

HEMPSTEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*New Members of the HPS District
2022-2023 School Year*

185 Peninsula Blvd
Hempstead, NY 11550
(516) 434-4000
<https://www.hempsteadschools.org>



Dedicated to Excellence in Education

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HEMPSTEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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NEW MEMBERS OF THE HEMPSTEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT



JAMES NOTHEL
Director of Facilities and Operations
ABGS Middle School

Jim's facility and project management experience began at an outpatient rehabilitation center, and progressed to a regional savings bank, major pharmaceutical manufacturer, specialty medical laboratory, and central high school district. A graduate of Clarkson University, he enjoys the beach and outdoors with family and friends.



CYNTHIA MOORE-DRAYTON
Principal
Joseph A. McNeil School

My name is Cynthia Moore-Drayton and I am principal of Joseph A. McNeil Elementary School. I am a product of the Hempstead Public School System who attended Marshall, ABGS Middle School and Hempstead High School. As an educator of over 30 years one of my beliefs is the quote: "Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." And I love what I do. I look forward to a wonderful year of student achievement and academic excellence.



LISAURA MORENO
Principal
Barack Obama School

Lisauro Moreno is the newly appointed principal at Barack Obama Elementary school. She has over 15 years of experience in the field of education serving underrepresented communities in New York City and suburban communities in Long Island. Prior to becoming a principal, she served as an assistant principal at Hempstead High School. One of her accomplishments as an AP was her collaboration with the school community to increase the graduation rate and helped the school be recognized by the NYSDE as one of the most improved schools in the state of New York. She also saw her department's Regents qualification rate rise during her leadership.



ALI KEBREAU
Attendance Teacher
Hempstead High School

My name is Ali Kebreau. I have been working in the Hempstead School District as an Attendance Community Aide for 24 years. This upcoming school year I will be serving the Hempstead Public School district as an Attendance Teacher at Hempstead High School.



XAVIER RODRIGUEZ
Director of Fine Arts, Music and
Library Media

Dr. Xavier Rodriguez has always believed that the Arts open everyone's senses to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything. He is known best as a conductor, pianist, and cellist. Dr. Rodriguez has been a public-school music teacher since 2002 and later became District Music Coordinator in 2012. During that time, he was the district orchestra director. He led Music in Our Schools Month performances in Albany, New York, and Gold Rating ensembles at NYSSMA Majors Music Festivals.



ANDREW BELGER
Social Studies Teacher
Hempstead High School

My name is Andrew Belger and I started working at Hempstead High School as a leave replacement in the Social Studies department for the 2021-2022 school year. Having recently graduated from Hunter College I was nervous as it was my first real taste of teaching. The department immediately welcomed me with open arms and with their help I was able to find my way. I knew that I wanted to work in this school and district past the ending of my leave replacement. Luckily a position opened up and I was able to become a full time teacher with the district working at Hempstead High School. When not working and lesson planning I have a passion for camping, hiking and most importantly playing video games.



ASHLEY MEHALE
ENL Teacher
Rhodes Academy

My name is Ashley Mehale. Last year I was a kindergarten teacher at Rhodes Academy and this school year, I will be changing my role. I will be an ENL Teacher. I am so excited to help, and support all of my new students! Looking forward to an excellent year ahead!



CAMILA SHAH
Teaching Assistant
Prospect School

I am a married parent of 1 young adult. I am an original Texas girl who migrated to New York 22 years ago. For approximately 21 years I have been working in a private, non profit preschool for children with disabilities. I am looking forward to my next chapter working with preschoolers in a different setting.



CAITLIN LEVY
Pre-K Teacher
Prospect School

Prior to joining Prospect School, I was an early childhood educator for the NYC DOE. I have taught both general education and special education; I believe every child is unique and capable of their highest potential by being immersed in a positive, supportive, and innovative environment. In my free time, I enjoy reading, crafting, and spending time with my husband, our daughter Addison, and dog Lilu. I am excited to become a part of the Hempstead School Community!



CRYSTAL CASS
Social Studies Teacher
Hempstead High School

My name is Crystal Cass I am so excited to begin the school year here at Hempstead! History is my passion; I believe learning from the past can prepare us for the world ahead. I am a graduate of Adelphi University with a masters degree in social studies education and a graduate of Grand Canyon University with a maters degree in special education.



DOREEN MARRERO
Clerk/Typist Bilingual

My name is Doreen Marrero and I am a 46 year old female raised by a single religious mother in Queens, NY. I am one of 5 kids in the family, with 2 sets of twins, me being the youngest set of twins with a twin sister. We were raised in a religious home going to a Spanish speaking church from infant to adulthood. We all are extremely close with one another and I thank my mother for raising us the way she did everyday. I worked most of my adulthood in the hospitality industry until COVID-19 hit the world and decided to work in the NYS Education Department starting as a District Security Guard to an Aide for the Special Education Department working with special needs kids. I am bilingual. I read, write, and speak Spanish. I have helped in many aspects of all my jobs with me being fluent in Spanish with my co-workers, customers, students, and parents. I am eager to continue to become more helpful with being bi-lingual in the Schools with the students and parents. I have a positive attitude, I am easy-going, helpful, and willing to learn as much as I can. My goal is to continue to grow, learn, and help in every aspect, not only in my career, but also in my personal life.



JAEDA BELL
Teaching Assistant
Joseph A. McNeil School

My name is Jaeda Bell & I am a 21 year old aspiring elementary school teacher. I graduated from Hempstead High School in 2019 & immediately following I pursued a degree in Liberal Arts at Nassau Community College. Working with children has always been a passion of mine. Teaching is truly a work of heart. Adaptability, patient and empathic leader with 2 years of experience in teaching/babysitting at New Vision Day Care Center. During this time I realized children may forget what you say but never how you made them feel. I look forward to embarking on this new journey as an assistant teacher with the Hempstead School District. "Teachers can change lives with the right mix of chalk and challenges."



HELEN YOON
School Psychologist
Prospect School

Helen Yoon is a native New Yorker, as witnessed by her upbringing in Queens and through education at New York University and St. John's University. She will be the incoming school psychologist at Prospect School. She loves to connect with students and collaborate with school staff and families to support student success in the areas of academics, behavior, and social-emotional needs. When not working hard in her office, Helen can be found spending quality time with her family and friends, being outdoors in nature, playing sports, or organizing anything that she can get her hands on! She looks forward to getting to know everyone on the team!



JAYDA MORALES
Special Education Teacher
David Paterson School

Hello, I am Jayda Morales. I am 23 years old and from the town of Westbury. I hold a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a master's degree in Special Education. I currently hold the certifications of General Ed B-2 and Special Ed B-6. I have previously worked as a Substitute, Resource Room, Pre-K, and Summer School Teacher. Outside of my career, my passions include dance and designing custom creations using my Cricut.



JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ
Personal Clerk
Human Resources

I'm an athletic mom of three, love Baseball/Softball LETS GO METS! I enjoy cooking and baking, i make the best homemade crepés!



JESSICA LENTINI
Pre-K Teacher
Prospect School

I am entering my 15th year of teaching in an early childhood setting! I am very excited to build new relationships with staff and students. I am a mom to 2 children and enjoyed spending my summer spending most of it at the pool with my family.



JESSICA DRAKE
Special Education Teacher
Barack Obama School

Hi! My name is Jessica Drake and I am going to be teaching 5th grade self-contained at Barack Obama Elementary. I completed my bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Childhood Education at SUNY Cortland and completed my master's degree in Special Education at St. Joseph's College. I am certified in Early Childhood Education, Childhood Education, and Childhood Students with Disabilities, with an annotation extension in Severe and Multiple Disabilities. Although I have been working in schools for the last few years, I am very eager to finally have a classroom of my own and I am very grateful for the opportunity to join the Hempstead school district! :)



LAUREN EMANUELE
MTSS Behavior Interventionist
Districtwide

I am joining the Hempstead School District Team as a Behavior Interventionist. I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst with a Masters in Early Childhood Special Education. I have worked in numerous school/home/clinical settings throughout my 23 year career. I have classroom teacher experience in pre-school settings as well as significant experience working with students with disabilities in homes, classroom settings, and clinic-based settings. I also have experience coaching and supporting teachers with regard to preventative/proactive and responsive classroom management strategies as well as providing support to staff within school districts with regard to FBA/BIP implementation and data collection/analysis. Finally, I have experience supporting families through my parent training work.



LEE MICELI
Food Service Manager
Districtwide

I graduated from NYIT Westbury. I joined the Hempstead School district in April 2022 after managing school kitchens in NYC for over 20 years. I look forward to working with the staff and district to continue elevating the success of the Food Service department.



MARLENY GONZALEZ
Special Education Teacher
Rhodes Academy

I am looking forward to growing in Rhodes Academy and developing new skills throughout my time there.



LISSETTE CLAUDIO
Attendance Teacher
ABGS Middle School

My name is Lisette Claudio, I earned a Masters degree in Social Work with a Bilingual Extension from Adelphi University, and I also have earned a Masters degree in Education with a concentration in School Administration. I previously worked in Pre-trials and with NYC Department of Education as a Bilingual School Social worker. I enjoy aqua spin, spin classes, being in the sun as well as being around friends and family members.



STEPHANIE SCARNATI
Special Education Teacher
Joseph A. McNeil School

I obtained my Undergraduate Degrees from Suffolk County Community College and SUNY College at Old Westbury. I attended St. Joseph's College where I earned my M.A. in Infant/Toddler Early Childhood Special Education with an extension in Childhood Education for both General and Special Education. I've worked as a Special Education Teacher for both Eastern Suffolk BOCES and Southold UFSD. I am an avid traveler who also enjoys spending time with family. I am excited to join Hempstead UFSD and the Joseph McNeil School!



SYLVIA HARGROVE
Personnel Clerk
Human Resources

My name is Sylvia Hargrove and I was raised in Hempstead, NY. I graduated from Hempstead High School in 1987. My Mom taught Special Education in the Hempstead School District for over 30 years. I currently work in the Human Resources office as a Personnel Clerk in the Health Benefits section. I love fishing, crocheting, watching movies, photography and reading. One of my favorite authors is James Patterson.



YOMNA BENDARY
School Psychologist
ABGS Middle School

I am a School Psychologist with an advanced certificate in Applied Behavior analysis, trained at Teachers College, Columbia University. I am Egyptian-American and proud child of immigrants. I have a great depth of experience working with and empowering BIPOC communities and students with developmental delays, and am very excited to be joining the ABGS Middle School team!



MELISSA BERNSTEIN
Studio Art Teacher
Hempstead High School

Ever since I can remember, art has been a part of my life. I have been surrounded and influenced by professional artists and teachers, and I value the importance of instilling a classroom community where students may freely explore and focus on the process of creating. My art career began at the Fashion Institute of Technology, where I studied art and design alongside international students and professional design industry teachers. After graduation, I worked for Rampage Clothing Company designing women's apparel on Seventh Avenue. I received my BS in Education at SUNY Old Westbury College. Prior to being hired by Hempstead School District, I taught in Farmingdale School District and for the Smithtown Arts Council for the Summer Program providing drawing, painting and fashion illustration classes at the middle school level.



PASCALE BROWN
Special Education Teacher
Hempstead High School

I found my passion for teaching as a teaching assistant in 2017. Soon after, I applied to a Master's program to pursue a degree in Education. Since then, I've worked in the public school system with 8th and 9th graders. I have my undergraduate degree in Speech and Language, which I found to be helpful in my career as an Educator. I enjoy long walks, road trips, and I am passionate about exploring new countries and cultures.



KARA MCLAUGHLIN
Special Education Teacher
David Paterson School

I am excited to be joining the Hempstead schools family! I grew up and still live in Lynbrook, where I attended Lynbrook schools until I graduated in 2009. I then attended Boston College for my Bachelors of Arts in Elementary Education and Human Development. Afterwards, I received my Masters at Molloy College in Childhood Special Education. This is my tenth year working in the education field, most notably I spent five years as a special education teacher in the Bronx. I also spend my summers working at Camp Anchor in Lido Beach. I love dogs, the color green, and the Mets! When I am not teaching, you can find me at the beach, or cuddled up on my couch with a good book. I can't wait to see what this new chapter of my teaching journey brings!



SEAJIN YOON
Art Teacher
ABGS Middle School

I was born and raised in Korea until my family migrated to USA at age of 14. I studied both fine art and art education in USA and Korea. Then, in Maryland, I worked as an art teacher for 6 years collectively in an elementary school, a military based middle school, and an evening high school. In 2019, I moved to NY and worked in district 8 in the Bronx for 3 years. I speak fluent Korean and recently started learning Spanish as well! I love traveling and appreciate different cultures. Also, I'm a huge advocate for the Humane society of the united states.



TYLER ROSS
Math Teacher
Hempstead High School

Hello! My name is Tyler. I am studying my masters at St. Josephs in Patchogue. My interests are programming in Python and playing the trombone in my spare time.



MAYRA DELGADO
Clerk
Barack Obama School

I am an independent, hard working, professional individual who likes challenges and has strong ethics.



BYONA DORRELIAND
Teaching Assistant
Rhodes Academy

My name is Byona Dorreliand. I live in Queens NY. I am a Teacher Assistant at Rhodes Academy in Hempstead NY



KIMBERLEE PIERRE
Title I Coordinator
Central Administration

Dr. Kimberlee B. Pierre began her educational career in 1990 as a Social Studies teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School in East New York, Brooklyn. Dr. Pierre eventually became Dean, House Coordinator, Scheduler and eventually the Assistant Principal of Special Education. In 2001, Dr. Pierre became the Principal of the Islip Career Center in Oakdale, New York and then proceeded to transition to the Joseph M. Barry Career and Technical Center in Westbury, New York in 2003 as Principal. In 2005, she became the Principal of Freeport High School in Freeport, New York and in 2008 became the Director of Learning, Teaching, Assessments and Grants for the Uniondale Union Free School District. She is elated to begin her tenure with the Hempstead Union Free School District as your newly appointed Title I Coordinator. Dr. Pierre brings a wealth of experience to her current position and is eager to serve the Hempstead school community. Her motto is, "Every day is a great day to be an Educator."



BETSY BENEDITH
Assistant Principal
Hempstead High School

I have returned home!! I am the former Dean of Students at Hempstead High School and I am now an Assistant Principal. I am a Garifuna from Honduras, Central America first generation. I have a genuine love for children. I am passionate about collaborating with my team and continuing to grow as an educator.



SADIA BATOOL
Clerk Typist
ABGS Middle School

Sadia Batool
Clerk Typist
ABGS Middle School



CHERI MANCUSI
Barack Obama School

I have been a teacher for 17 years. I absolutely love working with children and watching them grow and learn! I have 1 son. His name is Aidan and he is currently in college in Georgia. I love traveling to baseball stadiums around the U.S. My favorite city (besides NYC is Boston).



ANTHONY GATKE
Barack Obama Elementary School

I have primarily been with special needs children for 20 plus years and was needing a change, prior to coming here I was in West Babylon SD as a paraprofessional I have 4 kids and 2 grandchildren I dj and prior to COVID I used to go to Nassau Corrections to speak to the inmates.. I love people but can be quiet at times ! My passion is Real Estate and have a LLC to do just that love to laugh and make people laugh. I guess that's me I'm a nutshell.



BRENDA MORALES
Hempstead High School

Graduated as an ENL teacher from Queens College In 2017. Worked as a TA at an elementary school in East Meadow. This is my first year teaching.



ALANNA GELMAN
Educational Technology Specialist
Jackson Main/Annex School

I have always been passionate about education and teaching since I was in elementary school. I have been obsessed with technology since I got my first MacBook at 13 years old. I am always looking for the newest tech tools that can engage scholars and increase their motivation. My goal as a teacher is to have kids enjoy school. If math or ELA isn't their subject, they can see how they like using computers. This can increase a students confidence or self esteem!



HALIAH KASSIM
Elementary Teacher
Jackson Main/Annex School

I graduated from St. John's University with a Bachelor and Master of Education. I taught for 11 years in the Bronx for the Department of Education. I'm super excited and grateful to be a part of the Hempstead Family!



PAMELA TUNNELL-HALL
Special Education Teacher
Barack Obama School

My name is Pamela Hall and I am a New York State certified educator who who enjoys teaching children who are out of the box thinkers. I believe that reading is that special key which takes people where they want to be any place in this world! My favorite mantras is "in math, all you have to do is count!"



VERONICA ORTIZ
Hempstead High School

My name is Veronica Ortiz. I am a first-generation Latina raised by a Salvadorian mother and Puerto Rican father. I obtained a B.A. in History from the City College of New York and my M.S.E.D. in School Counseling from Hofstra University. I spent the first 12 years of my career working in the non-profit sector as a Youth Advocacy Counselor and Youth Employment Counselor. In 2015 I earned a professional certificate in Leadership from Baruch College's School of Public Affairs. In 2016 I was the recipient of the Town of Hempstead's Hispanic Heritage Award because of my work with youth across Nassau County. All my life I have wanted to work with youth—helping them to see their potential and supporting them on their good but especially those challenging days. It is truly an honor to have joined the Hempstead family and look forward to working with our students, staff and administration.



ROSALVA SARAVIA
Marshall School

Born in El Salvador, came to the US in 1982 to escape the violence during the civil war, as well as lack of opportunities for the youth. As a young female immigrant, wasn't easy due to obstacles I had to face. Went to school to continue with my education at NCC. I'm married with two children. For more than ten years, I had the opportunity to work serving my community in Hempstead, at Our Lady of Loretto as coordinator of the Social Service Program within the Parish.



KOMAL SYED
Elementary Teacher
Barack Obama School

My name is Komal Syed and I am a Reading and Math Interventionist at Barack Obama Elementary School. I have completed my Bachelors Degree in Biological Sciences and in Psychology at The City College of New York. I have also completed my Masters Degree in Education at CUNY Queens College. Before joining the Hempstead School District, I served in NYC Public Schools as a Paraprofessional and a long-term Substitute Teacher and have worked in different environments; each day was a learning experience for me that was more rewarding than the last. When I was initially going into the field of medicine, I knew that I wanted to work with children and make a difference in their lives. While taking Science courses at City College, I was also upholding my duties as the Education and Literacy Director of the Golden Key Honor Society and setting up Book Drives for the underserved schools in Harlem and volunteering at the local early education centers. It was through my exposure to these underserved schools that I knew I wanted to go into the education field as a Teacher, where I could also play a role in shaping the lives of children. And so my journey begins...



ERIN O'BOYLE
Elementary Teacher
Jackson Main/Annex School

I am currently teaching 3rd grade in Jackson Main. I taught 5th grade for 6 years in West Harlem. Prior to that I taught 2nd and 3rd grades in a private elementary school. I have a Masters in Elementary Education. I am currently working towards my TESOL certification.



CHRISTINA CARDENAS
Prospect School
Teaching Assistant

I am a mom of two. I have been working for children for over 5 years now. I enjoy playing with my kids, dancing and love to try new things.

