

Meet our educators and staff

*A profile of new staff
and faculty in Butler
School District 53*



2019-20

Nina Angelillo

Art Teacher, Butler Junior High



Background

Ms. Angelillo returns to District 53, teaching art classes full-time at Butler Junior High. Previously, she taught two art classes at Butler last year and earlier had served as an aide in the District. She also served as a teacher substitute in Downers Grove District 99 and student taught in District 99 and at O'Neill Junior High in Downers Grove. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Art Education from the University of Missouri, Columbia. In her free time she has been an alumni mentor for a performing arts group and a cast member of a travelling performance troupe. She has also had her art showcased in the Chicago Youth Artist Showcase and the IHSA Art Educator Exhibition.

Recognized Professionally

"She is outgoing and innovative, diligent and confident and has demonstrated great integrity in her work. She portrays a positive and committed attitude that is reflective of her personality.

Catherine Cox

PE teacher and PE Aide, Butler Junior High



Background

Catherine Cox is teaching and supporting Butler Junior High physical education classes. She has been a student teacher in Wisconsin, a one-on-one tutor, camp counselor and a cheerleader for the Green Bay Packers. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from St. Norbert College, DePere, WI.

Professionally Recognized

Catherine is a natural teacher and genuinely loves working with children. She is able to differentiate and scaffold instruction as needed for all students. Her flexibility and management of unexpected situations came easily.

Mary Lou Flood

Library Media Assistant, Butler Junior High



Background

Mary Lou Flood is supporting the library and students at Butler Junior High as a library media assistant. She has been working with students in a K-8 setting for more than 20 years, including at Westchester Middle School, and earlier as a kindergarten and 3rd grade teacher at private schools.

“Mary is known for her dedication to serving students to the maximum of her abilities. She is enthusiastic to bring her love for literacy to the library and sharing her literacy experiences with the students at Butler Junior High. She is happy, upbeat and positive.”

Anne Fong

Music Teacher, Butler Junior High



Background

Anne Fong serves as the Butler Junior High Music Teacher. She has served as a music teacher at two different schools in the northern suburbs. In those roles she also was director of the school play and co-director of a Multicultural Music Club. She also is a woodwinds technician for Glenbrook North High School Marching Band. She has a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where she was a section leader in the Illini Marching Band. In addition to music certification she has a teaching certification in math, grades 9-12. She has performed in a number of music ensembles and has volunteered as a music instructor.

Professionally Recognized

“Anne is an extremely hard worker, and is driven to continually improve. She has a genuine interest in her students’ lifelong learning and the ability to create a culture where students are comfortable and willing to take risks. Anne is good for kids. She understands what makes them tick, is relatable and will bring much needed energy and passion to the school community.”

Diane Janka

School Psychologist



Background

Diane W. Janka has extensive experience as a school psychologist, mostly recently serving in the role at Hauser Junior High in Riverside. There she trained and coached teams of educators, conducted student assessments, and served as a resource for instructional practices for all staff. She did similar work as a school psychologist at Murphy and Edgewood Elementary Schools in Woodridge. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education from Clemson University, Master of Education and Education Specialist Degrees in School Psychology from National-Louis University, and a Doctor of Education in School Psychology from Loyola University Chicago.

Professionally Recognized

"Diane is an invaluable leader, has a strong motivation to learn and support her teams. She forms strong connections to her teammates, administrators and students and is an exemplary model of a student-centered staff member who is willing to go above and beyond to achieve what is best for kids."

Michael Johnsen

Permanent Substitute



Background

Michael serves as a permanent substitute in the District. He has served as a substitute teacher at Lyons Township High School, as a coach for Special Olympics and most recently served as a student teacher at Crone middle School in Naperville. He has a Bachelor's in English and is expected to receive his Master's in Secondary Education from Lewis University in 2020.

Professionally Recognized

"Michael is able to connect to students immediately. He is a collaborative, thoughtful teacher who pushes himself professionally and becomes personally invested in his teaching experience. His students will learn a great deal and his colleagues will enjoy working with him."

Kristen Miller

Reading Teacher & Reading Specialist, Butler Junior High



Background

Kristen Miller serves as a Reading Specialist at Butler Junior High. She has experience as a reading interventionist and teacher at the junior high level. She has been a long-term sub in English Language Arts at Gower Middle School and served as a Reading Interventionist and reading teacher at a junior high in Sun Prairie, WI. In addition, she served as a German teacher and a World Languages teacher. She has a Bachelor's in English Education and German from Bradley University and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from University of Wisconsin/Madison.

Professionally Recognized

"Ms. Miller demonstrates strong advocacy for her students and has high expectations for them. She is also willing to rise to a challenge and do what is best for her students. She is also very organized, innovative, creative, and supports an environment of collaboration and respect in her classroom. Her personality is fun and friendly, warm and welcoming."

Sandra Morris

Executive Assistant to Superintendent & Board Recording Secretary



Background

Sandra Morris most recently served as an administrative assistant in various departments at both Hinsdale Central and South High Schools. Prior to that she worked in human resources and accounting for a real estate company and as an assistant business manager at a local parish. She attended Gwynedd-Mercy University in PA with a concentration in accounting and business management. She has had three children who went through District 53 and is passionate about the District.

Professionally Recognized

"Sandra thinks on her feet in any situation and is proactive rather than reactive. She has a unique quality to look at a situation and improve process; a kaizen way of thinking. She is extremely organized with strong ethical values. She is a positive person and welcoming to all."

Jerilyn Murguia

Librarian, Brook Forest, Butler Junior High



Background

Ms. Murguia has served as both a public library Children's Services Assistant at the La Grange Park Public Library and a special education teacher in Cicero District 99. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Butler University and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University. She has additional coursework in special education from the University of Illinois/Chicago and an endorsement from Chicago State University in School Library Information Science that will be conferred in May 2019.

Professionally Recognized

"One of Jerilyn's personal strengths is the ability to work collaboratively. Her passion and expertise in working with students with diverse learning needs was an asset. Her excellent work ethic, organizational abilities, flexibility and her quiet good humor made her indispensable."

Catherine Myers

ELA Reading and Writing, Butler Junior High



Background

Catherine Myers serves as an English Language Arts teacher at Butler Junior High. She has been an English Language Arts teacher at a junior high in Elkhart, IN. and also a 4th grade teacher and gifted/talented teacher and instructional coach, also in Elkhart. She has a Bachelor's in English from Clemson University, a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Indiana University and a Master's in Educational Psychology from Ball State University. She has been recognized for her teaching through a "Vibrant People Award" in Elkhart County, and with the "Service Above Self" from a local Rotary Club

Professionally Recognized

"Katie is that rare teacher who has found the right balance between establishing warm, nurturing relationships while maintaining high expectations and firm boundaries. She is continually revising and improving lessons."

Juan Rodriguez

Permanent Substitute



Background

Mr. Rodriguez serves as a permanent substitute in the District. He is a recent college graduate and has a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he participated in the James Scholar Honors Program. He student taught at Whittier School in Oak Park. He is also fluent in Spanish.

Professionally Recognized

"Juan develops strong interpersonal connections with his students, often sharing his own experiences with them and allowing students to feel safe and comfortable in the classroom. He is passionate about education and has the willingness to ask questions in order to better his instruction."

Melissa Russell

Math Teacher, Butler Junior High



Background

Melissa Russell joined Butler Junior High as a math teacher. She has been both a math teacher and social studies teacher at the junior high level in the region. Most recently, she taught both subjects at Benjamin Middle School in West Chicago and in Marquardt District 15 in Glendale Heights. She has a Bachelor's in Marketing from Illinois State University and a Master's in Elementary Education from National Louis University.

Professionally Recognized

"She will do whatever it takes to make sure her students succeed and is clearly excited about making a difference. She has a great handle on the classroom environment and establishes strong relationships with students and their parents. She has strong content knowledge and is a dedicated professional."

