SPOTLIGHT on Faculty

The faculty and staff at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School bring a variety of talents and experiences to their profession. Learn a bit more about them in this spotlight series.

Where are you from?
I'm from Columbus, Indiana, which is about 50 miles south of Indianapolis and has a population of about 35,000 people.

Where did you attend college and what degree(s) did you receive?
I attended college at the University of Oregon and double majored in history and special education. I've taken numerous graduate level courses at Stanford, Monmouth, University of Oregon, and Texas State.

How long have you been teaching? Were you in another profession before teaching?
I'm in my 25th year of teaching. I've taught 3rd grade, 4th grade math, 6th grade English and math, 7th grade math, and 8th grade literature, grammar, and math. Before I became a teacher, I was a paralegal for one year at an environmental law firm.

What accomplishments, honors and/or certifications have you achieved that you're proud of?
I coached high school track, and coached a girls' relay team that set and shattered numerous indoor and outdoor national records in distance events. Those girls went on to run successfully in college at Stanford, Columbia, and Trinity College. I especially loved these girls' commitment to each other on their relay team.

What is your favorite part of your job at St. Andrew's?
Working with children.

What is the most challenging part of your job?
Working with adults.

Do you have any St. Andrew's trivia you’d like to share?
In my first two years at St. Andrew's, I coached the Varsity Girl's Soccer team.

What organizations are you active in?
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), LD (a learning differences organization) and Science America Journal.

Growing up, what did you want to be?
I remember writing a reflective piece for my 4th grade teacher in which I stated that I wanted to help others when I grew up.

Do you have kids? Pets?
Yes, three children, ages 20, 18, and 13. We have one dog, Jersey, who is a German Shepherd mix.

How do you like to spend your free time?
Outdoors, ideally running or bike riding.

Who has influenced you the most in your life?
My grandfather, who was the principal of my local high school.

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what one band or musician would help keep your sanity?
Mumford and Sons

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
Switzerland, because of the beautiful pictures I’ve seen of the countryside and because it is an extremely bicycle friendly country.

Which authors or books have influenced you the most?
I was very influenced by “A Yellow Raft in Blue Water” by Michael Dorris and by numerous books written by Trey Haden, such as “One Child,” “Ghost Girl,” and “Murphy’s Boy.” I also enjoyed Debbie Silver’s book called “Fall Down Seven Times, Get Up Eight.”

**If you could work in another profession or career field, what would it be?**

A personal trainer

**What's your favorite restaurant in Austin?**

I don't go out to eat much, but my family enjoys The Grove. It's hard to go out to eat with my family because I like to eat dinner early. I'm a very early riser (4 a.m. on a regular basis) and as a result I like to get to bed early.

**If you had plenty of extra time to volunteer, who would you serve and why?**

I would like to work with children with Down Syndrome because I think that as a group they are misunderstood.