
Introducing **TEAM MARK WEST ELEMENTARY** **2020-2021**



Home of the Tigers #mwtigerpride

TRANSITIONAL KINDER



Brandi Dickey

Hello, my name is Brandi Dickey and I have been teaching for 20 years. I began my career in Healdsburg. I have been at Mark West Elementary for the past 12 years. This is my 7th year teaching TK! I love teaching TK!!!

I grew up in Healdsburg. I attended Santa Rosa Junior College. I received my B.A. and Teaching Credential from Sonoma State.

I took a year off teaching and got my Baking and Pastry Certificate from the J.C. I would love to open up my own bakery when I retire from teaching.

I love to travel to new places, watch movies, and spend time with friends and family. I love being a Mark West Tiger!!

KINDERGARTEN



Angie Tantarelli

Hello, my name is Angie Tantarelli and I have been teaching Kindergarten at Mark West for the past six years. I received my undergraduate degree and credentials through Chico State. Then, worked in San Francisco for four years as an inclusion special education teacher.

When I decided to start a family I knew I had to come back to the place where it all started Mark West! I went to Mark West Elementary and had the privilege working with two of my favorite teachers and mentors! It is such a pleasure to teach in this caring community!

I am a mother of two amazing boys, Reid (3 months) and Bryce (4 years) both are future Mark West Tigers! As a family, we love to be outdoors and exploring. We love hiking, biking, and traveling. I also love going to see concerts and shows, playing at the beach, and making delicious treats!

KINDERGARTEN



Elizabeth Bissiri

Hello, my name is Elizabeth Bissiri and I have been at Mark West Elementary for 4 years. I began as a student teacher and continued to work here after I received my teaching credential in 2018. Once I set foot on this campus I knew I was a Tiger at heart. I have loved being a part of the Mark West family ever since. Our amazing staff, students, and parents make this school a very special place.

Outside of Mark West, I have worked with children teaching art and directing various programs for over 10 years. Working with children is the best job I could imagine!

I enjoy hiking, spending time with my friends and family, and relaxing with a good movie. I look forward to seeing you and your student in the years to come!

KINDERGARTEN



Kim Lawton

Hello, my name is Kim Lawton and I have been a teacher at Mark West Elementary for 11 years. I started as a student teacher, taught the GATE program, and a year in 3rd grade. I have found my passion in kindergarten.

As a Mark West District Alumni I love this District and have really found my home here. I attended San Miguel Elementary 1-6th grades and I have great pride in our district and community. I grew up knowing I wanted to be a teacher and I attribute that to my having some amazing teachers.

My family has enjoyed the community we are involved with and the classroom families we have gained throughout the years.

I enjoy bringing art and nature into the classroom.

KINDERGARTEN



Pam Kelly

Hello, my name is Pam Kelly and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for 17 years. I began as an educator 18 years ago with my first year teaching kindergarten at San Miguel. I have 3 sons and 8 grandchildren. I enjoy music, and hiking with my husband.

I am fortunate to teach with an outstanding, caring team. Most importantly, I thoroughly enjoy teaching and interacting with wonderful children everyday! I learn so much from them. I love working as part of the Mark West family!

FIRST GRADE



Melissa Anderson

Hello,!My name is Melissa Anderson and I have been teaching first grade at Mark West Elementary for 24 years. I started in public Education in 1996, but worked in the Early Childhood Education field for many years prior to becoming an elementary school teacher.

I love teaching first grade because most children begin to think of themselves as readers at this age, and there's nothing more rewarding than witnessing that lightbulb going off!

My husband, Don, and I have two daughters and two amazing grandsons.

I am very lucky to work alongside such dedicated and admirable colleagues who I consider my Mark West
_____ Family!

FIRST GRADE



Michelle Pulliam

Hello, I am Michelle Pulliam and I have been teaching at Mark West Elementary since 2011. I attended San Miguel Elementary K-6th grades and I have great pride in our district and community. I grew up knowing I wanted to be a teacher and I attribute that to my having some amazing teachers whom I still look up to.

I have a fur child whom I jinxed with the name London Darling (she is the most sassy havanese-pomeranian I've ever met. 😂)

In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with my family and friends. I love shopping, country music, reading, crafting and Netflix-ing. I have an affinity for all things Disney and would live in the castle if I could.

I am fond of words and quotes... one of my current favorite is, "Surrender to what is. Let go of what was. — Have faith is what will be." ~Sonia Ricotti

FIRST GRADE



Kristina Hunt

Hello, my name is Kristina Hunt and I have been here at Mark West Elementary since 2015. I love being a teacher and am so happy to have found my “place” at Mark West. This year I have taken on the responsibility of being a co-president of our MARFAC teacher’s union, I am learning so much.

My best friend’s name is Nellie. She is a miniature (that’s what her papers say anyways) Australian Shepherd. She makes me laugh every day. She and I enjoy hiking together and taking in the beautiful Sonoma County sights.

When I am not at work, or playing with my dog, I absolutely love playing soccer and hanging out with
_____ family and friends.

SECOND GRADE



Katie Cervone

Hello, my name is Katie Cervone and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for 20 years! I started in education as a student teacher at San Miguel, after having worked with children since my teen years as a recreation leader, tutor, and babysitter. I have two sons named Cameron (16) and Joe (12). Both of my kids are proud MW Tigers. I enjoy hiking, art, live music, and hanging out with my family and friends. My favorite things are tropical vacations, reading, and going to the beach. My family and I have a small dog named, Missy, who brings us much joy! My husband of 20 years is hilarious and is nicknamed “Curly”. Mark West has been my nurturing community, and I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else!

SECOND GRADE



Jennifer Granados

Hi, my name is Jennifer Granados and I am a second grade teacher at Mark West Elementary. I have been a teacher at Mark West for 6 years. I got my undergraduate degree at SSU and my teaching credential at SJSU.

I have 3 children: Lilly (16), Brian (12), and Cora (4 and a future MW Tiger). As a family, we enjoy playing soccer, riding bikes, going to See's Candy, and playing hide and seek. I also enjoy cooking, math, trying new restaurants, and collecting funny greeting cards. :)

SECOND GRADE



Lindsey Arnold

Hello, my name is Lindsey Arnold and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

THIRD GRADE



Yvonne Burbank

Hello, my name is Yvonne Burbank and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

THIRD GRADE



Lisa DeKozan

Hello, my name is Lisa DeKozan and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

THIRD GRADE

Pamela Young

Hello, my name is Pamela Young and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

FOURTH GRADE



Brigitta Hunter

Hello, my name is Brigitta Hunter and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

FOURTH GRADE



Rachel Rust

Hello, my name is Rachel Rust and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

FIFTH GRADE



Timothy Ambrose

Hello, my name is Timothy Ambrose and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

FIFTH GRADE



Erica Rosas

Hello, my name is Erica Rosas and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for for the last 3 years. I earned my teaching credential in 2011 from Sonoma State and attended Cal Poly, SLO for my undergrad studies. I have had the opportunity to teach K, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade. I have a 5 year old daughter named Sierra. As a family, we love being outdoors and exploring. During the winter, I LOVE to ski and head up to the mountains as much as I can! It's important to find a balance in life. I love working with children, building their growth mindset and helping them find their love for learning. I'm proud to be a tiger!

SIXTH GRADE



Gary Graves

Hello, my name is Gary Graves and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for 28 years. I taught the year before at the old Bennett Valley School. Before that I worked my way through high school and college as a custodian at Brookhaven School where I began my coaching career at 17 years old. My favorite times are when I can really get to know the kids beyond the classroom whether it is basketball practice, on a weekly creek walk, or just at recess. Now that my own children have become adults, my wife and I enjoy our monthly camping trips with our two dogs. This past NYE, we camped at Wrights Beach and were surprised by our two children, their spouses, and their friends. I can't think of a better way to end a year and start a new one!

SIXTH GRADE



John Ryan

Hello, my name is John Ryan and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

READING



Jennell Tauzer-Pardo

Hello, my name is Jennell Tauzer-Pardo and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for 20 years. From a young age I knew that I wanted to work with children.

Right out of high school, I moved to Santa Rosa to attend the SRJC pursuing early childhood education while getting my associates degree. At that time I also started teaching Montessori preschool and knew I would be following both my parents into the education field. After receiving my BA, I continued at SSU getting my teaching credential, doing my student teaching both at Mark West and Riebli Schools. I was hired upon completion and have been blessed to teach both upper and lower grade prior to returning to school in 2010 to get my reading certificate.

I have been married to Jesse, a great supporter of education for the past 24 years, and we have 3 amazing kids Carter, Jordan and Makai, all Mark West Tiger Alumni. Outside of school I enjoy reading (of course), adventure and supporting my kids in their extra curricular activities!

MUSIC

Kara Kaufman

Hello, my name is Kara Kaufman, I have been teaching music to TK-8th grade in the Mark West District for the past five years. Previously, I worked in the Wright School District as Librarian, Teacher's Aide, After-School Mentor, and Literacy Specialist. I have a B.A. in English, B.M. in Music History, M.A. in English, and M.A. in Teaching. Yes, I love school.

Reading and music are my passions! I play violin in the Sonoma County Philharmonic, and I have danced with Bay Area Flash Mob. I have a daughter, Jane, who also loves to sing and dance, and one cat, Izzie, who despises both. I look forward to another fabulous year of music!



RSP



Eve Rouverol

Hello, my name is Eve Rouverol and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

SDC



Erin Leet

Hello, my name is Erin Leet and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

PBL



Lisa Warne

Hello, my name is Lisa Warne and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I _____ have _____ (Children/pets), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are...

And anything else you'd like to include!

SPEECH

Janis Sowell

Hello, my name is Janis Sowell and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

GATE



Amanda Johnson

Hello, my name is Amanda Johnson
and I have been here at Mark West
Elementary for _____ years. I started in
education _____. I have
_____(Children), (Names), I enjoy
_____. My favorite things are... My
pets....

EL Para



Dan Batt

Hello, my name is Dan Batt and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

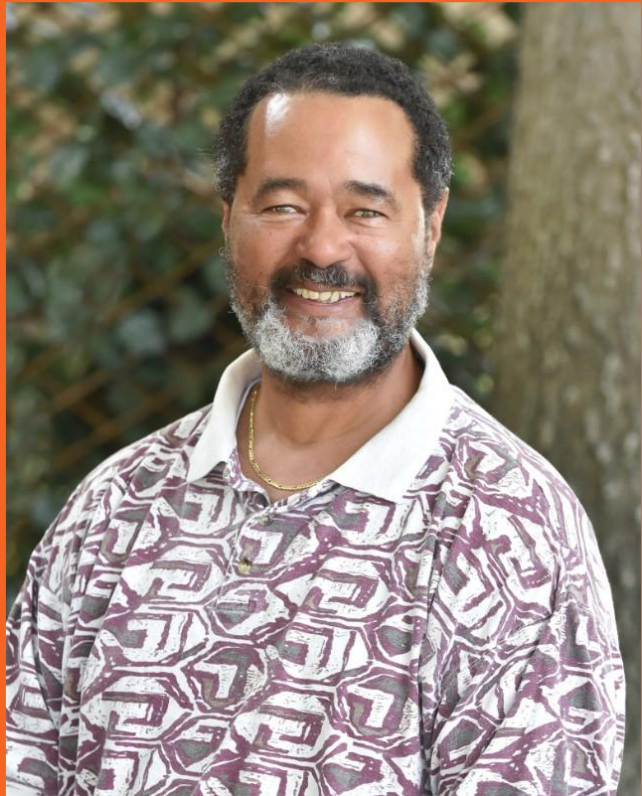
LIBRARY



Ashley Chase

Hello, my name is Ashley Chase and I have been here at Mark West Elementary for _____ years. I started in education _____. I have _____(Children), (Names), I enjoy _____. My favorite things are... My pets....

COMPUTER LAB



Robert Grant

Hello, my name is Robert Grant and I have been here at Riebli Elementary for 12 years. I started in education as a Martial Arts Instructor. That is where I discovered that I enjoy working with children. I worked in the Computer industry for over 20 years, 13 of them at Autodesk in Marin County. My wife Ekaterini and I have 3 adult children of our own and 4 grandchildren. I enjoy photography and am a photojournalist at The Community Voice Newspaper, which serves Rohnert Park, Cotati and Penngrove. My favorite things are my family, which also includes our dog, and watching children of all ages learn and grow.

COUNSELOR



Lionel Cooper

Hello, my name is Lionel Cooper and I have worked at the Mark West Union School District for 6 years. I started working as a counselor in 2002. I was a middle school teacher before that and started in education in 1994. My favorite part of working with kids is seeing them grow. My approach in counseling is developing relationships and rapport with kids and their families, and making a difference in their lives. I also enjoy being a clinical supervisor, and helping other counselors-to-be learn their own styles and approaches to making a difference with children and their families. My favorite things are yoga, traveling to Europe, spending time with friends and family, and drinking coffee on Saturday mornings.

Classroom Aides & Yard Supervisors

OFFICE STAFF

Office Manager - Kathy Stryker



Office Assistant/Cafe Clerk -
Christine Cucina



PRINCIPAL



Tracy Kendall

Hello, my name is Tracy Kendall. This is my 12th year at Mark West Elementary. I began my career in education in Southern California 33 years ago as a kindergarten teacher. I have also taught 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th grades. I love horses and enjoy listening to Irish music. Being outdoors has always been a favorite pastime, from hiking, camping, to just sitting and contemplating nature.

I am so happy to be part of such a wonderful School Community!

Go Tigers!
