New Employee Bios - 2021-2022

Hawkins Elementary School

CaSandra Everitt will be teaching 6th grade core and 6th grade math this year. She received her BA in Liberal Studies, as well as her teaching credential, from CSU Fresno, and earned her Masters in Educational Leadership, along with her Administrative Credential, from TCSJ. She loves teaching middle school and believes these are the prime years in which students find their path in life. CaSandra has two boys, Anthony and Everitt, and she is excited that they will be attending Hawkins with her this year.

Monticello Elementary School

Laura Hohn will be teaching kindergarten this year. Laura was born and raised in Castro Valley. She moved to Tracy with her family this past January. Laura received her degree in Liberal Studies from Holy Names University. She has been married for 11 years. She has two kids, Natalie (9) and Eli (6). Laura loves to bake, read, and craft, she rides dirtbikes and horses.

Anna Chase will be teaching 3rd grade this year**.** Anna was born and raised in Tracy. Anna attended CSU Stanislaus for her BA and received her multiple subject teaching credential and a Masters in Education from Grand Canyon University. She has been married for 13 years. They have three sons who attend Monticello and Jefferson. Her boys are the fourth generation to graduate from the Jefferson School District. They have three dogs and a turtle. The family loves camping, boating, going to the ocean, dirt bike riding, swimming, and riding their bikes. Anna shared that she loves to laugh, be social, and have fun.

Katelyn Messamer will be teaching 3rd grade this year. Katelyn comes to us from Humboldt State University, where she earned her Liberal Studies degree. Growing up her family always had a love for snow dogs and her dad still has a 3 year old husky named Luna and a 6 year old malamute named Diego. Kately grew up with a love for performing arts, and was excited to hear about the emphasis Jefferson School District places on the arts.

Shabana Boparai will be teaching 3rd grade. Shabana was born and raised in San Jose and then moved to Modesto after her 6th grade graduation. She earned her BA in Political Science from UOP, and teaching credential and a Masters in Education from SF State. In 2016, she got married and moved to San Francisco with my husband, Kamal. Shabana currently lives in Dublin, and she and her husband welcomed their first child, Zayn, on June 1st. He is an absolute joy!!

Erika McEnery will be teaching 4th grade**.** Erika grew up close by in Manteca. She graduated from CSU Chico with a degree in Liberal Studies, and is looking forward to teaching in the Jefferson School District. She has two cats, Jax (he is 20 lbs) and Bandit. Erika is the middle of three sisters. Erika loves to camp, read, and take road trips.

Traina Elementary School

Melissa Burke will be teaching 3rd grade**.** She earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Western Governors University. Melissa is new to teaching, but not a stranger to Traina and the staff. She is a former Traina whose son attended Traina for fifth through eighth grade. Last year, she served as a student teacher and frequently subbed on campus. She also managed to move into the grade level recently vacated by her sister Jill Finton, and will be right across the hall from her. Melissa loves to travel, and her favorite travel destination is New Zealand.

Mareeta Shamowa (Marita Chamagua) will be teaching Kindergarten**.** Mareeta is entering her seventh year of teaching. She has taught kindergarten, fourth and fifth grade in public, private and charter schools during her career. Marita earned her BA in Child Development from Mills college and her Masters in Education with an emphasis on teaching. She recently had a zoom wedding and is expecting her first child next month.

Shalini Gupta will be teaching 7th and 8th grade Science. She is well travelled and educated having attended the University of Delhi, Brandman University and UC San Diego. She has degrees in Science, Education and Law. Shalini has two children, ages 9 and 11, who will also be joining the Traina family this year. She enjoys drawing and painting in her spare time. Welcome Shalini.

Carolyn Hewitt will be teaching 7th and 8th grade ELA and electives this year. She is a familiar face in our district, as she has long been one of our go-to substitutes. Carolyn has been a teacher for many years, as well as the home-school teacher for her own kids. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Marketing from San Jose State, as well as an AA in Administration of Justice from DeAnza College. She loves to travel, having been to Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the USSR, France, England and the Philippines.

Stephanie Merrill will be teaching 3rd grade this year. Stephanie is familiar with the Jefferson School District, having served as a substitute teacher here.Stephanie has a diverse educational background attending classes with Sonoma State, San Diego University and Harvard, earning degrees in Humanities and Fine Arts, Liberal Studies, Early Childhood Education, K-12 credentials and ABS (Assistant Behavior Specialist). She came to Tracy several years ago from Napa, where she taught K-2. She is part of a

blended family with 8 kids and 6 grandkids, and she has dogs, cats, birds, fish, rabbits and turtles. In her spare time she is learning cello and piano.

District Office

Monica Emeldi is joining us as the new Director of Special Education. She comes to Jefferson with 28 years of experience in education, having worn many hats, including Program Manager for students with moderate/severe disabilities and Program Specialist and Director of a district with 22,000 students. She attended the University of Oregon, and earned her M.S. and Ph.D. work (all, but dissertation) in Special Education. She enjoys cooking, live music, Argentine Tango, and spending time with her 3 year old nephew. She is thrilled and so grateful to be serving the JSD community.

Special Education

Danielle Sotelo is joining us as a School Psychologist. She attended Brandman University, earning a M.A. in Psychology. She comes from a large family, and is new to the Tracy Area. She has a two year old son, and is happy to be a part of the Jefferson School District Special Education team.