



Laurie Mitchell



Janet Mayr



Martha Mayfield



Charlotte Wallin

Engaging Children

Laurie Mitchell,
2nd through 8th Grade Librarian

What I love about St. Mark's is how we welcome former students back to campus. Whether they return for planned alumni events or for impromptu visits, it's wonderful to see our young adults return and share their lives beyond their time at St. Mark's. As a school librarian, helping students discover that perfect book and encouraging students' individual passions for exploring in the Tinker Lab keeps me energized all day long. I work to improve the study and research skills of our middle schoolers so that they will have the tools they need to further their learning. I enjoy the broad range of grade levels that I teach. Each grade has its unique qualities. I love seeing the growth of our students. This year was an interesting one! I learned that both my students and I are resilient. We have learned about ourselves this year; we are capable of learning new ways to do things and adjusting to a new normal in a very short amount of time.

Janet Mayr,
8th Grade Math Teacher

When I am on campus at St. Mark's, I see playful, happy faces. Seeing playfulness, not only on the playgrounds, but also in the classrooms, tells me that our mission does not go unnoticed at St. Mark's. One of the many things that I love about our school is the culture of kindness. Seeing our students encompass the Portrait of a Graduate gives me first-hand experience of how the students care and contribute to the community and world. I love teaching Algebra to 8th graders because it gives me an opportunity to show students how concepts can be applied to real-world settings and removes the fear of mathematics in many students. This year has taught me to have patience and grace, not only for myself, but for faculty, staff, and students as well.

Inspiring Learning

Martha Mayfield,
Pre-K Teacher

To me, the best part about St. Mark's is the extremely close community between our faculty and families. I love that I continue to keep up with previous students and their families throughout the years. At St. Mark's, we really do celebrate the uniqueness of each student, whether they are two years old or fourteen. We recognize the differences in their personalities, heritage, and stories, and we embrace each student as an individual! Pre-K is a foundational year, and it sets the tone for the student's educational experience. In Pre-K at St. Mark's, students gain a sense of who they are as they play with peers and build self-confidence. We believe it is just as important to develop the student's social-emotional skills as it is to develop their academic skills. This year has taught me the importance of flexibility and patience! I also discovered that, regardless of the circumstance, human connection must be a priority, especially with children.

Charlotte Wallin,
2nd Grade Teacher

I love the sense of community here. I feel like faculty, staff, and families want to get to know each other and support one another. We know that for the best teaching and learning to happen, the community needs to be strong, and people need to feel happy and appreciated. Our students know that they will be loved and valued no matter what, so they are safe to try new things. I see our school's mission in action when we acknowledge the growth of each child individually. It's important for our students to be able to reflect on their own growth and point out ways in which they have changed in their thinking or abilities. Every child deserves to be celebrated for their progress, and we want to help our students learn to set their own goals and work towards them. I love teaching 2nd grade because 2nd graders make huge jumps in independence throughout the year. They like to follow routines, and over time they become more capable of following routines independently to take care of their own work and materials. It

is fun to see them using the foundational skills they learned in younger grades to explore new concepts and learn about topics they are particularly interested in. 2nd Graders love school, and they bring a lot of energy to every lesson. This year taught me that our students are capable of so much flexibility and selflessness. They adapted easily to our new routines around hand-washing and masks and often reminded each other to follow the rules. Instead of complaining about masks, they often talked about how glad they were to be at school. If a classmate was home and needed to join the class on Zoom, our students were welcoming and patient. Our students talked about how different families might need to be more careful about germs and pointed out different ways we could keep our classroom clean. I was amazed to see our 2nd grade students changing their actions so much to take care of others.