



2020-21 Chadwick New Faculty and Staff
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● **Village School**

- Ann Breed, Village and Middle School Spanish Teacher
- Anna Clark, Sixth-Grade Science Teacher
- Jessica Frerichs '09, Fourth-Grade Associate Teacher
- Nicole “Nikki” Hergert, Fifth-Grade Associate Teacher
- Lillian Kary, Second-Grade Associate Teacher

● **Middle and Upper School**

- Joseph Collard, Middle and Upper School Computer Science Teacher
- Ken Cowan, Middle and Upper School Media Arts and Graphic Design Teacher
- Sohrab Ghassemi, Middle and Upper School History Teacher
- Tomoyo Namigata '06, Upper School Science Teacher
- Natalia Postrigan, Upper School Math Teacher
- Brian Sheehan, Middle School Substitute English Teacher
- Kyle Traynham, Upper School English Teacher

● **Administration and Staff**

- Elizabeth Imende-Cooney, Assistant Head of School
- Andrea Kroening, Middle School Administrative Assistant
- Tami Seeger, Communications Manager



Faculty and Staff in New Roles
(New role is in bold)

- Natalie Beamer, **Fifth-Grade Lead Teacher**
- David Bloom, **Interim Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**
- Alan Hill, **Director of Outdoor Education (K-6)**
- Deborah Levy, **Acting Director of the Village School**
- Luis Morales, **Middle School Dean of Students**; Dean of Faculty and Staff
- Erin Nordlund, **Director of Teaching and Learning (K-6)**
- Pete Nordlund, **History Department Chair**
- Casey Remy, **Director of Information Technology**
- Marielle Sallo, **Upper School Dean of Students (Grades 9-10)**
- Alexandra “Allie” Talucci, **Director of Outdoor Education (7-12)**
- Kimberly Tatman, **Director of Teaching and Learning (7-12)**
- Patrick Wallace, **Upper School Dean of Students (Grades 11-12)**
- Heidi Yamada-Kubota, **Fourth-Grade Lead Teacher**



2020-21 Village School Appointments

Ann Breed, Village and Middle School Spanish Teacher



Ann Breed is excited to be teaching sixth- and seventh-grade Spanish I A. Originally from Denver, Colorado, she earned her undergraduate degrees in Spanish Language & Literature and Environmental Policy from the University of Rochester in New York. She also earned her master's degree in Spanish Language with a specialization in education from

Middlebury College in Madrid, Spain. Ann has taught both Spanish and English to high-school and middle-school students. Ann is coming to Chadwick directly from Madrid, where she spent the last two years studying and working as an assistant English teacher to middle-school students. She loves to knit and sew, making several new outfits during quarantine. She also enjoys playing board and card games. Ann strives to inspire curiosity by creating dynamic language classes that encourage her students to leave their comfort zones and communicate with the world around them.

Anna Clark, Sixth-Grade Science Teacher



Anna is excited to teach sixth-grade science at Chadwick. She joined Chadwick during the 2019-2020 school year as the STEM Support Manager in the Center for Innovation and Research, where she connected STEM programs with student interests. Previously, Anna worked as



Senior Science Director for STAR Education, directing and teaching hands-on science enrichment programs for schools across Los Angeles. She also taught and managed robotics and LEGO engineering programs, and created community STEM events in partnership with universities and organizations. For the UCLA Center for Community Schooling, Anna brought university resources and programming to schools in Los Angeles, and created spaces for universities to share findings on deeper educational practices. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in East Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Southern California. Anna grew up in Hawaii and studied in California and Japan. She is passionate about Hawaiian and Japanese language, music and cuisine. She has taught science in schools using rescue animals through work with a nonprofit organization, and is trained to teach with snakes, hedgehogs and even alligators!

Jessica Frerichs, Fourth-Grade Associate Teacher



Jessica attended Chadwick from sixth through 12th grade (Class of 2009) and is thrilled to be returning to the Chadwick family, where she intends to foster the same positive experiences for her students that Chadwick gave her. She most recently served as a fifth-grade student teacher at Birney Elementary School in Redondo

Beach and in kindergarten at Marquez Charter School in Pacific Palisades. Jessica is passionate about working with children and prides herself on her creativity, flexibility and eternal optimism. She received her B.A. in Narrative Studies at the University of Southern California with a minor in Cinematic Arts, and went on to earn her master's degree in the Art of Elementary Education at Loyola



Marymount University. Born and raised in the South Bay, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, going to the beach, and volunteering for children and animals in need.

Nicole “Nikki” Hergert, Fifth-Grade Associate Teacher



Nikki Hergert comes to Chadwick from New LA Charter Elementary School in Los Angeles, where she has been a third-grade teacher since August 2018. While there, Nikki developed curriculum for the grade and served as a Girls on the Run coach. Before joining New LA, Nikki taught third and fourth grade as a long-term substitute in Torrance and Manhattan Beach schools. She holds an M.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. In her new role at Chadwick, Nikki is looking forward to creating engaging lessons that get students to think deeply about the world around them. Nikki enjoys cooking and baking in her free time. French macarons are her favorite treat to make. She also loves to draw realistic portraits of animals and flowers using colored pencils.

Lillian Kary, Second-Grade Associate Teacher



Lillian comes to Chadwick as a lifelong resident of the South Bay. She received her bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies from California State University Dominguez Hills in 2015, where she also received her teaching credential in 2016. Lillian gained hands-on experience while completing her education, volunteering for 10



years in a third-grade classroom in Redondo Beach. She has been a substitute teacher for schools in Lawndale, Redondo Beach, Torrance and Manhattan Beach, and also completed two long-term assignments teaching first grade in Lawndale. To stay engaged during the summer months, Lillian worked with kids at a surf camp, babysat and tutored. In her free time, she enjoys staying active with kickboxing, hiking, going to the beach and stand-up paddle boarding. She loves Mexican and Thai food, and listening to great music.



2020-21 Middle and Upper School Appointments

Joseph Collard, Middle and Upper School Computer Science Teacher



Joseph Collard came to Los Angeles from Albuquerque, New Mexico, where they received a B.S. in Computer Science and a minor in Music Education from the University of New Mexico. Joe is excited to be joining Chadwick as a computer science teacher for both the Middle and Upper Schools. In addition to being a member of the Chadwick faculty, Joe

is the Chief Technology Officer of VoterLabs Inc., where they help oversee the development of a machine learning and artificial intelligence platform for performing data analytics. From 2014-2017, Joe collaborated with UMass Amherst and Brown University to perform research on peer review tools for use in computer science classrooms. Joe enjoys playing jazz guitar and trombone, reading fantasy novels and building arcade machines.

Ken Cowan, Middle and Upper School Media Arts and Graphic Design Teacher



Ken spent the last three years at Leuzinger High School in Lawndale teaching Media Arts, overseeing a student-led video news show and advising the Pride Club. He previously worked as a freelance event photographer and independent filmmaker. Ken earned a double B.A. in Government and Fine Arts from St. Lawrence



University and an M.F.A. in Photography from Otis College of Art and Design. Once a competitive downhill ski racer, he's moved on to outdoor activities requiring less gear, clothing and time away from his partner and two young children.

Sohrab Ghassemi, Middle and Upper School History Teacher



Sohrab comes to Chadwick via Washington, D.C., where he recently completed his Ph.D. at Georgetown University. Sohrab previously taught history at the Almaden Country Day School in San Jose, and he looks forward to teaching seventh- and ninth-grade students during his first year at Chadwick. At the University of California, Santa Barbara, Sohrab was a graduate teaching associate and also served on the board of the local interfaith council. Building on that experience, he brings a deep commitment to the teaching of world history. In addition to his doctoral degree, he holds two master's degrees and earned a bachelor's degree in Foreign Service and International Affairs. Sohrab is passionate about nature and the arts, and is an avid movie buff. He loves backpacking in the Sierra Nevada, exploring the paintings of Caravaggio and reading Persian Sufi poetry.



Tomoyo Namigata, Upper School Science Teacher



As a Chadwick alumna, Tomoyo Namigata '06 is excited to “return home” to teach AP Physics I and PCB2. For the last three years, Tomoyo taught Chemistry, Physics and AP Physics I at West High School in Torrance, and before that, at ASPIRE Olin College Preparatory Academy. Her diverse background is grounded in science, which continues to be a lifelong passion. She holds a B.A. in Molecular/Cell Biology from UC Berkeley, studied at Hamamatsu University School of Medicine in Japan and is currently earning an M.S. in Physics at Indiana University, where she is also a researcher investigating dark matter. Tomoyo was previously a researcher in a neurophysics lab at UCLA, studying the brain and consciousness. She credits the Chadwick faculty and community for inspiring her to be an educator and lifelong learner.

Natalia Postrigan, Upper School Math Teacher



Natalia comes to Chadwick from New York, where she worked in consulting, financial services and education since 2009. She taught mathematics at South Kent School in Connecticut and Rye Country Day School and Rye City Middle School in New York. Natalia holds an M.A. in Mathematics Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and an M.B.A. from the University of Virginia. Her lifelong passions are travel and photography.



Brian Sheehan, Middle School Substitute English Teacher



Spanning a 20-year career as both a middle- and high-school educator, Brian recently taught eighth-grade English at The Dalton School in New York City. Internationally, Brian has taught at the American Overseas School of Rome (Grade 7 English and Drama) and ACS International Schools in London (Grade 10 English and IB Theatre). He has coached Mock Trial, Speech and Debate, Student Council, Cross-Country and is an SAT/ACT reader for the visually impaired. Brian hails from New Jersey and has a B.A. in English from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and an M.Ed. in Secondary Education (English) from Loyola Marymount University. Recently, Brian studied acting in London at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA) and has appeared on Broadway in *Miss Saigon*. He is also a writer and has been working on a novel about the life of Rosa Parks.

Kyle Traynham, Upper School English Teacher



Born and raised on the East Coast, Kyle comes to Chadwick by way of Lower Merion, Pennsylvania, where he served in The Haverford School's English department for six years. During his tenure, Kyle taught Genre Studies, American Literature & Letters and World Literature. He also served as an upper-school advisor for students and a mentor for new faculty. For the last four years, Kyle has taught summer courses at La Salle College Preparatory School in Pasadena. He holds a B.A. in English from Temple University and an



M.A. in English from Villanova University. Henry James and James Baldwin are Kyle's literary heroes. He is a roller coaster fanatic, coffee lover and travel enthusiast. Kyle looks forward to fostering meaningful relationships with students and working alongside the exceptional faculty.



2020-2021 Administration and Staff Appointments

Elizabeth Imende-Cooney, Assistant Head of School



Elizabeth joins Chadwick from the Boston area, where she has been the founder and director of Advancing Educators, USA. Elizabeth has led more than 2,000 educators and administrators in multi-year, school-based professional development programs that deepen teaching pedagogy, support student learning and promote a culture of continuous improvement. Elizabeth has also consulted for schools in South America, East Asia, Europe and Africa on topics such as school leadership and coaching, enactment of strategic plans, peer observation, curriculum planning and design, student-centered instructional approaches, and creating school climates that celebrate cultural diversity. Throughout her 22-year career, she has also designed and facilitated custom adult-learning programs for the faculty at more than 50 schools across the country, including Brentwood School, Harvard-Westlake School and the Archer School for Girls, locally. Elizabeth holds a master's in Education with a dual-focus on Teaching and Learning and Adult Development from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, and a bachelor's degree in English from Wake Forest University. A Pasadena native, three-sport varsity athlete, arts enthusiast and long-time advocate of service learning, Elizabeth is excited to return home to Southern California with her family, and is looking forward to watching Chadwick students grow both in and beyond the classroom.



Andrea Kroening, Middle School Administrative Assistant



Andrea was the Director of Dining Services at Chadwick School for more than seven years before transitioning to a position as the interim Middle School Administrative Assistant for the 2019-2020 school year. She has an extensive culinary background and over 15 years of food management expertise. She holds an

Associate of Arts degree in Culinary Arts & Management from Orange Coast College. Andrea is also a head teacher for Chadwick's Summer Culinary Program. In her spare time, she loves gardening, reading and spending time with family. Andrea is looking forward to supporting Middle School students, parents and faculty, and getting to know her advisees this fall.

Tami Seeger, Communications Manager



Tami joined the Chadwick community in February 2020 as the Communications Manager. She was previously the Communications Manager at Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY), where she developed and managed all communications, including the website, print, social media, email, e-newsletters and the HOBY blog. Tami's past roles include Staff Director and

Leaders-in-Training Program Director for Project Kindle (a nonprofit that provides cost-free summer camp for children impacted by HIV/AIDS), Program Specialist for the Boys and Girls Club in Santa Monica and Moorpark, and



Assistant Speech Coach for Gabrielino High School. She holds a B.A. in Cinema and Television Arts from California State University, Northridge, with an emphasis in sound design. She is a state and national champion in collegiate forensics (public speaking), persuasive and informative speaking, and communication analysis. Tami is an avid gardener and loves dogs, comics, camping, curling, yoga and watching Kurosawa movies.