



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
GIRARD ACADEMIC MUSIC PROGRAM**

2136 RITNER STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19145



Ms. Jovan A. Moore *Principal*
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Dr. Martin Woodside, *Asst. Principal*
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Dear GAMP Family,

It is with great pleasure that I write to introduce myself as the new Assistant Principal at the Girard Academic Music Program. GAMP is one of the most successful and well-respected schools in the School District of Philadelphia, and I look forward to the opportunity to help it continue living up to this reputation. I share Principal Moore's vision of a college preparatory school that is both rigorous and cooperative, and I am eager to see all students at GAMP learn, grow, and succeed, both as individuals and as a shared learning community. I am a strong believer both in public education and arts education and excited to work with you to make the 2019-2020 school year a success.

Though my path to GAMP was a bit circuitous, I have worked as an educator for the past twenty years. I started my career in the Compton Unified School District as a special education teacher. Since then I have taught diverse populations in a range of settings, from elementary school students in Oakland, California to graduate students in Bucharest, Romania. I earned my Ph.D. in Childhood Studies from Rutgers University-Camden and, for several years, taught writing and literature classes at the college and community college level. Before coming to GAMP, I served as a Principal Fellow in the district, working at Olney Elementary School. I am committed to educational equity, which seems to me the most pressing social justice issue of our time, and to working toward a world in which every student has the access and opportunity to develop and thrive.

There is a lot of good work on this front going on in Philadelphia, in the District, and at GAMP. I grew up in Brooklyn, New York but am proud to call Philadelphia my home. I have two kids, who attend public school in the city, and I understand the challenges parents face in preparing their children to succeed in a fast-changing world. GAMP does an excellent job in this regard, and I am committed to making sure the school continues to do so, producing good outcomes for our students and refining a model that other schools can learn from. I look forward to meeting you in person during the coming school year. Please feel free to reach out to me at anytime.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martin Woodside