

# TEACHER FEATURE



## What is your secret to working with 3-year-old students?

"I approach them as capable and rational people and try very hard to show them that I understand their perspective. It's important to me that they know they are worthy of all the information I have to share."

## How do you incorporate outdoor learning into your day?

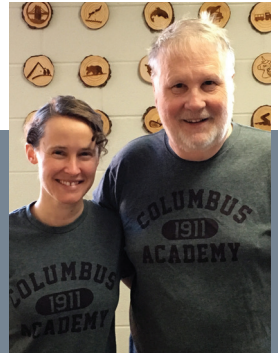
"We learn through play. When we go outside, we focus on using our senses, imagining what it would be like to experience the world as an animal. We talk about using our 'owl eyes' and navigating over obstacles as a squirrel or a deer would. Seeing the world through a different perspective helps the children exercise empathy as well as their motor skills."

## What is your advice for seeing the world through the eyes of a 3-year-old?

"Slow down, use all of your senses to experience the world. Be present."

## GRACE GORDON

*Explorers Program*



## What is it like being part of the community at Columbus Academy?

"It's a community accepting of diversity. Emphasis is placed on teaching the children about acceptance and awareness of other customs and cultures very early on. We have pictures in our classroom depicting the children's families, and we talk about the many ways we're the same as well as different. Parents visit and talk about family traditions, and we read books that reflect the uniqueness of many different customs."

## What is something not many people know about you?

"My great-great-grandfather (Foster Copeland) was one of the founders of Columbus Academy. Also, my father (Chip Gordon '68, above right) and uncle (Jim Gordon '66) are both proud alumni!"

## What is a favorite memory from teaching at Columbus Academy?

"The fall 2018 Lower School Campout. Parents, teachers and students all stood around the campfire on an uncomfortably hot and humid night. Despite the temperature, everyone was happily standing around the fire singing songs, and I had a deep feeling of gratitude rush over me. It was my first year and I felt like I had joined a huge family."

