



Reasons for Being

The Culture and Character of Episcopal Schools

SECOND EDITION

National Association
of Episcopal Schools



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**EPISCOPAL
SCHOOLS**

National Association
of Episcopal Schools
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Contents



vii	Foreword <i>Roger A. Ferlo</i>
1	About Episcopal Schools <i>National Association of Episcopal Schools</i>
5	Is Jesus Welcome in Episcopal Schools? <i>Daniel R. Heischman</i>
14	The Mission of an Episcopal School <i>Robert F. Kosasky and Luther Zeigler</i>
20	The Anglican Ethos of Episcopal Schools <i>Scott E. Erickson</i>
25	A Brief History of Episcopal Schools in the United States <i>Ann Mellow</i>
30	Episcopal Schools and the Episcopal Church <i>Ann Mellow</i>
36	The Episcopal School Head <i>Daniel T. Roach, Jr.</i>

Contents

42	The Inefficiency of Episcopal Education <i>Daniel R. Heischman</i>
48	The School as a Spiritual Community <i>R. Phillip Peck</i>
54	Why Chapel? <i>Mary Ellen Cassini</i>
61	Claiming the Centrality of Religious Instruction in Episcopal Schools <i>Harold T. Lewis</i>
67	Accident or Imperative? Religious Pluralism and Episcopal Schools <i>Susan Anderson-Smith</i>
76	Episcopal Early Childhood Education Programs <i>Cindy LaPorte</i>
82	Community Service and Servant Leadership <i>Marianne Ryan</i>
89	The Episcopal School as a Just Community <i>John H. Finley IV</i>
94	Notes
100	Contributors

Foreword



In all their complexity and variety, Episcopal schools hold a special place in the world of independent education. Complexity and variety bring their own special challenges, especially when it comes to defining the culture and character of Episcopal education—and the governance of its schools—in a rapidly changing American educational landscape.

The essays in this second edition of *Reasons for Being* offer a series of compelling reflections on important issues of Episcopal identity, purpose, and governance. They also describe, often with fine eloquence, the many grace-filled ways in which we can deepen and nurture our common life as Episcopal educators and supporters of Episcopal education.

Heads of school and trustees; vestry members and parish clergy (both those new to Episcopal education and those with long experience); bishops and diocesan staff; faculty members, chaplains, and administrators; parents of Episcopal school students: All will find in these pages (and in the questions for reflection that follow each essay) ways to educate themselves and others about the distinctive Episcopal culture and character of our schools. Contributors to this new edition represent a wide range of expertise and experience. As you will see, all share both a strong commitment to Episcopal education and a deep love for the openness and welcome that characterize Episcopal Church life.

As we prepare our children for the challenges of life in the

Foreword

twenty-first century, may this new edition of *Reasons for Being*, like its predecessor, stimulate new thinking, renew our energies for theological reflection, and strengthen our commitment to the ideals of godly service and care for others that lie at the heart of our Episcopal identity.

The Reverend Roger A. Ferlo, Ph.D., D.D.
Governing Board President
National Association of Episcopal Schools
May, 2010