

# Welcome

# TO CDS

## UPPER SCHOOL

### **Caitlin Cowan, Science Department**

Caitlin joins us with extensive teaching experience in New England Prep Schools and most recently seven years at Pine Crest School. Ms. Cowan has teaching experience in Exercise Physiology & Kinesiology, Anatomy & Physiology, and Honors Biology. She was a former athletic trainer and holds a master's degree in Education.



### **Claire Flemister, English Language & Literature Department**

Claire holds both a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Florida State. She joins us from Plant High School where she taught English Language Arts and AP Capstone. She thrives in facilitating inquiry-driven discussions within the classroom and has developed curriculum for Hillsborough County. Ms. Flemister also has experience as a speech and debate coach and loves to travel - managing to visit twelve countries in the past seven years.



### **Lisa Harman, Individuals and Societies**

Lisa joins us from Tampa Prep where she has spent the last seventeen years, most recently as the Upper School Dean of Students. Mrs Harman fosters a positive, inclusive classroom environment who utilized brain based learning to design curricula that is developmentally appropriate. A champion for student voice, Mrs Harman is passionate about student leadership and involvement and coached both basketball and softball during her time at Tampa Prep.



### **Justin Kingsley, Mathematics Department**

Justin, a former Teacher of the Year, brings extensive experience across the entire Math curriculum from the past nine years working in Hillsborough County public schools. He has coached, mentored and trained new teachers and has experience in both AP & IB curricula.



### **James Kirk, Individuals and Societies Department**

James joins us from his alma mater, the University of Tampa, where he is a highly regarded Professor of Economics. James holds two masters degrees, one in finance as well as an MBA. Prior to beginning his teaching career, James was a senior financial analyst with Citigroup and has held roles with Raymond James and Bank of America.



### **Yenny Li, Language Acquisition Department**

Yenny joins us from the prestigious Singapore American School where she taught Spanish to grades 9-12. Ms. Li has taught in three international schools most recently, however she taught in Broward country prior to her adventures abroad. She has experience as an MYP & DP IB teacher and has developed online content to support learners. Ms. Li is a published author and is incredibly passionate about language learning and extremely excited to return to Florida.



# Welcome

# TO CDS

## UPPER SCHOOL

### **Stephanie Saraceni, Design Department**

Stephanie possesses both a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Science in Business Education as well as an advanced certificate in Educational Leadership. For the past ten years, she has been a Lead Business Teacher in Pasco County, facilitates professional development at the district level, and is a district advisor for FBLA. Before this, Stephanie has eight years of corporate experience in asset management, banking, and equities.



### **Heather Shemery, Science Department**

Heather, a UF alum with two masters degrees, joins as an experienced IB educator from the International School of Debrecen where she taught MYP & DP Science courses. Prior to her time in Hungary, Heather worked in Saudi Arabia



### **Michelle Thames, Design Department**

Michelle, a certified K-12 FL educator, joins us from renowned school, Lutz Prep where she has taught since 2020. Michelle is a graduate of the University of Virginia with extensive commercial experience in marketing and digital solutions, bringing a wealth of professional expertise to prepare our students in publications and computer science. Michelle is also a highly accomplished distance runner having completed an incredible fifteen full marathons.



### **Karly Westfall, English Language & Literature Department**

Karly, a UF alum, joins our team as a highly effective language arts teacher after spending the past five years at Lutz Prep. A passionate teacher who specializes in 19th century literature and poetry, Ms. Westfall fosters a love for reading, writing, and critical thinking in an inclusive classroom environment.



### **UPPER SCHOOL STAFF:**

#### **Fay Noil, Upper School Counselor**

Fay holds a degree in School Counseling from Florida State University. Ms. Noil joins us after completing her practicum in School Counseling and is delighted to be a part of the CDS community. She joins education after a highly accomplished career in the Air Force spanning over twenty five years. She was commended as a Florida School Counseling Association Emerging Leader and she will work alongside returning Upper School Counselor, Pedro Miller, reaffirming our commitment to supporting students both inside and outside of the classroom.



# Welcome

---

## UPPER SCHOOL

# TO CDS

### POINTS OF CONTACT

#### Administration:

- Head of Upper School: Stephen Higgins
- Assistant Head of Upper School: Nancy Hsu
- Dean of Students: Elizabeth Eby
- Director of College counseling: Drew Guarino
- Academic Coordinator (DP - Diploma Programme - 11th and 12th grade): Jenna Alpert
- Academic Coordinator (MYP - Middle Years Programme - 9th & 10th grade): Sabrina McCartney
- Division Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Nolen

#### Upper School Support:

- Learning Specialist: Jamie Kiner
- Counselors: Pedro Miller & Fay Noil
- Community Service: Shelly Hollingsworth

# Welcome

---

# TO CDS



## STAFF

**Katie Boltz** - Athletic Trainer

**David Burnett** - Maintenance Technician

**Felicia Smith** - Chief Advancement Officer

**Sarah Winseman** - Communications Coordinator