

# On Campus with the Gilbert Family

By Melanie Balash, Photos by Andrew Jordan



Strolling up the sidewalk to this historical, signature white home with its black shutters on the Western Reserve Academy campus, I was greeted by Margi and Todd Gilbert and their dog, Julius Peppers (named after their favorite football player). They have two sweet little girls, Brooklyn (almost 5) and Callan (17 months).

Margi and Todd, both teachers, met while teaching at the Alexandria Country Day School in Alexandria, Virginia. They were married on March 23, 2012 in Old Town Alexandria, in a gazebo along the Potomac River with a reception following in Washington D.C.

They moved to Hudson in 2013 with a career opportunity for Todd at the beautiful Western Reserve Academy (WRA), a day and boarding school for high school students. Todd teaches English and Creative Writing and serves as the Chair of the English Department. He very much enjoys the imaginative and explorative opportunities WRA provides its students, and he loves how invested the students are in their learning. Additionally, as part of WRA's Saturday Academy (ECHO), Todd also leads a restaurant class where students visit and meet with Hudson

establishments and learn about writing mission statements, menu engineering, and creating effective logos.

Living on campus, Todd and Margi also recognize that they are teachers by example; students see the love and commitment they have to their family and how they balance work and life. They take that role just as seriously.

Margi also has a family connection to WRA that began long before she moved to Hudson. Her brother, Todd Weaver, graduated from WRA in 1989, and Margi can recall fondly the days when he wore the school's trademark green blazer. Sadly, her brother, working his dream job for a financial firm in the World Trade Center, lost his life during the tragic events on 9/11. The school honors him by giving an annual award for student-leaders in his name, and by hanging his retired football jersey in the Murdough Athletic Center on campus.

Originally from North Canton, Margi graduated from Hoover High School, and continued her studies at Miami University earning a degree in elementary education. Todd grew up in Carmel, New York, and upon graduation from high school



attended Tulane University earning his degree in English. Todd recently finished the second chapter of his academic journey as he received his Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from New York University. His program took him twice a year to study in Paris, France, and this past summer, the family traveled to France to watch Todd graduate. They turned this trip into a memorable two-week tour of Europe where they spent time in France, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, and Belgium.

Todd coaches soccer and baseball, and also plays in a weekly soccer game with friends. Margi, no longer a classroom teacher, focuses her energy on raising the girls and getting Brooklyn to preschool, ballet or art class. When given the opportunity, Margi enjoys reading, yoga, and running. Occasionally, she'll take the girls on a picnic to watch Todd's WRA games in hopes that they'll win and get to ring the school's victory bell.

The Gilberts have enjoyed the friendships they've made in Hudson. They love this incredible community, and they greatly appreciate all that Hudson and Western Reserve Academy have to offer their family.

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