

March Staff Spotlight

Core Teachers



Michele O'Bruba is a graduate of Austintown Fitch High School (once a Falcon, always a Falcon) Youngstown State University and Marygrove College and is in her 27th year of teaching! Currently, Michele is a 4th grade ELA teacher. She loves her job because she loves sharing her love of literature with the kids and seeing them learn to love to read and find deeper meaning in what they are

reading. There is nothing better than hearing my students talk to each other about what they are reading! When not working, Michele can be found at her son's swim meets or lacrosse matches or on the beach reading!



Christine Palmer is a graduate of Austintown High School, Youngstown State University, and Westminster College. Christine is in her 26th year of teaching! Currently she is a 4th grade math and science teacher. She loves her job because the people she works with are amazing. She loves interacting with

her students, learning from them, helping them understand math and she loves to see them grow. When not working, Christine can be found cheering on her two sons at their sporting events.



Rupa Keenan is a graduate of Boardman High School and Youngstown State University and is in her 10th year of teaching! Currently, Rupa has an Intervention Specialist Mild through Moderate license and is in her last year of RESA!! She loves her job because she loves to learn about her students, push them to be

their best selves, and learn more about herself professionally to grow as a teacher. When not working, Rupa can be found spending time with her family, reading books, knitting, painting and watching science fiction movies.



Mrs. Culp is a graduate of Bob Jones University, and Ashland University and she has been teaching for over 30 years! Currently, Mrs. Culp is teaching 5th grade ELA and SS. She loves her job because she gets to share her love of reading with kids everyday. She also finds great satisfaction watching students grow socially as well as academically.

When not working, she can be found traveling with her husband, riding her bike or hanging out with her friends.



Jessica Emery is a graduate of Howland High School, Youngstown State University, and Edinboro University. She is in her 16th year of teaching! Currently, Jessica is the lead 5th grade Language Arts teacher. She loves her job because she enjoys sharing her love of

reading with others and making a positive impact on students through reading and writing. When not working, Jessica can be found spending time with her daughter and husband.



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Samantha Giardina is a graduate of Stow-Munroe Falls High School and Kent State University. This is her 10th year of teaching at AIS! Currently, Samantha is a Third Grade Language Arts Teacher. She loves her job because there is always something new a child can teach you, and it is the best when you see students are learning and are excited to share what they know! When not working,

Samantha can be found cooking and baking, especially with her 5 year old "sous chef" and snuggling with her newest baby!



Mary Keener is a graduate of Ursuline High School, Youngstown State University, and Walden University and is in her 36th year of teaching! Currently, Mary is an Intervention Specialist at the Intermediate School. She loves her job because she loves collaborating and working closely with other

teachers at her grade level and loves having the opportunity to give students the extra help and support that they need in order to grow and experience success. She adds, "Teaching is like no other job because each school year is a brand new start with a brand new crop of students!" When not working, Mary enjoys going to concerts and musicals with her husband, hanging out by the pool, and can often be seen walking her dog, Milly, in Mill Creek Park!



Kelly Castronova is a fellow Fitch and Mount Union graduate in her 15th year of teaching! Her favorite part of teaching is "instilling in students the ability to think and learn to love learning," which is always done with a smile on her face! When she is not at work, Mrs. Castronova can be found

busy with her three kiddos, playing soccer, crafting, and cheering on The Ohio State University!



Brittney Lee is a graduate of Liberty High School & Youngstown State University, and is in her 9th year of teaching!

Currently, Ms. Lee teaches Alternative Learners & English Language Learners grades 3-5 at AIS. She loves educating because "She cannot imagine lending her talents to any other profession. Seeing students light up when learning something new is priceless". When not working, she can be found appreciating art, watching movies, or spending time outside with her children.

Support Staff



Leah Schettino is a graduate of Fitch High School, and is in her first year as a paraprofessional! She loves her job because she loves getting to know the students, so spending time with all the grade levels is a plus! When not working, Leah can be found spending time with her family and her animals.



Jennifer Conroy is a graduate of Austintown Fitch High School and Youngstown State University and is in her 2nd year as a Parapro. She has one child, Hunter, and has been married to her husband Ryan for 28 years. She has 2 dogs, Bailey and Blue and one cat named Benny. Jen loves her job because the kids make her day brighter.