

Ascension Episcopal School

Inspired to achieve.

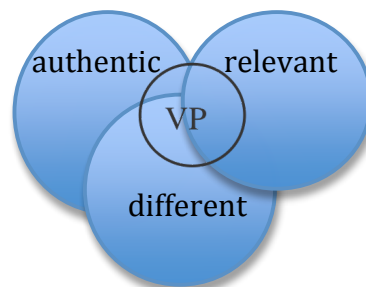
Dear AES Families,

The clock is rapidly ticking toward the opening of school on August 15th. Each day the pace on each of our campuses seems to quicken just a bit more and the anticipation of seeing faculty and students continues to rise. Earlier this week, on Tuesday, I was able to spend some time with Upper School students at their prefect retreat. What a bright, impressive, friendly group they are! I'm sure that their leadership will provide positive energy throughout the school year.

Our enrollment numbers are looking positive and we continue to project an opening day total of around 700 students. So thank you, whether you are a returning or a new family, in trusting the education of your child to Ascension Episcopal School. I promise that I and the AES faculty and staff will do all that is in our power to validate the trust you have placed in our school.

I know that the decision to attend an independent school is one that you do not take lightly and that there are other choices that exist for you in Lafayette. Ascension Episcopal School is many things. It is a college preparatory school from Pre-K3 through grade 12. Its core identity is drawn from its Episcopal character. It is a community and it is a family. It is also a business; and, as a business, to be competitive it must offer a "value proposition" that speaks to your particular needs and priorities. This does not mean being all things to all people; rather, it is essentially a matter of being very clear about institutional character and identity and the nature of the covenant the school offers to its families who, by the way, are also its customers. I will be more explicit about these qualities in subsequent communications. Suffice it to say that the core of our covenant rests on a foundation of faithful, traditional Episcopal identity, a high quality of individual attention, a rigorous, coherent college preparatory curriculum at **all** grade levels, opportunities to be a "player" in all aspects of school life, and a superior college guidance program. Various of these aspects will be more important to some families than to others, but there must be transparency and trust to engender credence in our institutional promises.

One of my primary goals this year is for Ascension Episcopal School to be seen as **authentic**, **relevant**, and **differentiating** (as compared to other educational opportunities in Lafayette). The point at which these three key elements overlap constitutes our value proposition (VP).



I look forward to welcoming you all back to AES. We **will have** a **terrific** school year.

Geaux Gators!



Lee Cox
Interim Headmaster