

# T F E E A A C T H U E R R E

## Little known fact:

"I attended six schools from K-12, starting with kindergarten at Jean Jacques Rousseau Elementary in Quito, Ecuador."

## Experiencing art in class:

"Academy hosts local guest artists from Columbus who have brought their studio practice to the classroom for students to experience first-hand."

**On the range of media middle-schoolers study:** "Middle school students explore a variety of media in 2D and 3D art and design. From foundational drawing, painting and printmaking to choice-based mixed-media and technology."

## Secret to working with the middle school age group:

"I remind myself what it felt like to be a student navigating the ups and downs of adolescence. Listen. Be flexible."

**Memorable moment:** "When I was interviewing and teaching my demo lesson at Academy, an 8th grade art class at 8:05 a.m., one particular student raised his hand right away and helped to get other students engaged in

discussion, on task, and the activity moving forward. Sometimes there's a student whose instincts kick in and they become your partner in the learning process.

Thank you, Ryan Hunker, class of '20!"

## Advice to students who aspire to a creative career:

"The creative industry is as vast and varied as you can imagine. A creative practice can also elevate your professional and personal life. There are so many stories of entrepreneurs, doctors, educators, people of so many other professions who once studied art and now have that creative outlet to enrich who they are. Following your creativity can provide opportunities to stretch yourself in new ways."

"Being part of the community at Columbus Academy is like being a student all over again! Learning from students and colleagues fills my head and heart."

## Fine Arts Department Chair

**Pedro Mena** joined Columbus

Academy in 2016. He teaches middle school art and is assistant director of diversity and community life for middle school. Pedro founded and leads CASA, our Hispanic and Latino/a heritage affinity group for middle school students.

"Art is all around us."

"It can help us understand ourselves and our world better."



# Pedro Mena