



2019-2020

FACULTY



# Our Faculty

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## Educating, encouraging, inspiring....and always learning

At Costa Rica International Academy we believe in fostering a love of life-long learning and the idea that learning should be engaging, challenging, relevant and fun. Through the teaching at CRIA, students are equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding to prepare them to make meaningful contributions to the world. We believe that through a structured plan for teaching and learning our students will be prepared to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives.



## Administration

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### Mr. Paul Barwinski Director and Secondary School Principal

**Nationality:** Canada

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Education – Brock University, Canada
- Bachelor of Education Intermediate/Senior –Brock University, Canada
- Bachelor of Health and Physical Education – Western University, Canada
- IB Category 1 DP Administrators Certification
- International Schools and Systems Leadership Certification
- Principal Qualification Part 1 & 2 - Brock University, Canada
- Junior Basic Qualification - Western University, Canada
- Special Education Part 1 - Brock University, Canada
- Health and Physical Education Specialist - (OSIE)

I believe in students and their abilities. As a school leader I feel it is necessary to support each individual and learn first where they are and understand their stories to then better guide them to their learning goals. Each interaction is an opportunity to grow and create an improved version of oneself. Students grow to understand the need to reflect on their learning and strive to reach their personal goals.

A growth mindset, along with cognitive coaching assists staff and students in achieving greater goals and success. Higher expectations and academic scores are attained through the hard work of believing in oneself and practicing the skills that lead to greater accomplishments.

I have always believed that a school is a team, where everyone is involved in all aspects of the school. We will achieve both individual and collective goals when we build a community of trust and collaboration. As, each team member rises, the whole school rises, and great success is realized.



**Ms. Cheri Barwinski**  
**Primary School Principal**

**Nationality: Canada**

**Qualifications:**

- Masters of Education, Brock University, Canada
- Bachelor Of Arts - Geography, McMaster University, Canada
- Bachelor Of Arts - BPhEd, Brock University, Canada
- Teaching Certification, St. Bonaventure University, USA
- Primary, Junior, Intermediate Teaching Certification
- Principal Qualifications - Part 1 & 2 (OPC)
- Special Education Part 1, Brock University, Canada
- IB MYP Cat 1 Administration Certification
- International Schools & Systems Leadership Certification

I believe the developmental power of a school is rooted in the ability of all members to fulfill the mission statement and core beliefs. As an experienced elementary school Principal, I aim to inspire forward thinking and strategic planning in an effort to grow and compete as a school of choice for staff, students and parents. I believe the potential for improved results in teaching and learning are enhanced through understanding and applying the strategies of growth mindset, goal setting and grit.

I believe that all students can learn and that students learn best in an established culture that prioritizes building relationships and maintaining high expectations and standards. To develop the whole child, I am passionate about ensuring student engagement and leadership opportunities are embedded in the school's day-to-day operations and events. Our work together must allow students to enjoy the rigorous process of learning while learning the skills, strategies and knowledge to be the best they can be.

I believe educational excellence is strengthened through partnerships and collaboration with families, organizations, communities and school staff. Parental engagement and promoting my school is both a passionate and enlightening experience for me as a Principal.



**Ms. Lois Maré**  
**Senior Leadership Advisor, College Counselor, and Admissions Director**

**Nationality: Canada**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Education - University of Manitoba
- K-12 teaching certification
- Master of Arts in Curriculum and Teaching - Michigan State University
- Teacher of ESL Certification - College of New Jersey
- Certification in International School Leadership – The Principals' Training Center
- Columbia University Advanced Certificate in College Counseling (in progress)
- Course: College Counseling in the International School – The Counseling Center

I am excited to continue to contribute to CRIA's reach for excellence in my new roles of Senior Leadership Advisor, College Counselor and Admissions Director. I am honored and excited to assist our talented students in shaping the skills and knowledge necessary for success beyond the walls of CRIA. As part of the Senior Leadership Team, I will build upon the successes of the past and help us attain our vision of becoming a world-class school.



**Ms. Vera Naranjo**  
**Operations Manager**

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Diploma in Tourist Activities and Tourist Companies, Colegio de Universitario de Cartago
- BA in Hotel Administration, Universidad Hispanoamericana
- 22 years as a general manager of Hotels: Jaco Beach, Terraza del Pacifico, Hacienda Pinilla-Posada del Sol.
- 11 years as a Operations and Human Resources Manager (CDSG & CRIA)



**Ms. Margarita Elizondo**  
**Financial Manager**

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Bachillerato en Administración de Hoteles y Restaurantes. ULACIT, Costa Rica
- Maestría en la enseñanza del español como lengua extranjera, Universidad de León, España
- Diplomado en Administracion de Negocios, UNED, Costa Rica (en proceso)



**Ms. Rebeca Zuniga**  
**Administrative Assistant**

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Bachillerato in Business Administration Universidad Latina de Costa Rica
- Licenciatura in Marketing Universidad Libre de Costa Rica



**Ms. Susy Parkinson**  
**Receptionist**

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Bachillerato en educación media primer y segundo ciclo completo.
- 14 years experience in customer service



**Ms. Ana Isabel Vieira**  
**Toddler A (Dual Language)**

**Nationality: Colombia**

**Qualifications:**

- Production Engineering, EAFIT University
- MBA, Southern New Hampshire University
- Montessori Teacher, NAMC
- Master of Science in Early Childhood Studies: Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Settings (2nd year), Walden University, Minnesota

As an educator, I believe each young learner is a unique individual who needs a safe and nurturing environment in order to grow emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially. It is my desire to help students reach their full potential in these areas. In this environment, the teacher acts as a facilitator and allows the child`s natural curiosity to direct his/her learning and promotes respect for all things and people.

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**Ms. Maria Zapata**  
**Toddler B (Dual Language)**

**Nationality: Colombia**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of preschool Education UNED Costa Rica (currently completing)
- Diplomado en Educación Preescolar UNED Costa Rica
- English Intermediate B2 UNED/CONARE Costa Rica
- Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje. Antioquia Colombia

I believe that my role as a teacher is to prepare the stage by offering many experiences that stimulate the children's senses, and their natural curiosity. They can develop knowledge by actively manipulating their environment around them. I like to encourage children so that they can develop human relationships as a base and that the children can develop social skills by forming relationships among their peers, this will make them acquire a safe and enjoyable, environment for the learning process of each student. I love providing the children with the tools to achieve and develop a growing confidence in themselves, with values, responsibilities, respect to achieve their full potential.

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**Ms. Gloriana Cortés**  
**Pre-Kinder (Dual Language)**

**Nationality: Costa Rica**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Bilingual Preschool Education at Universidad Latina de Costa Rica
- C1 Level of TOEIC

I believe that children are trying to absorb as much knowledge as they can, so I like to provide a rich environment for them to discover themselves, and give them the tools to deal with whatever they may encounter in their way. I like to take advantage of that need of learning and need of contact, to give them as much as I can to provide their curiosity. I will teach children by experimenting for themselves every new experience, creating a safe place for them to grow and be able to understand what surrounds them. By stimulating them, my goal is to create curious thinkers, and children who lead.



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## **Ms. Ericka Huete Carnero** Kindergarten (Dual Language)

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Arts: Child Development, California State University of Los Angeles
- Professional Clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials, National University
- University Of Phoenix – Took a 17 teaching courses
- Working towards my Masters of Science in Educational Administration with a Preliminary Administrative Credential Services at National University

As an educator, I firmly believe that children have the right to learn in a happy, safe and nurturing environment. This allows students to grow to their full potential. I believe it is my responsibility to guide the students' natural curiosity to become responsible, respectful, curious and knowledgeable individuals.

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## **Ms. Shawna Damon** Grade 1 (Dual Language)

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Massachusetts Initial License in Elementary Education (1-6)
- Massachusetts Initial License in English as a Second Language (ESL) PreK-6
- Sheltered English Instruction Endorsement
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) Certification
- Master of Education in Elementary Education (1-6): Lesley University
- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology: Lehigh University

“Relationships are at the heart of education” -Cummins 1996. As an educator, I am committed to building relationships and establishing partnerships with colleagues, parents, students, and other stakeholders of our students’ achievements. I believe in the power of these relationships, and that when partnered with intentional and explicit instruction all learners will receive the support they need to achieve academic and personal success. My aim is to instruct in authentic ways that are, both, culturally sensitive and academically rigorous, and to also support students as they prepare for a lifetime filled with a love and commitment to learning.

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## **Ms. Kristina Losasso** Grade 2A (Dual Language)

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, York College of Pennsylvania
- Teaching License – New Jersey & Pennsylvania

I believe in creating a positive and fun learning environment in my classroom. I aim to make students feel comfortable and at home when they are with me at school. My hope is to educate the whole child, focusing both on academics and character. I believe every child can learn and thrive when given encouragement and the right tools.



**Ms. Adriana Flores**  
**Grade 2B (Dual Language)**

**Nationality: Costa Rica**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachillerato en Ciencias de la Educación con Énfasis en Educación Especial
- Licenciatura en Educación con Énfasis en Educación Especial

I truly believe that every child has a talent and potential to learn, if they have an advocate who believes in them. I feel passionate about cultural awareness and service learning. I am also a strong believer that every learning experience is an opportunity to develop life skills.

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**Ms. Stephanie Carlile**  
**Grade 3A**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Texas Educator Certificate, Generalist EC-4, Physical Education EC-12
- BS in Criminology Sam Houston State University, Texas
- Blinn College, College Station/Brenham, Texas

Dedicated and student-focused teaching professional who is committed to providing a well-balanced, supportive and engaging learning environment for all students. Aptitude to remain flexible, ensuring that every child's learning style and abilities are addressed. Hardworking and trusted educator who strives to collaborate with all members of the school community to meet the needs of students and promote the philosophy of the school.

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**Ms. Taryn Yorba**  
**Grade 3B**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Arts in Education- University of California at Santa Cruz
- Bachelor of Arts in International Studies- Humboldt State University
- Teaching Credential- California
- English Language Learner Authorization

I am passionate about creating a safe and exciting classroom community. I encourage collaboration and meaningful communication while learning through student-centered exploration and discovery. In my class, I believe that each child can be a mathematician, scientist, writer, artist, problem-solver, and humanitarian. Not only is it important for students to have high expectations academically, but I also believe that my job as an educator is to help students become caring, ethical, and confident members of society. I am committed to creating a supportive, positive, multicultural environment in which learning is accessible to every student.



## Ms. Becky Nerczuk

Grade 4

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Science – Elementary Education, Portland State University
- Master of Education – Curriculum and Instruction, Oregon State University

I came to CRIA this past February to teach 1<sup>st</sup> grade. In college I discovered that working with children inspired me and gave me energy. This led to my decision to become an educator. I believe that children are curious about the world around them and naturally want to learn. It is my role as a teacher to create a classroom that supports this natural desire to learn. The classroom should encourage risk-taking with students asking many questions. I strive to make the learning experiences relevant and engaging so that students will construct knowledge. I believe supportive and caring relationships are key to learning. When students feel safe to explore and make mistakes they will thrive and embrace learning.

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## Ms. Jessie Horcher

Grade 5A

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Science in Elementary & Special Education, Indiana University

As a teacher my mission is to instill a love of learning in students through growing to understand people, cultures, and our world. I value individual diversities each student brings. I believe in educating the whole child by promoting academic, social, and emotional growth. I believe that by developing skills related to collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving, students will be prepared for success in their future.

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## Ms. Molly MacMillan

Grade 5B

Internal Coordinator (MSA)

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- M.S.Ed Urban Education, University of Pennsylvania
- B.A. Spanish Language and Literature, University of Vermont
- B.A. Environmental Studies, University of Vermont
- Teach for America 2010 Corps Member, Greater Philadelphia
- Pennsylvania Instructional Level 2 Teaching Certificates K-6 Elementary, K-12 Spanish, 7-9 Science
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certification - Bridge Education Group

This is my ninth year as a teacher, and my second year at CRIA. I entered the classroom in 2010 as a Teach for America Corps member and I strongly believe that all students have the ability and capacity to succeed, and that high expectations in the classroom lead to improved student outcomes. I believe that a teacher's role is to facilitate both personal growth and cultivate a deep love of learning in their students. Through differentiation, scaffolding, and intentionally infusing joy into the teaching and learning process, it is my goal to create a welcoming, safe, and supportive classroom environment where all students feel valued as people and learners.

# Secondary School - Mathematics

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## **Ms. Tyra Bauer** Mathematics

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Secondary Education – Regis University
- Colorado Professional Teaching License
- Bachelor of Science in Business – Eastern Illinois University
- College Board Advanced Placement Calculus Training

I am a passionate and driven educator with experience teaching both math and business courses for the last nine years at CRIA. Challenging students to look beyond the how and discover the why inspires them to become life-long learners. My teaching style engages students through the use of technology, online videos, discovery learning, graphic organizers, real world applications, projects, and fun activities that reinforce what they learn.

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## **Ms. Ellen Hayman** Mathematics & Science

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- Minnesota Professional Teaching License
- Certificate of Math Education, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul Minnesota
- MBA: University of Rochester, Rochester New York
- Bachelor of Science: Industrial Engineering Pennsylvania State University

I changed careers at the age of 45 from engineering to teaching because my true passion lies in inspiring young students to not only learn mathematics but to be fearless about talking out loud about mathematics. My job is to create a safe environment for students to explore, make mistakes, and prepare for higher mathematics.

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## **Mr. John Zukowski** Mathematics & AP Calculus

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- BA Mathematics with Post Graduate work in French. University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- MAT in Mathematics University of Dallas
- AP training in Calculus and Statistics and AP grader for Calculus
- 40+ years of teaching experience at the Secondary and College level
- Taught in US, Mali, Venezuela, and China

Academics are not just an algorithm of skills to be memorized. I realize that very few of my students will be using the direct skills that are taught in advanced mathematics class ten years later, but each discipline in school should be teaching students to learn using different mindsets. I tell my students that they are in my class to learn to think like a mathematician, that is logically, but that skill alone is incomplete. They must also learn the skills of writing in order to communicate those ideas to others. Technology allows students to explore and research on their own, as well as to reach out to others to share ideas. Furthermore students must learn to think creatively in order to be able to see how these ideas can be applied into areas that other less trained minds cannot go. These are the skills that help create the leaders of the future.

# Secondary School - Science

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**Mr. Logan Marchman**  
Science & AP Environmental Science

**Nationality:** United States

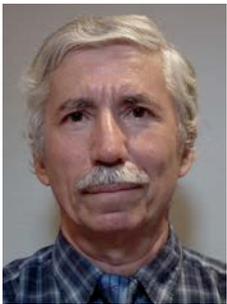
**Qualifications:**

- Bachelors of Combined Geology and Environmental Science from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.
- Texas teaching certificate in 6-12 science.
- Certified in AP environmental science

After the American hurricanes in mid 2017, I decided to turn from finance to service. I was offered a position as a consultant for a FEMA subcontractor. While waiting for training and initial placement, I decided to take a part time substitute teaching position at Krum ISD. To my surprise I loved the work. After receiving encouragement from the faculty and requests from several students to consider teaching science full time, I changed professions. I bring to teaching a love of science and the ability to create enthusiasm for the subject in even the most jaded of students.

My credo is to do whatever it takes to inspire ambition in those I teach, to show them that they have the ability to understand the principles of the world we live in, and that they can build the skills required to thrive in it. Extracurricular activities are a very important part of education, and I will participate. Currently I am the coach for Model United Nations and sponsor the student government.

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**Mr. Paul Lungu**  
Science

**Nationality:** Canada

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Science, Major: Physics, Minor: Mathematics and Chemistry
- Bachelor of Education from University of Bucharest

In the last twenty years I have taught a variety of math and science subjects in Europe and Americas, in private and public schools at middle, and high schools levels. I have also worked for several years as a research scientist in the field of optics, spectroscopy, optoelectronics and computer hardware. As a teacher, I seek to bring out the best of my students and to help them become critical thinkers and independent learners.



# Secondary School – English Language Arts

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**Mr. Chris Crabtree**  
English

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- B.A. World Religions, Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana, USA
- M.A. Educational Leadership, Framingham State University, Framingham, Massachusetts, USA

I have a passion for reading and writing. My students will recognize that baseline fact immediately. I love the *Classics* and my challenge is to teach them in a fresh and meaningful way. I love to discuss critical issues with young people, to listen to their opinions, and to challenge them. My classroom is a safe place where asking the right questions is every bit as important as finding the right answers.

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**Mr. Ben Clark**  
English  
Internal Coordinator (MSA)

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- BA in English Literature, The University of the South-Sewanee, TN
- MA of Secondary Education, Framingham State College, Framingham, MA
- Oklahoma Teacher Certification

In my twenty four years as an overseas educator, I have developed a philosophy that aligns rigorous standards of academic achievement with a passion for learning in a diverse multicultural setting. I strive to create an environment of respect, inclusion, and diversity, utilizing expeditionary learning and global perspectives.

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**Ms. Lori Rill**  
English & History

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Masters of Arts in Teaching, Pacific University
- Bachelor of Arts, Gonzaga University
- Post Graduate Certificate in TESOL, Seattle University

The most important role as an educator is to equip the young minds of today to be responsible global citizens, critical thinkers, and life-long learners. This is achieved by equipping students with the tools to solve problems, work collaboratively and communicate effectively. In order to do this, I design and differentiate instruction, so each student learns and works toward this goal. In addition, I strive to model, practice, and encourage a growth mindset environment in which every child feels listened to, encouraged, and motivated to be their best self.

# Secondary School – History

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## Mr. Blake Ramsey History & Business

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelors of Science, Interdisciplinary Studies, Texas State University – San Marcos
- Generalist EC-4, Generalist 4-8, Physical Education EC-12, Health EC-12, and Social Studies Composite 8-12

I believe in creating a positive and safe learning environment where students can transform into responsible and respectful citizens who value life-long learning. The best way to achieve this type of environment is through mutual respect, a positive attitude, and high expectations. It is important for teachers, parents, and students to collaborate with one another in order to create a positive learning environment to ensure that everyone grows and improves. I also believe that we are responsible for our actions and we are in control of our outcomes. Life is not about what happens to us, but how we respond to events that take place in our lives.

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## Mr. Bradley White History

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelors of Science, Secondary Education- Teaching and Coaching, Mississippi State University
- Master of Education, Teaching and Coaching, Mississippi State University
- Education Specialist, Educational Leadership, Arkansas State University

For me, experience has been most helpful with developing my educational philosophy. I have been teaching and coaching for 13 years. My educational philosophy consists of three important components. First, school safety is the most important. Secondly, I believe promoting student growth is crucial. I believe all students are capable of learning. Although Individuals may not learn at the same rate, we as educators should use different strategies to accommodate everyone. Finally, yet importantly, I think every educator should demonstrate positive attitude and positive energy every day.

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# Spanish Language Arts

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## Mr. Osvaldo González

### Spanish 4

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Arts in Latin American and Caribbean Studies – University of Guelph, Canada
- Bachelor of Spanish Philology (Linguistics and Literature) – University of Costa Rica
- Fulbright Scholar – Castleton University, Vermont, USA
- Certified Examiner of DELE (Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera / Spanish as a Foreign Language Diploma) – Accredited by Instituto Cervantes, Spain

I am privileged to have spent the last 17 years doing exactly what I love most, teaching Spanish. During this time I have taught students of all levels and ages in Costa Rica, Canada and the United States. I am thrilled to join CRIA's team, where my teaching philosophy aligns with CRIA's, making learning "engaging, challenging, relevant and fun." What students learn inside my classroom should be immediately applicable beyond the class in their real life situations. Leadership, compassion and academic excellence are values I aim to instill and cultivate in all my students.

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## Ms. Neida Escalera

### Spanish 3

**Nationality:** Bolivia

**Qualifications:**

- Católica Boliviana Educación Inicial, Bachillerato
- Licenciatura en la Normal Enrique Finot

Tengo más de 25 años de experiencia como educadora, los últimos años he trabajado como maestra de español en segunda lengua son: Country Day School Guanacaste (5 años), La Paz Community School (8 años) y actualmente este será mi segundo año enseñando en CRIA. Mi filosofía es que los niños puedan aprender a través de experiencias vivenciales, donde no sólo obtengan conocimiento sino desarrollen valores y se diviertan aprendiendo.

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## Ms. Andrea Esquivel

### Spanish 2, 4, AP Spanish, and Mathematics

#### Spanish Coordinator

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Diploma in Preschool Universidad Estatal a Distancia
- BA. Primary English Education major at the Universidad Estatal a Distancia.
- Licenciatura en docencia (in progress) Universidad Estatal a Distancia

I have been teaching for 10 years at CRIA. I am a teacher with experience working with students of different ages, for early years to high school. I encourage my students to learn Spanish in multiple ways and to recognize that learning a new language is very beneficial for their lives. I want my students to be inspired and able to apply everything they learn in class in their daily lives. My goal is to be a bridge between my students and a new world full of opportunities. Constantly I am impressed by what students can achieve. They prove to themselves that they are capable of speaking a second or even a third language. In my class my students will learn in a fun and challenging environment that promotes commitment and success.



## Ms. Flory Meins

### Spanish 1, 2, & Library Coordinator

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor degree in Psychology, Colegio Monterrey, Costa Rica
- Bachelor of Education. El Camino College, California

My educational philosophy is to guide the students, providing access to information rather than acting as the primary source of information. I believe that students are unique in their own way, and each one of them brings something special to the world. My goal is to motivate the students and create an environment that encourages learning Spanish through many different mediums. I want my students to be inspired and motivated to learn and, furthermore, I want them to be able to apply everything they learn to their everyday lives. My role as the teacher is to help them to meet their full potential, providing a stimulating, respectful and safe atmosphere.



## Ms. Cindy Otárola

### Spanish 1 & 2

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- BA. Primary English Education major at the University of Costa Rica.
- Licenciatura en Lengua Inglesa. University of Costa Rica. (en curso)
- Lic. Primary English Education major at the Universidad Estatal a Distancia.

I am a teacher with experience working with students of different ages, for early years to young adults and adults. In the development of my classes, I believe that students should be given the opportunity to develop their academic and personal skills that can be used lifelong. As part of my job, I like to provide the students an environment in which the process of learning for the students is fun and interesting, where they can build their knowledge and at the same time have the opportunity to exchange life experiences, opinions, ideas, among others. I encourage them to be active participants in the teaching-learning process. What I like about being a teacher is that in my job I am constantly learning and growing every day.



# Specialists

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## Mr. Andrés Fernández

### Music

**Nationality:** Cuba

**Qualifications:**

- Bachillerato en Jazz, Conservatorio Real de Antwerpen –Bélgica
- Licenciatura en música y profesor de trombón, Instituto Superior de Artes La Habana-Cuba
- Licenciatura en música en el perfil de trombón, Universidad de Costa Rica

I am a professional musician with 15 years of work experience in different stages of the world and music academies in Cuba, Europe and Costa Rica. Music is the best language I can speak and transmit my knowledge to the new generation is part of my life. I love my profession and being able to interact with different cultures responds to my main objective as an educator, to bring students to the wonderful world of the international language of music.

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## Ms. Rosalind Fussell

### Art

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- BA Northwestern University, degree in Anthropology and French
- AA Pratt Institute, degree in graphic design
- MA Lesley University in Creative Arts and Education
- Sequential Artists' Workshop- year-long program, Gainesville FL
- Academia Latinamerica de Cuzco, Perú, nivel avanzado de castellano, con estudios en cultura andígena

My approach to teaching art is to integrate students' interests into classroom study, (whenever convenient and possible) that is interdisciplinary and content rich. My lessons use studio art in the context of art history, aesthetics and criticism. By respecting different learning styles, I hope to create a safe space in which creativity and innovation can flourish for each individual and for the group. My goal is to generate student confidence, excitement and pride in creating art that may extend beyond the classroom and connect the school community to larger community service. Porque he disfrutado estudiando español en países donde he vivido y en los que he viajado, agradezco la oportunidad de continuar la tradición de enseñar arte en castellano en mis clases a CRIA.

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## Ms. Isabella Juarez

### Art & CRSS

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Bachillerato de Educación Media Completo, Colegio Técnico Profesional de Santa Cruz
- Diplomado Educación Preescolar, UNED
- Bachillerato en Educación Preescolar (en curso)
- Diploma en EF English Live (en curso)

Soy un un profesional dispuesto a aprender e intercambiar conocimientos. Soy una persona responsable, creativa, dinámica y proactiva. Mi objetivo principal es educar a los estudiantes con valores y principios. Mi filosofía de enseñanza es proporcionar a los estudiantes un ambiente divertido, seguro y agradable donde pueden expresarse. Será un entorno de aprendizaje dinámico y participativo en el que mi objetivo es desarrollar conocimientos y habilidades.

En Arte el objetivo es que el estudiante explore y exprese sus habilidades artísticas y creativas por medio diferentes técnicas como el dibujo, la pintura, la escultura y las artes decorativas. El arte es una forma de conocimiento intuitivo que expresa emociones, sentimientos y estados de ánimo de cada persona.



## Mr. Diego Matarrita

### Physical Education

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Bachiller en Educación Física. Universidad Autónoma de Centroamérica.
- Licenciatura en Educación Física, Universidad Autónoma de Centroamérica.

Mi experiencia laboral ha sido con estudiantes de edades tempranas: materno, pre kínder, kínder, primaria, así como también secundaria. Mis clases están basadas en los fundamentos de los diferentes movimientos y habilidades motoras que se desarrollan día a día. El propósito de mis clases es ayudar al desenvolvimiento motor para que los estudiantes puedan ejecutar de la mejor forma los movimientos a futuro.

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## Ms. Yulia Murmanskaya

### Physical Education

**Nationality:** Russia

**Qualifications:**

- Maestría del Deporte de Rusia
- Licenciatura en Educación Física y los Deportes Acuáticos, Universidad de Estado de Sant-Peterburgo de la cultura física de P.F. Lesgafit, Rusia

Tengo más de 14 años de experiencia como entrenadora y profesora. He trabajado con niños de todas las edades desde materno hasta nivel colegial. Los últimos 9 años he estado trabajando en Costa Rica. Mi filosofía en educación de los niños se basa en el fortalecimiento físico de ellos para que sean personas más activas en su vida cotidiana.

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## Ms. Chelsea Ortega

### Physical Education and Health

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- High School Diploma: Colegio Seminario, San Jose, Costa Rica
- Baccalaureate in Physical Education UACA.
- Diploma in Portuguese language “Fundação de cultura, difusão e estudos brasileiros”

First, I feel very grateful to be able to work in a school like CRIA for the second year. I have been teaching competitive artistic gymnastics in Costa Rica for 4 years. I am very passionate about my work, and I know that having a career that I enjoy makes me a better educator. I am looking forward to teaching Physical Education, and to providing opportunities for children to develop and improve their fine and gross motor skills, through an engaging and fun program here at CRIA. My philosophy in education is to create a healthy and fun environment for children, where they discover their abilities and their athletic strengths, as well learn how to be physically and mentally healthy.



## Mr. Mark Nerczuck

### K-12 Learning Support & STEM

**Nationality:** Poland

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Science in Education, Portland State University, Oregon
- Master of Science in Special Education, Portland State University, Oregon
- School Administration Endorsement, Lewis and Clark College, Oregon
- ESL Endorsement, Portland State University, Oregon
- Spanish Language Endorsement, Portland State University, Oregon

For the last 30 years I have been teaching students in many different settings and in all grade levels. I worked with students in Oregon, an Eskimo village in the Alaskan Arctic, and on the tropical island of Guam. Last year, together with my wife, we set out to see the world and traveled extensively in Europe, India, and Thailand.

I believe that all students have potential to learn. As a teacher my goal is to help the students maximize that potential and provide a safe and enjoyable environment. I strive for all my students become lifelong learners and citizens of the world.

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## Ms. Rachel Davis

### Counseling

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Education: Counseling and Guidance - Point Loma Nazarene University CA, USA
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology - Georgia College and State University GA, USA
- Pupil Personnel Services Credential: School Counseling - California

I believe in educating the whole child. As a school counselor, it is my mission to ensure that each student receives the social and emotional support needed so they can thrive academically. I implement a proactive and preventive comprehensive school counseling program with a three-tiered response to intervention system. Through classroom guidance lessons, small group counseling, and individual counseling I aim to meet the social-emotional learning needs of each student.

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## Ms. Mariela López

### K-5 ELL Support

**Nationality:** Nicaragua

**Qualifications:**

- Bachillerato en Enseñanza de Inglés, en la Universidad Latina de Costa Rica
- Licenciatura en Enseñanza de Inglés, en la Universidad Latina de Costa Rica

The time I have to work in CRIA, has been very helpful I have not stopped learning and sharing my knowledge. My philosophy as a teacher is to let your students teach you, so you know how they think and you will be more successful in your classes, get the best out of them, reinforce their weaknesses and take advantage of their strengths as students, teach them that they will never stop learning in this life and always find the positive of a bad experience and believe in my students.