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.

• ASHLEY BRANDON •
Chaplain, Lower/Middle Schools

Ashley graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and Philosophy, and received her Master of Arts in Religion from the Seminary of the Southwest before joining the SAS family in 2009.

She enjoys camping, hiking, fishing, and spending time with her husband Miles, her two little girls, Amelia (’28) and Mary Ellen (’30), and her Basset Hound, Sadie.

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

Our mission calls us to be more than just an educational institution, more than a place where students are mass programmed with a narrow set of knowledge and skills. Our mission calls us into something much bigger and more wonderful than that; we are called to be a formational community, a place that honors and nurtures each unique child’s growth in body, mind, and spirit.

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

At the center of our identity as an Episcopal school is the idea of connection, and so we are intentional about fostering meaningful relationships and building a strong community of care and support. We also recognize that diversity and difference are fundamental to the educational process, the exchange of wisdom, and the building of authentic community. Daily chapel creates a space for us to explore our connection with one another, with God, and with those things that are bigger than ourselves.

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

One of the things that makes St. Andrew’s unique is its commitment to engaging both faith and reason in the educational experience. As the world around us changes I see St. Andrew’s evolving to provide a strong, well-rounded education through innovative programs and child-centered learning, while also holding firmly to its commitment to spiritual development, community, and service.

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

I hope that each child feels a sense of belonging and purpose. I want her to know that she is made in the image of the God of Love, that she has unique gifts to offer, and that she is loved. I want her to feel like she can take risks and try new things, and that if she fails or makes mistakes she will have a loving community to guide her through.

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

I hope that when our students graduate from St. Andrew’s they are lifelong seekers of Truth, they aren’t afraid to ask big questions and have important conversations, and that they embrace mystery and uncertainty. I hope that they are resilient, ready to persevere through challenges, and willing to take paths in life that are hard but holy. I hope that they are wise, compassionate, servant-leaders. I hope that they have the faith to imagine a world that is more just, kind, peaceful, and beautiful, and the courage to use their gifts to help build it.