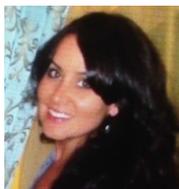


# Welcome New Staff!

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## Christine Capriotti, Pennbrook Middle School

Mrs. Capriotti is entering her twelfth year as an educator. Her educational experiences include instructing both elementary and middle school special education students. She has served as the Special Education Coordinator at Philadelphia Academy Charter High School, supervisor of student teaching for the graduate school of education at LaSalle University, and also as an instructional math coach for the School District of Philadelphia. Mrs.



Mrs. Capriotti obtained her undergraduate degree in education from LaSalle University and her masters of education degree from Holy Family University.

Mrs. Capriotti is a Disney Vacation Club member and relishes exploring the Caribbean Islands while cruising aboard her favorite Disney Cruise Line's ship, the Fantasy.

## Elizabeth McDowell, Penndale Middle School

I am Elizabeth McDowell and I teach 9<sup>th</sup> grade science in an inclusive classroom at Penndale Middle School. I attended Loyola University Maryland for undergrad and then received my masters in Special Education and Elementary Education at Chestnut Hill College. For the past 2 years I taught learning support math at Abington Junior High. Previously I taught social studies in southwest Philly, and high school science at the school portion of a residential treatment facility. I love to travel and have been fortunate enough to live on 3 continents.

## Jim Wittmer, Knapp Elementary

My name is Jim Wittmer and I am a North Penn graduate. I graduated from West Chester University with my degree in Special Education and middle school Social Studies. I am currently pursuing my Masters in Applied Behavior Analysis. I have worked with individuals on the autism spectrum on many functional, behavioral and academic levels. For the past five years, I have been working in the Extended School Year Program in the North Penn School District. I have worked in ABA home-programming for the past three years as well.

One interesting fact about me is that I had the opportunity to teach abroad in a school for individuals with exceptionalities for a number of months on an impoverished island called Eleuthera in the Bahamas. Another interesting fact is that in 2013 I rode a motorcycle to Alaska to help spread awareness of Autism and raise money for Southeastern Pennsylvania Autism Resource Center (SPARC), an organization in which I served during my undergraduate program.

## Jennifer Hilbert, Gwyn Nor Elementary

Hi I'm Jen Hilbert the new Learning Support teacher at Gwyn-Nor Elementary! I previously worked at York Avenue Elementary as a Learning Support Assistant. I graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a Bachelors of Science in Early Childhood and Special Education. I currently am working towards my Master's of Education in Reading Education. Something interesting about me is my love and obsession of Jeep wranglers! Peace, love and Jeeps!!



## Mary Lockard, Knapp Elementary

Hello....My name is Mary Lockard and I am super excited to join the staff at North Penn School District, specifically the staff/family at Knapp Elementary. I have worked in Special Education for the past eight years, most of which were spent in Autistic Support. I absolutely love my profession and know that my strong work ethic and personality will be a great addition to the district. I



obtained both my Bachelors and Masters degree from Cabrini College along with my elementary and special education certifications.

I am very family oriented and am married with three amazing sons, Nicholas, Nolan and Eric. Oh, and I can not leave out my two dogs Charlie and Hunter. I look forward to meeting many of you as we begin this school year.

## Brittany McLearnon, Walton Farm Elementary

My name is Brittany McLearnon and I am a Life Skills Support teacher at Walton Farm Elementary School. I have a younger brother, older sister, a nephew and a niece. I graduated from East Stroudsburg University in May 2014 with a dual degree in Early Childhood and Special Education. Upon graduation, I quickly became interested in pursuing my passion to teach with North Penn School District. My first opportunity was a LTS position as a 7th grade Learning Support teacher at Pennbrook Middle School. Shortly after that assignment ended, I finished the school year as a LTS in the Life Skills Support Classroom at Walton Farm. During the summer, I taught elementary ESY for North Penn and was offered to come back full-time as the LSS teacher at Walton Farm. I am so grateful to be given this opportunity in such a wonderful school district.

## Amy Francek, Gwynedd Square Elementary

Amy is a speech-language pathologist with 10 years of experience, including time spent at Montgomery and Bridle Path Elementary Schools and many charter schools in Philadelphia. Her special areas of interest include language disorders, social communication skills, and use of technology. Amy received her Masters Degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Temple University and her undergraduate degree in English at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. She has served in many volunteer roles for both schools, including: President of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Temple University chapter, President of the Alumni Association of Franklin & Marshall College, member of the FAN (Franklin & Marshall Admissions Network) Board, and Chair of the Metro Philadelphia Regional Chapter (F&M).

Amy is also beginning a term as a member of the Educational Advisory Committee (EAC) in the Upper Dublin School District, where her two sons (Luke, 4<sup>th</sup> grade/Jay, kindergarten) attend school at Jarrettown Elementary.

Amy is married to her college sweetheart Peter and is an avid Philadelphia sports fan that enjoys traveling, trying new restaurants, going to concerts and tap dancing.

## Casey Hagan, Nash Elementary



In 2008, I graduated from North Penn High School. I attended Neumann University where I studied Elementary and Special Education. My student teaching was completed at Gwynedd Square Elementary School. Once I graduated from Neumann with my bachelors degree, I became a Special

Education Assistant at Penndale Middle School. I am now the Primary Learning Support Teacher at General Nash Elementary School. A little fun fact about myself, I have been playing soccer for 20 years, and I am now coaching as well. I coach for Montgomery United Soccer Club as well as Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School.

## Julie Rech, Hatfield Elementary



I have been with North Penn School District for 4 years. I received my Elementary and Special Education certification in 2010. I completed my student teaching at Knapp Elementary School and was a substitute teacher for two years in different school districts. I accepted a special education assistant position in 2012 for North Penn. My passion has been Autistic Support! I received my Masters in Education in May 2015. I run for exercise and fun. I recently finished my 10th half marathon and in January 2016 I will be running my 2nd marathon!

## Brittany Sandone, Bridle Path Elementary

I grew up in Harleysville, PA and attended Souderton Area School District. After high school I wanted to stay local and Cabrini College just happened to be the perfect fit. At Cabrini I studied Education and graduated with a Bachelors degree in Elementary and Special Education (Spring of 2014).



In August 2014, I started at Hatfield Elementary as a special education assistant. I accepted a new position as a Learning Support Teacher and Title 1 Teacher at A.M. Kulp Elementary in December 2014. This year, I am a Learning Support Teacher at Bridle Path Elementary and I am co-teaching in a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom. An interesting fact about me is that I am an Assistant Coach at Gwynedd Mercy University for the Women's Basketball team.

## Rachel Wrubleski, District Permanent Per Diem Substitute

My name is Rachel Wrubleski and I am currently a Special Education PPD for the district. I am a proud alumna of North Penn School District (Class of 2009). Upon graduating from North Penn, I attended Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, where I earned my Bachelors of Science in Education with a Dual Certification in Special Education (PK-8) and Early Childhood Education (PK-4). This is my third year working with North Penn School District, my first as a per diem substitute, and last year as a special education assistant at Hatfield Elementary. I love art and nature. I go camping and visit the Outer Banks every year, and I adore my three younger siblings and golden doodle. I hope to soon have my own classroom within the district, helping as many people along the way as I can.



## Marie Farley, North Penn High School

I graduated from La Salle University with a degree in elementary and special education. I then taught learning support in an elementary school in Georgia for two years. I started working in North Penn as a Special Education PPD for several years until becoming a contracted teacher at the high school as a Special Education and Biology teacher. Over the summer, I became an aunt for the first time and try to spend as much time as I can with my adorable nephew!



## Lauren Childs, Nash Elementary

I attended Gwynedd Mercy College and obtained a degree in Education. My schooling allowed me to become certified in three areas, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, and Special Education. I have worked for North Penn School District since I graduated in 2010. I taught ESY for the past 5 years and prior to accepting the teaching job at Nash, I was an assistant at Knapp Elementary and a 1:1 at Gwyn Nor.



An interesting fact about me is that I accepted my first teaching job three weeks after I gave birth to my



## Welcome to Our Long-Term Substitutes!

### Amanda Oberst, North Penn High School

(substitute for Jackie Giammarco)

Amanda received her BS.Ed in Special Education from West Chester University and her M.Ed. In Reading from West Chester University. She taught secondary learning support at Unionville High School from 2001-2006. Prior to returning to teaching, Amanda worked as an office manager at her husband's chiropractic office. She was born and raised in New Jersey and currently lives in Telford with her husband, three children, Aaron, Sam, and Lily, and two chocolate labs, Kimora and Sophie. Amanda enjoys spending time with her family and reading.



### Liz Nowik, Montgomery Elementary

(substitute for Sarah Shipley)



Liz Nowik is currently serving as the long term substitute school psychologist at Montgomery Elementary School. Liz received her Masters of Education and Educational Specialist degrees at the University of Massachusetts. After graduation, Liz spent four years working at an elementary school outside of Boston. Recently, her family relocated back to the Philadelphia area. A Lansdale native, Liz is happy to return to her hometown after ten years. Go Eagles!

### Paul Giavennello Pennsdale Middle School

(substitute for Holly Duncan)

Paul Giovannello graduated from Millersville University with his Bachelors in Social Studies Education. He went on to earn his Masters in Special Education from Arcadia and is currently in his eighth year as a middle school educator. Prior to joining the faculty at Pennsdale, Paul taught 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies in New Hope-Solebury and special education in the Pennridge School District. Most recently, Paul worked as an Instructional Assistant in Upper Dublin after finishing an LTS assignment in 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies. A former resident of the Bluegrass state, Paul remains a devoted Kentucky Wildcats fan who enjoys reading, writing, and trying his best to maintain a dedicated fitness routine. He is thankful for the opportunity to continue his career with North Penn and looks forward to spending this year with his new students.

### Long Term Per-Diem Substitutes

Welcome to Tammy Kaczor, Amanda Cappella, Emily Marzewski, and Kellieanne Gazak!

### Stacy McGowan, North Penn High School

(substitute for Maria Pfeiffer)



I am a North Penn graduate and then taught in North Penn SD from 1993 until 2001, when I left to have my children. In 2002, I realized I *needed* to teach so I started at a virtual charter school (PAVCS). I stayed there until July of 2015. While at the Charter school, my classroom parents and colleagues nominated me for PA Teacher of the Year. Out of over 2000 nominations, I was one of the 39 semi finalists and the first virtual teacher in PA to receive this honor. I have been married for over 20 years to my husband Mike. My son, Hunter, attends Widener University as a sophomore where he studies biomedical engineering and plays lacrosse. My daughter Riley is a freshman at Souderton High school, where she also plays lacrosse. In our free time, we are very active and enjoy outside activities like the beach, kayaking, paddle boarding, surfing, and biking. We volunteer as a family at a local rescue center and almost always have a foster puppy staying in our home, along with our 3 resident dogs ( 1 of whom is deaf, and a certified therapy dog).

### Meghan Murphy, Penbrook Middle School

(substitute for Christy Reffner)



I received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Ursinus College and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Immaculata University. I am Pennsylvania certified to teach in Elementary Education (K-6), Special Education, Middle Level Mathematics (7-9), and the Wilson Reading Program, Level 1. I have been working in the special education field in various assistant or teacher roles for the past 9 years, including The Vanguard School, The Pathway School, Phoenixville Area School District, and Wissahickon School District. Outside of work, I enjoy participating in community service activities, hiking, baking, and rooting for the Philadelphia sports teams.

### New Support Staff

Special education assistants are vital to our programming. We are pleased to welcome this school year: Jaime DeCaro, Danielle Diaz, Lori Valovage, Lisa Brogan, Jennifer McKay, Craig Wagner, Krista Bodkin, Justin Hall, Shane Hopkins, Marisa Morgado, Katherine Keefer, John Buck, Felicity Reast, Karin Bayer, Tara McSweeney, Brian Pellechia, Kristi Gramlich, Ashley Haines, Bob Linneman, and Jon Ruble. We also welcome new staff nurses, Megan Pickersgill, LaTia Hill, and Amanda Campbell.