



2022-2023

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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**Dr. Lynn Pikero**  
School Director

**Nationality:** USA

**Qualifications:**

- Ph. D-Educational Leadership-University of Nevada, Reno
- Educational Administrative Licensure-University of Nevada, Reno
- MA.Ed-University of Phoenix
- BA in English-University of Connecticut
- Virtual Teacher Specialization, University of California, Irvine

My first year as the Director was filled with discovery, challenges, last minute policy changes (covid), and very busy days! Throughout it all I feel blessed to be at CRIA. The varied and unpredictable experiences of my career 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!



**Mr. Adam Vetrano**  
School Principal

**Nationality:** USA

**Qualifications:**

- PGCE: School Management & Leadership - Harvard University (Cambridge, MA, USA)
- MA Degree: Education - Fairfield University (Fairfield, CT, USA)
- BS Degree: History - Sacred Heart University (Fairfield, CT, USA)
- Licensed Educator - CT State of Board of Education (Hartford, CT, USA)

A School Campus Setting lives and breathes its core values in all that is done, seen, and heard. Developing respect and empathy amongst students equates to a more vibrant environment with compelling discussions and minimal peer conflict. This is accomplished in part by building relationships between the groups within our Learning Community (Admin, Faculty, Students, Parents, etc.). Community goals define attitudes and the practices needed to reach those goals.



## **Ms. Lois Maré**

**Admissions 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



## **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 Administración 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. 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)



**Mr. Jose Elias**  
Technology Manager

Nationality: Costa Rica



**Ms. Susy Parkinson**  
Receptionist

Nationality: Costa Rica





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

**Nationality: Colombia**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Preschool Education UNED Costa Rica
- Diplomado en Educación Preescolar UNED 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 fomenting 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-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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**Ms. Ana Isabel Vieira**  
**Kindergarten B (Dual Language)**

**Nationality: Colombia / Costa Rica**

**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, 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.



**Ericka Huete**  
Grade KG A (Dual Language)

**Nationality:** United States / Nicaragua

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Arts: Major; Child Development - Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential. California State University of Los Angeles
- Master of Science in Educational Administration with a Preliminary Administrative Credential Services at National University (in progress)

As an educator, I believe the possibilities are endless when your students feel safe, happy, excited, and nurtured in their learning environment. I believe this helps them grow to their full potential and it is my responsibility to guide student's natural curiosity to become responsible, respectful, curious, and knowledgeable individuals, as well as future leaders of the world.

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**Ms. Luisa Guzman**  
Grade 1A (Dual Language)

**Nationality:** Colombia

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Arts in TESOL, University of Southern California
- Bachelor of Arts in Hispanic Languages and Literature with a concentration in foreign language education, Stony Brook University
- New York State teacher certification in Spanish, K - 12th-grade

I firmly believe in every child's innate ability to learn. It is of utmost importance for a student to feel loved, valued, and accepted into their classroom community. Social-emotional wellbeing and differentiation stand at the forefront of instruction and learning. An educator can achieve a delicate balance in this duality by fostering kindness, equality, and safety. Teach with rigor but let the heart be the compass that facilitates learning that inspires and empowers students to reach their highest potential.

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**Ms. Karolinn Venegas**  
Grade 1B (Dual Language)

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Bilingual Education, Universidad Latina de Costa Rica
- Bachelor of Primary Education in Advanced Studies, Universidad de San Jose

I love my job because I think education is make a difference in students lives by nurturing their growth keeping them excited about learning.

I am so excited to teach first grade this year at CRIA. We are going to have a lot of fun, and we will learn a lot!!!! This is going to be an amazing year!



**Ms. Marissa Henkel**  
**Grade 2A (Dual Language)**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of English Literature, Kenyon College
- Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)
- International Teacher Certificate, European Council of International Schools
- MEd Advanced Teaching, University of the People (in progress)

I believe that learning is a social endeavor, therefore, I work to establish a positive classroom environment in which all students feel a sense of belonging, treat each other with respect, and collaborate to learn with and from each other. I design lessons for students to learn through hands-on experiences and practice skills in an engaging and fun way. The use of learning centers in my classes allows for me to tailor my instruction for different students so that I can effectively meet the needs of every child.

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**Ms. Marisol Calderon Santacoloma**  
**Grade 2B (Dual Language)**

**Nationality: United States & Costa Rica**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor in Bilingual Preschool Ed, Universidad Latina de Costa Rica
- Professional Teaching Licenses, K-12th from Colorado, Arizona, Florida
- Master of Arts in Educational Equity and Cultural Diversity with TESOL Endorsement, University of Colorado Boulder

Education is a celebration of all the gifts we as individuals bring forth to share. My educational philosophy actively engages connection, transparency, and servitude, all grounded in improving the lives of lifelong learners. By putting our students first, I am able to provide meaningful lessons that are carefully designed to meet each student's individual needs. Innovative instructional and leadership practices help me empower others to reach their goals in ways that are holistic and fun. By building strong and positive relationships with members of the entire learning community, I strive for equity and understanding. My core values help propel my passion for the vast world of education and ground me in always doing what is best for our learners. I look forward to my time at CRIA!

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**Ms. Stephanie Crain**  
**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.



## **Mrs. Alisha Parmerlee**

### **Grade 3B**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Iowa Professional Teaching License K-6
- Bachelors - K-12 English as a Second Language
- K-12 reading endorsement
- Masters as a Reading Specialist from Viterbo University

Highly experienced ESOL and classroom teacher with skills in all grade levels. I possess thirteen years of experience using engaging techniques, allowing learning for all students. In my classroom, students use a hands-on learning approach, and total physical responses making differentiated learning accessible.

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## **Ms. Steffi Retin**

### **Grade 4A**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Education: Curriculum- University Of California - Los Angeles - Los Angeles, CA
- Bachelor of Science: Elementary Education- The Ohio State University - Columbus, OH

My driving belief is that every child can learn and has the potential to succeed. It is my role to install the powerful notion that mistakes make us even better learners which means the process is just as important as the product. In a supportive, healthy and safe environment children learn best. That environment includes a collaboration amongst the teacher, student, and parent. With mutual respect the emotional well being will be strengthened, and academic success will equally grow.

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## **Mrs. Heather Anderson**

### **Grade 4B**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, Upper Iowa University.
- Master of Arts in Education and Educational Leadership, Viterbo U.
- Iowa PK-12 Principalship -Supervisor of Special Education, Viterbo U.
- State of Iowa, Master Educator License.

I am very excited to be teaching at CRIA this fall. I believe it is important to educate the whole child. I strive to create a stimulating learning environment within my classroom that encourages curiosity, and risk-taking that builds confidence and the acceptance of all. My classroom is an environment that encourages students to be actively engaged in meaningful hands-on learning experiences. I foster a safe, inviting learning environment, and strive to encourage, nurture, and guide my students in meeting the challenges of everyday life. Experience has taught me the importance of developing and cultivating a strong community that includes teachers, students, and parents. Students come first and my goal is to assist with helping them to reach their fullest potential.



## Ms. Susi Muñoz

Grade 5A

**Nationality:** Costa Rica & Italy

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Elementary Education with ESOL Endorsement at Florida International University
- Master in Curriculum and Instruction for Bilingual Studies at University of Florida

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Values in education are our world's foundation. I believe that young students must be taught not only the academics, but also the precious life-principles that make an ethical human being. My philosophy of teaching aims at developing wholesome students with academic proficiencies, but also morals and values that will foster global citizens to empower a generation. Creating dynamic lessons that trigger students' engagement is my constant goal. Coming from a multicultural background myself, I encourage student diversity while following the motto "where there's motivation, there's learning."



## Mr. Marcell Bellfield

Grade 5A

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelors Degree in Philosophy | University of Texas at San Antonio
- Masters Degree in Business Administration | University of Arizona Global Campus
- Upper Elementary and Middle School Generalist (4-8) | Texas, USA

Young minds have the opportunity to develop and blossom an unlimited range of comprehension through the platform of education. As an educator, I aim to use the experiences I've obtained from my work in multiple countries in providing a bridge towards critical thinking through genuine forms of communication, creative independence, and diversified learning. As I've taught all grade levels and core subjects, I have found that by establishing captivating realistic challenges for learners, their academic journey remains enhanced, evolving their effectiveness as thinkers from the classroom to real world scenarios.

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We  Our Teachers

# Secondary Teachers

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**Ms. Tracy Mallozzi**  
**MS & HS Social Studies**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Masters of Education in Educational Leadership, Keene State College, NH
- Bachelors of Science in Education with a dual Major in History, Minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Keene State College, NH
- Colorado State Teaching Certificate in Secondary Social Studies
- Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)

My teaching pedagogy has always been to make education fun, through hands-on, authentic and relevant lessons, to help students find the joy in learning. I believe in cross-curricular activities and project-based learning to provoke critical thinking and communication skills. My goal is to create a classroom culture of respect for one another, while providing a lens into the world through different perspectives. Fostering trust within my students to provide emotional and academic support is one of my main objectives. I believe that I am a student of life learning from the world around me, and I hope to encourage young minds to find that same curiosity.



**Mr. Blake Ramsey**  
**HS Social Studies & 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.



**Mr. Bradley White**  
**MS Social Studies & Psychology**

**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

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.



**Ms. Jena Mikkelborg**  
**MS Mathematics & Science**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Arts in Teaching, Willamette University
- Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, Minors in Spanish and Business, Linfield College
- Oregon Professional Teaching License

After many years of teaching middle school, I wholeheartedly believe that the relationships I build with my students are the foundation to their success in the classroom. Positive student-teacher relationships involve trust, support, flexibility, and accountability. I believe that students are more likely to rise to high expectations if they feel connected to their teacher, peers, and academic content. My goal is to create a respectful environment where every person has value and I want my classroom to be a place that students look forward to being in.

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**Mr. Wesley Brown**  
**MS & HS Mathematics & Science**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Minor in Applied Behavior Analysis, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- Colorado State Teaching Certificate in Secondary Science

My experience over the past 5 years teaching have helped shape my outlook on education. I aim to foster inquiry through thought provoking and modern world events that directly relate to math and the Sciences. I believe that creating equal access and opportunity for each student is the most important outcome. My classroom philosophy centers on relatability, open communication, respect and a curiosity for the world around us.

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**Ms. Jasmine Wornstaff**  
**HS Mathematics**

**Nationality: United States & Canada**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, Minor in Education, University of Florida
- Master of Educational Technology & AZ Teaching Certification (in progress), Moreland University

As a graduate of CRIA, I am very excited to embrace the art and science of teaching mathematics at my alma mater. I believe it is essential to build rapport with my students, affording benefits to both students and teacher such as increased motivation, communication and learning outcomes. I utilize a variety of teaching strategies to engage students in the learning process. I will challenge and support students to interpret, analyze and apply mathematical concepts. I believe students must have opportunities to practice a Growth Mindset and take on challenges and learn from them, therefore increasing their achievement and enjoyment of the learning process.



**Mr. Federico Robledo**  
**HS Math & Physics**

**Nationality: Mexico**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor in Special Education From Escuela Normal de Especialización Humberto Ramos Lozano (México)
- Masters of Sciences from State University of New York at Buffalo (USA)
- Bachelor in Environmental Engineering from Universidad de Nueva Extremadura (México)

Blessings, I'm very excited about being part of the CRIA community. Albert Einstein once said "a person who has never made a mistake, has never tried anything new" as a Science and Math teacher I encourage students to make mistakes and learn from them, and because of my background in special education I always try to provide differentiated learning strategies and evaluations to better help my students understand new concepts and demonstrate mastery of them.

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**Mr. Jason Parmerlee**  
**MS & HS Science**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education, Faith Baptist Bible College-Ankeny, IA
- Iowa Professional Teaching License
- K-8 Math and Science Endorsements, University of Northern Iowa-Cedar Falls, IA

As an educator for the past ten years, it has been my aim to create a student-centered learning environment where students feel safe to take risks. This is fostered through collaboration, problem-solving opportunities, and authentic learning experiences. It is my personal goal to see learning "come to life" as we connect daily academic engagement to real-world applications.

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**Ms. Alexandra Mols**  
**MS & HS Science**

**Nationality: Germany**

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Science, RWTH Aachen University, Germany
- PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education), University of South Africa
- TEFL Qualification (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), Bridge Linguistics and Cambridge, England

I am passionate about Science and Education and bring a positive and inspirational attitude into the classroom. In this way I encourage my learners to believe in themselves and set high expectations for their personal and academic development. Creating a safe and comfortable classroom environment is vital for an atmosphere in which effective learning can take place.

My classrooms are spaces for exploration and discovery. I favor practical lessons where learners get hands-on experience of the topics we discuss. Students learn best when they are actively engaged in their learning and the experiences are meaningful to their lives. Through my lesson strategies, learners develop the skills to be problem solvers and effective communicators and to become inquisitive, thoughtful members of a complex and dynamic global community.



## **Mr. Chris Crabtree**

### **MS & HS 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 foster a passion for reading and writing, and CRIA students will recognize this on day one. Together we will learn to analyze and react to complicated literature verbally and in writing. We will study and practice proper grammar and punctuation, recognize and use rhetorical devices, and enhance our research skills. Many challenging matters get wrapped inside a literary work: history, geography, social commentary, philosophy, theory, power, conflict, emotion, and so much more. The journey from page one through the end of a novel may feel daunting, but we can accomplish great things with patience, effort, and open minds.

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## **Mr. Joseph Brunetti**

### **MS & HS English**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- B.A. English, The Pennsylvania State University
- M.F.A. Creative Writing, San Diego State University
- Certifications: Secondary English (6-12), Reading (K-12), ESOL (K-12), Social Sciences (6-12)

I take pride in the fact that my students leave my classroom with better communication skills – reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Through my extensive experience in teaching, I have developed an educational philosophy that harnesses a student’s inherent curiosity and love of learning. One key to this concept is to bring an energy and excitement to the learning environment each day. Only by engaging students will they truly achieve all that they can.

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## **Mr. Jeremy Rasik**

### **MS & HS English**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- B.A. English / Creative Writing, Florida State University
- North Carolina Secondary Teaching Licensure

I believe an educator's role is to encourage and guide learning not primarily through direct instruction but by creating learners who are equally able and interested in pursuing their own learning. My teaching style reflects this philosophy and centers around providing students with the necessary tools to become capable exploratory, autonomous learners. As a student of literature, I have learned that it is not the book itself that changes us but our experience of it and its reflection in our lives that has the true impact.

# Spanish Language Arts

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## Mr. Osvaldo González

### Spanish

**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

**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 & FARO

#### 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.



## Ms. Raquel Zumbado

Spanish, CRSS

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor in English teaching as a second language at Universidad Latina de Costa Rica
- Teaching Licensure, Universidad Latina

I am passionate about teaching and the opportunity to enrich the learning process of each student everyday. I believe faithfully in the potential of each child and that he/she will make a positive difference for the future.



## Ms. Neida Escalera

Spanish

**Nationality:** Bolivia

**Qualifications:**

- Católica Boliviana: Educación Inicial, Bachillerato
- Licenciatura: Normal Enrique Finot

Tengo alrededor de 30 años de experiencia como educadora. 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 dentro de un entorno positivo, respetuoso y que logren alcanzar sus metas y expectativas, mediante las herramientas necesarias para la adquisición de un nuevo idioma.



# Specialists

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## Mr. Pedro Golobios

Music

Nationality: Costa Rica

Qualifications:

As a Professor of Music, Composer and Songwriter of Guanacasteca music, director of Grupo Santa Esperanza for more than 15 years in cultural festivals, winner of the award (Medardo Guido Acevedo) by the Ministry of Culture of Costa Rica, with more than 8 years of experience in the induction and teaching of music for children, I am excited to create and design a music program at CRIA. Music is inclusive and playful, for all ages, and should break ideological, cultural and social barriers to understand a single language ... Music

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## Ms. Lisa Jindrich

K-12 ELL

Nationality: United States

Qualifications:

M.A. Secondary Education: University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI

B.A. Multicultural Education: College of Santa Fe, New Mexico

B.A. Journalism: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Every child wants to learn, and every child can learn when their intellectual and personal needs are met. To that end, my goal is to provide an environment that nurtures each student's intellectual, physical, and emotional well-being. By doing so, students can focus on academic learning and their relationship with themselves and others. My instructional areas of focus are oral language development and literacy. They are also my passion.

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## Ms. Daniela Porras

Spanish & Learning Support

Nationality: Costa Rica

Qualifications:

- Bachillerato of Special Education, Catholic University of Costa Rica
- Licenciatura in Oral and Written Language Therapy, University of Costa Rica
- Early Stimulation Technician, Catholic University of Costa Rica
- Workshop Language communication skills in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Down Syndrome.

My adventure in teaching began 10 years ago, I have experience as a Spanish Elementary Teacher, Special Education Teacher and Language Therapist. For me teaching is an art, an opportunity to share and learn together with children is something that satisfies me, makes me proud and enriches my teaching professional development work.



## **Mrs. Lynne Solarz**

### **K-12 Learning Support**

**Nationality: United States**

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Science from University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh; Broad field social studies, history, education
- Master of Science from Northeastern Illinois University - Chicago, IL - Special Education

I am very excited to begin my first year at CRIA. As a special education teacher, I believe every child is capable of learning to their fullest potential. It is a matter of finding their strengths and using them to support and build their capabilities. Implementing different modalities to ensure learning is not only good teaching for a student with learning challenges; it is good teaching for all students. Scaffolding, chunking assignments, as well as other teaching techniques, can promote students to understand their own modes of learning. This, in turn, will help them to become more independent learners.

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## **Ms. Daniela Rojas**

### **School Guidance**

**Nationality: Venezuelan**

**Qualifications:**

- Licensed Psychologist from Universidad de Costa Rica - Costa Rica
- Licensed Clinical Psychologist from Universidad Arturo Michelena - Venezuela

This is my second year at CRIA and I'm so excited to be back. Every feeling and thought is part of the learning process, because learning is part of life and life is full of emotions. I feel happy and grateful for being a support and a safe person to every CRIA student and family.

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## **Ms. Bethany Fisher**

### **School Guidance**

**Nationality: British**

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Science in Development, Disorders, and Clinical Practice, University of York, UK
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology, University of Liverpool

Everyone can achieve their full potential. The traditional style of teaching is not effective for everyone. Everyone has a different, personal style of learning and this is what we need to discover! Playing to our strengths, interests and using techniques and methods are essential steps in this process. I am excited to be starting at CRIA and to be able to help and watch children grow emotionally, socially and academically. Learning is all about growth.



**Ms. Sharon Dinarte**  
**Health & Physical Education**

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Bachillerato In English Teaching, Universidad Latina de Costa Rica
- Licenciatura In English Teaching, Universidad Latina de Costa Rica

I believe that every student is a different world and our main goal as teachers is to get to know them and get the most out of each one of them. Therefore, I consider that to achieve good teaching or a good intervention plan, we must adapt the evaluation to the needs and abilities of our students; from the knowledge of their learning style, such as emotional needs to help increase their self-esteem and encourage responsibility.

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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 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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**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.



**Ms. Isabella Juarez**  
**Visual Arts & CRSS**

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Preschool Education at Univesidad Estatal a Distancia

I believe that through play, the creative thinking of the students is carried out, fostering the confidence of all which can lead to increased learning, creativity, and curiosity. It is important to develop learning strategies to support the learning of each student in a calm, safe and loving environment. We are forming future leaders of the world. We have a lot to learn from children and they have a lot to share.



**Ms. Tatiana Leal**  
**Visual Arts**

**Nationality:** Costa Rica

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Art Teaching and Visual Communication at Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica
- Graduate of Art Teaching and Visual Communication with an emphasis on: Sculpture, painting and ceramics at Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica

I believe in the power of imagination and creation. That we are all creative from each of our strengths. My conviction is to work from love and respect, I believe in children and their ambitions and I faithfully believe that empowering a child allows you to open doors and a world of possibilities. As a teacher our goal is to guide them to be who they want with the best tools and as an art teacher to have a positive impact in relation to culture, to enjoy art and have another vision of the world.



**Mr. Jeremy Morrow**  
**STEM**

**Nationality:** United States

**Qualifications:**

- Master of Arts Teaching Kaplan University
- Bachelor of Liberal Studies Iowa State University
- State of Iowa Teaching Certification Chemistry and Biology

I am happy to be joining CRIA from Kofu, Japan where my wife and I have lived and taught the last two years. Before living in Japan, I taught chemistry, STEM and IB biology in Des Moines Iowa. In teaching STEM I look forward to helping students develop problem solving, collaboration and critical thinking skills as we work through real world problem and project-based activities. I believe it is equally important to develop globally minded students that will have a positive impact on the world around them in their future.