

News Release

For Immediate Release
January 7, 2010

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St. Michael's Purchase & Program Expansion *Episcopal Day School*

Episcopal Day School, one of the leading private schools in Pensacola, is pleased to announce a new curriculum-based early childhood program to be housed at its recently-expanded campus. In December, the school purchased, from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pensacola, the property at 601 North Palafox Street, which formerly housed the St. Michael Catholic School. With the expansion of its campus, Episcopal Day School (EDS) will offer, for the first time, curriculum-based programming for children as young as six weeks of age.

As part of the Episcopal Day School, the early childhood program at the St. Michael's Campus will provide the same warm, nurturing, environment for children, small teacher-to-student ratio, and age-appropriate developmental activities as children have enjoyed at EDS for nearly 60 years. Existing EDS preschool programs will be moved to the new campus and expanded programming for infants and toddlers will be initiated in June 2010 with school-year programs opening in August 2010.

Childcare at the St. Michael's Campus will be geared toward serving the needs of the working family and will be open year round from 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The program will be headed by long-time EDS employee and Christ Church member, Lisee Sherrill. This innovative endeavor will be a hands-on learning environment, highlights of which include a student created butterfly garden, a student-maintained Manna food garden, and a labyrinth - all to enable children to discover for themselves the beauty, richness and worth of God's blessings.

Lisee Sherrill, Director of Early Learning, stated, "A constructivist learning environment combined with a highly capable staff and stimulating curriculum will reinvigorate young childhood education in downtown Pensacola."

To pay tribute to the long and honored place that St. Michael's has held in the Pensacola community, the property will be called the Episcopal Day School, St. Michael's Campus. "We believe that it is appropriate to honor the historical significance that this school has had in our community. Many students and faculty members have fond memories of the site, and we know how important schools are in the building of good citizens: We will continue in that endeavor as we plan for the future." said Beverly Patteson, Principal of the EDS.

The property consists of a full city block in the historic North Hill District opposite the First Baptist Church. It is just two blocks north of the main campus at 223 N. Palafox Street. It has nine classrooms; a large grassy area and huge playground; a spacious auditorium/cafeteria with a fully equipped commercial kitchen; a library; and many administrative offices. Planned improvements include two reconfigured playgrounds, fencing for the entire campus, a new driveway and entryway, along with other interior and exterior cosmetic updates.

“This historic event marks a new beginning for our Day School and our Parish. The purchase opens amazing new possibilities for programs and growth for our School,” explains Father Neal Goldsborough, Rector of Christ Church.

Parents interested in enrolling their child in the new program should contact Kim Stafford in the Admissions Office at 850-434-6474. More information is available on the school website at www.edsc.org. Open Houses will be scheduled for prospective families in late February and early March.

About Episcopal Day School & Christ Church

An integral part of the total ministry and mission of Christ Church Parish, Episcopal Day School is one of the leading private schools in Pensacola. Located in downtown Pensacola, EDS was founded in 1856 and has operated continuously since 1952. EDS is home to almost 400 students in Grades Pre-K3 - 8. The curriculum focuses on comprehensive instruction in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, Christian education, foreign language, technology education, and the arts. Episcopal Day School is accredited by the Florida Council of Independent Schools, the Florida Kindergarten Council and is a member of the National Association of Episcopal Schools. For more information, visit www.edsc.org.

The St. Michael's campus and the property adjacent to the main campus will be the subject of any on-going study. At its annual retreat in March 2009, the vestry of Christ Church committed to hiring a strategic planning consultant to work with the congregation and day school community to set goals for a joint mission and ministry. The acquisition of the St Michael's campus, and the buildings on Palafox Street (the Dennison property), will enable them to dream of things they could never have hoped for in the past. With God's grace, the property provides the foundation from which to build those dreams.