

MEET OUR TEACHERS:



Becky Marsh serves as the Gifted Magnet Program (GMP) Coordinator and Gifted Resource Teacher. She holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum & Instruction with an emphasis on Gifted & Talented from UCCS and a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Baylor University. She is responsible for testing and identifying gifted students, coordinator program events, and using research-based methods for mentoring teachers. Mrs. Marsh was honored with the 2020 Crystal Apple Award for instructional excellence in D11. In her spare time, she enjoys snowboarding, reading, gardening, paddle boarding, and spending time with her kids. (rebecca.marsh@d11.org)

Julie Lounello, the Gifted Magnet math teacher, loves sharing her passion and skills with her students on a daily basis. She was born and raised in Celina, Ohio. She earned her undergraduate degree at Indiana Wesleyan University while majoring in mathematics and education. Mrs. Lounello then earned her Master's degree from Michigan State University in Curriculum and Development with an emphasis in Mathematics and Leadership. She has been working in Colorado Springs School District 11 since 2004. Mrs. Lounello leads the math team at Sabin by being the Math Department Chair, Rubik's Cube Club, Math Counts and girls' softball. In her free time, she enjoys reading, quilting, traveling, and visiting family with her husband. (julie.lounello@d11.org)



Jennifer Strand teaches Language Arts and absolutely loves being immersed in thought-provoking literary works while igniting the same passion for reading and writing in others. Ms. Strand holds a Bachelor of Arts in English & Theatre from Ft. Lewis College and a Master of Education from Regis University. Over the years, her roles in District 11 have included instructing high school literature classes, serving as the Gifted Resource Teacher at Mitchell High School, and even teaching elementary students from a traveling literacy RV! In her spare time, Ms. Strand enjoys gaming (board and video), reading, and relaxing with friends and her cats. (jennifer.strand@d11.org)

Kayla Perkins is passionate about the power of language and the adventure of studying history. She teaches Language Arts and Social Studies. She earned her Master's Degrees in Gifted & Talented Education from UNC, and has a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from UCCS. At Sabin, Ms. Perkins is one of the Sources of Strength Advisors and helps facilitate several clubs and after school activities. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, baking, running, hiking, playing video games, and of course, reading. (kayla.perkins@d11.org)



Chris Smith leads students on a fascinating journey of exploring the world around them and discovering new ideas through science. After growing up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Grove City College and a Master of Educational Leadership degree from Grand Canyon University. With a passion for the outdoors, Mr. Smith enjoys hiking, rock climbing, and skiing. In the community he serves as a D11 instructional coach, mentors student teachers from UCCS, and leads a local summer camp. Each day he shares a love of science through interactive lessons, innovative labs, and creative team work. Mr. Smith was honored with the 2014 & 2023 Crystal Apple Awards and received the Teachers First Award from news channel KOAA5. Students thrive as they apply science to daily life and investigate chemistry, physics, biology, astronomy, geology, ecology, and more! (christopher.smith@d11.org)

Greg Spalding teaches Social Studies with a Project Based Learning philosophy. He is joining the Sabin family after teaching at Woodland Park Middle School for 21 years. While there Mr. Spalding was the G/T enrichment teacher/coordinator and taught various combinations of 6th-8th grade Social Studies and 7th grade ELA. He also coached Forensics for 20 years. Mr. Spalding received a B.A. in Classical Civilization from the College of Wooster, OH, his JD from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and his teacher's certificate from Grand Valley State University's Graduate Teaching Certification program. In addition to being an educator, he absolutely loves to spend his time with his wife and his dogs, Huckleberry and Sherlock. (gregory.spalding@d11.org)



Sam Bello teaches math and science through the lens of discussion and inquiry. He grew up in Frederick, Maryland near our nation's capital. Mr. Bello attended West Virginia University, earning a Master's in Elementary Education and specializing in Middle School Mathematics. The mountains beckoned him to Colorado Springs and he has made the most of outdoor exploration. Outside of the school setting, you can often spot Mr. Bello on the local trails, on top of Colorado's many 14,000 ft. peaks, skiing, or in the rock climbing gym. He takes pride in trying to pique the curiosity of his students and make Sabin a place for everyone. (samuel.bello@d11.org)