

M.S. Elementary Science Teaching
Texas Woman's University

B.A. Education
Purdue University

Lower School



Laurel Ash
Head of Lower School

Laurel Ash has served the Parish community for 18 years, six in the classroom at Parish Day School and 12 in the Admission Office of Parish Episcopal School. Having been a critical part of the School's growth as first the Associate Director of Admission then the Director of Admission, Mrs. Ash has a unique understanding of the capable to exceptional students that are a part of the Parish family.

In her role as Head of Lower School, she brings that unique perspective, including what a Lower School student carries along their journey as they "grow up" to Middle and Upper School. She is overjoyed to return to the division where she began her teaching career, to serve the teachers, students and parents of Lower School. While she has spent the last 12 years "up and out" working to fill Parish classrooms with right-fit students by sharing the School's mission, vision and programs, she is anxious to move back "down and in" to carry out those same components in the Lower School division and facilitate continued excellence and progress for Parish and its students.

Mrs. Ash spent her first year of teaching as an intern at Greenhill (she was the first Lucinda Carter intern) helping to launch their Aftercare Program and Enrichment Center in the Lower School. She joined Parish Day School in 1992 as a 4th grade teacher for all core subjects. In 1994 she became the 4th – 6th grade Science teacher and Department Coordinator. She was also the Co-director of Technology from 1996-1998. After a hiatus to start her family, Laurel joined the Admission office in 2007. As Parish's current Director of Admission she has represented the School through various educational organizations, including Independent Schools Admission Association of Dallas (2012-present), where she served as President from 2014-16, and as a member of Admission Leadership Council of Enrollment Management Association (2017-present).

When not at school meeting with prospective families and combing through applications to find the best students for Parish, Mrs. Ash spends her time alongside her husband, Parish's own Upper School Theatre and Film teacher, Kevin Ash. They have a blended family of five children: three in college, one in high school, and one in middle school. They share a love of travel, football, music, theatre and film, and spend any extra time they can find enjoying those activities together.