

CRIA FACULTY BOOK

2023-24



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.



www.CRIAcademy.com

ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Lois Maré- 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 Int'l School Leadership - The Principals' Training Center
- College Counseling in the International School - The Counseling Center

After two years in a different position at CRIA, I am excited to be stepping back into the position of School Director again. As an international school educator for the past 31 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!

Ms. Heather Anderson Primary Principal

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.



As we move forward into the new school year, it is my sincere pleasure and honor to serve as your new principal. I am excited about the many opportunities that lie ahead for our school and its students. My hope is that every student not only reaches their potential academically, but that they have the opportunity to flourish in all areas. At the heart of this effort is the special partnership that exists between students, their teachers and parents. I look forward to working together to develop our students into curious, self-directed, and resilient learners with a strong moral compass.

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Nicholas Bernhard Secondary Principal

Nationality: USA

Qualifications:

- MS.Ed International School Leadership - Wilkes University
- Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE) Fellow
- MA International Political Science: Peace and Global Governance - Kyung Hee University, South Korea
- BA International Relations - University of Redlands, California
- Harvard Business School: School Management & Leadership (CSML) Certificate
- State of Florida Department of Education License



My mission as an educational leader is to ensure our students are ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow, ready to succeed in jobs that do not exist yet, and ready to create a better, more peaceful world for our increasingly interconnected global society. Teachers are at the center of the education process. Teachers mold the school and make it happen. We ensure our teachers have the tools and support they need to facilitate high-quality learning. Lastly, a school is a safe environment that teachers, parents, administrators, and students alike enjoy participating in its community. A strong school culture helps bring everyone together in the best of times and keeps everyone together through the tough times - together we can ensure each graduating student from CRIA is prepared for the next step in their journey

Ms. Rebeca Zuñiga Administrative Assistance

Nationality: Costa Rica

Qualifications:

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



As another year arise, I am excited to welcome the students, parents, teachers, and administration on my 11th year at CRIA .

ADMINISTRATION

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 Administración de Negocios, UNED, Costa Rica (en proceso)



ADMINISTRATION



Mrs. Patricia Chang
Technology Manager



Ms. Susy Parkinson
Receptionist



Ms. Rebeca Palma
Uniforms Master

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ms. Jessica Moraga
Toddler
(Dual Language)

Nationality: Costa Rica

Qualifications: Bachillerato en Educación primaria en inglés en Universidad San José, (en progreso). También estudio Administración de empresas.

I started at a very young age in the field of education as a Spanish teacher for foreigners. I have more than 5 years working in education. I am a dedicated, creative and enthusiastic teacher recognized for establishing productive and engaging learning environments to enhance the development of students. I am a professional who loves working with children and deeply committed to providing quality student-centered instruction that optimizes student success. Working well in a collaborative team environment focused on student achievement and being an integral part of life change is my goal, as well as developing effective relationships with colleagues and community members to promote high levels of student learning.

Ms. Maria Zapata
Pre Kinder
(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 the 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, and respect to achieve their full potential.

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ms. Ana Isabel Vieira
Kindergarten 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, 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. Every year, I look for new Professional Development programs in order to keep up to date with the best practices in the Early Childhood Education environment (Ex. Success Summit For Early Childhood Educators and Whole Brain Teaching Conferences and Seminar) and implement these new strategies in my classroom setting benefiting my students in a variety of ways.



PRIMARY SCHOOL



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

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.

Ms. Mariana López **Grade 1B (Dual Language)**

Nationality: Costa Rica

Qualifications:

- 2019, Bachelor's degree in Preschool Education Sciences with an Emphasis on Teaching English as a Second Language. UISIL.
- 2020, Early Stimulation, Skills to Promote Infant Development. Open Course, UISIL.



At the heart of my teaching philosophy is the belief that every student is a unique individual with their own strengths, passions, and potential. I am dedicated to fostering an environment where curiosity is encouraged, critical thinking is nurtured, and creativity is celebrated. I reassure an active partnership between teachers, parents, and students, recognizing that a strong support network is essential for a well-rounded education.

I am committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and stimulating atmosphere in where my students can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ericka Huete
Grade 2A (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.

Ms. Alina Carrillo
Grade 2B (Dual Language)

Nationality: Costa Rica

Qualifications:

- Bachelor in bilingual preschool and primary education, Universidad Latina de Costa Rica
- Certificate in Early Childhood Education, Universidad Católica de Costa Rica

International Schools

- Grand Master in Clinical Neuropsychology and Neuroeducation, Tech Universidad Tecnológica de España (in progress).



I believe that Teaching is fulfilling and important. Educators shape young minds, helping them develop skills for life. As a teacher, I love guiding students on their journey of discovery. It's not just a job, it's a calling. I believe every child deserves a great education and I'm committed to providing it. Teaching is a profession that requires dedication, passion, and commitment. It's not just about imparting knowledge, but also about being a role model, mentor, and advocate for my students. I feel honored to be entrusted with such an important responsibility and am grateful for the opportunity to positively impact the lives of my students every day.

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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.

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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.

Haley Kornychuk
Grade 4B

Nationality: United States

Qualifications:

•Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, licensed teacher in the US, two years of classroom teaching experience (five years total in the education field), TEFL certified, Bachelor's Degree in Business Management.



Student-centered learning, intentional exploration, and self-regulation are the core of my teaching philosophy. I believe it's important for students to build life skills and take ownership of their education through various forms of engagement, such as individual and peer work, technology, and experiential learning. I strongly believe in teaching students how to think versus what to think. My goal as an educator is to assist in raising future generations of intelligent, kind, and efficient humans with a strong sense of morals and global consciousness.

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ms. McCall Smith
Grade 5A

Nationality: United States

Qualifications:

- Master of Arts in International Education at Universidad de Alcalá
- Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies: Elementary Education, Minor in Special Education & Spanish at California State University, Chico
- Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)

As an educator, my primary objective is to cultivate a lifelong passion for learning that stretches far beyond the confines of the classroom. Recognizing my pivotal role as a significant influence in students' lives, I prioritize the expression of positivity, enthusiasm, respect, organization, and empathy. This commitment is aimed at fostering a secure, inviting, and motivating learning environment for every individual. My educational philosophy revolves around meticulous lesson planning, integrating project-based learning, and incorporating elements of social and emotional learning. This comprehensive approach aims to not only impart knowledge but also nurture the holistic development of each student.

Ms. Susi Muñoz
Grade 5B

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



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."

SECONDARY TEACHERS



Ms. Tracy Mallozzi **Social Studies & Secondary Coordinator**

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.

Ms. Cassidy Arnold **MS and HS Science**

Nationality: Canadian

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Science (honors) in Marine Biology & Ocean Sciences, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada
Bachelor of Education, University of British Columbia, Canada



My goal as an educator is to help students develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence to follow their ambitions, take risks, and become globally-minded citizens. Science is crucial to solving many real-world challenges, so it is important that our lessons are experiential, relevant, and meaningful. To accomplish this, I incorporate student-centered learning opportunities, in which students' interests are valued, and they have a choice in both how to learn and demonstrate their learning. Inclusivity and a positive classroom environment are of the highest priority. I am excited to be a part of the CRIA community!

SECONDARY TEACHERS



Mr. Wesley Brown
MS & HS 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.

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

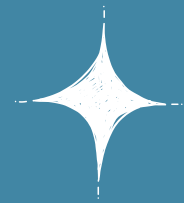


As an educator for the past ten years, it has been my aim to create a student-centered learning environment where students feel safe to take risks. This is fostered through collaboration, problem-solving opportunities, and authentic learning experiences. It is my personal goal to see learning "come to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

SECONDARY TEACHERS



Name: Ms. Lauren Umlauf
Science



Nationality: United States

Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Arts in Biology, Florida International University
- Minor in Marine Biology, Florida International University

Florida State teacher Certification in Biology 6-12th grade (In progress)

In my classroom, respect, inclusivity, academic rigor, and active learning make up the foundation on which my students build upon their existing knowledge and curiosity. I believe in creating a learning environment that encourages open dialogue, respect for diverse perspectives, and active student engagement. I aim to challenge my students with interesting and thought-provoking content, inspiring them to think critically and creatively. By incorporating hands-on learning activities and field trips, I hope to ignite their intrigue and passion for STEM and what it encompasses. As a recent student myself, I model my pedagogical approach after the most influential teachers in my life, some of whom continue to teach at CRIA to this day. Ultimately, my goal is to nurture not only academic growth in my students, but also their personal development, as my teachers did for me.

Mrs. Cathy Vermaak **Grade 6 and 7 Mathematics**

Nationality: Zimbabwe

- Qualifications :Bachelor of Art, North-West University (Potchefstroom, South Africa)
- Higher Education Diploma (Postgraduate), North-West University (Potchefstroom, South Africa)

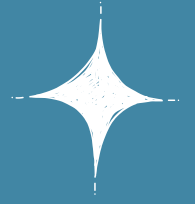


I believe that teaching is more than just teaching subject matter. Every student is unique and therefore there are different learning styles, different abilities, interests, and goals present in every classroom experience. It is important to create a stimulating, well-organized, and safe classroom environment where the students can grow mentally, emotionally, and socially. The students must be able to imagine, think, and reason, be able to sift through information, be able to adopt various perspectives and be able to defend what they believe. These objectives can be achieved through hands-on learning, cooperative learning, projects, and much more. Still, in the end, despite trying to make each learning experience as productive and interesting as possible, if each student is not inspired to develop a love of learning, I have not fully succeeded. Life is an ongoing, never-ending learning curve and to do well every student must love to learn new things and so improve.

SECONDARY TEACHERS



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've been blessed with the opportunity to be part of the CRIA community since August 2022. Costa Rica (Guanacaste) has been demonstrated to be a beautiful place to live and CRIA has definitely demonstrated to be the right place to teach. 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. --

SECONDARY TEACHERS

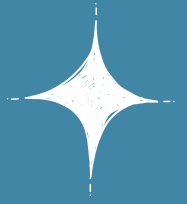


Mr. Enoch Thweatt
Math

Nationality: United States

Qualifications:

- BA Mathematics from Harding University with Minor in Physical Education
- 36 hours from Southwest Community College in Computer Science
- 140+ hours of APSI training in AP Statistics and AP Calculus
- MAT in Mathematics, 2011, from Middle Tennessee State University



With access to information literally at our fingertips, the sky is the limit for our students. My goal is to instill in my students a curiosity and a drive to become lifelong learners. We spend more of our lifespan outside of school than in school, but learning should never end. My students will learn while working independently as well as within 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.

Ms. Patricia Morales
Math

Nationality: Nicaragua

Qualifications:

- Bachelors of Science in Mathematics from John Brown University with Minor in Physics (Arkansas, USA)



Mathematics are expansive and never ending, both in grace and possibility. In my experience, students (and people in general) struggle to understand that, which leads to trouble applying it, muddled over memorizing it rather than working towards comprehending it. My intention is for students to engage with the theory and concepts in Mathematics for the sake of their real-life utilization, but also for the benefit of mastering it as a science, as an art. Learning not only motivates a student's future in terms of their college and work careers, but also furthers their development as effective and competent members of society.

SECONDARY TEACHERS



Mr. Matthew Alford Social Studies

Nationality: United States

Qualifications:

- Masters of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
- Masters of Public Administration focusing on Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
- Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Theater and Speech from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
- South Carolina State Certification for teaching Secondary Social Studies
- Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)



My teaching philosophy revolves around creating an inclusive learning environment where all students feel valued and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives. In my lessons, I want to heighten student engagement, nurture critical thinking, and promote digital literacy through interactive projects and discussions. It is vital to emphasize global citizenship's importance and appreciate the diverse cultures and perspectives from within a community, a country, and the world. Through differentiated lesson planning and activities, I want to equip my students with the knowledge, skills, and attributes to be compassionate, informed, and successful in their future education and life.

SECONDARY TEACHERS



Mr. Jason Holmes
Social Studies Teacher

Nationality: United States

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in secondary social studies education from Kennewsaw State University
- State of Georgia teaching license

My outlook on teaching is that any student is capable of learning as long as two criteria are met; the student needs to have a personal investment in the material and the teacher needs to care about building relationships with the students that proves to them that the teacher is also personally invested in their education. With more than a decade of teaching students from all over the world, I have personally seen students grow into motivated leaders of the future. It is my goal to keep that growth going for as long as possible and if I happen to be thanked in an autobiography, so be it.

Mrs. Stephanie Carpenter
MS and HS Social Studies

Nationality: United States

Qualifications:

- Masters in Education in The Diverse Learner., University of Phoenix
- Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences with a Major in Sociology and a Minor in History, Western State Colorado University.
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As a teacher and parent, I push my own students to be as successful as I do my own children. I give them the opportunities to fail and then learn from their mistakes to understand what they need to improve. I enjoy being in the classroom, I enjoy listening to the thinking minds of my students, and I enjoy how students interact, encourage each other, and continue to learn. My overall goal is for the students to be able to make the connections of what they are learning to how it matters in their daily lives. Overall, I am there for the students and I want to get to know them and their minds.

SECONDARY TEACHERS



Mrs. Laura Murphy Bernhard
English Literature Teacher



Nationality: United States

Qualifications:

- B.A. English Literature - University of Redlands, California
- Teaching Credential K-12 English CA, University of Concordia Irvine
- BITSA Clear Credential - University of California, Los Angeles
- TESOL Certificate - Language Corps

My mission as an educator is to provide a nurturing environment that is reflective and empowers students. Along with learning literary terms, analyzing and writing skills, students will learn soft skills, preparing them for university and beyond. I fully believe in the process of leaving your comfort zone and I will support students through the phases of comfort, fear, learning and finally the growth zone. I am excited to be with you at CRIA and to support you on your journey!

MR. CHRIS CRABTREE **MS & HS ENGLISH**

Nationality: United States & Costa Rica

Qualifications:

- B.A. World Religions, Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana, USA, 1985
- M.A. Educational Leadership, Framingham State University, Framingham, Massachusetts, USA, 2015



I have a passion for reading and writing; my students will recognize that immediately. I enjoy teaching old stories in fresh and meaningful ways, and I revel in deep discussions about critical issues with young scholars. A classroom is a safe place where formulating the right question is as valuable as finding the correct answer.

SECONDARY TEACHERS



Mr. Milo Carpenter
HS English

Nationality: United States

Qualifications:

- Master of Education in Educational Technology, Lesley University
- Bachelor of Arts in English with an emphasis on secondary teaching; minor in history, Metropolitan State University of Denver (Colorado, USA)
- Colorado State teacher certification in English, 7-12



Princeton University professors published an impassioned plea for students to “think for themselves” in 2021 and this plea is asking that the structures of education enable students to make rational and deliberate choices and decisions. My pedagogy and my classes are built upon this foundation.

Students are asked to balance academic rigor in a manner which will allow them to measure thoughts, ideas, readings, and conversations so that they can “tip their cap” to all sides of issues while knowing, understanding, stating, and justifying their own positions. There is power in the educated student voice; classes can help students shape these perspectives.

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 TEACHERS



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 instil and cultivate in all my students.

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

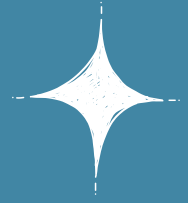


I believe that students should be given the opportunity to develop their academic and personal skills that can be used lifelong. As part of my job, I like to provide the students an environment in which the process of learning for the students is fun and interesting, where they can build their knowledge 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.

SPANISH TEACHERS



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

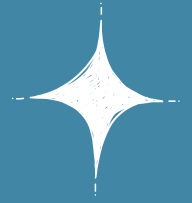


I am passionate about teaching and the opportunity to enrich the learning process of each student everyday. I believe faithfully in the potential of each child and that he/she will make a positive difference for the future.

SPANISH TEACHERS



Ms. Neida Escalera Spanish



Nationality: Bolivia

Qualifications:

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

Tengo más de 27 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.

Ms. Sharon Dinarte Spanish

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 unique and our main goal as teachers is to get to know them and get the most out of each 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.

SPECIALISTS TEACHERS



Mr. Pedro Golobios Music

Nationality: Costa Rica

Qualifications:

Cantautor Guanacasteco, multi-instrumentista, productor musical, auto didacta con estudios musicales en la Escuela de música de la etapa básica de la Universidad de Costa Rica en Santa Cruz, Guanacaste, becado por la Cancillería de la República, Director del grupo Santa Esperanza ganador del premio "medardo guido " a la mejor canción Guanacasteca (2007) otorgado por el Ministerio de Cultura, con más de 14 años de experiencia en la pedagogía musical y tres años de estar en CRIA.

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

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

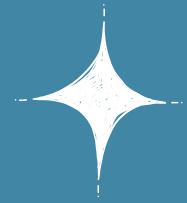


Tengo más de 15 años de experiencia como entrenadora y profesora. He trabajado con niños de todas las edades desde materno hasta nivel colegial. Los últimos 9 años he estado trabajando en Costa Rica. Mi filosofía en educación de los niños se basa en el fortalecimiento físico de ellos para que sean personas más activas en su vida cotidiana

SPECIALISTS TEACHERS



Mr. Diego Matarrita Physical Education Athletic Coordinator



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 kinder, kinder, 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.

Mr. Goran Yabar Physical Education (Dual Language)

Nationality: Canadian

Qualifications:

- Bachelors of Education, Nipissing University, ON, Canada
- Certificate of Qualification and Registration, Ontario College of Teachers
- Bachelor of Arts in Biology/PreMed, Minor is Spanish, University of Louisville, KY, USA

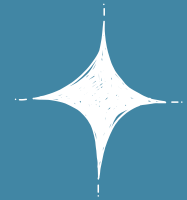


My teaching philosophy is comprised of not only teaching new material pertinent to subjects, but more importantly addressing the whole child. The importance of possessing high Emotional Intelligence (EQ) is something I am very passionate about; and find is of the outmost importance in shaping a well-rounded, valuable, and contributing member of society. This is achieved by providing my students with an educational environment that is encouraging, enlightening, positive and safe. A place where they can express, manage, use, and understand their own emotions in a positive way to relieve stress, communicate effectively, empathize with others, overcome challenges, and defuse conflict. I hope to provide the skills and tools necessary for them to build stronger relationships, succeed in their schoolwork and as members of their 'classroom family'. I want to help them connect with their feelings, turn intention into action so they can make informed decisions that matter most to them. Our ultimate task as teachers is to foster the individual talents of each student, giving them the confidence to embrace their dreams and make them a reality.

SPECIALISTS TEACHERS



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

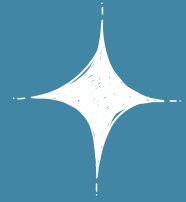


I believe in the power of imagination and creation. That we are all creative from each of our strengths. My conviction is to work from love and respect, I believe in children and their ambitions and I faithfully believe that empowering a child allows you to open doors and a world of possibilities. As 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.

SPECIALISTS TEACHERS



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 joined CRIA last school year 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

Ms. Camila Coto
Library

Nationality: Costa Rica

Qualifications:

- Last year student in the English teaching career at the National University of Costa Rica

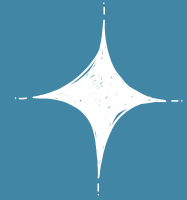


This is my second year in CRIA, and they have been enriching years for me. My dedication and passion for learning are reflected in my commitment to the school community. Through my work in the library, I have contributed to creating a nurturing environment for intellectual growth and the discovery of knowledge. I am excited to continue contributing to the success of CRIA and continue to foster a love of reading and appreciation for books and literature.

COUNSELORS



Ms. Bethany Fisher Counselor



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 is capable of achieving 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. Montserratt Cordero Counselor

Nationality: Costa Rica

Qualifications:

- Licensed Psychologist, Colegio de Psicólogos de Costa Rica, code 6943.
- Bachelor in Psychology, Universidad de Iberoamérica.
- Brainspotting certified therapist and Trauma Informed Practitioner.
- Member of the International Centre for Excellence in Emotionally Focused Therapy.
- Certified Art Therapist.
- Master's degree in Creative Writing, Universidad de Salamanca.



I have been a clinical psychologist for the past 11 years, and working with children and adolescents has been one of my specialties. My motto has always been that with the right emotional tools, everyone can have a better quality of life and achieve anything they dream of; that is why I have trained in diverse techniques so I can offer each person the tools they need to start improving as soon as possible.

SUPPORT TEACHERS



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 2nd 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.

SUPPORT TEACHERS



Mr. Wacek Horbaczewski Math Learning Support

Nationality: British

Qualifications:

BSc Mathematics, Warwick University

Post Graduate Certificate in Education, Mathematics & PE,
Loughborough University

I am looking forward to being part of the CRIA community and applying the skills I have gained in my work experience to develop confident, well rounded, self-motivated students who have the ability and desire to learn for themselves. I aim to create an atmosphere where students feel safe and supported in the classroom. I believe that it is important to tailor the teaching to the individual to ensure they achieve their full potential. I aspire to impart knowledge in a clear, well-structured and concise manner and try to enthuse and inspire students to do the best they can by being passionate about my subject.

Mrs. Grazyna Zajackowska Reading Support

Nationality; British

Qualifications;

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economics, Ealing College of Higher Education, London, UK
- Post Graduate Certificate in Education, Liverpool University, Liverpool, UK



I am looking forward to living in Costa Rica and taking part in the learning adventure at CRIA. Learning is not linear, and we all learn at different tempos and in different ways. I believe my role as a teacher is to provide students with a range of skills that will empower them to learn in their own unique ways. We all learn more effectively when we experience fun and success, and I like to create a positive atmosphere in the classroom. I also like to encourage students to take risks and accept making mistakes as this is a key way of learning. I believe that reading is a fundamental skill that anyone can acquire when taught how to use a mix of appropriate strategies; it can open doors to a world of enjoyment, magic and knowledge. I look forward to sharing in that world.

SUPPORT TEACHERS



Ms. Melanie Martin
ELL Teacher

Nationality: United States

Qualifications:

- Master of Arts in Teaching, Bethel University
- Minnesota State Teaching Licensures, K-12 Spanish, English Communication Arts and Literature
- Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish with a minor in Theater Arts, University of Minnesota

An essential foundation for me as a teacher is to develop positive and meaningful relationships with my students. I believe in educating the whole child, and that each student's unique learning styles and personal experiences deserve to be respected, honored and cared for with compassion and intention. I aim to create a caring learning environment where children feel safe, accepted, and that their learning style needs are met with sincerity. Explorational and inquiry based learning are offered through differentiated activities providing opportunities for students to feel successful in their achievements. While supporting academic success, I believe teaching extends far beyond content, and involves guiding students in their development of social emotional health while encouraging positive individuals to be compassionate and contributing members of society.



TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Ms. Cindy Navarrete

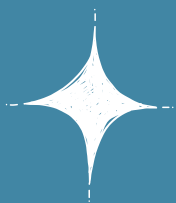


Ms. Ana Angulo



o

Ms. Duglanna Juárez

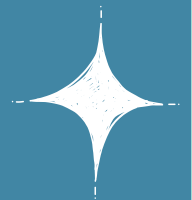


TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Ms. Karla Navarrete



Ms. Alexa Ruiz



Ms. Lauren Rodríguez



TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Ms. Fabiola Montes



Ms. Eileen Mora



Mr. Glenn Chaverri

