

# Ascension Episcopal School

*Inspired to achieve.*

Gator Bytes!



August 24, 2011

Dear AES Families,

Since my arrival at AES, I have been looking for ways to bring focus, action, and results to some critical areas affecting our school without incurring additional costs. This is to let you know that I am appointing Chris Dardar to help in these areas.

Therefore, in addition to his present responsibilities as Director of Transportation and Facilities, he will also serve as Special Assistant to the Interim Headmaster for Athletics and Student Recruitment and Retention. I and AES will benefit from having someone with Chris's experience and versatility acting on my behalf closer to ground level.

In the athletics arena (pun intended) I want Chris to assist with the continuing articulation of the school's official athletic policy as well as help me to study the cohesion of Middle School and Upper School athletics. I want to consider carefully the messages that are communicated to parents and students at AES regarding our total sports program, not just individual sports. Chris will also assist me in my examination of girls' sports at AES and will help to identify future facility and program needs and priorities. Obviously, there will be coordination with the Upper School and Middle School division heads and athletic directors in all of this.

In the areas of student recruitment and retention, Chris will help our efforts to reach out to families that have left AES and to enlist the help of existing families in identifying prospective new families. Chris will help me in researching online demographic data to identify potential recruitment markets for AES. And finally, he will help to formulate a structure for retaining students, especially in 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades and in promoting the smooth transition from the downtown campus to Sugar Mill Pond as our school continues to grow.

I am grateful to have a person of Chris's talents and energy to help me in these important areas.

Geaux Gators!

Lee Cox  
Interim Headmaster