

Welcome New Staff! 2022-2023



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Jessica Alberi, 1st Grade Teacher

Hello! My name is Jess Alberi and I am thrilled to be joining Graham Road Elementary this year. My teaching journey began in Fairfax County, where I grew up. I have since taught elementary school in California, North Carolina, and now I'm back to my roots in Virginia. When I'm not in the classroom, I enjoy spending time outside with my dog, riding my bike, or relaxing with a good book. I look forward to a fantastic year with all of you!





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Marissa Dumford, 4th Grade Teacher

Greetings, #GrahamFam! I am book enthusiast, Marissa Dumford, new 4th grade teacher at Graham Road. After 6 years of teaching 5th grade in Woodbridge, VA, I am finally making the move to teach closer to my home in Arlington. This will be my first year teaching 4th grade and I cannot wait to set up my classroom library and reading corner to share with my new students! I am newly married as of October and am still getting used to being called Mrs. Dumford! I love to cycle, read, travel, and drink coffee on my back deck.





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Lindsay Elcano, 1st Grade Teacher

Hello #GrahamFam, my name is Lindsay Elcano and I'm so excited to be joining Graham Road as a 1st grade teacher this upcoming school year! I am entering my 10th year of teaching and have previously taught pre-kindergarten to 2nd grade at DC charter schools, as well as a private school in Annandale! I grew up in the DMV area and lived in Richmond, Virginia for a short time before moving back in 2012 to pursue teaching. In my spare time I love to ride my bike, walk the dog, swim, travel and try new restaurants. I am looking forward to a fantastic school year at Graham Road Elementary





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Julie Kercher, 3rd Grade Teacher

Hi, #GrahamFam! My name is Julie Kercher and I can't wait to begin my teaching career at Graham Road! I graduated from West Virginia University in the spring with a major in elementary education and a minor in human services! I grew up attending school in Fairfax County and am looking forward to being back in the area. I am a big foodie and reader, and I love to work out. I am beyond excited to begin the school year with all of you!





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Meredith Moncure, 3rd Grade Teacher

Hello, #GrahamFam! My name is Meredith Moncure and I am overjoyed to be joining the Graham Road community as a Grades 1-3 teacher this upcoming school year. I look forward to meeting each of you and learning about what makes you unique!

I graduated from James Madison University (Go Dukes!) in 2018 and received my Masters in Teaching in 2019. I have taught third grade for three years in FCPS. Some of my hobbies include: teaching and taking pilates classes, crafting, reading, and trying new recipes! I enjoy spending time in the sunshine with my family at Lake Gaston, NC.

I can't wait to have a fantastic school year together at GRES.
See you soon, Roadrunners!





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Michelle Sims, 6th Grade Teacher

Hello, my name is Michelle Sims and I am very excited about joining the Graham Fam! I have previously taught grades 3 & 4 at Deer Park Elementary in Centreville for 8 years. I now am going from a 30 minute commute to 5 minutes! I grew up in Maryland and am a major DMV sports fan. I enjoy cheering on the Nats, Commanders, Terps and the JMU Dukes. I enjoy playing tennis and basketball, running and reading. This winter will be my 5th season coaching basketball at McLean High School, and will be my 2nd as the girls JV head coach. I am looking forward to teaching 6th grade at GRES this year!





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Kandice Solotruk, 2nd Grade Teacher

Hi #Grahamfam! My name is Kandice Solotruk and I am so excited to become a part of the community as a classroom teacher! I am originally from Allentown, PA and fell in love with everything FCPS has to offer. This will be my first year of teaching and I could not be more thrilled to start my journey in such a wonderful place. Outside of school I love to read, spend time with my pets and be in nature. I look forward to a great school year at Graham Road Elementary.





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Paige Sullivan, 4th Grade Teacher

Hello Graham Road family! My name is Paige Sullivan, and I will be teaching third grade this school year. I recently moved to the DC area from Houston. I have spent the last seven years in Texas teaching a variety of grade levels including 1st, 2nd, and 4th grade. Outside the classroom, I spend much of my time running, reading, and serving in my church. I am looking forward to helping take care of my new baby nephew this year as well. I can't wait to be joining the Roadrunners soon!





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Marina Warrenfeltz, 1st Grade Teacher

Hello friends! My name is Marina Warrenfeltz and I'm so excited to be back in a first grade classroom this year! I have ten years of experience in Frederick, Maryland teaching grades 1-3. I have a passion for early literacy and Equity work. I've only ever taught at one school and feel so lucky to call Graham Road my new home. I recently got engaged and followed my heart here with my eight year old son and cat. I love simple pleasures like the sun shining, an iced coffee, and a great country song on the radio. Cheers to a fabulous year!





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Diana Moreno, Pre-K Teacher

My name is Diana Moreno, and I am tremendously excited to be joining the Graham Family as a Pre-K teacher this year! I taught first grade and ESL for the past two years. I am from Colombia and have lived in D.C. area for ten years. Some of my hobbies are painting, drawing, and cooking. I am looking forward to start a wonderful year for my students and myself at Graham Road E.S.





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Kathryn White, Counselor

Hello, GramFam! My name is Kate White and I am thrilled to be joining Graham Road as a counselor for this upcoming school year. Last year I was a counselor at Glen Forest and Bonnie Brae Elementary School and before that I was at Thoreau Middle School and Robinson Secondary School. I grew up in Oregon and have lived in the Washington D.C. area for the past 14 years. Some of my hobbies include painting, hiking, cooking and spending time with my family. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year at Graham Road Elementary School!





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I am originally from Sacramento, California. I have worked with schools and children's programs as a therapist and counselor for over 10 years. I am trained in Trauma Focused CBT, grief and loss, and executive function skill development. I am most inspired by growth mindset and mindfulness practices. I enjoy creative arts and hands on projects such as knitting, sewing, and DIY home improvements.

Pilar Hackman Social Worker





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Eliana Carlan, ESOL Teacher

Hello, #GrahamFam! My name is Eliana Carlan and I am very honored to be part of the community of Graham Road as an ESOL teacher for this upcoming school year. I was born and raised in Bogota, Colombia. This is where I obtained both a bachelor's and a master's degree in Education. Currently, I am finishing my master's degree in teaching/learning the Spanish language and its culture in Granada, Spain. In addition to my education, I had the opportunity to teach English and Spanish to elementary students for over four years in Colombia. It was during this time that I realized teaching is not only my profession but also my vocation. Moreover, I worked as a FLES teacher for three years in FCPS, and this will be my first year as an ESOL Teacher. I am looking forward to a great year at Graham Road Elementary School.





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Nicole Perry, ESOL Teacher

Hi #GrahamFam! My name is Nicole Perry and I am so excited to join your school as an ESOL teacher! I have been a teacher for 14 years in early childhood and Kindergarten. I am very excited to be joining the ESOL team. I am originally from Richmond, and now live in Alexandria. I love to travel, go to concerts, and ride my bike in my spare time. Very excited to work with you all!





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Rebecca Etter, Special Education Teacher

I am so delighted to be a member of the Graham Road Family. My experience includes teaching both elementary and middle school students in numerous academic areas. Virginia has been my home, where I enjoy gardening, reading, kayaking and spending time with my family. I look forward to meeting everyone and having a great year at Graham Road Elementary.





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Katie Marshall, Special Education Teacher

Hello #GrahamFam! My name is Katie Marshall and I am so excited to be at Graham Road this year as a kindergarten Enhanced Autism teacher! I graduated from the College of William & Mary in May 2021 with my Bachelors in Elementary Education, and then again from William & Mary in May 2022 with my Masters in Special Education. I am thrilled to be back in the Northern Virginia area after 5 wonderful years in Williamsburg, Virginia. I love to read, hike, and travel with friends and family. I can't wait for the school year to start and to be part of the Graham Road community!





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Hello, #GrahamFam! My name is Karly Saran and I am excited to start my teaching career at Graham Road as a special education teacher! I recently graduated from West Virginia University with a major in elementary education and minor in special education. I grew up in New Jersey, but I am looking forward to exploring all that Fairfax county has to offer! When I am not spending time by the lake or at the beach, I enjoy reading, riding my bike, working out, and my favorite- trying new restaurants! I am ready for a wonderful school year at Graham Road Elementary!

Karly Saran Special Education Teacher





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Ellie Sweet, Special Education Teacher

Hello! My name is Etielle Sweet and I am very excited to be joining the Special Education Team at Graham Road this Fall! This is my second year teaching and first year at an elementary school. I am originally from the Philadelphia area, but I have enjoyed living in Virginia for the past year. I love to cook, sew, exercise, and do anything in nature in my free time. I am so excited for this new school year at Graham Road!





Carolyn Vachon, Special Education Teacher

Hi #GrahamFam! My name is Carolyn Vachon and I am thrilled to be joining Graham Road Elementary as a Special Education Teacher. This is going to be my 5th year teaching Special Education with FCPS. I am from New Jersey and have lived in Northern Virginia since starting my teaching career. I went to Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania for my undergraduate and graduate degrees. Go Rock! In my free time I love to read, travel, cheer for the Pittsburgh Penguins and New York Yankees, and hike! I'm so excited to get the school year started!





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Hello Graham Road Family! My name is Kaitlynn Gutierrez and I am thrilled to be joining your wonderful staff as the newest Speech-Language Pathologist. I have recently moved from Miami to the beautiful DMV area. Although I've been a clinician for 2 years, this will be my first year working in the school setting.

I graduated from Florida International University with a Masters in Linguistics as well as a Masters in Speech-Language Pathology. Some of my hobbies include arts and crafts, yoga, reading, and attending musical theater. I can't wait to meet all of you, offer as much support as I can, and dive right in!

Kaitlynn Guiterrez, Speech and Language Pathologist





Donna Jones, Math Resource Teacher

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Hello #GrahamFam! My name is Donna Jones and I am excited to join GRES as Elementary Math Resource Teacher (EMRT). Born and raised in Germany, I came to the U.S. and taught middle and high school in NY and PA before transitioning to elementary in VA. I have instructed elementary math and science in the Dual Language Immersion Program in FCPS for 14 years, and was math and science resource teacher at a Two-Way Immersion Program for the past 3 years. My hobbies include traveling, tennis, swimming, hiking, and spending time with my family—husband, son, daughter, and 2 dogs. I look forward to continued learning and great collaboration with my new Graham Road Family!





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Tawanya Scarborough, School Based Technology Specialist (SBTS)

Hello #GrahamFam. I am Tawanya Scarborough and I'm excited to be joining Graham Road Elementary as the School-Based Technology Specialist (SBTS). With 22 years of educational experience, I have been a mentor, team liaison, in-person pilot concurrent learning teacher, collaborator for concurrent teaching and learning, and an ESY teacher. My teaching experiences include teaching Kindergarten - Second Grade. I was born and raised in southern North Carolina. My husband and I moved to Northern VA in 2016 and we are the parents of 1 female dog, Hannah. My hobbies include traveling, reading, and cooking. I'm enthusiastic about the upcoming school year at Graham Road Elementary School.





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Taryn McCormick, Strings Teacher

Hi Roadrunner family! My name is Taryn McCormick and I am joining the #GrahamFam as this year's string orchestra teacher! I have been playing my primary instrument, the violin, for almost 13 years now and I am very excited to start my teaching career and share my love of music with all of you. I love to run outside, bake sweets, and practice new instruments in my free time. I am really looking forward to a school year full of music at Graham Road Elementary!





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Jolanta Noska, General Education Instructional Assistant

Hello Graham Fam! My name is Jolanta Noska and I am excited to be joining Graham Road full time as an IA after working as a substitute for 9 years. I was born and grew up in Poland and moved to the United States after marriage. Before working for FCPS I worked as a Kindergarten teacher in Maryland at a private school. My hobbies include spending time in my garden, painting, cooking, and baking. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year at Graham Road Elementary School!





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Kristin Forsht, Special Education Instructional Assistant

Hello! I am Kristin Forsht and I will be an Instruction Assistant at Graham Road for the 2022-2023 school year! I grew up right here in Falls Church and even went to the original Graham Road Elementary for kindergarten. I enjoy spending time with my family (including my two adorable dogs) and being at the lake or beach. This will be my 7th year in FCPS and I'm so excited to spend it at Graham Road!





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Hi. My name is Frida and I am excited to join Graham rd elementary school as an instructional assistant. I have been working at Pimmit Hills early childhood center for seven years. I live with my husband and I have two children. Some of my hobbies include gardening and cooking. I look forward to meeting you all!!!

Frieda Barani, Special Education Instructional Assistant





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Matthew Ahn, Special Education Instructional Assistant

Hello, #GrahamFam! I go by the name of Matt Ahn, and I look forward to joining Graham Road as an instructional assistant for the upcoming year. I am a veteran of the US Navy, hoping to switch careers to Education; I am currently doing a Master of Arts in Teaching from Trinity in DC. I am originally from South Korea but grew up in Hampton Roads. I enjoy running, reading, playing/ watching soccer, and spending time with my one-and-a-half-year-old daughter and wife.

I look forward to meeting you and learning from you as we embark on this new school year. I can't wait!





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Suheir Alfadhly, Special Education Instructional Assistant

Hi! My name is Suheir Alfadhly, I am excited to be joining Graham Road team for the upcoming school year. I have recently moved to the area from the Middle East, where I taught English and Spanish languages for different age groups and have worked with kids with Special Educational Needs. My hobbies include reading, spending time with my family and going on walks.





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Piedad Freden Special Education Instructional Assistant

My name is Piedad Freden (pronounced Pee-eh-DAD). I was born in Bucaramanga, Colombia, and went to college in Barranquilla. I am a Bacteriologist by training. My husband is a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State; we met in Washington, DC, and married in 1997. We have two children: a 22 year old son who just graduated from the University of Colorado in Boulder and now works for a pharmaceutical company; and a 19 year-old daughter who is a sophomore at The College of William and Mary. The fifth member of the family is our 13 year-old Border Terrier, Mecho. As a Foreign Service spouse, I have lived in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Slovenia, and Uruguay. For the past 3 years, I have been working with the City of Falls Church, most recently became the director of the Extended Care program. I love hiking, camping, the beach, traveling, baking, and reading.





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Mariah Autio, Preschool Autism Instructional Assistant

Hello Graham Road! My name is Mariah Autio and I am a new transfer from Timber Lane. I am switching from ECCB to PAC, and I am SO excited to start my journey here with you all! I have been in the preschool world for 6 years now, but this will be my second year with FCPS. Northern Virginia has always been my home although I have always loved to travel and explore new places. Some other hobbies I enjoy are hiking, reading, hanging out with my friends, and going to target 😊. I am looking forward to an amazing year!





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Hello! My name is Sarah Faye Gostel and I'm so excited to join the Graham Road PAC as an instructional assistant! I am originally from South Carolina and moved to Northern Virginia after I graduated from Converse College, an all women's college. I majored in theater and history but love to teach children, and this will be my first year in a public school setting teaching! I have previously worked in theater education at Keegan Theater and summer camp programming at Smithsonian Associates.

Sarah Faye Gostel, Preschool Autism Instructional Assistant

