New Certificated Employee Bios 19-20

Diana Arevalo will be teaching 3rd grade at Monticello Elementary this year. She is from Modesto and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English from Stanislaus State. She first considered teaching high school English but later found through substitute teaching that primary education was her calling. When she's not working she enjoys gardening and going on adventures with her husband and their three boys.

Resource at Monticello – Interviewing Monday, August 19

Chelsey Carrington will be the school psychologist at **Monticello** and **Jefferson** this year. She grew up in Indianapolis and attended Miami University (Oxford, OH), where she graduated with a BA in Psychology. Following graduation, Chelsey received her Master's and Doctorate degrees in School Psychology at the University of Missouri. She completed her internship at the University of Tennessee and a post-doctoral fellowship in Indianapolis, where Chelsey worked as a licensed psychologist in private practice consulting with schools including involvement in Independent Educational Evaluations. Chelsey recently moved to the area from Switzerland with her husband and is looking forward to being back in the schools full-time after covering for a maternity leave in Lammersville last Spring. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, cheering on the Indianapolis Colts, traveling, boating, and shopping.

Jake Vink will be teaching Resource at **Jefferson** this year. He grew up on a walnut farm on Chrisman road about 1 mile from the school. He attended UCSB where he graduated with a BA in Political Science and then California State University Stanislaus, where he graduated with a MBA. Before pursuing a teaching career, he worked in banking and agriculture. After realizing this was not his passion, he started substitute teaching and found his true love for teaching. When he is not teaching, he enjoys spending time with his daughters, playing golf, hiking, snowboarding, and watching the A's and 49ers.

Elijah Maes will be teaching Music for grades 5-8 at Jefferson School this year. He grew up in Elk Grove, CA and moved to Stockton and attended the University of the Pacific where he graduated with a BM in Music Education. He realized his love for Music in Middle School and his passion for teaching in 2015 and never looked back. He has previously taught Marching band at High Schools in the Bay Area and in Sacramento and finds it very relaxing. When he is not teaching Music, he is spending time with his friends and family playing tabletop games, cooking Asian meals, and playing music for fun!

Elizabeth Opena - Elizabeth (Opena) will be teaching 8th grade Math and STEAM Elective at **Traina** this year. She grew up in the Philippines where she received her Bachelors of Science degree in Math from the University of the Philippines. She migrated to the US in 2003 and lived in the Bay Area for a few years where she taught Math in Christian Schools. She then moved to San Antonio, Texas where she received her Master's degree and her teaching credential at the University of Texas in San Antonio. She moved back to the Bay Area and taught middle school Math. She spends her Saturdays practicing the piano for church. Otherwise, she spends her

time baby-sitting her grandchildren. For the last two years, she's been driving to and from Castro Valley to teach everyday. Now she is very excited to start her 10-minute drive from home to Traina and spend more time in school to get to know the community! She finally feels that she is living in Tracy!

Jayme Sheffield will be teaching 6th grade Social Studies & ELA at **Traina** Elementary this year. She grew up in Tracy and actually went to Jefferson School from 4th-8th grade. Later, she attended California State University, Stanislaus where she graduated with a BA in Liberal Studies. She then transferred to East Bay and got her Multiple Subject teaching credential. Right after graduating, she flew to Costa Rica and became an English teacher at a bilingual institute teaching children, teens & adults. After 8 months of a life-changing experience, she returned home & started substitute teaching. When she isn't teaching, she loves being with her family and dogs, going out on the boat, and shopping.

6th grade Traina – Lillian Beltran – just hired, starting Monday, August 19– Lillian attended University of Fresno and received her BA in Home Economics and Fashion Merchandising and her multiple subject teaching credential. She has taught in several school districts, including 6th grade in Turlock and most recently 8th grade in Paradise School District in Modesto.

Christopher Fleckner will be teaching 8th grade science at **Hawkins** this year. He grew up in Livermore and attended CSUEB for his BA in history and Master's in Public Administration. After starting a non-profit after-school arts program in Livermore, he discovered the joy of teaching and received his credential from Fresno State. When he is not teaching, he enjoys music, road trips, and spending time with his family.

Melanie Tango will be teaching 6th grade English and Science at **Hawkins** this year. She grew up in Stockton, California and moved down to San Luis Obispo to receive her Bachelors of Science in Liberal Studies at Cal Poly before receiving her Master's in Education and teaching credential through San Jose State. She has been a substitute teacher for Jefferson School District in the past, however this will be her very first year in her own classroom. When she is not teaching, she loves spending time with her family and friends, baking, and swimming at the beach. Melanie is excited to collaborate with her team and to discover what this upcoming school year has in store for her and her students.