

Garden City Public Schools
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For Immediate Release:



Garden City Public Schools Welcomes New Teachers

With bright smiles and a contagious enthusiasm, twenty new faculty members are joining Garden City Public Schools' family of education professionals for the 2016-2017 school year. The new faculty spent three intensive days of professional development during the district's New Teacher Orientation program held on August 24th, 25th, and 26th. Pictured here with Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Dr. Maureen Appiarius (far right) are the new faculty (left to right) as they prepare for a tour of the Village led by community programs coordinator Doug Sheer (far left): Daniel DellaMonica, Loren Blum, Kristy Rodgers, Heather Holecek, Sandy Schneider, Michele Murphy, Dina Bombardiere, Riana Kane, Christine DiSanti, Kelley Dallek, Nicole Leyland, Brittany Hoffman, Elizabeth Ryan, Kathleen White, Ashley Alibayof, Kristina Seeley, Alyssa Fenwick, Kimberlee Roffman, Michael Davola, and Tracy Martinez.

Congratulations to all the new faculty members and welcome to Garden City Public Schools!

Ashley Alibayof Elementary Education Stewart School

Ashley Alibayof holds a B.A. in history and an M.S. in special education from Hunter College. She served as a classroom teacher assistant in Roslyn Public Schools from September 2015 to present, as well as an ABA classroom teacher for the after school program. She also served as a pre-K special education teacher from June 2015 to August 2015 at Temple Beth El of Great Neck and a resource teacher/consultant teacher from September 2014 to June 2015 in Lawrence Public Schools. Ms. Alibayof holds initial New York State certification in early childhood education, birth to grade 2, childhood education, grades 1 to 6, students with disabilities, birth to grade 2, and students with disabilities, grades 1 to 6.

Loren Blum ENL (English as a New Language) High School

Loren Blum holds a B.S. in childhood education from SUNY Old Westbury and an M.A. in education/TESOL from Molloy College. She served as an ENL teacher (grades 9-12) in the Roosevelt School District from September 2015 to present. She also served as an ESL teacher (grades 6-8) in IS5, District 24 Queens, from October 2013 to August 2015, as well as a pre-kindergarten teacher in St. Joseph's School in Garden City from September 2011 to October 2013. Ms. Blum holds professional New York State certification in TESOL, pre-K to grade 12, childhood education, grades 1-6, and students with disabilities, grades 1-6.

Dina Bombardiere Social Worker High School

Dina Bombardiere holds a B.S. in psychology from Molloy College and an M.S.W. in social work from Fordham University. She served as a school social worker at McKenna Elementary School in Massapequa from 2013 to present. She was the quality assurance and admissions coordinator and intake coordinator in the YES Community Center in Massapequa, as well as a licensed clinical social worker from 2009 to present. Ms. Bombardiere holds provisional New York State certification as a school social worker.

Tracy Catalanotti-Martinez Social Worker Primary Schools

Tracy Catalanotti-Martinez holds a B.A. in psychology from Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus and an M.S.W. in social work from Adelphi University. She served as faculty field liaison at Adelphi University from August 2013 to present, as well as assistant director from January 2008 to present. She served as program coordinator for the Family and Children's Association, Walkabout, and Walkabout II in Freeport, New York from October 2005 to January 2008 and supervising social worker from November 2002 to October 2005. Ms. Catalanotti-Martinez holds professional New York State certification as a school social worker.

Kelley Dallek Elementary Education Locust School

Kelley Dallek holds a B.S. in childhood education from St. John's University and an M.S. in special education from Queens College. She served as a special education teacher

at P.S. 129Q from 2012 to the present, where she was granted tenure. She also served as a leave replacement teacher in the Saddle Rock Elementary School from 2010 to 2011, as well as a leave replacement teacher in the Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School in 2009. Ms. Dallek holds professional New York State certification in special education, grades 1 to 6 and childhood education, grades 1 to 6.

Michael Davola Elementary Education Stratford School

Michael Davola holds a B.A. in secondary mathematics and an M.A. in technology for learning from Hofstra University. He served as a TOC assistant instructor at Freeport Middle School and Hempstead Middle School from September 2015 to present. He was an instructor for kidOYO at Long Island University, NYIT, and Adelphi University from November 2014 to present, and also served as a per diem substitute teacher in Garden City Public Schools from March 2016 to June 2016. Mr. Davola holds initial New York State certification in mathematics, grades 7 to 12, and middle child education, grades 5 to 6.

Daniel DellaMonica Music High School

Daniel DellaMonica holds a B.S. in primary music education from Hofstra University and an M.S. in music education from Queens College. He served as band teacher at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School from 2014 to present. He also served as jazz ensemble and jazz orchestra co-director in George W. Hewlett High School from 2014 to present. Mr. DellaMonica holds professional New York State certification in music pre-K to grade 12.

Christine DiSanti ENL (English as a New Language) Hemlock, Stewart, and Stratford Schools

Christine DiSanti holds a B.B.A. in international business and an M.S. in education: TESOL from Hofstra University. She served as an ESL/Enrichment per diem F-status teacher at P.S. 173, Fresh Meadows, New York from October 2015 to June 2016. She also served as an ESL part-time teacher at Jericho middle and high schools from September 2015 to October 2015 as well as an ESL teacher/accreditation research at University Track Preparation, LLC in Amityville, New York from January 2013 to July 2015. Ms. DiSanti served as an ESL teacher/reading cluster in Carlos Tapia, P.S. 120, Brooklyn, New York from September 2012 to January 2013, and an ESL teacher at the Academy of Talented Scholars, P.S. 682 in Brooklyn, New York from 2011 to June 2012. Ms. DiSanti holds professional New York State certification in TESOL education, grades K to 12, and childhood education, grades 1 to 6.

Alyssa Ferrandino Elementary Education Stratford School

Alyssa Ferrandino holds a B.A. in English from Queens College and an M.S. in childhood education and students with disabilities from Molloy College. She served as a regular substitute teacher at Stratford School from May 2016 to June 2016 and was a permanent substitute teacher at Francis F. Wilson Elementary School, Rockville Centre, New York from January 2016 to April 2016. Ms. Ferrandino holds initial New York State

certification in childhood education, grades 1 to 6, and students with disabilities, grades 1 to 6.

Heather Holecek Physical Education/Health High School

Heather Holecek holds a B.S. in health science from Stony Brook University and an M.S. in physical education from Hofstra University. She served as a health education leave replacement teacher at Plainedge High School from March 2016 to June 2016. She also served in various physical education leave replacement positions in the Northport Union Free School District from September 2014 to March 2016. Ms. Holecek holds initial New York State certification in physical education and health education.

Brittney-Ann Hoffman Elementary Education Homestead School

Brittney-Ann Hoffman holds a B.A. in child study and an M.A. in literacy and cognition from St. Joseph's College. She was a kindergarten special education collaborative teacher at P.S. 121Q from September 2010 to present, where she was granted tenure. She also served as a kindergarten/1st grade 12:1 self-contained teacher from 2012 to 2013 and a 2nd grade general education teacher from 2011 to 2012. Ms. Hoffman holds initial New York State certification in literacy, birth to grade 6, and professional certification in early childhood, birth to grade 1, childhood education, grades 1 to 6, and students with disabilities, grades 1 to 6.

Riana Kane Music Stratford School

Riana Kane holds a B.S. in music education from Hofstra University. She served as an assistant director of bands leave replacement teacher in the Hewlett-Woodmere School District from September 2015 through May 2016. She was a leave replacement music teacher in the Massapequa School District from February 2015 through June 2015 and in the Syosset Central School District from November 2014 through January 2015. Ms. Kane holds initial New York State certification in music, K-12.

Nicole Leyland Art Primary Schools

Nicole Leyland holds a B.F.A. in art history and an M.A. in art education from Adelphi University. She served as an art leave replacement teacher at John Lewis Childs School, Floral Park, NY, from January 2015 to June 2016. She was also a teacher aide in the Floyd B. Watson Elementary School, Rockville Centre, NY from September 2014 to December 2015. Ms. Leyland holds initial New York State certification in visual arts education, K-12.

Michelle B. Murphy Elementary Education Stratford School

Michelle B. Murphy holds a B.S. in education from the University of Delaware and an M.S. in elementary and special education from CUNY Hunter College. She served as an elementary education teacher in the Metropolitan International School in Miami, Florida, from September 2015 to present. She also served as a kindergarten and second grade inclusion teacher in the Robert Seaman Elementary School in Jericho, New York from

September 2011 to June 2015 where she was granted tenure. She also served as a grade 4 inclusion teacher in the Bayview Avenue School of Arts and Sciences in Freeport, New York from September 2009 to June 2011. Ms. Murphy holds initial New York State certification in early childhood education/literacy, birth to grade 2, and professional certification in students with disabilities, grades 1 to 6, and childhood education, grades 1 to 6.

Kristy Rodgers Elementary Education Stewart School

Kristy Rodgers holds a B.S. in psychology from Sacred Heart University and an M.S. in general and special education from Molloy College. She served as a special education teacher in the Summit School from 2011 to present. She also served as a self-contained special education teacher in P.S. 97 from 2010 to 2011 as well as a collaborative special education teacher/grade 4 lead teacher in P.S. 97 from 2009 to 2010. Ms. Rodgers holds professional New York State certification in elementary education, grades 1 to 6, and students with disabilities, grades 1 to 6.

Kimberlee Roffman Elementary Education Hemlock School

Kimberlee Roffman holds a B.A. in education and an M.E. in education from the University of Hartford. She served as a leave replacement teacher in the Island Trees School District from October 2015 to present. She also served as a leave replacement teacher and permanent substitute teacher in the Syosset Central School District from 2009 to 2015, and as a kindergarten teacher in the Ezra Academy, Woodbridge, Connecticut from 1996 to 2006. Ms. Roffman holds professional New York State certification in early childhood education, birth to grade 2, and childhood education, grades 1 to 6.

Elizabeth F. Ryan Elementary Education Locust School

Elizabeth F. Ryan holds a B.S. in childhood education and an M.S. in students with disabilities from Molloy College. She served as a first grade teacher from September 2014 to present and as a permanent substitute teacher from September 2013 to June 2014 at St. Anne's School in Garden City. She served as a substitute teacher in Garden City and Massapequa school districts from May 2013 to August 2013. Ms. Ryan holds professional New York State certification in students with disabilities, birth to grade 2, students with disabilities, grades 1 to 6, early childhood education, birth to grade 2, and childhood education, grades 1 to 6.

Sandra Schneider School Nurse Homestead School

Sandra Schneider holds an A.A.S. in nursing from Queens Community College and a B.S.N. in nursing from Molloy College. She served as substitute school nurse in Garden City Schools from 2012 to present. She also served as charge nurse/staff nurse at Westchester University Medical Center in Valhalla, NY from 1998 to 2005. Ms. Schneider holds New York State certification as a registered nurse and as a licensed practical nurse. She holds certificates in CPR, abuse workshop and insulin pump therapy.

Kristina Seeley English High School

Kristina Seeley holds a B.A. in English from Binghamton University and an M.S. in teaching of English from Teachers College, Columbia University. She served as an ELA leave replacement teacher in the Berner Middle School, Massapequa, NY from September 2015 to June 2016. She also served as an ELA leave replacement teacher in Oyster Bay High School from October 2014 to June 2015. Ms. Seeley holds initial New York State certification in English language arts, grades 7-12.

Kathleen White

Elementary Education

Homestead School

Kathleen White holds a B.S. in early and primary education and an M.S. in reading education from the University of Scranton. She served as a full time 3rd grade teacher in St. Mary School from 2015 to present. She also served as a full time 1st grade teacher in St. Helen Catholic Academy from 2014 to 2015 and a K-12 reading specialist in the Wallenpaupack Elementary Center. Ms. White holds initial New York State certification in early childhood education, birth to grade 2, childhood education, grades 1 to 6, and literacy, birth to grade 12.