each day?
My hope is for all students to feel a genuine sense of belonging when they arrive to school. Each student should feel known and valued. We are community; everyone fits and everyone belongs.

What are the qualities you hope every student shows upon graduation?
Two of the most important traits I want our students to learn are empathy and self-control. Adults that have difficulty controlling their emotions and behaviors are less likely to have truly meaningful relationships. If a person is able to regulate themselves and understand the reasons behind their strong emotion, it makes it easier to have empathy for other people experiencing similar things. In a world that is growing increasingly more connected, empathy may be the most important trait we can teach our young people.

What is your vision for the future of St. Andrew’s?
As we prepare the next generation for a fast-paced and unknown future, teaching the whole child should be required in education. Teaching to the test limits motivation and initiative. Young people will need to be flexible, creative, and resilient; and, the way we teach these skills at St. Andrew’s will continue to set us apart from other schools in central Texas.