



**Mr. Joe Bailey** comes to Gaston Day with eight years of upper school math teaching experience. Mr. Bailey will teach Pre-Calculus Honors, CP Geometry, and AP Calculus AB. He has taught all levels of math, from Algebra I to AP Calculus AB. He has also served as an Assistant Athletic Director and Twelfth Grade Dean. This past year, Mr. Bailey was the Assistant Athletic Director at Erskine College, but he is returning to the teaching side of education after feeling called back to the classroom. Mr. Bailey earned his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Wofford College and a Master's degree in Athletic Administration from Western Kentucky University. When not at work, Mr. Bailey enjoys spending time with his two-year-old son, playing sports, hiking, playing board or video games with friends, and attending the theatre. We are happy to have you in upper school!

**Mr. Fernando Daneri** is eager to join the Gaston Day upper school faculty as the Spanish IV Honors, Algebra II Honors, and AP Calculus BC teacher. Mr. Daneri has taught math (including AP Calculus) and computer science for the past 18 years in the United States, England, Germany, and Peru. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education from Florida International University and a Master's degree in Information Technology from Capella University in Minnesota. Mr. Daneri is passionate about music and enjoys playing the piano and composing and recording music. An avid nature enthusiast, he can also be found exploring the great outdoors. We welcome Mr. Daneri to both the math and world languages departments!

**Mrs. Melissa McDaniel** is not new to Gaston Day, but we are fortunate to welcome her to upper school as she serves in her new role of AP English Language, English 10 (CP and Honors), and Yearbook teacher. Mrs. McDaniel joined the Gaston Day community in 2018 after 17 years of teaching high school in Raleigh and Gaston County, including AP English classes. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Secondary Education from Campbell University. Mrs. McDaniel was also the recipient of the Marianna Davis Teaching Excellence Award in 2022. When not at work, Mrs. McDaniel is busy with her children, Tilly (9th grade) and Finn (4th grade), who are both students at Gaston Day. She also enjoys working puzzles, reading Gothic romance novels, spending time with her sister and three nephews, and spoiling her two rescue dogs. Thank you for joining the upper school team!

**Ms. Brianna "Brie" Nabet** will join Gaston Day as the new upper school Student Services teacher. A first-year teacher from the University of Maryland, Brie graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. in Family Science, and served as a Resident Advisor, earning the RA of the Year award. While at the University of Maryland, Brie also served as an academic coach at the Gossett Center for Academic and Personal Excellence. Brie was responsible for assisting 12 student-athletes with documented learning disabilities, providing academic support for upcoming assignments, including study tips, time management, and organizing schedules and due dates. We welcome you to Gaston Day School!

**Ms. Maggie Rickard** is thrilled to join the Gaston Day upper school faculty as an upper school history teacher. She will be teaching World History and a Sparta elective. Ms. Rickard will also be an assistant coach for the cross country team. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Davidson College. While at Davidson, Ms. Rickard ran cross country and track for the college. After graduating, she lived in Washington, D.C., where she worked in the field of international peacebuilding before working in the field of education. She briefly even taught ESL in Ukraine. Ms. Rickard comes to Gaston Day after teaching and coaching at Montgomery Academy. While at Montgomery Academy, she taught AP World History: Modern, AP Human Geography, and Modern World History. She helped coach cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field. Ms. Rickard enjoys running, floral design, and hanging out with friends when not at work. She's excited to move back to North Carolina and join the Gaston Day community!

**Mrs. Megan Tsurumaki** joins the lower, middle, and upper school faculty as our drama teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Appalachian State University and a Master of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from the University of Central Florida. Before her family's relocation to NC, Mrs. Tsurumaki was a director and a music director on various productions at professional theatres in Orlando while serving as Director of Outreach for the Winter Park Playhouse. She was Chair of the Performing Arts department, theatre director, and middle and upper school chorus teacher at Maret School in Washington, DC. Outside of school, Mrs. Tsurumaki can be found teaching private voice and piano or seeing productions at the Children's Theatre of Charlotte, where her husband serves as Managing Director. Mrs. Tsurumaki is excited to continue growing the beloved theatre program at Gaston Day and challenging all students to take risks and try new things. We look forward to attending your future productions!