

BANCROFT SCHOOL 2019-20 NEW FACULTY/STAFF

LOWER SCHOOL

Cathy Wallace will be our second grade teacher. Cathy joins the Lower School Faculty having most recently taught at Armstrong Elementary School in Westborough where she worked in a variety of roles, including first grade teacher, since 2014. She holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from Framingham State University.

Our fourth grade teacher is **Ali Chappell**. Ali spent the last nine years as a first and second grade teacher at the San Carlos Charter Learning Center in California. Ali has experience as a teacher on the east coast having spent time at the Atrium School in Watertown and Shady Hill School in Cambridge. She is a graduate of Colgate University (B.A. in English) and Lesley University (M.Ed.).

Mary Anne Kennedy is joining our community as the 4th grade Hope Graham Teacher. She is Orton-Gillingham certified and has worked as a classroom teacher, reading tutor, and administrator. Mary Anne lives in Grafton and has spent most of her career in the Ashland public schools. She has a B.A. in English and M.Ed. from Boston College.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Becky Gay will be teaching English in middle school. Becky has a B.A. in English Education from Ithaca College and an M.Ed. from Goldsmith's College, University of London. For the last twelve years, she has been teaching English in Manlius, New York. Becky has also been working with character education, student mentors, and student government.

Our eighth grade science teacher is **Sam Melanson**. Sam is a graduate of Emmanuel College with a degree in Biology. He has been teaching biology and biochemistry for five years at Chapel Hill Chauncy Hall School in Waltham. Sam has also worked at the school in technical theater and was a boys soccer coach.

Heather Hooven will be our middle school academic support specialist and teach seventh grade English. Heather has 15 years of experience teaching middle and upper school in New Jersey. She has a B.S. degree from Wheelock College.

Shifting roles on our HGP team is **Colleen Hunter**, who will teach 8th grade. Colleen is a graduate of the University of Connecticut earning both a B.A. and M.A. in Education. She has been a tutor in our HGP program and last year taught ESL in our Upper School. Prior to that, she served as a private tutor in Auburn, MA and a Special Education Teacher in Mansfield, CT.

UPPER SCHOOL

Heather Moon joins Bancroft as our Upper School Spanish teacher. Heather has a B.A. in Spanish Literature and Economics from Mount Holyoke and an M.A. in Spanish from Middlebury College. She comes to us from Bryant University where she has taught all levels of Spanish since 2010 and has been curriculum coordinator for the Spanish program since 2016. She has also previously served as adjunct faculty teaching Spanish at Worcester State and Anna Maria College. Heather is no stranger to grades 9-12 as she taught Spanish at Dana Hall in Wellesley as well as Ashley Hall School in South Carolina.

The newest member of the Upper School English department is **Jonathan Wertheim**. Most recently Jonathan has been teaching at the Spence School in New York City. He received his B.A. in English from Skidmore College and his M.A. in English Literature from Fordham University.

Dr. Iain Ridgway will teach Upper School science and coach girls soccer. Over his teaching career, Iain has taught biology, physics, chemistry, physiology and forensics and has skills and experience in many other disciplines. Dr. Ridgway joins Bancroft from Merrimack Valley High School in New Hampshire where he taught biology, physical science, anatomy and physiology to grades 9-12. Iain received his Ph.D. from the University of Glasgow and his B.Sc. in Marine Biology from Bangor University.

Joanne Ford who will serve as our Upper School Registrar and Administrative Assistant. Joanne is an experienced professional who has worked at local independent schools such as Fay School, Carroll School, and Touchstone Community School. Joanne is a pro, and, lucky for us, she has hit the ground running!

ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

Joining Bancroft as our Lower and Middle School Technology teacher is **Julian Ledoux**. Julian has four years of experience as a technology specialist/educator with a focus on inquiry and project-based learning. He most recently served as a Technology Integration Specialist at Buckingham Browne & Nichols. He holds a B.F.A. from Tufts University.

Our Lower and Middle School Art teacher is **Cory Shepherd**. Cory joins Bancroft from right down the road where he served as a K-12 Art Educator in the Worcester Public School system since 2013. He holds a B.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Allison Plourde will join us this fall as our new Middle / Upper School Visual Art teacher. Since 2013, she has worked at the Holderness School in New Hampshire teaching Fine Arts, Ceramics, Graphic Design, 3D design, and AP Art. Allison is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire (B.A. Psychology), Rochester Institute of Technology (B.F.A. Ceramics & Ceramic Sculpture), and Rhode Island School of Design (M.A. Teaching).

ADMINISTRATIVE CABINET

Cynthia Xenakis started earlier this summer as our new Assistant to the Head of School and joins us from Notre Dame Academy where she served as Director of Guidance since 2009. Prior to that, she spent 9 years in a similar role at Our Lady of Nazareth Academy in Wakefield. Cynthia holds both a B.A. in English/Secondary Education and M.Ed., in Counselor Education/Psychology from Boston College.

Tina Gorski-Strong is our Chief Advancement Officer. Tina joins Bancroft from the Fenn School in Concord, MA where she served as the Senior Advancement Officer since 2016 leading a major capital campaign project. Prior to that, she was the Senior Advancement Officer and Director of Alumni Relations at the Wheeler School in Rhode Island. Tina is a graduate of WPI.

Our Director of the Hope Graham Program & Academic Support is **Matt Ganas**. Matt joins Bancroft from the Needham Public School system where he most recently served as the Executive Director of Special Education. Matt holds a B.A. in Psychology and M.Ed. in Education from UMASS Amherst as well as an M.Ed. in Organizational Management from Endicott College.

William Dierks will join our team as a strategic financial advisor, responsible for the management of our finances and business office. Bill will advise the Head of School and Board of Trustees on financial strategy and management. As the “outsourced CFO” he will be on campus several days a week. Bill has worked with business leaders in many industries throughout his twenty year consulting career. He holds a B.A. in Economics and an MBA in Finance from Harvard.