



Ross Grimes



Sara Brannon

Inspiring Learning

Courtney Collins,
2nd Grade Teacher

I love the fact that St. Mark's is a close knit community. It's a very welcoming and homey environment that makes you immediately comfortable. I see our mission in action when I watch our proud 1st graders answer thoughtful questions from our middle school students during their insect presentations or when our elementary students are fascinated by the projects they see during Genius Hour. It's not only the obvious learning that has taken place, but the interactions between our students in all grade levels that make me proud. I love teaching because it's the rare job where loud laughter and joy is indicative of a successful day! Plus, the artwork and sweet hugs I receive is an amazing bonus. This year I have learned a lot of new things about historical figures from our Famous Americans Museum. My favorite fact is that Lucille Ball was actually a natural brunette, she dyed her hair red to stand out!

Ross Grimes,
7th and 8th Grade History Teacher

I love that St. Mark's purposely creates a community for students, parents and staff. I live and embrace the last line of our mission. "We cultivate joy, playfulness, and growth in a child-centered environment." Going to school should be fun, and my teaching style is all about exploratory learning that sparks curiosity in every student. I love teaching history because it is so relevant to today. I try to tie every lesson in history to a current event that is happening right now. If my students understand the past, they can make an impact on the future. This year, I found out that I love teaching 8th grade! Getting a first-hand look at 8th graders getting ready to move onto high school is bittersweet but very rewarding.

Sara Brannon,
Lower School Music Teacher,
Early Childhood Religion Teacher

I love how close-knit the St. Mark's community is. It feels like a second home. I also love being able to watch kids grow up over the years. There is joy-filled teaching all over our campus. Children are engaged in learning through play, teachers inspire curiosity and wonder, and individuality is embraced. Music is something I'm passionate about, and I love being able to instill the love of music and singing in young children. Singing and music literacy are skills I believe all people should have, so establishing the foundation at an early age is key. It is a privilege to be a part of students' musical journeys at St. Mark's! This year I was able to spend more time with early childhood students, which allowed me to see child development up close. Our early childhood teachers are truly experts, and I learned so much just by watching them interact with their students.