

Sandra Cordes-Vaughan
Middle School Division Leader/Humanities Teacher

Sandra Cordes-Vaughan is a teacher who is both inspired and inspiring. She is constantly searching for new ways to infuse her teaching with meaning and purpose. Perhaps the most powerful teaching tool Sandy demonstrates is that she models for the students exactly what she expects of them. She sets high standards for herself and they are evident in each lesson she prepares. She is a voracious reader who is intrigued by new ideas and incorporates them into her lessons. Just ask her what her favorite book is and she will offer a list...her favorite book as a young child, her favorite novel to teach, her most recent read.....and on and on it goes. She is not afraid to try something new, even if it does not always turn out the way she hopes. All of these qualities result in a teacher and a classroom that are happy and vibrant.

Sandy has been at Sage for the past 14 years as the Middle School Division Leader and a Humanities Instructor. She came to be a teacher after attending law school and practicing as an attorney. When you meet Sandy you know instantly that she is a teacher through and through, and while we can certainly imagine that she was an excellent lawyer, at Sage she has demonstrated herself to be an outstanding teacher. She enjoys finding new challenges for her students, from originating the middle school travel program to leading the annual division hike up Mt. Monadnock in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. Her academic background and professional training also provide a great depth to her knowledge when teaching humanities. However, what she loves most about Sage is that it is truly a community of learners. Her students recently inspired her to write a paper for a local organization that fosters adult scholarship. The subject of the paper was the graphic novel as a transition in art and literature, a topic she would not have pursued had it not been for the encouragement of her students. She is also appreciative of the school's support for her summer studies; for example, for the past three summers she has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate in teacher workshops on African American history in Washington, DC, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Mark Twain.