In 1894, founder Grace Arents was confident in her belief that a solid education was essential in preparing children from low-income families to overcome their circumstances and lead improved lives. One hundred twenty years later the school continues to be guided by that fundamental principle, educating children academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually through a progressive, whole-child approach.

The 2014-2015 school year is St. Andrew’s School’s 120th year of providing education in a small, nurturing environment, to young children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend such a school. At St. Andrew’s, a full scholarship is granted to every child, every year, presenting a life-changing experience to countless young children over 120 years.
St. Andrew’s School: A Unique Opportunity

St. Andrew’s School (SAS) is one of a handful of schools in the country educating children from low-income families through 100% full-scholarships. A progressive, academically rigorous program, taught in a safe, supportive environment, helps children develop core competencies and prepares them for high-performing middle and high schools. The school is fully accredited through the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) and serves 96 children in grades K through 5, in small classes of 16 students.

Our Community Begins with Our Families

Families come to St. Andrew’s School because they hold education in high regard and believe it is crucial in helping their children grow up to lead successful lives. They know a high caliber education will open doors to more opportunities in life. For our families, most independent schools are financially out of reach.

- The national poverty level is about $23,000 annually for a family of four. To attend SAS, family income must not exceed 200% of the poverty level.
- About 95% of families are in the workforce but still fall near the poverty income level
- Nearly 90% of students qualify for the National Free or Reduced Lunch Program
- Some families are food insecure, with children experiencing hunger regularly
- Half of incoming kindergarteners have not had a preschool experience
- 73% of children live in single guardian households
Developing the Whole Child Makes the Difference

St. Andrew’s School’s whole-child, 360° approach to education nurtures intellectual, creative, moral and spiritual growth, preparing students for success in school and in life. We seek to help our students become critical thinkers, gain a love of learning and live their lives as people of character.

“I loved the small classes and I always knew that the teachers really cared. I genuinely feel that St. Andrew’s is responsible for how well I did in middle school, high school and college.”

– Barbara Vaughan, SAS Class of 2002, University of Richmond Class of 2013 (recipient of four-year, full scholarship to UR)

Our program’s unique design comprises:

• Rigorous academics, wellness programs, social-emotional and spiritual development
• A progressive model valuing hands-on learning and small group collaboration
• A healthy breakfast, lunch and morning snack served every day – attention spans and academic performance have improved dramatically with this initiative
• Auxiliary support from on-site school counselor, speech specialist and Title I teacher
• An after-school program with emphasis on academic support and arts enrichment
• Family dinners, trainings and workshops; referrals to community resources
• Graduate support to assist with admissions process: an average of 79% of grads have been accepted to high-performing middle schools.

“St. Andrew’s was a close-knit community where I was able to grow, gain confidence and receive encouragement from my teachers. I learned a lot about leadership here.”

– Kathryn Threatt, SAS Class of 2007, St. Catherine’s School Class of 2014, current student at Georgetown University (recipient of full scholarships to St. Catherine’s and GU)
Community Support Makes a Lasting Impact

St. Andrew’s School provides an enriching academic experience to children from families with limited financial resources. The school is unique in that it provides a full scholarship for every student. Most independent schools rely on tuition and alumni support; St. Andrew’s School depends on the generosity of the greater Richmond community. Whether support comes from individuals, corporations, foundations or church groups, every dollar raised is invested in our mission work. For more information about how you can help the school continue to educate children from low-income families, please contact the Development Office at 804.648.4952 or Development@St-Andrews-School.org.

“When I came here in 2nd grade, I concentrated more, my grades went up and my behavior changed. I wouldn’t have been able to go to Fork Union if it wasn’t for St. Andrew’s School.”

– Larry Elder, SAS Class of 2012 and current 8th grade student at FUMA (recipient of six-year full scholarship to FUMA)

“Once they’re our student, they’re always ours. We want to follow them all the way through.”

– Dr. Cyndy Weldon-Lassiter, Head of School
“I believe St. Andrew’s has a high level of academics, competitive with the big private schools. We love the atmosphere too. It’s like a home, not like other schools. It is the right place for our sons.”

– Hisham Habahbeh, father of SAS students
Jon and Saleem

OUR MISSION The mission of St. Andrew’s School is to transform lives by providing quality, progressive education to children from families with limited financial resources through a full scholarship for every child.

OUR PURPOSE St. Andrew’s School’s whole-child approach nurtures intellectual, creative, moral and spiritual growth, preparing students for success in school and in life.

OUR VISION The vision of St. Andrew’s School is to create an environment that empowers our students and their families to achieve success in their lives.