

MARINERS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ADMINISTRATION & FACULTY BIOS

2014-2015

Todd Perkins: Interim Head of School

Todd Perkins received a B.A. and M.S. degree in Psychology from Fresno State University and worked as a school psychologist in Oceanside, California and Charlotte, North Carolina. In 1996, he accepted a position as administrator for Providence Christian School (National Blue Ribbon School – 2003) in Charlotte and was there until 2001. While living in Charlotte, he earned an MBA from the McColl School of Business at Queens College and graduated in 2000. From 2001 to 2005, he held the position of administrator at Solano Christian Academy in Fairfield, California. He and his wife, Julie, are members of the Redlands Church of Christ. They have three sons. Mr. Perkins joined the MCS staff in 2006.

Heather Harrison: Middle School Principal

Mrs. Harrison graduated from Vanguard University with a B.A. in History/Political Science and a minor in Anthropology. She holds a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in curriculum, instruction, and assessment. In addition, she has completed the California Administrative Training Program. Mrs. Harrison has a California teaching credential in History and English Language Arts as well as an administrative credential. Since 2000, Mrs. Harrison has been a middle school educator serving as a teacher, activities director, mentor teacher and assistant principal. She firmly believes God has called her to be a middle school educator and is passionate about ministering to the needs of every student during this important and unique life stage. She and her husband, Josh, attend Rock Harbor Church where he is a teaching pastor. They have two daughters Buze and Marta. She joined the staff in 2013.

Reggie Biancalani: Elementary Principal

Mrs. Biancalani grew up traveling the world as the daughter of an Air Force Pilot. Originally from California, she attended UCLA and graduated with a B.S. in Psychology in 1993. She moved to San Diego to further her studies in a Master's/Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology. While pursuing her Doctorates, she gravitated towards Educational Psychology and worked in a variety of school settings for 6 years in leadership roles. Prior to joining Mariners Christian School, Reggie has spent 8 years as an Elementary Principal for a private Christian School in San Diego. She served as the Accreditation Coordinator for her school and is passionate about Christian education. She and her husband Paolo have been married for 18 years and have 3 boys, a son who is 17, and twins who are 14 years old. She joined the MCS staff in 2013.

Megan Shahabi: Vice Principal

Megan Shahabi received her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts and Master's in Educational Leadership from Pepperdine University. She also received her Teaching Credential and Administrative Credential from Pepperdine University. Mrs. Shahabi has spent 9 years in Christian education serving as Assistant Head of School at Calvary Christian School in Santa Ana for 4 years and teaching fifth grade for 5 years at Calvary Christian School in Pacific Palisades. Megan and her husband Aras attend Mariners Church and live in Irvine. She looks forward to joining the MCS community! She joins the MCS staff this year.

Sue Celek: Family and Student Care Director

Sue Celek grew up in Ohio on Lake Erie and graduated in 1980 from Wheaton College in Illinois with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a teaching credential. She is the mother of two girls, Lauren (24) and Emily (27), both MCS alumni. She and her husband, Tim, attend The Crossing. Sue enjoys being with her family, reading, and motorcycle riding with her husband. She feels it is an honor to be part of the amazing MCS staff and to

serve the students and families of Mariners Christian School. Mrs. Celek joined the MCS staff in 1994 as a second grade teacher, and joined the administration in 1998.

Tim Bahadoor: Middle School Bible and History 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.

Denise Bartlett: Middle School Spanish Teacher

Denise Bartlett is a native Californian and has lived in Huntington Beach for all but six years of her life. She is a University of Southern California graduate with a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism and conducted her internship at Channel 9 news. She worked in the advertising/public relations field until the Lord called her to teach English and Spanish at a Christian school in 1990. She has two sons and is a personal trainer at a gym in Corona del Mar. Mrs. Bartlett joined the MCS staff in 1999.

Ellyn Benefiel – Third Grade Teacher

Ellyn Benefiel earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education, a minor in Biblical Studies, and an emphasis in Special Education from Biola University. As a student teacher, she has second grade teaching experience in the South Whittier School District and at Mariners Christian School. Born and raised in Scottsdale, Arizona, she grew up in a Christian home and accepted the Lord at a very young age. Having attended a Christian middle school and high school where her faith grew because of biblically-centered curriculum and loving teachers, Ellyn believes strongly in the mission and purpose of Christian education. Inspired by her first grade teacher, she believes the Lord placed the call to teach on her life and looks forward to living out her calling here at MCS. Ellyn attends Rock Harbor where she teaches second grade in the elementary ministry and is part of the South Africa mission support. She is humbled by this opportunity to serve MCS students and families. Ellyn joins the MCS staff this year.

Ali Bray - Admissions Director

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 is married to Drew Bray, who is a musician and pastor at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach. They live in the Port Streets with their two children, Logan and Callen, and LOVE their neighborhood! Ali joined the MCS staff in 2012 as the Art Teacher for 4th grade through Middle School. She came to MCS with experience in education and admissions, as she previously worked in admissions at the collegiate level. She is excited to partner with families through the admissions process here at MCS, and hopes to continue to be an “advocate for families” long after the new families have enrolled in Mariners Christian School. She joined the MCS staff in 2012.

Angie Brinkman: Health Office Manager

Mrs. Brinkman was born in California; however, she traveled extensively around the world as a child and adult. She has a B.S. in Logistics and International Business from the University of Maryland. After working in the electronics industry for several years, she decided to be a stay-at-home mom. Once she decided to return to the workforce, she wanted to make a change and decided to become a Medical Assistant and is currently state certified. Her two children, Ryan and Lily, are current students at MCS. She and her husband, Rob, are members of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Irvine. They both serve, along with Ryan, in various ministries. The family enjoys skiing, but she particularly enjoys reading, going to the beach and spending time with her family. Mrs. Brinkman joins the MCS staff this year.

Jan Bryant: Middle School English Teacher

Jan Bryant has lived in Southern California all her life. She is married to Ed and has two grown children. Though educated in fine public schools, her teaching experience has been in Christian education. She graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a double major in English literature and French phonetics. She has a clear multiple subject K-12 credential. Mrs. Bryant enjoys walking, cooking, and gardening. After teaching for over 20 years in a small Christian school near Los Angeles, she joined the MCS staff in 2004.

Talene Campbell: Student Life Director

Mrs. Campbell loves southern California and has lived here all her life. She received her B.A. in Anthropology from Vanguard University of Southern California. She also has a California teaching credential. Prior to joining MCS this year, Mrs. Campbell worked at Rock Harbor Church where she and her husband attend. She enjoys reading, photography, and playing with her kitten, Sir Isaac. Mrs. Campbell joins the MCS staff this year.

Cassandra Carpenter: Fourth Grade Teacher

Cassandra Carpenter was raised in Orange County and grew up attending Mariners Church where her dad is an elder. She graduated from Cal State University Chico with a B.A. in Liberal Studies and a Minor in Spanish. In 2009, she earned her Master's in Education and Teaching Credential from the University of California Irvine. She has worked with a range of elementary grade levels (mostly fourth grade) during the last two years. She is involved with Young Life as well as Youth and Government (a mock government program) at Corona del Mar High School. Cassandra loves being part of the fourth grade team at MCS. Miss Carpenter enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends. Miss Carpenter joined the MCS staff in 2012.

Lisa Collier: Third Grade Teacher

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. Lisa has two children, Elijah and Mia, and she attends Watermark OC Church in Costa Mesa. She enjoys reading, attending her son's football games, and spending time with family. Mrs. Collier joined the MCS staff in 2000.

Kim DeAllen: First Grade Teacher

Kim DeAllen earned her B.A. and teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach and an M.A. degree from the University of Phoenix. Kim has two daughters (a 2012 MCS graduate and an MCS 8th grader) and is a member of Mariners Church. She enjoys reading, photography, cooking and spending quality time with her two girls. Mrs. DeAllen taught kindergarten prior to moving to first grade and joined the MCS staff in 1993.

Mary Filakouridis: Middle School Science Teacher

Mary Filakouridis is a graduate of California State University at Fullerton with a B.A. in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She has a lifetime teaching credential and completed her Masters in Science Education in 2005. She taught three years at Dana Hills High School, six years at Prince of Peace Christian School, and now fifteen years at MCS. Mary has three grown and married children. Her husband is a mechanical engineer and a pastor. Sewing, painting, and camping with her family are the activities she enjoys. Mrs. Filakouridis joined the MCS staff in 1998.

Mindy Gatchell: Kindergarten Teacher

Mindy Gatchell graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University, earned a Masters from Southwestern Baptist Seminary, and received her teaching credential from National University. Five years ago she completed a second Masters in Reading and Language Arts from California State University at Fullerton. She has taught for fifteen years at MCS in kindergarten, second grade, third grade, and middle school math, English, and Bible. Mindy is married to Seth, who has been the pastor at Pacific Church of Irvine for 26 years, and they have three

children. She is involved in women's ministry and children's ministry at her church. Mindy enjoys making the Bible come alive to both children and adults. Mrs. Gatchell joined the MCS staff in 1995.

Jill Good – Fifth Grade Teacher

Having moved frequently over the past 15 years, Jill Good's education and work experience spans the globe. She earned her B.S. degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Mary Washington, a Master's degree in Christian Education from Princeton Theological Seminary, and Teaching Credential from the University of Richmond. Her experience includes leading an outdoor education program and teaching pre-school, middle school, and elementary students in New Hampshire, New Jersey, Northern Ireland, Virginia, and California. Additionally she has worked in church ministry directing junior and senior high youth groups, leading summer camp ministries, and working as Director for Children's Ministry at a thriving congregation. Mrs. Good was afforded the opportunity to serve as a 4th grade long-term sub here at MCS. Her family moved to California from Virginia a year and a half ago when her husband, Steven, accepted a position as the Associate Pastor of Disciple Making at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach. They have two children Graham (5) and MacKenzie (3). She looks forward to the work God has in store for her at MCS. Jill joins the MCS staff this year.

Hannah Gordon: Fourth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Gordon graduated from the University of Colorado with a B.A. in Psychology and a certification in Elementary Education. She has a Colorado teaching credential as well as an Initial California teaching credential. For the past two years, Mrs. Gordon has taught 5th grade in Denver, Colorado. While teaching in Colorado, she developed a passion for educational technology and has attended and presented at several educational technology conferences. She places a high value on creating a learning environment in her classroom that is safe and encouraging and a place where every student is celebrated. She and her husband, Bret, recently moved to Southern California where Bret grew up. She looks forward to pursuing her hobbies here on the beach! Mrs. Gordon enjoys taking their dog Jimmy for walks, running, photography, and serving in her church community. Hannah is excited and honored to join the staff as a 4th grade teacher. Mrs. Gordon joins the MCS staff this year.

Jennifer Greeley: Middle School English Teacher

Ms. Greeley graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a Bachelor of Arts in English and the University of California, Irvine with her Credential and Masters of Arts in Teaching. Before coming to Mariners, Ms. Greeley spent three years overseas teaching English in Korea and also has experience in the non-profit sector. While completing her graduate studies, she enjoyed becoming involved in the local community and is currently attending Pacific Church of Irvine. Ms. Greeley loves to travel, explore new cultures and languages, and experience God's love and truth. In addition to studying Spanish, Italian, and Korean, Ms. Greeley is passionate about being in nature, playing the guitar, and spending time with her family. She joined the MCS staff in 2013.

Tina Hagerott: Middle School Math Teacher

Mrs. Hagerott grew up in New York and attended college in Connecticut. She earned her Mathematics Teaching Credential along with her Master's Degree in Education from Fairfield University. She has always loved working with students and watching them become excited in their math journey. She has four children and has really enjoyed watching them mature into godly individuals and feels that this has been her greatest accomplishment. She attends Saddleback Church and is very involved and connected with her life group there. In her free time, Mrs. Hagerott enjoys traveling with her family, reading, and dancing. She joined the staff in 2013.

Kimmy Hallman: TK-Third Grade Art Teacher

Kimmy Hallman has taught art at MCS for four years. Mrs. Hallman is a graduate from the University of Texas with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a minor in Art. Prior to joining MCS, Mrs. Hallman taught at Second Baptist in Houston, Texas. She is passionate about instilling a love for art and Christ in the students she teaches. Married to David for twenty-nine years, they have three children: Josh and Joy are graduates of the University of Texas and Jacob in the 7th grade here at MCS. Mrs. Hallman enjoys painting, sewing, gardening and spending time with her family. She joined the MCS staff in 2008 and again in 2012.

Karly Hammans: Second Grade Teacher

Karly 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 at Literacy First Charter School. After the birth of her two sons, she was fortunate enough to stay home with them full-time. Now through God's perfect timing, she is 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, just moved to Orange County this summer. They recently celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary and have two little boys, Jackson (4) and Walker (2). She is thrilled to be teaching 2nd grade at Mariners. She joins the MCS staff this year.

Tricia Heins: General Music Teacher/Performing Arts Director

Tricia Heins has taught in Orange County since 1976 and has teaching experience at all grade levels. She is a graduate of Azusa Pacific University and California State University, Fullerton. She holds a B.A. and an M.A. degree in education and has earned a specialist credential as well. She and her husband Lee have a married daughter who resides in San Clemente and is a graduate of MCS. At home, she enjoys playing the flute, organ and piano. She also enjoys attending high school musicals, especially when her former MCS students are performing. Mrs. Heins joined the MCS Staff in 1996.

John Hellriegel: Middle School Bible and History Teacher

John 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 Masters 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 is active at Compass Bible Church in Aliso Viejo. Mr. Hellriegel joined the MCS staff in 1995.

Stacey Houston: TK – First Grade Physical Education and Yearbook Advisor

Stacey Houston earned her B.S. in Kinesiology and a lifetime teaching credential from California State University, Fullerton. She taught 6th-8th grade Physical Education, 8th grade math, and was the Yearbook and ASB Advisor for the La Habra City School District. She and her husband have three girls and attend Mariners Church in Irvine. When not teaching she enjoys spending time with her family, volleyball, softball, soccer, zumba, photography, singing in the shower, camping, and the beach. She has been teaching at MCS since 2010.

Brian Jones: Middle School Bible and History Teacher

Brian Jones was born in Long Beach, California and grew up in the nearby city of Fountain Valley. He holds an M.A. in Educational Technology from National University, a B.A. in Christian Education, and a teaching credential from Biola University. After teaching fifth grade for eight years, God called Mr. Jones back to Middle School in 2012. He and his wife, Beth, reside in Costa Mesa with their son who was born on Thanksgiving Day in 2012. Mr. Jones joined the MCS staff in 2002.

Jennifer Kish: Fifth Grade Teacher

Jennifer Kish was born and raised in Orange County and is a member of Beachpoint Church in Fountain Valley. She graduated from California Baptist University with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and received a Master's Degree in Education from Biola University. She has almost 15 years of experience teaching first through fifth grades in public education. She enjoys reading, the beach, mission trips, and going to hockey games. Ms. Kish joined the MCS faculty in 2012.

Kristin Knecht: Fourth Grade Teacher

Kristin 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 14 years. Mrs. Knecht and her husband, Tim, attend Mariners Church Mission Viejo along with their daughter, Riley, who attends MCS. Mrs. Knecht joined the MCS staff in 2012.

Laura Koenig: Librarian

Laura Koenig is a Southern California native. She holds a B.A. in History from the University of California in Irvine and earned her California teaching credential through Concordia University. She has been a classroom teacher for nine years, teaching second and first grades as well as Spanish to kindergarten through fifth grades. She developed an early love for libraries watching her mother, who is a retired children's librarian and was the librarian in her elementary schools growing up. The Koenigs are members of Calvary Church, Santa Ana and they have two children, Zachary (MCS graduate) and Rebecca (MCS 8th grader). Laura's husband, David, is the senior editor of a 75 year old trade magazine for the building products industry and the author of four books about Disney. She enjoys reading, traveling, and hiking in the canyon by her home. Mrs. Koenig joined the MCS staff in 1996.

Bing Liu: Middle School Science Teacher

Bing 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 several 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. Their two children, Kristen and Joshua, both attend MCS. She enjoys cooking and playing the guitar. Mrs. Liu joined the MCS staff in 2004.

Lynda Lynch: Kindergarten Teacher

Lynda Lynch, who is a native Californian, graduated from California State University at Fullerton with a B.A. in Liberal Studies/Elementary Education. Lynda received her California teaching credential from Chapman University in Orange, California. 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.

Deb Marley: Theater Arts Instructor

...bio forthcoming

Laurel McMillen: Orchestra Director

(see Amanda Sansonetti: Long-Term Orchestra Sub while Mrs. McMillen is on maternity leave)

Laurel McMillen earned her Bachelor of Music in violin performance from Biola University's Conservatory of Music. She received her teaching credential and M.A. in Education from Vanguard University, where she was honored with the Educational Researcher Award. She is a licensed instructor for MusikGarten, an early childhood music and movement program, and has been teaching violin students of all ages for the past ten years. She began playing the violin at the age of five, and has continued through her involvement with the

Adagio String Quartet, the Christian Performing Artists Fellowship, the La Jolla Symphony, her local church, and other performances. She enjoys traveling, reading, and gardening. Mrs. McMillen joined the MCS staff in 2009.

Karri Meyer: Second Grade Teacher

Karri 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 for abused children and coordinates the summer enrichment programs for MCS. 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 scrapbooking. Mrs. Meyer joined the MCS staff in 1996.

Ann Moe: First Grade Teacher

Ann Moe received her B.A. in Liberal Studies/Elementary Education and her teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach. She taught twelve years in both Christian and public school settings and then went on to be a part-time teacher and a full-time mom before joining MCS. Her daughter is a freshman in high school and graduated from MCS in 2014. She attends Voyagers Bible Church in Irvine and enjoys nature, books, walking, and spending time with her family. She also loves teaching her students about Jesus. Mrs. Moe joined the MCS staff in 2007.

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 recently worked as a Division Director at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Garden Grove. She and her husband, Matt, are members of New Vision Fellowship, a ministry of Calvary Chapel in Westminster. Mrs. Nakamoto is the mother of daughter, Fia (7th grade) and son, Vili (4th grade). She enjoys doing ministry work with her family. Mrs. Nakamoto and her children are excited to join the Mariner's family. Mrs. Nakamoto joins the MCS staff this year.

Susan Nielson: Kindergarten Teacher

Susan Nielson is from Southern California. She earned her B.A. degree and teaching credential from Pepperdine University. Susan and her husband Gary have three children. She enjoys reading, Bible study, music, gardening, movies, bike riding and being with her family. Before coming to MCS in 1987 to teach kindergarten, Mrs. Nielson taught for five years in the L.A. Unified School District.

Krista Ophaug: Fourth and Fifth Grade Science

Krista Ophaug is a native of Southern California and graduated from Biola University in 2004 with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a minor in Biblical Studies. She also earned her M.A. in education from Biola in December of 2007. She taught 4th grade at MCS for six years. After the birth of her first child in 2011, she moved to teaching 4th and 5th grade science on a part-time basis. She attends Friends Church in Yorba Linda, where her husband is the director of young adults and college ministries. They have two young children. Besides her love for teaching, she enjoys running, hiking, traveling for pleasure and mission trips, baking, and spending time with her husband, friends, and family. Mrs. Ophaug joined the MCS staff in 2005.

Morgan Petersen: Middle School Science

Miss Petersen grew up in Southern California and graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a B.A. in Liberal Studies with a Science Concentration. While completing her undergraduate degree at APU, she was given the opportunity to study abroad in South Africa for a semester. This helped broaden her worldview and gave her a new appreciation for God's creation. She also completed her California Teaching Credential through Azusa Pacific University. Miss Petersen is a member of Bethany Church in West Covina and has been involved

with youth ministries for over 8 years. In her free time, Miss Petersen enjoys spending time with her family and friends as well as being active. Miss Petersen is thrilled to be joining the MCS team this year!

Sharee Pfaff: Second Grade Teacher

Sharee 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 five and nine, and both children attend MCS. Sharee and her husband, Sean, attend Mariners Church Mission Viejo. 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.

Andrew Rahm: Middle School Electives

Mr. Rahm, who is a native Californian from Hacienda Heights, graduated from Biola University with a B.S. in Business Management. Prior to becoming an educator, Mr. Rahm worked as an executive at Target for four years. He attends EV Free Church in Fullerton and is also a volunteer on the Rock Harbor Global Reach South Africa leadership Team. Besides teaching at MCS, Mr. Rahm is a volleyball coach at Whittier Christian High School and at Impact Volleyball Club. He enjoys playing Hockey and working on various projects around his house. Mr. Rahm joined the MCS staff in 2013.

Terri Rodriguez: Technology Manager and Computer Teacher

Terri 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.

Alise Salcido: Middle School Spanish Teacher

Mrs. Salcido Perez graduated from California State University Fullerton with a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish. She received her single subject credential in Spanish from California State University Fullerton. Mrs. Salcido Perez is pursuing a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University. She and her husband have been married for three years and live in Fullerton. Mrs. Salcido Perez attends Eastside Christian Church in Anaheim. She is involved with the high school ministry, Ignite, as a small group leader for 9th grade girls. Mrs. Salcido Perez is passionate about communication and using it to glorify God and encourage others. She joins the MCS staff this year.

Juliet Sanita: Fourth – Eighth Grade Art Teacher

Mrs. Sanita graduated from the University of California in Irvine with a B.A in Studio Art. She has a California Multiple Subject teaching credential. 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. She and her family have been back in California for 7 years and have been active members of Rock Harbor Church. Mrs. Sanita has four children who are attending MCS: Makana, 8th grade; Kealoha, 6th grade; Mahea, 3rd grade; and Kawai, 3rd grade. She and her husband Chris have been married for 15 years. He is the Director of Curriculum at Whittier Christian High School. She enjoys running marathons, surfing, being outdoors, painting and spending time with her family. She joined the MCS staff in 2013

Amanda Sansonetti: Orchestra Director (Long-Term Sub)

Born and raised in Southern California, Amanda Sansonetti received her Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from Biola University, where she studied violin, viola, and chamber music under Elizabeth Larson and Andrew Duckles. As part of her studies, she spent a semester abroad in Heidelberg, Germany, where she studied with Thierry Stöckel, concertmaster of the Heidelberg Philharmonic Orchestra. Miss Sansonetti is excited to be joining Mariners for the fall 2014 semester; she also does freelance work as a violinist and violist, is a member of the Pacific Coast Quartet, and has a private strings studio. Miss Sansonetti is a member of Grace Evangelical Free Church in La Mirada. When she's away from her instrument, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading a good book while drinking a good cup of coffee, listening to music, and having great conversations with friends. She joins the MCS staff this year.

Kristen Sarvak – Transitional Kindergarten Teacher

Kristen Sarvak 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, 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 and her husband, Brian, are members of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. They have three sons: Ryan Sarvak (class of 2014), Austin Chandler (7th grade) and Luke Chandler (6th grade). She is delighted to have this opportunity to serve MCS Transitional Kindergarten families. She joins the MCS staff this year.

Lisa Schmitke: Fifth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Schmitke graduated from California State University at Fullerton with a B.A. in Liberal Studies. She has her California teaching credential from CSUF as well. Prior to coming to MCS, she had seven years experience teaching in Christian education. She is married, with two sons, living in south Orange County where they all attend Mariners Church. She enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, entertaining and watching football. She joined the MCS staff in 2011.

Paulette Seaman: Second-Eighth Grade Girls' PE

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 to Northern California to visit with her nieces and sister. Ms. Seaman joined the MCS staff in 2010.

Lindy Seely: Learning Lab Coordinator

Lindy Seely is from Southfield, Michigan and earned her B.A. from Grace College in Indiana and her teaching credential from California. Prior to coming to MCS, she taught for five years in Christian and public schools. After teaching ten years at MCS in first grade, she now enjoys her position as the Learning Lab Coordinator. She attends First Christian Church of Huntington Beach and she enjoys reading, relaxing by the pool, and spending time with friends and family. Mrs. Seely joined the MCS staff in 1996.

Leilen Shelton: Middle School History Teacher

Leilen 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, doing crafty projects, and hanging out at the beach with her family. Mrs. Shelton joined the MCS staff in 2009.

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, is a Mariners Christian School alum. He and his wife Kristy, who is also a teacher, attend Crossline Community Church in Laguna Hills. They are blessed to have two young children. Outside of teaching, he enjoys playing and coaching volleyball, playing the guitar, snowboarding, and spending time with his family. Mr. Spurgin joined the MCS staff in 2010.

Katelyn Spurgin: Musical Theater Director

Miss Spurgin, a proud California native, graduated from Vanguard University of Southern California with a B.A. in Theater Arts. From there she went on to study with the British American Drama Academy at Oxford University. She is thrilled to start the journey of her first teaching position with Mariners! Miss Spurgin has been actively involved in the Orange County performing arts, both on stage and behind the scenes, as an actor, director, stage manager and countless other positions. She is the proud Auntie to both a niece and nephew, and has two older brothers and a twin sister, all of the latter being MCS alumni! She enjoys reading, singing, dancing, being with friends and family, and treading the boards. Miss Spurgin joined the MCS staff in the fall of 2013.

Jené Streeter: Middle School 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. Prior to becoming an educator, she worked in ministry on the east coast. The Streeter family currently attends EV Free Church in Fullerton. Jené enjoys spending time with her husband as well as her two step-children. In her free time, Jené loves to bake, take trips to the beach, and occasionally sneak in a movie. Mrs. Streeter joined the MCS staff in 2007.

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

Mac 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. 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, Luke (6 years) who will be attending first grade at MCS in the fall, and Jesse (3 years). Coach Thompson also enjoys surfing, snowboarding, traveling, and playing guitar. Mr. Thompson joined the MCS staff in 2008.

Tami Thurston: Middle School English Teacher

Tami Thurston is a native of Southern California. She and her husband Greg have two sons, Walker (12th grade) and Parker (10th grade) and one daughter, Lilly (3rd 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.

Christina Vanian: Third Grade Teacher

Christina Vanian was born and raised in Newport Beach. A graduate of Westmont College with her B.A. in Business and Economics, Miss Vanian worked as a kindergarten aide at MCS while she obtained her teaching credential at Concordia University. She taught kindergarten at another private school before coming to MCS where she has spent six years teaching second grade, two years at fifth grade, and three years at kindergarten before coming to third grade. She attends Mariners Church. In her free time she enjoys cooking, shopping, walking around Balboa Island, and time with family and friends. She looks forward to spending many wonderful years teaching third grade. Miss Vanian joined the MCS staff in 1996.

Len Wicks: Band Instructor

Mr. Wicks attended Vanguard University and C.S.U.F. where he graduated with a B.A. in Music. He is currently a substitute teacher for music specialists with the N.M.U.S.D. as well as a member of the adjunct music faculty at Concordia University Irvine. In 2002 Mr. Wicks and his wife Donna opened New Day Music Studios in Costa Mesa where they both are music instructors. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Wicks are members of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church N.B. where they are involved in the music ministry.

John Wilcockson: First Grade Teacher

Originally from England, John Wilcockson earned a B.A. in Liberal Studies from California State University at Long Beach and later acquired his California teaching credential. He has a passion for teaching and enjoys gardening, music, and reading. He attends Irvine Community Church and is a member of the Sunday morning worship team. In 1980, he began his teaching career at Copre Christian School, where he taught for eight years as a first grade teacher. He taught second grade at MCS from 1989-1991. For six years he served as a private tutor for elementary and high school students. In 2000 Mr. Wilcockson returned to MCS as a first grade teacher.

Crystal Willis: Resource Specialist

Crystal 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 special education and she's highly qualified in English. A member of ROCKHARBOR Church in Costa Mesa, Mrs. Willis loves serving both locally and abroad. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, baking, gardening, crafting, volunteering, playing board games, and traveling with her husband Jeff, as well as other friends and family. Mrs. Willis joins the MCS staff this year.

Debbie Wolford: Kindergarten-Eighth Grade Computer Teacher

Debbie Wolford is originally from the Midwest and has recently celebrated her 30th wedding anniversary with her husband, Steve. They have two sons who are now married. Brian and Ashley were married December 2010 and David and Katie were married the summer of 2013. Mrs. Wolford earned a B.S. in Nursing from Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois, and worked several years in Texas as an R.N. She and her husband became missionaries in 1986 and served for 14 years in central Africa in aviation ministries. She also has her teaching credential, and has taught art, Bible, science, computer, and French at the elementary level before she came to MCS twelve years ago. She is passionate about God's Word, her husband and family, teaching, missions, the power of prayer, God's creation, Wisconsin and the Packers. Mrs. Wolford and her husband have a unique calling to un-churched people through a house church ministry in Old Towne Orange. She joined the MCS staff in 2001.