

Dear Manzanita Parents:

As you might already be aware, we have quite a few staffing changes planned for the 2018-2019 school year. I thought you might like a 'preview' of our new hires. Here is a list of our new Manzanita staff members who will be on campus in early August for you to meet:

1ST GRADE 1 TEAM



Kimberly Hurd (formally Kim Dial)

Kim was a kindergarten teacher for several years at MPCs before moving to Iowa to support her husband's enrollment in a chiropractic program. She is returning to Lompoc with her husband and toddler son and has accepted a teaching position with Manzanita for the 18-19 school year. Kim is a graduate of Lompoc schools, has a rich background in early literacy development, and was a 'favorite' teacher for many scholars when here at Manzanita.

Melissa Cox

Melissa is a certificated K-6 teacher with ten years of experience and currently teaching at Garden Street Academy in Santa Barbara. Prior to teaching in Santa Barbara, she worked as a kindergarten and second grade teacher in Florida for a Title 1 school. She is married and recently purchased a home in Lompoc. Her husband is an insurance broker in town. Melissa brings a passion for flexible grouping, cooperative learning experiences, and a desire to foster independence and leadership with our scholars.



Megan Vallivero

Megan has recently completed her Multiple subject teaching credential. Her husband, an active duty marine, is returning to school at Cal Poly, so Megan is returning to the Central Coast to live. Megan grew up on the Central Coast and is excited to begin her teaching career in the place she loves. Megan's teaching philosophy focuses on providing a 'balanced' instruction which empowers her students to make their own positive choices. Megan sees each student as a unique individual and values diversity and a lifelong learning attitude.



4TH GRADE TEACHER

Ryan Prieto grew up in Lompoc and attended Lompoc schools. His wife, Alyssa, is currently a math teacher at Lompoc High School. Ryan worked as a dental technician while attending college, and recently obtained his teaching credential. He is excited to join the Manzanita team because teaching elementary students has been his lifelong dream. Ryan believes that becoming part of Lompoc's educational system is more than a career choice, but, rather, a mission to become a larger part of the community. He wants his 'classroom' to be a safe and welcoming place that celebrates learning in a multi-cultural 'environment.

Ryan Prieto



5TH GRADE TEACHER



Kate Busarow

Kate has taught in Lompoc Unified schools for the past 9 years. She is currently teaching 6th grade at Clarence Ruth Elementary. Kate is seeking a different teaching environment which will allow her to "explore new, innovative teaching strategies." Kate is currently the Leadership Advisor at her school and is GATE certified. She has a passion for art and music and also supports a chalk art program at her school. Kate loves all learning, but is particularly passionate about mathematics instruction. She also has high expectations for student learning and loves Manzanita's instructional design of 'strength based, independent learn-

Jacque Voorhees

Jacque currently teaches 4th grade at Alice Shaw Elementary School in Orcutt. Prior to becoming a teacher three years ago, Jacque home schooled her children. Jacque is quite passionate about the learning process and holds strong opinions on how to create a 'student centered' classroom. She believes in setting up her classroom so as to build on prior knowledge and scaffolds her lessons accordingly. She loves using technology in the classroom and is always seeking ways to make 'personal connections' to further learning opportunities. Jacque is very organized and will make every effort to bring the richest curriculum possible to her students.



VICE PRINCIPAL



Jules Manfreda

Jules is long-time Central Coast resident. He graduated from Lompoc Schools and taught at Solvang Elementary school for 9 years. Most recently, he served as Family Partnership Charter School Principal. Jules has a passion for NGSS Science instruction and has recently led his school toward new curriculum which addresses the new science standards. He is currently writing his dissertation for his doctorate in Educational and Organizational Leadership at Brandman University. Jules is excited to join the Manzanita family and is looking forward to building relationships with scholars and staff next year.