

# Inspiring Learning

## Lauren Khalaf

2nd Grade Teacher

Before Lauren Khalaf made it to St. Mark's, she spent six years in California in the Silicon Valley and taught at South Peninsula Hebrew Day School. She taught a variety of grades—K-3rd—in her six years at the school. Before that, Lauren spent two years in Pittsburgh teaching at a Yeshiva for first grade girls. Lauren's husband is in the medical field and received a job offer from MD Anderson, and they were both thrilled to settle down in Houston and be closer to their families!

Lauren ended up at St. Mark's the old-fashioned way: Google. When she knew they were moving to Houston, it was important for her to find another private school that had a sense of community, inclusiveness, and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of each child. "Being Type A," Lauren admits, "I made a detailed list of all of the private schools in the inner loop of Houston, researched them, and ranked them on a scale of how much I wanted to work there. Naturally, St. Mark's was at the top of my list! I know it sounds crazy, but our move to Houston was where we were going to settle, and it was important for me to find a school that could become my forever school." When she interviewed and visited St. Mark's, it took about two seconds for Lauren to realize that it was the place for her. Lauren has just completed her first year here and excited for many more to come.

Lauren loves that St. Mark's has an Episcopal Identity but still embraces all the beliefs and cultures of its students. In December, she taught her students about Chanukah and her colleague taught about Greek Easter. It is also where Lauren can collaborate with her colleagues who are incredibly dedicated to St. Mark's and the mission of the school. Lauren is also thrilled to teach second grade here. She adds, "Second grade is amazing because my students are eager to learn, want to please their teachers, and still know 'how to school.' I also have had an incredible group of student parents that trust me and are here to support their child."

**"It was important for me to find a school that could become my forever school."**



Lauren Khalaf at 2nd Grade Famous Americans Presentation



Lauren Khalaf handing out Birthday Bundles