

PROFILE

MICHAEL KARIN

PEER PROFILE

Given the intriguing task to generate a list of characteristics of an ideal school person; it would be worthwhile to start by describing the venerable Mike Karin. Some might even suggest that would also be where to end, the list being complete. The wide-eyed enthusiasm Mike displayed when first arriving at Gops from Bates College, his quest to learn and to grow, to engage and to contribute, to move forward as an educator continue to be the hallmarks of his esteemed tenure on our campus.

Mike can masterfully teach any course in the mathematics curriculum, he adeptly guided the Department serving as Chair, and he is an endless resource of knowledge and support for his current and former students and his colleagues. Not one to suffer fleeting fads, Mike artfully blends technology and innovation with proven pedagogic methods, always providing what most of his students would call their best classroom experience. Mike is fair, consistent, and encouraging, and those he teaches respect him for holding them to the highest of standards and admire him for bringing out their best.

Coach Karin has an equally significant impact with his charges on the pitch, his varsity soccer teams routinely racking up league wins, tournament victories, and New England Championships. He has done this as the head coach of both the boys' and girls' teams. The girls' record in the past 5 years, for example, is 52-21-12, with one undefeated season, an ISL Championship, and two New England Championships. But if you want to see Mike smile with the greatest satisfaction, ask him about the JV Girls Hockey teams that he has coached. You'll quickly understand that it's not only the passion to compete that matters, it's the joy of play that means the most to him.

When he's not visiting family or relaxing at his summer lakeside getaway, the Gops campus is Mike's home, a place he cares as deeply about as anyone who knows the origins of the Little Red Schoolhouse. More accurately, it's the people connected to this school that Mike cares about. His commitment to all of us is unflinching, and he is an essential repository of institutional memory and a compass for our institutional conscience.



Photo: David Oxtou

YEARS AT THE ACADEMY:

30

EDUCATION:

B.S. in mathematics, Bates College

M.S.T. in mathematics, University of New Hampshire

RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES:

Teaching mathematics and computer science; coaching varsity girls soccer and JV girls hockey

FAVORITE BOOKS:

Unbroken, Laura Hillenbrand;
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon; *Bringing Down the House*, Ben Mezrich;
The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls

FAVORITE MUSIC:

Van Morrison, The Who, Simon & Garfunkel, Adele, The Rolling Stones, Roy Orbison, and anything played by the Morning Meeting Band

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Mathematics, computer programming, baseball, soccer, hockey, and college football

PASSIONS:

The English Premier League

GREATEST SATISFACTION:

Coaching an undefeated 2012 girls soccer team. Not just the wins, but also the quality of play on the field. Having close to 30 girls play four years of JV girls hockey over the past 16 years