

A portrait of Rachel Mahaffey, a woman with short brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a blue patterned top. The background is a classroom setting with shelves and papers.

Rachel Mahaffey

A portrait of Michele Woods, a woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a beige top and a red patterned scarf. The background is a classroom setting with shelves and papers.

Michele Woods

A portrait of Megan Rohan, a woman with long blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a light blue sweater. The background is a brick wall.

Megan Rohan

A portrait of Sarah Aylsworth, a woman with dark hair in a bun and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a green t-shirt with the text "WILL GIVE MATH ADVICE FOR". The background is a classroom setting with a blue bulletin board and a red and white flag.

Sarah Aylsworth

Engaging Children

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

- Nelson Mandela

Rachel Mahaffey, Kindergarten Teacher

St. Mark's is a school that is truly child-centered, friendly, supportive, courteous, and encouraging. I see the mission of St. Mark's in action when children are invited to explore a variety of natural objects with appropriate scientific tools; when children move and dance to a song that helps them count to 100; when children ask questions of wonder during a Godly Play story; when children discover they are writers and illustrators while they create real books; the list goes on! I love teaching Kindergarten because I get a front-row seat to watch children blossom. We get to play, create, write, count, and research our way to discovery and growth. I love continuing to learn myself - both pedagogically as an adult and content-wise right along with the students. I have learned a lot this year! I learned how to share my screen in a Zoom meeting and how to use a projector screen using VNC. I learned I can teach children who are present in my classroom while also teaching children who are in their own homes - at the same time!

Michele Woods, 4th Grade Teacher

There are so many things that I love about St. Mark's. Our teachers are welcoming, giving, and helpful with the children and each other. I feel so fortunate to be a part of such an incredible group of educators. Of course, my favorite part of St. Mark's is our joyful children who inspire me every day. We all know that this year has been challenging. I have relied heavily on my faith this year, feeling at times like it was the only lifesaver. And like always, my patience and trust in God has reminded me that by teaching the children about life, they show me what life is all about. And they have; in spite of the challenges we've faced, our students are still their virtuous selves. We welcome the children into a warm and nurturing environment, teach them that things may be difficult at the moment but not for the rest of our lives, and we continue to encourage them to explore and discover. I love seeing pure joy and happiness in children discovering as they are learning. What a privilege and joy to play a part in a student's journey.

Megan Rohan, Lower School Science Teacher

I love that St. Mark's has a small-town community feel to it. Everyone knows one another and if they don't know someone, they make every effort to welcome them into the St. Mark's family. It reminds me of my school growing up. I see our mission in action when I observe all the interactions, in a day, between students and staff. There is a joy in the interactions and a sense of playfulness. I love teaching lower school science because I get to be a part of each student learning about their world around them. In a normal school year, lower school science opens the opportunity to get outside and explore science concepts; I am excited to find ways to bring the same sense of wonder to the classroom. This year I've learned that technology is my best friend and when it's not, the kiddos can fix my tech issues!

Sarah Aylsworth, 7th Grade Math Teacher

What drew me to St. Mark's was the culture of kindness and caring. I see the magic that is St. Mark's on a daily basis, and I am reminded that this is where I want to be. I have the rare opportunity to see St. Mark's in different capacities. I get to observe some of the best teachers captivate students with stimulating and engaging lessons. I get to witness our administration respect and honor their teachers and families with open communication and community. But I also get to see St. Mark's through the eyes of my daughter, who loves coming to school every day. She can be who she is and loved as she is. Teaching is the best job in the world. I get to have fun and enjoy my job day in and day out. Each year presents its own challenges, creates its own memories, and teaches its own lessons. I truly believe that teaching amidst a pandemic has humbled us all. We appreciate the moments that we may have previously taken for granted, from interactive group activities to simple things like giving a kid a hug.