



Together We Shine!



PPSD School Psychologists

2025-2026



About Me

My name is Tara Sukaskas.

I am the School Psychologist Specialist for the district.

I have been a school psychologist for 17 years.

Something special about me is I was a kindergarten teacher at Vartan Gregorian School before becoming a school psychologist. I became interested in Systems Change and that led me into the field of school psychology.

About Me

My name is Betsy Blanchette

I work at Hope High School & MPHS (MPECCA) - Specialized Programming.

I have been a school psychologist for 32+ years.

Something special about me is I am a licensed Applied Behavior Analyst (RI & MA) and a Certified Autism Specialist. I was the School Psychologist on the District Autism Team for over 20 years and had the unique privilege of working with students and families from their first PK experience through transition. It was amazing to be a part of my student's progress and build connections with families over the course of their educational years! A true gift that I was blessed to experience.

Providence
Schools





About Me

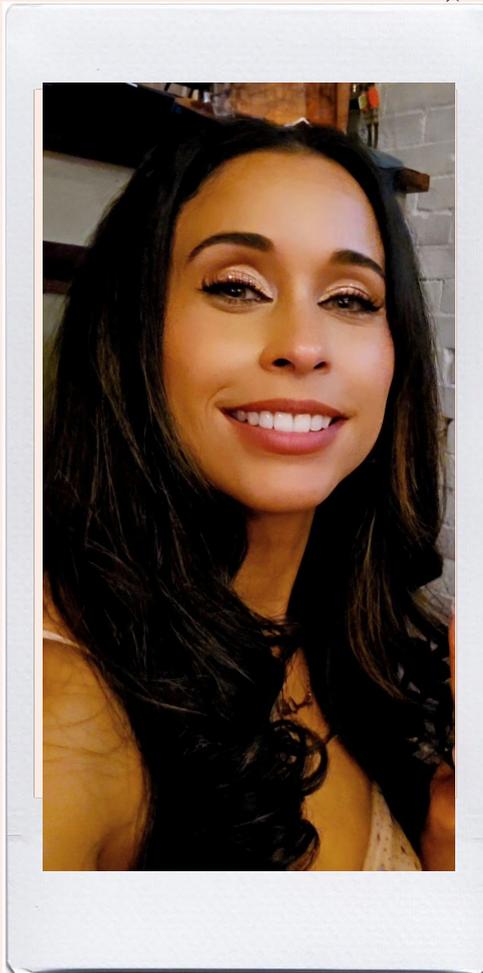
My name is Lee Anne Peluso
I work at Vartan Gregorian School and Reservoir Avenue School.

I have been a school psychologist for 26 years.

Something special about me is that Over the years, I've had the privilege of supporting students, families, and educators as they navigate the joys and challenges of learning and growth.

Something I truly value about my work is being part of the Providence School Department. Our students are exceptional—resilient, curious, and inspiring—and the support of my colleagues creates a thriving environment where everyone can learn and succeed. It's this community spirit that continues to motivate and energize me every day.

Outside of work, my guilty pleasure is binge-watching reality TV—sometimes there's nothing better than a little bit of drama (on screen, of course!) to unwind after a busy day.



About Me



My name is Stephanie Pagliarini (Ms. Steph)

I work at George J West Elementary school.

I have been a bilingual school psychologist for 4 years.

Something special about me is I am a PPSD graduate (Go Classical!). Working in the same district where I studied and being able to give back to my community has been an amazing experience.



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About Me

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My name is Rebecca Wilkinson

I work at Pleasant View Elementary school.

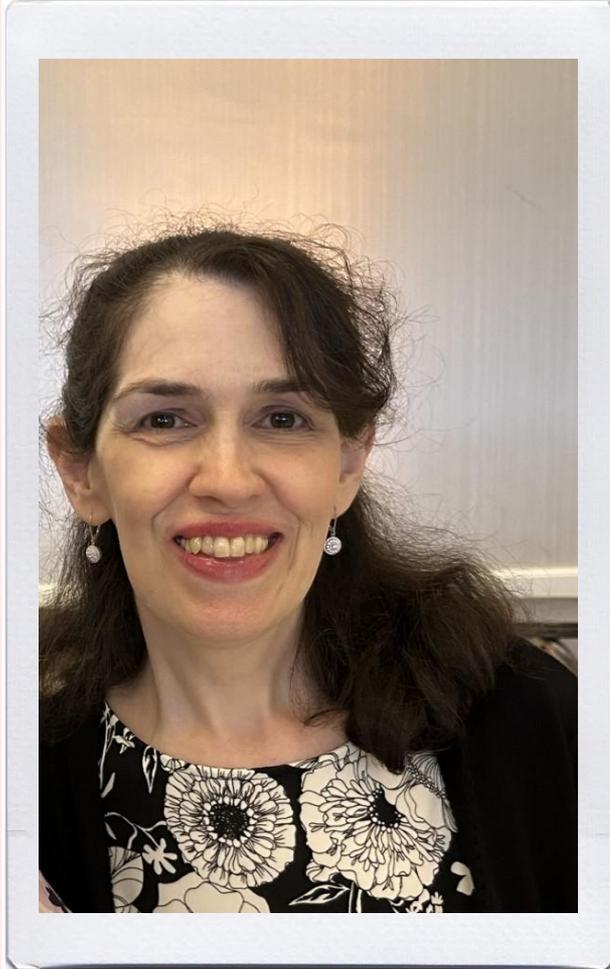
I have been a school psychologist for 4 years.

Something special about me is I was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI! I moved to Providence 4 years ago and have loved getting to explore the city.



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About Me

My name is Becky Silverman

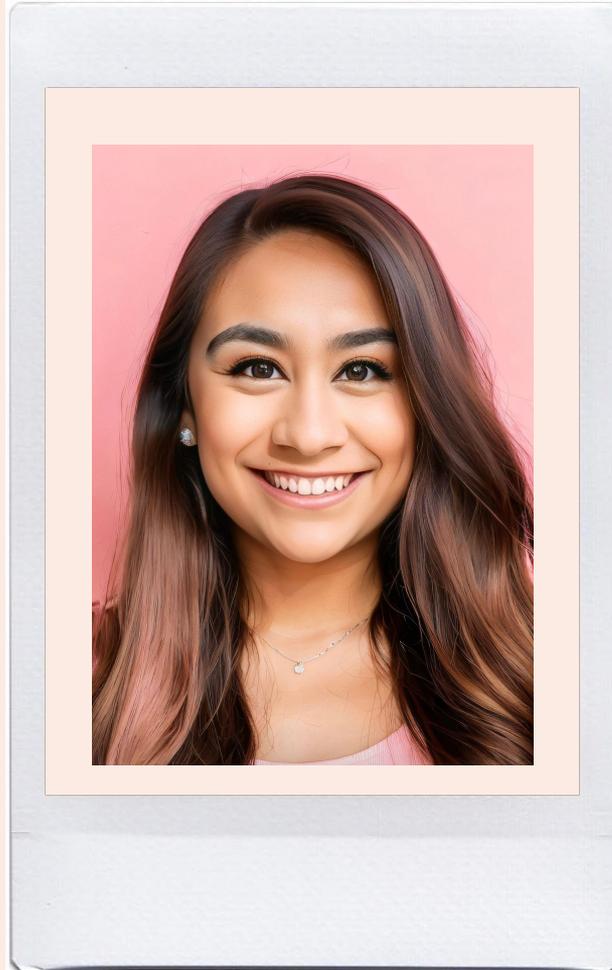
I work at Webster Avenue Elementary and William D'Abate Elementary school.

I have been a school psychologist for 28 years.

Something special about me is I am a Classical High School alumna and also attended Providence schools for elementary and middle school. My Master's internship was done in Providence schools too I was one of two in my class to pass the CAGS comprehensive exam with high honors.



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About Me

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My name is Johnna Lourenco

I work at Providence Career & Technical Academy (PCTA)

I have been a School Psychologist for 4 years.

Something special about me is I am a Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate, as well as Certified Clinical Trauma and Addictions Informed Professional. I recently completed my SEL Endorsement through the RI Department of Education, in order to continue best supporting our students. I am so fortunate to be a part of such wonderful building and district based teams. PPSD truly has the best students and staff.

Fun Fact: I completed my practicum with Lee Anne, at Vartan.

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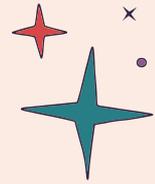


About Me
My name is Kara Rodrigues, MS, ABSNP

I work at Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School

I have been a school psychologist for 5 years.

Something special about me is that I was a part of the first cohort of PPSD School Psychologists to complete the School Neuropsychology Post-Graduate Certification Program, in order to earn Diplomate status in School Neuropsychology from the American Board of School Neuropsychology.





About Me

My name is Talia Fagnoli

I work at Mount Pleasant High school.

I have been a school psychologist for 1 year.

Something special about me is

I am a registered yoga instructor and certified in DBT Skills in Schools which teaches emotional problem solving to adolescents. I also have the sweetest rabbit named Biscuit





About Me



My name is Dr. Krystal Machado

I work at Pre-K Evaluation Team

I have been a school psychologist for 14 years.

Something special about me is:

I am also a Licensed Psychologist and own a private practice, Informed Psychoeducational Services. This practice took off very quickly and I have worked with just about 200 children and families in the past 18 months.





About Me

My name is Kseniya Dmitrieva

I work at Bailey Elementary school.

I have been a school psychologist for 4 years.

Something special about me is I speak Russian



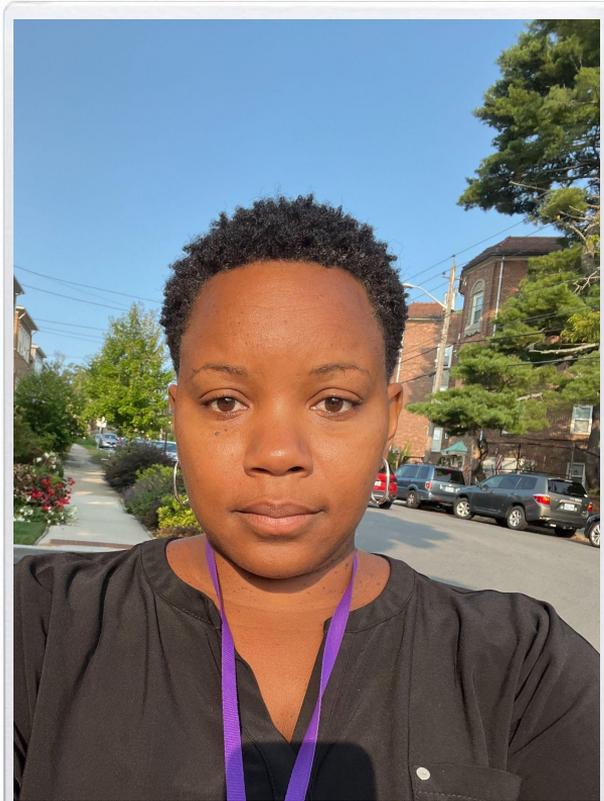
About Me

My name is Natasha Salas, MA, CAGS, ABSNP

I work at Lillian Feinstein Elementary at Sackett St school and am part of the pre-k special education team at Woods Young Elementary..

I have been a Bilingual school psychologist going on 3 years.

One of the most meaningful aspects of my journey is that I attended Providence Public Schools as a young girl. After graduating from Rhode Island College, I proudly became a member of the PPSD team, a role I truly cherish. It has been incredibly rewarding to give back to our families, particularly within the Hispanic community. Earning my ABSNP last year has also deepened my understanding of the students I serve, allowing me to support them from a fresh perspective.



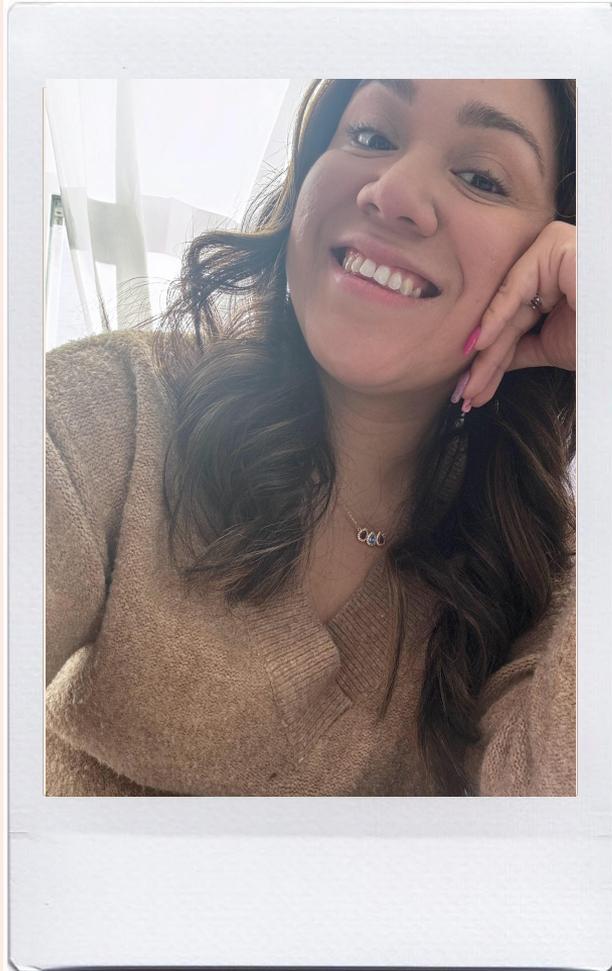
About Me

My name is Tulani Freeman, Ph.D.

I work at Nathan Bishop Middle School.

I have been a school psychologist for 18 years.

Something special about me is that I am obsessed with the color purple and all things purple !! I am one of 7 children and I have 12 nieces and nephews. While I am a transplant to RI, I love the students and families in PPSD. Being a part of the team of professionals committed to providing equitable and culturally relevant mental health supports for students is extremely important to me.



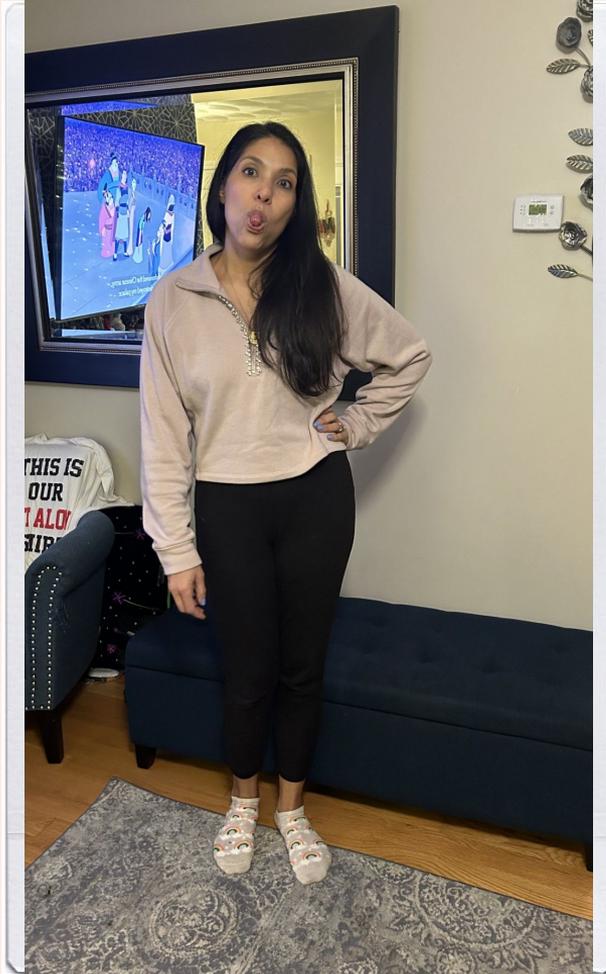
About Me

My name is Amy Vazquez

I work at Alvarez High School.

I have been a school psychologist for 7 years.

Something special about me is I attended Providence Public Schools and coming back to work in PPSD was a full circle moment.



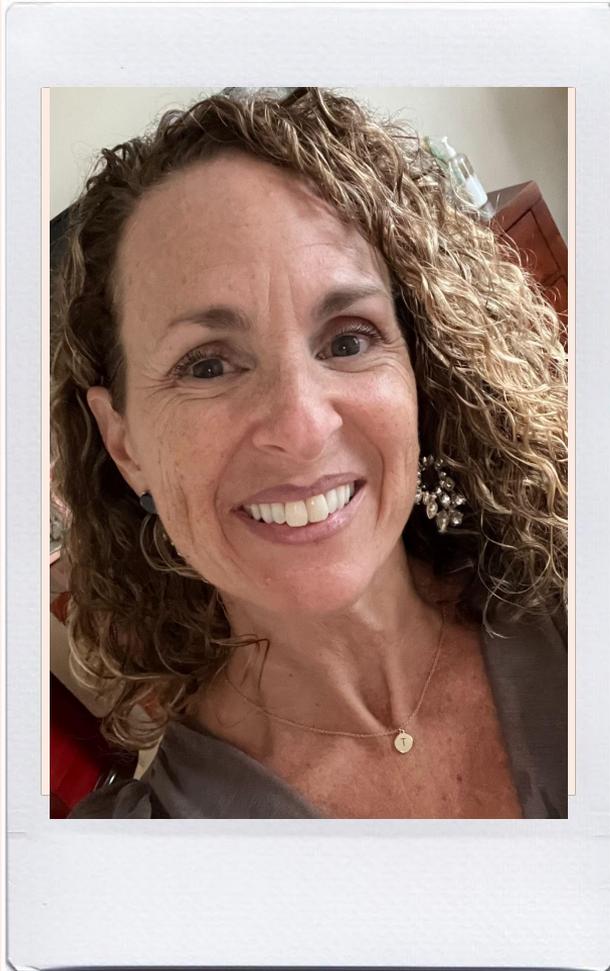
About Me

My name is Liana Gonzalez-McGee

I work at Young Woods Elementary school.

I have been a school psychologist for 13 years.

Something special about me is I come from a Puerto Rican family, that was one the the first to come to Providence. Since then they have fought for equal rights and opportunities for the Latino Community. I have followed in my father's footsteps. He is a former Director of the Providence School Department. I used to play at 797 when I was a kid!
(Also, I don't like pictures lol)



About Me

My name is Tracy Sherman

I work at Central High School.

I have been a school psychologist for 25 (!!)years.

Something special about me is I once flew over the Grand Canyon in a private plane!!



About Me

My name is Erin Noiseux

I work at Juanita Sanchez High school.

I have been a school psychologist for 26 years.

Something special about me is I'm a country girl at heart and love wearing my cowboy boots! I feel blessed to be able to do the work that I do. I love supporting our students and their families. I also enjoy being an intern supervisor. I have had the pleasure of supervising interns for the last several years and it's one of the many favorites of my job. The interns have much to teach me and they keep me on my toes!

About Me

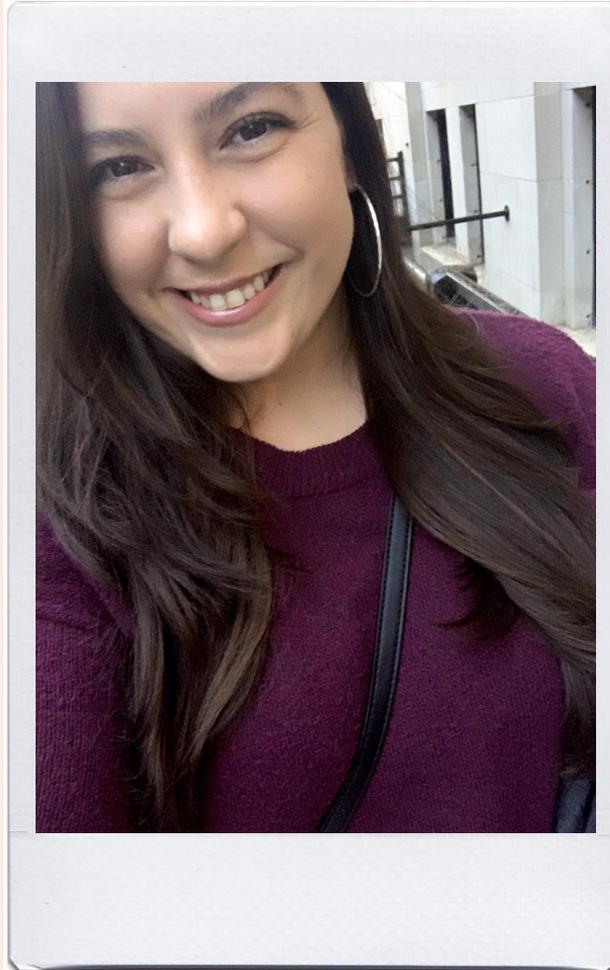
My name is Stephen Masi

I work at Roger Williams Middle School

I have been a school psychologist for 3 year.

Something special about me is that I was an intern in Providence for Erin Noiseux my last year of grad school and coming to PPSD was the best career decision I'll make





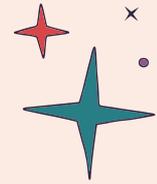
About Me

My name is Janelle Welsh

I work at A Venture Academy and E-Learning Academy and serve on the Out of District Team

I have been a school psychologist for 11 years.

Fun fact: I met Mother Teresa when I was four years old.





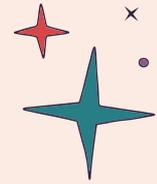
About Me

My name is Jenniffer Rivera (yes two "f" in my name :)

I work at the LOVELY DelSesto Middle school.

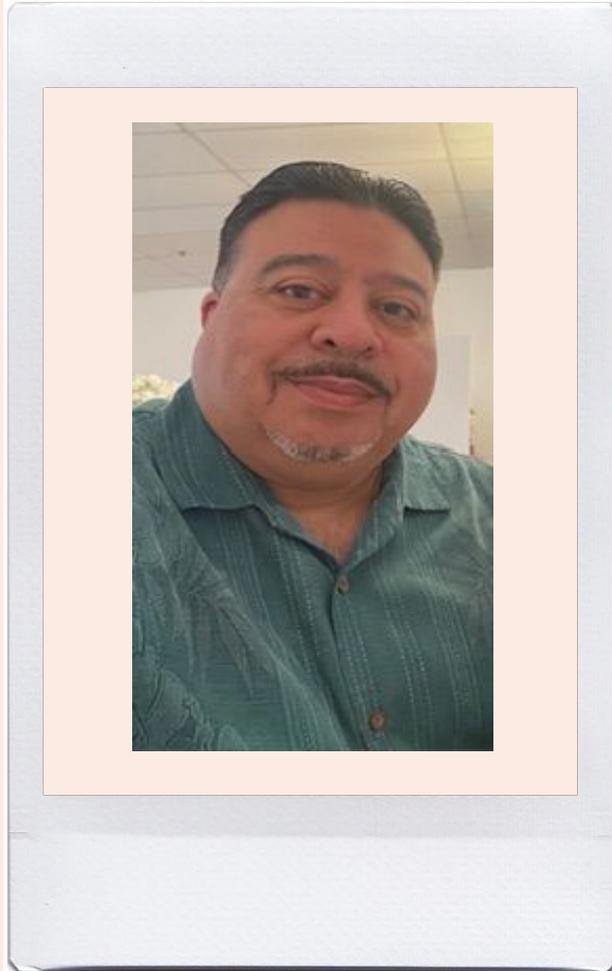
I have been a school psychologist for 7 years.

Something special about me is that I am a product of this City as I attended schools in Providence and worked side by side with former teachers I had growing up. One can say I am obsessed with keeping things tidy, neat, and organized lol.





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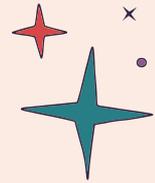


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About Me

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My name is Juan J. Santa



I work at Spaziano Elementary and Leviton Dual Language school.

I have been a school psychologist for 19 years.

Something special about me is that I'm from Puerto Rico and I attended Providence Public Schools And I love baseball.

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About Me

My name is Etmi Lopes Martins

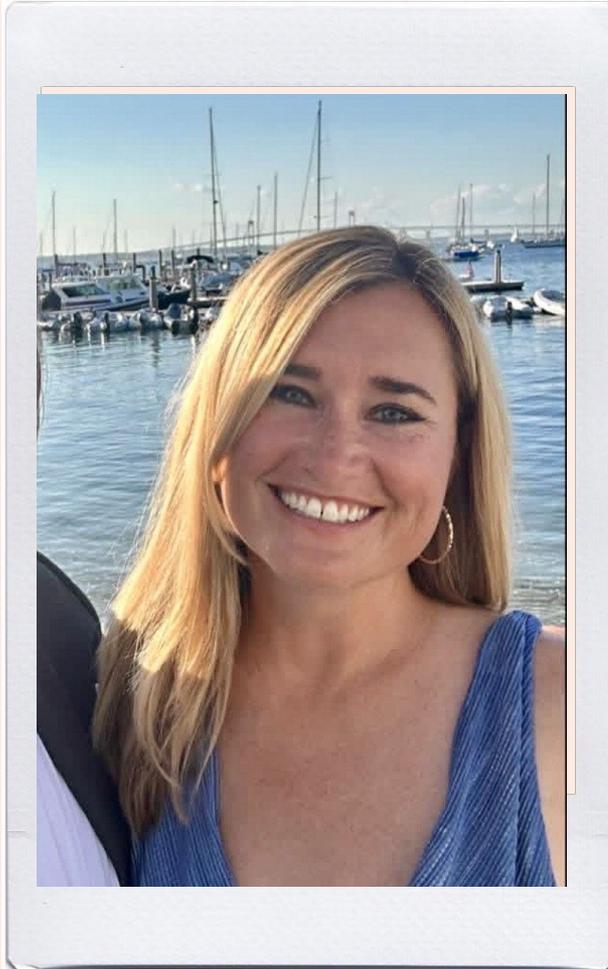
I work at Veazie and Kennedy school.

I have been a school psychologist for 16 years.

Something special about me is as a former PPSD student i love being able to use my background/experience to connect with the students and families.



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About Me

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My name is Brandi Knutton

I work at Carnevale Elementary School

I have been a school psychologist for 10 years

Something special about me is I am a huge Red Sox fan!



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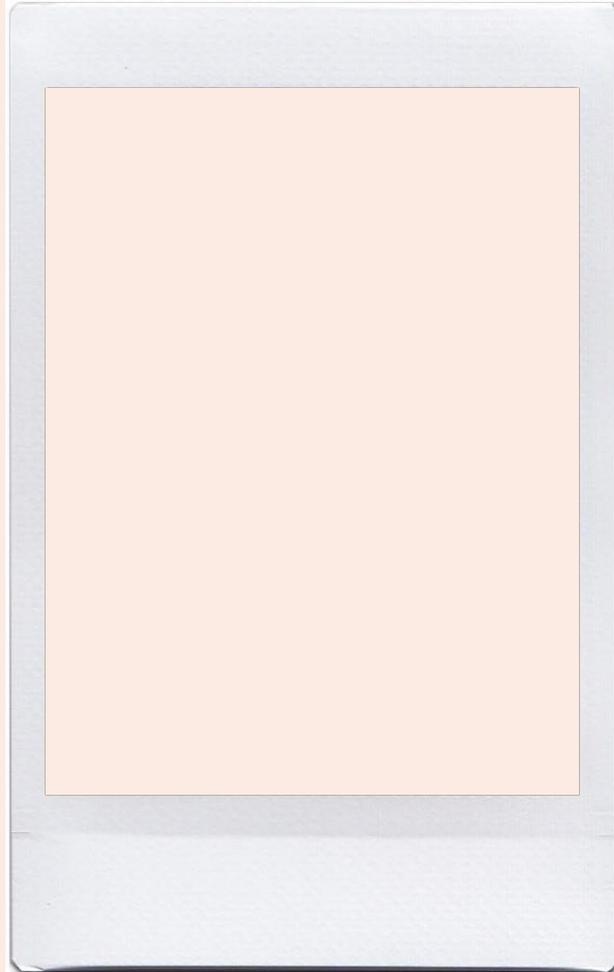
About Me

My name is: Dr. Leslie Salcedo Jimenez

I work at: Alfred Lima Elementary School

I have been a school psychologist for: 10 years

Something special about me is : I graduated with my doctorate in 2020 and do psychological and neuropsychological evaluations for LifeStance Health. I am also a mom to two wonderful girls and feel so lucky to love what I do!



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About Me

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My name is Joseph Austin

I work at Harry Kizirian Elementary

I have been a school psychologist for 1 year

Something special about me is

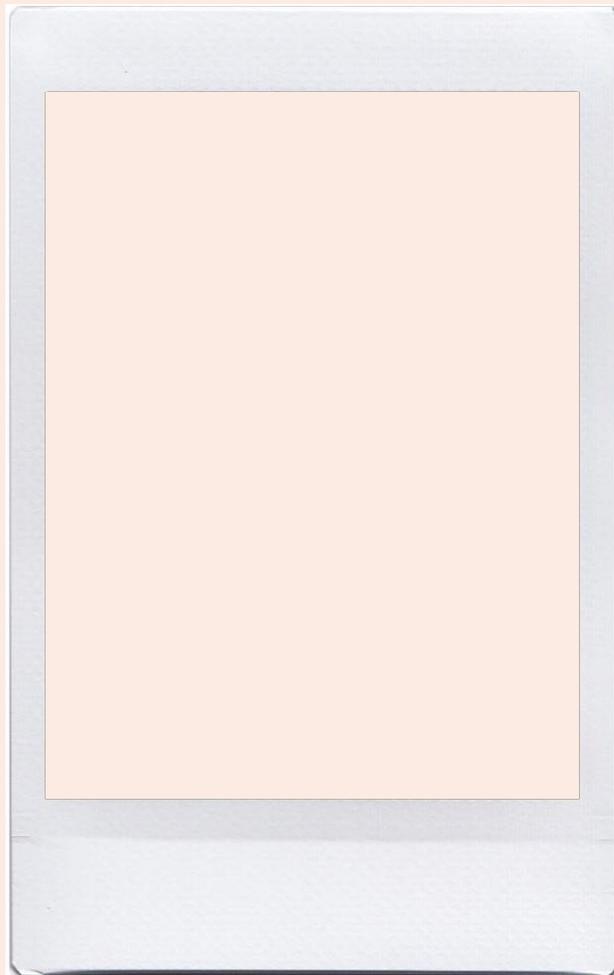


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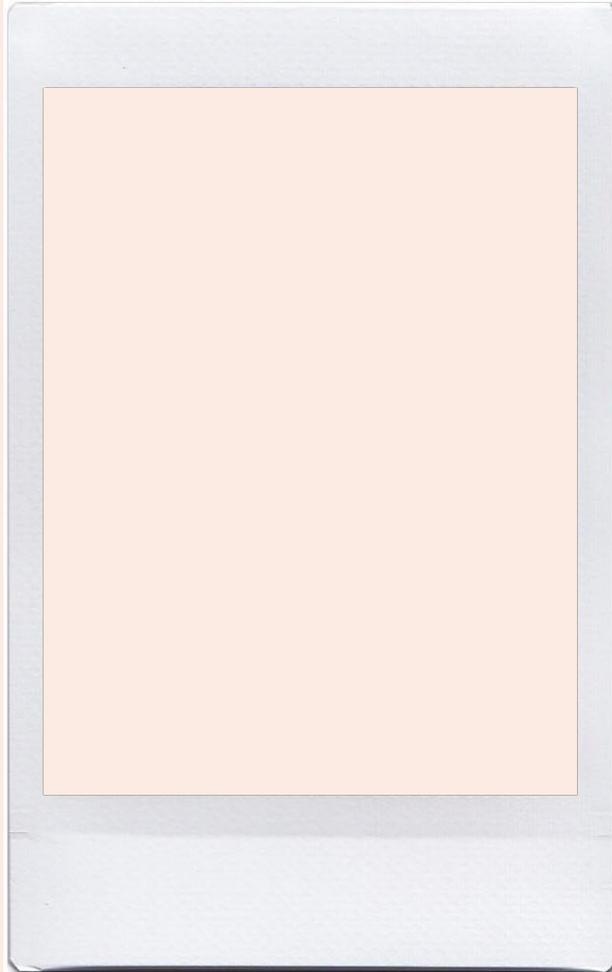
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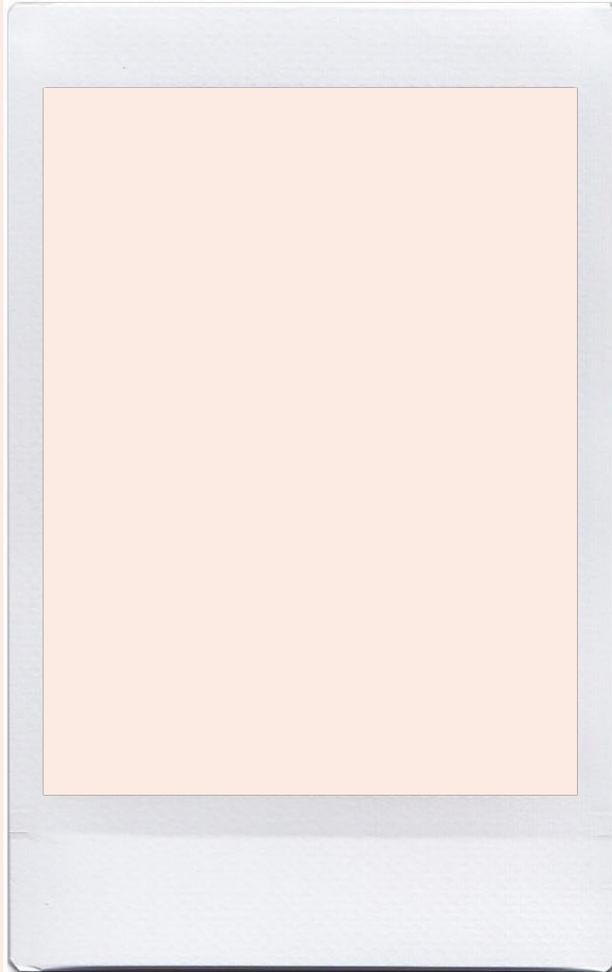
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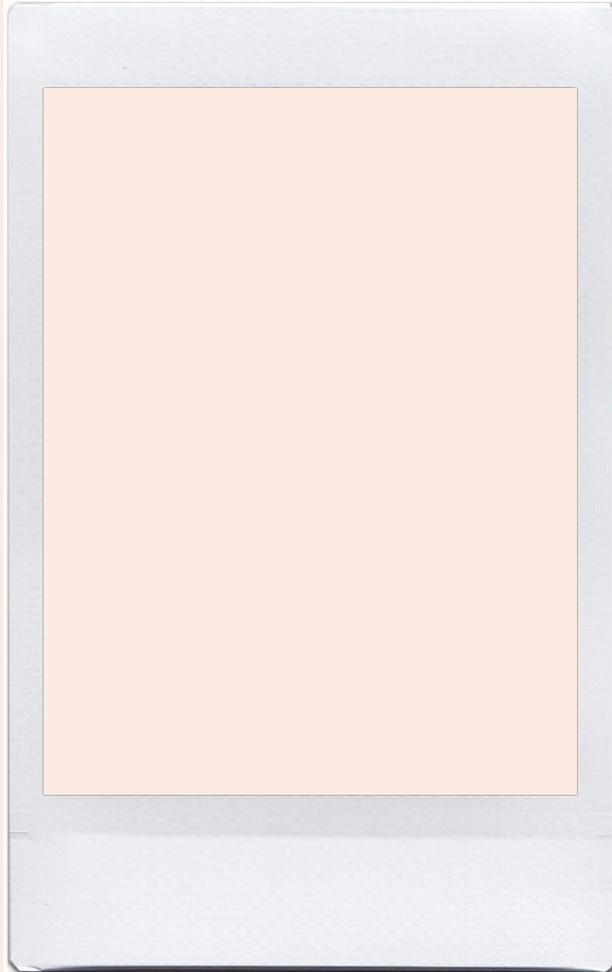
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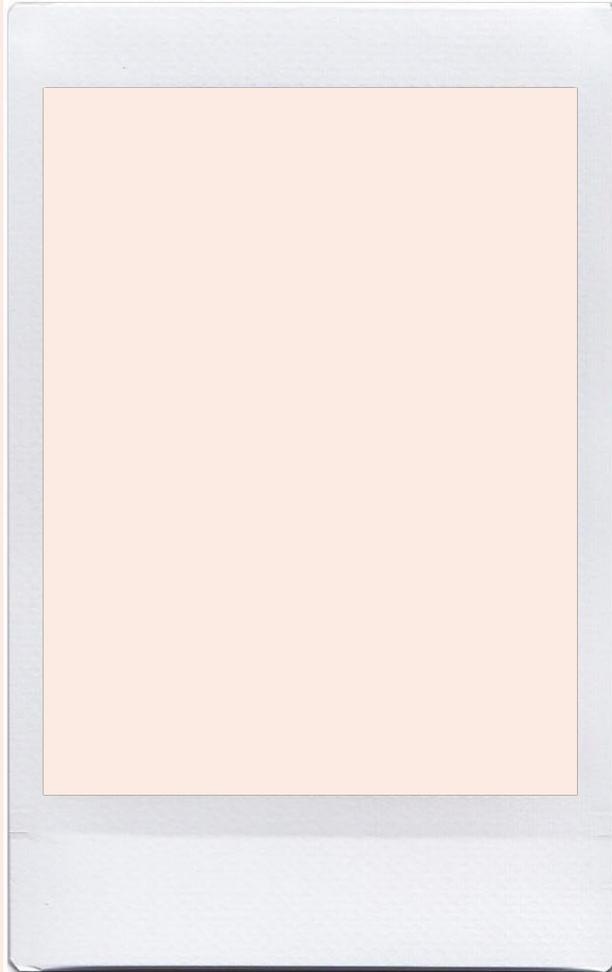
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About Me

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My name is

I work at

I have been a school psychologist for

Something special about me is

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Kind Words from Colleagues





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Etmi Lopes-Martins

“Three cheers for Etmi! She is truly the one I rely on for everything. Etmi is so knowledgeable, ready to help, and either knows the answer or who to ask for the answer. She is always willing to lend a hand wherever is needed. Etmi does coverage, sees kiddos, and goes above and beyond for all of them. We are all so grateful to be in the same district as Etmi as she is a star!”

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Kara Rodrigues

x “Kara and I are both new to the building; she has been so helpful with her ability to support in testing, and collecting and sharing important data for our students success which makes her special in our school. In our community she is special because she is kind and shows up every day ready to support and work hard :)”

“Kara is brand new to Reservoir Avenue this year, she is a strong advocate for our students and families. She is an essential member of our team. Thank You Kara for all you do!”

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“Kara is new to our Fogarty community this year and has made an immediate and positive impact! She has gotten to know our students and staff in record time, and has jumped right in to support where her help and expertise is needed. Kara brings so much knowledge and professionalism to her role and I have already learned a lot from her. Kara has spent time with students in need of a listening ear, has created plans for students to keep all students safe and comfortable, and has created a safe space for all students entering her office. We are so fortunate to have Ms. Rodrigues as part of our team.”

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Cristina Pistacchio

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“Cristina has a magical way of connecting with others and making them feel seen. She is important to our community because she is invested in the work. She is passionate about meeting people where they are and always willing to support the team.”

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“Ms. Pistacchio has been an incredible addition to our team at Lima. She is collaborative, creative, and caring. Ms. Pistacchio never hesitates to help students, families, or colleagues. She is well received by all with her calm and kind demeanor. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful person and school psychologist at Lima. Thank you for all that you do, you are so appreciated!”

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Tracy Sherman

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“Tracy is smart, She is sincerely welcoming when I place students at Central High school from an Out of District School. She thoughtfully connects with the parent of the student I have returned and she makes positive connections to the student. She will often be requested to do cognitive assessments for students in Out of District Schools. Her reports are always done on time and are well done. When she has to review her evaluation at the team meeting she does in away that makes sense to all who are at the table. I have watched Tracy when she is having a casual conversation with a student and have seen her greeting students in the hallway. She is always genuine with a wonderful sense of humor. Tracy understands how important it is to be present and real for her students. Central High School is so fortunate to have her as respectful, responsible, hard working and caring psychologist.”

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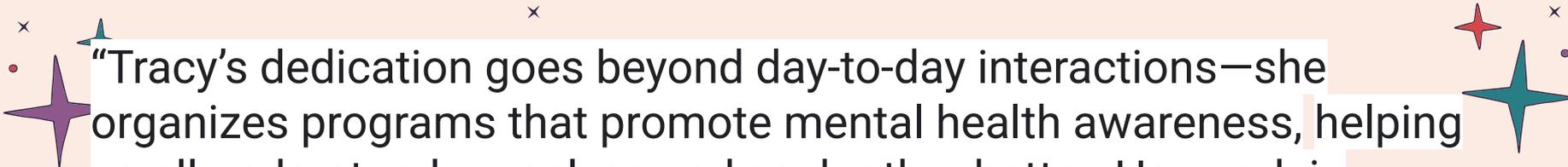


“Tracy has a strong connection with the school student population while at the same time provides supportive social emotional services, critical to our students success. Aside from other duties, as part of the TQP.”

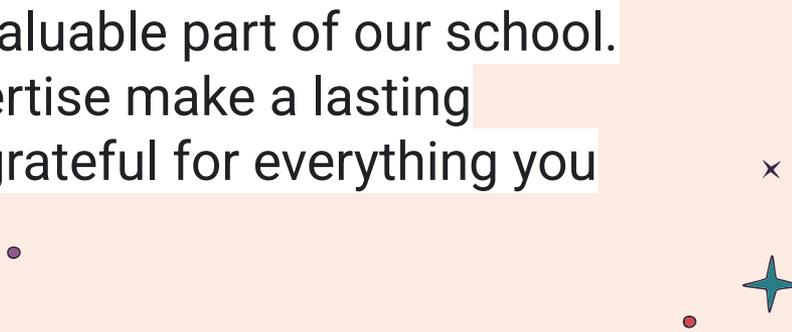


“Tracy is a vibrant and essential part of the Central High School community. Her unwavering support for our students and staff is inspiring, and she creates a space that feels safe, welcoming, and full of joy. Whether she’s helping someone manage stress, navigate personal challenges, or just lending a listening ear, Tracy’s kindness, compassion and sense of humor are always at the forefront.”





“Tracy’s dedication goes beyond day-to-day interactions—she organizes programs that promote mental health awareness, helping us all understand ourselves and each other better. Her work in reducing the stigma around mental health reminds us that we’re never alone and that reaching out for help is a strength, not a weakness. In moments of crisis, Tracy’s calm presence and contagious laughter are a true light. She guides us through difficult times and celebrates with us in the good ones; she is the first person to go to when you have either good or bad news.”



“Thank you, Tracy, for being such an invaluable part of our school. Your kindness, understanding, and expertise make a lasting difference in our lives, and we’re all so grateful for everything you do!”



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“Tracy is a dedicated professional who goes above and beyond to help students and the school community. Tracy has a very good rapport with students and is able to help them to become successful in school. She is very approachable and staff also rely on her for her expertise. Lastly, she makes sure she is current in all school psychology practice and all PPSD policy and procedures.”

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Erin Noiseux

“Erin deeply cares about her job. She is invested in helping our students achieve their goals and improve their lives in and out of the school setting.”

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Amy Vazquez

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“Amy is a jack of all trades. Not only does she support students in managing their emotional and behavioral challenges, she does testing. She conducts various types of assessments, such as Cognitive Assessments, Academic Achievement Testing, Behavioral Assessments, Adaptive Behavior Assessments And Functional Behavioral Assessments. Amy also assists staff with technology issues. She has a wealth of ideas that helps with the school climate. Amy's welcoming demeanor allows both families and students feel comfortable with her. I could not have asked for a better colleague to work with.”

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Tulani Freeman

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“Tulani is passionate about students and families. She is an asset to our team because she takes the time to explain the rationale behind why we do what we do. She is also excellent to work with. We love Tulani!”

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Krystal Machado



“Krystal is an incredible member of our team. She is amazing at evaluating children, helping parents understand their children's needs and I learn from her every day!”





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Natasha Salas

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“Our school is fortunate to have Natasha assigned to our building. She is kind, thoughtful, motivated, energetic and intelligent! She has many tasks including being a member of our Special Education Team for which she completes thorough and timely evaluations, offers helpful suggestions to assess and support students. She is also a member of the attendance team, crisis team, SST and recently took on the role of the 504 Coordinator. She provides counseling and supports for our students as well as crisis intervention. In addition, she is appreciated by our staff and loved by our students! Natasha is bilingual which is so beneficial especially because our school has a bilingual strand. Natasha is a true team player and I am grateful to work with her!”

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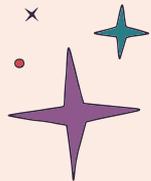


“Miss Salas is special to the students at Sackett. She never hesitates to step in and lend a helping hand when students are in crisis or just need a friendly, safe place to bring them back to a calm headspace. Sackett students and staff appreciate all that Ms. Salas does for our school community.”

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Juan Santa



“Juan Santa, Spaziano Psychologist, plays a vital role in our school and district community by supporting students, teachers, and families. He provides a safe place for students, helps them manage emotional struggles, and supports academic success. Mr. Santa acts as a bridge between academic, emotional, and social support, playing a crucial role in fostering a healthy, supportive, and productive school community.”





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Janelle Welsh



“At A-Venture, we believe in recognizing excellence, and today we’re celebrating someone who embodies dedication, resilience, and leadership: Janelle Welsh.”

“Janelle, your unwavering commitment, exceptional follow-through, and proactive approach in times of crisis make a significant impact on both students and staff alike. Your ability to manage challenges with skill and inspire those around you is nothing short of remarkable.”

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“We’re proud to have such an outstanding leader and colleague on our team. Thank you for being truly awesome and setting the bar high for all of us!”

“Keep shining!”

“Dedicated, professional, compassionate/ kind and supportive. A team player!”

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Rebecca Silverman



“Our school psychologist, Rebecca Silverman, is an invaluable asset to our school community. She plays a crucial role in supporting students’ mental health and well-being, providing individual counseling and guidance to help students navigate personal challenges. Their expertise in identifying and addressing emotional and behavioral issues fosters a positive school environment where all students can thrive.”



“Additionally, Ms. Silverman collaborates with teachers and staff to develop strategies that enhance classroom learning and promote social-emotional development. By leading workshops and training sessions, they equip educators with the tools to recognize and support students in need.”

“Their involvement in crisis intervention and prevention programs also ensures that our school remains a safe and supportive space for everyone. Overall, our school psychologist not only enhances academic performance but also contributes significantly to creating a nurturing and resilient school culture.”





“Rebecca is special to the William D'Abate School for several reasons. She has been a respected staff member for several years. Rebecca provides support to all teachers, students and staff in a very calming, effective manner. She contributes to the school culture working collaboratively with teachers to identify students of the month and promotes mental health awareness. She guides teachers with effective student interventions and the always challenging SST Process. Her dedication to PPSD shows her commitment to her families, and colleagues. Rebecca is a friend and an invaluable part of the William D'Abate Staff. She deserves to be celebrated.”





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Liana

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Gonzalez-McGee

“As part of our MLL Evaluation team and one of our leads, Liana shares her knowledge and expertise in evaluating multilingual learners and beyond. She is always available to colleagues to answer questions and provide support in all areas. She is an invaluable asset to our district.”

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Magda Pedraza



“Magda’s years of experience as a school psychologist has made her a valuable asset to the schools she services and colleagues. Thank you for sharing your knowledge with us.”

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Marybeth

Community Director

“Betsy is is an invaluable member of our PPSD community. Her experience and knowledge benefit our students, staff and families. We are so lucky to have her!”

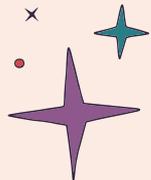




Kristen Bierwirth

“Kristen is one of our contracted school psychologists. She always jumps right in to join the school team. We appreciate the support and expertise she brings to the schools she services.”





Amy Marshall

“As a member of our preschool team, Amy evaluates and supports our youngest students. As a lifelong learner she is always looking for more effective ways to support students, such as going to trainings on new evaluation tools. We appreciate you!”





Stephanie Pagliarini

“Stephanie joined us as a school psychologist student and is now a colleague. Stephanie brings a smile and positive mindset into all that she does. She easily connects to students, staff and colleagues. As one of the school psychologist leads she supports other school psychologists and is always happy to help.”





Kseniya Dmitrieva

“Kseniya joined us as a practicum student, stayed as an intern and has now made Providence her home. Kseniya easily builds relationships with students, staff and families. We are so glad you stayed!!”





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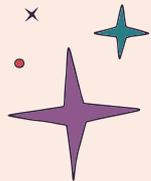
Jenniffer Rivera

“Jenniffer is a member of our Delsesto team. She is always willing to help support students and families. She works hard every day to make sure students get what they need.”

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Stephen Masi^x



“Mr. Masi is a team player and he is very accessible to his colleagues, administrators, parents and students. He is people oriented and he uses data effectively to implement interventions for students.”

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Rebecca Anderson

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“Rebecca is a crucial part of the Pleasant View team. She is accommodating to all of the needs at Pleasant View and takes initiative to solve problems. The PV team is so lucky to have her. “

“Rebecca is an active member of the Pleasant View school community. She is devoted, caring, compassionate, knowledgeable and a wiz at data collection.”

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LeeAnne Peluso

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“Mrs Peluso is a vital part of the school community because she cares so much for all the students here. I am new to the school and in my short time here I have seen the many ways Mrs Peluso goes above and beyond to advocate for and support students (as well as staff!) at Vartan Gregorian.”

“LeeAnne is kind and caring and always has a smile on her face. As one of our school psychologist leads, she supports colleagues and is always ready to jump in and help when the community needs her.”

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Johnna Lourenco



“Johnna supports everyone in the school no matter what the situation. She was part of the development of our school pantry for food and clothing. She is kind and compassionate and is an excellent listener.”

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Tara Sukaskas



“As the sole School Psychology Specialist, Tara works tirelessly to support her colleagues and school leaders in managing difficult situations to ensure they have information and tools that increase positive outcomes for students.”

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“Tara is a valuable asset not only to the Providence School District, but to the field of School Psychology as well. Tara is a natural leader. She approaches any situation with a smile and a positive attitude. Tara is knowledgeable, kind, and supportive of her colleagues, students and families, and school communities. I feel incredibly lucky to work alongside such an amazing human!”

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