



The Academy is pleased to welcome three new teachers to our faculty:

Michael Cardozo is currently an M.A.T. candidate at Smith College and will receive his degree in May. He received his B.A. in Biology from Wesleyan University. As a student teacher and tutor for the last two years, he has taught Biology, Environmental Science and Mathematics. Stephanie Purington says of Mr. Cardozo “Mike thoroughly engaged the students when he taught a biology lesson. He had them jumping up and down, literally, to introduce a lesson on cellular respiration. Mike was impressed by the engagement of the students and also by the sense of community here at The Academy.”

Mr. Cardozo has significant scientific research experience and a depth of scholarship that supports both fluency in the language of scientific thought and deep content knowledge. He is an athlete and an accomplished musician. He will teach science and math courses, and will likely contribute in the studio blocks and on the playing fields.

Neale Gay comes to The Academy from Mohawk Trail Regional High School where he has been teaching History and English for nine years. He has extensive experience in interdisciplinary Humanities course development and teaching. During his tenure at Mohawk, Mr. Gay developed the school’s International Exchange program. In his capacity as Advanced Placement Literature and Composition teacher, he worked with guidance counselors and students during the college process. Mr. Gay brings a passion for the arts to The Academy, having directed plays and also having been a founding member of the Mohawk Arts and Education Council, bringing theatre, live music, poetry and fiction readings, and fine arts to the district. He has a B.A. in Classics and an M Ed. from the University of Massachusetts, and will serve in the capacity of upper school Humanities teacher and College Counselor at The Academy.

Nancy Henderson notes that “Neale Gay comes to the Academy with a wealth of experience doing what we do best, delivering a classical education. I am looking forward to having him as a simultaneously seasoned and innovative colleague.”

Caitlin Scudder will teach Spanish at The Academy and will also likely contribute in the studio blocks and on the playing fields. She received her B.A. in English and Spanish from Amherst College where she was recruited for the woman’s basketball team, and is currently enrolled in the M.A.T. program at Smith College, from which she will receive her degree in May. She has native-level fluency in Spanish and has lived and studied in Costa Rica. Jane Grant observed that when Ms. Scudder taught a Spanish II class during the interview process, “her lesson plan was well-crafted and, more importantly, the students responded well to her and her presentation.” Senora Grant is pleased to know that she is leaving her “beloved Spanish classes to a teacher who will bring both affection for them and excitement for the joy and rewards of learning Spanish.”

Ms. Scudder has tutored and taught both English and Spanish speaking students. She designed a summer Spanish literacy program for middle school students, and established a grassroots literacy program and public library in a rural Costa Rican village. She is also a poet, photographer, and outdoor enthusiast.