



Meet Our New Staff, 2022-23



Allie Blosser joins us as the Upper School Academic Dean and College Counselor. She holds a B.A. in English with a minor in Art History, M.A. in Literature in English, and a Ph.D. with Distinction in Cultural and Educational Policy Studies. Before Allie's work as a professor of education and leadership studies, she served as an independent school teacher (both middle and high), department chair, and college advisor. Allie's professional background, her value-alignment with Quaker education, and her vocation to prepare students to build more just communities, embody the ideals that shape our school curriculum and environment.



Allison Seymour joined us in June as the new Director of Advancement. Allison holds a B.A. in Religious Studies and Biology and a Masters of Divinity from Wake Forest University. She previously served at both High Point Friends Meeting and High Point Friends School. Allison is a lifelong Quaker and brings her experience in relationship building, Quakerism, education, and fundraising to this new role. Allison shared, "I am immensely grateful to be a part of this community and to use my gifts and talents in collaboration with others."



Atayah (AJ) Smith is a familiar face on both campuses as she has taken on many roles here at NGFS. She first joined our community in the Extended Care program and then the Summer Camp program as a counselor and Preschool program leader. AJ has also served as an assistant athletics coach and substitute classroom teacher. In August, AJ will join the A Child's Garden teaching team as a teaching assistant in the Sunflower (Pre-K/TK) classroom.



Cara Kiser joins the Lower School campus as a teacher in the Sunrise (kindergarten) classroom. Cara has a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood/Childhood Education and Musical Theater Performance from the State University of New York College at Cortland. She has experience teaching Pre-K, Kindergarten, and first grade and has previously taught at High Point Friends School and Allen Jay Elementary School.



Jen Sherman joins us as a part-time Lower School Counselor. Jen received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance Performance and Choreography from UNCG and a Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health from NC State University. She is a licensed clinical mental health counselor and has received certification from the National Board for Certified Counselors. Jen was most recently a counselor at Greensboro Montessori School. Please join me in welcoming Jen to New Garden Friends School. Her children Claire and Miles will also be joining the NGFS community.



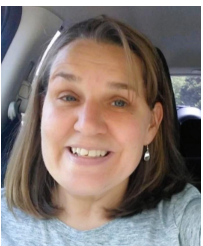
Katie Shoaf joins the Middle School teaching team as our Science teacher. She received a B.S. in Environmental Science with a minor in Agricultural Science from Ferrum College where she was a member of the Boone Honors Program, served as Vice President of Panther Christian Athletes, and sat on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Katie was a competitive swimmer for 15 years, four of which were at Ferrum College where she served as a team captain for three years. Growing up, she spent most of her time outside with her animals, playing in the woods, and exploring the mountains of western NC. Katie said, "I cannot wait to share my passion for science with my students."



Lizely Lopez joins us as our Middle and Upper School Spanish teacher. Her teaching experience includes Spanish instruction at higher learning institutions, Distance Learning teaching in Spanish, World and Caribbean literature, Film and Cultural Studies, Ethnomusicology, English as a Second Language, and Language Arts. Lizely holds a B.A. in Secondary English Education and an M.A. in Romance Languages and Literatures with a concentration in Spanish, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Modern Foreign Languages.



Nichole Deno joins the Rainbow (grades 1 and 2) teaching team. Nichole has nine years of experience as an elementary school educator, as well as experience as a preschool director. Nichole received her B.A. in Elementary Education from Appalachian State University and completed student teaching in Mexico.



Renee Gaunt returns to our community in the front office on Guilford Campus where she previously worked from 2005-2009. Renee received a B.A. in Communications from Catawba College and worked in several educational settings, including Guilford College and The Experiential School of Greensboro. Renee enjoys spending time with her family, her husband Andrew and sons Will and James. They enjoy hiking and adventures with their dog Nina.