

Hello,

My name is Dana K. Blackhurst and I am the Head of School of The Chandler School. I also happen to be an educator who is dyslexic.

Our school isn't designed for dyslexics; all kids would thrive being taught like a pirate, our school mascot. For example, in most settings failure tends to be an enemy, something to be avoided—that's not the case at The Chandler School. We firmly believe that making mistakes is how we learn and we create ample opportunities for failure and growth. Imagination is the best tool; this may involve some adventure but that's what kids do best. I like to create opportunities and memories that our students will carry with them for the rest of their lives— almost like recreating that exciting and unforgettable feeling when training wheels are removed for the first time.

I had teachers throughout my childhood make fun of me or send me into the hallway for asking too many questions. At times I disliked school so much that I pretended to have stomachaches so that I wouldn't have to go. Things changed for me when I met Mrs. Katherine Chandler, my advisor at Erskine College. Mrs. Chandler realized that, like many of The Chandler School students, I saw things a differently, that I learned a differently.

I share these experiences with you because I understand how our The Chandler School students think and I understand their struggles because they were my own. I also understand the sense of pride and joy they feel when they are in an environment surrounded by children like them and where their “thinking outside of the box” skills are understood and encouraged. That is what sets The Chandler School apart.

Dana K. Blackhurst  
Head of School  
The Chandler School