



HEMPSTEAD UFSD

(516) 434-4000

185 Peninsula Blvd
Hempstead, NY 11550

Hempstead Union Free School District

www.hempsteadschools.org



HEMPSTEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEW HIRES 2023-24

New Members of the Hempstead School District Family

WWW.HEMPSTEADSCHOOLS.ORG



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NEW MEMBERS OF THE HEMPSTEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT



RYAN FISK

Director of Instructional Technology & Data District

I'm proud to join the Hempstead team as the Director of Instructional Technology & Data. Outside of school, I am a graduate level professor at Manhattanville College, a position I've held since 2010. Prior to my arrival at Hempstead, I served as a director of technology, an educational technology specialist, a HS director of technology, and prior to that, as a health and PE teacher, department chair, and Varsity/JV coach. I have led over 120 workshop sessions at the local, state, and regional levels, sharing innovative practices and facilitating discussion on topics including innovative instructional spaces, assessment strategies, Microsoft & Google, STEAM activities, Twitter for PD, assistive & ENL technologies, coding for early childhood, videoconferencing best practices, media literacy, Chromebooks, and engaging presentation skills.



LAURA CAINES-GIRALDE

**Principal
David Patterson Elementary School**

It is my pleasure to serve as the new principal of David Paterson School. I have served in many roles over the last 23 years of my educational journey, including classroom teacher, ENL Specialist, Instructional Coach, and Assistant Principal in the following districts respectively, New York City Department of Education-Far Rockway, Westbury UFSD, and New Hyde Park-Garden City Park UFSD. I believe the most important factor in education is the creation of authentic bonds and human connection. Once this bond is formed, the sky's the limit to endless possibilities of success. From the words of the late Rita Pierson, "Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be." My goal is to ensure that authentic bonds and connections exist at every level of my leadership. I will go above and beyond in all capacities to meet the needs of all stakeholders to ensure that together our students succeed, because when they do, we do!



ANDREW VLASSIS
Science Teacher
Hempstead High School

I am entering 26th year of teaching. I obtained my undergraduate from Queens College, Masters Degree from NYIT, followed by my SBL/SDL administration certification from Stony Brook University.



BRAD CLARK
Art Teacher
ABGS Middle School

My name is Brad Clark. I am a graduate of LIU Post, Class of 2019. I am currently working towards my masters degree at the University of Albany. I will be the art teacher at ABGS Middle School. As a teacher, my passion is to create life long learners and teach students the beauty and importance of the arts.



AVA BAKER
School Psychologist
ABGS Middle School

My name is Ava Baker and I am a School Psychologist at ABGS Middle School! I earned my degree in School Psychology from Columbia University. I am passionate about supporting students academically as well as socially and emotionally. I also love to try new foods and my favorite type of cuisine is Italian. I am looking forward to a great school year!



CHASIDY KENNEDY
Speech-Language Pathologist
David Patterson Elementary School

I am excited to be joining the Hempstead School District. I have been in the field of Speech-Language Pathology for over 15 years, and I absolutely love helping students improve their speech and language skills. I am currently working on my Ph.D. in Literacy at St. John's University. My research focuses on virtual training on literacy development for parents of students with developmental delays from underserved communities. I am passionate about working with families to provide support and guidance on how they can help enhance their child's language and literacy skills.



CHRISTINA FARAH
Social Worker
ABGS Middle School

Hello, my name is Christina Farah and I am a licensed Master of Social Work. I earned my master's degree from Adelphi University. Since entering the field of social work, I have been working with youth and their families. My experiences involve working with youth experiencing homelessness and in foster-care settings, as well as in the school environment and providing individual and group counseling services.

It is my nature to care for others, striving to empower them to accomplish their goals. My intention is to make sure students and families have access to resources that will benefit them in school and in society. I believe if we can all find a way to connect within our community and with others, then we can live healthier, more fulfilled lives.



COLLEEN FLORES
Teaching Assistant
Rhodes Academy Elementary School

My name is Brad Clark. I am a graduate of LIU Post, Class of 2019. I am currently working towards my masters degree at the University of Albany. I will be the art teacher at ABGS Middle School. As a teacher, my passion is to create life long learners and teach students the beauty and importance of the arts.



COLETTE CHAPMAN
Social Worker
Rhodes Academy Elementary School

My name is Colette Chapman, I have over 10 years of experience working with children and families in the social work field. Prior to my role with Hempstead School District, I worked with PreK and 3K students, families and staff at NYCDOE. I provided support for social-emotional learning in the classroom and at home, connected families to available resources, and assisted with behavioral challenges and classroom management. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and crafting. I am thrilled to join Hempstead School District and Rhodes Academy!



DANIELLE SIMPSON
Special Education Teacher
Prospect Elementary School

This is my fifth year as a teacher. I graduated from St. Joseph's University in Patchogue, NY in 2018 with BA Child Study and BA in Speech Communications. I graduated from Molloy University in 2022 with MS TESOL. Throughout my teaching experience I have worked with students from PK to 8th Grade in both general education and special education settings. I have always enjoyed crafting, singing, dancing, and musical theatre. I look forward to incorporating music and theatre into my classroom and look forward to opportunities to work with the theatre department in the future. I am appreciative of the opportunity to grow as a teacher and a life long learner in Hempstead Public Schools.



DARLY PAILLERE
Teaching Assistant
David Patterson Elementary School

I'm a wife and a mother of 2 smart girls. I love children, patient, kind, and I'm ready to help my students reach their highest potential.



DONNA WEAVER
Band Teacher
Joseph A. McNeil Elementary School

Donna Weaver has most recently been appointed as a Band Director at Joseph A. McNeil. Mrs. Weaver previously taught band in the East Rockaway School District and throughout Arkansas. She has earned a bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Arkansas, and a master's degree from Le Moyne College. After pursuing graduate studies, Mrs. Weaver had the opportunity to work on the administrative staff for Central New York's professional orchestra. Originally from Long Island, Mrs. Weaver is thrilled to be back and is looking forward to getting started here in Hempstead.



DENISE M. CARCHI
Elementary Teacher
Prospect Elementary School

My name is Denise M. Carchi, I'm super excited to start this new Academic Year as the Dual language Kindergarten teacher at Prospect School. This will be my 4th year teaching but my first year in a Kindergarten classroom. I look forward to meeting and working with amazing people who care about the education and safety of all students.



EDWIN MELARA JR.
Science Teacher
Hempstead High School

My name is Edwin Melara Jr. and I am very excited to begin a new school year as a science teacher at Hempstead High School. This will be my second year as an educator. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Earth Science Education from Molloy College. Currently, I am pursuing my Master's Degree in Bilingual Education from Hofstra University in order to obtain my Bilingual Extension. It is my goal to inspire learners to be curious about the world around them by fostering a collaborative and innovative learning environment. I am looking forward to being a part of the Hempstead School District!



ESTHER PASCAL
FLES Teacher
Rhodes Academy Elementary School

I am beginning my 10th year of teaching and have been teaching Elementary World Language the whole time. I love what I do and look forward to bring my appreciation of world cultures and languages to Hempstead.



JESSICA RAMOS DE AYALA
Math Teacher
Hempstead High School

I'm Jessica Ramos. I am fluent in Spanish and English. My passion for teaching led me to pursue a bachelor's degree in Education Math (7-12) and a BS in Mathematics from Old Westbury College, where I graduated in May 2023. I have experience teaching Algebra I to bilingual students at Hempstead High School. I am an energetic, enthusiastic, and optimistic teacher who believes deeply in student-centered learning. I believe that every student can develop the skills to do well in math subjects. My goal as a math teacher is to help every single student have confidence in their problem-solving abilities to do well in mathematics and their daily life.



GABRIELA JORDAN
ENL Teacher
Barack Obama Elementary School

Hello Tiger Community,
I am excited to join the Hempstead School District! Driven by my personal journey as an ENL student to learn a new language, I found my passion for education and desire to help others to pursue my career in teaching ENL. I love languages and found in them the call to help others and make a difference in my community. Outside the classroom, my world revolves around my loving family, my husband and four children. On the weekends you will find me in the benches cheering my kids at their games or going on walks. My favorite hobbies are cooking and dancing. Looking forward to an amazing school year!



JOHN MODICA
Special Education Teacher
Barack Obama Elementary School

My name is John Modica and I am born and raised in Bethpage, New York. My educational journey started in the Island Trees School District. After high school, I worked as a teacher's aide there for 2 1/2 years assisting students with disabilities from various grades. I earned my undergraduate degree in Childhood Education from SUNY Old Westbury and hold additional certifications in early childhood and special education. Currently, I'm pursuing a master's degree in STEM Education at the American College of Education. I'm excited to make a difference in the Hempstead School District and inspire the next generation.



JOSEPH GOODMAN
School Psychologist
David Paterson Elementary School

I have been a school psychologist for over 6 years. My experience has let me work with children on the autism spectrum to seniors transferring to college. I excel at conducting assessments, counseling students and being a team player. I love my job and will enjoy continuing exploring every aspect of the field.



KHANDISSA BROWN
School Psychologist
David Paterson Elementary School

I am originally from the Caribbean (born in Trinidad). I am a mother of 3. I love to travel, it helps to keep me grounded.



KERRIE-ANN FAIRCLOUGH
Social Worker
Jackson Elementary School

Kerrie-Ann Fairclough is a Licensed Master's Social Worker who obtained her Master's Degree from Fordham University. She has experience serving youth and adults diagnosed with mental illness and developmental disabilities. She has also worked with students struggling with academics and career concerns ranging from the ages of 5 to 21. Throughout her career, she has developed a vocational department by creating curriculums, job training, and setting up internships within the school community. She enjoys seeing her students thrive in all areas of their everyday lives. Kerrie-Ann aims to create a safe space for her students and is excited to begin her journey within the Hempstead School District.



KRISTINA SIGNORE
Elementary Teacher
David Paterson Elementary School

My first grade teacher had such a positive influence in my life. It was her kindness and patience that made me want to become a teacher. Now, I have been teaching for almost 8 years! I have a M.Ed in Special Education and have had experience teaching students with diverse needs. I am so excited to be apart of the Hempstead family and I look forward to teaching my FIRST first grade class with my co-teacher!



LOURDES BASORA
Bilingual Elementary Teacher
Rhodes Academy Elementary School

I am a new bilingual Elementary teacher at Rhodes Academy. I graduated from Queens College in December 2022 with my masters in Early Childhood Education and I'm currently working on my bilingual extension. I love working with young children and watching them learn everyday. I will be teaching one way dual language (Spanish) Kindergarten this school year. I'm excited to learn and grow as an educator at Rhodes Academy!



MARISA CELLUCCI
Special Education Teacher
Rhodes Academy Elementary School

I grew up in Massapequa. This is my 6th year teaching. I previously taught in the NYC DOE for 5 years. I am very excited to work in Hempstead.



MARIA LIMPEROPOULOS
Typist Clerk
District

I am very excited to join our registration department. I believe we have a very strong team environment



MARISSA SCUDLO
Library Media Specialist
ABGS Middle School

Hello, my name is Marissa Scudlo. I am the new Media Specialist at ABGS Middle School. I am looking forward to the school year and meeting everyone. I am here to help everyone with research, credible resources, or help in finding the perfect book. I have a Master's in Library Media from Long Island University and a Bachelor's in History from Oneonta. I enjoy reading historical fiction, walking through History, and spending time with my family.



MARK VALERIE
Account Clerk
Human Resources

My name is Mark Valerie, and I have a bachelor's in Applied Mathematics from SUNY Farmingdale. On my spare time, I grow vegetables in my garden, and love to cook.



MITCHELL HOROWITZ
District Locksmith
District

I have been a locksmith for over 35 years. I have worked all across Long Island and the 5 boroughs. I have experience in all types of lock/safe/security work including industrial, professional, residential and auto. I currently reside in Nassau County with my wife, two children and two dogs.



MICHELLE VITKOWSKI
Special Education Teacher
David Paterson Elementary School

I graduated from St. Joseph's College. I have been teaching for over 10 years. For the last 9 years, I have worked as a special education teacher in a vocational/life skills training program working with high students ages 15-21 years old. Prior to this experience, I worked as a preschool teacher for 2 years and as a substitute teacher in the school districts.



NICOLE RUIZ
Music Teacher
Barack Obama Elementary School

Hi! My name is Nicole Ruiz and I will be the new Music Teacher at Barack Obama School. I just graduated in June with a degree in BMUS Music Education (choral emphasis) from Queens College. My music genre ranges from pop music, hip-hop/R&B, to musical theater. This will be my first year teaching and I can't wait to make the most memories here at Hempstead UFSD.



PAOLA GERMINO
Bilingual Elementary Teacher
Barack Obama Elementary School

My name is Paola Germino and I consider myself a person who is self motivated and determined. I enjoy working with others and getting to know new people. I'm excited to embark on my journey as a first grade Bilingual Teacher and I'm grateful for the opportunity to join the Hempstead School District. I can't wait to meet my students and learn from them. I believe as a teacher you not only teach, but you keep learning. I have a Masters in Bilingual Education from Hunter College and this is my first year teaching. In my free time, I enjoyed going for walks with my daughter, husband and dog Pancake. We also like traveling while we can.



SEHER QAZI
ENL Teacher
Prospect Elementary School

Hello, my name is Seher Qazi, and I am thrilled to start the school year at Hempstead as the new ENL teacher at Prospect School . I am a 28-year-old Pakistani American, originally from Dix Hills, NY and I hold certifications in Childhood Education, TESOL, and Special Education. This will be my first full-time teaching year; prior to this, I worked at Syosset.



RHONDREA TAYLOR
Special Education Teacher
Rhodes Academy Elementary School

My name is Rhondrea Taylor, and I am excited to be a part of the Hempstead School District. I have over ten years of experience in special education, and I believe in fostering positive relationships between students and families to ensure students are successful.



SADIA BATOOL
Clerk Typist
ABGS Middle School

Typist Clerk/Clerical Assistant



SARINA BRADSHAW
Clerk Typist
ABGS Middle School

I am a proud Hempstead Graduate. I enjoy working with people and being a mentor/role model for the youth. I am more than honored to be working in a community the helped mold me into the person that I am. I AM HEMPSTEAD!



TONI EBRON
Parent Resource Center Liason
District

Compassionate and experienced in key achievements; mentoring and supporting family engagement initiatives to support the mission and district's comprehensive improvement plan through an artistic and collaborative expression to inspire, and support our students and families academic.



TAYLOR RETTIG
Elementary Teacher
Prospect Elementary School

Hi everyone my name is Taylor Rettig and I'm so excited to be apart of Hempstead School District! I live in Massapequa and previously taught in the city for two years. I am entering my third year of teaching, and my first year as a Kindergarten teacher. I've ran cross country and track and field since fifth grade and would love to coach or volunteer at practices and meets for Hempstead's teams. I'm looking forward to having a great year!



VICTORIA CULBREATH
Attendance Aide
Hempstead High School

Victoria Culbreath is a wife (of nearly 30 years), mother of 2 adult sons, and has served the Hempstead School District through her volunteerism for over 25 years. Victoria has been involved in PTA, SEPTA, CET Committee, chaperoning students on school trips, and more. She finished her Undergraduate studies in 2022 during the pandemic and is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Social Work. She brings her wisdom, experience, and passion for the Hempstead students to her new position. Helping others simply resonates with Victoria. She is extremely honored and excited to contribute to the Hempstead District.



ANDRINE THOMAS EUROPE
Teaching Assistant
Prospect Elementary School

My name is Andrine Thomas Europe. I am a teaching assistant at Prospect school. Before moving to this position, I was a lunch monitor with Jackson School. I have two children who keep me very busy with their various activities. I love working with children and seeing their eyes light up when they discover something new. In my free time I enjoy gardening and solving puzzles. I also love to travel to see new places.



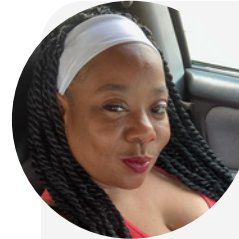
FRANCES PINCUS
Senior Account Clerk
Human Resources

I am born and raised in Queens, NY. I attended Baruch College and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. I am very happy to be part of the Hempstead School District and I am looking forward to learning and growing in my new position as Senior Account Clerk. I love to spend time with my family and friends. I enjoy going to the gym, hiking, biking, shopping and playing with my 2 birds - Kiwi and Michi (but they are high maintenance). I enjoy this time of year very much because I love everything pumpkin - especially pumpkin pie!



NOELLE DAVERSA
Special Education Teacher
Joseph A. McNeil Elementary School

My name is Noelle Daversa and I have been teaching on Long Island for 10 years. My background is in Special Education as well as Behavior Analysis. I am excited to continue my teaching career with the Hempstead School District.



KIMBERLY COWAN
Cleaner
ABGS Middle School

Im Kimberly currently at ABGS Middle School as a cleaner. I love my new job. I Achieve to make cleaning effortless, leaving no mess unturned. 🧹 To achieve a spotless space for school environment.



CALOB CONGDON
Music Teacher
David Paterson School

Calob Congdon graduated Summa Cum Laude from Hofstra University in May 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education. His academic honors include two semesters on the Dean's List and six semesters on the Provost's List.

Calob is thrilled to be joining the faculty at David Paterson Elementary School where he will teach Kindergarten-Sixth Grade General Music and conduct the 5th-6th Grade Chorus. He also currently holds positions as a teacher for Music Together: While They're Little in New Hyde Park, NY as well as the Music Adventures Teacher for Dance Connection in Islip, NY.



DIONNE DURANT
21st Century Assistant Project Coordinator
Parent Resource Center

Dionne A. Durant is a Licensed Master of Social Work with over 25 years of experience working in Maternal Child and Community Health with a concentration on health disparities in communities of color. She brings a rare mix of community-level, hospital-based, and foundation-level experience needed to impact community health and wellness. Ms. Durant has worked for well-known community-based organizations and hospitals in the New York area as well as has represented the March of Dimes on several councils, coalitions, and committees, including the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene / Bureau of Maternal, Infant & Reproductive Health Infant Mortality Case Review Committee. She is an experienced grant manager and was responsible for maintaining and monitoring the NY March of Dimes grant and awards programs.



DEJA STOREY
Permanent Substitute Teacher
ABGS Middle School

I am excited to join the Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School staff as the permanent substitute teacher. This past summer I had the opportunity to work as a school counselor for Hempstead High School, which was an enriching experience.

I have a bachelor's degree in psychology from Adelphi University and master's degree in School Counseling from LIU Post. I am a resourceful and devoted school counselor with a passion for helping students. My goal is to create a welcoming space for students to flourish and I believe every student deserves the tools to put forth their best effort. I look forward to a rewarding school year!



XIANGYANG ZHOU
FLES: Mandarin Chinese
ABGS Middle School

Xiangyang Zhou, a Chinese native speaker, holds a Master of Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages from Macau University of Science and Technology, along with a Master of Arts in Teaching from Queens College. With a profound passion for education, Xiangyang brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the field of language instruction. Their academic background indicates a deep understanding of language acquisition theories and effective teaching strategies, making them an invaluable resource in facilitating language learning for others.



SHARIFA JACKSON
Adult Education
ABGS Middle School

I have been in the field of education for over 20 years. I have worked on every academic level with both students and adults. Teaching is my passion!



SAMANTHA WAKEFIELD
Pre-K Teacher
Prospect School

My name is Samantha Wakefield. I have my Masters in Early Childhood and Childhood Education. I've been teaching for about a decade. I strive to create a community of learners that nurtures growth in a positive and fun environment. Outside of teaching, I enjoy spending time with my son, Kingston, and my family. I also like to travel, craft, and play board games. I am excited to be a part of the Hempstead School District!



JESSICA EVANGELISTA
Teaching Assistant
Prospect School

I have been working as a Teaching Assistant for many years. The reason I am drawn to being a Teaching Assistant is that helping children realize their potentials is fulfilling. It is also a profession that allows me to be creative and work as a part of a team. Prospect School has proven to be a great fit for me where I can work to help children learn the foundation skills they will need not just for school, but for life. I know I am part of a teaching community that is looking to build the well rounded students, citizens, and future leaders that we need.