



Allison Elementary



Tammy Sample
Paraeducator II

Tammy is a dedicated worker who is committed to supporting our students to the fullest extent possible. She is always willing to go the extra step in assisting students with their learning. She assists various teachers with after-school tutoring, and she always volunteers to help with all of the school events. Ms. Sample has a very friendly personality, and she truly cares about all the students.



Allison Elementary



Natalie Morgan
2nd Grade Teacher

Ms. Morgan has gone above and beyond with helping others at the school. She is a member of the School Instructional Leadership Team and the School Site Council. She is always willing to bring forth ideas at staff meetings and her grade level Professional Learning Community meetings. She often provides after-school tutoring to her students who need an extra boost. She is one of those teachers who never leaves campus. She is the consummate planner. She is respected by her Allison colleagues.



Babcock Elementary



Leobardo Ochoa

Head Custodian I

Leo is more than a head custodian and truly embodies "Whatever It Takes." He is proud of the school and makes sure it is a shining example of a clean and inviting facility. This is clear in the care he takes in every task. Beyond the job of custodian, Leo brings school spirit and is a teacher to the students. He creates dance videos and art videos to share during distance learning. He encourages students and uses the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system to incentivize community service and positive relationships. He knows students by name and works with families. He is viewed as a leader on campus and does well beyond what is required of him each day.



Babcock Elementary



Kayla Ulrich
2nd Grade Teacher

Kayla is a phenomenal teacher. She creates a community of thinkers and scholars who engage in critical thinking and rigorous work every day. To enter Kayla's classroom is a journey into a special world that she creates with her students. You will find yourself immersed in conversation, play, sign language, and puppetry. She has a magical delivery of positivity and high expectations. Her students become more caring about each other and about the world while in her care. Kayla also mentors and supports other teachers and provides leadership in the school that has a large impact. She worked tirelessly to learn and create a new magical learning community in distance learning. She is truly a talented teacher who commits to the work with her heart and her mind fully.



Castori Elementary



Maria de la Pena

Yard & Noon Duty Assistant

Maria is essential to the safety of our school. She is always willing to help not only within her job description, but also as a frequent volunteer supporting the front office staff. Maria puts in long hours at Castori without expecting anything back. If there is a task needing to be done, Maria takes it on. No matter if it is cleaning the staff lounge, making copies for teachers, or working with students, her heart is genuinely an integral part of Castori!



Castori Elementary



Dominique Jones
3rd Grade Teacher

Ms. Jones has made a positive impact on Castori through her teaching and her willingness to support all students. You can frequently find her helping in the cafeteria, hallway and playground to ensure her students and others regularly meet Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) expectations. Her classroom is well organized and welcoming to her students. Ms. Jones also has been a steady support to families during distance learning. She has made videos to help them better understand Google Classroom as well as other learning platforms. Ms. Jones works to reward and enrich her students' lives by providing incentives and additional school supplies with her own funds. Ms. Jones also sets aside time for her students to meet with her to ensure they have full understanding of what is being taught. Ms. Jones is truly a Castori Panther at heart!



Creative Connections Arts Academy (K-6)



Brittanie Hatt

Library Media Technician

Brittanie has wonderful relations with students and inspires a love for literacy; annual book fairs are an example. She works closely with teachers to support literacy in the classroom and in assuring that students and teachers have all the textbooks and materials they need. Brittanie is thorough, well organized and hard working as demonstrated by this year's materials distribution projects during distance learning.



Creative Connections Arts Academy (K-6)



Kelly Carter
Resource Specialist

Kelly is a strong advocate for all students. She is thorough, organized, trustworthy and focused in her work which requires ongoing implementation and monitoring of services to students. Kelly has supported schoolwide efforts to acknowledge and reward positive engagement such as Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), playground enhancements and overall school pride and spirit.



Creative Connections Arts Academy (7-12)



Shannon Pegar
Library Media Technician

Shannon establishes and maintains positive connections with students, inspires a love for all forms of literacy, and supports them in completing work assignments. Shannon is a hard worker and effectively organized, as exemplified by the textbook distribution required during distance learning. She is flexible, shows initiative and is always willing to help the CCAA team.



Creative Connections Arts Academy (7-12)



Tina Hughes-Corben
7th Grade Teacher

Tina seeks to grow professionally and learn new and creative ideas for teaching. As a result, she designs lessons that are always relevant and bring the standards to life. She demonstrates a love for the arts and seeks to integrate approaches to understanding both art and content standards. Tina is enthusiastic, highly organized, hard-working and dedicates herself to the entire CCAA school community family.



Del Paso Heights Elementary



Nokou is our go-to guy. He is always willing, ready, and happy to support with anything needed. He does this with a smile on his face and always exceeds our expectations. We are proud and excited for him to represent Del Paso Heights Elementary as our Classified Employee of the Year!

Nokou Thao
Custodian



Del Paso Heights Elementary



Carrie Berger
3rd Grade Teacher

Carrie is an amazing teacher and person. She is loved and respected by staff, parents and teachers. Carrie is known for going above and beyond in all that she does. She is incredibly deserving of this honor. We are honored and excited to have Carrie represent Del Paso Heights Elementary as our Teacher of the Year!



District Office / Bay A - B



Regyna Jones

Human Resources Technician

Regyna represents the best in Human Resources with her dedication, and we are always assured that everything she is involved in is done well. During the current health crisis, her attitude and efforts really shined. She immediately transitioned to working from home in March and didn't miss a beat in making sure all positions were posted, screened and progressed through the hiring process in an efficient manner. She then took on the challenge of the "live" interviews through Vidcruiter so HR smoothly continued in its hiring process. Regyna is part of a team working to automate our on-boarding process; this is a huge task that will lead to a long-term system change benefiting both HR and our new hires. Regyna helps our team maximize its efficiency in our operations and also embodies the spirit of HR with her enthusiasm for all holidays, events and decorations. Regyna is not only a great employee and thorough communicator, but a great ambassador to all new employees in TR!



District Office / Bay C



Jamie Manalo

Program Development Specialist

Jamie is an incredible member of the Twin Rivers family. She has transformed the Professional Development department, making it more effective and efficient for teachers and staff to take advantage of the opportunities available for professional growth. At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, when the District had to pivot because of the pandemic, Jamie was innovative and redesigned how PD was delivered. Her efforts led to the very successful, Districtwide, virtual professional development being provided to every certificated staff member in August. Jamie always has a smile on her face and her willingness to help anyone in need impacts everyone. As her supervisor, Director Laura Lofgren said, "Jamie is a true gem in Twin Rivers."



District Office / Bay D



Throughout this year, Conor has worked tireless hours, extra days, and been just an all around responsible team player for both our Help Desk techs and for our District Office staff and administrators. Conor deserves our thanks and appreciation for all of the tireless work, for his responsibility, and constant team spirit. Thank you, Conor!

Conor Allison

IT User Support Technician, Sr.



Dry Creek Elementary



Blanca Vazquez
Administrative Clerk

Blanca is very supportive to our families and staff. She is a leader in the front office and is willing to do whatever is necessary to get the job done. Blanca is very thorough and detail oriented in her work and consistently goes above and beyond in her job to make sure all tasks get accomplished on time. We are thankful that Blanca is part of our Critter family.



Dry Creek Elementary



Katie Scoggins
1st Grade Teacher

Katie's commitment to students at Dry Creek School is evident on a daily basis. She creates high achievers and seeks opportunities to extend her students' learning. Katie is constantly thinking of new ways to support her students virtually through distance learning and has become our go to person on the site when it comes to technology support. We are very thankful to have Katie as part of our Critter family.



Fairbanks Elementary



Rocky Lee

Paraeducator II, Bilingual

Rocky is an incredibly well-respected and loved member of the Faribanks team. Rocky can always be counted on to complete assignments and work above and beyond expectations. He is well deserving of this incredible honor. Congratulations, Rocky, on being selected as Fairbanks Elementary's Classified Employee of the Year!



Fairbanks Elementary



Kayla Lor
5th Grade Teacher

Kayla is a 5th grade teacher who is loved and well-respected by students, parents and staff. She is always willing and ready to support with anything asked or requested. Kayla is well deserving of this honor in representing Fairbanks as Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Kayla!



Foothill High School



Robyn Brown

Registrar

Robyn is so much more than a registrar. She is our head cheer coach, our webmaster, our Team Black Captain! She has an amazing work ethic; she is student-centered, meticulous in her job performance, and a support for all other registrars in the District. Congratulations, Robyn! We are proud to have you represent Foothill High as our Classified Employee of the Year!



Foothill High School



Erin Tobias

9-12 CTE Culinary Arts

Erin has made our Culinary Arts program the most in-demand course on campus. She loves her job, loves her kids, and loves to find ways to build the culture of Foothill High School. We are honored and excited to have Erin represent Foothill High as our Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Erin!



Foothill Oaks Elementary



Antonella Shular

Paraeducator II - RSP Support

Antonella is always prepared and ready to work with our students. She is organized and efficient. The students enjoy working with her. She works well with the RSP teacher and together they make a great team. Thank you, Antonella, for all that you do. We are honored and excited to have you represent Foothill Oaks as our Classified Employee of the Year!



Foothill Oaks Elementary



Pamela Barnes
1st Grade Teacher

Pam is always ready to help and take on new challenges. She has been a great lead within our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team. She takes on challenging students and embraces them in her positive energy, transforming them into successful students. She is a great team player and is always willing to contribute ideas and strategies to not only her grade level, but the entire school. Congratulations, Pam! We are thrilled to have you represent Foothill Oaks as our Teacher of the Year!



Foothill Ranch Middle School



Diana Rose
Library Media Technician

Diana is one of the kindest, sincere, and heartfelt staff members at Foothill Ranch. She takes true pride in keeping our school library a clean, well-organized, and inviting place for all. Additionally, she truly cares for our students with her SOUL club, and always volunteers to lend a helping hand in many school events. Diana's work towards ensuring that our students have the books they need is always efficient and easy for teachers to coordinate. During the pandemic, Diana has put in countless hours, time and concern organizing all of the school's textbook needs. She really just always gives her best effort towards any task she is given. Foothill Ranch is so lucky to have Diana on our team; she is an amazing asset, a friend to all, and a very hard worker!



Foothill Ranch Middle School



Emily Gatti

8th Grade ELA/History Teacher

Emily Gatti is a very hardworking and conscientious teacher. She is an amazing member of the 8th grade team and since coming to the Ranch she has stepped up on multiple occasions to be a valued team member. In the times of distance learning, Emily continuously works to develop engaging and thoughtful lessons for our 8th grade students that are openly shared with her entire grade level team. Emily is truly a team player. Emily always holds her students to a high standard, and always expects excellence. She pushes her students to continuously strive to reach standards, and is very inspiring. Emily deserves to be recognized for her dedication to her students and her teaching craft, especially in this unprecedented school year. Foothill Ranch is so lucky to have Emily Gatti as a member of our team!



Frontier Elementary



Amy Flores
Cafeteria Manager

Amy is a wonderful cafeteria manager! She takes her position seriously and holds her team to high expectations. The ownership she takes of the kitchen is impressive and valuable to ensure it runs smoothly. Amy is knowledgeable, friendly and hardworking. She is here early and stays late to ensure students will have meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Additionally, Amy does a great job in keeping the school informed with updates from Nutrition Services, which just shows how much she values her role as an active team player and collaborator. Frontier is lucky to have her leading our cafeteria!



Frontier Elementary



Nancy Nozaki
1st Grade Teacher

Nancy has the patience, structure, knowledge and flexibility needed to be a teacher in not only in-person teaching but also distance learning. She asks questions, looks for ways to improve, and is always willing to stretch outside her comfort zone. Her friendly demeanor keeps Frontier families connected. Nancy is welcoming to all visitors, and can even be found outside during lunchtime greeting Frontier families as they come through to grab a lunch. Nancy reaches even the most challenging of students and families. She is a team player within the staff as well as a leader. She keeps this campus a well-oiled machine.



Garden Valley Elementary



Yer Vue
Office Manager

Yer is an incredible asset to the Garden Valley team! She is a wealth of information for staff and families alike, juggles multiple tasks easily, and does everything with a warm smile and kind disposition. She's flexible with the day-to-day spontaneous demands, and she works well with all departments. She's a reliable, dedicated employee and is eager to help everyone with anything. We are so fortunate to have Yer as our GV office manager.



Garden Valley Elementary

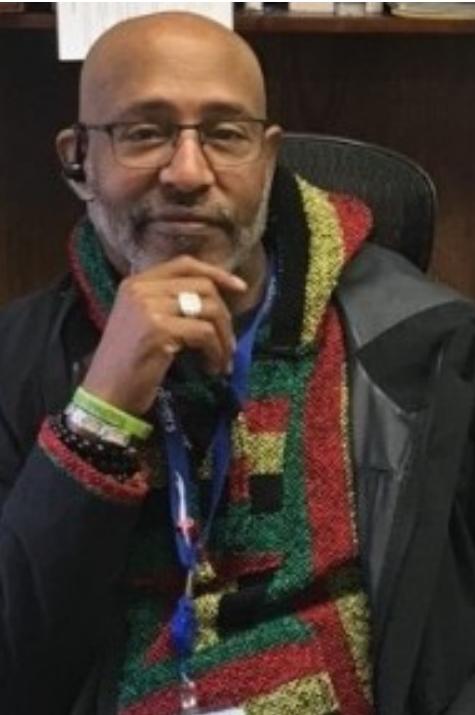


Cori Schmitz
3rd Grade Teacher

A passionate and committed teacher, Cori Schmitz sets high expectations for each and every student. Her classroom culture provides a strong balance of instruction, along with accountability both behaviorally and academically. Although the academic and character components of instruction and learning are noteworthy, more apparent is the relationship Miss S. has with her students. There is no limit to the actions Miss S. takes to ensure she reaches all students. No exceptions. No excuses. She is incredible to watch in action both virtually during distance learning, as well as in person. Garden Valley is honored to have her on staff.



Grant Union High School



Arthur Jones

Academic Intervention Specialist, Sr.

Arthur Jones is one of our most valued Attendance Intervention Specialists. His genuine concern for the academic and social emotional well-being of our students makes him stand out among our many dedicated classified employees. He is very resourceful, trustworthy and relates to students and families from all walks of life because of his kind nature. Grant Union High School and Twin Rivers Unified are blessed to have him on our team.



Grant Union High School



Ana Villanueva

AVID & Spanish Teacher

Ana Villanueva is a compassionate instructor who is able to challenge the minds of our young people to think critically and see the relevance of a good education. She is a favorite among our students and staff alike. A natural born leader, she has excelled as an activities director, Spanish teacher, and our current AVID coordinator by inspiring the students at Grant Union High School to be aggressive and unrelenting in their pursuit of excellence.



Hagginwood Elementary



Elena Sonesath
Administrative Clerk

Elena Sonesath provides support to Hagginwood as our Admin Clerk. During distance learning Elena is consistently providing support to families and staff through various means. Aside from monitoring daily attendance, she ensures that our students are able to access their daily classes by monitoring Zoom changes and providing Zoom links, providing basic technical support, providing information on reaching our IT department, and providing the necessary computers and hotspots. Elena also ensures that our students have access to their instructional materials by reaching out to families to coordinate pick-ups and making sure they have everything that they need when they arrive. For our families who are having difficulties attending classes, Elena will not only reach out to them through phone calls but will also conduct home visits to provide assistance and verify accurate contact information. Elena is an alumna of Twin Rivers schools including Hagginwood. Elena has a strong professional work ethic which creates not only a welcoming and caring school environment but a mindset for continual growth. Thank you, Elena, for being a Hagginwood Hawk!



Hagginwood Elementary



Kiran Bahniwal
2nd Grade Teacher

Kiran Bahniwal is a valuable staff member at Hagginwood as a 2nd grade teacher. Kiran exemplifies the model for growth mindset and collaboration. Kiran is always attending available trainings in Twin Rivers in order to improve and grow her own skill set in order to best support her students. During distance learning she not only attends available training regarding district available technologies but also will collaborate with her teammate so they can leverage each other's strengths and skills. Kiran has high academic and social standards for her students as well as herself. She holds all to high expectations in order to get the job done. Thank you, Kiran, for being a Hagginwood Hawk!



Highlands High School



Pedro Magana
Custodian

Pedro has done a great job cleaning at Highlands High. He always helps out when asked and has a great rapport with his colleagues. Pedro is always professional and is very detail-oriented. We can always count on him to fulfil his assignments every day. He is a model staff member and an asset for Highlands High. We are proud of you, Pedro! Congratulations on being selected as Highlands High's Classified Employee of the Year!



Highlands High School



Adrienne Ruggles
P.E. Teacher

Ms. Ruggles has built great lesson plans this school year. As the distance learning year progresses, Ms. Ruggles has held daily energetic and engaging lessons that have helped students stay connected, stay physically fit and have kept students engaged in meaningful exercise. She always explains her lessons well, details what body parts students are working, and helps students progress in their athletic abilities. She has great rapport with all other colleagues, as well as her students. Her positive and upbeat attitude help create a learning environment that is safe and productive for all her students.



Hillsdale Elementary



Susan Davis
Library Media Technician

Susan has always been and currently is an integral part of the Hillsdale staff. She is dependable, flexible and willing to pivot when important decisions have been made. She supports our staff and students in so many ways. She keeps our textbooks and library in immaculate condition, handles inventory with ease and interacts with students and staff in a variety of ways. Our staff can count on Susan for that smile we all need each and every day. Hillsdale loves you, Susan!



Hillsdale Elementary



Heather Robb

RSP

Heather is a vital part of the Hillsdale/Eastside Charter community. Her RSP role is a unique one in that she services regular education, our 7th and 8th grade charter students and students within our special education program. She is willing to help and support our staff and students when needed, and provides the resources needed for our students and their families to be successful. Hillsdale and Eastside are very fortunate to have Heather on the team.



F.C. Joyce Elementary



Yazmin Vega
Administrative Clerk

Yazmin consistently has a positive attitude and goes above and beyond to ensure student success. Her professional and kind demeanor along with a can-do attitude helps to make Joyce a pleasant place to work. Thank you, Yazmin, for all the hard work that you do! We are honored and excited to have you serve as F.C. Joyce's Classified Employee of the Year!



F.C. Joyce Elementary



Buffy Schweiger
2nd Grade Teacher

Buffy is a prime example of someone who loves her profession. She has a warm and nurturing personality and consistently reaches out to families. Buffy brings creativity, intuition and love in all she teaches along with providing a solid foundation of academics and social emotional skills. We are honored and excited to have Buffy represent F.C. Joyce as our Teacher of the Year!



Keema High School



Roseann Ames
Office Manager

Ms. Roseann Ames is the heart of Keema High School. She helps every student and family that walks in the main office feel accepted, welcomed and part of our school family. The entire staff of Keema looks to Ms. Roseann for direction and guidance in many schoolwide areas. These always boil down to student success and how we can better support our students and their path to graduation. Ms. Roseann's commitment to students, staff, families and administration is unwavering. Her breadth and depth of school operations and programs makes her a tremendous asset. Our continual success is due to the love and focus she outpours to our District, our students, our families and our staff.



Keema High School



Christine Honeycutt
7-12th Independent Study

Ms. Christine Honeycutt is an outstanding teacher and tremendous asset to not only Keema High School, but the entire teaching profession. She focuses on building solid relationships with her students, guiding them to further academic and social-emotional health. The teaching staff of Keema appreciates Ms. Honeycutt's continual work around creating positive, hands-on professional development. She brings a wealth of knowledge from prior teaching experiences to help build a stronger school for all. Ms. Honeycutt sits and participates in a variety of schoolwide leadership teams. She is committed to being a true team player as she rolls up her sleeves, actively listens to others and follows through on projects leading to increased student achievement and success.



Kohler Elementary



Mandy Molina
Library Media Technician

Kohler is truly blessed to have such a committed and dedicated Library Media Technician. Mrs. Molina cares for our students, our families and our staff. Mrs. Molina really stepped up when schools closed due to the pandemic. She went out of her way to reach out to families to check on them and to see if they needed anything. Mrs. Molina's effort during curriculum distribution was crucial in ensuring that everything was smooth for students, families and staff. Mrs. Molina works hard to make sure that our students have the appropriate tools to access our curriculum so our students can be successful. Mrs. Molina has also stepped up into leadership positions in committees on our campus. For example, Mrs. Molina is our School Site Council chairperson. She makes sure everyone is aware of Robert's Rules of Order (and even gave a short history lesson on the rules). She organizes our School Site Council meetings by making sure she sends out emails about upcoming meetings. Mrs. Molina, we love you and we are truly blessed to have such an amazing ray of light on our campus!



Kohler Elementary



Tim Breitkreutz
6th Grade Teacher

Mr. Breitkreutz is a 6th grade teacher at Kohler Elementary School. In the classroom (or in his Zooms) his instruction is a testament to his care for his students as his instruction is rooted in high expectations sprinkled in with the most thoughtful interventions to help students meet his high expectations. Mr. B also builds the most genuine and caring relationships with his students and families. During lunch recess, you can count on seeing him shooting hoops with the 5th and 6th graders. Mr. B also leads outside of his classroom as he has been a member of Kohler's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports team for the past few years and is now on Kohler's Instructional Leadership team. I am honored to announce Mr. Tim Breitkreutz as Kohler's Teacher of the Year. Kohler appreciates everything that you do for us!



Las Palmas Elementary



Paula Parmelee

Paraeducator I

Paula is an exceptional paraeducator who serves our kindergarten students. She works with a multitude of students, knows each child well, and can tell you their strengths. She never hesitates to go the extra mile to assist teachers or families when serving the students. And she does this all with a smile on her face. It brings me joy to see her work with some of our youngest students, as she puts her whole self into the work. Paula shows up where she is needed, even when she isn't requested. We at Las Palmas know we can count her to help us serve our families.



Las Palmas Elementary



David Weichert
5th Grade Teacher

David is an exceptional teacher and instructional leader. He is constantly working to better his instruction for his students both through distance learning and in person. He attends professional development trainings to ensure he understands his learning tools and uses them effectively. He shines as a leader in his grade level and provides professional and emotional support to his peers. He is always open to trying new ways of learning from his peers and encourages them to continue to share best practices with all. He shows deep care for his students and his job.



Madison Elementary



Dee Thomas
Paraeducator I

Dee is focused, extremely hard working and kind spirited to all who enter her circle of influence. Dee goes above and beyond every day to make sure our students' needs are met. Thank you, Dee, for all that you do for our school. We are honored and excited to have you represent Madison Elementary as our Classified Employee of the Year!



Madison Elementary



Laura Bowles
3rd Grade Teacher

Laura Bowles is focused, driven and generously gives tirelessly to her students, their families and to her colleagues. Laura is a dual language teacher who is never satisfied with "good," as she continues to strive towards excellence as a lifelong educator. We are grateful and honored to have Laura represent Madison Elementary as our Teacher of the Year!



Martin Luther King Jr. Tech Academy



Sue Alvarez
Attendance Clerk

Ms. Alvarez is a highly respected colleague to the MLKTA administration, faculty and staff. She has a relentless work ethic in which she has been pivotal in improving our attendance rates here at MLKTA. More importantly, she is a team player who is willing to support a colleague whenever called upon. As a Spanish speaker, she is not only a viable resource to our Latino families but to all of our families. Ms. Alvarez is amazingly helpful to both staff and students. She always goes above and beyond the scope of her job description and helps people whenever possible. She always has a huge smile on her face and is an awesome addition to the MLKTA family. We love you, Mrs. Alvarez!



Martin Luther King Jr. Tech Academy



Dr. Sarah Heidel
P.E./Academic ELD Teacher

Dr. Heidel is a highly respected colleague and overall asset to the MLKTA faculty and staff. Her multifaceted contributions are evident and they continue to have a positive impact on our academic program as she teaches and leads in two different subject areas. Dr. Heidel serves as department chair for our P.E. department as well as being an active member and participant on our Instructional Leadership team. Her technological prowess is of value to our MLKTA family as she is our site's TRIFORCE representative in which she supports colleagues with 21st century instructional tools and resources that support our teachers in carrying out best instructional practices that would yield a high prospect for student learning. Dr. Heidel is our site's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) coordinator where she leads meetings and provides viable information to those on the committee. Dr. Heidel readily makes herself available and accessible to meet, to provide assistance or to merely support a colleague which includes our administrative team. Dr. Heidel has been a tremendous asset and has been committed to ensuring that she supports our school's vision and mission in best preparing our MLKTA scholars for high school. Most importantly, she has a passion for what she does in the profession with student success at the forefront as well as our entire MLKTA school community's best interest at heart. I am proud to recognize our MLKTA Teacher of the Year, Dr. Sarah Heidel.



Miles P. Richmond



Liliya Choban
Paraeducator III

Liliya is an absolute pleasure to work with. She is dedicated to ensuring that the students she works with get the best possible service and support. She always takes the time to listen. She is a team player and supports her coworkers. She goes above and beyond to help students get what they need to grow and learn. She is a shining star who leads by example. She is humble and kind. She is a true professional, and we are so grateful to have her at Miles P. Richmond. She is making a difference each and every day.



Morey Avenue ECD Center



Brandie McConahie
Office Manager

Mrs. Brandie is always willing to help our team, office guests, parents and whomever needs assistance. She has a positive attitude and always seeks clarification when needed. She learns quickly and is interested in getting to know all aspects of our program. Congrats, Brandie! We are honored and excited to have you represent Morey Avenue as our Classified Employee of the Year!



Morey Avenue ECD Center



Houa Lee
Preschool Teacher

Mrs. Houa is an incredible asset to the Head Start and Morey Avenue team! She does a great job of training our new staff and building relationships with all staff. She is knowledgeable about ECE practices and goes over and beyond to help everyone. She has a positive attitude with everyone and loves to mentor fellow teaching staff. Congrats to Mrs. Houa! We are thrilled to have you represent Morey Avenue as our Teacher of the Year!



Northwood Elementary



Zarmineh Khatcherian
Paraeducator III

Zarmineh "Tina" is dedicated to her students. She works closely with families and students in the RISE class to ensure that they are engaged and experience the best learning environment. She is an innovator and leader and has juggled being a parent of students in distance learning while creating fun, interactive Google Slides for her students and bringing energy and animation to the screen. She is a dedicated and skilled professional.



Northwood Elementary



Danielle Raty
4th Grade Teacher

Danielle is a teacher who really connects with her students and creates strong relationships. She holds high expectations for her class and designs rigorous lessons for her students. She is always supportive and positive with her messaging and truly goes the extra mile to support the success of her class. We are excited to have Danielle Raty represent Northwood Elementary as our Teacher of the Year!



Norwood Jr. High School



Jill Macaraeg
Attendance Clerk

Ms. Jill has been an amazing asset to our front office staff. She continues to go above and beyond to reach families and build positive relationships with students. She is upbeat, positive and welcomes students with such a friendly demeanor and is always willing to help in whatever aspect needed. She supports families and staff when questions arise. Norwood loves having Ms. Jill in the front office as the first point of contact for our families.



Norwood Jr. High School



Todd Appleby
Science Teacher

Mr. Appleby is an amazing teacher and a valuable staff member at Norwood Junior High School. He is very humble and understanding of all students and staff. He has gone above and beyond this year to support our staff through preparing for and implementing distance learning. He continues to offer a variety of tools to engage students and has been a positive influence and support for staff, students and families. He builds relationships with all students and communicates with all staff to support student learning. Norwood is honored to have Mr. Todd Appleby representing Norwood Junior High School as our Teacher of the Year.



Oakdale Elementary



Ramon Fajardo
Office Manager

Ramon is very passionate about helping all students and staff. He is very knowledgeable and amazing with technology. Ramon is involved in planning activities and organizing the school to make it a wonderful place for students and staff. We are truly honored and excited to announce Ramon as Oakdale's Classified Employee of the Year!



Oakdale Elementary



Ashley Spiesman
2nd Grade Teacher

Ashley is committed to serving all students. She is hard working and determined to reach all students. She is involved in organizing school events such as the Harvest Festival. Ashley also provides guidance for new teachers. She is a blessing for all students and staff at Oakdale. Congratulations, Ashley, on being selected as Oakdale's Teacher of the Year!



Orchard Elementary



Rhima Blenkhorn

Cafe Services Team Leader I

Rhima has worked throughout the pandemic and supported all District students. She makes sure that all jobs in the kitchen are completed in a timely manner, and communicates with the office regularly. Rhima goes out of her way to make sure our neediest students get their nutrition needs met. Thank you, Rhima, for all that you do, and congratulations on being selected as our District Classified Employee of the Year!



Orchard Elementary



Joshua Ray
4th Grade Teacher

Mr. Ray is a caring and compassionate teacher who loves to share his passion for the arts and science with his students and the school community. He goes above and beyond to engage learners' interests by holding lunch clubs, hosting our Sing Assembly every week and providing a host of technology related learning opportunities for our students. Congratulations, Joshua, on being selected as Orchard's Teacher of the Year!



Pacific Career & Technology High School



Kangbou Yang
Office Manager

KB Yang, our Office Manager, is extremely helpful and always full of energy. Her organizational skills are exemplary. She is a hard worker who cares about her job, always making time for anyone in need. Ms. Yang has a strong knowledge of the educational system and works well with all students, parents and staff. We are fortunate to have such an amazing employee on our team.



Pacific Career & Technology High School



Nicole Pinto

Art, Ceramics and ELD Teacher

Ms. Pinto brings out the students' creativity in many ways in art and ceramics. She has taken part in the Festival of the Arts for several years. Ms. Pinto takes the students on field trips. One annual trip is to the Crocker Art Museum to enhance her students' knowledge of the arts and expand their creative minds. This amazing teacher also teaches ELD classes at Pacific High. She is a teacher who truly cares about her students.



Pioneer Elementary



Deanne Barnett

Office Manager

We could not have done it without Mrs. Barnett as our Office Manager this year during distance learning! This is truly the year of the Office Manager, and she is a shining star. She has done so much to keep Pioneer steering in the right direction that we can't thank her enough. She provided IT support, data support, counseling support, managerial support and just overall support to so many staff, students and families on a daily basis. We love her and thank her for her service through this pandemic!



Pioneer Elementary



Robin Nahhas
3rd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Nahhas has been a leader through this pandemic. Not only has she worked tirelessly for her own students, she shares everything she does with other teachers around her. She makes "how to" videos and posts them for colleagues to use and she helps problem solve challenges her team may have. She is extremely engaging and thoughtful in both her lesson design and delivery. Her students and families love having her as their 3rd grade teacher, and so do we!



Regency Park Elementary



Michelle Weeks

Library Media Technician

Michelle is an amazing employee who works tirelessly to ensure that all students at Regency Park Elementary receive the textbooks and supplies needed to be successful. Her excellent organization skills helped to make the distribution of supplies seamless. The library is well organized and efficiently run so that students are able to check in and check out books on a weekly basis.



Regency Park Elementary



Rebecca is always focused on the students to make sure they get what they need to be successful. She works with teachers at every grade level to modify work and assists the teacher with planning and teaching. Rebecca shows caring and leadership by continually involving families with great communication.

Rebecca Medeiros

Resource, Special Education



Ridgepoint Elementary



Diane Lunbeck
Library Media Technician

I am proud to introduce Diane Lunbeck as Ridgepoint's Classified Employee of the Year! Her selection is no surprise to our school community as we are all aware of her excellent work with students and her dedication to our school. This year she has had to shift her approach to support students from afar. Diane has completed the intake and dispersal of curricular inventory at one of the largest elementary schools, and she made it look easy. Diane continues to circulate Chromebooks and hotspots to ensure our students are equipped with the tools they need to access their learning. Diane has made herself available to other schools to assist with their materials distribution days when needed. She takes care of Ridgepoint, and she takes care of others to create the best conditions for our students...this is the perfect representation of what we want to be at Ridgepoint and in Twin Rivers. Thank you, Diane, for all you do!



Ridgepoint Elementary



Christina Torres
1st Grade Teacher

I am proud to announce Christina Torres as Ridgepoint's 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year! As everyone knows, distance learning has presented a host of challenges unlike any we've experienced before. We've all risen to the occasion, and Christina stands with us as a representative example of what a professional can do for kids under the toughest circumstances. She never pretended that teaching has been easy these past months, but she never let it show. Her students and their families have only experienced the most welcoming, positive experience, and she's getting results. Christina has been solution-oriented when planning our programs and she has volunteered during all of our community connection events...again, representative of the efforts of our school's mission and vision. Ridgepoint pledges to deliver excellence, and Christina exemplifies this tradition during a very unique time. Please join me in congratulating Christina Torres. Much deserved!



Rio Linda High School



Crystal Pitcher

Cafe Services Team Leader II

Crystal Pitcher really cares about the students and the community of Rio Linda High School. Every day Crystal does her best to put out a nutritious breakfast and lunch. You can find Crystal out on our sidewalk in the front of our campus giving out breakfast and lunch to the students and community members with a smile on her face. Congratulations, Crystal Pitcher!



Rio Linda High School



Areli Contreras
Math Teacher

Ms. Areli Contreras is one of our best math teachers at Rio Linda High School. Areli brings technology and one-on-one instruction to her students. Ms. Contreras is also one of our assistant athletic directors at Rio Linda High School and works with students in need of academic assistance. Congratulations, Areli Contreras!



Rio Linda Preparatory Academy



Brandi Harris

Library Media Technician

Brandi goes out of her way to be helpful and supportive in all educational settings. She continues to build good relationships with students through her Book to Movie and Yearbook clubs. Brandi also reads to classes during distance learning and meets with classes virtually to show new books that have arrived at the library. Even the pandemic cannot stop her connecting students with books. The library is still going strong with the online checkout and book delivery system she has put in place. Besides being a team player, Brandi has a positive can-do attitude that she brings to work daily. Because of her, students continue to build a love for reading!



Rio Linda Preparatory Academy



Brianna Anglemoyer
6th Grade Teacher

Brianna not only goes above and beyond for her students but she does the same for all of her colleagues at RLPA. She is sweet, kind hearted, and is always willing to support anyone around her. Brianna has not let the pandemic get in the way of learning. She has done her best to make distance learning fun and successful for her students; she has sent projects home, expanded student technology use and allowed library time. It's hard to forget that she's relatively new to the position as she already demonstrates the experience and expertise of educators with decades of experience! I would definitely want her to be one of my student's teachers.



Rio Tierra Jr. High School



Kathleen has been extremely helpful, kind, and active in support of the students at Rio Tierra. She is a model AISB, going above and beyond to improve the outcomes of kids who speak languages other than English. She is always available to translate, reach out to parents, and provide regular support with anything EL. She is vital to our success.

Kathleen Munro

Academic Intervention Specialist, Bilingual



Rio Tierra Jr. High School



Amber Mitchell
Science Teacher

Amber works very hard to make sure her students are learning at their best. She has high expectations and goes above and beyond in helping students reach them. She volunteers her time with various committees and provides multiple opportunities for her students to join different clubs of their interest after school. Her leadership in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Triforce are a huge benefit to the school. She models hard work and adds a dose of witty humor that makes the rest of the staff smile. She is an amazing person that Rio Tierra is lucky to have.



Sierra View Elementary



Laura Young
Library Media Technician

Laura Young is our Library Media Technician extraordinaire. She has expertly handled the changes in her job description over the years without comment or complaint. She really stepped up during distance learning to get materials checked out to students. She put in many, many extra hours to take care of both of the sites she works at in order to get the job done. As a principal, it is nice to know that Laura will take care of the library, the textbooks, and the laptops in a thorough, organized way. Thank you, Laura!



Sierra View Elementary



Reem Zidan

Preschool Teacher

Reem Zidan is so deserving of the title of Teacher of the Year at Sierra View Elementary. Ms. Reem teaches our young preschool Hornets. Students in Ms. Reem's class are treated to many unique learning experiences, both in the classroom and during distance learning. You never know what to expect when you drop by Ms. Reem's classroom. Students may be making pancakes, holding a ribbon cutting ceremony, practicing for a performance, taking a virtual field trip, or be out learning in the garden. She expertly prepares her students for kindergarten both academically and socially. I am so glad that Ms. Reem is part of our Sierra View family.



Smythe Academy of Arts & Sciences (PK-6)



Venessa Ricardez
Library Media Technician

Venessa is a quiet, dedicated advocate for the power of books and literacy in our kids' lives. She is self-motivated to continually update our library collection to reflect our student body and their interests. Venessa volunteers countless hours each year to make the Scholastic Book Fair a success, and she balances her library and textbook responsibilities with professionalism, dedication, flexibility and determination! We love her and are proud for Venessa to represent Smythe Elementary!



Smythe Academy of Arts & Sciences (PK-6)



Morgann Kroetch
1st Grade Teacher

Morgann Kroetch is a consummate professional and quiet leader who models all the qualities that make Smythe proud to have her as our Teacher of the Year. She has deep knowledge of the California content standards and the principles of early childhood education that are evident in her classroom. Morgann has a focused, calm and caring presence with her students and her classroom is a living laboratory for social emotional learning and mindfulness practices. Finally, Morgann's relationships with her families, her colleagues and the school as a whole are grounded in respectful communication and a commitment to focus on kids and our collective ability to help them succeed.

Smythe Academy of Arts & Sciences (7-8)



Maribel Gomez
Attendance Clerk

Maribel tirelessly works to keep the most accurate attendance data in addition to being a highly trusted school contact for our Spanish-speaking community. She is patient, kind and supportive and at the same time firmly holds parents accountable for their student's attendance. Parents and students feel connected with Maribel and quite often ask specifically for her. Her bright and positive attitude and calm demeanor is infectious and really nice to be around. Maribel's work is beyond 100%, and she holds herself to the highest professional standards. We are proud to have Maribel on our team.



Smythe Academy of Arts & Sciences (7-8)



Pete McEntee
P.E. Teacher

Pete has always been one of the best teachers Smythe has had. He makes his classes run smoothly even with our limited space and resources. Pete's classes are managed with exceptional classroom expectations and participation. Pete has been a mentor teacher for student teachers, and they have all walked away with amazing advice and strategies to succeed in the challenging world of education. Smythe is extremely lucky to have such an outstanding professional on our team.



Strauch Elementary



Ebony Edmond

Library Media Technician

We can always count on Ms. Ebony to do her best and make our students smile. She shares her love of reading with our students. She has masterminded two schoolwide materials distribution days and also coordinates our textbook inventories. She is organized and hardworking. We are lucky to have Ms. Ebony as part of the Strauch team!



Strauch Elementary



Cynthia Peer
2nd Grade Teacher

Cynthia helps each and every student achieve their own personal best. She supports students academically and socio-emotionally. She creates a fun, welcoming learning environment where students know they are welcome and free to take risks and express their ideas. Her specialty is writing. Her students relish the opportunity to showcase their work as authors at her publishing parties. She is also a collaborative team member, both with her teaching partner and her grade level team. Cynthia is thoughtful and creative, and we are delighted she is part of the Strauch team!



Twin Rivers Transportation Services



Federico Demarchi
Dispatcher

Federico is not only a team player but also an awesome human. He is a hard worker and very caring. Federico is very dedicated and always willing to go the extra mile. We are grateful and appreciate everything he does, and we are excited to have him represent Transportation Services as our Classified Employee of the Year!



Twin Rivers Adult School



Dina is a very diligent and valuable staff member. She supports all staff without hesitation and meets all her deadlines. Dina is very professional, has great communication skills and wonderful customer service. She is always ready to help any student. Dina is a very valuable asset to our Adult School.

Dina Ali

Paraeducator



Twin Rivers Adult School



Richard Pancaro
ESL Teacher

When we had to go to distance learning due to COVID-19, Rich went above and beyond for his students by creating exciting lesson plans to enhance student engagement, and he kept encouraging them in multiple ways. He was willing to give his students the support they needed for the best possible outcomes. This is extra challenging because his students are lower level English learners. What helped is that Rich always takes the time to get to know his students and understand their needs. Even before COVID-19, Rich used a variety of teaching methods and resources. His engaging lessons prepare his students for the next level. He always seeks out professional development that will help him become an even better educator. He's highly experienced working with adult students. Rich is humble and sweet, patient, always positive and wonderful to work with. He is a team player and very dedicated to his work. Rich is very deserving of the title Teacher of the Year.



Twin Rivers Nutrition Services



Eddie Viramontes

Delivery Driver

Eddie is one of our Nutrition Services delivery drivers who collaborates closely with the staff and team to deliver high quality nutrition services to students and staff. He has proven to be a very valuable and versatile worker for our department over the last year when schools closed due to the pandemic. By way of example, Eddie assisted in redesigning existing meal program logistics to accommodate meal deliveries to community-based organizations and home deliveries to students whose families were advised to quarantine. Eddie also has been instrumental in the expansion of Nutrition Services operations that now provide daily deliveries to support the national school lunch and supper programs. Eddie brings an energy to our team in the form of pure enthusiasm and excitement. He is always willing to work with anyone in a cooperative and collaborative manner which makes it easy to accomplish the task or project at hand. It's an honor to have Eddie as a team member in Nutrition Services!



Twin Rivers Police Services



Elizabeth Lopez-Ortiz
Police Dispatcher

Elizabeth Lopez-Ortiz shows pride in her work. Elizabeth is detail-oriented, ensuring shortcuts are not taken, and tasks are done effectively and efficiently. Elizabeth fosters a positive work environment by helping and assisting co-workers whether she is on or off-duty. Elizabeth has taken it upon herself to improve the environment within Police Services by updating filing systems and workplace aesthetics. Elizabeth is well-liked and respected by her co-workers, officers and management.



Village Elementary



Thomas Richard
Custodian

Tom has a positive attitude and is always willing to help. He goes above and beyond to make sure that our campus and classrooms are clean and safe. Tom makes our campus a better place. Thank you, Tom, for all that you do. We are honored and excited to have you represent Village Elementary as our Classified Employee of the Year!



Village Elementary



Sandra Crenshaw
7th Grade Teacher

Mrs. Crenshaw is committed to the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional development of her students. She builds positive relationships with her students, and is a model of patience, grace, and compassion. Our school is a better place because she's here. Thank you, Sandra, for all that you do. We are excited to have you represent Village Elementary as our Teacher of the Year!



Vineland Preschool



Rhaniel Lao

Paraeducator III

Rhaniel is incredibly committed to helping our students succeed. Rhaniel comes to work every day ready to educate the students and their families. He is always willing to help out around campus in any way asked. Rhaniel is currently a student at Sac State studying to become an Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teacher, and he is passionate about serving our community. He has strong relationships with our families and has worked with many of them to help create plans that will help their child succeed both in school and at home. Rhaniel is a natural leader and teacher. His positive attitude uplifts our team on the hard days and his drive helps motivate everyone around him. He is reflective in his teaching practices and always coming up with creative ways to engage students. Rhaniel uses his unique talents and interests such as music and incorporates it into lessons to motivate the students. We are all honored to have Rhaniel on our team and have him as our Classified Employee of the Year.



Vineland Preschool



Allison Richter
ECSE Preschool

Allison can always be found with a smile on her face. She goes above and beyond to help students, parents and colleagues. She is an Admin Designee and takes time out of her busy schedule to help with the many IEP's at Vineland. She is very knowledgeable and is always willing to answer questions or help problem solve with others. Allison is currently helping with another teacher's caseload who is out on maternity leave. She is a true leader to the Vineland team.



Vista Nueva Career & Tech High School



Beth Huddleston

Office Manager

Beth is the glue that holds the every day operations together; her tenacity, work ethic and loyalty to the staff, students and co-workers is unquestioned. She has an ability to sense unfavorable situations before they happen. Her work ethic is one that I have never see before in the classified personnel that I have worked with. Her loyalty to everyone here at Vista and Nova is amazing; she wants nothing but the best for those who are a part of our family and team.



Vista Nueva Career & Tech High School



Lynette Echelmeier
10th-12th Business Teacher

Lynette is a consummate professional; there is nothing that she cannot do and often does what others don't care to do. Her ability to organize and carry out the WASC preparation and planning was an example for all to see. Her ability to work with students and outside agencies for graduation in 2020 was nothing less than an outstanding job. Her willingness to work with all students on campus is amazing, it doesn't matter if it's helping them to write a resume, needing food for home or just someone to listen to; she is truly there for all students.



Westside Elementary



Rebecca Faris

Library Media Technician

Our Classified Employee of the Year for Westside Elementary is Rebecca Farris. Mrs. Farris has been such an integral part of the team this year as we distribute materials out to our students during distance learning. She is always organized and efficient and is excellent at communicating with the staff. Congratulations, Rebecca!



Westside Elementary



Christi Gohl
3rd Grade Teacher

The teacher of the year for Westside Elementary is Christi Gohl. Mrs. Gohl has really stepped up during this challenging year and has become a leader at our site. She has worked tirelessly during distance learning to ensure her students are on task and are continuing to make progress. She has also been assisting her colleagues with numerous different tasks that popped up over the year. Congratulations, Christi!



Westside Preparatory Charter School



Julie Rhea
Office Manager

Julie Rhea is the WPCS Classified Employee of the Year. Mrs. Rhea is extremely skilled in terms of managing our office, utilizing her amazing budget skills to keep us balanced, and always being professional with staff and families. She is the calm we all need when the waters get a bit rough. She pulls all four sites together when it comes time for the large tasks such as our LCAP. Julie is invaluable to the WPCS team.



Westside Preparatory Charter School



Tom Cope
8th Grade Teacher

Mr. Cope is one of the best that WPCS has to offer in teaching excellence and professionalism. Mr. Cope is passionate about his students' learning and is always a team player. Mr. Cope holds students accountable for their learning by engaging them in meaningful assignments that prepare them for success with 8th grade standards while also preparing students for future academic success.



Winona Lower Level



Joshua Crotts

Instructional Materials Coordinator

Josh is an employee who will go above and beyond to get the job done; he's the first one to arrive and the last one to leave. He will go out of his way to help the team out and ensure the job is done right, is very dependable and always willing to offer his knowledge to anybody that is willing to want to learn. Thank you, Josh, for all that you do!



Winona Upper Level



Ildefonso Alejo
Maintenance Specialist

Ildefonso Alejo is an employee who always goes above and beyond to assure that work orders are completed, ensuring that our schools are safe and free from defects. Ildefonso is also a member of our District's Emergency Response Team (ERT) and is always the first to respond to any issues throughout the District at any time of the day or night.



Woodlake Elementary



Paula Mazzoni

Office Manager

Paula came to work at a school site after many years working in the corporate world. Her mission was to improve the lives of students and families through outstanding customer service and care in an educational setting. She is a model of lifelong learning and practices many of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and mindfulness strategies with students she connects with. She continually meets and exceeds the duties of the office environment and goes beyond the expected to meet the needs of students, staff and the community. Paula even leads yoga in classrooms during rainy day recess. She is a jack of all trades and a master of them as well. We are so happy to have her on our staff at Woodlake.



Woodlake Elementary



Margaret Ceballos
3rd Grade Teacher

Ms. Ceballos was recognized by her peers for her dedication to Woodlake over the years. She has served as the teacher lead for several years and stepped up to voluntarily teach split classes when needed. She is a creative and energetic teacher who makes it her mission to reach each and every student. During school closures, she handled the learning curve of digital learning with grace, humor and reflective practices. We are so proud to recognize Ms. Ceballos as the Woodlake Teacher of the Year.



Woodridge Elementary



Loretta Saragosa
Head Custodian I

Loretta is always there to jump in and lend a hand with school projects and events. She takes pride in keeping our school beautifully clean and helps create a welcoming environment for our students, staff and community. The pandemic has been a very stressful time for all, and we all rest easy knowing that she will not cut corners to keep our students and staff safe. She works tirelessly to ensure that everyone has the supplies they need and that repairs are done correctly and in a timely manner. She is a true member of our school staff, and has forged strong bonds with our students and staff. Woodridge would not be the same without her!



Woodridge Elementary



Valerie Vasquez
4th Grade Teacher

Mrs. Vasquez shows tremendous dedication to her students and colleagues. She has selflessly taken on numerous tasks and duties that are vital to our work environment and help to keep our families informed and also our staff up to date and able to perform their duties. Her selfless commitment to the staff, students and families is unwavering as she channels her efforts through her involvement with ILT, GATE Liaison, textbook distribution, and webmaster of our school website, Facebook and Instagram accounts. Her collaborative spirit and voluntary support to staff and students is an admirable quality and appreciated by all!