



2020-2021 St. Paul's Middle School New Faculty

Suzy Acevedo

A Spanish native speaker from Puerto Rico, Suzy Acevedo has a bachelor's degree in physical education from The University of Puerto Rico. She has more than 25 years of experience teaching Spanish in public and private schools in Maryland. She is an accomplished athlete, who has taken part in the Central American Games as a member of the Puerto Rican Olympic windsurfing team. She also has a lot of experience as a coach and instructor for swimming, water-polo, and sailing. She is a certified sailing and scuba instructor, and a United States Coast Guard licensed master captain. Ms. Acevedo is a dedicated professional who believes education and she cannot wait to start teaching at St. Paul. Captain Acevedo says she is looking forward to leading her student crew to navigate the Spanish language together while enjoying the voyage! Ms. Acevedo lives in Odenton and is a proud mother of Miguel (25) and Marcos (24).

Andrew Avallone

Middle School Department Chair and history teacher, Andrew Avallone, joins St. Paul's after teaching at a variety of independent and international schools in California, Ecuador, and Virginia. He earned his bachelor's degree in history at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and his master's degree in education from Johns Hopkins University. He explains his love of history this way, "Growing up, my family would often take road trips around the country, especially to national parks and landmarks. As a result, I became interested in learning more about the U.S. and why the places I visited were considered significant. As I grew older, this curiosity grew." Mr. Avallone has been teaching since 2012. "I am passionate about helping students see the relevance of history and how understanding the past allows us to better understand the present. Being knowledgeable about history empowers each of us to be a better citizen because when we know history, we can contextualize current events and seek necessary changes." Mr. Avallone and his wife live in Annapolis.

Lex Kemp

Lex Kemp hails from Hopewell, New Jersey, and received a bachelor's degree in English from Bates College. Lex spent his formative years growing up on independent school campuses as a faculty child and has a deep appreciation for the sense of community these schools can offer.



His teaching career began when working as a trip leader and bunkhouse counselor at Camp Kieve in Nobleboro, Maine. Working with boys from ages 9 to 16 in outdoor settings provided a unique introduction to teaching and mentoring. After graduating from Bates, Mr. Kemp spent a year working with The KWE Leadership School, teaching social-emotional curriculum and outdoor stewardship to middle school students throughout New England. Outside of school, Lex is a licensed white-water canoe instructor, avid backpacker, and a ravenous consumer of film and literature. "I have much to teach and even more to learn. I am honored to call St. Paul's my new home and look forward to teaching and mentoring in the classroom and beyond."

Scott Van Zile

Scott Van Zile joins St. Paul's as a middle school physical education teacher and varsity head football coach after a 25-year college football coaching career at the Division I level. Most recently, Mr. Van Zile served as the recruiting coordinator, pass game coordinator, and quarterbacks' coach at his alma mater, Towson University. Prior to TU, he served as the quarterbacks' coach at Elon University for three years, joining the Phoenix coaching staff after spending the previous 14 seasons at Monmouth University, the final six serving as offensive coordinator. A 1999 graduate of Towson University with a bachelor's degree in sport management, Mr. Van Zile played on both sides of the ball, starting in the Tigers secondary for two seasons and twice earned Patriot League academic honor roll recognition. A native of Butler, New Jersey, he lives in Towson with his wife and two daughters.



2020-2021 St. Paul's Upper School New Faculty

Diane Radov

Diane Radov joins the upper school science department from the Episcopal Academy in Pennsylvania where she taught honors and regular chemistry classes. Prior to teaching at Episcopal Academy, Ms. Radov taught chemistry at Roland Park Country School. Her educational background includes a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and a master's degree in secondary education from the Johns Hopkins University. In 2016 she received the Miran Award for Excellence by the Maryland Chapter of the American Concrete Institute for a project she developed with her students to study the effect of de-icing materials on concrete mixtures. Ms. Radov is looking forward to coaching tennis and basketball as well as being involved with various STEM activities.

Steve Teter

The upper school History department is eager to welcome a teacher with the depth of background and variety of experience that **Steve Teter** brings to our school. After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Towson University, Mr. Teter began his career teaching history at Franklin High School. He later gained additional experience at The John Carroll School where he taught history and was athletic director. Most recently, he has served as a student support specialist at Elkton High School. Mr. Teter is excited to now share his teaching and baseball coaching expertise with the SP community.

Amanda Levit

We are always excited to find teachers who combine a variety of skills in teaching, coaching, and mentoring, and Amanda Levit is no exception. Ms. Levit earned degree in classics and Latin from Franklin and Marshall University and has varied teaching and coaching experiences at Vermont Academy, Garrison Forest School, and Roland Park Country School. She is looking forward to sharing her experience with students whether that is in her English class, in the writing center, or during cross country practice.



Timothy Feagan

After graduating with honors from Central Michigan University, Timothy (TJ) Feagan has worked as a CPA for the past six years, always finding a way to work with and coach middle and high school students. The combination of his coaching experience with the Forrest Hills Central Youth Lacrosse program coupled with his long-term experience as an educator at the Kieve-Wavus Leadership School, Mr. Feagan could no longer ignore the voice in his head that he needed to find a teaching position. While he is looking forward to teaching both theory of knowledge and religion, he is equally excited about sharing his lacrosse coaching experience with the school community.

Yue Chu

We look forward to having Yue Chu join our Math department in August. She comes to St. Paul's from the University of Texas where she received her degree in chemical engineering and her teaching certificates in math, physical science, and engineering. Active in UT's UTeach Program, Yue worked with elementary, middle, and high school students on various STEM projects. As a nationally ranked competitive chess player (98th percentile), Yue captained the UT chess team as well as teaching chess to the inmates at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Detention Center. Yue welcomes the opportunity to share her STEM and chess knowledge with the St. Paul's community.

Joan Messenger

A native of Michigan, Joan Messenger brings a wealth of experience to the upper school learning services team. Her most recent stints include middle school teacher and reading specialist at St. Margaret's School and Dundalk Middle School, respectively. Joan received her bachelor's degree in education, with an emphasis in gifted and talented from Saginaw Valley State University. With additional training as a reading apprentice and in the Orton-Gillingham "Plus" approach, Joan is ready, willing, and able to share her skills and talents with our upper school students.

Aleyna Rentz

The upper school English department is excited to welcome Aleyna Rentz. After graduating from Cook High School in Adel, Georgia, Ms. Rentz attended Georgia Southern University, receiving her bachelor's degree in English with a creative writing minor. During her last two years at Georgia Southern, Aleyna served as the editor-in-chief of the Georgia Southern magazine and monthly newsletter. Recently Aleyna relocated to Baltimore to attend Johns Hopkins University where she earned her master's in fine arts degree in creative writing. Most recently, she has been an instructor in the writing seminars program at JHU, teaching sections of Intro to Fiction and Poetry II and Novel Writing Bootcamp.



Jeff Sachs

Jeff Sachs joins The St. Paul's Schools as technical director and upper school technical theatre teacher. He holds a Bachelor of Science in theatre and psychology from Northwestern University and a Master of Fine Arts from Arizona State University. He has taught previously at Phoenix Country Day School and Mudlark Theatre, working with both middle and upper school students. He also serves as managing director at Kerfuffle, a theatre program for young actors, and as an education associate at Imagination Stage, where he mentors and directs teenage actors. He has extensive experience both directing and designing productions for young audiences, including *Mamma Mia!*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, and *The Sound of Music*.