

**MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**2009-10 New Teacher Biographies**

**Becky Aldoupolis** is the new sixth grade writing teacher at Pierce Middle School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Individual and Family Development from the University of New Hampshire and her M.Ed from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Becky covered a long-term third grade position at the Glover School last year and completed her student teaching in a sixth grade classroom at Trottier Middle School in Southborough in 2008. Becky competed in her first triathlon over the summer and loved the excitement and thrill of the race.

**Conway Amar** is the new Business Teacher at Milton High School. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from Boston University and has worked in private industry for the past 15+ years. His former employers include Procter and Gamble, Campbell Soup, Stop and Shop and Reebok. He grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and is a self described "southern boy". His wife and son have lived in Milton for the past 4 years.

**Christine Armstrong** (prefers Chrissy) is one of the new Spanish teachers at Milton High School. She worked from 1986-2000 at Archbishop Williams High as teacher and department head. Chrissy also taught FLES for three years at St. Brigid's School in South Boston. She earned a scholarship to Boston College and graduated with a BA in Romance Languages and also received her Masters at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. She grew up in Boston and still lives there. She prides herself on being a great "city parker" – meaning she can fit a minivan in a compact car spot.

**Marlaena Auriemma** is the librarian at the Collicot and Cunningham Elementary schools. She was an elementary classroom teacher for eight years before becoming a librarian. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and Education from the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, her M.Ed. from Framingham State College and her K-12 library licensure through Connecticut State University. Marlaena worked in the Scituate Public Schools for six years before coming to Milton Public Schools. Marlaena grew up in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She moved to Massachusetts from the Midwest in 1999.

**Emily Ayre** is a Guidance Counselor at Pierce Middle School. She graduated from Boston College with her Bachelor's Degree in English and Communications, and recently graduated with her Masters in School Counseling from Boston College. Originally from Woodbury, CT, Emily is very excited to be working in Milton.

**Valerie Cain** is the new 5<sup>th</sup> Grade French Immersion Teacher at the Tucker School. She earned a Master of Arts in French from the University of Toronto, and a Master of Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She worked as a French Immersion teacher for the Toronto District School Board, and taught previously in the French program at both the Cunningham and Tucker Schools. Valerie is a classically-trained singer, and when she is not wearing her teacher or mom hats, she can usually be found performing on stage.

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**Chris Callahan** is a long-term English substitute filling in for Mrs. O'Boyle this year. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of Connecticut, and then went on to complete a Masters in Teaching History program at the University of Massachusetts. He has taught History and English for the last three years at the high school level, mainly at Apponequet Regional High School. He grew up and still lives in Plymouth, Massachusetts where he recently bought a house and got married.

**Rebecca Cherry** is one of the K-2 elementary general music teachers for the Tucker, Glover, Cunningham and Collicot schools. She has just recently earned a Bachelor of Music Degree at Gordon College in both Music Education and Performance, and her major instrument was the trumpet. She has enjoyed playing and singing in various ensembles on the North shore and Boston area including the Boston Civic Symphony orchestra. She grew up in northern Vermont.

**Margaret Clark** is the new Milton High School Librarian and is also running the after school homework club at Milton High School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in English from Boston College and taught High School English at the Woodward School for 5 years. She graduated from the Milton Public Schools and currently has 5 children in the Milton School System.

**Gráinne (Granya) Coen**, one of the new incoming High School Spanish teachers, earned her BA in both English and Spanish from Saint Louis University. She is currently obtaining a M.ED. from the University of Massachusetts and has one more class to take to acquire her Legal Court Interpreting Certificate from New York University. Gráinne also has experience working as a theatrical costumer for Broadway and Opera in NYC.

**Sarah Doiron** is a Math Investigations teacher at the Pierce Middle School. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics. Sarah is currently finishing up her Masters in Math Education at Boston University. This past year she worked at R.J. Grey Junior High School in Acton, MA as a special education assistant. Sarah loves skiing and has been doing it since she was three years old.

**Laura Donnelly** will be teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Glover Elementary School. She graduated from the University of Rhode Island in May 2009 and is certified to teach Elementary School and Middle School Math. She grew up in Canton and for the past three summers has worked for the Canton Public Schools special education program as a classroom aide.

**Katelyn Forde** is one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade co-taught teachers at the Glover Elementary School. She earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology at Quinnipiac University. She continued her education at Quinnipiac to complete her Masters in Elementary Education. She is a first year teacher and is looking forward to starting the school year.

**Zeina Hamada** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade French Immersion teacher at the Collicot Elementary School. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Public Administration from the American University of Beirut and completed her graduate courses in History at the

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same university and the University of Massachusetts at Boston. She taught the French Baccalaureat at the International College in Beirut as well as middle school Social Studies and French for 7 years. She moved to the United States when she got married and is happy to have chosen Milton as her home.

**Teresa C. Hanley** is the new Spanish teacher at Pierce Middle School. She has previously taught in the Newton Public Schools and Concord Public Schools. She received a B.A. in Economics and French from Emmanuel College and a M.A. in Romance Languages from Boston College. Ms. Hanley has been fortunate enough to travel to all 50 states, at least 3 times each and has visited 35 countries.

**Rachel Harris** will be teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Glover Elementary. Rachel earned her undergraduate degree from DePaul University in Psychology, completed her graduate education coursework at Dominican University and also received a MFA in Writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Rachel is a Teach for America alumna. This is her third year teaching grade school.

**Nicole Hoyceanyls** is teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science at the Pierce Middle School. She graduated from Bridgewater State College with a double major in Environmental Biology and Elementary Education and has a minor in Chemistry. Her first year of teaching was at Bridgewater Middle School where she taught 7<sup>th</sup> grade science. She plays the trumpet and has had the opportunity to compete nationally and play at Symphony Hall in Boston.

**Bryan Hurwitz** is a CPA with an insatiable desire for anything remotely pertaining to science. He attained a BS in Biology from Brandeis and an MS in Accountancy from Bentley. This will be his first year in the science department at Milton High School. If Bryan is not reading a science text or preparing a tax return you will likely find him swimming, cycling, or running in preparation for his next triathlon.

**Dan Jarboe** is a Mathematics teacher at Milton High School. A graduate of Boston College, Dan earned his Bachelor's Degrees in Mathematics and Secondary Education. He has continued his studies at BC and is currently working towards his Master's in Education. He is excited to begin his teaching career at Milton High School. Outside of teaching, he enjoys fishing and college football.

**Ben Jones** is the new Physical Education/Health teacher at the Elementary level. He recently moved to the Boston area from Phoenix, AZ where he taught Physical Education, Health, and more recently Adaptive Physical Education for the past 12 years. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education/Sports Science from Castleton St. College in Castleton, VT and Master's of Education in Educational Leadership/Administration from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ.

**Rachel Kirtley** is the Latin teacher at Pierce Middle School. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Ancient Greek and Latin from Boston University and a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Latin and Classical Humanities from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She has taught Latin at the collegiate and high school level, and is extremely

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excited to teach middle school. She spent a glorious summer in 2006 studying in Rome, and from that experience, she was inspired to become a Latin teacher and share her love with a new generation of budding Latinists.

**Michael Matisoff**, Milton High School class of 2005, is a recent graduate of Saint Anselm College. He graduated in May 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Certificate in Secondary Education. Michael also attended the Sorbonne in Paris, France in the Spring of 2008 and studied French Literature and French Civilization. Michael is a first-year teacher and will be teaching French at the Glover Elementary School.

**David Mills** will be teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies at the Pierce Middle School. David earned a bachelor's degree in history from Middlebury College and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. He spent a few lost years in accounting, journalism and even a little health care before becoming a teacher and coach at Sandwich High School for the past three years. David is especially proud of his vegetable garden in the front of his house in South Boston.

**Meg O'Halloran** will be teaching the STEP class at Cunningham elementary. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Master's Degree of Education from University of Massachusetts at Boston. She comes to Milton after teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade Humanities in Boston. Along with her passion for teaching she also loves to travel.

**Loyola Pasiewicz** is the new Chemistry teacher at Milton High School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from College of the Holy Cross and her M.A.T from Boston University. This is her first year teaching. She is originally from Chicago and she is an Irish step dancer.

**Norka Poole** is a Kindergarten teacher at the Cunningham Elementary School. Her background is Early Childhood Education and Educational Leadership. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Massachusetts. Norka has been in the field of education for 15 years as a teacher and administrator. She has a twin sister who is a Middle School Math Teacher in Atlanta, GA.

**Brian Powers** is the school adjustment counselor at both the Glover and Tucker elementary schools. He previously worked at the Home for Little Wanderers in Boston as a direct care counselor and clinician working with children who struggled with behavioral and emotional issues as a result of their life experiences. He has also worked as a trainer and helped to support staff development within the agency. Recently, he became a volunteer with the Boston Medical Reserve Corps, an agency that responds to public health emergencies and disasters. Brian earned his Master's in Social Work from Simmons College in 2007 and has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

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**Colleen Sampson** is one of the two Math Investigations teachers at the Pierce Middle School. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics as well as Elementary Education from Boston College. She earned her Master's of Education in Moderate Disabilities from Boston College. For the past 5 years Colleen has been a student teacher and interned in schools in the Brookline Public Schools, Newton Public Schools, and in the Boston Public Schools. She is a big fan of running and has run in 5 marathons including the Boston Marathon.

**Stephanie Sherman** teaches Visual Arts at Pierce Middle School. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts with a concentration in Painting from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. She will begin her Masters in Art Education at the University of Massachusetts this fall. Last year she taught a variety of FAVA classes as well as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade ACE program. She lives in New Bedford, *The Whaling City*, and collects vintage accessories from the area.

**Erica Steinitz** is a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Glover Elementary. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development and Peace and Justice Studies from Tufts University along with her Elementary and Early Childhood certifications. This is her first full year working in the Milton Public Schools. Erica also coaches soccer and track in neighboring communities. She grew up in Seattle, Washington.

**Melissa Todd** is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade French Immersion teacher at Glover Elementary. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in International Studies and French at Seattle University in Seattle, WA, and her Master of Arts in Teaching at Tufts University. For the past four years Melissa has worked in informal education; teaching English in Japan and teaching about science and Native Americans of Washington State at a natural history museum in Seattle. Melissa ran (and completed!) the Boston Marathon last April.

**Jesse Turner** is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade co-taught teacher at Tucker Elementary. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and then his M.Ed. from Lesley University. This will be Jesse's 4<sup>th</sup> year as a special education teacher. While at the University of Massachusetts, Jesse was a member of the UMass b-boy club.

**Nancy Warn** is a teacher in the Social Studies department at Milton High School. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. She taught for 10 years in the Social Studies department at Needham High School and over the past few years has worked as an adjunct professor at Montclair State University and as an educational consultant for the corporation, Innovative Designs for Education. She is the mother of seven-year-old twins and looking forward to being back in the classroom.

**Melissa Webber** is a sixth grade mathematics teacher at Pierce Middle School. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Boston College and a Master's Degree in Middle School Mathematics Education from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Over the past five years she has taught sixth grade math in

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Tampa, Florida, Rockland, Massachusetts, and Boston. She grew up in Pennsylvania and is a huge fan of the Philadelphia Eagles.