



The Episcopal School of Knoxville

Chaplain Search

2018



About ESK:



The Episcopal School of Knoxville (ESK) is an independent, co-educational day school that offers academic excellence and character training to students in Junior Kindergarten (age 3) through Grade Eight. ESK offers an interdisciplinary curriculum; many interscholastic activities; performing and fine arts; world languages; a unique “Farm to Table” culinary concept; design thinking and place-based educational practices; and a full, inclusive athletic program. ESK is a diocesan school of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee. The school offers a faith-based environment with roots in the Episcopal denomination and a commitment to being an inclusive community that respects all students and their beliefs. The culture embraces the uniqueness of each individual, and fosters openness to creative ideas.

Situated on 96 acres of pristine, rolling wooded farmland in Knoxville, Tennessee, the natural environment of ESK provides a place where every day is filled with new discoveries; where the enthusiastic and formally trained faculty are attentive, creative, instructive and supportive, and where learning is an act of great joy. It is the place where Faith, Knowledge, and Culture intersect. ESK challenges students to excel, both academically and socially, through solid educational goals and in an environment that teaches kindness, compassion, and consideration of others. The faculty, administrative staff, and parents of ESK strive to make a positive impact on the world- one student at a time.

Our Mission

The mission of The Episcopal School of Knoxville is to prepare students for higher education and a lifetime of learning within the context of a loving, inclusive and family-centered community. We enrich our students’ intellectual, physical, cultural, and spiritual growth so that they may realize their potential as children of God and citizens of the world.

At a Glance:

- Current Enrollment: 341
- Student-Teacher Ratio: 9:1
- Average Class Size: 18
- Faculty/Staff: 75
- Faculty with Advanced Degrees: 51%
- Lower School: Grades JK3-4th
- Middle School: Grades 5-8
- Sections per Grade: JK3 (1), JK4-4th (2), 5th-8th (3)
- Episcopalian Student Population: 25%
- Ethnic Diversity: 9%



FAITH – KNOWLEDGE – CULTURE

The Tribes Agreements:

- Mutual Respect
- The Right to Pass
- Attentive Listening
 - Appreciation/ No Put Downs
- Let Go and Move On
 - Honesty



Blessing of the Animals is a cherished school community event, as pets are a meaningful component to our students' lives.



The Position:

The Episcopal School of Knoxville seeks a dynamic and approachable Episcopal priest to be its next school Chaplain. Reporting to the Head of School, the Chaplain oversees and promotes the spiritual culture of the school, leads the school in daily chapel, and integrates the religious instruction and service learning programs. As an ambassador of the school's mission and Episcopal identity, the Chaplain is a warm and welcoming figure who embraces the diverse backgrounds within the school family, as well as the school's vision for excellence in Faith, Knowledge, and Culture.

The Chaplain exhibits energy and excitement for spiritual nourishment throughout the educational program. Chapel is celebrated daily with three services: JK (3 & 4yr-olds), Lower School (Grades K-4), and Middle School (Grades 5-8). All students and faculty attend one of the three 15-min services, and families and friends are a welcomed addition at our community time for song, lessons and prayer. Eucharist is served monthly, and special services including All Saints Day and Blessing of the Animals (a community favorite) add to the wonderful culture we cherish at ESK. The Chaplain orchestrates the calendar of services and religious observations throughout the year.

The Chaplain also serves as the leader of religious instruction at ESK. Taught in tandem with the guidance enrichment, the religion classes connect the teachings of the Old and New Testaments to the values and social dynamics we promote at the school. The school's culture is grounded in the teachings and practices of Tribes Learning Communities and Artistry for Learning. This offers a wonderful and practical opportunity for students to apply and understand the teachings of the Episcopal faith in a real-world environment.

Finally, our Chaplain leads the school community in pastoral care. Students, their families, and the faculty and staff often bring forth their spiritual needs. The Chaplain serves as the hub to seeing that these needs receive our care and attention.

The Chaplaincy is a full-time position based on the 10-month employee calendar (summers off), and is accompanied by a competitive benefits package including health/life insurance, retirement contribution/participation in the Church Pension Fund, and discounted tuition (if needed). Given the extension of the school's search, there is opportunity to begin employment during the 2017-18 school year.

The Successful Candidate will:

- Possess a love and understanding for children of all ages
- Have experience and drive for working with and educating children
- Demonstrate outstanding listening and communication skills
- Possess an advanced degree in Divinity
- Embrace the principles that distinguish Episcopal education as articulated by the National Association of Episcopal Schools
- Serve as a Transitional Deacon or Ordained Priest in the Episcopal Church



Strategic Priorities for the next Chaplain:

- Cultivate a strong rapport with students, their parents, and faculty, while embracing the diverse backgrounds within the school family
- Deliver a ministry to our school families and friends who turn to ESK for the spiritual needs
- Develop and implement a calendar of spiritual events that connect our mission pillars of Faith, Knowledge and Culture
- Assess and align the JK-8 curriculum of religious instruction to the school's academic program
- Demonstrate organizational skills and a collaborative work style
- Support the school's expansion of its service learning program through the cultivation of community partnerships
- Foster our child-focused community through creativity and an openness of mind

Service Learning: Through ESK's service learning curriculum, we help students develop a meaningful understanding of community stewardship. Each grade engages in both on-site and in-the-field initiatives including:

- **Kindergarten-** Pet Food Drive to support LAMBS
- **1st Grade-** Holiday Bureau Toy Drive
- **2nd Grade-** School Store where proceeds benefit Friends of the Smoky Mountains
- **3rd Grade-** Fish Pantry Canned Food Drive
- **4th Grade-** Jazzy Jars & Wacky Hats to support Hams for the Hungry
- **5th Grade-** Students serve at the Volunteer Ministry Center
- **6th-8th Grades-** Field Service with our community partners including, Mobile Meals, Beck Cultural Center, Knoxville Botanical Gardens
- **8th Grade-** Each 8th grader designs and implements an individual

The Religious Program:

All students receive weekly religious instruction through their enrichment classes and daily chapel. While ESK's environment is welcoming of all faiths, our religious education classes follow the teachings and lessons of Christianity and are taught in tandem with the guidance program. We want our students to feel connected to their own community and to the world at large. Our Chaplain steers the religious education program and helps students make these connections.

Lower School:

JK3 & JK4- Our 3 and 4 year-olds learn about God through stories, song and prayer during their daily chapel time.

K- 4th Grade- Students begin making connections to the lessons of the Old & New Testaments through meaningful story telling, song, and class discussions, as they relate to the liturgical seasons. The Tribes Learning Communities also plays a dominant theme in our guidance portion of the class, as it provides the foundation and common language established through the Tribes Agreements. Finally, in support of our mission to develop "citizens of the world", the K-4 religious studies introduce students to the other denominations and religions that exist in cultures from around the world.

Middle School- The Middle School program follows a similar approach used in the lower grades. They also attend weekly instruction and cover core topics including:

5th Grade- *Study of the Saints*

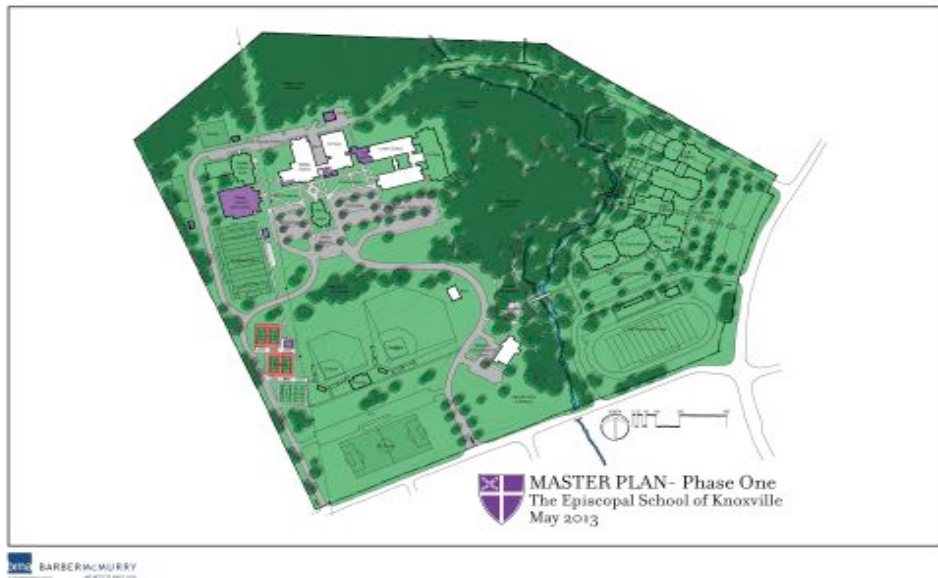
6th Grade- *Intro to Christianity*

7th Grade- *World Religions*

8th Grade- *Ethics & Living Compass*



Campus Master Plan:



In February of 2017, ESK completed another phase in its master campus plan, supplying the school with a new addition to the Lower School, ample parking, a Middle School Fine Arts & Athletics Complex, and athletic fields. The 96-acre campus offers miles of hiking trails, educational gardens, two working barns, and the opportunity to add grades beyond middle school.

The City of Knoxville:

Located in the Eastern section of the state between the Great Smoky Mountains and the Cumberland Plateau, Knoxville is Tennessee's third largest city. It is a thriving community currently experiencing significant revitalization. Downtown Knoxville is anchored by the Tennessee River and features a beautiful downtown riverfront park. The city's many museums and performing arts venues make it a thriving cultural center. The historic Market Square District boasts fine dining, shopping, and entertainment.

Knoxville's unique topography and well-developed infrastructure make it a prime location for industry, while large employers like the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee further strengthen the region's economy. This economic strength enables Knoxville's "Innovation Valley" to position itself as an area with one of the best employment outlooks in the nation. *US News and World Report* lists Knoxville as one of the "100 Best Places to Live", while *Forbes* and *Kiplinger's* recognizes the city as a great place to live and do business.

Forty miles Southeast of Knoxville, Great Smoky Mountains National Park provides plentiful opportunities for outdoors enthusiasts. Greater Knoxville itself is filled with abundant green space, including dog-friendly venues, parks, over 45 greenways, and many beautiful gardens.

To Apply:

Candidates should provide:

- Letter of interest with qualifications for this position
- Complete resume with previous positions and responsibilities
- Statement of Educational Philosophy
- Five references with contact information

Please send materials and direct any questions to:

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Head of School

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ESK is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to complying with all applicable laws providing equal employment opportunities to individuals and makes employment decisions on the basis of merit, qualifications, potential and competency.

