



Quick glimpse into the new teachers joining the Lower School:

Mrs. Kristen Litchford

LS Enrichments- Books, Brains and Beyond (BBB) SPARK LAB and Keyboarding

I am not “new” to GDS, I spent the last 8 years as a member of the GDS Math Department. I am originally from Philadelphia, PA. I attended UNC Asheville and I have a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics. I have coached MS girls soccer and can still be found on the sidelines cheering on the Spartans. It has been a joy to bring my own “Little Spartans” to school with me for the last three years. I spend most of my free time with my family, enjoying anything outdoors. In particular hiking, camping, gardening, golf (or any sport), the beach, and the mountains, all of which help to fuel my creativity and passion for learning. I am excited for a new opportunity to teach in the Lower School and share my passion for creativity in math and science with the Spark Lab and BB&B.

Mrs. Hannah Gray

Art 3rd- 8th

In the spirit of fun, let me introduce myself with “two truths and a lie”. I was in a movie with Tom Cruise. My family owns a hedgehog named Moose. My most favorite artist to study is MC Escher. My name is Hannah Gray, and I’m excited to be your child’s Art teacher this year! I grew up in Belmont and studied Communications and Fine Arts at Appalachian State University. For the past 5 years, I’ve been the lead Art Instructor for grades K- 8th at an independent school in Florida. I’m married with two daughters, Lily who is in 10th grade, and Madi who is in 7th. We also have two fur babies, Luna and Lucy... and a hedgehog named Moose! While I do like Escher’s art, my FAVORITE artists to learn about are the artists I teach. I look forward to exploring various mediums and creating with the talented students of Gaston Day, grades 3rd- 8th. (As for Tom Cruise, he wasn’t much taller than me when I met him on the set of Days of Thunder as a 9 year old !)

Mrs. Laura Richter

Early School Teacher Assistant

I recently worked at Cincinnati Country Day School where I served as director of the pre-primary program. Before that, I taught preschool and kindergarten at the Wellington School and Old Trail School in Ohio. I moved to Charlotte with my husband, Philipp, and two daughters, Frances and Thea, last July. I enjoy exploring our new city, playing tennis, and cooking. My family and I are thrilled to be part of the Gaston Day community!

Ms. Sydney Hedrick

Third Grade Teacher

I am a native of Florida and grew up attending an independent school until high school. My love of soccer brought me from Florida to North Carolina and Belmont Abbey. I will be graduating this May with a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education. This year I student taught third grade and loved it so much, I didn’t want to leave! I was first introduced to the GDS campus last summer when I worked in the summer program. Throughout this school year I have worked in both the lower school and middle school afterschool programs. I have one sister and one brother. I am a “fur mama” to Rolo, my rescue kitty. I enjoy reading, especially rom-coms. My favorite color is green. I look forward to being a part of the GDS family!