BROOKFIELD ACADEMY

Brookfield Academy has been a constant presence in my life for as long as I can remember, and I truly mean that in every sense of the word.

I grew up at Brookfield Academy, where my mom served as a Lower School teacher for almost 20 years. This gave me an early appreciation for the dedication, care, and professionalism of the faculty and staff. As a student and later as a Brookfield Academy alumnus, the school instilled in me values that continue to guide my life today—hard work, accountability, leadership, fine-tuned intuitiveness, and community involvement.

In high school, I learned to balance sports and academics, and I even worked at the school in the summer, earning some spending money. I learned firsthand that every role matters and pride in your work, no matter the task, is part of what makes Brookfield Academy special. Those lessons, practices, games, and championships remained with me throughout my collegiate soccer career at Cornell University and into my professional life as a business owner and community leader here in Brookfield, with The Elbow Room.

Today, my connection to Brookfield Academy is deeper than ever. My wife, Nicole, has worked at BA for the past 15 years; and we are incredibly proud of the role she plays in the school community. As a current parent, watching our children grow and thrive at the same institution that shaped me has been both humbling and rewarding—especially as my youngest daughter now finishes her senior year at Brookfield Academy and my eldest, a BA alumna, is a junior at Florida Gulf Coast University.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to give back through service—whether as the 2026 Dinner Auction Chair, helping support important fundraising efforts, or as a volunteer assistant coach for the Brookfield Academy girls varsity soccer team, where I get to mentor student-athletes and reinforce the same teamwork, discipline, and confidence that sports once taught me.

Having experienced Brookfield Academy as a child of a teacher, a BA lifer student, an employee, an alumnus, a volunteer, a coach, a spouse of a long-time staff member, an alum parent, and a current parent, I can say without hesitation that this school delivers on its Mission at every level, especially if you put in the effort. It is rare to find a community so deeply connected across generations and roles.

The only title I haven't earned yet is Brookfield Academy grandparent, and I'm perfectly content waiting for that one.

Brookfield Academy doesn't just educate students; it becomes part of your family. I am proud of its past, confident in its future, and grateful for the role it has played in shaping my life and the lives of those I love.

— Jacob "Jake" Dehne '95