

WELCOME TO OUR MANZANITA NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

MPCS would like to introduce the following individuals who have recently joined the Manzanita team:

Kat Franson, Assistant Principal

Kat was one of the school Principal interview “finalists” in March, prior to the COVID-19 school shutdown. When she learned that budgetary uncertainties would prevent Manzanita from moving forward with the process, she communicated her desire to stay connected in case anything changed. Well, based on the Sacramento legislature recently rejecting Governor Newsom’s 10% cut to school budgets, a decision was made by the Manzanita Governance Board to approve the 20/21 budget with a ‘status quo’ approach until additional fiscal information becomes available. This means the Assistant Principal (formally TOSA) position will remain in this year’s budget.

Kat has deep ties to Manzanita. For those of you who do not know her, Kat taught for 7 years at MPCS, all at the lower grade levels. While at Manzanita, she coordinated the Reading Recovery program, and was instrumental in bringing Benchmark Advance to the site. For the past two years, she has worked as a literacy coach for LUSD, and has served as teacher in charge when needed. Kat is married, with 4 children, and resides in Buellton.

Welcome ***back***, Kat, to the Manzanita family!

Marissa Martinez: TK/Kinder teacher

Marissa has been teaching at La Purisima Catholic School since 2013. She was born and raised in Lompoc, is married, and has two school age children. She is currently enrolled in the Brandman University ED.D. program and is a very skilled and passionate teacher. She will be joining the kinder team and is particularly excited about our school’s philosophy around purposeful play and social emotional development. Her breadth of experience, as both a teacher and as a ‘teacher in charge,’ will bring much appreciated professional depth to our lower grade team.

Welcome, Marissa, to the Manzanita family!

Malia Mondragon: School psychologist

Malia has been working a school psychologist intern during the past school year for Buellton School District. Prior to her internship year, she worked for 7 years as a behavior interventionist for the Buellton School District. During this internship, Malia also conducted practicum work with Santa Ynez High School and Oak Valley School. She has provided consultant services for local private schools including. DUNN and Santa Ynez Valley Christian.

Malia is also a local girl, attending Lompoc schools and raising her 3 children (ages 4, 2, and 3 months), with her husband. Malia is excited to join our team. She will be working half time M/W/F from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. during the school year. She and Beth will be partnering to support both SPED and Gen Ed. Scholars as needed.

Welcome, Malia, to the Manzanita family!

Kimberly Ostos, First Grade teacher

Kimberly Ostos was most recently employed with the Child and Youth Services, USAG Stuttgart, Panzer Child Development Center (Germany) from 2017-2020 as a lead teacher in Pre-Kindergarten and pre-school. Prior to that assignment, she worked as a third and fourth grade teacher in Tucson, AZ for 4 years.

Kim and her husband (who is a military member) are new to the Vandenberg AFB community. Kim has been described by former colleagues as someone who is highly organized, passionate, and most importantly, a teacher who demonstrates great love and commitment to the social emotional health of her students. Her military background, which includes living on several different continents and in different USA states, could bring an interesting and important cultural perspective to our young scholars.

Welcome, Kim, to the Manzanita family!

Adria Griggs, On site, daily substitute teacher

In an attempt to limit the number of adults scholars interface with due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Manzanita has hired Adria Griggs to work as a daily substitute on the campus. Adria earned her multiple subject credential in 2011 and is a long-time SY Valley resident. Most recently, she worked for Stuart C Gilred Family YMCA from 2014-2017 as Community Program Director and prior to that, at SY Valley Union High School as Head Cheer Coach.

Adria is a high energy and enthusiastic supporter of young children and adults. She is currently exploring career options and welcomes the opportunity to learn more about Manzanita's unique, educational program. We are excited she is joining our team and look forward to exploring the many ways Adria can support learning on our campus.

Welcome, Adria, to the Manzanita family!