

MICHAEL J. SCHAFER

Born and raised in greater Boston, Michael J. Schafer is a graduate of Colby College and Harvard University, M. Ed.

A committed independent school professional for over thirty years, Mike began his teaching career in Massachusetts at Cushing Academy and Belmont Hill School where he was a “triple threat” teacher, coach, advisor, and dorm parent before taking on administrative duties in college advising, alumni and development, and athletic administration at Middlesex School in Concord, MA. In 2000, Mike was appointed Assistant Head of School, working in close collaboration with the Head of School to define and shape the Middlesex School community during its \$125 million Centennial Campaign. Mike was named Head of School the 18th Head of School at Kimball Union, where he served from 2003-2019. At KUA, Mike led the school through two successful strategic plans, the Academy’s Bicentennial, and the largest capital campaign in school’s history. Since concluding his tenure at Kimball Union, Mike has served as adjunct faculty at Vanke Meisha Academy, Shenzhen China and Tilton School, Tilton NH, to develop international programs and curriculum.

Modeling professional development and service, Mike has served on a number of education boards and in volunteer positions as a independent school trustee, as an officer on the Independent Schools of Northern New England Association and the Commission the International Education (NEASC/CIE), and the New England Prep School Athletic Council. He is a founding Head of School for the Global Alliance of Innovative Learning, and eight-school consortium of schools dedicated to global leadership education and professional development. An inductee in the prestigious Headmaster’s Association, Mike is a Columbia Teacher’s College Klingenstein Fellow. He earned certificates from Harvard University’s Program on Negotiation, and Dartmouth/Tuck’s Executive Leadership Program.

As a school leader, Mike believes strongly the fundamental objectives of a independent school experience are best met by collaborating to create an ideal environment for learning – and learning relevance - through a community ethos of consistent honest self-assessment and “continuous improvement.”

A varsity college athlete in three sports at Colby, Mike continues to play soccer, squash, paddle tennis, golf, and tennis. Mike is married to Gayle Schafer, an independent educational consultant. They have three grown children and reside in Grantham, NH.