



WICHITA FRIENDS SCHOOL

Engaging minds. Embracing values.



Wichita Friends School's theme this year was "We Choose Joy". Our school week starts strong with Monday morning worship that provides a space for children, staff, and visitors to seek and recognize "that of God" in each of us. This is a time of reflection in our busy lives that strengthens all of us with peace and joy that are carried into our week.



2018-19 has been a year of growth for Wichita Friends School in many ways. At our end-of-year celebration, we joyfully recognized 40 amazing children, our highest enrollment in more than a decade. With high retention numbers for the 2019-2020 school year, we anticipate another great year of growth. We have grown from enrolling children 3 years old through 2nd grade to 2 ½ years old through 3rd grade.

Another area of growth experienced this year is the continued development of a strong team of teachers and enrichment leaders. I offer prayers of gratitude for our WFS teachers every day. They are passionate about their classes. The play, curiosity and discovery they incorporate into lessons inspire our children to love learning. They love working with each other as a team. They build relationships with our parents that help our young families grow. By modeling kindness and respect, our teachers are having a long-lasting impact on the lives of our students. I appreciate the guidance of our Board of Directors and our Education Committee. Our Board is working on increasing our compensation to bring WFS teacher salaries close to the Wichita salaries; and our Education Committee mentors our teaching staff with decades of educational experience in diverse settings.

The mission of Wichita Friends School is to provide a high-quality academic experience within a supportive learning environment that deeply reflects the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship. These SPICES are an important framework for all we do at school. Each month we emphasize one of the SPICES -- having discussions, read-aloud books and fun activities around the featured testimony. Seeing our young children deepen their practice of peace, community, fairness and truth-telling and hearing young conversations about simplicity and stewardship is amazing and beautiful. Teaching values through the Quaker SPICES is very effective in our early childhood setting.

I feel God's presence daily at Wichita Friends School among our teachers, among our students, in how we discipline with love, and in all the smiles and kindnesses that are shared. I believe we are transforming our children's lives, giving them the tools and loving support they need to make a difference in their communities and in our world. I am convinced that our world needs Quaker education more than ever, and I am delighted to see the impact that our WFS Quaker education is making in these children's lives.

Helen Keller wrote, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." I am deeply grateful for your partnership with us. Your prayers, your service, and your financial gifts are crucial to carrying out our school's mission. Thank you.

Warmly,
Pam Chambers, Head of School

Our GREAT team of teachers!



Becca



Laurean



Cathy



Clint



Jesi

What our parents and kids say about WFS...

- WFS embraces our child's uniqueness.
- Your priority is that my child feels safe and valued.
- The teachers are rock stars.
- Their decisions seem to be centered on my child's success.
- They build lesson plans around my child's needs.
- My child radiates confidence because of WFS.
- WFS expands my child's possibilities.
- Because of WFS my child loves learning.
- My child has developed a drive to learn and explore the world.
- WFS encourages every child to fully pursue what feels most passionate.
- They want my child to know the power of love and kindness.
- They provide great Enrichment Programs like art, music, Spanish, engineering, sign language, and creative movement.



The Power of a Quaker Education *Aaron Fowler*

I have been in the education field since 1984 when I graduated from Friends University. I taught in Wichita for 11 years before setting out on a career as a touring musician. That touring has taken me all across this country. Now as a Teaching Artist I have a first-hand view of classrooms, from preschool through high school.

I am amazed at all the interesting and creative approaches there are in the teaching profession. I have been in very wealthy districts and some very poor districts, all able to accomplish tremendous things with children.

But there is one piece that is missing in each of these unique places, the emphasis on a spiritual center. Don't get me wrong. There are incredible teachers bringing their best selves to the classroom, many who have a calling to be where they are. I honor their commitment and dedication to each of their students.

But at Wichita Friends School we have the incredible privilege to have our Faith be up front and center to the work we do with young people. Our teachers are supported to bring their whole selves to their students. As Pam shared in her letter, we recognize and openly talk about the belief that there is that of God in everyone. I love that. Some days it is a challenge to believe that about the other and sometimes even harder to believe it about ourselves.

I am honored to serve on the board at WFS and be a sustaining donor to the school. My monthly contribution ensures the continual support of this Quaker school where my values – Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship – are taught every day to the youngest of our children.

I encourage each of you to consider a gift to Wichita Friends School and perhaps, like me, become a sustaining member giving each month to support the school. Thank you for caring about WFS.

Wichita Friends School

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