

Ascension Episcopal School





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MISSION STATEMENT

Ascension Episcopal School is committed to academic excellence in a Christian environment. Our goals are to provide each student with the opportunity to achieve high academic standards, to gain appreciation for the fine arts, and to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically.

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL SCHOOL, known for academic excellence in a Christian environment, graduated its first Upper School class in 2009. AES is the largest outreach ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. With three campuses in the Lafayette area, the school serves pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. The curriculum's focus is to teach lifelong learning skills. At each grade level, Ascension maintains developmentally appropriate goals, while recognizing the need to adapt the curriculum to meet the varying formative stages present in a class. From the nurturing faculty to small class sizes, Ascension strives to honor each student's learning style, provide support and assistance as needed, and actively seek parental support in all endeavors.



PORTRAIT OF AN AES GRADUATE

The AES faculty believes that the following core values characterize and epitomize an AES graduate. Further, the faculty believes that this portrait not only helps to articulate the core values of our school, but also serves as a guide for shaping the school's curriculum and creating a school culture that helps students to attain and develop within the identified core values. The hope and expectation is that these attributes and attitudes will help AES graduates to lead productive and purposeful lives in high school, during their collegiate years, and in adult life as well.



SPIRITUAL AND MORAL

The AES graduate, grounded in the school's Anglican-Episcopal Christianity, will embrace the primary virtues of the school: gentleness, generosity, truthfulness, kindness, and bravery. These attributes will also include a healthy respect for other faith traditions.

ACADEMIC

The AES graduate will be well-rounded, globally aware, and an independent critical-thinker with a strong work ethic and a desire to achieve a personal best. These attributes include a personal commitment to life-long learning.

APPRECIATION FOR THE FINE ARTS

The AES graduate will understand how art expresses our humanity and will have developed an appreciation for how the arts affect our humanity. The AES graduate will appreciate the importance of integrating arts into academic endeavors by experiencing first-hand the call to be creatively expressive while producing a portfolio of original work in diverse media.

LOVE OF SCHOOL, COMMUNITY, AND COUNTRY

The AES graduate will, through education and motivation, be dependable, responsible, loyal, and charitable. These attributes will create a community leader and a good citizen. The AES graduate will live with a sense of local and global obligation, by serving others and the community in a charitable and compassionate manner.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL

The AES graduate will have the confidence to contribute to the school, community, and world with a sense of purpose and vision, embodying compassion and responsibility. This sense of confidence comes with a strong sense of self, balanced with a sense of understanding, respect, and generosity toward others. As the school community regularly prays, "let the life of our school go on from strength to strength..."



ATHLETICS

- Baseball
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Football
- Golf
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball



EPISCOPAL IDENTITY

Ascension Episcopal School is the largest outreach ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, and firmly rooted in its Episcopal identity and tradition. The Episcopal tradition of education and worship is grounded in faith and reason, welcoming and respecting all members of the community, regardless of their own faith traditions, and is conveyed through daily chapel, regular Eucharist, religious studies, and meaningful service to others.



EXPERIENTIAL STUDY TRIPS

Experiential study trips are one of the hallmarks of an Ascension education. Age-appropriate field trips begin in preschool. Overnight trips begin in fourth grade and range from one night to seven nights. These study trips provide global awareness, encourage student independence and create camaraderie among classmates. Many overnight trips include a community service or outreach project.



During early childhood a child ventures out, sometimes for the first time, from home to school. Ascension Episcopal School provides a safe and secure environment for this new experience.

AES preschool is designed as a child and parent friendly atmosphere where children become aware of and interact with other children and new adults in their life.

The innovative, joyful, friendly faculty lay a foundation for children's ideas of freedom, as well as supporting the children socially, academically and spiritually.

The vision of Ascension Preschool in working with the families is clear and purposeful. It is aligned to lay out the foundation for a progressive and creative education. Curriculum involves hands-on activities, fine arts, motor development and Christian Education, as well as basic reading and math skills.

PRESCHOOL OBJECTIVES:

- Initiate life-long learning
- Learn to be part of a group
- Facilitate positive concept
- Learn responsibility
- Encourage social interaction
- Develop language skills
- Expand logical thinking/problem solving
- Learn about fitness
- Learn acceptance and forgiveness
- Realize prayer is talking to God

PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- 5-day program (8:30 am-2:00 pm)
- Early bird at 7:00 am; aftercare until 4:00 pm
- Math their way
- Handwriting without tears
- Music daily
- Motor development daily
- Christian education weekly
- Chapel weekly
- Library visits
- Cooking in class
- Brain activities
- Computer exposure
- Musical productions
- Kindergarten math night
- Kindergarten grandparents' day
- Visiting authors
- Mardi gras parade
- May day celebration
- Field trips

The aim of the Lower School at Ascension Episcopal School is to teach lifelong learning skills. At each grade level we maintain developmentally appropriate goals, while recognizing the individual strengths and needs of each student.

To maximize each student’s potential, creative and critical thinking skills are emphasized in an environment of supportive learning. Small class size and low teacher-to-student ratios allow for an intimate, interpersonal atmosphere. The home and school connection is valued, and parental support is highly desired.

The Lower School program recognizes and values the instruction of basic skills as a foundation for educational excellence. A significant part of lower school education revolves around developing an understanding of the practical application of skills and information. Once skills are mastered, it is critical to guide students to the next level of learning—higher order thinking. As students move beyond the levels of knowledge and comprehension, they are guided to apply skills, analyze information and synthesize data. Projects and activities that follow units of instruction are designed to promote the application of skills and understanding as well as offer opportunities for peer group interaction. Students thrive in an environment that allows an authentic learning. Technology supports classroom instruction and extends student learning through meaningful projects.

With its commitment to academic excellence in a Christian environment, AES has set high standards since 1959. Within a nurturing, family oriented environment and through a certified and caring faculty, the school provides each student with the opportunity to achieve high academic standards while gaining an appreciation for the fine arts and to grow physically, morally and spiritually.

LOWER SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

- Daily chapel/weekly Eucharist
- Student-led chapel
- Virtues of Character in chapel and in class
- Service opportunities (local and international)
- Challenging curriculum / brain-based learning
- Commitment to fine arts program
- Phonics-based integrated reading/language arts/writing
- Technology-infused curriculum
- Promethean boards in every classroom
- Daily physical education
- Art, music, foreign language, library, computer lab
- Christian Education
- High expectations; help to reach goals
- Differentiation and attention to individual needs
- Caring, supportive environment/family friendly
- Certified, dedicated teachers and support staff
- Strong communication between school and home
- Field trip experiences at all levels
- Musical productions at all levels
- Complete preparedness for Middle School
- Activating Inquisitive Minds (A.I.M.) academic enrichment program

Special Events

1st grade	Musical Production
2nd grade	Christopher Columbus Program Mothers’ Day Program
3rd grade	Grandparents’ Day Program Louisiana Day Program
4th grade	Stations of the Cross Musical Production

Transition into middle school is marked by significant growth and development. Children must interact with more peers, more teachers, and with intensified expectations for both performance and individual responsibility. Ascension Episcopal Middle School students are fortunate to have attentive teachers and programs that are specifically designed to meet their changing needs and developing talents.

By offering increased responsibility and high expectations within a supportive environment, the middle school program continues the process of helping students define their roles in their families, school, and community. Additionally, it recognizes the significant spiritual, emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth that students experience as they are striving for independence and autonomy. At this level, students progress from a teacher guided model of instruction to a level of independent critical analysis. Ascension faculty strives to ignite in them a passion for learning. An emphasis in hands-on learning, investigation, and communication ensures that instruction is developmentally appropriate.

Finally, AES is a close community that enjoys the freedom of open communication between school and home. This communication is a necessary part of the life in middle school because both home and school need to support the child and one another during these challenging adolescent years. Our committed faculty puts students first and understands that we are teaching much more than academics.

COURSE OFFERINGS

	GRADE	GRADE	GRADE	GRADE
DEPT.	5	6	7	8
English	English Literature	English	English	English
Mathematics	Mathematics	Course 1, Course 2	Course 2, Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra, Algebra Geometry
Science	General Science	Physical Science	Life Science	Earth Science
History	Early American History	World History	LA History	American History
Foreign Language	French	French, Spanish	French, Spanish	French, Spanish
Christian Education	Faith Foundation & Application	Old Testament Survey	New Testament	Comparative Faiths
Computer	Digital Citizenship, Hardware Basics, Productivity Software	Digital Citizenship, Productivity Software, Evaluating Websites	Digital Citizenship, Digital Video Editing, File Types	Computer Literacy, Digital Citizenship, Robotics
Enrichment	Art, Music	Art, Music, Choir Drama Writer's Inc., My Mathematical Life	Art, Music, Choir, Musical Writer's Inc., Creative Problem Solving	Art, Speech, Writing, Creative Problem Solving
Physical Education	P.E.	P.E.	P.E.	P.E.
Life Skills	Advisory, Learning Styles, Organization Skills, Study Skills	Advisory, Organization Skills, Study Skills	Advisory, Organization Skills, Study Skills	Advisory
Athletics - Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, Tennis, Golf, Cheerleading, Track, Cross Country, Soccer, Softball, Swimming Clubs and Organizations - Student Council, Chapel Council, Ozone; Quiz Bowl, Junior Beta, Junior National Honor Society, Wyldlife				

With a program clearly rooted in the school’s mission—a commitment to academic excellence in a Christian environment—Ascension’s Upper School offers its students an experience that seeks to balance academic expectation, arts opportunities, and diverse co-curricular activities.

The Upper School’s core curriculum emphasizes traditional college-preparatory courses. As students progress through the curriculum, they choose electives ranging from Advanced Placement courses to Honors-level courses to fine and performing arts courses.

Student organizations and clubs complement the academic program, and provide leadership opportunities. Sports offerings include baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track-and-field, and volleyball.

All Upper School students attend and participate in chapel services following the Episcopal liturgy. Priests from The Episcopal Church of the Ascension offer monthly Eucharist services. Every Upper School student belongs to an advisory group, facilitated by a faculty mentor. Additionally, the director of college counseling monitors students’ progress throughout their four years, and the dean of student life monitors students’ emotional and social progress. Throughout high school, students benefit from a committed faculty that encourages and guides students’ academic progress.

AES GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- English 4 units
 - Mathematics 4 units
 - Science 4 units
 - Social Studies 4 units
 - Foreign Language 3 units
(in the same language)
 - Theology 2 units
 - Health & Physical Education 2 units
 - Technology .5 unit
 - Fine Arts 1 unit
- 24.5 units**

A student must complete 60 hours of community service. (Minimum of 15 hours per year)

Co-Curricular Activities

4-H Club	Go Green Club
Acts of Random Kindness Club	Graphic Design Club
Beta Club	National Honor Society
Chapel Ensemble	Outdoor Experience Club
Cheerleading	Press Club
Cupcake Club	Pep Band
Debate	Quiz Bowl
Dance Team	SADD Chapter (Students Against Destructive Decisions)
Drama Club	Student Council
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Young Life
Glee Club	

Prefect Committees

Academic	Campus Pride	Service
Admissions	Chapel	Student Life
	Publicity	

RIVER RANCH CAMPUS
Pre-K 3 – Kindergarten
401 Silverstone Road, Lafayette, LA 70508
(at the corner of Elysian Fields and Silverstone Road)
337.984.6060

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS
Grades 1-7
1030 Johnston Street, Lafayette, LA 70501
(near the corner of University Avenue and Johnston Street)
337.233.9748

SUGAR MILL POND CAMPUS
Grades 8-12
1800 Chemin Metarie Parkway, Youngsville, LA 70592
(near the intersection of Chemin Metarie and East Milton Road)
337.856.0043

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1030 Johnston St., Lafayette, LA 70501
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