

A portrait of Gabriela Olivero, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, smiling. The background is a classroom with colorful decorations and a sign that says "STUVWXYZ".

**Gabriela Olivero**

A portrait of Lindsey Benefiel, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a beige sweater, smiling. The background is a classroom with a whiteboard that has some writing on it.

**Lindsey Benefiel**

# Engaging Children

**"Education is the most powerful  
weapon which you can use  
to change the world."**

**- Nelson Mandela**

## **Gabriela Olivero,** Pre-K Teacher

St. Mark's is such a wonderful place in so many ways! This school is a caring community where we all work together to reach children where they are and stretch them to their next level in a fun and safe environment. I have worked with Pre-K students for 20 years, and it never gets old. The stories they tell are always so fun (and entertaining). I cherish getting to know each child and learning what strengths they have and what they are passionate about. I also enjoy spending time with parents at our first conferences. The one-on-one time is such a great way to get know one another and form a partnership. Observing the growth in the child's writing samples, self-portraits and story dictations from August to May are priceless. I am now a very proud parent of a 6th grade student here at St. Mark's. After the first two weeks of school, my daughter said to me, "Mom, I love coming to school." That was the first time I have ever heard those words from her. Thank you, St. Mark's Community, I love this school!