

Sandy Spring Friends School Announces Appointment of Kay Mason as Head of Lower School



The Lower School Hiring Committee is thrilled to announce the appointment of Kay Mason as the new Lower School division head at SSFS. Kay was selected after a nationwide search that brought many excellent candidates to our campus. Kay begins her role as Head of Lower School in early April 2025.

Kay has over 30 years of experience in PreK-12 independent school teaching and leadership, most recently as Head of School at St. Andrew's School, an independent K-5 institution located in Richmond, VA. Kay has also served as Head of Lower School at Isidore Newman School in New Orleans, LA and as Head of Lower School at Columbus Academy in Columbus, OH, where she was also a classroom teacher for 22 years.

Kay earned her Bachelor of Science degree in communications from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Arts in elementary education from The Ohio State University.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP (EXCERPTS)

“Educating children of all ages requires that from the first day to the last, there is an atmosphere of trust, respect, and a collaborative spirit modeled by the adults and practiced by the students.

I believe that an educational leader is a person who works well with people, provides consistent clear communication, is able to be an active listener and strategic thinker, and firmly advocates for the ongoing development and support for faculty and staff to continue to elevate the education of students—all with joy and dedication to the mission.”

EDUCATION

- MA, Elementary Education, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- BS, Communications, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022-2024 - Head of School, St. Andrew's School (K-5), Richmond, VA
- 2018-2022 - Head of Lower School, Isidore Newman School, New Orleans, LA
- 2013-2018 - Head of Lower School, Columbus Academy, Columbus, OH
- 2012-2013 - Interim Head of Lower School, Columbus Academy
- 2005-2010 - Administrative Liaison for the Lower School, Columbus Academy
- 1990-2012 - Classroom Teacher, Columbus Academy