

# Good Shepherd Episcopal School

With eyes to the future, not unlike the scientists, engineers and astronauts that guided NASA, Father Bill Sterling envisioned Good Shepherd School in 1980. Friendswood was growing with young families eager to move to a community close to Houston, up the highway from Galveston's beaches and filled with trees, hometown values and a patriotic spirit.

Good Shepherd Day School opened in one large room of the church's Education Building, now known as the Laura Building, in 1980. Three year olds attended on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and four year olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The focus then, as it is today, centered on nurturing children through a daily interactive children's chapel, hands on educational exploration, teamwork, sharing and positive reinforcement. Our experienced and loving teachers delight in the role of preparing children to be successful in life and to meet challenges with confidence, filled with God's love.

Today the school has classes for three, four and five year olds and is housed in the Sterling Hall building. Good Shepherd Episcopal School offers pre-school care from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m., academic class time until 12:00, and after school care until 5:00 p.m. We still begin each day with children's chapel, led by the Director and one of the teachers. Each class has thirty minutes of Spanish on Fridays through Whole Child Learning's Little Amigos program. Partnership with parents is very important at Good Shepherd. They are a valuable component of Good Shepherd School. Parents may join us for all school parties, our Thanksgiving Feast, Most Unusual Water Play (M.U.D. day) day, Chapel time, and Family Pizza Day each month.

Good Shepherd Episcopal School has earned a strong reputation for excellence in education in an atmosphere of love, security and support. It is a member of the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools.

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School have always enjoyed a strong bond. We are blessed to have parishioners serving on the School Board, as volunteers, on occasion, in the school office, and some that have made financial donations. The school has been gifted with grants from the Shepherd's Nook, another outreach of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. When a new playground was needed, parishioners even rolled up their sleeves, got their hands dirty and built a new one. It is now enjoyed by all children of Good Shepherd.

The clergy of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church has a strong presence in the school. It is a tradition that the church rector is the Bible story teller each Wednesday in Chapel. The children always delight in hearing these stories and save their most interesting questions for him!