

A portrait of Kaitlyn Todsen, a young woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a black top and a necklace with dark, leaf-like pendants. The background is a colorful bulletin board with the word "GRADE" visible.

Kaitlyn Todsen

A portrait of Kristin Sullivan, a woman with short dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a patterned purple and white top over a black turtleneck, with a necklace featuring a circular pendant. The background is a warm, out-of-focus interior.

Kristin Sullivan

Inspiring Learning

Shannon Duncan, 3rd Grade Teacher

When I first interviewed at St. Mark's, I was very happy with the immediate feeling of belonging, warmth, and small community atmosphere. I love that I get to know not only my 3rd grade students, but also their families. It always brings a smile to my face when I see former students around campus and can say hello and continue to connect with them.

In 3rd grade, we embrace our children's learning styles through the responsive classroom approach, which consists of a set of practices that build academic and social-emotional skills. I see such joy in our children's eyes when it is time for a morning or afternoon meeting. They love to sit on the carpet and share their experiences and plans with their friends or ask questions about something we discovered together in our learning.

I love teaching reading to 3rd graders not only because I am an avid reader myself, but because at this age they are not learning to read but reading to learn. Reading leads to creativity, imagination, and the realization that one can achieve any dreams imagined.

Kaitlyn Todsen, 3rd through 5th Grade Science Teacher

I love St. Mark's because of the community of educators, families, and students who all work to make this campus such a special place. From events like Scarborough Fair to Breakfast with Santa, the entire community works together to make each of our students feel cherished and valued.

I love teaching science because our classroom is a special place where students can learn through their own discoveries, observations, and discussions with their peers. During our experiments, my students constantly amaze me with their questions and curiosity about the world around us. There is nothing more rewarding than having students develop a love of discovery and science, and I feel that it is such a privilege to teach them.

Over the course of the year I've learned that our staff at St. Mark's works constantly to help each other grow as educators. I am grateful for how much our science department has supported me, which has been a tremendous help during my first year of teaching science. St. Mark's is truly a special place to be!

Kristin Sullivan, School Chaplain; Religion Teacher

I love being part of a community that is always looking for new ways to engage our students. St. Mark's truly is a place that encourages faculty to think outside the box and find ways to creatively engage students.

Our kids are so curious! I love when I can connect something that we are learning in religion class to what they have learned in other subjects. In 5th grade this fall we made scale models of Noah's ark using the dimensions given in the Bible. The kids used math skills to figure out how big their cubit was going to be and what they would use to represent it in their models. It was great to see them using rulers and calculators to make blueprints!

So often faith and church is something that kids see as boring or irrelevant. I love finding ways to make the Bible exciting, and to unpack the story of God in a way that makes kids want to learn more. I want them to think and wrestle with their faith, and I try to give them a safe place to ask question and explore what it means to them.

