

MARINERS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FACULTY BIOS

2018-2019

Sady Amend: Fourth Grade Teacher

Sady Amend graduated from the University of Wyoming with a B.A. in Elementary Education. She taught third grade and fourth grade prior to working at Mariners Christian School. After growing up and beginning her teaching career in Wyoming, Mrs. Amend and her husband moved to Los Angeles in 2014. They currently live in Cypress, California and attend Knott Avenue Christian Church. She enjoys reading, cooking, and camping anytime she has a chance! Mrs. Amend loves working with the fourth grade team at MCS as they study California's state history. She joined the MCS staff in 2015.

Christine Aghaian: Middle School Spanish Teacher

Mrs. Aghaian has been teaching Spanish to grades K-12 for over 20 years. She has her undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California and her Master's degree, specializing in T.E.S.O.L., from the United States International University. She holds two single subject credentials and has trained foreign language teachers throughout her extensive career in education, specializing in the communicative approach to learning. Mrs. Aghaian is dedicated to creating a positive and collaborative teaching environment in which students feel comfortable to share their own ideas, ask questions, support each other, and engage seriously in their own learning. She and her husband live in Huntington Beach with their three sons and being an active parent helps her better understand the needs of her students. When she is not teaching, she enjoys spending time with her family, attending church, and cooking. Mrs. Aghaian joined the staff in 2017.

Tim Bahadoor: Middle School Bible Teacher

Born in Trinidad, Tim Bahadoor earned his B.A. with a teaching credential from Vanguard University, an M.A. in Educational Administration from National University, and an M.A. in Organizational Leadership from Biola University. He is married to Lisa, his wonderful wife, and God has blessed them with three sons: Timothy Isaac, Noah James, and Isaiah Lincoln. He loves to play all sports, especially golf. Mr. Bahadoor began teaching in Christian schools in 1989 and joined the MCS staff in 1997.

Victoria Boler: Elementary General Music Teacher

Mrs. Boler and her husband recently moved to California from Tennessee where she was the Conductor of Lee University Children's Choral in Cleveland. She has been working with the Arts and Learning Conservatory since arriving in Orange County. Victoria is a certified Kindergarten through 12th Grade Music Teacher and is committed to high quality, Christ-centered instruction in instrumental and vocal music. She graduated from Lee University with degrees in Instrumental and Vocal Music Education. Prior to moving to California, Mrs. Boler was the head of Children and Family Ministries at her local church. The Bolers currently attend Fellowship Church in Monrovia. Victoria joined the staff in 2017.

Ali Bray: Difference Maker Program

Ali Bray was raised in Southern California and attended the University of California, San Diego. She graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Human Development and minors in History and Cognitive Science. She and her husband Drew have two children, Logan and Callen. Ali joined the MCS staff in 2012 as the Art Teacher for 4th grade through Middle School and served as the MCS Admissions Director for two years before moving into her current position. She joined the MCS staff in 2012.

Samantha Brooks: Third-Eighth Grade Girls PE Teacher and Assistant Athletic Director

Mrs. Brooks, who is a Southern California native, graduated from Biola University with a B.S. in Physical Education – Teaching and Coaching and a minor in Bible. She received her Single Subject Teaching Credential and Masters in Physical Education from Azusa Pacific University. She and her husband attend Antioch Community Church, in Fullerton. She participated in cross-country, track and field, and basketball throughout her high school years and developed her passion to teach and coach through the influence of her father who was also a coach and PE teacher. Her passion for Christ, athletics, and education has been continually growing throughout her life and those passions are what led her here to Mariners. Samantha joined the staff in 2015.

Jonathan Brown: Middle School Math Intervention Specialist

Mr. Brown graduated from CALTECH in Pasadena where he earned his electrical engineering degree. He has worked as a missionary for many years through Campus Crusade's high school ministry, Student Venture, and has taught every level of math from 6th grade to AP Calculus. God has gifted him to be able to present potentially complex and confusing information in ways that feel understandable and to empower students that feel overwhelmed. He is a specialist in identifying learning styles and deficits then teaching in a way that builds confidence and mastery. Mr. Brown and his wife Melissa are the proud parents of 8 amazing children. They love family and often assist others through parenting and marriage workshops. Mr. Brown is excited about joining the MCS family and looks forward to what God will do. He joined the MCS Staff in 2018.

Jan Bryant: Middle School English Teacher

Mrs. Bryant has lived in Southern California all her life. She is married to Ed (a pastor and tooth-maker!!) and has two grown children. Though educated in fine public schools, her teaching experience of more than 30 years has been in Christian education. She graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a double major in English literature and French phonetics and has a clear multiple subject K-12 credential. Mrs. Bryant enjoys walking, cooking, and gardening. After teaching in a small Christian school near Los Angeles, she joined the MCS staff in 2004 and loves partnering with parents and coworkers here.

Talene Campbell: Third Grade Teacher

Mrs. Campbell loves southern California and has lived here all her life. She received her B.A. in Anthropology as well as her California teaching credential from Vanguard University of Southern California. Prior to joining the third grade team, Mrs. Campbell was a fifth grade teacher at MCS. Mrs. Campbell has also worked as The Student Life Director for the MCS middle school. Talene and her husband attend Rock Harbor Church. She enjoys reading, cooking, and playing with her kittens. Mrs. Campbell joined the MCS staff in 2014.

Chris Carpenter: Middle School Science

Mr. Carpenter grew up in Newport Beach prior to graduating from the University of Montana with a B.A. in Biological Education and a Minor in Wildlife Biology. He has also received a Masters of Education in Integrating Technology into the Classroom from Walden University. Chris has his teaching credentials in California, Washington, Colorado, and Montana. This will be his 9th year in the classroom (13th in education) teaching science at both the middle and high school levels. He and his family attend Mariners Church Huntington Beach where they enjoy leading a Lifegroup. His wife, Lacey, is a Pediatric Physicians Assistant and they have two children: Aubree (3rd Grade) and Kasen (K) who also attend MCS. Mr. Carpenter enjoys anything outdoors, exploring new places with his family, and all things Frisbee. He joined the MCS family in 2017!

Sue Celek: Community Connector

Mrs. Celek grew up in Ohio on Lake Erie and graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a teaching credential. Her teaching experience includes middle school language arts and elementary music. She joined MCS first as a second grade teacher, and then served as a vice-principal and

elementary principal before moving into her current role. She is the mother of two married daughters: Lauren and Emily, both MCS alumni. Her husband Tim is on staff at The Crossing, and they love seeing God at work in the lives of people. Mrs. Celek enjoys being with her family, motorcycle riding with her husband, reading, and being a grandmother to two fun boys. She feels it is an honor to be part of the amazing MCS school community. She joined the MCS staff in 1994.

Kristen Chandler: Transitional Kindergarten Teacher

Kristen Chandler is a southern California native and earned her B.A. degree in Liberal Studies Education from San Diego State University and received her California Clear Credential and ESL Supplement from Chapman University. The majority of her years as an educator were in the Newport Mesa Unified School District where she taught kindergarten through 6th grade. She also mentored and led Literacy Instruction and Staff Development in the NMUSD. Her favorite teaching experience has been working in a research-based educational enrichment setting at Whiz Kids with 4 and 5 year olds where students are gently guided in developing their fine motor skills and begin letter and sound recognition through puppets and many fun hands-on experiences. She is a member of The W Church in Newport Beach. She has two sons: Austin (MCS Graduating Class of 2016) and Luke Chandler (MCS Graduating Class of 2017). She joined the MCS staff in 2014.

Lisa Collier: Seventh Grade Language Arts

Lisa Collier has lived in Orange County her whole life. She earned her B.A. in Psychology, Masters in Education, and California credential from Vanguard University. Prior to becoming a credentialed teacher, she worked as a preschool teacher, an interior design assistant, and then as a classroom aide for six years at MCS. Shortly after receiving her teaching credential, she taught 3rd grade at MCS for nine years, and 5th grade for one year. Lisa has two children, Elijah and Mia, and she attends Calvary Chapel in Tustin. She enjoys reading, attending her son's football games, daughter's basketball games, and spending time with friends. Mrs. Collier joined the MCS staff in 2000.

Chelsea Dogterom: Elementary Educational Technology Coach

Mrs. Dogterom is a Southern California native. She graduated from Vanguard University with a B.A. in Liberal Studies and received her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and Master's in Instructional Computer Applications from California Baptist University. She and her husband attend church at Rock Harbor Costa Mesa Campus. She enjoys amusement parks, singing, watching movies and spending time with her family and friends. Her passions are helping others, children and technology. She is thrilled to be part of the MCS family and help impact the students of MCS as they grow spiritually and academically. She joined the staff in 2017.

Angela Drevlow: First Grade Teacher

Angela Drevlow loves Southern California and has lived here her whole life. Mrs. Drevlow is a National Board Certified Teacher in the area of Early and Middle Childhood Literacy. She has a Master's Degree in Education from Pepperdine University. Mrs. Drevlow has spent years educating students in LAUSD and Orange County in Kindergarten and First Grade. Angela and her husband Matt live in Irvine. God has blessed them with three children: Jayden, Chase, and Cassidy. The Drevlow family attend and serve at Mariners Church. She enjoys reading, golf, paddle boarding, baking and spending time with her family. Mrs. Drevlow joined the MCS staff in 2016.

Mindy Gatchell: Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs. Gatchell graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University and received a master's degree from Southwestern Seminary. She received her teaching credential from National University and a second master's degree in Reading and Language Arts from Cal State Fullerton. She has taught at MCS for 21 years: 11 years in kindergarten, 5 years in 2nd, 4 years in 3rd, and one year teaching English, Bible, and math in middle school.

She is married to Seth, who is a pastor at Pacific Church of Irvine. She has 3 adult children, and she especially enjoys teaching children to read and making the Bible come alive for them. Mrs. Gatchell joined the MCS staff in 1995.

Brandi Gibbs: Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs. Gibbs is native of Oklahoma. She moved to California to attend Concordia University in Irvine where she met her husband of 12 years. She graduated with a Christian Education Leadership degree and has her California Teaching Credential. Before teaching, Mrs. Gibbs worked in Children's Ministry and then had the opportunity to stay at home as a mom while her children were young before entering the classroom as a first grade teacher where she spent her years before joining the MCS staff. She and her husband, along with their 3 children: Sammy - 4th grade, Adalee - 3rd grade, and Sophia - Kindergarten, attend ROCKHARBOR Church. She loves spending time with her family, dating her husband, being outdoors, sushi, good coffee, and laughing a lot. Mrs. Gibbs joined the MCS staff in 2017.

Ellyn Gibo: Third Grade Teacher

Mrs. Gibo earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education, a minor in Biblical Studies, and an emphasis in Special Education from Biola University. Ellyn loves teaching 3rd grade, is passionate about Christian education, and considers teaching to be her ministry. The Gibos have been married since 2015 and attend Rock Harbor church and are involved in the South Africa ministry. Ellyn joined the MCS family in 2014.

Amy Green: Middle School History Teacher

Ms. Green grew up in Long Beach and graduated from California State University at Dominguez Hills with a B.A. in History and received her single subject teaching credential in Social Studies. She received her Masters of Teaching in Curriculum and Instruction in May of 2016. Before her career in teaching, Ms. Green spent the last decade working with Kindergarten - 8th grade students both in and out of the classroom, with a majority of this time spent in Middle School youth ministry. She enjoys reading, road trips, and adventuring in new cities. She has thoroughly enjoyed her years of teaching at MCS and looks forward to many more years here. She joined the MCS faculty and staff in 2015.

Karly Hammans: Transitional Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs. Hammans received both her B.A. in Psychology and teaching credential from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. After college, she stayed in San Diego and taught both Kindergarten and 1st grade. After the birth of her two sons, she was fortunate enough to stay home with them full-time. However, through God's perfect timing, she was very excited to get back into the classroom and to the profession that she both loves and feels called to. Karly and her husband, Kyle, moved to Orange County 4 years ago. They recently celebrated their 14 year wedding anniversary and have two boys at MCS, Jackson who will be in 2nd grade and Walker who is in Kindergarten. Prior to joining the TK team, Karly taught 2nd grade at Mariners. She joined the MCS staff in 2014.

Kelly Han: First Grade Teacher

Miss Han is a California native and graduated from the University of California, Riverside with a B.A. in Art History. She received her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential at the University of California, Irvine. After receiving her credential, Miss Han taught at international schools in China and South Korea for six years. She taught first grade and kindergarten in Shanghai for two years followed by teaching kindergarten in Seoul for four years. Miss Han is a member of Exodus 3 Church in Irvine. She enjoys visiting museums, bouldering and all things crafty. Miss Han joined the MCS staff in 2018

John Hellriegel: Middle School Bible Teacher

Mr. Hellriegel grew up in California. He attended Saddleback Community College and then graduated from California State University at Chico with his B.A. in Social Studies and earned his teaching credential. He earned a Masters in Educational Technology from National University. John finished his Master's degree in Christian Apologetics from Biola in 2007 and enjoys sharing his passion for developing tough-minded, tender-hearted teens for Christ through his apologetics curriculum website, www.Biblelessons4youth.com, and through speaking engagements. John's real passion in life, however, is his wife Julie (who is also on staff), his son Shane, and his daughter Tessa. Teaching since 1992, He attends Compass Bible Church in Aliso Viejo. Mr. Hellriegel joined the MCS staff in 1995.

Shelby Johnston: Seventh Grade Math Teacher

Ms. Johnston grew up in the East Bay Area. She graduated from Pepperdine University with a B.A. in Math Education and a California Teaching Credential. Her passion is for sharing her intellectual curiosity with students and helping them develop a growth mindset for mathematics. Ms. Johnston has served on the worship team at Malibu Presbyterian Church for the past two years. She enjoys playing piano, ukulele, and singing. Ms. Johnston joined the staff in 2018.

Brian Jones: Middle School History Teacher

Brian Jones was born in Long Beach, California and grew up in the nearby city of Fountain Valley. After graduating from Fountain Valley High School (1997) Mr. Jones attended Biola University where he studied education and played baseball for the Eagles. He holds a degree in Christian Education as well as a teaching credential from Biola University (2002). Mr. Jones also holds a Master's Degree in Educational Technology from National University (2006). Mr. Jones joined the MCS staff in 2002 and has since taught several grade levels. Mr. Jones enjoys playing basketball, golf, and his guitar. Over the years at MCS he has taught many students how to play the guitar. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have two young sons, Turner and Shepherd. Turner will attend kindergarten at MCS this year. Mr. Jones is excited to begin his 7th year of teaching 8th grade US History.

Jennifer Kish: Fourth Grade Teacher

Ms. Kish graduated from California Baptist University, in Riverside, with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and received a Master's Degree in Education from Biola University. She is a member of Beachpoint Church in Fountain Valley, where she has served in various capacities over the years. Ms. Kish enjoys reading, the beach, mission trips, bike rides, volunteering, and cheering for the Anaheim Ducks. Ms. Kish also enjoys spending time with her 5th grade "Little Sister" she mentors through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County. She especially enjoys introducing her "Little Sister" to new experiences that she would otherwise not have the opportunity to try. Prior to joining MCS, Ms. Kish worked in the Social Work field, lived and worked at a Christian Camp for several years, and taught for over 10 years in Public Schools. Ms. Kish joined the MCS faculty in 2012.

Kristin Knecht: Fifth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Knecht was born and raised in Southern California and earned her degree and California teaching credential at Chapman University. She is passionate about the ministry of Christian education and has been a Christian School educator for over 18 years. Kristin and her husband, Tim, attend Mariners Church Mission Viejo along with their daughter, Riley, who graduated from MCS in 2016. Mrs. Knecht joined the MCS staff in 2012.

Morgan Knight: Middle School Science Teacher

Mrs. Knight grew up in Southern California and graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a B.A. in Liberal Studies with a Science Concentration. She also completed her California Teaching Credential and Master's in

Education: Learning and Technology at APU. Mrs. Knight is passionate about Christian School education and is thrilled to be part of the MCS team. Morgan and her husband, Tyler, are members of Bethany Church in West Covina and have been involved with youth ministries for many years. Mrs. Knight joined the staff in 2014.

Bing Liu: Middle School Science Teacher

Mrs. Liu grew up in San Francisco where she attended the University of California at Berkeley and earned a B.A. degree in Biochemistry. She worked in science laboratories for eight years before receiving her teaching credential from California State University at Fullerton. Bing and her husband, Sam, are members of Koinonia Community Baptist Church in Irvine. They have two children: Kristen (MCS alumna, class of 2015) and Joshua (MCS class of 2018). She enjoys reading and music. Mrs. Liu joined the MCS staff in 2004.

Hannah Loula: First Grade Teacher

Miss Loula has a Bachelor's Degree in Learning Disabilities as well as Elementary Education from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. When she's not teaching, Hannah enjoys going to the beach, volunteering, reading, worship, and spending time with her family and friends. She looks forward to seeing all of the incredible ways the Lord will move in the lives of students each year at MCS. Miss Loula joined the staff in 2015.

Christopher Lucas: Band Teacher

Mr. Lucas was born and raised in Bakersfield, California and moved to Orange County to attend Vanguard University. In May of 2015, Mr. Lucas graduated with his bachelor's degree in Music Education. During his free time, Mr. Lucas enjoys running, playing basketball, practicing musical instruments, and spending time with family and friends. Mr. Lucas is grateful to be a part of the MCS staff where he teaches 4th-8th grade students the attitudes, skills, and facets of music and worship in order to contribute to their development as mature, able, and responsible Christian men and women to the praise and glory of God. Mr. Lucas joined the MCS staff in 2016.

Sara Lunsford: Middle School Theatre Director

Ms. Lunsford grew up in a farming community in Illinois which she lovingly refers to as "God's Country". She graduated from Millikin University with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. She spent many years performing in various Broadway musicals, for theme parks, and traveled the world as a headliner on cruise ships. After settling in California, she became the Director of Christian Education at Christ Church by the Sea and found her passion working with children and directing children's musicals. She teaches private theatre and voice and her students have been seen on Broadway in NYC as well as in various TV shows and movies. Her home church is Newport Harbor Lutheran but she can be found singing in various churches on Sunday mornings. Ms. Lunsford joined the staff in 2016.

Lynda Lynch: Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs. Lynch, who is a native Californian, graduated from California State University at Fullerton with a B.A. in Liberal Studies/Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Education in Teaching and Learning from Brandman University. Lynda received her California teaching credential from Chapman University. She has many years of experience as a kindergarten teacher and has prior experience teaching grades kindergarten through third. Lynda is married to Patrick and they have two children, Ariel and Kristin. She enjoys reading, traveling, bike riding, movies, walking, art, music, the beach, and being with her family. Mrs. Lynch joined the MCS staff in 2007.

Kristine McCarty: Elementary Student Support Specialist

Mrs. McCarty, who is a native Californian, graduated from Biola University with a B.A. in Speech Therapy and a double minor in Biblical Studies and Fine Art. She received her Masters of Special Education from Chapman University and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership in the area of Teaching and Learning in Special

Education from Azusa Pacific University. She has a California multiple subject teaching credential and an Education Specialist credential. Kristine began her career in education as an ABA therapist for The Autism Partnership in Long Beach. She then taught special education at a public school in Norwalk, California. Kristine has also worked as an RSP teacher and mentor teacher at Friends Christian School and The Prentice School. She and her husband, Tom, are members of Friends Christian Church in Fullerton. Mrs. McCarty is the mother of two daughters, Keira, an 8th grader at Friends Christian Middle School and Karise, a 6th grader at The Prentice School. She enjoys helping with her daughters' school activities, crocheting, and spending time at the beach. Mrs. McCarty joined the MCS staff in 2017.

Karri Meyer: Second Grade Teacher

Mrs. Meyer is from Southern California and holds a B.A. in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Physical Education from California State University at San Bernardino and her credential and M.A. in Multicultural Education from National University. She has experience working in group homes. Prior to becoming a second grade teacher, she taught physical education for the 3rd grade boys and girls and 4th-8th grade girls and coached our girls' basketball, volleyball, and softball teams. She and her husband, Tony, have three children (Jake, Luke and Kayla) and they attend Mariners Church. She enjoys all sports and upcycling. Mrs. Meyer joined the MCS staff in 1996.

Angie Nakamoto: After School Program Care Director

Mrs. Nakamoto graduated from Biola University with a B.A. in Sociology. She has nearly 20 years of youth development experience and worked as a Division Director at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Garden Grove. Angie's husband, Matt, is the Pastor of New Vision Fellowship located in Westminster. They are the proud parents of daughter Fia (MCS class of 2016) and son Vili (MCS class of 2019). Mrs. Nakamoto enjoys spending time with family and doing ministry work with her church family. She joined the staff in 2014.

Katie Niles: Middle School Dean of Students

Mrs. Niles, originally from the Bay Area, earned both her Bachelors degree and teaching credential from Biola University. She first felt God's calling to middle school ministry while in college and has been serving middle school students ever since. After receiving her credential, Mrs. Niles and her husband, Andrew, followed God's leading to the Black Forest Academy in Germany where they taught middle school business and missionary students for three years before Mrs. Niles was invited to become a part of the MCS community. Currently attending Calvary Church of Santa Ana, Mrs. Niles and her husband enjoy reading, creating/crafting, traveling, cooking, and spending time with family. Mrs. Niles joined the MCS Staff in 2017.

Mirranda Parks: Third Grade Teacher

Miss Parks grew up in Fresno, California and moved to southern California where she attended California Baptist University. She earned her Masters in Education and Multiple Subject Credential and has taught third grade in the Riverside Unified School District for the past two years. There she was a leader for Personalized Learning for her grade level, which facilitated her passion of meeting the needs of all learners. Miss Parks attends Rock Harbor Church where she serves by leading a women's Bible study. She loves the outdoors, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. Miss Parks joined the MCS Staff in 2018.

Melissa Peña: Spanish Teacher

Miss Peña, a native Southern Californian, graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois with a B.A. in Spanish and minor in Christian Education. She earned her Masters in Teaching with CA Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials at Biola University. During her studies, she lived in and traveled to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Cuba, Guatemala, and Ecuador. Prior to becoming an educator, Miss Peña worked as a swim instructor in Irvine and adventure challenge coordinator in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. She is a member of Rock Harbor Church in

Mission Viejo. Miss Peña enjoys watching sunsets at the beach, playing soccer, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends. Miss Peña is overjoyed to teach at MCS. Miss Peña joined the MCS staff in 2015.

Briana Petrarca: Second Grade Teacher

Mrs. Petrarca graduated from Vanguard University of Southern California with a BA in Liberal Studies and a minor in Psychology. She continued her graduate education at Vanguard where she received her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and is currently working on her MA in Curriculum Development and Assessment. Prior to joining Mariners, Mrs. Petrarca taught first grade in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District for two years. She and her husband, Dillon, are members of The W Church, in Newport Beach, where Dillon is the Family Pastor. Mrs. Petrarca is the proud mother of her son, Grayson, who will be two in February. She enjoys Disneyland, working out, crafting, and making memories with her family.

Sharee Pfaff: Maker Education Facilitator

Mrs. Pfaff, an Orange County native, holds a B.A. from the University of California San Diego and a teaching credential from Chapman University. She received her M.S. in Education with an emphasis in Reading from California State University Fullerton. She has many years of experience teaching grades K-2 in both private and public school settings. She has two children ages 14 and 10, and both children attend MCS. Sharee and her husband, Sean, attend Mariners Church Irvine. She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, doing calligraphy, decorating creative cakes, and flying on the trapeze. Mrs. Pfaff joined the MCS staff in 2009.

Pax Pulido: Technical Arts Director

Mr. Pax, who is a native Californian, graduated from Vanguard University of Southern California with a B.A. in Religion. Prior to becoming an educator, Mr. Pax owned and operated a Christian concert company that promoted and held concerts for bands such as The Benjamin Gate, John Reuben, East West and others. Mr. Pax was the college pastor at The Crossing Church and worship/technical arts leader for High School, College and main services. He has 15 years' experience as an Audio Visual Engineer and Technical Director working at various churches in Southern California including Mariners Church, Firehouse Church, St. Peters By The Sea and others. Mr. Pax currently attends The Crossing Church. He enjoys playing baseball and soccer, playing and recording music, interior decorating, home improvement and spending time with his family. Mr. Pax joined the MCS staff in 2012.

Andrew Rahm: Digital Learning Coach

Mr. Rahm, who is a native Californian from Hacienda Heights, graduated from Biola University with a B.S. in Business Management and a Master's in Education Technology from Azusa Pacific University. Prior to becoming an educator, Mr. Rahm worked as an executive at Target for four years. He attends EV Free Church in Fullerton. Besides teaching at MCS, Mr. Rahm is a volleyball coach with ACT Volleyball Club in Yorba Linda. He enjoys playing Hockey and working on various projects around his house. Mr. Rahm joined the MCS staff in 2013.

Terri Rodriguez: Educational Technology/Maker Education Strategic Planning Director

Mrs. Rodriguez is from Southern California and is married to Robert. They have one daughter, Natalya (an MCS 2005 alumni and 2013 Wheaton graduate). Mrs. Rodriguez earned a B.S. degree in Information and Computer Sciences from the University of California at Irvine and recently received a Master of Arts in teaching degree from USC. Before working for MCS, she worked as a software developer in the aerospace industry and as a professional instructor, teaching software analysis and design courses at companies across the United States. Away from MCS, Mrs. Rodriguez enjoys outdoor activities, reading, sports, and travel. Mrs. Rodriguez joined the MCS staff in 1999.

Angie Rounsevell: Fifth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Rounsevell was born and raised in Newport Beach, and graduated from Indiana University with a B.S. in Marketing. She worked in entertainment media after college, but felt called to teaching after volunteering with the middle school ministry at RockHarbor. She earned her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and Master's Degree from UCI, and has taught in both public and private schools. Recently, she has been teaching Language Arts, Math, and History at the middle school level and also has experience teaching in both first and third grade. She attends Grace Fellowship Church with her husband Jared. She was married in the summer of 2018. She loves cooking, spin classes, and traveling.

Juliet Sanita: Kindergarten – Eighth Grade Art Teacher

Mrs. Sanita graduated from the University of California in Irvine with a B.A. in Studio Art. She holds a California Clear Multiple Subject teaching credential and a CA Single Subject Credential in Art. Prior to joining MCS, Mrs. Sanita taught 6th grade in California and then 3rd, 6th and 8th grade at Hana High and Elementary School in Hana, Maui where she and her family lived for 8 years. Mrs. Sanita has four children: Makana, 12th grade (Newport Harbor); Kealoha, 10th grade (Newport Harbor), Kawai, 7th grade; and Mahea, 7th grade. She and her husband, Chris, have been married for 20 years. She and her family are active members of Viewpoint Church in Newport Beach. She enjoys running marathons, surfing, being outdoors, painting and spending time with her family. She joined the MCS staff in 2013.

Paulette Seaman: Student Life Director

Ms. Seaman graduated from Vanguard University with a BA in Liberal Studies with a Physical Education emphasis. She played basketball all four years during her undergraduate education at Vanguard, where her team advanced to the NAIA Div. 1 Final Four. The following year Ms. Seaman completed her Teaching Credential courses and returned to the Women's Basketball Program as an assistant coach. After receiving her Credential, Ms. Seaman began her career at Prince of Peace School in Costa Mesa, where she taught two years of K-6th PE and three years of second grade. She enjoys all sports and has a passion for outdoor activities, such as wakeboarding and surfing. One of her favorite pastimes is traveling, especially to Texas to visit with her nieces and sister. Ms. Seaman joined the MCS staff in 2010 as the Girls' Physical Education Teacher, and is currently serving as the Student Activities Director.

Leilen Shelton: Middle School History Teacher

Mrs. Shelton is a graduate of U.C. Santa Barbara with a B.A. in History. She earned her teaching credential from Cal State Long Beach. She taught middle school English and history for eight years in the Fountain Valley School District before taking time off to have children. While at home, she worked part-time as a writing tutor. Leilen and her husband, Jason, are members of Seaside Community Church in Huntington Beach. She is the mother of two children, Myles and Sydney. She enjoys reading, traveling, and hanging out at the beach with her family. Mrs. Shelton joined the MCS staff in 2009.

Brandy Sick: Elementary Dean of Students

Mrs. Sick has over 20 years of experience in education and holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction as well as her Administrative Credential from USC. Brandy has two children, one in middle school and one in high school. She and her husband have been members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach for 15 years. Mrs. Sick joined the MCS staff in 2018.

Allison Skelly: Second Grade Teacher

Mrs. Skelly was born and raised in southern California and graduated from Vanguard University with a B.A. in Liberal Studies and an emphasis in math. She also received her teaching credential from Vanguard University. Allison taught 1st grade at MCS during the 2015-2016 school year and then took a year off to stay home with

her newborn daughter, Mattison. Prior to working at MCS, she worked as a 5th grade teacher, RTI teacher, and Instructional Aid. She and her husband Matt are members of Calvary Church of Santa Ana. She enjoys camping, hiking, waterfalls, baking and spending time with her husband, daughter, and their three year old puppy. Mrs. Skelly joined the staff in 2015 and 2017.

Sammy Soyring: Fourth Grade Teacher

Mr. Soyring grew up in Tucson, Arizona before moving to Southern California. He graduated from Azusa Pacific University with his B.A. in Business Management, then earned his Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and M.A.Ed in Teaching. During his time at APU he played four years of baseball as a middle infielder for the Cougars. Mr. Soyring's love for sports and coaching led him to pursue a career in the classroom. Mr. Soyring has taught for the Bonita Unified School District in San Dimas, CA and for the Poudre School District in Fort Collins, CO. Mr. Soyring has a son (Shane) and he and his wife Caitlin attend Mariners Church Huntington Beach. He enjoys cycling, playing golf, sailing and spending time with family and friends. Mr. Soyring joined the MCS staff in 2017.

Chris Spurgin: Middle School Math Teacher

Mr. Spurgin grew up in Irvine and graduated from Biola University with a B.A. in Christian Education. He received his teaching credential and M.A. from Concordia University, Irvine. Mr. Spurgin, along with his brother and two sisters, graduated from Mariners Christian School. He and his wife Kristy, who is also a teacher, attend Crossline Community Church in Laguna Hills. They are blessed with two children: Hailey (age 6) attends 1st grade at MCS, and Micah (age 2). Outside of teaching, Mr. Spurgin enjoys watching Angels baseball, playing the guitar, snowboarding, and spending time with his family. He joined the MCS staff in 2010.

Jené Streeter: Seventh Grade Math Teacher

Jené Streeter grew up in Southern California and Hawaii as the daughter of a conservative Methodist minister. She graduated from Taylor University in Upland, Indiana with a B.A. in Psychology. She later graduated from Chapman University with a multiple subject teaching credential and an M.A. in General Education. While working in the Jurupa Unified School District, she participated in Mathematical ACTS, a two-year program based out of UC Riverside. This hands-on math program strengthened and developed new teaching strategies, math fluency and number sense. Prior to becoming an educator, she worked in ministry on the east coast for Charles Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministries in Washington, D.C. Ms. Streeter currently attends Mariners Church in Irvine. In her free time, Jené loves to bake, take trips to the beach, paint, draw, and occasionally sneak in a movie. Ms. Streeter joined the MCS staff in 2007.

Mac Thompson: Athletic Director and Second-Eighth Grade Boys PE Teacher

Mr. Thompson, a native Californian, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona where he played on the men's soccer team and earned his B.S. in Kinesiology and Health Promotions. He coached women's soccer at Cal State Northridge (Division 1) from 1999 to 2003. He has also coached competitive club soccer for ten years with various clubs including Real So Cal (one of the top clubs in the country). Coach Thompson spent three years as the Athletic Director and PE Teacher at Laurence School in Valley Glen prior to joining MCS. He has also spent time on the Olympic Development Program (ODP) staff coaching soccer. Mac also owns and operates soccer6, an adult recreational soccer league which has been serving the OC community since 2010. He earned his M.A. in Coaching and Athletic Administration from Concordia University in 2012. He and his wife, Idalia, attend Friends Christian Church in Yorba Linda. They have two sons and a daughter. Coach Thompson also enjoys surfing, snowboarding, playing soccer, and playing guitar. Mr. Thompson joined the MCS staff in 2008.

Tami Thurston: Middle School English Teacher

Mrs. Thurston is a native of Southern California. She and her husband Greg have two sons, Walker (MCS Alum) and Parker (MCS Alum) and one daughter, Lilly (5th grade). Tami graduated from Westmont College

with her B.A. and earned an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix. She loves to read, spend time with her family, and attend as many Angels games as possible. The Thurston family attends Beachcities Community Church in Huntington Beach. Mrs. Thurston joined the MCS staff in 1999.

Jiyoung Um: Orchestra Teacher/Director

Mr. Um graduated from The Juilliard School with a Bachelor of Music degree and a Master's of Music degree in violin performance. He also studied at Teachers College at Columbia University for his doctorate degree in Music Education. Mr. Um has given solo performances in various countries and concert halls including, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center (US), Walter Hall (Canada), Sejong Arts Center (Korea) and Teatro Municipal (Columbia). Previously, he served as a music faculty at Biola University. He is the founding music director of I Artisti Chamber Orchestra and also serves at Irvine Onnuri Church as a choir director. Mr. Um's students have been accepted to the Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, Eastman School of Music, Harvard, MIT, Yale, Columbia, USC, UCLA and more. Mr. Um is a member of ASCAP and has a strong passion in worshipping the Lord through his works. He lives in Irvine with his wife Michelle, who is also a pianist and two children Royce and Kate. Mr. Um joined the staff in 2017.

Jenna Van Leer: Fifth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Van Leer received her Bachelor's degree and multiple subject teaching Credential from California State University, Long Beach. She first developed her love for teaching from her local dance studio, where she taught for ten years. Mrs. Van Leer has worked as a substitute and full-time teacher with the Irvine Unified School District and Santa Ana Unified School District. During the summer of 2018, Mrs. Van Leer had the opportunity to attend the Teachers College Writing Institute at Columbia University, and is currently pursuing her Master's in Education at Chapman University. She enjoys reading, cooking, and traveling with her husband Prescott. Mrs. Van Leer joined the staff in 2017.

Crystal Willis: Middle School Student Support Specialist

Mrs. Willis has a Master's Degree in Curriculum Design and Instruction from Concordia University, Irvine and a B.A. in Liberal Studies with a sociology concentration from California State University, Long Beach. Her credential is in K-12 education and she's highly qualified in English. A member of Rock Harbor Church in Costa Mesa, Mrs. Willis loves serving both locally and abroad. In her spare time, she enjoys painting, writing, reading, baking, crafting, volunteering, playing board games, and traveling with her husband Jeff, as well as other friends and family. Mrs. Willis joined the MCS staff in 2014.

Kim Wilson: Third Grade Teacher

Before moving to Southern California, Mrs. Wilson grew up in Rochester, New York. She graduated with both her B.A. in Liberal Studies, as well as her M.A. in Elementary Curriculum from Biola University. Currently, Mrs. Wilson is working on her STEM Certification through NASA and Teachers' College at Columbia University. She, her husband, Ben, and their two children, Everett and Aubrey, attend First Christian Church in Huntington Beach. They welcomed baby #3 into their family in August, 2018. They love camping, and spend much time 'adventuring' toward their family goal of visiting all 60 U.S. National Parks. Mrs. Wilson originally joined the MCS staff in 2004, and again in 2017.