

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

LIVING A CORNERSTONE LIFE - KARLIE GILES, '03



Karlite Giles, '03, attended Cornerstone from Preschool through Eighth Grade and then returned after college to teach. We talked with her recently about how Cornerstone is part of her past, present, and future.

How would you describe your time as a student at The Cornerstone School?

The foundation that built my love of learning and my self-confidence. The teachers here at Cornerstone really fostered my ability to believe in myself and understand that with hard work, I can accomplish anything.

What is your fondest Cornerstone memory?

Mr. Moe giving me a test on all 206 bones in the body in Seventh Grade. Also, the field trips that we got to take together as a class truly bonded us as a family.

Any favorite teachers when you were a student?

This is a hard question, but Mrs. Hager and Mrs. Margarita are the ones that I have the best memories of. They were my inspirations in what a fantastic teacher looks like and what pushed me to become an educator myself.

Any advice for recent Cornerstone graduates that you wish you had known when you graduated?

Enjoy the ride and don't sweat the small stuff.

Where did you go to high school?

I went to Belleview and Trinity Catholic.

Did you attend college?

Yes, UCF. I studied Elementary Education.

Did you feel that your time at Cornerstone prepared you for your high school/college career? If so, how?

One hundred percent! The education foundation that I received here at Cornerstone truly helped mold me into a model student. And I learned problem-solving skills that helped me to navigate the new world that was high school.

What is your current career/where are you working now?

I am currently the Fourth and Fifth Grade Science and Math Teacher at Cornerstone.

What inspired you to go into teaching?

Mrs. Hager and Mrs. Margarita. They inspired me at a young age and I hope that I can continue to do the same for my students.

How long have you been a teacher?

10 years.

Why did you want to teach at Cornerstone?

Why would I go anywhere else? Not only are the students fabulous, but I wanted to be a part of the educational experience that students get that truly is with them for the rest of their lives. I wanted to make a difference in my students' lives for the better, just as the teachers did for me. Teach the whole child and be a positive influence in their lives.



You have a unique perspective about the school. How do your experiences as a former Cornerstone student affect your teaching? Oh gosh, honestly I want to provide the same amazing educational experience as I got while here. These years, even though I didn't know or appreciate it at the time, were some of my best.

How has Cornerstone changed since you were a student?

The campus may have changed but the mission and the sense of community are the same. The dedication of the teachers to the students is just as strong as it always has been. It's home. It will always be home.

Tell us more about your family.

Well, I met my husband Bryan while playing soccer. We have two children who are both now playing the sport we love. My son, Grant, who is 5, attends Junior Kindergarten at Cornerstone and my daughter, Brynley, who is 3, will be attending preschool in August. I think by me teaching at Cornerstone and having my children attend the school speaks volumes about how much I truly believe in this school and the mission.

What do you do in your spare time?

I chase my children around as we play soccer. We are also avid boaters, and we liked to spend family time together on the water.