



The mission of The Branch School is to provide a strong educational environment where the inherent God-given abilities of students are acknowledged and nurtured.

Trustees

Ann Hightower
Chair

Julie Adams

Jonathan Fisher

Jane Fruit

Jim Golmon

Helen Hankins
Director Emerita

Sarah Kelly

Steve Shaper

Laurie Smith

Peter Van Nort

Christine Williams

Administration

Emily Smith
Head of School

Fran Goundry
Program & Student
Support Coordinator

Lynne Fite-Rankin
Marketing and
Admissions Coordinator

Lindsey Bell
Office Manager

John Nevitt
Financial Manager

May 25, 2011

Dear Branch School Family,

The year has been full of many exciting opportunities to rejoice in the activities and accomplishments of our bright and creative students. There has been much progress, with the second year of middle school and their first year in the new building. It is inspiring to see each grade of students move up with anticipation to the next stage of learning, from our preschoolers to our oldest. Our fifth graders and one eighth grader are celebrating their next step to middle school and high school today, sharing with their parents a timeline of American history, which includes their Branch School years. Next year we will have our first full class of eighth graders leave for high school.

The Stanford Achievement Test and the OLSAT, an ability test, are given each spring so that we can evaluate our programs to ensure learning success. We are pleased to report that, as usual, the Stanford scores for our upper grades are at the 80th percentile as compared with national norms. This means that our students performed as well or better than 80% of U.S. students taking the test. Overall, our school's scores on the complete battery of tests improved!

The staff and I will be working hard this summer to prepare for a new year so that we continue to improve as a school. The most effective use of technology in the classroom remains a goal, as well as more emphasis on literacy and writing skills. Of course, educating the whole child will always be a focus, so we will endeavor to keep the learning fun with many opportunities for community and hands-on, real-world connections. We want children to learn about themselves as learners, develop strong and virtuous character, and practice good citizenship.

We are looking forward to another great year of progress! Meanwhile, have a happy summer!

Sincerely,

Emily Smith

Love. Learn. Lead.