

# GLOBAL LEADERS' STAFF

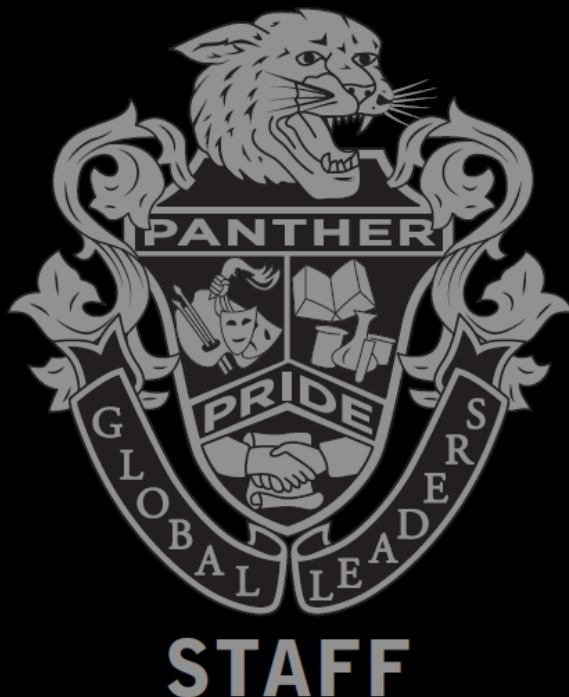
**'WHO WE ARE'**

**2019—2020  
SCHOOL YEAR**

**WWW.SGL378.ORG**

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide an education so that students will have academic, social, and emotional skills to succeed in high school, college, and all future endeavors. We believe that each student has unique qualities and talents that will enable them to be leaders within the global community. Graduates of the School for Global Leaders will have the communication skills, leadership qualities, and awareness of their responsibility to advocate for change in the world.



Page 4: Almonte

Page 5: Alvarez

Page 6: Brannon

Page 7: Brearley

Page 8: Campos

Page 9: Cruz

Page 10: DiMura

Page 11: Finkle

Page 12: Flynn

Page 13: Freehill

Page 14: Fuller

Page 15: Glenn

Page 16: Goldart

Page 17: Goodwin

Page 18: Goris

Page 19: Helsop

Page 20: Huang

Page 21: Killeen

Page 22: Kriakos

Page 23: Larocchia

Page 24: Lin

Page 25: Mignone

Page 26: Mulligan

Page 27: Nowak

Page 28: Pasco

Page 29: Perales

Page 30: Pezza

Page 31: Rhoads

Page 32: Ricks

Page 33: Rios

Page 34: Rojas

Page 35: Rosado

Page 36: Santaliz

Page 37: Simerau

Page 38: Stein

Page 39: Wang

Page 40: Wehren

Page 41: Weinberg

Page 42: Whitfield



I am Ms. Almonte and I am originally from Moldova.



Before the DOE, I worked at the Rock Center Café Restaurant. I enjoyed meeting guests from all over the world and I also enjoyed the iconic beauty of the place.

Traveling the world has brought me to places like Dominican Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine. My favorite vacation spot are the Caribbean beaches because I just love the color of the ocean, the sand, and the diversity of cultures.

I have one dog name Curry, like the Basketball player Stephen Curry.

I love Italian and Mexican cuisine. Overall, I'm not a picky person when it comes to food. I love trying new dishes!

My personality is one thing that I hope people remember about me. A quote I live by is: "In life, you get what you put in. Everything comes back around."

## Almonte, Anna

Math Teacher







Allow me to introduce myself: I go by Alvarez, Ms. Alvarez, or Ms. A. I hail from NYC, born in El Barrio Spanish Harlem but raised in LES. I grew up on 111 and Lexington Ave-

nue and love always being with my family, my cousins and aunts; I love the sense of community in the neighborhood. Everyone had each others' back. If I was doing something I wasn't supposed to, my grandmother would find out. I would always have someone in the neighborhood keeping an eye on me.

Before coming to the NYCDOE, I did Retail and Waitressing jobs. As a waitress, I worked for a catering company and worked cool parties and fundraisers with celebrities.

I have traveled mostly the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Mexico, and throughout the east coast.

I absolutely love any place with a beautiful beach; the beach is my calm place and brings me so much peace. My favorite dish is Italian, particularly chicken parm or chicken and broccoli alfredo.

I want to be remembered by my good heart, being able to bring out the best out of people, making people feel good being around my energy, and always trying to look at the silver lining in every situation thrown at me.

The motto I live by is, "Be the type of energy that no matter where you go, you always add value to the

spaces and lives around you.



## Alvarez, Jillian

Dean / ELA Teacher



My students call me Ms. Brannon or Ms. B. My coworkers usually just call me Brannon. I am originally from Atlanta, Georgia. I grew up in College Park, Georgia and Fairburn, Georgia. My memories growing up are of being outside and playing sports year-round. I was fortunate to travel the country playing volleyball competitively and when I wasn't doing that, I was weightlifting and outside running until the sun set.

When I moved to NYC from Savannah, Georgia in 2008, I immediately got a job at Justin Timberlake's restaurant, Southern Hospitality on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. I worked there until the location closed in 2012. In 2009, my boss at Southern Hospitality noticed my interest in music and suggested that I become a DJ. I trained and began DJing at Southern Hospitality regularly, then three to four nights a week in venues all over the city. I don't DJ much anymore because teaching is my main focus, but music is definitely a major passion as well.

I have traveled to France, England, Iceland, Jamaica, Canada, Mexico... and many more to come I hope! Yosemite National Park in California is one of my favorite places. I got to go three times with my volleyball team in college, to hike and swim in the waterfalls. I would love to visit Peru, where my boyfriend and his family are from, and Marseille, France, where my grandmother is from. Italy and Greece are also at the top of my travel list.

As far as pets, I have a black cat named Kylo Ren Ben Solo Brannon. (I LOVE STAR WARS!)

My grandmother immigrated to the U.S. from Marseille, France after marrying an American soldier during World War II, so her ratatouille was a staple dish in our household, it's simple but delicious. I'm also Southern, so I love my grits, biscuits and gravy. I could also eat Mexican food every single day and be the happiest person in the world!

I would like people to remember that I sincerely care for other humans and that I respect our Mother Earth, that I have a passion for life, that I live with tenacity, that it's okay to be a little weird, that I would do anything I can for someone in need, and that I always stand for what I believe is right.

Quotes I live by: "Dreaming, either one does not dream at all, or one dreams in an interesting manner. One must learn to be awake in the same fashion: either not at all, or in an interesting manner" —Friedrich Nietzsche

"The arts, it has been said, cannot change the world, but they may change human beings who might change the world." —Maxine Greene

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." —Maya Angelou



## Brannon, Rachael

### Art Teacher





# Brearley, Andrew

Math Teacher



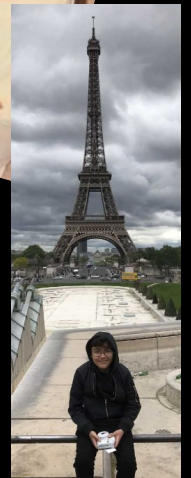
People call me Andrew, but some call me Drew. I was born in Rockford, Illinois, and moved to Chicago when I was 18, and lived most of my life there until coming to NYC in 2013.

Before coming to the DOE I was a freelance Stagehand, doing Audio/Video/Lighting, and working in every borough. I love stagehand work because it's dynamic, always working in different spaces and with different crews, and doing interesting work where you have opportunities to learn and experiment. The only thing I don't like about it is that the hours were all over the place, and you often have to work overnight.

I have travelled most of the countries in Europe, Mexico, Canada, Belize, Philippines, and Colombia, and can't wait to travel more! My favorite city I have travelled to is Medellin, Colombia, because of the people are friendly, the weather is perfect all year, the culture is vibrant and rich, there is amazing food, and endless outdoor activities, especially outside of the city.

I do not have any pets, but I foster dogs through BBAR Animal rescue quite often! It's difficult to take care of pets in the city, but I love cats and dogs and all animals, and I plan on getting a pet this year.

I want to be remembered by my sense of humor, being a hard worker, being fun and interesting, and inspiring others. A quote/motto that I live by is "Carpe Diem [Seize the Day]", and "Memento Mori [Remember You Must Die]".





I go by the name of Campos and I hail from Astoria, Queens. Born and raised! I can remember the days of running around the neighborhood and the back alley with my friends. Italian Ices on the church steps. Water fights and Skelly at 47th Street park. Camping at Lake Hinkley. Cure concerts & the Pyramid (LES). Good days!

Before the DOE, I managed a Blockbuster video. I liked the free movies and the people I worked with. I disliked arguing with people about late fees and whether or not they rewound their borrowed copy of Forrest Gump. I hate Forrest Gump.

Henry Miller once said: "One's destination is never a place, but always a new way of seeing things."

My favorite vacation destination would be somewhere quiet, in nature (with bug spray).

I don't currently own any pets. RIP Chester L.

My favorite food to eat is Pizza.

How do I want people to remember me? RBF..it's in my blood

A quote that I live by: "What is your spaghetti policy here?"—Charlie Kelly

## Campos, Cheryl

Assistant Principal







My name is Bragin. I am originally from the Philippines. But, I grew up in Dix Hills, NY. One memory I had growing up is when I saw Santa fall off of the fire truck. That image stuck with me.

I had a few jobs before becoming a teacher with the NYCDOE. I was a Paraprofessional, Cheerleading Coach, Cheerleading Choreographer for All Star Gym and UCA. As a para, I appreciated “normalcy” and what we seem to take for granted and I enjoyed working with non verbal students with Autism. As a Cheerleading Coach, I loved traveling the Northeast Coast.

My travels have taken me to the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Israel, Nicaragua.

I love Tocilog, which is a traditional Philippines Breakfast.

I would want people to remember that I am hardworking and reliable.

A quote that I live by is: “Tomorrow’s another day”.



## Cruz, Ednalyn

SPED Coordinator





My coworkers call me DiMura and students refer to me as Ms. DiMura. I am originally from Somerville, New Jersey. A favorite memory I have of growing up was learning to ride my bike and crashing into everything (garage door, hedges, you name it), but was never afraid to get back on and ride again!

I was a waitress at Applebee's for a few summer months before coming to the Department of Education. I did not love rolling silverware at the end of a long shift or having to physically point to the dessert menu every time I served someone. I also worked at an ice cream shop and bookstore in college, which was easy peasy.

I student taught in Puerto Rico, visited my best college friend in Virgin Gorda. My husband and I have road tripped to Montreal, Nashville, and this year all the way to Colorado. So we've been to a ton of places along the way. My favorite destination was to a national park—there is just so much natural beauty to be discovered right in the US!

I have four cats (my babies!!!). Ernest + Sylvia (6 year old siblings), Theo (2 years old), + Wyatt (only 3 months old!)

My favorite food is Thai Green Curry.

How do I want people to remember me? That I was a caring, considerate person who was passionate about growth and helping others do the same. A quote I live by is: "Our task, regarding creativity, is to help children climb their own mountains, as high as possible. No one can do more." -Loris Malaguzzi

## Dimura, Brittanie

ELA Teacher

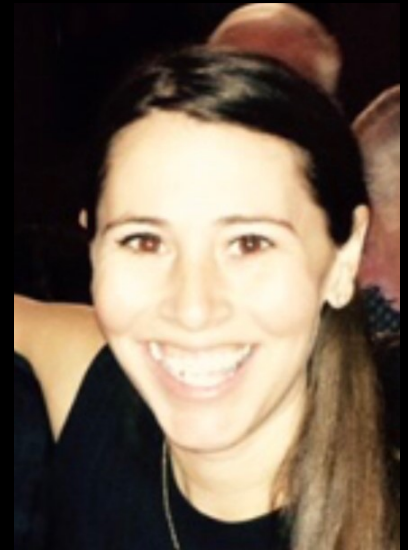






## Finkle, Allison

Dean / Math Teacher



Most people call me Allison or Al. Students usually call me Ms. Finkle and I am originally from Long Island. I grew up in Jericho. I loved riding bikes in the neighborhood for hours after school with all the other kids. Also, I fondly remember when my little brother was born.

Before coming to the NYCDOE, I worked at a staffing firm helping unemployed people find jobs. The pay was great, but I couldn't stand making upwards of 85 phone calls a day.

I've traveled to Italy, Portugal, Ireland, Greece, Spain and other European destinations. Italy is my favorite place to travel because of the food and the beaches.

I grew up with a Boxer but don't have any pets currently.



My name is Dawn , aka ‘Twin’ or ‘D’. I am from and grew up in Bed Stuy, Brooklyn, NY. Before joining the DOE, I worked with the NYC MTA system and with the Trane Company. I really enjoyed both of those jobs. I worked closely with Presidents/Directors of various departments of the MTA and I got to know many cool Engineers at the Trane Company.

My life’s travels have taken me to: Mexico, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Bahamas, Ireland, Honduras, Puerto Rico, Alaska and many other States in the US. I loved all of the places I’ve traveled. From Ireland’s rich history to Alaska with, as I like to say, a thousand fjords; the world is a beautiful and isolated place. My favorite to-go-to spot is Niagara Falls, Canada and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Talk about a quaint, quiet, and historic town by the water! I love it there!

In addition, I am married to a handsome and very supportive man named Billydee and we have two cats, Pebbles [or Lil Mama] and Buttons [or Butt Butt]. They are our two teenage girls. I volunteer my time by helping my neighbors see the benefits of applying bible principals in their lives and I show them what they can learn online at [jw.org](http://jw.org). I want people to remember me as someone who loves to help others. I find my happy place by doing things for other people. I live by a motto that my husband quotes to me often: “There are many daughters that have shown capableness, but you—you have ascended above them all.” [Proverbs 31:29 | New World Translation—Reference Bible]

## Flynn, Dawn

Business Manager





Students call me Mr. Freehill, but my coworkers call me Brian. I am originally from Baldwin, New York. I have fond memories of playing sports with my brother and friends from around the neighborhood.

During my college days I worked at Jones Beach during the summers. I started off as a cashier at the mini golf course and worked my way up to become supervisor of the Central Mall games area. Though working nights was sometimes difficult, I really enjoyed the people I met and the opportunity to work outdoors and catch a mean farmers tan!

Since meeting my wife, I have traveled to Aruba, Costa Rica, Cape Cod, Jamaica, Savanna, Charleston, Austin, Nashville, and Italy. Her traveling ambitions have rubbed off on me quite a bit. I enjoy heading out to my wife's family's summer house in Westhampton. There I get a chance to relax on the beach, visit various vineyards, and enjoy physical activities such as golf, bike riding, and running.

I currently do not own a pet. I did grow up with a dog and her name was Casey. She was an amazing family dog.

I love tiramisu! Italy does it best!

I want people to remember that I am a loving family man that consistently does right by others.



## Freehill, Brian

Math Teacher



**Fuller, Becky**

SPED Teacher

My name is Ms. Glenn.

I am from Long Island and one favorite memory I have growing up is remembering summer time and being a kid, playing outside with my friends and not having a care in the world!

Prior to coming to the Dept. of Ed, I was a lifeguard and taught children with special needs how to swim. It was very rewarding to see the children feel confident and proud to learn a new skill.

I like to travel. Within the US, I have been to Florida, Tennessee, New Orleans, California, Washington D.C. and Vermont.

Outside the US, I have visited the Bahamas, Bermuda, Mexico, St. Barts, Israel, Italy, and France. My ultimate favorite destination is any place with a beach so I can just relax and enjoy!

I want people to know that I try to treat people the way I want to be treated. It doesn't take a lot to show kindness. In addition, I am a big family person. I am lucky enough to have an amazing husband and two beautiful children: my Sophie and Zachary. My most important and rewarding job in the whole world is being a Mom!! I live and breathe for my kids!



## Glenn, Danielle

Speech Teacher





My name is Seth Goldart, but you can call me Mr. Seth . I am originally from Lower Manhattan and grew up around Battery Park City. Thinking back, I can fondly remember going to my very first concert: Slash's Snakepit.

I've also worked with children before coming to the NYCDOE. I was a Behavior Training Assistant and worked with autistic children. The kids were fun.

I have been to England, Caribbean, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, and North Carolina. My favorite vacation spot was Asheville, NC. The people have a love for live music and art. Also, there's a consistent theme of tolerance for all.

Currently, I have no pets but had a few amphibians growing up.

I love a lot of food as long as it's not raw tomatoes. (I love red sauce, salsa, ketchup, etc.), liver, dominant cilantro, or Gifilte fish.

I want people to remember that I'm always open to feedback.

A quote I live by is by George Harrison: "Everyone has a choice when to and not to raise their voices."

## Goldart, Seth

Paraprofessional



Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Mike or Mr. Mike and I am originally from Fairfield, NJ. I've always enjoyed spending summers down the shore in Lavallette, NJ.

The DOE is my first "real" job . In addition, I also teach at Hunter College.

I've been to around 60 countries (I'm a big traveler). My favorite part of the world is SE Asia.

My favorite vacation destination is Burma. Why? The beautiful people and culture, great environment, and it's still somewhat untouched.

My favorite food to eat is Sushi.

The one thing I want people to remember about me is that I am well rounded.

## Goodwin, Michael

Guidance Counselor



My name is Sonia Goris-Hernandez. I don't have a nickname, but at work I use my maiden name: Ms. Goris.

I was born and raised in the Lower East Side, but live in Brooklyn with my family. Before coming to the DOE I worked as an acting Group Teacher for preschool-age children at a Head Start program in upper Manhattan. What I liked most about that job was that I was watching how children were developing their cognitive skills and how each child was so different in their learning. The only thing I disliked about the job was the commute; then I realized that the ride home - which was pretty long - was my relaxing time until I got home to my young children at the time.

I haven't traveled to many places, except Cancun, Mexico and the Dominican Republic - which is my favorite place to visit - not only because my family is from there, but also because my family and I go to and learn about different regions of the country. I do not own any pets, but in the summer of 2019 we did have four kittens that had set up camp in front of our house.

A quote I go by is "Other things may change us, but we start and end with family" - Anthony Brandt.

## Goris, Sonia

Paraprofessional







I go by the name of Mr. H or Mr. A and I am originally from the exotic island of Jamaica! (And no, I don't speak like the guys from Cool Runnings.) I grew up in an urban community named Portmore, which is about 15 minutes out of Kingston. A great memory I have would be playing in a huge willow tree that I had in my yard, that I made into a tree house; toys and radio included.

Yikes! I was a sales consultant at a moving company in NYC. I hate the fact that you can get easily sucked into the monetary potential. I stayed way longer than I should have.

I like traveling, but I'm not yet well traveled. I have been to Panama, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Canada. Had a layover in Haiti so that may count. I like the DR because the beaches are so beautiful, and the people are very courteous.

I have zero pets. Still trying to convince my wife that we need a dog, until we start having kids.

I am addicted to food, so this is hard! However, I have an enormous sweet tooth, so I eat a lot of cookies, cake, cupcakes; pretty much anything that will give me cavities.

I want people to remember how committed and motivated I am about whatever it is that I'm doing or pursuing.

Two quotes I live by are:

1. Everything we see, is a shadow cast by that which we do not see. (MLK, Jr.)
2. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalms 46:1)

# Heslop, Arsenio

Science Teacher





# Huang, Tiffany

ESL Teacher



I grew up in New Hampshire and my parents are from Taiwan.

At the beginning of every school year, my middle and high school would have a day off from class and the whole school would take a field trip to hike a mountain. It was a great way to get to know our teachers and new students!

Before becoming a teacher, I was a college student and I loved choosing interesting classes, making new friends and learning from great professors. Of course, I didn't enjoy studying for exams as much.

I love to travel! Some favorite trips have included a road trip of National Parks across the United States, a food tour of Spain and Portugal, studying Spanish for a summer in Mexico, biking across Cuba, kitesurfing in the Dominican Republic and attending the weddings of friends in Colombia and Ecuador. Oh, and of course visiting my grandparents in Taiwan when I was growing up. Hopefully a new place that is waiting to be discovered!

We have two dogs named Pep and Gypsy. Both are rescued Terrier/Chihuahua mixes.

Favorite foods? I could probably write a whole book about this. But my go-to comfort food would be any giant bowl of noodle soup: Chicken noodle, Taiwanese spicy beef noodle soup, Vietnamese pho, Japanese Ramen... the list goes on!

Words I live by: "Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto." -Violeta Parra







At SGL I typically go by Katie, Killeen or Barry [my maiden name]! My students typically call me Ms. Killeen unless they met me as Ms. Barry (old habits die hard)!

I am originally from Mattituck, NY. Mattituck is on the East End of Long Island. I loved being able to walk to the beach growing up.

I came to the NYCDOE straight from college. Teaching at Global Leaders was my first professional job!

Growing up, I visited a lot of the Caribbean islands/Central America. I didn't start venturing out of the Western Hemisphere until I was in college. One of my favorite trips was with my Aunt and Uncle to Cambodia and Vietnam!

My ultimate favorite vacation would be anywhere at the beach! I could live under an umbrella at the beach with a good book or books in my hand!

Growing up I had three cats; Rascal I, Scarecrow, and Rascal II. However, my true love was my puppy Gracie. She was the sweetest, most loyal girl ever. I currently have a dog with my Husband named Finnegan, he is a Corgi-jack Russell mix, we love him!

My favorite food to eat is mac and cheese all the way!!!

I would love for people to remember me for my kindness and willingness to help!

## Killeen, Catherine

ELA Teacher





**Kriakos, Armia**

Paraprofessional



My name is Ms.Larocchia, but I also go by Ms.L. I was born (and currently live) in Queens, but I spent most of my childhood in a small town about an hour north of Manhattan.

Before becoming a teacher, I worked as a secretary in a tutoring center and as a teaching assistant in an elementary school. Working in the elementary school solidified my desire to become a teacher because I loved leading the reading groups and hearing the kindergarteners talk about their favorite stories!

I love to travel and I do it as often as possible. I have visited countries on six continents (Antarctica is proving to be a bit tricky, but I'll get there one day!) and I have studied in both London and in Buenos Aires. One trip that stands out as being really special to me is when I took my grandma to Beijing. She had always wanted to visit China but never had the chance to do so, and she loved every minute of it when we went!

I have two parakeets named Owl and Oscar, and two hairless cats named Tofu and Miso. I am a big animal lover and I hope to get a dog sometime soon! I would want people to remember me as someone who is dedicated and curious. My favorite author is Stephen King, and there is a line in his memoir that I like to remind myself of when I am taking a risk or trying something new: "The scariest moment is always just before you start."

## Larocchia, Heather

### ELA Teacher





My name is Kemi to my peers, but Ms. Lin to my students. I am originally from China. I grew up in a small town of Fujian province in China. My best memory is having every wonderful summer with my brother and cousins.

Before coming to the Department of Education, I worked as a part-time cashier in college. I did not enjoy it at all.

I have been to Canada and Mexico. I would like to go to Machu Picchu for my next vacation.

Favorite food: I love tacos.

I want people to remember me as a person who is caring and kind.

## Lin, Kemi

### Dual Language



You may call me Ms. Mignone or Ms. M. I am from Farmingdale, NY. Growing up in New York, I loved going to museums on different field trips.

I was a substitute / teacher's assistant at a middle school for the last 2 years. I really enjoyed being able to get to work with students and teachers across grade levels. I felt that I developed a relationship with the whole school. I definitely won't miss having a different schedule every single day!

Some places I've been include Niagara Falls, Myrtle Beach, Wisconsin, Orlando, and Washington D.C. I just went to Disney this summer, so that is currently a favorite.

I have a goldfish, and a dog named Max.

I love any type of pasta, or I could go for a nice cheeseburger.

I may not be a chatty person, but I am a very good listener and always appreciative of good company.



## Mignone, Carly

Math Teacher



Students call me Mr. Mulligan or Mr. M, but co-workers can call me “Mulli”. I grew up in the Westerleigh section of Staten Island’s north shore. My favorite memory growing up was playing on Mid-Island Little League’s 12 year old all-star team in the summer of 1997. We were New York state champs, made it to the Eastern regionals, and were 1 game away from the Little League World Series. (Ironically, the same league is currently in this year’s Little League World Series.)

While being a substitute teacher, I was in sales for a gym/health/fitness center. They made me memorize a 5 minute sales pitch. It was probably my worst job. My heart wasn’t into selling expensive memberships for a gym to an older population who were living on a fixed income. I quit after 10 days. The only reason why I took the job was because I was still getting my teacher certification.

I have traveled to the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, Bahamas, California, Las Vegas, Arizona, Key West, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta, and Florida. My favorite place to travel was Las Vegas, because there’s no other place in the world like it.

My favorite food to eat is a nice medium-well steak. Preferably a filet mignon, rib-eye, or NY strip cut.

I want people to remember me as someone who is fair to all of my students and that I am a good team player when working with staff.

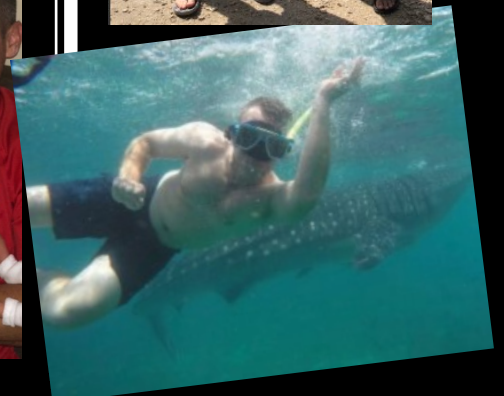
A quote I live by is: “The saddest thing in life is wasted talent.”

—The Bronx Tale



## Mulligan, Robert

Phys. Education Teacher







**Nowak, Frank**

Athletic Director





Pasco, Geoffrey

Math Teacher





I go by Ms. Spain-Perales, Ms. Perales, or Ms. S.P. and I was born in Korea and raised in Southern California. I grew up in a small city outside of Los Angeles. My favorite memory is catching tadpoles in the creek that ran behind my house.

I worked in administrative jobs before becoming a teacher. I enjoyed the organizational aspect of my previous jobs, but wanted a more meaningful career.

My travels have taken me to many places in Mexico, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Montreal, South Korea, Paris, Amsterdam, and several states in the U.S. Isla Holbox, a small island north of the Yucatan, is my favorite vacation destination because the beaches are calm and crystal clear and it is not crowded with tourists.

My family and I have two cats, named Lupe and Pita, and one fish, named Tissue.

My favorite food is pasta.

I love being mom to my two boys, Henry and Jasper.

One of my favorite quotes is: "We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are." – Anais Nin

## Perales, Amanda

Science Teacher



My name is Mrs. Pezza. I am originally from Cold Spring Harbor [Long Island], New York. I grew up in Cold Spring Harbor but spent my summers in Croatia since both of my parents are from the same village. I still go visit almost every summer. Before SGL, I was a permanent substitute teacher at Syosset High School in Long Island. I loved it because it was close to home and it was the same school I student taught at so I knew a lot of the students already.

Some places I have been to are Australia, Croatia, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Amsterdam, Utah, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Florida, Aruba, Alabama, Mexico, North Carolina, Texas, Canada, and the Dominican Republic! My favorite place has to be Croatia because the sea is perfectly clear, the sunsets are unbelievable, the food is incredible, and my entire family including my cousins all live in the same tiny village. It's like another home for me.

Right now we have no pets but growing up we always had a dog, they were a huge part of my life and like family members. I loved them all so much.

I am obsessed with homemade pasta and sauce.

I want people to remember that I always tried my best, didn't take myself too seriously, that I cared about others, and was happy.

"Don't worry, be happy" —Bob Marley

## Pezza, Ivana

ELA Teacher

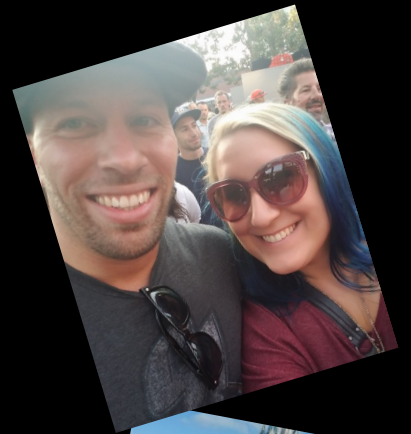




You can call me Rhoads, Rhoadsie, or as Dawn calls me Nicky-Nicky! I was born in Queens, NY and grew up in Whitestone. Some of my favorite memories are growing up and hanging out with the kids across the street until the streetlights came on, or playing in the park around the corner from where I lived. Before coming to the DOE, I worked at Mande's in College Point, then I became a sub teacher in Lindenhurst. I loved that I got to work with my best friend everyday, even though we rarely were scheduled to work together. I hated having to clean up the sales floor at the end of the night. In addition, I worked at summer camps from 18 to 29 years of age. I have been to the Bahamas, Punta Cana, Boston, Pennsylvania, the Jersey Shore, Ocean City Maryland, Hawaii, San Francisco, London, Savannah, and Florida. My top two places to visit were London and Disney. I love the history and people in London. And Disney is just magical! It makes you feel like a kid no matter how old you are. My favorite food are tacos and pizza. I want people to remember that I always give 150% to people and tasks. I go out of my way to move heaven and Earth if needed. A quote I live by is: Happiness can be found, even in darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light" by Albus Dumbledore of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.

## Rhoads, Nicole

ELA Teacher



My name is Ricks and I am from Staten Island, New York.

A favorite memory for me would be playing manhunt with friends on warm summer nights.

My first job was at a gardening store. After that I worked at Mande clothing store through College. After College I worked as a counselor in a group home for adolescents.

I have traveled to Mexico, St. Martin, Puerto Rico, Florida, Arizona, Saint Louis, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina. My favorite vacation is any place warm and relaxing.

My favorite food is anything with Buffalo sauce.

What do I want people to remember about me? Trust is very important.

A quote I try to remember is "What goes around comes around."

**Ricks, Keri**

**Principal**





My name is Ms. Rios, Daisy, or Ms. Daisy and I am from New York City. I was raised in NY and PR. A favorite memory would be growing & eating fresh fruit & vegetables and taking care of farm animals.

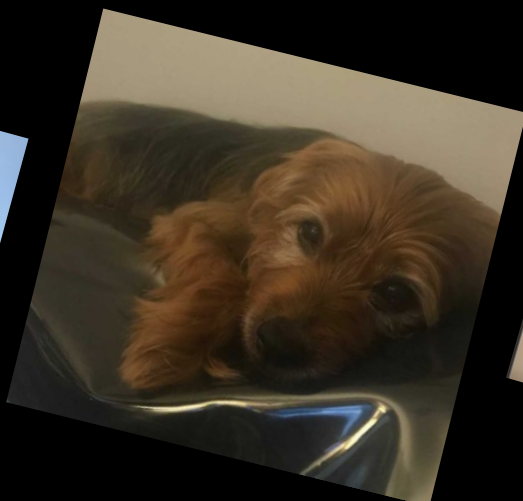
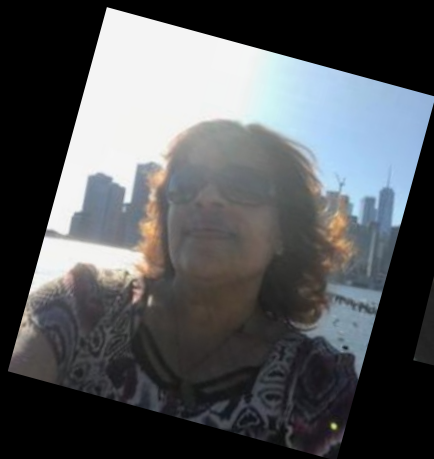
Before I came to the DOE, I was a secretary for a financial aid office at a private college and I then became a financial aid counselor. I also attended NYU college of dentistry, where I became a dental assistant, then a dental hygienist. I enjoyed all of my previous jobs. But it was time to try something new and less stressful. I walk to work everyday, it can't get any better than that. I have been at Global from day one. No regrets.

I'm not much of a traveler. But I have traveled to Florida, Puerto Rico, and Texas. I don't enjoy heights or planes too much! My favorite place is Florida. My children have all enjoyed Disney World too many times, they say. I enjoy Bush gardens in Tampa. I have an older sister that lives there and we enjoy her home as well. I plan to retire there someday.

I have two pets, one male Yorkie named Dino and I have one male cat named Lynx.

I make the best Arroz con Gandules in the world, which is rice with pigeon peas.

If people were to remember anything about me, it would that I had the two most remarkable, supportive parents that taught my siblings and I to be kind, honest, responsible people in this world. A quote I live by is: "Treat others the way you would want to be treated."



## Rios, Daisy

Parent Coordinator





**Rojas, Breddy**

Paraprofessional



I go by the name of Ms. Carmen and I was born in the LES of New York.

Before coming to the DOE I worked for Jacob Roos Medical Center and I liked the interaction with patients. My least favorite part of the job was drawing blood.

I have traveled to Florida and Puerto Rico. I love the warm weather and the moist smell of the morning dew.

I do not own any pets.

I would want people to remember me as a giving person, just like the story of the Giving Tree.

There are two quotes that I live by:

- 1) Serve others as if you were serving God (which always instills in me to serve faithfully and wholeheartedly).
- 2) Tell me who you walk with and I will tell you who you are.

## Rosado, Carmen

Paraprofessional



My name is Linda Santaliz, but you may call me Ms. Santa. I grew up in the Lower East Side of New York. I could remember the days when my mom, as a single parent, sacrificed to get us a pizza pie and a 2 liter soda.

Prior to coming to the DOE, I was a Medical Assistant, Coding Clerk, a Clown, and I still teach middle school girls in church. I enjoy pouring my heart into students.

I have been to Connecticut, Puerto Rico, and Florida. My favorite being Ibonito, Puerto Rico. I felt so at peace on the mountain and the beach, seeing fishes in the water and a rain cloud that was followed by a rainbow.

My favorite dish would be BBQ Ribs and a baked potato with a virgin pina colada.

I want people to remember that God is my Number One and that in all I did I gave it 110%.

"I can do All things through Christ who strengthens me", is a quote that I live by.

## Santaliz, Linda

Paraprofessional







Lapeer, Michigan is where I am from. Every August, my town had a fair that we called Lapeer Days. Each year my cousin and I would walk around checking out the vendors and riding the carnival rides. It was always a sign that summer was coming to a close.

Before working in the NYCDOE, I worked as an online teacher, a long-term sub, and a reading interventionist (to name a few). Working as an online teacher allowed me to interact with students around the state of Michigan; however, I did miss seeing my kids' faces.

So far, I have been fortunate enough to have traveled to Punta Cana, Mexico; Canada and Jamaica. My favorite vacation destination is Cape Cod, MA. I love it there because it feels like a combination of "Up North" in Michigan and somewhere tropical like Florida. The ocean, seafood, and relaxed atmosphere keep me coming back.

I have 1 dog named Bo who is 7 years old.

My absolute favorite food to eat is sushi.

I hope that people remember that I always try to assume the best in people and show kindness whenever I can.

The quote I live by is, "Nevertheless, she persisted."

## Simerau, Courtnee

ELA Teacher



I go by the name of Mr. Stein and I hail from Austin, Texas. Growing up in Texas and going to see my dad sing and play guitar in local bands is a memory that I will always cherish.

Before becoming a teacher I worked mostly as a waiter, then as a substitute teacher while trying to make it in the music business. I love writing songs and performing, but I hated the inconsistent income. After I met my wife, I wanted to be home with my family and I no longer wanted to work nights any more.

Greece, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mexico, Canada, England, Ireland, France, Germany, Switzerland, and all over the U.S. are places I have traveled. Out of all the places I've traveled, Big Bend National Park in West Texas has special meaning to me. It's the first place my wife and I ever vacationed to, and it's incredibly beautiful in a uniquely Texas way. Great counterpoint to living in the city.

I own two plants named Vern and Sandra. :)

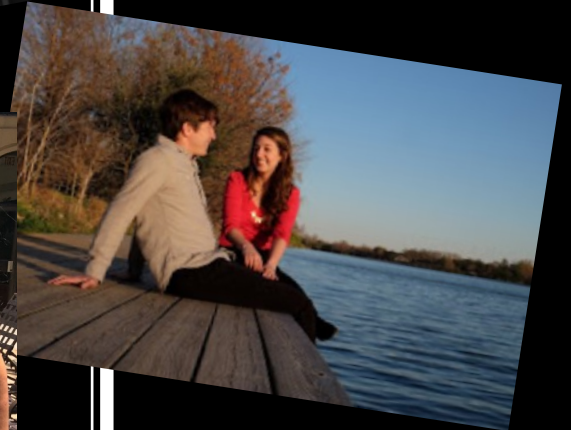
My ultimate favorite food is Tex-Mex! Followed closely by pizza.

I would want people to remember that I am a nice guy who cares about people.

A quote I live by is: "The future depends on what we do in the present," Gandhi.

## Stein, Richard

Social Studies Teacher





I was born and raised in Shanxi Province in China. Fondly, growing up, I remember New Year's Eve. Every year, all the family members would get together to play poker games, make dumplings, eat dinner and watch the CCTV's spring festival evening party. After 12:00am, we watch fireworks.

Prior to coming to the NYC Department of Education, I was a Mandarin teacher at North Shore and Glen Cove School District. I taught Mandarin to students from K to 12th grade. I enjoyed that I got a chance to teach all grade levels. Doing so helped me to appreciate that teenagers are my favorite target group. It also motivated me to want to teach among diverse students and learn from different cultures and races.

The places I have been are China, Britain, and Mexico. My favorite spots are places in China with ancient cultures and Buddhism, such as Beijing, Xi'an, and Datong. Further, I have enjoyed Tikal where there is the Maya civilization.

Pipi and Hachi are the names of my two dogs.

Generally, I like Korean, Indian and Chinese food.

I want people to remember me as someone who is open-minded and always ready and excited to learn new things.

My life's motto is: "One should treat others as one would like to be treated."

## Wang, Jin

Dual Language Teacher





My name is Paige Wehren and I go by Wehren at school.

I live in Chelsea, but I am originally from Cold Spring Harbor, NY. Fun fact: I grew up with Ms. Matura! My favorite memories of growing up in Cold Spring are BBQs and swimming at sunset with my parents at the local beach.

This is my 8th year at SGL and I haven't worked anywhere else! I started teaching here right after I finished my Masters. My favorite part about SGL is the people: my coworkers, my students and their families.

This summer, I traveled to Maine, Michigan and Croatia (my new favorite country)! I lived in Barcelona for 4 months and while I was there, I traveled to Paris, Rome, Florence, Venice, Prague, and Amsterdam. I have also been to Mexico, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Greece! I love seeing new sights, meeting new people, and living in new cultures. But my go-to-vacation spot is the beach, either in the Hamptons or visiting my mom!

My favorite food is eggplant parmesan and pizza.

If you hear someone singing in the halls, there's a good chance it's me so I apologize in advance.

## Wehren, Paige

Instructional Coach



I go by Ms. Vanessa. I am originally from Santiago, Chile but grew up in Manhattan. My favorite memory of living in NYC is growing up in a forever changing city. Prior to the DOE, I worked in an Early Childhood Center, Movie Theater, Restaurants, Camps, and a Computer Store. I enjoyed all my previous jobs. It made me aware of the different types of jobs that are out there. I am a people-person and all my jobs involved communicating with others.

Some of the places I've been to have been Canada, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, London, Mexico, Poland, Puerto Rico, Russia, Switzerland, and throughout several states in the USA.

I love spicy foods and hope that people think that I am a lot of fun and happy-go-lucky!

## Weinberg, Vanessa

### Paraprofessional



# Whitfield, Tazia

ELA Teacher



I go by the name of Whitfield. I am originally from the Bronx, NY. I lived in the Bronx until I moved to Queens at the age of 10. One of my favorite memories happened the same year I moved to Queens. It was when my mom dressed me up as a housewife for Halloween. That year, I waited until the last minute to tell my mom the costume that I wanted. She came up with the most creative idea. She dressed me in one of her nightgowns and a robe. Then finished my costume with a green face mask, huge hair rollers, and one of my baby dolls. I still think that was the best Halloween costume that I ever had. One of our neighbors even gave us a pie, which we threw away.

I had a few jobs before I became a NYCDOE teacher. I was an auditor and In-service teacher for a Home Health care Agency, in addition to this I was also a research assistant at City College. I enjoyed teaching, developing lessons and activities, meeting new people, learning about new information through research, and I enjoyed the people that I worked with. The thing that I enjoyed the least was the paperwork.

Some places I have traveled is Puerto Rico, Bahamas, St. Thomas, Bermuda, Aruba, and multiple states (14+Washington DC.). My favorite vacation destination would be Hawaii and Bermuda. Both places are so beautiful and the scenery made me feel extremely relaxed while being there.

I had one dog named Ash Whitfield. He passed away February 2016.

My favorite food to eat is hibachi (Benihana) and I also love fried fish.

I would like students to remember me as the teacher who made them smile, laugh, and helped them grow to their best selves.

A quote I live by: "If I cannot do great things. I can do small things in a great way." -Napoleon Hill, Author

