



## **New Faces at Gaston Day School 2021-2022**

### **Lower School Art - Kelly Kirk**

Kelly is joining us after working in the arena of visual and performing arts for several years in school settings in both North Carolina and Virginia. Kelly has a Bachelor's degree from Liberty University. Kelly recently moved to Gastonia by way of Virginia with a quick stop in Charlotte.

### **Kindergarten Teaching Assistant - Polly Jasmin**

Polly is a Gaston Day graduate and calls Gastonia home. Polly has over 20 years of teaching experience across all age levels. Polly and her husband moved back to the Gastonia area from Raleigh in the last few years. Polly is excited to be back on the campus of her high school alma mater, a great deal has changed since she last walked the halls of the circle building.

### **4th Grade Teacher- Cameron Wade**

Cameron is joining us from nearby Connelly Springs, NC. Cameron has worked in a variety of elementary grade levels and was the department chair for exceptional children in a middle school setting. Cameron holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from Liberty University and is currently working on his Master's in School Administration.

### **Middle School Spanish - Brandon Schettler**

Brandon is joining us as a first year teacher out of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Brandon was valedictorian of his high school, and then graduated with a 4.0 cumulative average with a double major in English and Creative Writing and Spanish. Brandon's hometown is Nashville, TN.

### **Middle School English - Sandi Weaver**

Sandi is joining us from the Clover School System and brings 22 years of teaching experience in the middle school classroom. She has experience teaching both Language Arts and Social Studies in the public school systems, and has her National Board Certifications in Early Adolescence English/Language Arts. Sandi has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Belmont Abbey College and a Master of Arts degree in Middle School Education from Gardner-Webb University. Her son, Carson is in the 8th grade, and her daughter, Annalyn will be joining the Gaston Day community this year as a 3rd grade student.

### **Middle School Math - Danielle Pendleton**

Danielle is joining us after having taught for 11 years at various private schools in Florida. She holds a Florida license in Mathematics, grades 5-9, as well as Mathematics, grades 6-12. Danielle has a

Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Florida State University and a Master of Education degree in Advanced Studies from American College of Education. Her sons, Palmer and Dalton, will be joining the Gaston Day community in grades 8 and 4.

#### **Middle School Learning Academy - Jennifer Lester**

We are excited to welcome Jennifer back to Gaston Day School. With 10 years of teaching experience, Jennifer has taught in Gaston County Schools, as well as Gaston Day School. During her tenure at Gaston Day, Jennifer started as an Upper School math teacher, and later went on to teach in the Learning Academy. Jennifer holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics with a concentration in Education from UNC Charlotte. Jennifer has two daughters, Sydney, who will attend Duke University in the fall, and Avery who is a rising junior at Southpoint High School in Belmont.

#### **Upper School Physical Education - Charles Sterner**

Charles Sterner is not new to GDS, but he will be taking on new responsibilities in the classroom as a teacher for 9th grade PE and Upper School Strength and Conditioning. Charles has served as the Athletic Trainer for the GDS athletics department since 2019 and previously worked as a Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer at Chestnut Hill College. He earned a B.S. in Athletic Training from the University of South Carolina and a Master's in Athletic Training Post-Professional from West Chester University.

#### **School Counselor/Interim Director of College Counseling - Hayley Hannon**

Hayley is joining us from Northern Virginia. Hayley has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Queens University of Charlotte and a Master's in School Counseling from George Washington University. She spent her first three professional years as an Undergraduate College Admissions Counselor at her alma mater and has spent the last eight years as a licensed professional school counselor. Hayley's husband is a GDS graduate and they have three children. Two of her children, Hollin and Keenan, will be joining the Gaston Day community.

#### **Extended Learning Coordinator - Jessica Palermo**

Jessica is joining us from Gaston County Schools where she has taught several grade levels during the last 3 years. Jessica was awarded the honor of New Teacher of the Year at Chapel Grove Elementary. Jessica has a Bachelor of Psychology and Criminal Justice from Western Carolina University. She will be our new Extended Learning Coordinator and has already been hard at work to plan some exciting enrichment opportunities for our students in the after school program.

#### **Director of Development - Lindsey Mann Field**

Since 2013, Lindsey has served as Director of Advancement for The Fletcher School and The Rankin Institute, a K-12 school and community outreach center serving approximately 280 students with learning differences in Charlotte. At Fletcher she was responsible for all fundraising and external relations activities. With a B.A. in Communication Studies from Hollins University, Lindsey has more than 18 years of experience in institutional advancement including roles as Director of Major Gifts, (Providence Day School, Charlotte, NC), Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, Manager of Donor Relations and University Events (Saint Leo University, Dade City, FL), and Coordinator of Annual

Giving (Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, GA). As the wife of Athletic Director Casey Field, she has been cheering on the Spartans from the sidelines for the last 14 years, She's excited to finally be a Spartan herself!