

Admin



Kat Sherer, Dean of Students

Joined RMS Staff 9/9/2015

Rainier Community - Greetings! I am starting my 21st year in education but this will be my first year as an administrator. I am a Proud Panther, girls basketball coach and athletic director. My first five years at RMS, I worked as a Special education teacher in the Pathway Program. Prior to coming to the Auburn School District, I spent 15 years teaching P.E./Health/Math/Science in high schools in and around Portland, OR. My favorite part of teaching has always been centered around building relationships with students and providing a positive approach of support. Most importantly - I like to have fun while learning with our students.

I grew up in a small town in Idaho and I'm a proud Bronco from Boise State University. I love and live in the outdoors; camping, hiking, backpacking, kayaking, fishing and exploring National Parks. I just bought a home in Bonney Lake, so I guess I'm officially a Washingtonian!



Heidi Morris, Vice Principal

Joined RMS Staff 10/4/2013

Hello RMS Community! This is my 8th year as Vice Principal at RMS. I love working with the middle school students. The energy level is invigorating and rewarding. Each day brings about new learning for myself and those around me. Thank you for allowing your students to enrich the lives of all who enter the doors at RMS.

When I am not at work with your children I am spending the time with my own two kids finding new parks to play in, a new trail to walk or just finding ways to laugh and enjoy time together. One of our favorite traditions is Friday night pizza and movie, makes Friday night dinner easy for me.



Justin Maier, Principal





Joined RMS Staff 7/1/2017




Hello! This is my fourth year at Rainier Middle School. I enjoy every minute of it partnering with students, families, and staff members in order to try and reach our school's vision, which is "preparing" ALL students for high school and putting them on a path to be successful for college and careers. Prior to Rainier Middle School, I was an assistant principal for three years at Mt. Tahoma High School in Tacoma, WA, and prior to that I was a middle school social studies teacher for 13 years in Kent, WA, where I earned National Board Certification in 2008. I've purposely, throughout my career, tried to work at schools that match and reflect the great diversity that I've grown up with in my own family, as this is a value that I hold deeply.





I enjoy spending time with my family and traveling to National Parks during the summer months. I believe I've been to close to 30 of the 61 or so National Parks in the United States. I also love creating over-the-top decorations for our house for the holidays, such as building a life-size Scooby Doo Mystery Machine and accompanying Villains, and recreating life-size scenes of various Snoopy Holiday Shows.





My "WHY" for doing this work is that I want to partner with others and create a school that helps remove barriers that often prevent ALL of our students from both feeling and being successful.






The one quote that best guides me during this work is from the great





		Audre Lorde: "When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I'm afraid."
District Support		<p>Pili Wolfe</p> <p>This is my eighth year working with teachers and leaders at Rainier. I've worked in Auburn for 11 years with all the elementary and secondary schools to support their School Improvement work and other district initiatives. I enjoy being here at Rainier to support teaching and learning. I'm inspired daily by students, teachers and leaders.</p>
Behavior Teaching Specialists (BTS)		<p>Jay McGuffin Semester 1</p> <p>Joined RMS Staff 9/3/2014</p> <p>Hello RMS community! This is my 15th year teaching and 7th year at Rainier Middle School. I started my career where I grew up in Lake Chelan, Washington. I received my degree in Elementary Education from Central Washington University. I also completed my Master's Degree as a Master Teacher from Central. I am highly qualified to teach mid-level math and science. This past year I stepped in to assist our administration as Dean of Students. I am fortunate to be helping our new Dean of Students this year as a Behavior Specialist. I am also teaching mid-level math intervention classes. Besides teaching I also have the opportunity to coach wrestling at Auburn Mountainview High School. It's a sport I truly love and one I have been a part of since I was 5 years old.</p>
		<p>Morio Montgomery Semester 2</p> <p>Joined RMS Staff 9/6/2017</p> <p>Greetings RMS families and staff! I am joining the RMS staff as a first year 7th grade social studies teacher. Prior to becoming a teacher, I worked in education as a Para educator and High School sports coach in the Lake Washington School District. I received my B.A in politics, philosophy and economics from the University of Washington-Tacoma and I am a Veteran of the United States Navy. My wife Jessica and I have two daughters, Maria and Camilla. Some things that I enjoy most are traveling/vacationing with my family, coaching/watching/participating in sports, and all things University of Washington. Go Dawgs! I could not be more excited about the opportunity of joining the Rainier Middle School learning community. Being a facilitator of education and opportunity for young people is a privilege and I am looking forward to doing so with the amazing Rainier Middle School staff!</p>
Counselors		<p>Erickson, Gregory- Counselor (O-Z)</p> <p>Joined RMS Staff 9/11/2015</p> <p>I am originally from California and moved here in 2015. I got my Master of Education in School Counseling at Azusa Pacific University. I also have a multi-subject teaching degree for K-8.</p>






		<p>Pernell, Ashley - Counselor (A-G) Joined RMS Staff 9/9/2020</p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself! My name is Ashley Pernell and I am the new School Counselor here at Rainier Middle School. I am so excited to be part of the Panther family! Already it is so apparent how close-knit and welcoming the Panther community is and I feel very lucky to be part of it!</p> <p>My passion for school counseling began during my time as a student at Central Washington University where I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Law and Justice and then at the University of Southern California where I earned my Master of Education in School Counseling. I have two years combined internship school counseling experience with Renton and Kent School District at the elementary and middle school level.</p> <p>What I love most about the middle school level is the genuine curiosity students have in their learning and the world around them, as well as the opportunity for early intervention support that can overall promote student wellbeing. This is a great time for students to discover their interests and plan for the future. I am excited to meet with students individually, in small groups, and in the classroom setting. As a School Counselor, my primary responsibility is to promote the academic, career, and social/emotional development of all students. It is important to me that I work closely as a team with parents/guardians, teachers, administration, and staff to ensure that students are receiving all the support they need to guide them through these middle school years. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you all and getting to know your students throughout the school year!</p> <p>Favorites: Coffee: Iced, White Chocolate/English Toffee Americano with Cream Color: Purple Sport: Gymnastics/ Football (Go Hawks/Go Dawgs!) Food: Street Tacos! Hobby: Vlogging, Dancing/Cheer Fun Fact: Principal Maier was my 7th grade history teacher!</p> <p>All the best, Ashley Pernell Rainier Middle School Counselor</p>
		<p>Fejarang, Lealani - Counselor (H-N) I joined the Rainier family in December 2019 as a School Counselor, and I am so grateful to be given the opportunity to become a part of such an amazing team. I'm originally from Guam, so prior to my time with ASD, I served students and their families in the Guam Department of Education as a teacher and counselor. I earned both my bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Guam. Besides working with kids, I also enjoy hiking, reading and spending time with my family.</p>
<p>Main Office</p>		<p>Tennis Gomez, Laura, ASB Joined RMS Staff 9/12/2018'</p> <p>Washingtonian at heart I love crafting and home art Family is my priority Craziiness is the majority The beach and night skies Is where my heart lies</p>

		<p>Kapule, Bobbie, Office Assistant Joined RMS Staff 10/8/2018 I started with ASD in 2014 as a Paraeducator. I moved to the office in 2018 in search of a more cohesive fit for my family and still wanting to spend time investing in the kids. It has been an amazing journey so far. I have been married for 21 years and we have two kids who are 23 and 13 years old. My oldest is Autistic and was the one who encouraged me to switch from 20 years of retail to the district where I felt like after raising our son, I could make a positive impact with what I had learned along the way. I am grateful to him for being the one to open my eyes to this amazing life change. I look forward to wherever this journey takes me.</p>
		<p>Rudolph, Jeanne, Office Manager I joined RMS Staff 9/1/2006 as Office Manager and I love my job (most days)! I started at ASD 24 years ago, in 1996 at Chinook Elementary as Office Assistant. From there I went to Cascade as ASB/Registrar. I graduated from ITT and originally from Cle Elum, but I've been in Western Washington longer now... I've been happily married to Rudy since 2013. We love to travel, camp, spend time with family and work around our home. My son lives in Maryland and my daughter lives in Bonney Lake and is married and has two boys, Colby and Silas. I also have 3 step-children and 3 grand-daughters in Texas.</p>
<p>Family Engagement Liaison</p>		<p>Lydia Guererro, <u>Family Engagement Liaison</u> Joined RMS Staff 2/26/2018 <i>(She/her/Ella)</i></p> <p>Hola mi gente!! (Hello, my people).</p> <p>My journey with Rainier started in February 2018 and I couldn't be more content. My role in the school is to be a bridge for our students and families, to welcome them, to let them know they matter, are needed, and that their voice is valid and heard.</p> <p>Creating trusting relationships with our students and families is crucial. My purpose is to be that point of connection that I needed when I was a student and even as a parent in the school system.</p> <p>I have two children who are in university and who are products of ASD. I love my community in Auburn. I love hugs, Iced White Coffee Americanos, old school R&B, and Rocky Balboa.</p> <p>I miss our students immensely. I miss hyping them up in the hallways.</p>
<p>Attendance Office</p>		<p>McKee, Shawna, Registrar Joined RMS Staff 1/31/2008 2016-2017 I started working for the Auburn School District in September 2006. I worked at Auburn Mountainview High School until 2016, when I joined the Rainier Panthers. I have 4 children. My daughter graduated last year. My oldest son is currently attending Green River College, where he plans to get his AA Private Pilot's license. I have one son who is a Freshman at Auburn Riverside High School, and my youngest is 4.</p>

		<p>Lowry, Chris, Attendance Joined RMS Staff 10/16/2017 I started working for the Auburn School District in October of 2017. I was the Office Assistant here at Rainier. Then after the big shakeup of 2018, I became the Attendance Secretary. I also work over at Auburn Mountainview High School as the Vocal Music Director for the theater department. Originally from Florida, my wife and I moved here in 2017. My wife Erin, an Auburn Native and ASD grad, and I have been married for 7 years and just became licensed foster parents. I'm currently working on my Music Education degree and hope to start teaching next year.</p>
Health Room		<p>Jeannette Witzel, Nurse Joined Rainier Middle School 2015. Prior to coming to Rainier Middle School I taught High School PE, and coached the Moloka'i gymnastic team in Hawaii. I later went back to school and became a nurse (I hold a masters in Nursing Education). I worked for 27 years in acute care hospitals for both pediatrics and adults. I worked mostly in the ER and ICU settings. I became frustrated by the increasing numbers of teenagers and young adults who were addicted to drugs and alcohol. I talked with all of them, cried with many, and tried to find ways to help them get into rehab, but many came back over and over and died in my hospital. It was discouraging. I started thinking that if I worked with kids at a young age and made a difference in their lives that they would know they had alternatives and would not start using; thus preventing an addiction and early death. At the same time, my youngest son was entering Kindergarten and I realized I did not want to work on days when he was in school like I had to do with my 6 grown children. School nursing was a great option to work with kids and to be at home when my son was off of school. I have 7 children, my youngest is 11. I have 4 grandchildren. I love animals and being outdoors. I love to hike, camp, ride horses, and do obstacle courses, like the tough mudder, with my husband and my children and grandchildren.</p>
		<p>Missy Wick, Health Tech <i>I've been working for Auburn School District since September of 2003. All 17 years have been in the health room at Rainier Middle School. I received my BA degree from Seattle Pacific University in Family and Consumer Sciences. I have been married for 30 years to my college sweetheart, have 2 grown daughters, one awesome son-in-law and 3 beautiful grandsons! In my free time I love to travel, spend time with my family and rock paint.</i></p>
Pathways 403		<p>Diederick, Hollie, Pathways Joined Rainier in September of 2020. Hello! The 2020-2021 school year is my first year at Rainier Middle School but my 15th year as a teacher. I was born and raised in North Dakota the home of the geographical center of North America and the #1 producer of honey in the USA. I moved to the Pacific Northwest six years ago. I have been working as a teacher since 2005 and have spent the entirety of my time in education working with students that have Social Emotional Behavioral needs in both the public school setting as well as Residential treatment placements. In my time away from being a teacher, I enjoy cooking and baking as well as spending time enjoying the great outdoors. My favorite outdoor activities are bonfires, running, hiking, biking, and walking. I look forward to joining the Rainier Middle School team and working with the amazing students that call Rainier home.</p>

Pathways 404		<p>Lilley, Patrick, Pathways 2019-20 This year will mark my 15th year teaching, previously I have taught in Kent and Bethel School Districts as well as spending a year teaching in Bullhead City, Arizona. I have taught at both the High School and Middle School levels. I received My Bachelor's Degree from Chadron State College and my Master's Degree from City University; my hobbies include coaching football, baseball and Wrestling. I also enjoy spending time with my wife and my kids who are 18, 6 and 4; we can be found swimming, attending Baseball games and traveling. I am excited to work with the staff and students at Rainier Middle School and look forward to a fun and successful year</p>
Pathways Para Room 404		<p>Schaper, Kelly, Pathways 6.5h 2019-20 I am a para educator in the Pathways Program. I am entering my 14th year with the Auburn School District. I am a student of the Auburn School District myself and I have four children who have also graduated from ASD. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, watching sports, traveling, reading, and hanging out with friends. I have two daughters that live in Bonney Lake, a daughter in Spokane and a son who lives in Auburn six months of the year and in Florida the other six months (He plays minor league baseball for the Tampa Bay Rays). I also have 3 beautiful grandchildren, 2 girls and a boy and another grandson on the way in February.</p>
		<p>Edwards, Kaitlyn, Pathways 6.5h 2019-20 Hello! I am a para educator in the Pathways program. This is my second year working as a para educator here at Rainier. I previously worked as a Behavior Technician for Childrens with Autism for 5 year and a Medical Assistant with the University of Washington for 1 year. I am a soon to be mommy of 1 and stepmom to 1. My favorite things to do are to sing, listen to music, and watch scary movies. I look forward to seeing everyone face to face soon!</p>
Pathways Para Room 403		<p>Mashek, Samuel, Pathways 6.5h I've been working as a para at Rainier since 2018 and have been with pathways since spring 2019. I co-run tabletop gaming club at Rainier and spend a majority of my time playing video games. I live with my fiance Shay, a para at Mountainview, and our support animal Betty. I attended Hazelwood Elementary, Rainier middle, and Mountainview High, so i've been on the hill my whole life!</p>
		<p>Salomon, Jenna, Pathways 6.5h I have been at Rainier since December, 2019. Before that I worked at Rainier State school in Buckley. I am currently attending college to become a science teacher, and am excited to work with our students both in and out of the classroom this year and for years to come!</p>

Resource Room 207		<p>Nydegger, David, Resource 2019-20 I am the new Inclusive Education teacher here at Rainier Middle School. I am a lifelong Auburn resident and I am so excited to be here! I have two degrees in Inclusive and Elementary Education from Syracuse University I also have a masters in literacy and language from Lesley University. This is my 20th year teaching. The last 12 years were at Cedar Heights Middle School in Covington, where I was the head basketball and soccer coach. I enjoy sports, dogs, and trying to #makeadifference in my community every day!</p>
Resource Room 602, 407, 602		<p>Smith, Danielle, Resource 2019-20 Hey there. I am Danielle Smith and I am really excited to join the Rainier team and meet everybody. I have been teaching special education for four years and was a para before that. I have worked at both the middle school and elementary level. I have a three-year-old girl and a five-month-old baby boy. My husband and I live in Auburn, WA on a little farm. We have a dog, 3 cats, 2 goats and about 30 chickens. I love kids, learning new things, being outside, music, gardening, sports, movies and reading.</p>
Resource Portable 4		<p>Warner, Shelley, Resource 2019-20 This year, I will be teaching special education classes. I live with my husband Jim, our 2 Newfoundland's Hudson and Gus, and our sheltie Daisey. My teaching career began in the fall of 1992, at what was then the "new" Rainier Jr. High. My teaching experiences have all been in Auburn and include working in Special Education at three of the four middle schools & Auburn High School. I have also spent some time at the Virginia Cross Center and as a Teacher on Special Assignment at Hazelwood.</p> <p>My preparation includes certification in K-8 Elementary, K-12 Special Education, Secondary Psychology & K-12 Principal. Through this process, I became a Bigfoot at Spokane Community College, an Eagle at Eastern Washington, a Pirate at Whitworth, a Dog at the University of Washington and a Wild Cat at Central. The culmination of my work and experience was to become Nationally Board Certified in Special Education.</p> <p>Far more importantly, I have always been a Seahawks Fan. I have been teased about it for many years, but recently read the 2013 Seahawks are the Best Team of the Decade. I am looking forward to the next football season and a new beginning at Rainier.</p>
SLC		<p>Sheehan, Lori, SLC 2020-21 Thank you for welcoming me to Rainier. I started with the Auburn School District as a parent/PTA member at Dick Scobee. I was a substitute para-educator, and accepted the opportunity to become a full-time para at Olympic M.S while working to complete my teaching program. When student teaching in the Kent School District was completed, I returned to Auburn and opened a new primary Structured Learning program at Lake View. I am looking forward to meeting each of you at Rainier very soon, and our introductions can be a back and forth conversation, as I would like to get to know you too.</p>

<p>SLC Para</p>		<p>Wilson, Kelly SLC 2020-21 I have been a One on One and Classroom Para for the SLC program at Lakeview Elementary for the past 5 years. I am married and we have an 11-year-old son who is starting Middle School this year at Cascade. I have never worked at the Middle School level, but look forward to this new adventure.</p>
		<p>Gerasimcyk, Christian, SLC 6.5h 2020-21 I will be entering my 8th (and certainly most unique) year as a Para Educator in the Auburn School District. I graduated from Auburn Riverside High School in 2012, and just recently graduated from Grand Canyon University in May with a Bachelor of Arts in History for Secondary Education. I plan to be a teacher very soon; it has just been difficult to get a teaching job during this time. I love sports and am a big Seahawks, Mariners, and Sounders fan. I am excited to be a part of the Rainier Middle School staff and am ready to do what I can to provide educational support during this time. I am looking forward to seeing all staff and students back in the building when it is safe to do so again!</p>
<p>Resource Paras</p>		<p>Pham, Kim-Loan, Special Ed RR I have joined RMS since 2006. I started the district in 1995. I began with the district at West Auburn High School in the daycare center when the district had provided one for 2 years then I moved over to Olympic Middle School for eight years. I worked in the Special Ed Dept. Then I moved over to RMS where I have stayed since.</p>
		<p>Stubbings, Beckie, RR & PM Traffic Hello, my name is Miss Beckie. I am starting my third year at Rainier Middle School. I am a Para-educator working in the ELA/math classes as well as having done some one-on-one work. I have also enjoyed working with the drama class with some of their productions doing costumes, make up and some set design. This is my second year working with Mrs. Shelley Warner. I really love working with the students in her classes, they do keep me on my toes! I am truly looking forward to going back to school in the building, I miss seeing the students face-to-face. Aside from being a para, I am a big Seahawk fan! GO HAWKS!!</p>
<p>Special Education Paras</p>		<p>Arroyo, Pamela, Special Kids (Zhe) Hello, my name is Pamela Arroyo! I started at Rainier Middle School in March 2020. This is my first time being a para educator. I've always had a passion for working with kids. I look forward to furthering my career in education.</p>

		<p>Hall, Shawna, Special Kids (JR)</p> <p>Hi! My name is Shawna Hall and this is my 3rd year as a paraeducator at Rainier Middle School. All three of my kids went to Rainier and are now attending Green River College. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, spending time with my kids and beachcombing.</p>
		<p>Kaur, Anterpreet, Special Kids</p> <p>2020-21 this is my 6th year with the Auburn School district. I am very excited and looking forward to working at Rainier Middle School this year. My two sons went to Rainier Middle School in the past few years. I moved to Auburn from Redmond in 2000.</p>
<p>ELA</p>		<p>Cunningham, Kathryn ELA</p> <p>2020-21 This is my first year at Rainier, and I am excited to be here! I am teaching 8th grade ELA and am enjoying every minute of it--I've been particularly impressed with the kindness, thoughtfulness, and tenacity demonstrated by Rainier Middle School students.</p> <p>I am from Mukilteo, Washington, and earned both my Bachelor's degree (English Literature and Writing, 2016) and Master's degree (Teaching, 2020) from Whitworth University. Between degrees, from 2016-2018, I worked as an Assistant Language Teacher in rural Japan. This amazing experience informed both my flexible teaching style and passion for culturally responsive instruction. It also has given me some funny (and sometimes embarrassing!) stories that I enjoy sharing with my students. In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, creative writing, and hiking with my family.</p>
		<p>Justham, Drew, ELA/SS</p> <p>Hi Panthers! This will be my second year at RMS! Last year I taught 6th grade ELA and 6th grade Social Studies and THIS year I'm teaching 7th grade ELA and 8th grade Social Studies.</p> <p>I am a passionate learner and I love teaching because it lets me empower students with the skills to learn whatever they want for themselves.</p> <p>I grew up in and around Seattle, attending middle school first at Washington Middle School, followed by Hamilton Middle school. I moved right before high school and attended Lake Stevens High School, followed by The University of Puget Sound (Go Loggers!) where I majored in Economics and minored in Politics and Government. After UPS I headed to The University of Tennessee College of Law where I received my J.D. I later went back to school at Seattle University to get my Masters in Teaching & teaching certification.</p> <p>My wife and I have a 13 month old son, Taylor, and I enjoy Husky Football, home projects, and relaxing with the family.</p>



Kniss, Kennedy, ELA/Leadership
2018-19

Hi! I started at Rainier in 2018 as a 6th grade ELA teacher. I now teach ELA, Leadership and am an ASB advisor! I was born in Auburn, but later moved to Tacoma where I currently live. I graduated from Linfield College in McMinnville, OR (Go Cats!) with a degree in Literature and Secondary Education. When I'm not teaching, I love to travel, be outside, scroll on Tik Tok (sometimes creating my own) and hang out with friends & family!

Teaching is the best job in the world, and I have the best students! Even during this difficult time, they have remained resilient and strong. We got this, Panthers!



Maria, Denise ELA/Instructional Specialist

This is my fifth year teaching at Rainier Middle School. Teaching is my favorite thing. I enjoy building relationships with students to learn how to best support their learning. Students at RMS are the best. They keep me smiling! I attended the University of Puget Sound where I earned my B.A. and Master in the Art of Teaching. I teach English Language Arts at RMS, I am an instructional specialist, and an AVID Coordinator.



McCord, Sheila, ELA

Although Auburn has been my family's home since 1961, my time at Rainier Middle School has only been a little over 20 years of teaching. Attending Auburn's Washington Elementary, in the old brick building, (when prunes were the fruit served at lunch), is where my love hate relationship with education began, which continues even today. Beyond teaching, my days are filled with the 5 adults who call me mom or mom-in-law, who have blessed me with 9 grandchildren, ages 23 to 2 years old. Of those fourteen mentioned, 11 have attended Auburn Schools, with 6 of them, having attended Rainier. Many of the relationships through our family's years in ASD, have been wonderfully rich and lasting. When not in school, time spent flower gardening, tending to the Doodle and the Poodle, girl shopping, and making the family favorite treats, keeps me busy and fulfilled.



Pruett, Hannah, ELA

Hello! My name is Hannah Pruett. I started at Rainier halfway through the 2019-2020 school year. This is my first-year teaching and my first experience with middle school. I teach 7th grade ELA and I absolutely love it! I feel blessed to be a part of Rainier Middle school and feel so lucky that this is where I get to begin my teaching career. My wife and I got married in 2019 and currently live in Milton, WA. I did not grow up in the area and have only lived here for about two years. Before here, I was living in Spokane, WA and attending Eastern Washington University. I had never attended a public school until college, so I feel that this gives me a unique perspective when it comes to teaching. I don't have many hobbies but have recently started gardening and surprisingly, I have been very successful.



Riney, Mason ELA intervention



Rogers, Megan ELA

Hi all! I'm Ms. Rogers and this will be my third-year teaching 6th grade ELA at Rainier! I am also an assistant track coach and love any activity that involves being outdoors. I am from Covington (so not too far) and now live in Renton. I graduated from Central Washington University (go Wildcats!) where I received my teaching certification.

Outside of teaching, I love to read and spend time with family and friends. I am a huge Harry Potter fan and can pretty much geek out over anything. I can't wait to see what this year has in store for us!



Snyder, Cheri ELA 8th Grade

Hi there! I'm Cheri Snyder and I have been at Rainier since August or 2002. WOW!!! Those 18-19 years have flown by so quickly. Prior to teaching at Rainier, I taught a multi-age classroom 1-3 grades and 3-4 grade looping class. I have found my true calling at the middle school level. I have taught ELA 7th and 8th, WEB (such an amazing program! For our students), Science, Social Studies, and Home Ec. at Rainier.

I currently live in Covington, WA. I have two daughters that currently attend Rainier, Auburn MountainView High School/Running Start at Green River College. We have a dog named Sadie and two twin kittens named Michi and Marley. Some of my interests are anything Disney related, Seahawks, Sounders, doing crafts, kayaking, board games, hiking, and hanging out with my family.




I attend Central Washington University to earn my Bachelor's Degree and Earned my Master's degree from Grand Canyon University. I will be continuing my education to receive an endorsement in teaching Gifted and Talented students. I am originally from California. I love the sun and the beach!!



Quist, Marie .7 ELA

2020-21 My name is Marie Quist, and I love teaching middle school! Before Rainier, I taught at two different middle schools in Seattle. For the past four years, I have stayed at home with my kiddo while also working on doctorate coursework. Last year, I had the privilege of being an AVID tutor at Rainier for a short time before schools closed.

My family and I currently live in downtown Auburn, and I actually grew up here! I attended both Washington and Hazelwood Elementary before moving to California. I am proud of my Auburn roots – they play a large part in my motivation to serve the students and families of this community. I cannot wait to get to know you.

Para Title ELA		<p>Stromberg, Charla I have been with the Auburn School District for 6 years. I joined the RMS staff 2 years ago, supporting the ELA department. I teach reading comprehension. Before that I worked in the reading rooms at Pioneer Elementary. I started out teaching preschool in a private school in Auburn for 10 years prior to becoming a para at ASD.</p>
Math		<p>Cooper, Paul, Math/Health 2018-19 Hello Panthers. Before coming to Rainier Middle School in 2018-2019 I taught at Olympic Middle School. I have taught in the Auburn School District for 37 years. I love teaching middle school. This year I am teaching 6th grade Health and 7th grade Math. I graduated from Washington State University and received my Master's Degree from Puget Sound University. My family and I love to go bike riding and hiking whenever we have a chance. I look forward to another exciting year at Rainier Middle School.</p>
		<p>Gahr, Taylor, Math/AVID 2019-20 "I'm Taylor Gahr—born and raised in Sequim, Washington (lavender capital of the U.S.)! I just recently graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with my Masters in Education and received my Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education in 2018. In my free time I enjoy camping, playing card games, and spending time with my loved ones. I am looking forward to creating a classroom atmosphere built on relationship building, communication and collaboration. I am excited to be a part of the family here at Rainier!"</p>
		<p>Graham, Hillary Math 2020-21 My name is Hillary Graham. I grew up in Puyallup but I have lived in Seattle for the last 10 years. I have lived in Washington for most of my life. I am alumni of Central Washington University, where I got a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and University of Puget Sound where I earned my Masters in Teaching. I love to be outside, go hiking and exploring. I have taught Math for 10 years and also a bit of Computer Science. I am really interested in how math and technology shape and improve our world. My husband, 3 year old daughter and I love to go camping in our RV to the beach whenever we get the chance. We spend a lot of time with our families which include our parents, siblings and nephews. I am excited to join the community of Rainier Middle School!</p>
		<p>Gullard, Christina, Math I started teaching at Rainier in 1997. I began by teaching social studies and language arts and moved to science and math over 17 years ago. I have enjoyed teaching 6th graders each of these years. I have two kids, who both attend Kentridge High School. Most years we are busy with baseball and volleyball. I am a graduate of University of Washington. Go Huskies!</p>



Lewis, Brenda, Math

This is my 8th year at Rainier Middle School. This is my 18th year of teaching. I have taught 7th and 8th grade math for the past 15 years. I love the students here at Rainier and my amazing teachers and staff. I believe in building people up and choose to see the positives in everyone. A quote I love from Michelle Obama that I love "Always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals."



Luong, Jacob, Math

This is my 7th year at Rainier and 23rd year teaching.

Michelle Obama "Be better"



McGuffin, Jay, Math/Intervention

Hello RMS community! This is my 15th year teaching and 7th year at Rainier Middle School. I started my career where I grew up in Lake Chelan, Washington. I received my degree in Elementary Education from Central Washington University. I also completed my Master's Degree as a Master Teacher from Central. I am highly qualified to teach mid-level math and science.







Paradis, Marcie, Math/Intervention

I joined Rainier Middle School in January 2020 as a math teacher. I've been teaching since 2008, most of which was spent teaching 6th grade in the Kent School District. I have my bachelor degree in human services from Western Washington University and my masters in teaching from City University of Seattle. I grew up in the area and graduated from Auburn High School. I consider Auburn my hometown and enjoy living here with my fiancé and our four dogs. I enjoy spending time with friends, family and the pups – going for walks and hikes, enjoying good food and drinks, movies and just generally enjoying each other's company.



Rock, Michele, Math/Instructional Specialist

Hi everyone! I started teaching at Rainier right after we survived Y2K in the year 2000. My 2 sons went to Rainier, they loved it and moved on, but I stayed right here. I love working with middle students, they bring so much energy and humor to my day. In my spare time, I spend lots of time with my 6 grandsons at their games or spending time together hiking or playing games. I love sushi and Coffee Almond Fudge ice cream.

		<p>Thomas, Charlie, Math</p> <p>I have been teaching for 28 years in the Auburn School District. I was lucky to team with Debbie Allison when I first came to Rainier (when middle schools still had teaming). I have two children and my wife was also in education. I enjoy playing sports and computer games in my free time. My wife has made sure we travel and has taken us on fantastic trips in the US and Europe. My masters is in technology in the classroom. I attended WSU, PLU, and City University. I coached basketball and volleyball at Rainier until we had our first child, then I wanted to be home with the family. I enjoy teaching math because of the many ways math can be explained and there is a correct answer.</p>
Title Para Math		<p>Hamilton, Brenda, Title</p> <p>I joined the RMS staff on 12/2017 as a title math para. I previously worked at Washington Elementary from 2014 in their SLC special ed program. My heart is to help students who need the extra support to succeed in their academic learning. I put forth over 100% in all I do, going above and beyond to see students excel!! I am happy to be working at RMS amongst the diverse students enrolled.</p>
Science		<p>Allison, Debbie, Sci</p> <p>I became a Rainier Panther in 1994. I started teaching sixth graders Language Arts and Social Studies. I was blessed to have Charlie Thomas as my partner in sixth grade for many years! I then taught a few years of seventh grade Science until I moved up to eighth grade. I have taught my wonderful, humorous, sometimes frustrating eighth graders Science and High School Biology for the last 8 years. I also had 10 years of working with Rainier's WEB program with Kelly Portmann. I have so many wonderful memories of those eighth grade leaders! In my spare time (do we still have spare time?!), I love watching NASCAR, Football, Reading and Scrapbooking. I am also blessed to have two beautiful granddaughters; Mila-Rose Allison who is 2, and Charlotte Patricia (Charlee) who just turned 1! This is my 31st year of teaching and I love my students as much if not more than I did the first day of my teaching career.</p>
		<p>Armbruster, Susan, Science</p> <p>2015-2016 This is my 6th year teaching science at Rainier Middle School, and my 21st year of teaching altogether. I'm a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, and that is where I live as well. My Masters of Science in Geosciences work was from Mississippi State University.</p> <p>I love to travel, explore, and hike. I'm a science geek. I like spending time with family, and am very close to my 8 year old grandson. I enjoy playing the piano, and currently I'm into geneology, gardening, and remodeling my house.</p> <p>What I especially enjoy about being at Rainier are the caring and kind colleagues that I work with, and my wonderful students.</p>



Dan Diefendorf 8th Grade Science

Hello, I've been teaching for 27 years (all at Rainier). I've taught all of the sciences. I have a BA in Earth Science, a Minor in Geography and a Minor in Broad Areas of Science from Central Washington University. In the past, I coached Football (20+ years) and Basketball (7 years). Now I spend my time getting my 9th grade daughter to where she needs to go. I've been married to my wife Karleen for 21 years. She is a Saint for putting up with me. We have 1 daughter (Molly), a dog (Abby) and a rabbit (Jinger). I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds for us.



Nixon, Savannah, Science

2017-18 I just graduated with my Master's degree this June from Western Oregon University. I have worked in middle schools for the past three years and am excited to move to Washington and join the Rainier Middle School team. I love to travel and be outdoors. This summer I spent time hiking through Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons and Utah and on a trip to Mexico. I am excited for the 2020-2021 school year.







Olson, Thomas, Science 6th/7th grade. Instructional Technology Support Specialist

Welcome to another exciting (unique) school year. My name is Mr. Olson and I will be teaching your science course this year. This will be my 7th year teaching at Rainier Middle School. I have studied many fields within the sciences, with an emphasis on geology. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Earth & Space Science Teaching and a Bachelor of Arts in Middle-Level Math & Science from Central Washington University. Recently, I earned my master's degree from WGU in high school Physics. I'm very excited to get to know each of you and help you learn science!



Sturza, Jessalynn, Sci (Science Dept. Head)

I began teaching at Rainier in 2016. I have taught 6th grade science every year until this year where I am teaching two periods of 7th. I am a graduate of Auburn High school and went on to get my Bachelor's of Science in Biology from UW Seattle. I got my teaching certificate and Master's degree from UW Tacoma in Secondary Science Ed. In my personal time I enjoy getting outside with my husband, dog and 1 year old daughter.

		<p>Todd, Kristin, Sci Hello! This is my 17th year at Rainier. I have been teaching here since I began my career as a teacher. I currently teach 7th Grade Accelerated Science and 7th Grade Science. When I first began at Rainier, I taught Math and Language Arts, but Science is my passion. Before I was a teacher, I worked for almost 10 years as a mental health counselor. I have a degree in Human Services from Western Washington University with a teaching certificate. I have one daughter who recently graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in Graphic Design. I am married and I have two dogs and a cat. In my spare time I enjoy nature and watching TV. I grew up on Whidbey Island and still enjoy visiting my family there.</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>		<p>Dunham, Ryan, SS I began teaching in 2000 at Hazelwood Elementary after graduating from Central Washington University. I spent two years at the elementary level before transferring to Rainier in 2002. While here at Rainier I have taught 8th grade Science, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and US History. I coached 7th and 8th grade football, 7th and 8th grade baseball, as well as coaching baseball at AMHS for 10 years as the head JV coach. I grew up 'on the hill' going through the Auburn school system and it has been great to come back and teach in the area I know so well.</p>
		<p>Furth, Paul, SS My teaching career began in 2000 when, after graduating from Central Washington University, I was hired to teach 3rd grade at Hazelwood Elementary. I spent four wonderful years there teaching and building lasting relationships with staff. In 2004, I was hired by Rainier Middle school to teach Geography and Science...I have been at Rainier ever since. Over the years I have taught math, Washington State History, and spent several years coaching multiple sports. For the last 8 years I have been teaching 8th grade US History...my favorite role as an educator so far. When I am not working I love spending time with my beautiful wife and two amazing kids.</p>
		<p>Gest, Christin, SS JOINED RMS 9/9/2020 Hello Rainier Panthers! My name is Christin, and I am thrilled to begin my journey as a 7th grade Social Studies teacher. I am from Brooklyn, New York and currently reside in Seattle, Washington.</p> <p>I am a graduate of the University of Puget Sound, with a Masters of Art in Teaching--my second master's degree.</p> <p>I am a vegan, I enjoy watching WWE wrestling, and I believe that Nicole Byer is the best comedian ever.</p> <p>As we consider the radical change the country and society is going through, I have sat and intensely interrogated what it means to be a strong teacher, and co-conspirator for my students. This is multifaceted. I am deeply committed to antiracist teaching practices, and I believe that continuing conversations about and around race, access, and relationships are the keys to combating inequity systemically.</p> <p>I am eager to cultivate relationships by collaborating with students to design sturdy, emotionally inclusive and supportive environments.</p> <p>Through fostering community strength in the classroom, I aim to encourage students to question the narratives of history. Who benefits and who does not? How do these narratives influence how current events</p>

unfold? I am thankful and filled with gratitude to begin my teaching career at Rainier Middle School. **(She/Hers/They/Them)**



Gray, Margaret (Megan), SS/AVID

This is my 10th year teaching and 3rd year teaching at Rainier. I most recently taught 7th & 8th grade in the Kent School District and prior to that, 6th grade in Orange County when my husband was stationed in San Diego with the Marine Corps. I have a Masters degree in education and a BA in social studies from Western Washington University. I also have a National Board Certification in middle level social studies and a National Geographic Educator Certification. My husband, Travis, and I have been married for almost 10 years and have a border collie/lab mix named Lexi, and a German Shepard named Luna. I love working out (especially weightlifting), traveling, reading, making art, playing guitar, laughing, and learning. I absolutely love working with middle schoolers and am excited for lots of new faces & learning opportunities this year!



Justham, Drew, ELA/SS

2019-20 Hello! I am so excited and thankful to start my teaching career at Rainier Middle School! I hope to foster a joy for learning and encourage an insatiable curiosity in my students while supporting their transition into middle school. Helping young people develop into more empowered, self-directed, and aware citizens is something I am truly honored and humbled to be charged with. I am from this area, having attended Seattle Public Schools before moving to Lake Stevens to start high school. My educational journey has led me to graduate from The University of Puget Sound, University of Tennessee, and Seattle University. My wife, Amy, and I are expecting our first child any day now (due 8/13) and while I am a bit daunted by the challenge of combining the first year of teaching with the first year of parenting, I am also grateful and eager to start this next phase of life! Looking forward to meeting and learning from all of you!



Montgomery, Morio, SS/AVID

2017-18 Greetings RMS families and staff! I am joining the RMS staff as a first year 7th grade social studies teacher. Prior to becoming a teacher, I worked in education as a Para educator and High School sports coach in the Lake Washington School District. I received my B.A in politics, philosophy and economics from the University of Washington-Tacoma and I am a Veteran of the United States Navy.




My wife Jessica and I have two daughters, Maria and Camilla. Some things that I enjoy most are traveling/vacationing with my family, coaching/watching/participating in sports, and all things University of Washington. Go Dawgs! I could not be more excited about the opportunity of joining the Rainier Middle School learning community. Being a facilitator of education and opportunity for young people is a privilege and I am looking forward to doing so with the amazing Rainier Middle School staff!



Raybuck, Rachel, SS

Hello RMS students and families! My name is Rachel Raybuck, and this is my third year teaching at Rainier. I graduated from Western Washington University in 2016 with my BA in Political Science. I then went on to get my teaching certification in Social Studies and Language Arts (also from WWU). My Master's degree is in Instructional Design and Implementation.

I truly believe I have the best job in the world and I am so excited to get to know students and families this year. I look forward to encouraging students to engage in critical thinking and allow them the space to explore

		<p>ideas and concepts with an evaluation lens. I am so excited to see what this year holds!</p>
		<p>Shelffo, Danielle, SS 2020-2021</p> <p>Hello! My name is Danielle Shelffo and this is my first year teaching at Rainier Middle School. I am so excited to be joining the panther community and to be starting my career in education teaching 6th and 7th grade social studies! I am originally from Shakopee, MN, which is a suburb of Minneapolis/St. Paul. I moved to Washington with my family in July 2014 and have lived in the Auburn area since. I earned my Bachelor's Degree (History & Political Science) and Master's Degree (Secondary Education) from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. I am looking forward to building a class community in partnership with my students that is an encouraging, supportive, safe, and inclusive place we can call home until we can safely return to our classrooms. In my free time, you can find me spending time with my family/friends, hiking, taking my dogs on walks, or binge watching a tv show. I look forward to working together to make this a memorable and successful year!</p>
<p>Health & Fitness</p>		<p>Swan, Keith, SS</p> <p>What's up Panthers? My name is Mr. Swan, and I teach 6th grade social studies. I graduated with a BA in History from UW, and a Masters in Teaching from Western Governors University. This is my 7th year teaching, and 3rd year at rainier. I love history almost as much as I love sports. I'm a big fan of all the Seattle sports teams, especially the Mariners and Seahawks, and I can't wait for the Kraken to start up!</p> <p>Even though this year looks weird, I know that we are all doing our best to make it a great one. Can't wait to meet every one of you in person! Go Panthers!</p>
		<p>Harteau, Nick, Health & Fitness</p> <p>Hi, my name is Nick Harteau (Har-Toe) and this is my 6th year officially teaching at Rainier however it will be my 7th overall as I also did my student teaching here. I spent a long time going to multiple schools in hopes of finding something I wanted to do for the rest of my life, and I am glad that I made the choice to be a PE/Health teacher. I graduated from Washington State University with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with the focus in K-12 PE/Health Education and my Master's in Health and Wellness Education from American College of Education. I appreciate all things education as I know how difficult it can be, but also how rewarding it can be. I coach Softball, Baseball and Wrestling here at Rainier and Wrestling at Hello, my name is Paul Prather. I have been teaching at Rainier since 1993. I have taught Health, Geography, US History, Washington State History, and PE. I graduated from THE University of Washington and have a Masters in Educational Technology. I have done a little coaching while at Rainier. I enjoy the relationships built with students as they strive to become their better selves, on and off the court.</p> <p>Go Dawgs!</p> <p>Auburn Mountian View High School with Mr. Mcguffin for the last 7 years. I love hard work and getting after it and truly believe if you want something and you work hard and have a good attitude; you can achieve anything.</p>



Ludwigson, Matt, Health & Fitness

2017-18 I graduated in 2007 from Eastern Washington University with my undergrad in Health and Fitness Education. In 2014, I earned my master's degree in education from Walden University. I have worked in the Auburn School District for 10 years, and have been teaching at Cascade for the last 6 years. I am excited to now be at Rainier and to be around another great group of staff members and kids. First and foremost in my life is my wife, Alicia and my daughter, Ellie. Hunting, fishing, and pretty much anything outdoors is a huge part of our lives. Overall health and fitness is also a huge part of our lives, and I love educating our youth on becoming healthy individuals and pushing their capabilities to the max. Again, I am looking forward to meeting and working with each one of you. Lose a Ludwigson only to gain a Ludwigson!!!



Prather, Paul, Health & Fitness

Hello, my name is Paul Prather. I have been teaching at Rainier since 1993. I have taught Health, Geography, US History, Washington State History, and PE. I graduated from THE University of Washington and have a Masters in Educational Technology. I have done a little coaching while at Rainier. I enjoy the relationships built with students as they strive to become their better selves, on and off the court.

Go Dawgs!



Rempfer, Sonya, Health & Fitness

Hello, my name is Sonya Rempfer. I have been in the Auburn School District since 1983. I believe that I am the only staff member remaining who opened up Rainier Middle School way back in 1991. I have seen many changes in the school since 1991. One thing that remains the same however, are the students. I love middle school students as they have a lot of energy and are funny if you just listen to them. I have stayed at the middle level because I feel I can do the most good here by helping the students grow during their teenage years.

I graduated from WSU, home of the Cougars. I am proud of my university and support them through thick and thin. I graduated with a BS degree in Physical Education.

In July, my husband and I adopted a baby golden retriever. We love him very much. His name is Conn. We spent the summer potty training and schooling him to be a great dog. He is a cutie!

Go Cougs!

ELL






Abraham, Kad, ELL

2020-2021

Hello Panthers! Welcome. This is my 2nd year teaching English at Rainier Middle School, and my 3rd year teaching overall. I also have experience teaching Special Education, working as a paraeducator, and being a substitute teacher. I graduated with my undergraduate degree at Arizona State University in 2016 with a focus on Secondary Education and History. I am also earning my Master's degree in Special Education at Washington State University. GO COUGS!

My dance and drill team is ranked 3rd in the State for their Kick and Military routines, so coaching is also an important passion of mine. During my spare time, I enjoy listening to Post Malone, dancing in my kitchen, and practicing the ancient art of tossing popcorn in the air until it lands in my mouth.

		<p>Najera, Bernadette ELL 2020 - 2021 Hello brave and resilient Panthers!</p> <p>This is my first year teaching at Rainier Middle School and I am so excited to be part of the Panther family! I just moved to Washington from sunny San Diego, California this June. Learning my way around has been tough because all the street corners are marked by trees that look the same! (I live in a rural area.) I attended San Diego State University for my undergraduate degree, teaching credential, and now my masters degree in teaching English language arts for K-12 students. I love music, amusement parks (Disneyland!), and traveling. My goal in life is to be able to fill up my passport with stamps from various countries. My time studying abroad in Turkey during my undergraduate degree ignited the travel and exploration bug inside me. The ability to learn and experience different cultures around this big beautiful earth is a freedom I greatly treasure.</p>
<p>Electives Librarian PE/Health Band & Orchestra</p>		<p>Gifford, Alvin, Computer Science</p> <p>While managing software engineers for Microsoft, I joined an organization called TEALS that was dedicated to introducing AP computer science programs to high schools. For several years I spent summers in training and early mornings (0 period) working with some talented educators to develop and teach this critical subject matter. I found the experience exceptionally rewarding and life changing. After 35 years in industry managing software development teams, I retired and started a new career path as a full-time educator. My educational experience includes a BS in computer science, decades of industry experience working with hundreds of engineers, several years teaching as adjunct faculty for Utah Valley Community College and UVU, and completing my CTE educators certificate with Bates Technical College. I have been teaching computer science since 2013; however, I think my greatest accomplishment is raising four well-adjusted children with my wonderful wife of 33 years and managing to keep my hair. In my spare time I enjoy programming, playing computer games, and playing with my three grandchildren.</p>
		<p>Grad, Pamela, Librarian</p> <p>I joined the staff of Rainier Middle and the Auburn School District in the 2018-19 school year. My B.S. is from the University of Washington, my M.i.T. is from City University and my library endorsement is from PLU. I have been teaching for 25 years, first in ELA and Social Studies, and for the last 18 years, as a librarian. I have been married for 35 years and I have two daughters who live and work between Seattle and Olympia. Besides my husband, I have two more friends at home: Nora and Hugo...the cutest dogs ever (at least I think they are). In my free time, I enjoy reading, cooking, film, gardening, painting, and travel. I also serve on the King County Library Board of Trustees after being appointed by the King County Council.</p>



Hagen, Brad Drama/Choir

This is my 6th year here at Rainier and I've loved every minute of it. Drama and middle school seem to go together-go figure. We've done some great shows here: Into the Woods, Guys and Dolls, and, of course, Shrek!!! I love the enthusiasm, but most importantly the humor. Long after this is all over, I'll be able to think of all the wonderful relationships I've had here and after a day of sailing, sit on a beach somewhere with a big smile on my face; thinking of all the fun we had in class and in rehearsals, and performing in a production. It doesn't get any better than that. And, remember everyone, this isn't dress rehearsal!!!!



Harteau, Nick, Health & Fitness

Hi, my name is Nick Harteau (Har-Toe) and this is my 6th year officially teaching at Rainier however it will be my 7th overall as I also did my student teaching here. I spent a long time going to multiple schools in hopes of finding something I wanted to do for the rest of my life, and I am glad that I made the choice to be a PE/Health teacher. I graduated from Washington State University with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with the focus in K-12 PE/Health Education and my Master's in Health and Wellness Education from American College of Education. I appreciate all things education as I know how difficult it can be, but also how rewarding it can be. I coach Softball, Baseball and Wrestling here at Rainier and Wrestling at Auburn Mountain View High School with Mr. McGuffin for the last 7 years. I love hard work and getting after it and truly believe if you want something and you work hard and have a good attitude; you can achieve anything.



Heintz, Jonathan, Orchestra

I have been teaching orchestra in the Auburn School District for five years, and 2020 will be my second year as a Rainier Panther.

I graduated with my B.M. in Music Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2014. I am a bass player, and love playing music with other people from around the Puget Sound.

When I'm not teaching or playing music, you can find me cheering my new England Patriots, or hanging out with my wife and cat, Bebop.



Lede, Dana, Band/Orchestra

This is my thirteenth year teaching, and all but two of those years have been at the middle school level. This is my second year at Rainier; before this I taught in both the Federal Way and Tacoma school districts. At Rainier I teach 5th-8th grade band and 6th grade orchestra.

I grew up in Washington just north of here in Des Moines, where my father still lives. I received my Bachelor of Music with a degree in music education from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA. I earned my Master of Music with an emphasis in Instrumental Wind Conducting from Central Washington University in 2009. In 2016 I earned my National Board Certificate for teaching in the area of early adolescent/young adult music.

My main instrument is the trumpet, but I am comfortable on all band and orchestra instruments. I love playing the piano in my spare time. I love teaching all ages, but middle school is my favorite because students are just beginning to come into their own, learning who they will be. I love teaching music because it allows us to express that which cannot be expressed through words, and because it's just so much fun.



Ludwigson, Matt, Health & Fitness

2017-18 I graduated in 2007 from Eastern Washington University with my undergrad in Health and Fitness Education. In 2014, I earned my master's degree in education from Walden University. I have worked in the Auburn School District for 10 years, and have been teaching at Cascade for the last 6 years. I am excited to now be at Rainier and to be around another great group of staff members and kids. First and foremost in my life is my wife, Alicia and my daughter, Ellie. Hunting, fishing, and pretty much anything outdoors is a huge part of our lives. Overall health and fitness is also a huge part of our lives, and I love educating our youth on becoming healthy individuals and pushing their capabilities to the max. Again, I am looking forward to meeting and working with each one of you. Lose a Ludwigson only to gain a Ludwigson!!!



Moritz, Robert, Robotics/Mechatronics

2020-21 This is my second year of teaching a Rainier MS. This will be my tenth year of teaching in the Auburn School District. I have taught at Mountainview as well as Olympic. At both schools, I have mentored after-school robotics teams, and this will be my second year of competing in FTC with Panther Robotics. I am a Navy Veteran with 26 years of service. While in the Navy, I operated and repaired Sonar equipment. I attended Central Washington University as well as Washington State University. I have degrees in: Biology, Russian Language and Education. I have a 3-year-old daughter that consumes most of my time and gives me my daily exercise. In addition to time with her, I like to find DIY projects around the house, go hiking/camping and photography.








Pridemore, Cindy, Fam Cons Sci

Hello, I have been teaching at Rainier for close to 20 years. I taught Kindergarten in Auburn before that. I enjoy teaching middle school students! I have made some wonderful friends over my years at Rainier that I cherish. My daughter Kate and son Robin both went to Rainier and had some amazing teachers during their time at both Rainier, Lea Hill, Auburn High and Auburn Mountainview.. I graduated from Central Washington University where I met my husband of 35 years Dan - go Wildcats! I have a wonderful son-in-law Neil and a daughter-in-law to be Alexia. I was blessed with my gorgeous first grandson Ross in March, such a joy! I enjoy spending time with my family, being outdoors - especially the beach, Disney, traveling, reading, swimming and watching football.



Rasmussen, Dawn, Art/Yearbook

I nearly dropped out of High School and my family never imagined I would grow up to be a teacher. I absolutely hated school! I deeply appreciate that bullying is now openly discussed, resisted, and that strategies to cope and cause change are taught. This gives me hope for current issues relating to social justice. My teaching career started when I home taught my own two kids kindergarten. I went back to school in my 30's to earn my teaching credentials. I absolutely loved college! I went to Highline Community College, Western Washington University, and Antioch in Seattle. I've taught fourth grade, fifth grade, 6th grade math, science, and social studies, and currently teach 6th, 7th, an 8th grade art and Yearbook. I am happy. Life takes you unexpected places sometimes.

Library Para		<p>Merritt, Sunshine, Library</p> <p>I've been working at Rainier Middle School, in the Library for 4 years. Before this, I worked at AHS as a CTE specialist. Working in the Welding shop and Jewelry Shop. I was a Lunch Lady for a couple of years too. Before working for the school district, I worked @ Muckleshoot Casino. I am a Mother of 4 and they are my life. My kids and my Kittens :) #Catlady When I'm not working, I LOVE camping, exploring, reading/listening to books and watching movies.</p>
1:1 Para		<p>Mackenzie, Graham</p> <p>I've been with ASD since 2016 as a 1:1 para at Hazelwood Elementary and now Rainier Middle School. I come with a background in science from WWU and UW. I'm basically a stream ecologist with an interest in the Pacific Northwest bioregion. I enjoy fishing but with conservation in mind. I love the beach, the forest and hiking and biking. I also enjoy my old Volkswagens. I enjoy a variety of music styles including blues, jazz, and classic rock...not much of a country fan. In my spare time I garden and work on my house here in Auburn.</p>
1:1 Para		<p>Davey, Janice</p> <p>Hi, my name is Janice, but I go by Jan. I have been 1:1 with the same student since 2018. I have worked as a para off and on since 1992, when my youngest son entered preschool in Special Ed. I've had a passion for working with and advocating for children with special needs. I also have an older son and a daughter (who falls in the middle of her brothers.) I have 4 grandsons and my dog. I spent 3 weeks in August taking care of my dad in Tennessee.</p>
SECURITY:		<p>Holcomb, Lorenzo</p> <p>I have a six year old son named Blaise, we both love sports and watching home alone. My favorite things to eat are candy, pizza, and bacon. I went to Eastern Washington University. Once upon a time I was a good athlete but I'm old now so that's slowly come to a stop that's why I started coaching the sports I love.</p>
Specialists		<p>Phillips, Kelly - PT</p> <p>I've been a Physical Therapist and worked for the ASD for 3 years but this is my first year working at Rainer. I graduated with my Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of Washington. I have 2 sweet babies and my family enjoys being outside, camping, boating, hiking, and we are huge football fans. Go Hawks! I am excited to work with this new team to help support students in accessing their education.</p>



Clark, Colin, Psychologist (Pathways)

I have been working in Pathways at Rainier since 2014. I also work with our Pathways program at Lea Hill Elementary and Auburn Mountainview High School and I love that I get to see kids in all stages of life and education. Having done this for some time now, I've witnessed a unique and special bond form between my students, families, and staff as I see them and support them at their worst and at their best. I finished my graduate training as a school psychologist at Western Illinois University in 2011 and worked in inner city St. Louis, rural Alaska (Kodiak), and one year in Korea.

I am relatively quiet and peaceful by nature, and I enjoy vipassana meditation and yin yoga, but I also have an equally edgy and adventurous side. Whenever there is a school break, you can find me in some far flung location or deep in the woods marching to the beat of my own drum. I love music and KEXP dominates the airwaves. And I have a sense of humor that doesn't quit.



Clark, Monica - OT (1/2 day Tues each week)

I've been an Occupational Therapist for 17 years. I graduated with a Master's degree in Occupational Therapy from University of Washington. Go Dawgs! Although I started my career working with adults in skilled nursing facilities and acute/rehab hospitals, this is my 11th year working in the Auburn School District. I work throughout the district and this is my 3rd year being a part of the RMS team! I love providing services to my students, collaborating with teachers and colleagues, and working with families. My family is a part of the Auburn community and my daughter, Maddy (Junior) and son, Jake (8th grade) also attend Auburn schools! I am a huge Seattle sport fan and have season tickets for the Seattle Seahawks. Go Hawks! I enjoy spending time with my family, going to sporting events, boating and camping.



Delaplaine, Meghann - SLP (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays)

I have been a Speech-Language Pathologist for 11 years. I have worked in private clinic settings, hospitals and in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF). Prior to becoming an SLP, I worked as an SLPA for the Kent School District and I also did a travel SLPA position in Carlsbad, NM and in Dublin, Ireland. I have now worked at RAI for 8 years. I enjoy working with all age groups, but I especially like working with middle school and high school students.

I love being around friends and family and doing outdoor activities. Some of the things I enjoy most are scuba diving, skiing, backpacking and surfing. After a long day at work, I enjoy putting around in the garden and spending time with my cat, Belle.








Pantoja, Tammy, Psychologist (Resource) Transfers
new-Hilary Conville or Liz Gibson-Myers

This is my first year at Rainier and ASD. I've previously worked for Kent and Enumclaw school districts and schools in Arizona. I grew up in Lynden, WA and moved away for college. I attended Arizona State University for my undergrad and Seattle University for school psychology. I live in Covington, WA with my partner and our three children, ages 5, 10, and 15.

My family and I spend a lot of time outdoors playing tennis, skiing, rock climbing and traveling to warm beaches to surf and play in the sand. We also play a lot of board games and watch our kids play sports. In my spare time I love to paint murals, read and garden.

Before working in schools, I worked as a counselor and behavior consultant and have a lot of experience serving families with trauma.

		<p>Fitzpatrick, Patricia, Head, Swing Shift I have been lead custodian at RMS for going on 8 years. I've been with the district for 28 years. I've been married for 15 years. Love to garden, cook and canning jams.</p>
		<p>Garnica, David, Day Shift</p>
		<p>Marchuk, Aleksandr, Night Shift</p>
		<p>Mochylo, Roman, Swing Shift</p>
		<p>Lawrence, Virginia</p>

	 A portrait of Myriam Jarero-Cortes, a woman with dark hair in a braid, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and a black apron, smiling against a blue background.	Jarero-Cortes, Myriam
	 A portrait of Debbie Nesbitt, a woman with glasses on her head, wearing a blue and black plaid shirt over a dark top, smiling against a blue background.	Nesbitt, Debbie, Kitchen Manager
	 A portrait of Olga Spatarel, a woman with glasses, wearing a black lace top, against a blue background.	Spatarel, Olga
	 A portrait of Angela Stekelenburg, a woman with glasses, wearing a blue top, smiling against a blue background.	Stekelenburg, Angela
	 A portrait of Noriko Weland, a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark top, smiling against a light green background.	Weland, Noriko Hi! This is my 3rd year working in the kitchen at Rainier. I am originally from Japan and moved to the US 18 years ago. Previously I lived in Huntington, WV and have now lived in Auburn for the past 11 years. I have two kids who are attending Auburn High School and Cascade Middle School. In my spare time I like to take our dog out for a walk with my husband and kids.

