
ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

All Saints' Day School Welcomes New All Saints' Administrative Leaders

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Photo: Evan Powell and Ashley Stokes

The All Saints' Episcopal Day School's Board of Directors has named Evan Powell and Ashley Stokes as the school's next Head of School and Associate Head of School effective July 1, 2020. Evan and Ashley are making plans for this administrative transition with current headmaster Joan Pennstrom, who is retiring this summer after leading All Saints' for the past 25 years.

"I am honored to follow Joan's amazing tenure, accomplishments, and the legacy she is leaving at All Saints', and I hope that we can make her proud!" said Powell. A native of Johnsonville, Powell is excited about moving back to the Florence area. Powell was previously the headmaster at Orangeburg Preparatory School, Williamsburg Academy and was the dean of the middle school at Pinewood Preparatory School.

"All Saints' is a vital part of the Florence community," Powell said, "and I look forward to working with the excellent faculty, students, and families here to continue the reputation they have established for academic excellence and to continue building and growing."

Evan Powell earned a B.A. degree in Elementary Education from Clemson University and a M.Ed from Charleston Southern University in Administration and Supervision. He is certified as lead evaluator in school accreditation for the SC Independent School Association (SCISA) and currently serves as SCISA's director of student activities and accreditation.

A native of Sumter, Ashley Stokes earned a B.S. degree in Elementary Education from Lander University and holds an M.Ed from Columbia College in Divergent Learning and an M.Ed from the University of South Carolina in Educational Leadership. She has 14 years of experience in early childhood and elementary programs in South Carolina, most recently as the head of the lower school at Spartanburg Day School. She spent eight years teaching first grade reading intervention and fifth grade in the public school system.

"All Saints' has a tradition of excellence that we want to continue and grow," Stokes said. "It is a privilege to work in a school that is a melting pot of best practices and with the excellent faculty and staff here. It is evident that they are committed to teaching the whole child and creating an environment where children are individually known, loved, and cared for," she added.

Chairman of the Board Hood Temple said, "We are grateful for the strong legacy Joan established at this extraordinary school, and we are excited to grow throughout this decade and beyond with Evan and Ashley as our new leadership team. All Saints' has been the single, best investment of my family's time and resources," he continued, "and my wife Joelle and I could not be more confident that our children have benefited intellectually, socially, and spiritually through the foundation they experienced from 3K through 6th grade here."

"The Board and all of our school constituents will be happy to see that Evan and Ashley complement one another through their backgrounds and their vision and commitment as the new leadership team for All Saints', he continued. "They will uphold the strong values and traditions that we cherish and will combine their talents, experience, and success to accelerate our path forward."

Evan Powell and his wife Sarah have a daughter who will be in the 7th grade and a son who will begin 10th grade. Ashley Stokes and her husband Chris have two children. Their son will be in 4K and their daughter starts 2K at All Saints' in August.

Stokes is spearheading the development of a 2K program that begins in August. She developed a similar program in Spartanburg and looks forward to this expansion of the curriculum and programs at All Saints'. The new 2K program

starts August 19. This inaugural class is already nearing capacity and there are plans to add a second 2K class in 2021-2022.

“My husband Chris and I were both incredibly impressed with the All Saints’ environment when we first visited the campus. After I accepted this new position we moved to Florence and immediately enrolled our son in the 3K program. He loves his teachers and his new friends! It is evident that the faculty and staff are dedicated to the students and passionately involved in each child’s development. There is a very strong connection between school and home. I look forward to honoring the values and traditions that make All Saints’ such a special place and being a part of our future growth and success for many years to come,” she said.

Powell and Stokes begin their official tenure at All Saints’ on July 1. They are excited about meeting everyone and working together to set and fulfill high expectations throughout the All Saints’ and Florence communities.

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Founded in 1960, All Saints' Episcopal Day School serves 2K-6th grade students. Our mission is to be a pre-college preparatory school of academic excellence rooted in faith, values, and caring of the Judeo-Christian tradition as received through the Anglican faith, providing each child the opportunity to develop his or her highest potential to learn, in a nurturing environment of spiritual growth and service to others. For more information, contact Beth Hopewell at bhopewell@aseds.com or 843-662-8134.