Dr. Jared D. Smith, Ed.D.

Head of School, F.H. Wardlaw Academy

Dr. Jared Smith grew up throughout Georgia but completed high school in Woodstock, GA. As a dedicated servant leader and educator, he aims to serve, learn from, and empower individuals with the essential character and life skills necessary for their growth. His instructional approach encourages creativity and independent thought while emphasizing the values of hard work, service, and humility. Dr. Smith is committed to inspiring positive change and development and establishing a foundation for the next generation to contribute meaningfully to our community and nation.

A diverse range of knowledge and numerous educational achievements mark Dr. Smith's academic journey. He holds an Associate of Science in General Studies from Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, GA, where he served as the Regimental Commander for the 128th Corps of Cadets. Additionally, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Education with a Minor in History from Mercer University, a Master of Education in Educational Psychology with a focus on Applied Cognition and Development from the University of Georgia, and a Doctor of Education in Learning and Organizational Change from Baylor University.

Dr. Smith retired from the Georgia Army National Guard as a U.S. Army Major in February 2024 after serving 20 years in various assignments as a traditional guardsman and on active duty. He initially served as an enlisted Soldier in the Armor branch before commissioning through ROTC in 2010 as a Field Artillery Officer. Before assuming the Head of School position at F.H. Wardlaw Academy on June 1st 2025, Dr. Smith served as the Warrior eLearning & Enrichment Program Director at Wilkinson County High School, Senior Army Instructor for JROTC at Dodge County High School, Assistant Professor of Military Science for college-level ROTC at Georgia Military College, the first Director of Georgia's third Youth Challenge Academy in Milledgeville, GA, a 7th-grade teacher at Putnam County Middle School, and a Senior Military Science Instructor / Teach, Advise, Counsel (TAC) Officer at Georgia Military College.

Some of his awards and accolades include the 2010 Most Outstanding Middle Grades Education Major award from Mercer University, a 2016 recipient of the Georgia Military College Alumni Service Award, and selection for the 2016 National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) Company Grade Officer Professional Development Program. He was also one of 17 military officers nationwide selected to serve as a Military Mentor for the United States Senate Youth Program in 2018, a Cadet Coalition Warfighter Program Team Leader—Argentina in 2019, and a Regional Finalist for the White House Fellowship Program 2023/2024. Additionally, a few of his military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (x2), Army Commendation Medal (x4), Army Achievement Medal (x4), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (x4), Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/ Campaign Star, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Oglethorpe Distinguished Service Medal, Terrell T. Reddick Leadership Award, and Military Order of the Saint Barbara's Medal.

Dr. Smith's current community involvement and civic organizations include being a member of the Georgia Military College's Alumni Association Board of Directors, Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society, and as a lifetime member of Kappa Delta Epsilon Education Fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega Community Service Fraternity, National Guard Association of the United States, Military Officers Association of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the United States Field Artillery Association.