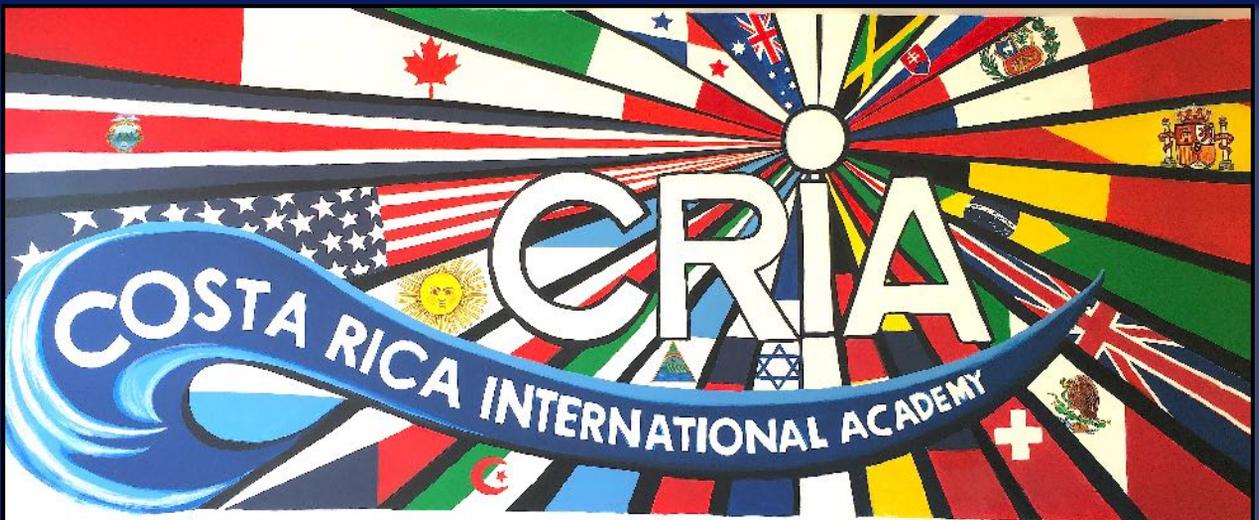




2020-2021

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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**Ms. Lois Maré**  
Director & College Counselor

**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 Int'l School Leadership – The Principals' Training Center
- College Counseling in the International School – The Counseling Center

As an international school educator for the past 28 years, I have had the opportunity to learn from a diverse group of fellow educators, as well as students from across the world. I believe that CRIA's mission, vision and guiding statements, as well as our highly qualified, dedicated and skilled teachers provide a world-class educational experience for the future leaders of our world. As a school, we must provide opportunities for students to take risk in a safe environment, we must hold our students to high, yet realistic expectations, and we must continually seek ways to improve student learning. I look forward to another fun, engaging and productive year at CRIA!



**Dr. Lynn Pikero**  
School Principal

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- Ph. D-Educational Leadership- University of Nevada, Reno
- Ed. S. Administrative License-State of Nevada
- Master of Arts-Education-University of Phoenix, Reno, NV
- Bachelor of Arts-English-University of Connecticut, Storrs, Ct
- K-8 Teaching Certification all subjects; 9-12 English
- Certificate-Online Teaching

I have been an educator for almost 20 years, the last 13 as an educational administrator. I have a wide range of experience, including IB/AP, college preparatory, at-risk, and even as a K-12<sup>th</sup> grade principal of a school located within a children's psychiatric hospital. These varied experiences have greatly enhanced my educational and leadership skills by reinforcing the importance of a friendly, safe, school environment where staff, students, and parents feel comfortable interacting for the betterment of student learning and well-being. It is my educational philosophy that every child is capable of learning, given the right combination of effort, leadership, teaching strategies, and support. I am looking forward to a great school year!



**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**  
**Business 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 (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. Gloriana Cortés**  
**Pre-Kinder / Kindergarten (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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**Mariela López**  
**Grade 1 (Dual Language)**

**Nationality:**

**Qualifications:**

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

Now in my third year at CRIA, I have not stopped learning how to be a better teacher for the students in my care. My philosophy as a teacher is to let my students teach me, so that I know how they are thinking. This way, I get the best out of them, mitigate their weaknesses and take advantage of their strengths as students. As a teacher, I model to my students that they will never stop learning in this life and to always find the positive of a bad experience.



**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.

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**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 Crain**  
**Grade 3**

**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.



## **Ms. Jessie Horcher**

**Grade 4A**

**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. Taryn Yorba**

**Grade 4B**

**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.

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## **Ms. Molly MacMillan**

**Grade 5**

**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

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. Enoch Thweatt** Mathematics

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Arts, 1985, from Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas, with a major in Mathematics and a Minor in Physical Education
- 36 hours, from Southwest Community College, Memphis, Tennessee in Computer Science
- 140+ hours of APSI training in AP Statistics and AP Calculus
- MAT in Mathematics, 2011, from Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

With access to information literally at our fingertips, the sky truly is the limit for our students. My goal is for students to become lifelong learners. I strive to build a classroom environment centered on mutual respect and trust between student and teacher and student to student. Students will work individually as well as in collaborative groups; they will become fluent with technology and with traditional methods of computation, problem solving and communication; and they will be prepared for what follows in college and future careers.

# Secondary School - Science

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**Mr. Logan Marchman**  
Science & Math

**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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**Ms. Laurie Cale**  
High School Science

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Science – Science Education, University of Arizona, Tucson
- Bachelor of Science, Edgewood College, Madison, WI
- National Board Certification – Science educator



# Secondary School – English Language Arts

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## Mr. Chris Crabtree English & Geography

**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

**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 five 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 Psychology, Health & Science

**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 14 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 & CRSS

**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 18 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. Cindy Otárola

### Spanish & CRSS

**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 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.

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## Ms. Andrea Esquivel

### Spanish, CRSS & FARO Prep

#### 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 11 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.



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**Ms. Flory Meins**  
**Spanish, CRSS & 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.

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## 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 16 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 transmitting my knowledge to the new generation is part of my life. I love my profession and being able to interact with different cultures. My main objective as an educator is to bring students to the wonderful world of the international language of music.

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**Ms. Ashton Keck**  
**K-12 Learning Support, ELL, Guidance**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Master in Educational Psychology, Ball State University
- Bachelor in K-12 Special Education, Black Hills State University, SD
- South Dakota State Teaching Certification
- Teacher of English as Foreign Language Certification

I believe that all children will flourish when provided a safe, nurturing environment with a teacher who can guide them to discover their strengths. As a teacher, I emphasize getting to know my students and what makes them unique. Once I truly know the child, I work to structure educational experiences that meet their strengths and needs by emphasizing their individual learning styles and interests. Finally, I hold my students responsible to fully comprehending that they are an important contribution to our world. I foster learning that is meaningful to the students in a way that they can connect, and begin to see how they can solve real world problems. I hold students accountable to the belief that they are never too young, or it is never too late, to help change the world.



**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. Lesgaft, Rusia

Tengo más de 15 años de experiencia como entrenadora y profesora. He trabajado con niños de todos 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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**To Be Determined**  
**Visual Arts**