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St. Mark's speaks for itself.



**Join the conversation.**

“I look up,  
and the 45  
minutes  
is over...”

“The greatest gift  
you can give a student  
is to say, ‘I don’t know.  
Let’s find out.’”

“We are teaching the  
art of asking questions.”

“Find your voice.”

“These aren’t just  
my teachers; they’re  
my coaches, my  
advisors, and yes,  
my friends.”

“Be intrigued!”

“Preparing for college?  
I’m preparing for life!”

“We are  
educating  
students  
for a global  
society.”

“Get ready  
for some serious  
debates!”

“If I could be  
awesome at this, that  
would be sweet...”

“Weave a life.”

# From the Head of School



*John Warren with his wife, Dr. Laura Appell-Warren*

Intellect and character: at St. Mark's, we value these attributes equally. You will see in these pages that St. Mark's is an extremely competitive, challenging environment. But St. Markers mean something different when they refer to competition. They use the word in its most sophisticated, mature, and ultimately difficult sense: competition with yourself, doing your best, knowing exactly what that means and when you fall short of the mark.

In this small community, we help each other stay on the mark. We look up to role models, leaders, doers, and thinkers in our community and around the world. There's a feeling of excitement and engagement on the campus—an unmistakable spark. Energy. Creative potential being released. We are the best educators the 21st century has to offer. We encourage deep thinking and the ability to frame important questions,

pushing ourselves to be better listeners; as faculty, we embody the values we teach, staying involved in and excited by our areas of expertise.

Everyone tells me they are struck by how considerate, respectful, and friendly St. Mark's students are. And how smart they are. Many people say that it is what makes St. Mark's unique—the combination of strong character and moral compass, sensitivity to others, and excitement about the future—tomorrow's game, next week's student body meeting, next year's classes. St. Markers are smart and kind; sophisticated problem solvers and outgoing participators. Underneath that you'll see a kind of ferocity, determination, and drive. They understand the power of a flexible mind in a constantly shifting environment, a precarious, unpredictable world.

These are the ingredients of global leadership. These are the qualities of a happy, whole human being.

We wanted to let St. Markers speak for themselves. You'll see in these pages the words of students and faculty describing their lives here at St. Mark's. You'll feel the spark between teachers and students. You'll see how hard St. Markers push themselves. You'll see how excited they are, poised on the brink of their lives as citizens of the world. You'll see how important tradition is, how it gives them a framework, an alternative to popular culture, a feeling of safety. This supportive environment gives St. Mark's students the confidence to be creative, curious, and bold. We work together to keep the intellectual spark alive, to keep the conversation going....

John C. Warren, Ed.D.  
Head of School  
Class of '74



# First Impressions

## What is it about St. Mark's?

“The atmosphere at St. Mark’s is casual and encouraging. I liked the fact that everything was in one main building, one central place.”  
—Carmen Minsal, VI Form

“St. Mark’s is so close to Boston—that’s a real plus!”  
—Natalie Armacost, IV Form

“St. Mark’s is traditional—after all, it was founded in 1865—but when I first walked into the Main Building, it felt light and warm. People smiled and said hello.”  
—Lynette Sumpter,  
Dean of Academics, History & Social Sciences

“There’s a feeling of cooperation, not competition.”  
—Henry Romeyn, VI Form

“People were welcoming. They said ‘hi’ in the hallway. It seemed like the kind of place I wanted to be.”  
—Gloria Darko, VI Form

“This is a very joyous, celebratory school. These kids are enjoying being teenagers.”  
—Barbara Talcott,  
Head Chaplain, Religion Chair

“The School has a down to earth feel—It’s not all caught up in itself.”  
—Thomas Berryman,  
Director of Music

“I wanted to go to a small school. I didn’t want to be student X.”  
—Adam Cimpeanu, V Form

“There’s a positive energy. People smile, they seem happy to see you. They are casual, encouraging. There’s a real sense of belonging. If you have a sense of belonging on the tour, imagine what it’s like to live here!”  
—Natalie Armacost, IV Form

“It’s impossible to stand on the sidelines at St. Mark’s. This is the kind of place you dive into.”  
—Carol Miller, Science

“I took one look at that concert hall and thought, ‘This is where I want to go.’”  
—Adam Cimpeanu, V Form

“Two things struck me right away: The peacefulness of the chapel and the enormous enthusiasm of the all-school meeting.”  
—Matt Heise, VI Form

“I knew this was a place where I would work hard and have a lot of fun, too.”  
—Camilla Bradley, V Form

“I was impressed with the variety of art classes. I had taken art before, but at St. Mark’s I have really learned how to work with color and how to look at light.”  
—Willa Deeley, V Form

“What makes St. Mark’s a great school is not just the classes, it’s the teachers.”  
—Geoffrey Smith, VI Form

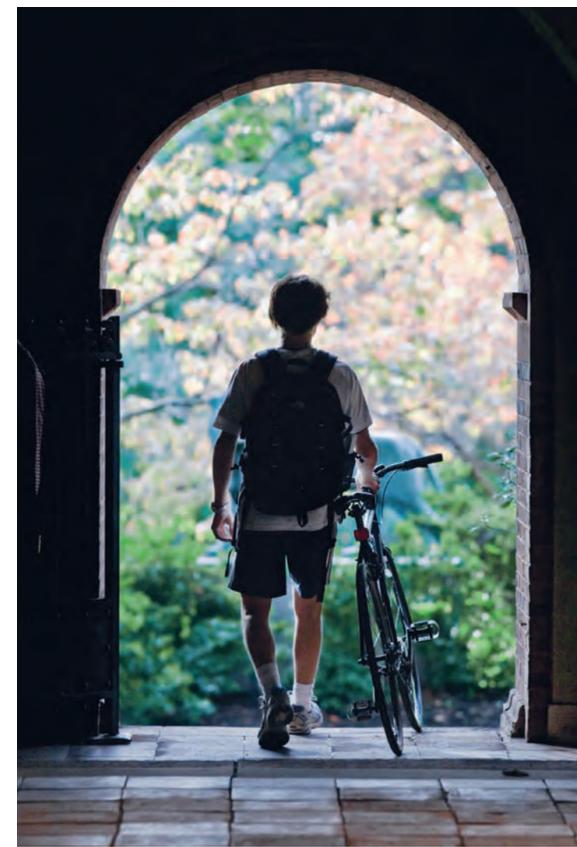
“St. Mark’s is so close to Boston, I can study music during the week and play with the Boston Youth Symphony on the weekends.”  
—Seo Hee (Sarah) Min,  
VI Form

“When I first came to St. Mark’s, I noticed that the students were truly engaged—with the teachers and with each other. That sold me on the School.”

—Pierre Lapeyre, VI Form

“From the beginning, St. Mark’s felt like home.”

—Gloria Darko, VI Form





## Curriculum

St. Mark's offers a competitive liberal arts curriculum in the finest, most sophisticated sense of the term. We prepare our students to enter college engaged, passionate, and curious. We encourage them to try new things, to participate in the wide variety of courses, sports, and activities, to become whole, well-rounded global citizens. We want them to have fun. Our classes are small—around ten students per class. This is not a passive education. Classes are seminar-style, lively, full of conversation and questions. You will notice a unique blend of tradition and technology across the campus—in the architecture, the facilities, and the classrooms and also in our approach. Our teachers encourage individual thinking and clear, bold self-expression.





### Take the AP Challenge

At St. Mark's, Advanced Placement courses are offered in more than 16 subjects in eight departments. Current AP offerings include: American History, Art History, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, European History, French Language, Human Geography, Latin Literature, Music Theory, Physics, Psychology, Spanish Language, Spanish Literature, Statistics, and Studio Art.

### Mixing It Up

A concert pianist playing football; a lacrosse player performing with the Boston Symphony; National Merit Scholars raising money for local charities—a day in the life of a St. Mark's student is full of variety. Monday through Saturday classes, followed by activities and athletics.

Supervised Study Hall runs from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Sunday through Friday. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, classes end at lunchtime to allow time for athletic competitions.

### Dive In

The Independent Study Program allows students who are curious about a particular subject to design their own Independent Study with faculty guidance. Recent Independent Study projects include cloning novel DNA sequences, launching a microcredit foundation to alleviate poverty in developing countries, building a wind turbine and an electric truck to compete in the 21st Century Automotive Challenge, and conducting a math research project with a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that led to a coauthored paper in an international math journal. St. Mark's students participate in a variety of academic competitions. Recent achievements include First Place for the Top Student Presentation in the 21st Century Automotive Challenge, and, for the second year in a row, two St. Markers won the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad.

### Lab Life

St. Mark's is fully wired with Internet access in every classroom and student dorm room. Students have their own voice mailbox and email accounts and access to computer labs with PCs and Macs. The digital language lab offers the latest in foreign language practice and instruction. Laboratory classrooms are equipped with computers for advanced computation, data manipulation, digital probes, and programs for studying DNA sequencing.

### Math Is Beautiful, Math Is Art

The Institute of Mathematics at St. Mark's was recently created to offer workshops and activities for our students as well as those from the global community of students and educators. It is a base of creativity, exploration, and discovery, designed to allow curious students to move beyond the confines of traditional high school math.

The St. Mark's math curriculum uses MATLAB, the premier software used by all research science institutions, along with TI-83 graphing calculators and computers. Students also use the Geometers' Sketchpad, a software program that allows them to discover and experiment with properties of various figures.

### What Do Books Do at Night?

Our library catalogue is fully automated and online. The collection includes 24,200 circulating volumes; 102 magazine and newspaper subscriptions; extensive microfilm and print microform files; 150 DVDs and videos; and a comprehensive reference section with 2,500 volumes and 13 online newspaper and periodical databases. In addition, the library is a member of the Greater Boston Cooperative Library Association, a consortium of 64 independent school libraries.

### Art: An Intellectual Language

St. Mark's requires one year of fine arts study and encourages students to take advantage of the resources, expertise, and instruction available here. In the Center for the Arts and throughout the campus, students exhibit evidence of hard work and creative exploration. Printmaking, ceramics, photography, painting, sculpture, drawing, music, theater, voice, and other performance pieces—students have access to professional-level equipment and produce work that goes way beyond traditional high school levels.

Theater students stage several productions throughout the year: comedies, dramas, and one-act plays. The St. Mark's Singers, Concert Choir, Jazz Band, Chamber Ensemble, and two a cappella groups, the Cat's Meow and the Octet, perform regularly to captivated audiences. Musicians at St. Mark's have access to teachers and students from the New England Conservatory of Music; they participate in a variety of ways with the Greater Boston Youth

Symphony Orchestra and the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and take many trips to perform nationally and abroad. The fine arts faculty are all practicing artists who believe that the skills and craftsmanship required in the arts are useful in many other aspects of a successful life.

### The Classics Diploma

St. Mark's Classics Diploma is unique among preparatory schools across the country. Students are offered classical Latin and Greek. The Classics Diploma is awarded to students who have completed three years of one ancient language and two years of the other. Recipients wear a laurel wreath on graduation day.



# College Attendance

It's a big decision. The St. Mark's college office works closely with families, students, and faculty advisors from the III through VI Forms. In February of the V Form year, the office hosts a student-parent weekend workshop with a panel of college admission deans. Each VI Form student is assigned a special essay advisor. Representatives from more than 80 colleges and universities come to campus each year to interview St. Markers.

## Colleges where 3 or more students have attended in the last 4 years

American University  
 Babson College  
 Bates College  
 Boston College  
 Boston University  
 Bowdoin College  
 Brandeis University  
 Brown University  
 Bucknell University  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Colby College  
 College of the Holy Cross  
 Colorado College  
 Columbia University  
 Concordia University  
 Connecticut College  
 Dartmouth College  
 Dickinson College  
 Franklin and Marshall College  
 Georgetown University  
 George Washington University  
 Gettysburg College  
 Hamilton College  
 Hobart and William Smith Colleges  
 Manhattan College  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Middlebury College  
 Mount Holyoke College  
 Muhlenberg College  
 New York University  
 Northeastern University

Northwestern University  
 Occidental College  
 Purdue University  
 Rhode Island School of Design  
 Sacred Heart University  
 Skidmore College  
 St. Lawrence University  
 Syracuse University  
 Trinity College  
 Tufts University  
 Union College  
 University of Edinburgh  
 University of Miami  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Richmond  
 University of Southern California  
 University of St. Andrews (Scotland)  
 University of Vermont  
 University of Wisconsin  
 Vanderbilt University  
 Villanova University  
 Wheaton College  
 Williams College

## Other colleges where students have attended in the last 4 years

Amherst College  
 Arcadia University  
 Arizona State University

Bard College  
 Bennington College  
 Binghamton University  
 Bryant University  
 Carleton College  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 Chapman University  
 Clark University  
 College of Charleston  
 College of William and Mary  
 Colorado State University  
 Cornell University  
 Curry College  
 Davidson College  
 Denison University  
 Duke University  
 Earlham College  
 Edward Williams College  
 Elon University  
 Emerson College  
 Emory University  
 Endicott College  
 Fairfield University  
 Fairleigh Dickinson University  
 Fitchburg State College  
 Furman University  
 Hampden-Sydney College  
 Hampshire College  
 Harvard University  
 Hitotsubashi University  
 Hofstra University  
 Howard University  
 Indiana University  
 Ithaca College  
 James Madison University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Kalamazoo College  
 Lafayette College  
 Lake Forest College



Megan Harlan, Director of College Counseling, with St. Markers

Lehigh University  
 Loyola Marymount University  
 Lynchburg College  
 Manhattanville College  
 McGill University  
 Miami University, Oxford  
 Moravian College  
 Oxford College of Emory University  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Principia College  
 Providence College  
 Quinnipiac University  
 Radford University  
 Rhodes College  
 Roanoke College  
 Saint Anselm College  
 Saint Joseph's University  
 Salve Regina University

Santa Clara University  
 Sarah Lawrence College  
 Smith College  
 St. Olaf College  
 Stanford University  
 Stonehill College  
 SUNY College at Potsdam  
 Swarthmore College  
 The College of Wooster  
 United States Naval Academy  
 University of Arizona  
 University of Colorado at Boulder  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Delaware  
 University of Denver  
 University of Florida  
 University of Hartford  
 University of Iowa  
 University of Maryland  
 University of New Hampshire  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of Notre Dame  
 University of Rhode Island  
 University of Rochester  
 University of Southern Maine  
 University of Virginia  
 Utica College  
 Vassar College  
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University  
 Virginia Wesleyan College  
 Waseda University  
 Washington and Jefferson University  
 Washington College  
 Washington University in St. Louis  
 Wellesley College  
 Wesleyan University  
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania  
 Yale University



“O.K. Tell me what you’re thinking. It’s all about the thinking. You can work the details out later on. Math is about learning to ask questions, not finding answers.” —James Tanton, Math

“I got it! Good times with Dr. T.!”

—Geoffrey Smith, VI Form

“My car is worth \$12,000. It depreciates in value 15% every four months. Write a formula giving me the value of my car in 12 months. When will my car be worth \$1,526? When will it be worth zero?”

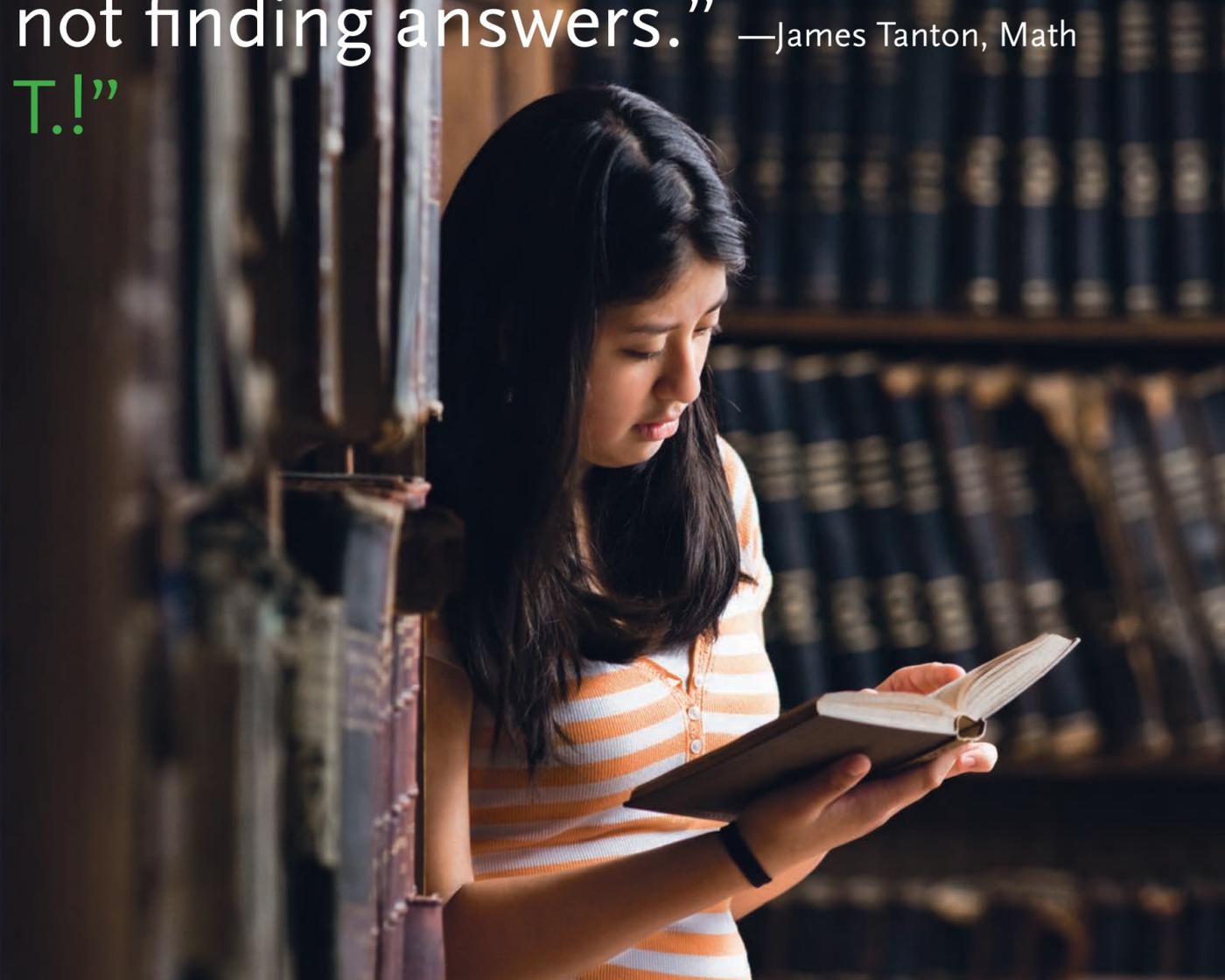
“Here’s another horrible question. Find, to one decimal place,  $\log_7 32$ . ’Cause this stuff comes up in real life all the time....”

“Mathematics is really an exercise of creative play, flexibility of the mind, adaptability, and who is better suited for such play than the young and intellectually unadulterated?”

—James Tanton, from the *Mathematics Intelligencer*, Summer 2007

“I came from a public school in New Jersey and I learned pretty quickly that if I didn’t do the work at St. Mark’s, I wouldn’t do well. Before, it was okay to be average. Here, I try to achieve my very best. I also learned to make decisions—for example, when to do my laundry!”

“Dr. Tanton believes in us, and that makes it harder. Like many classes here, it feels more like college. The teachers here don’t baby you—they get you to think. You don’t want to miss a class!”  
—Cynthia Pando, V Form



Talking about math with Dr. T...



## The Broad Path



In 1865, Joseph Burnett of Southborough founded St. Mark's School on the "principles and practices of the Protestant Episcopal Church." Known as Via Media, or "The Broad Path," the Episcopal Church embraces individual inquiry as well as a variety of liturgical expression found within Christianity and other religions. This Episcopal and inclusive nature of the School is visible in all that we do: in varied courses in religion, in the twice weekly community Chapel services, and in the belief that purposeful inquiry into matters of faith and value are fundamental to leading an examined life.

Beyond the two all-school Chapel meetings, other services are available during the week such as Holy Eucharist on Sunday and

Shabbat on Friday evenings. There is a dedicated prayer space for our Muslim students. Services are also available throughout the year on various Holy Days, including Ramadan and Passover.

"When I leave, I will miss the Chapel, with its high, peaceful ceiling."  
—Adam Cimpeanu, V Form

"Hate will not get you anywhere. You can go down that path, but it will not be productive."  
—Lynette Sumpter, Dean of Academics

"There's a spirit of cooperation and passion, a balance of fun and learning."  
—Natalie Armacost, IV Form



# relevance



"Let's not forget that the world is religious. Every day people are making economic, political and individual decisions based on religious views. It doesn't matter if you go to church or not. What is your worldview? How does religion inform your beliefs? How do I maneuver in this life so that I am happy, I'm troubleshooting well? It's important for students to have a sense of spirituality, dealing with the challenges of the day. How do you care for your spirit? Money won't help you there. The only real strength is the strength that comes from within."

—Lynette Sumpter, Dean of Academics, History & Social Sciences

"Service, the idea of service has changed. All over the St. Mark's campus you see plaques to the war dead. Today's kids are not joining the cavalry in Spain or South America, but they feel a moral obligation to find solutions to the world's problems."  
—Ken Wells, Science

"Chapel? Even if I could sleep in I'd go. I'm not a strong believer, but Chapel has made

me more open-minded; it's a wonderful time to just be part of the community. It's a place of no teachers, no students, just people."  
—Matt Heise, VI Form



# balance



# Barbara Talcott

Head Chaplain  
Religion Chair



“Kids in this generation are not getting enough silence and peace in their lives, so they scarf it up. I invite kids to come and meditate during stressful times, like exams. Chapel is a safe place where they can stop judging themselves and just be.

“At St. Mark’s, we require a year of the study of religion—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Beyond that there are many electives: Social Justice, the Modern Middle East, Ethics, Mythology, etc. In the IV Form, we focus on how religions have evolved around

the world: What is spiritually meaningful in various cultures and how do the world’s religions reflect those values?

“Students come to me with all sorts of questions—in times of grieving, or in times of stress. We have a nondenominational room for quiet meditation. And we are surrounded by nature—a wonderful cure for stress!

“St. Mark’s is a very joyous, celebratory School. This is an enormous part of what it means to be a kid. There’s so much pressure on young people these days—even the most talented are haunted with inadequacy.

“You need to be completely, authentically yourself! Students have a nose for hypocrisy that keeps us all honest. It’s a delight to work with them. And they appreciate your respect and honesty.

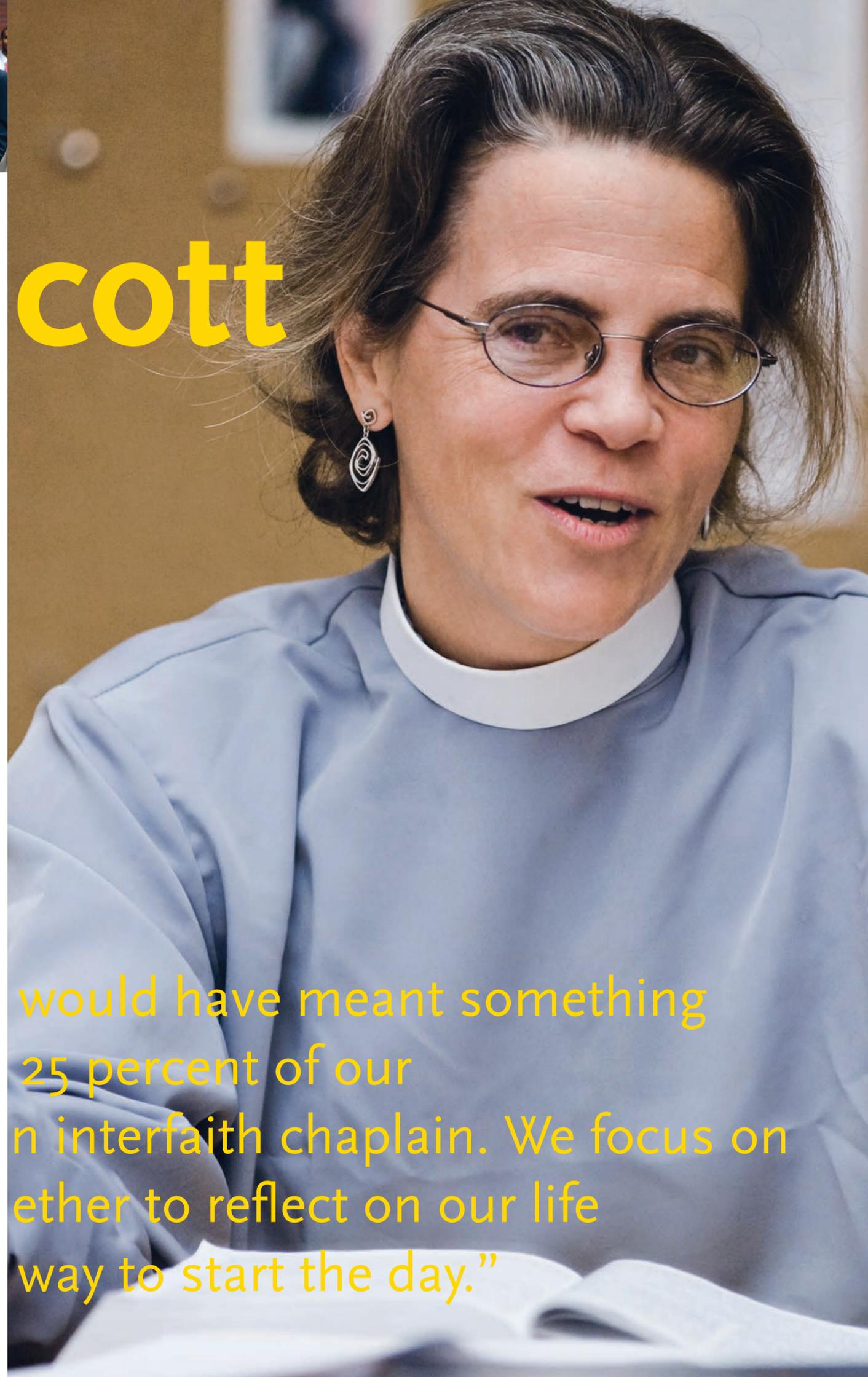
“At St. Mark’s, we want the students to feel safe trying and failing and trying again.

“There are a lot of great role models here. We have a grounded, well-balanced faculty. We grow adults from adolescents and we do it very, very well.

“Our students actually sleep at night!”

values

“Before 1865, an Episcopal School would have meant something entirely different. Today, less than 25 percent of our students are Episcopalian. I am an interfaith chaplain. We focus on the life of the spirit. We come together to reflect on our life as a community. It’s a wonderful way to start the day.”





## Athletics

“Athletics at St. Mark’s takes many forms. Whether our athletes are competing on a varsity team in the Independent School League (ISL) or participating in an afternoon recreational fitness program, St. Mark’s is committed to building character in all of our students through exemplary sportsmanship, team play, and effort. Our program provides an environment that complements the classroom experience and teaches the many benefits associated with athletic participation. We proudly celebrate our achievements but remain mindful that winning alone should not be the sole measure of success. It is rather an attitude that results from optimum preparation and a deep commitment to improve. Our goal is to ensure that each time our athletes set foot on a field, we come out a winner regardless of the final score.”

—John Levandowski, Director of Athletics





“Sometimes when we play other schools, I notice that the other teams really yell at each other. On the playing fields at St. Mark’s the first thing we learn is to respect our teammates and our opponents.”  
—Cynthia Pando, V Form

“I’m from New York City. My middle school had no gym. I never had the opportunity to be part of a team; so when I came to St. Mark’s, I said to myself, ‘I’m going to try every sport they offer.’”  
—Carmen Minsal, VI Form

“I try to get students to understand two fundamental principles. First, if you work hard, you will improve. Second, if you commit to something greater than your immediate gratification, you will reap substantial rewards.”  
—David Lyons, Head Coach, Varsity Baseball; History & Social Sciences Chair

At St. Mark’s, our 23 boys’ and girls’ teams compete in the Independent School League. In the III and IV Forms, students are required to play an interscholastic sport in the fall, winter, and spring. In the V Form, they are required

to play for two seasons, and in the VI Form for one season, though many Upper Formers play team sports for all three seasons.

The Michel Faculty Athletic Center includes two full basketball courts, an indoor hockey rink, an indoor field house—the Armour Cage—with year-round AstroTurf, seven squash courts, a fully equipped weight room with a variety of fitness equipment, weight machines, and an ergonomic training room. St. Mark’s has nine playing fields, eight outdoor tennis courts, and a nine-hole golf course.

“Here’s an example of excellence: After one particularly heartbreaking, crazy, intense football game, we got on the bus and pulled up to the gym an hour and a half later. There was a corridor of 100 students waiting for us, clapping and cheering. In all my years of coaching, I’ve never seen anything like it.”  
—John Campanale, Head Coach, Varsity Football; English

### Athletic Programs

#### Fall

**Boys:** Cross-Country, Football, Soccer

**Girls:** Cross-Country, Field Hockey, Soccer

#### Winter

**Boys:** Basketball, Ice Hockey, Squash, Wrestling

**Girls:** Basketball, Ice Hockey, Squash

#### Spring

**Boys:** Baseball, Crew, Golf, Lacrosse, Tennis

**Girls:** Softball, Crew, Golf, Lacrosse, Tennis

#### Recreational

Golf, Yoga, Tennis, Volleyball, Dance, Weight Training, Aerobics



John Levandowski, Director of Athletics



# Matt Heise

VI Form

“I am Canadian, so going to an American prep school (and coming in as a V Former) with different customs was a little hard for me at first. Also, the standards are a little more relaxed in Canada—I knew I’d have to learn how to excel at St. Mark’s. I was used to getting pretty good grades, but at St. Mark’s I really learned how to focus. If you go at it with a negative attitude, you won’t get anywhere. It was also my first time away from home. Not to mention the accent!”

“As for the work, my teachers really conveyed their love for and familiarity with their subjects. They create a comfortable, safe learning environment.

“Homework wasn’t homework! English class was not a class, it was a discussion! Does love really exist? Math isn’t only fun if you are brilliant at it!

“I look up 45 minutes later and the class is over. These teachers are good at radiating passion. Mr. Campanale is cool because he sees how people are feeling about what they are reading. At my old

school, the teachers were forced to teach a certain way, from common curriculum. Here, you can feel their creativity and it’s contagious.

“As for Chapel—I came to St. Mark’s thinking, ‘They’re going to make me go to church?’ But Chapel has made me more open-minded. It’s a wonderful time to connect with the community.

“Life is going to make you fall down. It’s your choice to get back up.”

“Going to St. Mark’s turned out to be the best decision of my life. It did not take long to create a social network. I made friends from so many different cultures.”

Speaking of reading and writing  
with Mr. Campanale...



“My student, Carmen Minsal, worried that she couldn’t write an essay. ‘I’m just not that creative,’ she said. ‘Yes you can,’ I said. By the end of the year, she was writing up a storm. This is why I teach.” —John Campanale, English

“So many of the books we read are about how to live a life. There’s a funny idea out there that adolescents don’t know the difference between text and life. But they do. Books are great for learning about real life interactions. When we

read *The Bluest Eye*, we spent most of the class talking about love. What is true love? How do you get someone to love you? What are the different kinds of love? The students read these books and they take what they need....

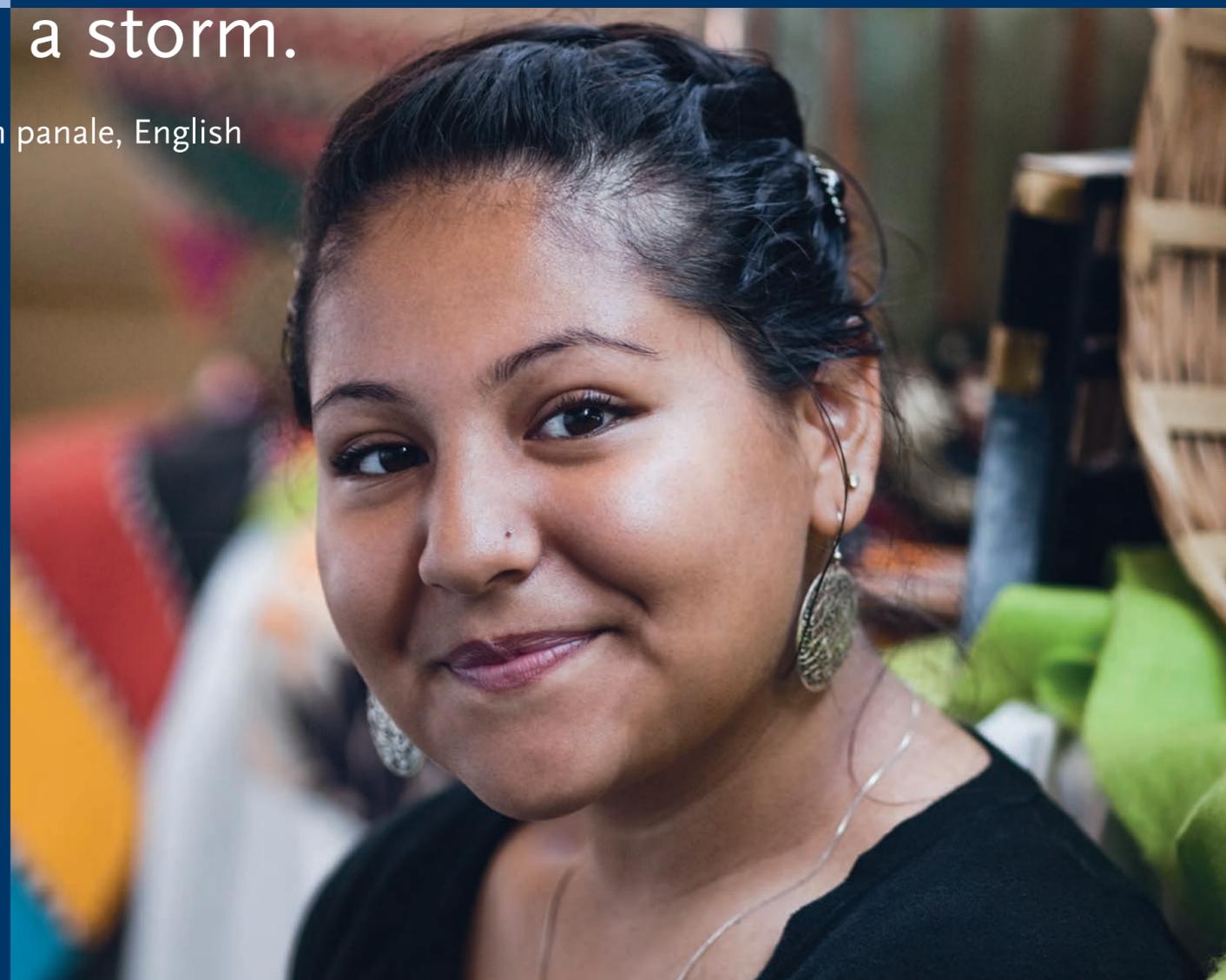
“I’ve worked hard as an adult not to get too fixed in my opinions. You will never do a multiple-choice test in my class. I’m not a raise-your-hand kind of guy. We just talk....

“Here’s your assignment:  
Go out and tell this story to ten people.”

“You really get to know your teachers at St. Mark’s and they get to know you, inside and outside of the classroom, in the dining hall, on the field. If you’re feeling stressed, you can be sure they know it! As a student of color, I feel a lot of pressure to do things well. My biggest challenge has been the realization that school is not just a race to get a higher grade. There are so many bright kids here, standing out is

hard, but there are many, many opportunities to excel. English is one of my favorite classes because Mr. Campanale teaches thematically, not chronologically. He has changed my mind about American literature by including new voices: gay and Chicano writers, for example. This is what a good teacher does: exposes his students to new things.”

—Carmen Minsal, VI Form





27% of student population receives financial aid



75 faculty members  
12 faculty of color



341 students  
267 boarding students  
74 day students



17 states represented  
17 countries represented



250-acre campus



186 male students  
155 female students



22 sports teams



49 buildings



“Art is a language, an intellectual language. Art is also a way of seeing—slower, more thoroughly, *discerning* and *discovering*. Art is one of the points at St. Mark’s where kids find their own voice. It takes work. ‘Don’t be content with the first thing you see,’ I tell them. ‘Don’t be content to be average.’”

“We start with drawing. ‘Draw that fan,’ I’ll tell them. ‘O.K., here’s where you stopped looking.’ Don’t give in to ‘That’s good enough’ or ‘I’m not talented, I can’t do this.’ It’s not about talent. Don’t go to your default zone! Believe in your ability!”

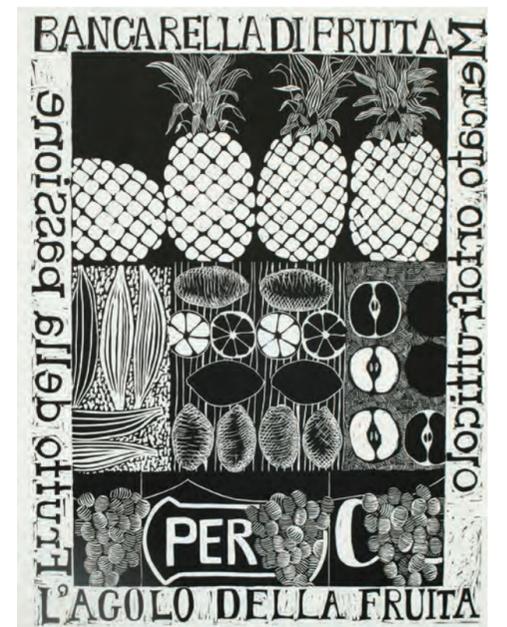
“We are educating kids for a global society, for thinking in the digital world. It’s a fast, sped up visual world. There’s a level of decoding required. My goal is to get them out there and *see*. All kids have an itch to communicate, but they are not always sure how. Art gives them another language. Everything they do is an original take on the world.”

“I came here in 1979. There’s a feeling of *energy* at St. Mark’s—you can feel it pulsing through the School. In the Arts program, we teach a closer reading of the world. The visual choices they make here will be similar to choices they make their whole lives, whether they end up reading X-rays or architectural plans.”



# Barbara Putnam

Art Department Chair





## Home Away from Home: The St. Mark's Community

St. Mark's is a small school with 75 faculty members who all live on campus, and 341 students—meaning that the School functions very much as a community. Our lives are all intertwined in a variety of ways. As faculty, we are advisors, coaches, dorm parents, and teachers. We help students troubleshoot a wide range of issues they will face throughout their lives. This is where they will change from adolescents to young adults. As advisors, we meet with our students at least twice a week to listen to concerns, help with decision making, and monitor their progress. We also serve as an important link to parents.

### School Under One Roof

St. Mark's is on a 250-acre campus. Some buildings, like Belmont Chapel, were built in the 19th century. Others, like the Center for the Arts, were built using the most up-to-date technology for sound, energy efficiency, and computer use. One of the things that students and faculty love best about St. Mark's is the Main Building. Most of the classrooms; the science, computer, and language labs; the library; the Forbes Student Center (where we hold the all-student meetings); the Math Institute; and the dining hall are all housed in this Main Building, which enhances the feeling of a small, vibrant community.

“Everyone loves the school meeting. Twice a week the whole school gets together to show one another all the cool things we're working on.”  
—Carmen Minsal, VI Form

### Guidance Inside and Outside of the Classroom

St. Mark's is way above average when it comes to diversity in independent schools—31%. Faculty diversity is 16%. There's a lot of movement between groups—it's just not as cliquey as some schools.

“This is significant when you consider how much personal growth goes on in these four years. It is extremely important for students to feel safe, not constantly judged by their peers. We are here to help these students become the people they want to be. Here's an example of the kind of problem a student might bring to his or her advisor to discuss: ‘My roommate went to Starbucks with some friends and didn't invite me. I really want to let her know how much this hurt me, but I'm not sure how to approach her.’ Together, we might come up with the following solution: ‘Have an honest chat with your roommate. Let her know that that's not a good way to treat someone you are going to see every day. Decide what kind of relationship you want to have with her. Figure out an appropriate distance. There's a whole spectrum of relationships out there. Everyone doesn't have to be your best

friend.’ The next day, and here's the real beauty of St. Mark's, I might see the student in the dining hall and say, ‘How'd it go over the weekend?’ There are a million opportunities to follow up.”  
—Lynette Sumpter,  
Dean of Academics, History & Social Sciences

### The Faculty-Student Relationship Is the Basic Building Block of a St. Mark's Education

“The teachers here are all active practitioners of the disciplines they teach. It's fun to be in a community of educators. The students can feel this. As faculty, we have an amazing amount of influence and 150 years of experience. We are the role models they see every day.”  
—Ken Wells, Science

“On my first day here, I went to play mini golf and get ice cream with my advisor. It was great having a person there from the start to answer all of my questions.”  
—Natalie Armacost, IV Form

“I'm going to miss the friends I made here. But I'm really going to miss the teachers!”  
—Gloria Darko, VI Form



# Thomas Berryman

Director of Music



“Our facilities, including the Class of '45 Hall, which seats 500, and the Black Box Theater, are state-of-the-art. The Boston Symphony borrowed the Class of '45 Hall for their chamber music recordings! In exchange, they work with some of our students.

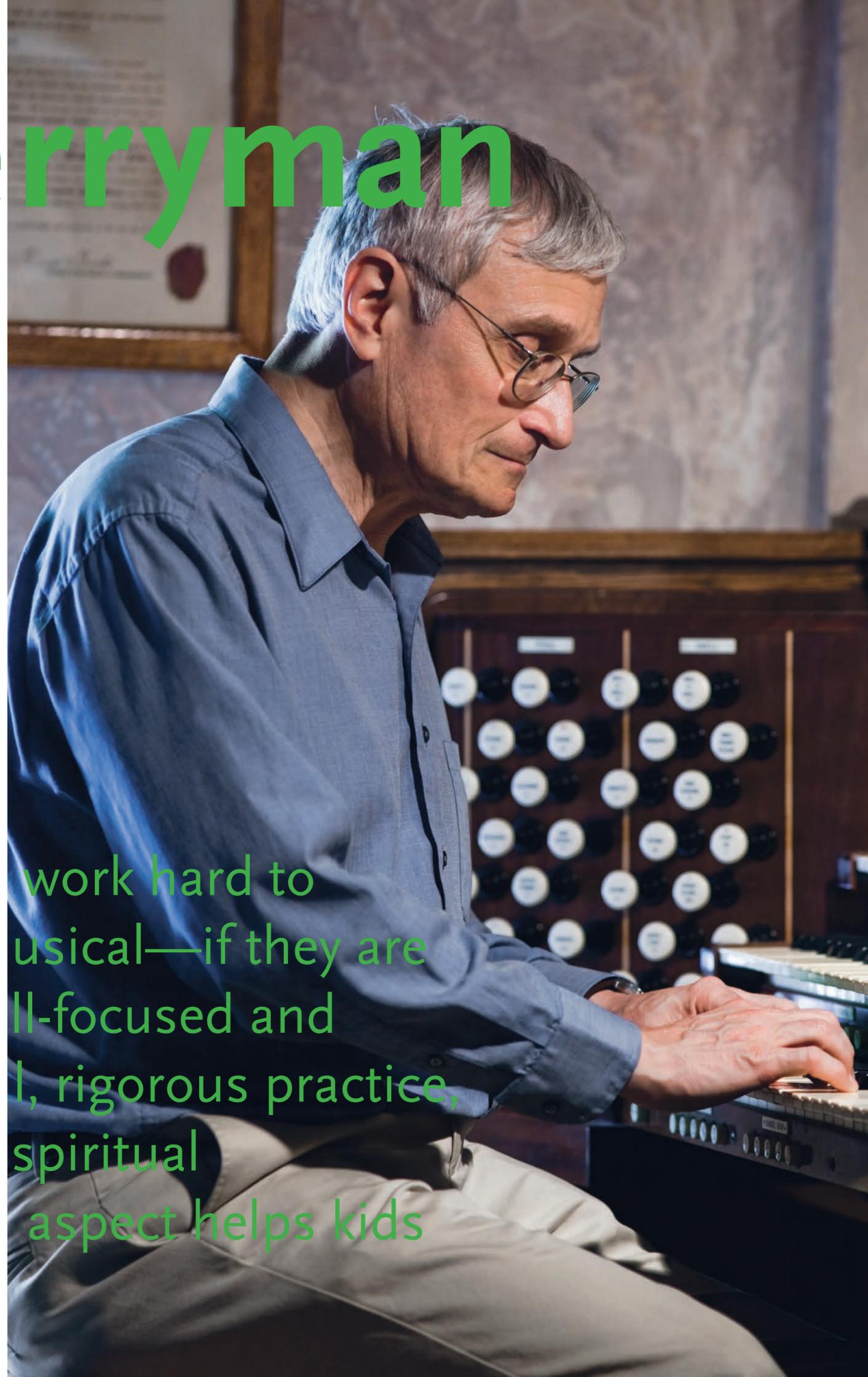
“One of the things I like about St. Mark's is that peers are extremely supportive—they listen carefully to each other. They are relaxed, they

don't put on airs. They respond to authenticity in teachers and performers. They are not cynical. They appreciate it when you show them their own potential.

“I encourage my students, 'Pay attention to what you hear!' It's an extremely personal business, teaching someone to sing. People say, 'I can't carry a tune.' It's wonderful to watch them learn that they can!

“You have to challenge yourself to teach things in new ways. This keeps me lively. The teachers here all have very divergent interests. We do a lot with the students—take them to the Boston Symphony and other performances. My own teachers were much more severe and tyrannical. We achieve more with praise and support.”

“I came to St. Mark's in 1983. We work hard to attract bright kids who are also musical—if they are musical it means they are also well-focused and disciplined. Music is a thoughtful, rigorous practice, an integrating intelligence. It's a spiritual exercise as well. The performance aspect helps kids a great deal with confidence.”



“One of my favorite things is walking to school and seeing Mr. Berryman, the music teacher, roaring past me on his bike. He’s this gentle, patient, thoughtful man—very dignified in the classroom. These are the little things that tell you you’re at St. Mark’s.”

“St. Mark’s is such a close community that you really know your teachers, advisors, and fellow students from several perspectives—you see them at meals, on and off campus, with their families.

“What makes a good teacher? Take my advisor, Dr. Tanton, who gives me all these amazing mathematical puzzles to work on. You can just tell that his biggest goal is the teaching itself—he really makes his classes exciting.

Mr. Melcher teaches Chemistry; he has an unorthodox way of teaching—a lot of personality—but he has a way of taking these complicated concepts and whittling them down. He can be strict, but one day I saw him in the dining hall talking with his two-year-old son and I saw, in a split second, another side to him—I saw how compassionate he is. That’s what I mean about seeing people in a community from a variety of angles.

“Is it competitive? Sure. But there are so many ways to be competitive—with yourself as well as others.

“One of the things that drew me to St. Mark’s was the Center for the Arts. I was also drawn to the Chapel—so peaceful. I’ll miss that feeling of a safe community—it’s a precious thing—the real world is closer than we think.

“What am I going to do next? I’ve really enjoyed performing—gotten a lot more confident. You have to be willing to get lost—in a complex math problem, in a musical piece, to wrestle with it—and you will succeed!”



# Adam Cimpeanu

V Form





Searching for solutions: science  
with Mr. Wells...

“One of my jobs as a teacher is to identify a student’s learning style and offer different ways to study.” —Ken Wells, Science

“I ask my students, ‘Why aren’t there any dandelions on the soccer field? How does the Sudbury Reservoir System affect the campus of St. Mark’s?’....

“We put out enough appetizing ideas to keep the students interested, periodically asking ourselves, ‘What’s a new way of teaching this?’....

“In physics, you learn how to make sense of data, how to use numbers to support your ideas....

“St. Mark’s is a world of ideas, a place where people treat each other the way they’d like to be treated. There is a tradition of experiment, of deep looking, of looking for solutions to the world’s problems. The world outside these walls is go, go, go, manufactured hype. Here, we hone our powers of observation.”

to identify and offer different



“When I got to St. Mark’s, I needed extra help. At my old school, you could rush through the work in five minutes, so I needed help with the material and with time management. At first, I was embarrassed to ask for help.

“The teachers really helped me through some tough spots. Mr. Wells worked with me every day to get me through Physics. Mrs. McBride, my math teacher and soccer coach, was a real friend, nurturing, making me cakes.”

—Gloria Darko, VI Form



# Lynette Sumpter

Dean of Academics  
History & Social Sciences

“There’s a lot of fluidity between groups at St. Mark’s, which is important because this is a small community. St. Mark’s has the infrastructure in place, the systems to allow open and honest communication. Our students have a lot of say in policy-making. They have many direct lines to the faculty and even to the Head of School.

“The deepest educational moments are when you walk away with the feeling that you have truly communicated. There’s a lot of superficiality in life. These moments are precious!

“What will you remember of your high school years: A social interaction? A moment with a teacher? Something that touched your soul but you didn’t even know it at the



time. We are planting seeds. Three or thirty years from now, they’ll bear fruit.”

“We are here to help the students on their journey to adulthood. So much happens between the III and VI Forms. So much growth! I feel strongly about teaching this age group—it’s never dull!”



# The World Beyond Campus



## International Study Opportunities

“Travel, a sense of yourself in the world, is the greatest gift you can give a child.”  
—Esther Sanchez, Modern Languages Chair

### Semester Abroad:

St. Markers can spend a semester or a year abroad in France, Spain, Italy, or China through the Study Year Abroad (SYA). In Germany, students can

participate in the year long Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program.

St. Mark's also offers summer exchange programs in France, Spain, Germany, and Australia. The French program starts in Paris. Students then travel to the Loire Valley, where they stay with a host family and attend language school. In Germany, students stay with host families in Munich and attend the Wittelsbacher



Gymnasium. In Australia, students attend school and stay with host families in Melbourne.

Throughout the year, students in various programs travel around the world. The choir takes biennial trips to Spain, Japan, Austria, and England. Classics students regularly travel to Italy and Greece. St. Markers studying Spanish or pre-columbian culture travel to Peru and Mexico. Students involved in community service travel regularly to the Dominican Republic to volunteer with the nonprofit Orphanage Outreach.

## Boston in Our Backyard: Culture Vultures

Boston is 30 minutes from St. Mark's. Students make frequent trips to enjoy the Boston Symphony Orchestra,

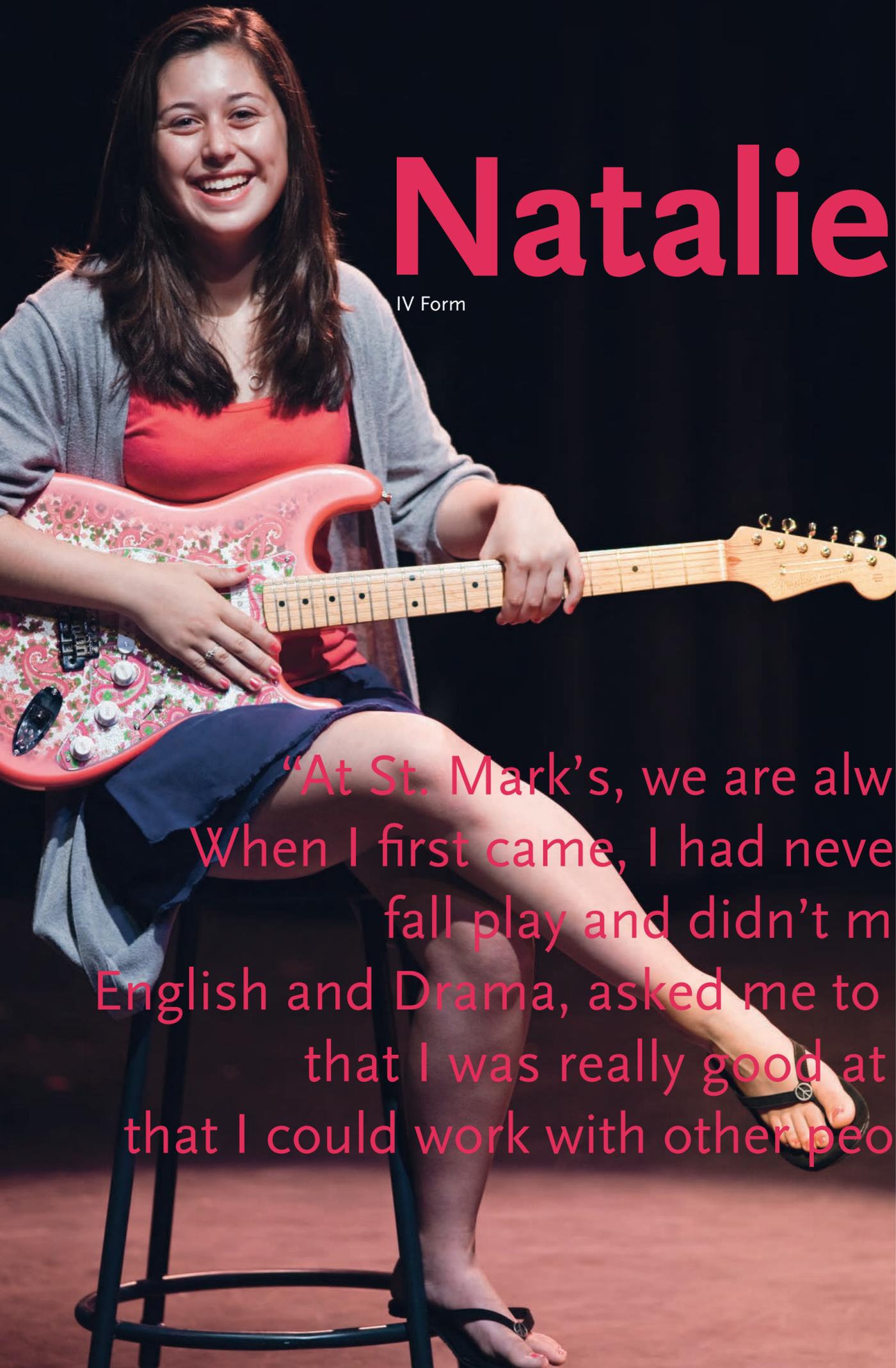
the Huntington Theater Stage, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, the New England Conservatory of Music, the American Repertory Theater, and the Museum of Science. Fans go to Celtics, Red Sox, and Bruins games. In addition, St. Markers travel by bus to New York City each year to attend a performance at the New York Metropolitan Opera.

## Closer to Home: Fun 101

“At St. Mark's, they know how to let kids be kids—inflatable Olympics (slides on the big field), sidewalk chalk, volleyball barbecues, extreme Frisbee, dances, team pizza parties, movies on the quad, open mic nights, kayaking and sailing on the reservoir, quiz shows in the dining hall, hiking, laser tag and paintball, a million ways to shake off pressure and just have fun!”  
—Natalie Armacost, IV Form

More than 30 student organizations provide opportunities for students to explore new interests and make new friends. The Outdoor Club, Asian American Alliance, Cat's Meow (girls a cappella), Gay-Straight Alliance, WSMR (radio station), *Vindex* (literary and arts journal), Surf Club, Ski & Snowboarding Club, Math Club, Human Rights Club, Octet (boys a cappella), God Squad, and Electric Vehicle Club are just a few of the activities available.





# Natalie Armacost

IV Form



“St. Mark’s is competitive—but no one is going to look over your shoulder when you walk out of class with a freshly graded paper. We compete with ourselves and for leadership positions in the community—prefects and peer counseling positions, for example.

“I’m on the Student Activities Committee. We come up with fun ideas—inflatable slides on the main field, a Reggae Band, a volleyball barbecue. At St. Mark’s, they are great at letting kids be kids!”  
  
“When I first came to St. Mark’s, I didn’t know how to manage my time very

well. I learned how to make lists, which seems simple but it’s changed my life!”  
  
“When you do something good at St. Mark’s, people notice it.”



“At St. Mark’s, we are always encouraged to try new things. When I first came, I had never tried acting. I auditioned for the fall play and didn’t make it, but Mr. Baird, who teaches English and Drama, asked me to be the assistant director. I learned that I was really good at directing! It was thrilling to learn that I could work with other people that way. Don’t worry—I got a substantial role in the winter play!”

“Many students spend a year abroad, in Spain, France, or Germany. And we take many trips, to Peru, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. I want our curriculum to be relevant. I want our students to have a sense of themselves in the world.”

“I grew up in Barcelona during the Franco dictatorship, when women were quite subservient. My father bought me a typewriter and said, ‘Why study? Learn to type instead.’ I already have,’ I told him. Ever since I was very young, I’ve loved teaching. ‘Esther, could you explain this to the class,’ the teacher would say. My family lost

everything in the Spanish Civil War, so we kids had to contribute to the household. I came to America when I was 26, in 1986. In 1987, I began teaching Spanish at St. Mark’s.

“From the beginning, I was adamant about full immersion. We use college-level textbooks and I improvise a lot. Each student must take up to Level III in the language they choose. Then, if they like, they can continue to Level IV, a transition to the AP Level.

Over the summer, we use Skype to tutor students who want to move to the next level.

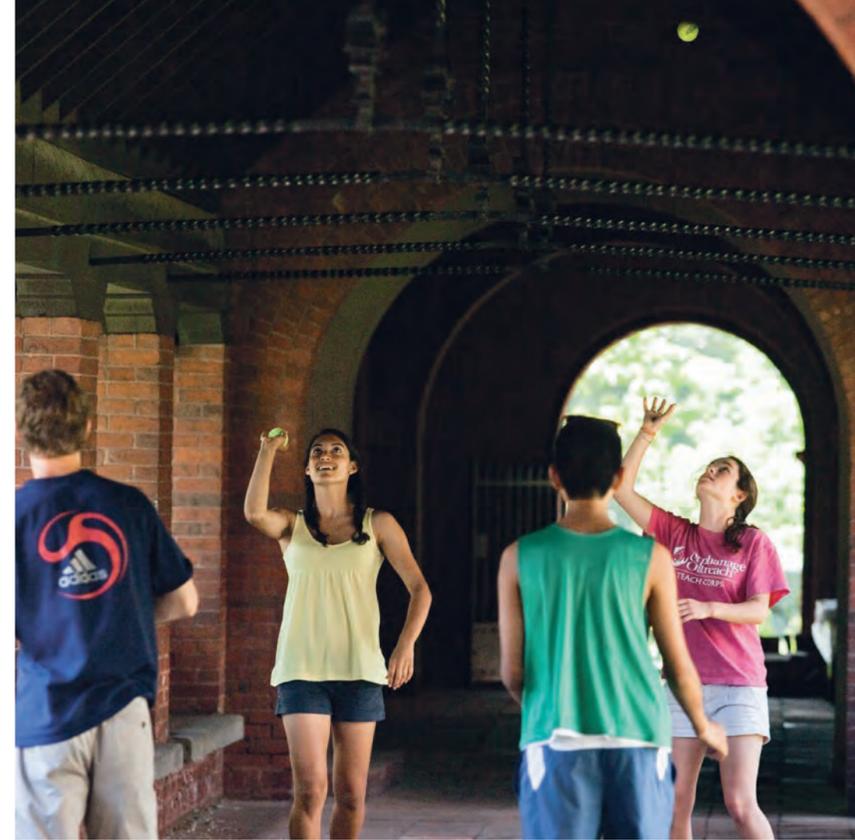
“Many of my students go on to international careers. They invite me to their weddings! We don’t friend students on Facebook when they are here, but after they leave, we stay in touch. What better job can I have to make an impact?”



# Esther Sanchez

Modern Languages Chair





## Don't Worry (Mom and Dad)

"It took my parents a little while to adjust to my being away from home. When I first came to St. Mark's, my mother called me every day, in the dorm, when I was at dinner, and even once during study hall, when I couldn't answer! My advisor finally called to say, 'Don't worry,' and now my mother calls him if she can't reach me!"

—Natalie Armacost, IV Form

"I was worried that, being 3,000 miles away, I wouldn't be able to stay informed and involved. I needn't have worried. Thanks to the Dean's weekly newsletter, the Parents' Association meetings that we can 'attend' through a call-in number, easy availability of the Faculty Advisor and Dorm Parent, Parents' Weekend, and the Head's visit to the West Coast, St. Mark's does a superb job of keeping parents in the loop."

—Lynda Boyer

The dormitories at St. Mark's are safe and comfortable. Each of the ten

houses has at least two faculty members living in residence. St. Mark's has a fully equipped health services building on campus, with a nurse on duty 24 hours a day. Students have access to any of the renowned major medical services nearby, including UMass Medical Center in Worcester and, in Boston, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Children's Hospital. Two School counselors are available to students daily. The counseling program is supported by V and VI Formers, who serve as peer discussion leaders and peer counselors, respectively.

"As a parent of a St. Mark's student, I am constantly touched by the feeling of family connection and sense of community that is shared among the faculty and students. The mutual respect is clearly evident in this wonderful environment, not only in the classrooms and on the athletic fields, but throughout the entire campus."

—Sharon Gosselin

"Thank you for taking such good care of Adam. He looks relaxed and happy!"

—Ada Cimpeanu

"At first, there's the separation anxiety. I called my son Tim every day. Was he getting enough to eat? Enough sleep? Was he too cold? (He's a Californian!) Was he making any friends? He was always rushing off to do something. Each day, he sounded a little more confident, a little busier. So I cut back. After a few days, he called and said, 'Mom, how come you never call me anymore?'"

—Tina Kwok



## Be Happy (These Alumni/ae Were)

### What do *they* remember?

"I thoroughly enjoyed the chapel. I always go there first when I come back to visit. After a challenging day in the classroom and on the athletic field, I found the chapel to be a source of warmth and support, with its eerie, resonant acoustics and its grotesquely carved gargoyles. That building has soul.

"The other great memory that always springs to mind is the ice skating on the ponds by Thayer Field. The air was cold and heavy, and to fly around the ice was a real joy. At the time we were skating, the light was fading earlier every day, closing in on the winter solstice. It was a good cold."

—Matthew Pease '69

"What do I remember? The great friendships I made, which are alive and well today. Playing hockey in Madison Square Garden and beating St. Paul's...then going on to win the Private School League. We sure had some skaters! Chapel once a day and twice on Sunday. We really knew the Old Prayer Book by heart!"

—Eric Rosenberger '63

#### Distinguished Alumni/ae

Benjamin Bradlee '39,  
*Vice President, Editor of the Washington Post*  
Tarah Donoghue '00,  
*Former Press Secretary to First Lady Laura Bush*  
Thomas Kean '53, *Governor of New Jersey, President of Drew University*  
Suzanne King '81,  
*U.S. Olympic Cross Country Skier, 1994 and 1998*

Story Musgrave '53,  
*Pioneering Space Shuttle Astronaut, (six times in space), Surgeon, Teacher*  
Jordan Nardino '96,  
*Writer for the television series, "Gilmore Girls"*  
Potter Palmer '52, *Owner of the Harlem Globe Trotters and the Atlanta Braves*  
Walter Robb '71, *President of Whole Foods Markets*  
John Marshall Sculley '57,  
*Former President of PepsiCo and former CEO of Apple*

"Though their experiences were all unique, St. Mark's helped each of our children find what they love and then encouraged them to excel in these areas. That's what St. Mark's does for all students: it provides an education that's a spark, a catalyst, to give students both direction and confidence.

—John Farr '77 P'07, '08, '10

Age Quod Agis  
Do and Be Your Best

This is the St. Mark's motto. It means: Try new things. Stay involved. Encourage deep thinking. Wrestle with big, important questions. Be a better listener. Embody your values. Identify and overcome your obstacles.

How do we encourage this growth? Our small, supportive community makes students feel confident and safe enough to take creative and intellectual risks, to fail, to succeed, to ask for help. Leadership and service: We give students the confidence to become leaders; to take responsibility not just for their own lives but for the lives of others. We help students, in all of our programs,

to see themselves as citizens of the world, and we provide them with a set of skills that will be relevant and useful in their lives as community members and global citizens.



**One-on-One Guidance**

Each St. Mark's faculty member also serves as an advisor to an average of five students. They meet with their advisees twice a week. They go to their advisees' games and performances and help guide them through decisions—about classes and colleges and cocurricular pursuits—that can seem overwhelming. They are also a key link to parents and stay in touch via telephone and email throughout the year.

**Community Service**

Community service is not mandatory, but many St. Markers choose to participate in one of the following programs.

**St. Mark's Society:**

Students raise money for various relief efforts and organizations, such as the Hurricane Katrina and Asian Tsunami Relief efforts, the Jimmy Fund School Program, the Jubilee Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts' African AIDS Project, and many local charities.

**MetroWest Boys & Girls Club:**

Students serve as after-school tutors and play-partners at the MetroWest Boys & Girls Club in nearby Marlborough.

**Our Father's Table:**

On one afternoon each week, students help with meal preparation, service, and clean-up at a local Baptist church in Marlborough.

**Brantwood Camp:**

St. Markers serve as counselors for inner-city children at this 70-year-old camp in nearby Peterborough, New Hampshire.

**Lutheran Social Services Programs:**

Students participate in a holiday fund and gift drive for local developmentally disabled children, teenage mothers and their children, and recent refugees in nearby Worcester, Massachusetts.

**Support for the Ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem:**

St. Mark's has been a companion school with St. George's School for Boys in East Jerusalem. The St. Mark's Society contributes to scholarships for the most needy boys.



Why am I here?  
What is the purpose of life?

# Who, What, When, Where



St. Mark's School  
25 Marlboro Road  
Southborough, MA 01772-9105

**Phone:** 508-786-6000

**Fax:** 508-786-6102

**Email:** [admission@stmarksschool.org](mailto:admission@stmarksschool.org)

**Website:** [www.stmarksschool.org](http://www.stmarksschool.org)

To schedule a campus visit,  
call 508-786-6118 or email us at  
[admission@stmarksschool.org](mailto:admission@stmarksschool.org).

## Statement of Nondiscriminatory Policy

St. Mark's School admits students of any race, color, religion, sexual orientation, and national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, and national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial aid programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs.

## Sustainability

In valuing cooperation over self-interest and recognizing our role as global citizens, St. Mark's School actively fosters environmental stewardship and sustainable development in its education, planning and practices. To that end, this project, which used Finch Fine recycled paper:

- preserved 6 trees
- saved 2,691 gallons of wastewater flow
- conserved 4,487,320 BTUs
- preserved 586 lbs. of net greenhouse gases
- saved 18 lbs. of waterborne waste
- saved 298 lbs. of solid waste



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## Mission Statement

St. Mark's School educates young people for lives of leadership and service. Founded in 1865 as an intentionally small residential community, the School challenges its students to develop their particular analytic and creative capabilities by both inspiring their academic and spiritual curiosity and kindling their passion for discovery. We value cooperation over self-interest, and we encourage each person to explore his or her place in the larger world beyond our campus.

St. Mark's is a coeducational 9–12 college-preparatory school located 23 miles west of Boston. Affiliated with the Episcopal Church and rooted in that tradition, St. Mark's embraces the rich diversity of the many faiths and nationalities of our students, faculty, and staff.

“You are not a vessel I empty  
information into. I see the future and  
it looks uncertain. You are going to  
have to do a lot of real problem solving.  
Where are we going to get clean water?  
How are we going to stop having  
economic meltdowns? I may not be able  
to get you to be passionate about  
a particular subject, but I can get you  
to be passionate about asking a lot  
of questions.”

—Lynette Sumpter, Dean of Academics, History & Social Sciences



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