

NEW EMPLOYEE BIOGRAPHIES

Coronado High School (CHS)

Timothy Hopper is the new assistant principal at CHS and joins us from Wilmer Amina Carter High School in Rialto, CA. He has an Master of Arts from Brandman University in Educational Administration and Leadership and his Bachelor of Arts in English from Azusa Pacific University. Tim, who is starting his 20th year in high school education, has been an Assistant Principal, ASB Activities Director, English department leader, and taught every grade and skill level in high school. He has also coached football, soccer, baseball, golf, and even in-line hockey! Tim's passion is helping each student find a sense of belonging at their school. His favorite activities include watching Premier League soccer early Saturday mornings, reading English and Roman history, playing golf, attending outdoor concerts, and traveling to Europe to visit his nieces and nephews in Portugal and Slovenia. Mr. Hopper is excited to have made his home in Coronado and can't wait to meet, encourage, and support the students, staff, and families of CHS!

Dana O'Connor is a new Education Specialist at CHS. After 6 years with the project based school community of High Tech High, Dana is excited to be joining the Islanders! As an undergraduate, she studied psychology and graduated Magna Cum Laude from University of California at Los Angeles. Working in developmental psychology and neuroscience labs helped her realize her true passion was not in research but in education. Inside of school, she is especially interested in helping students understand and embrace their learning profiles, supporting seniors in their transition to life after high school, and empowering students to find and pursue their passions. When Dana is not teaching, she loves to rock climb, read, and explore California's wilderness.

Sarah McKee is a new math teacher at CHS. Sarah graduated from California Lutheran University with degrees in Mathematics and Technical Theatre. She has always had a great love of learning and teaching. She has only been teaching professionally for a year, but, for many years, she has tutored students in middle school, high school, and college. Outside of teaching she enjoys working in theater; she is currently the Technical Director for Kingsmen Shakespeare Company.

Coronado Middle School (CMS)

Lisa Lorentzen is a Foundational Mathematics Specialist (K-8) with more than 15 years of teaching experience, including 5 years as a Math Resource Teacher with Fairfax County Schools in VA. She received her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies from San Diego State University, Master's Degree in Curriculum Instruction from National University and has a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential with a Supplementary Authorization in Introductory Mathematics. Lisa formerly taught in Coronado Unified School District as a GATE math teacher and Academic Support and Enrichment (ASE) teacher and is thrilled to be back and joining CMS as a 6th grade math and intervention teacher.

Haley Leverton is an English teacher. Haley has a love for teaching that began in her mother's third-grade classroom. She graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and an English single subject credential. While earning her credential, she worked at Steele Canyon Charter High School as an intern teacher and substitute teacher. Haley is known by her students and colleagues as passionate, kind and dedicated.

Fathima "Nazma" Sadikeen is a new CMS math teacher. Nazma was born in Sri Lanka and moved to the United States when she was 12 years old. She grew up in the north Chicago suburbs and graduated from the University of Illinois in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education and a middle school math endorsement. Nazma relocated to San Diego last year and taught video production and seventh grade math and science in the Santee School District. Nazma feels very fortunate to have this opportunity to teach at CMS.

Matt Smith is CMS' new Social Science/Humanities teacher. Matt was born and raised in San Diego. He attended San Diego State University for his Bachelor's degree and teacher credential program. He enjoys sports, movies and traveling. Matt recently got married in Coronado. He and his wife are planning a honeymoon to Italy in the fall.

Brooke Barto is a new Special Education teacher at CMS. She studied Education, with an emphasis in Special Education, at California State University San Marcos and received her multiple subject and education specialist teaching credentials in March 2017. Brooke will receive her Master of Arts in Education in early August 2017. In her free time, Brooke enjoys listening to live music, creating art, and singing. Brooke is passionate about teaching, grateful for the opportunity to join the Coronado Unified School District, and entering this new journey with enthusiasm and excitement to learn and grow with her new team.

Lamarshell Karnas is CMS' new Office Assistant III. A former military brat, Lamarshell spent most of her life in Tucson, Arizona. She and her family moved to Coronado from Tucson in 2013 to take advantage of Coronado's fantastic weather, great schools, and small-town atmosphere. She has one son who recently graduated from California State University at San Marcos and two girls that attend CUSD schools in grades 7 and 10. Lamarshell received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arizona in Interdisciplinary Studies (Communication, Psychology & History) and holds a Master of Arts in Film Studies from National University. Prior to her move to Coronado, she worked as an events manager for a non-profit organization and spent the 2016-17 school year as a substitute teacher for CUSD. In her spare time, she can usually be found doing creative projects around the house, managing her household when her husband travels, and trying to find a spare moment to read.

DISTRICT

Lisa Alonso is the new Preschool and Childcare Program director. She comes from the San Diego Unified School District where she spent seven years running federal, state, and county funded preschools for low income families. Lisa has collaborated with agencies such as HeadStart and QPI. Prior to that she was a preschool teacher in Los Angeles County where she was awarded preschool teacher of the year. Lisa has two degrees in childhood development and

brings a wealth of knowledge about implementing high quality childhood services to families and children.

Jenna McKnight is CUSD's new Speech Language Pathologist. Jenna received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Azusa Pacific University in 2010, and received her Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from California State University San Marcos in May of 2017. Jenna's interest in Speech-Language Pathology was sparked while doing Applied Behavior Analysis therapy with individuals who had Autism Spectrum Disorder and experienced difficulty communicating. Born and raised in San Diego County, Jenna enjoys crocheting, hiking, and spending her free time outdoors. She is excited to learn as well as contribute to the multidisciplinary team at Coronado Unified School District, and is eager to begin her clinical fellowship year.

SILVER STRAND/VILLAGE

Mrs. Victoria (Tori) Geyer is a new special education teacher serving both Silver Strand and Village Elementary Schools. Tori was born in Sacramento, CA., but has been a native San Diegan since 2005. She currently resides in Mission Beach with her husband. She attended San Diego State University where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, and Point Loma Nazarene University where she received a credential in Multiple Subject and Education Specialist Instruction Mild/Moderate. Tori loves the beach, running, spending time with friends and family, learning new things, and meeting new people. She's looking forward to spending the next year learning and growing with all the students, faculty, and families here at CUSD!

SILVER STRAND

Rebecca Conrad is a new instructional assistant at Silver Strand. Rebecca has been an Imperial Beach/Coronado resident for twenty-five years, and graduated from Coronado High School in 2000. She is now a military spouse and mother of three children who have been a part of Coronado Unified School District since 2006. She has been an active member of Silver Strand PTO Board since 2014, serving as Vice President and Treasurer. Rebecca is highly motivated, readily accepts additional responsibilities, and is a team player.

Susan Lechowicz is Silver Strand's new Office Assistant. She and her family have resided in Coronado for the last seven years. Susan worked in the medical field for 19 years as a Registered Respiratory Therapist. For the past ten years, Susan has volunteered in her children's schools and was Vice President of the Silver Strand Parent Teacher Organization for two years. Susan has worked in the Preschool and Coronado Middle School. She is happy to be joining the Silver Strand office team.

VILLAGE

Hope Montano is one of the new Mild/Moderate Special Education teachers at Village. She has been working in education for four years. Hope received her Bachelor's degree at California State University at San Diego in Child Development. She holds a multiple subject credential and

a mild/ moderate special education credential. Hope is currently completing her Master's degree at Point Loma Nazarene University. She has a love for special education and strives to provide meaningful authentic experiences that promote academic growth for all students. Hope knew that she was passionate about special education the moment that she stepped into the classroom. Her other loves include music, yoga, the beach, and spending time with her adorable niece and nephews.

Cara Lennon is a new Mild/Moderate Special Education teacher at Village. She is an Ohio native with a passion for education. Cara received her undergraduate degree from the Ohio State University where she majored in Human Development and Family Science. She then went on to Lesley University where she earned a dual Master's degree in Special Education and Elementary Education. She is excited to begin her next chapter at Village Elementary School. Cara's love of learning translates to a classroom environment conducive to dynamic lessons and daily adventures with her students. She is always up for a hike or conversation about college football. Go Buckeyes!

Michael Connor is a new Moderate/Severe Special Education teacher. Michael completed his undergraduate work, in Communication and Education, at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He received his Master of Education, as a Low-Incidence Disabilities Specialist, at the University of Illinois. For the last four years, Michael and his fiancée have lived in Chicago and in Tulsa, Oklahoma while his fiancée completed her doctorate. Michael is happy to be back in California, as they are both from Orange County, and are now close to family and friends. Michael is excited to join the Village team and has found everyone in Coronado to be extremely helpful and welcoming. Michael is looking forward to starting the new school year and preparing his students to live, work, and participate in the community. If he's not at work, you can find Michael biking, swimming, or finding a new place to eat around San Diego.

Amy Carmickle is a new Special Education teacher at Village. Amy has been with CUSD for the past year serving as an Instructional Assistant in PE, lunch supervisor, and as a 1:1 Instructional Assistant. She is a 10-year Navy veteran where she served as a helicopter pilot and public affairs officer. Amy has a Master's degree in Special Education from Regent University and in her spare time loves to spend time with family, go hiking, and walk her two beagles. Her husband currently serves in the Navy and their son will be starting middle school in the fall.

Renelle Koczan is joining Village as a Physical Education instructional aide. She was previously a substitute teacher in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Her family moved to Coronado for a military relocation. In addition to her interests in fitness and living healthy, she enjoys being outdoors, reading, craft projects, traveling, and learning from her husband and two daughters, who always keep her on her toes.

Heather McNeill is a new Physical Education instructional assistant. Heather was born and raised in the Midwest and has been a Navy spouse for the past 20 years. Her background is in education. She holds a Master's degree in education. Heather's hobbies include repurposing/restoring furniture and many different outdoor activities. She has a daughter going into fifth grade and a daughter entering eleventh grade.