

Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia – Report to 2019 Convention

In one of the largest enterprises in the American Episcopal Church all years are extraordinary. Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia employs approximately 1200 full, part time and adjunct faculty, staff and coaches. Some 4,000 students from almost twenty states and as many countries are enrolled at the six schools on eleven campuses in five municipalities. Over twenty percent of families receive need based financial assistance and clergy enjoy a fifty percent tuition discount.

As a child of The Church of England, a national church, the ethos of Episcopal schools is one of excellent preparation for higher education, and formation for a life of service and leadership in a context of inclusivity and the celebration of rich diversity. Episcopal Schools are for everyone and not just for Episcopalians. The schools collectively, like the Church, constitute a very big tent.

Church Schools is a single entity, overseen by the Church, that owns all property and is a common employer. Each school has a separately incorporated Foundation that exists solely to support the school with which it is affiliated. The collective size creates opportunities and economies of scale unavailable to individual academic institutions.

Each school in Church Schools has an immediate and significant stake in the success of its brother and sister schools. The level and quality of collegiality among the professional and volunteer leadership across the system is unique in my experience.

The total number of persons who serve as Trustees of Church Schools, Governors of the six schools or Trustees of one of the six school foundations is approximately two hundred thirty. The schools have survived and endured despite wars, a depression, recessions, the space race, technological revolutions and social disruptions and live to thrive today. Surely that is in part because the schools have been led and supported by so many talented and generous volunteers to whom these schools are important.

It is a joy for me to serve the schools and the Church. Each school offers a rich annual report and links to each can be found on the Church Schools page of the Diocesan website.

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Charlton, President

Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia