



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

2023-24 New Leadership





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School District

Principals/ Assistant Principals

Mariko Kobata

Principal, Bubb Elementary

Mariko Kobata will be the new principal of Bubb Elementary, replacing Principal Cyndee Nguyen who will be moving on to become the District's new Director of Early Literacy. Ms. Kobata is currently a MVWSD Special Education Coordinator and has worked as an assistant principal at Graham Middle School. Ms. Kobata came to MVWSD in 2002 as a special education teacher at Graham, and later taught at Imai Elementary. Before MVWSD, she worked as a special education teacher for six years at the middle school level. She has a bachelor's degree from University of Nevada and a master's in educational administration from the University of Phoenix.



Danielle Lyons

Principal, Theuerkauf Elementary

Danielle Lyons, formerly Assistant Principal at Crittenden Middle School, will be the new principal at Theuerkauf Elementary School. Ms. Lyons has taught for 10 years; six of those years at Stevenson Elementary and she was an instructional coach at Stevenson Elementary. She has earned a M.S. in Educational Technology from Central Connecticut State University, a B.S in Elementary Education, and a B.A. in Theater from Southern Connecticut University.



Michelle Williams

Assistant Principal, Graham Middle

Michelle Williams is a new assistant principal at Graham Middle School. She served as principal at Theuerkauf Elementary School for three years. Ms. Williams has 12 years of K-12 teaching experience. Before MVWSD, she served as Dean/Vice Principal of Instruction and as Instructional Coach at e3 Civic High in San Diego. Ms. Williams earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Texas at Dallas and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University. She is fluent in Spanish and speaks conversational Russian, Arabic, and Mandarin.



Julie Thompson

Assistant Principal, Crittenden Middle

Julie Thompson will be a new assistant principal at Crittenden Middle School. Ms. Thompson has 15 years of administrative experience. Most recently, she has served as assistant principal at Graham Middle School and as a principal in the Redwood City School District. She has also served as Director of Human Resources for the Campbell Union High School District, and as an assistant principal in the San Mateo Union High School District and in the Hayward Unified School District. Ms. Thompson has bilingual education experience as a Spanish/bilingual teacher in the Sequoia Union High School District and Ravenswood School District. She has a bachelor's degree in Spanish from UC Davis, a master's degree in education from San Francisco State University, and a master's degree in educational leadership from UC Berkeley.



Terri Lambert

Principal, Stevenson Elementary

Terri Lambert will be the principal at Stevenson Elementary. She served as the interim principal at Stevenson this past year. She has 29 years of school administrative experience. She has worked as a District-level Educational Services Coordinator, and was the Principal at Mariano Castro Elementary neighborhood and dual immersion programs for two years and then at Mariano Castro for six years. She has worked as a Principal and Title I Coordinator in the Soledad Unified School District for 12 years and also 7 years as Principal in Greenfield Union School District. She earned bachelor's degrees from the University of Waterloo and University of Windsor and an administrative credential from San Jose State University.





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Cyndee Nguyen

Director of Early Literacy

Cyndee Nguyen, who has been the principal at Bubb Elementary since 2014, will be the District's new Director of Early Literacy. MVWSD recognizes the importance of a holistic approach to address the needs of emerging readers. The Director of Literacy will provide instructional leadership and strategic direction for curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development to ensure literacy achievement and growth across all grades. Ms. Nguyen will train and supervise a team of intervention teachers and instructional assistants who will work with students and staff at schools that demonstrate lower student achievement for emerging readers (K-2). Ms. Nguyen began teaching first grade at Bubb in 2005. She served as an instructional coach from 2012-14. She received her bachelor's from UC Berkeley, as well as her master's and teaching credential. She completed the Administrative Credential Program at National University. She is currently a doctoral student studying Educational Leadership at Fresno State University.



Acantha Ellard

Coordinator of MTSS

Acantha Ellard is now the Coordinator of MTSS. Ms. Ellard served as special education consultant last year, and has also previously held the roles of Director of Special Education and Special Education Coordinator.

She has also worked as an Education Specialist at the Sanger Unified School District. She has been an adjunct professor at Fresno Pacific University, where she earned her master's degree in special education and teaching.



Dr. Dawn Berlin

Special Education Coordinator

Role: Dr. Berlin will be supporting Bubb, Graham, and Imai schools, as well as the Speech-Language Pathologist PLC, and Paraprofessionals at her school sites.

Background: Dr. Berlin brings veteran experience from diverse settings including PK-22 Special Education Programs, County Offices of Education, CDE Supporting Inclusive Practices (SIP) and university credentialing programs. Her areas of expertise are Special Education law and compliance, teacher preparation, and inclusive practices.



Dr. Jennifer Morgen

Special Education Coordinator

Role: Dr. Morgen will be supporting Crittenden, Monta Loma, Vargas and Landels schools as well as School Psychologist PLC, and Paraprofessionals at her school sites.

Background: Dr. Morgen is a School Psychologist and Administrator who brings diverse experiences from across California school districts. She brings extensive experience in Special Education programs, processes, and compliance as a former interim Special Education Director, Program Coordinator, and School Psychologist. Dr. Morgen also taught mild/moderate classes at both the elementary and middle school levels.



Marisol Shively

Special Education Coordinator

Role: Ms. Shively will be supporting Gabriela Mistral, Mariano Castro & Graham schools, Related Services PLC, and Paraprofessionals at her school sites.

Background: Ms. Shively brings experience as an Assistant Principal, Program Specialist, Coordinator, and Special Education Teacher. She brings experience as an administrator supporting PK to age 22 programs at the district and county levels. She is well versed in curriculum, instruction, compliance, and Special Education processes and personnel.



Melody Nelson

Special Education Coordinator

Role: Ms. Nelson will be supporting all preschool sites, Theuerkauf Elementary, and Stevenson Elementary, Co-teaching coaching, and Paraprofessionals at her school sites.

Background: Ms. Nelson is a Ed.D. candidate with a specialty in inclusive practices and co-teaching experiences. She brings experience from PK to age 22 programs, Special Education Coordinator, and Program Manager. Ms. Nelson is well versed in Mild-Moderate, Moderate-Severe, and Autism curriculum & instruction.



Perla Galeno

After School Programming Supervisor

Perla Galeno will be an after school programming Supervisor to provide expanded oversight of MVWSD+ as part of the district's Expanded Learning Opportunities Program. She will co-coordinate the MVWSD+ program with Supervisor Erika Navarro. Since 2016, Ms. Galeno has been an Assistant Supervisor for Beyond the Bell, a partnership with the City of Mountain View for after school programming. She has also worked as a program assistant for the city of Hayward, campus relations coordinator for the Ravenswood City School District and recreation specialist at the City of Mountain View. She has a bachelor's degree in Recreation Management from Cal State East Bay.

