



Thompson Webb:

“We built this chapel as a proper place for the teaching of the virtues that represent the finest character—honesty, dependability, trustworthiness, strength to do one’s duty, [and] courage to uphold the right and fight for it. The chapel is what I call a classroom. It is a sanctuary for meditation and prayer.”



**Webb** | THE WEBB SCHOOLS  
RAYMOND M. ALF MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY

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# THE VIVIAN WEBB CHAPEL

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## The Vivian Webb Chapel is the beating heart of the Webb campus.

Styled after the famous California mission in San Juan Capistrano, construction of the historical building began in 1939. Over 60,000 adobe bricks, each weighing some 60 pounds, were forged, shaped, and dried from clay taken from the Webb campus itself. Each brick was hand-formed by our founder, Thompson Webb and put in place by himself, teachers, students and even visiting dignitaries. Construction was completed in 1944, and it was named after Thompson's wife, Vivian Webb. The Kimberly Bell tower was donated by Mrs. Nathan Pain and Mrs. Elbert Shirk several years later, in honor of their father.



Many renowned artists have contributed to the elegance and artistry of the chapel. Woodcarver and sculptor Alec Miller from the

United Kingdom contributed to its furnishings—carving the mahogany doors and overseeing the construction of the pews. The stained glass windows adorning the walls came from such iconic fine artists as Millard Sheets and James Hubbell. And finally, the bell in the tower is a Meany Bell, one of the finest brands of bells ever crafted in the United States.

Today, the chapel is home to student chapel talks and a secular service on Sunday evenings.

The Webb Schools prides itself on its diversity and acceptance of all faiths and creeds. The current interfaith symbol projected in our chapel is a testament to this core principle, and it highlights many major faiths of the world, in accordance with Thompson Webb's wish that the chapel be a place that helps develop virtue and character. The following faiths are depicted in the image:

Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Native American Nations, Jainism, Taoism, Zoroastrian, Unitarian Universalism and Baha'i.