



St. Louis Language Immersion School

Staff 2023-2024

Bio Book





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Dr. Meghan Hill	St. Louis, MO, USA	Superintendent	Central Office

Dr. Hill has been a member of the SLLIS team since 2011. She taught multiple grades in The French School, then served as a SLLIS principal from 2016 to 2018 before stepping into her role as SLLIS Superintendent in June 2018.

A Teach for America alum, Dr. Hill is a dedicated educator with a passion for serving the families of St. Louis City. Dr. Hill holds a Doctorate and Master's of Education in Educational Leadership from Saint Louis University and a Master's degree in French from Washington University in St. Louis. She is a certified teacher in the areas of elementary education, Spanish, and French and holds a Principal and Superintendent license for the state of Missouri.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Dr. Anthony Graham	St. Louis, MO, US	Talent Director	Central Office

Anthony Graham has over a decade of experience working in the field of education across the country, including Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Southern Illinois, and rural Alaska. His teaching experience encompasses every grade from Pre-K through sixth grade. Dr. Graham served as an Assistant Principal (K-8) and Principal (ECC-8) in St. Louis and a Central Office Administrator across three departments in addition to his teaching roles. As someone who strongly believes all students deserve a quality education, Dr. Graham has also worked in various capacities at learning support centers, developing and implementing behavior and academic interventions for students of all ages, from toddlers to adult learners.

As a lifelong learner with a strong passion for education, Dr. Graham pursued a unique educational path. He holds an A.A.S. in Agriculture Business and Agriculture Production and Management from Rend Lake College, a B.A. in Anthropology with a minor in Sociology from Southern Illinois University, an M.A. in Teaching with specialization in Elementary Education from Oakland University, an M.A. in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Michigan, where he also obtained his Principal Certification, and an Ed.D. in Educational Practice with a central focus in Global Education and Leadership from the University of Missouri - St. Louis.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
James Robinson III	St. Louis, United States	Principal	Central Office

James Robinson III began his educational journey in 2008, working with high school scholars as a Spanish Teacher in the St. Louis Public School District. As his career progressed, he has had the privilege of serving as a Spanish Teacher, Assistant Principal, and Building Principal in various districts throughout the St. Louis region.

Mr. Robinson received a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing with a Minor in Spanish from Eastern Illinois University, a Master's Degree in Education, and a Specialist Degree in School Leadership from Lindenwood University. He is a certified Spanish Teacher and; holds a principal license for the State of Missouri. Teacher voice, student performance, and the unification of the school community are vital to him. He is a case manager who advocates for understanding that mental health is the foundation of all success for students and staff. Mr. Robinson relates to holistic teachings, restorative justice practices, and project-based learning in and out of the classroom. Work-life balance is essential to him, so when he is away from school, he can be found at the gym exercising, hanging out with friends and family, traveling, or simply enjoying the outdoors. Stay safe, stay connected, and Go SLLIS!



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Dr. Raul Munoz Rodrigo	Madrid, Spain	Assistant Principal	Central Office

Growing up in Madrid, Raul finished his bachelor's and master's degrees in education, and is a former student at St. Louis University, where he earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership in Spring of 2022. Raul taught third grade in Spain before teaching first, second, fifth, and sixth grades in the SLLIS Spanish Program. He has also acted as leader of Spanish instruction in the Middle School Program at SLLIS. This will be Raul's eleventh year working at SLLIS and his first as Assistant Principal.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Ndeye Coumba Gueye	Dakar, Senegal	4th Grade Teacher	French

At a very young age, Mme. Coumba discovered a passion in teaching and in advocating for children. She has been employed as a French Teacher Assistant at Mount Holyoke College working with freshmen students where she acquired a Certificate in French. She holds a Bachelor Degree in English and in African American Literature from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar.

Mme. Coumba joined the SLLIS family in 2013 and decided to dedicate herself to contributing to the success of its mission and purpose. She is a fan of a healthy and physical lifestyle. She has been holding the position of Physical Education Teacher (k-8) for 7 years and Health Teacher (6-8) for 5 years. She will be completing a Personal Trainer and Nutritionist Certification in Spring 2022 and is looking forward to pursuing a Master's degree in Educational leadership.

Mme. Coumba enjoys creative adventures, organizing and planning events, working out, swimming, scriptwriting, dancing, cooking, traveling and helping others.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Dr. Pei McCrary	Taiwan	Assistant Principal	Central Office

Dr. Pei McCrary comes to SLLIS from Nerinx Hall High School where she created the Mandarin program, taught more than 10 years, managed their International Student Exchange Program, and served as a student government leadership supervisor. She is a 2020 graduate of St. Louis University, with a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership. She is committed to challenging students to achieve their very best and to providing outstanding educational opportunities and a culture of academic excellence for students. She is looking forward to positively navigating our students' journeys and being part of a community that empowers everyone to embrace their differences.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Gloria Howell	Republic of Panama	Operations Director	Central Office

Gloria Howell is an accomplished result-driven leader in education who works with schools and educational organizations to increase operational efficiency. After spending nearly a decade working in operations and finance for large charter school networks, Ms. Howell knows what truly drives schools. It is her core belief that all children can have a successful educational experience. During her career, Ms. Howell has served as an Enrollment Director, Regional Operations Manager, Operations Manager, and classroom teacher advocating for equity and access for all students. Ms. Howell earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and MBA from Lindenwood University and an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Webster University.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Lisa Tariq	New York, USA	Director of Federal Programs	Central Office

Lisa Tariq was born and raised in New York and has worked within the field of Education for over nine years. Mrs. Tariq's teaching positions as a Special Education and Bilingual Teacher have afforded her invaluable experience working with children of varying educational and cultural backgrounds. To extend her role as an educator, she pursued Administration with the commitment of guiding the talents and energies of teachers, staff, students, and parents towards achieving educational successes. Mrs. Tariq has served as an Assistant Principal at the Elementary and Middle School levels, a Pupil Personnel Supervisor (K-12), a Principal of a Kindergarten Center and Director of Special Programs. Lisa Tariq holds an undergraduate degree in Childhood Education/Students with Disabilities (1-6), a Master of Science degree in Early Childhood Education/Students with Disabilities (B-2), and an Advanced Certificate in Bilingual Education (K-12). Mrs. Tariq holds New York State and Missouri Certifications as both a Building and District Leader. Mrs. Tariq is pursuing her Doctorate of Education in Leadership in Innovation and Continuous Improvement.

Mrs. Tariq is dedicated to promoting a safe learning environment and a positive school culture that is student-focused. She has a strong commitment to the development and implementation of quality educational programs that emphasize an accelerated learning environment and support the needs of all students in reaching their academic potential. Mrs. Tariq is elated to move to Missouri and join the SLLIS family in August 2022.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Jennifer Ting	Taipei, Taiwan	Enrollment and Assessment Manager	Central Office

Jennifer Ting comes from Taiwan and sees St. Louis as her second home. In 2016, she joined SLLIS as an intern and found her interests in serving K-12 students and also cultivated her passion for bringing second languages to American Education. Jennifer started her role as SLLIS Enrollment Specialist in 2018. In July 2020, she stepped into her new role as Enrollment and Assessment Manager. Jennifer has earned a Bachelor's of Art in Humanities and Education from Chung Yuan Christian University. Jennifer completed her Masters in Educational Leadership at Saint Louis University in the spring of 2021 and is currently working on her dual master's in MBA at Saint Louis University.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Kara Mank	New Athens, IL, USA	Executive Assistant	Central Office

Kara Mank was born and raised in Illinois, just east of the Mississippi River. In 2016, she graduated from Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville with a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education. During her time in SIUE's Special Education cohort, she completed an Independent Study in Classroom Implementation of Mindfulness. Kara graduated Summa Cum Laude and began work with educational equity and student advocacy at the center of her practice. She excelled as a Special Education teacher in Illinois for 3.5 years, with a caseload consisting mainly of children with Emotional and Behavioral Disability and Autism. Kara's passion for improving the education system motivated her to seek a role with SLLIS in 2019, and she is very excited to be expanding her knowledge in administration and operations of public school systems while working with her colleagues in the SLLIS Central Office.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Angel Perez	Mexico	SLLIS Pre-K Teacher	Spanish

I am pleased to share my language, culture and history as an educator in our immersion environment to our young learners. I am excited about being part of such an amazing school full of diversity that embraces its different cultures and languages. SLLIS is a great place to keep growing as an educator and as part of a global community.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Christel St Firmin	Puebla, Mexico	Kindergarten Teacher	French

Christel St Firmin has been a teacher for more than eight years. She is from Puebla, Mexico. She is a passionate teacher and has taught English, French and Spanish for 10 years. She is open-minded and strives to teach from a culturally diverse perspective. Christel enjoys learning about different cultures and traditions. Outside of English Christel also speaks Creole, French, and Spanish. Christel served as SLLIS' Virtual Spanish Teaching Assistant during the 2021-2022 school year.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Jose Manuel Castro Chavez	Veracruz, Mexico	Kindergarten Teacher	Spanish

I am originally from Veracruz, Mexico. I have experience working in education for 23 years. For ten years, in Mexico and 13 years here in the United States, I have worked as a teacher. Education is my passion and I enjoy working with the young students helping them to reach their full potential. I have a bachelor in education from the University of Veracruz. I have plans to return to school and am actively participating in the Teacher's Academy provided by MTSD. I am a huge soccer fan and really liked coaching soccer for the students when I am able.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Tingting Zhang	Anhui, China	Kindergarten Teacher	Chinese

Hi everyone, my name is Tingting Zhang (Ashley Zhang). This is my third year in SLLIS! 2011-2018, I got my Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Philosophy from Nanjing University and then Beijing Normal University. After working as a research assistant for 1 year, I found my passion in Education and decided to change my career. In 2019, I got my Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Washington University in Saint Louis. I am certified in Elementary Education (1-6), Early Childhood Education(B-3), Early Child Special Education (B-3), as well as Middle School Social Science (5-8). I have a twin sister named Yuanyuan (Abbi). And I have a pet rabbit named Coco.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Jaira Bonilla Bennet	Esmeraldas, Ecuador	Kindergarten Teacher	Spanish

My name is Jaira Bonilla Bennet, I am from Esmeraldas - Ecuador, I have a Bachelor's degree in English Teacher Education from Private Technical University of Loja in Ecuador and a Master's degree in TEFL from the International University of La Rioja in Spain.

I am very passionate about teaching students of all ages especially little ones. I am creative and outgoing, I love to cook, dance and travel. Also, I enjoy learning about different cultures and traditions.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Abir Darif	Morocco	1st Grade Teacher	French

Abir Darif is an experienced teacher with strong knowledge of different teaching methodologies and approaches. She graduated from Ibn-Tofail University in Kenitra, Morocco, with a Master's degree in TEFL. She is currently pursuing her doctoral studies in Education and she has participated in many conferences in her country. As a teacher, Ms. Abir strives to ensure that her students learn in a healthy, happy, and safe environment. She is thrilled to be part of the SLLIS team!





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Estefania Aguilar Rodriguez	Oaxaca, Mexico	1st Grade Teacher	Spanish

Estefania Aguilar has been a teacher in multiple countries. She was born and raised in Oaxaca Mexico. Estefania loves teaching, traveling, and meeting new people from different backgrounds.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Li Yang		1st Grade Teacher	Chinese

Li Yang received her master's degree in World Language Education from the University of Georgia. She is a native Chinese speaker. Li loves her job working as a teacher and has a big heart. It takes a big heart to help shape little minds!





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Sandra Alba	Facatativá Cundinamarca, Colombia	1st Grade Teacher	Spanish

I am from Facatativá Cundinamarca in Colombia.
I am always smiling, and I am in love with my job. I love the nature and handcrafts; I am very sociable, and I consider myself a happy person.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Nannan Huang	Fujian province, China	2nd Grade Teacher	Chinese

Hello, my name is Nannan Huang. I come from China, and I have been working in the field of education for five years in the United States. I am so excited to start my sixth year of teaching at SLLIS. I graduated from Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri with an undergraduate degree and a teaching certificate in Elementary Education. Currently, I am pursuing my master degree in Learning Technology and Design from the University of Missouri-Columbia. I love teaching and enjoy being around with children. I am a passionate, creative and committed teacher with a focus to create a supportive, bilingual, multicultural and STEM-rich learning environment for all students that fosters child development and 21st century learners.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Mouhamadou Deme	Senegal, West Africa	2nd Grade Teacher	French

Hi everyone, I am Mouhamadou Deme, from Senegal, West Africa. I'm a bilingual Teacher. I am a happy and ambitious person, and I'm passionate about teaching and community service. I was an intern for SLLIS and am very excited to join your community again!



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Maria Jose Gomez Dominguez	London, U.K.	2nd Grade Teacher	Spanish

Maria Jose Gomez Dominguez finished her Master's Degree in English language and Literature, and moved to London to immerse herself in the culture. She has experience teaching in two different countries: Spain and the United Kingdom. During her time in London, she mainly taught languages, but most importantly learned about the multicultural society we live in. Languages and their cultures have always been her passion. Maria also loves sports, so after school you may find her in the gym!





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Diego Perez Delgado	Colombia	2nd Grade Teacher	Spanish

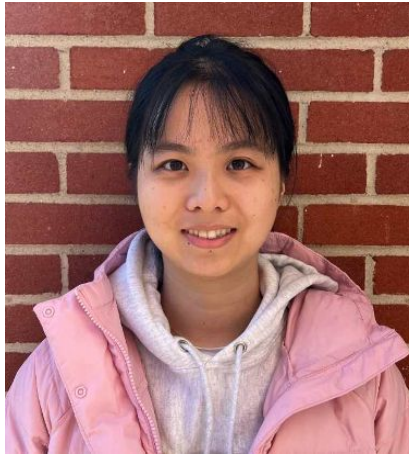
Diego is a Pedagogical Leader, Eco-Schools Coordinator, and Bilingual and Self-Contained Teacher with excellent references and 8 years of experience in teaching diverse subjects at the Elementary School level, as well as in Foreign Language Acquisition Programs. Highly effective in working with parents to promote a better learning culture for their children, he is interested in imparting to others his first and second languages. He is highly willing to keep learning through training and academic studies in order to update and improve all kinds of teaching knowledge and practices. Diego is highly committed to the education and improvement of future generations.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Berta Andujar Salles	Spain	3rd Grade Teacher	Spanish

I am Berta and I come from Barcelona. I have been teaching for three years, two of them as a specialist and one as a lead teacher. I love studying and learning languages and I believe that the best way to learn a language is by getting to know the culture of other countries. I have been studying English and French for several years and I would also like to learn Chinese! In my free time I like to travel. I really like reading and doing crafts.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Zihan Wu	China	3rd Grade Teacher	Chinese

Zihan graduated from Vanderbilt University with a Master's degree in Teaching English Language Learners. She hopes to create an environment where students not only survive but thrive. Joy is central to her teaching philosophy. In spare time, she enjoys traveling and hiking.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Mathilde Hodin	France	3rd Grade Teacher	French

For the past ten years, Mathilde has enjoyed traveling around the world and discovering about fourteen countries, from which she

learned a lot linguistically, culturally, and overall humanly.

Inquisitive and passionate about languages since a very young age, her profession has always been to teach, share, and raise awareness of the linguistic and cultural aspect of languages. Open-minded, motivated, and a good-listener, she believes she can encourage the students to get involved and to engage by finding a true interest in French culture.



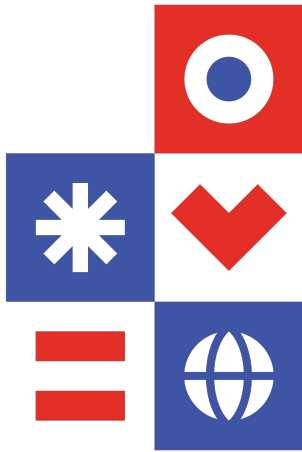
Name	Home Region	Role	Program
		4th Grade Teacher	French

Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Maria Mori	Chile	4th Grade Teacher	Spanish



Hello! My name is María Mori and I come from Chile. I've been teaching English as a foreign language for 4 years. I got my bachelor's degree at Universidad del Bio Bio in Chillán. I am excited about joining SLLIS as a Library, Literacy, Media Specialist and can't wait to share my knowledge and ideas to contribute to this amazing school. I'm enthusiastic and motivated and love participating in activities where the students and teachers can share their culture and get to know each other.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Tzu-Shan Winkler	Taipei, Republic of China	4th Grade Teacher	Chinese

Tzu-Shan Winkler has passion for teaching which is evident in her combined 20 years of teaching experience in both Taiwan and the United States. Her most recent 8 years has been at SLLIS where she has been dedicated to helping the children of the St. Louis community. She is intently focused on providing a meaningful and diverse educational experience for her students.

She has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Language and Literature Education. In addition, she has achieved two Master's Degrees in Applied Linguistics and Literature from Taiwan and Special Education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Furthermore, she has obtained a Missouri Teaching Certificate for Grades 1-6 in Elementary Education and Chinese for K-12.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Daniel Pérez Castro	Colombia	5th Grade Teacher	Spanish

Daniel Perez Castro is a professor with an emphasis on humanities and English. Mr. Perez Castro loves new challenges and projects that expand his knowledge of education and working with students. He is from Colombia and has many years of teaching experience across all levels of education. He has also coordinated English language programs serving as a leader in his previous roles.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Fan Yang	Inner Mongolia, China	5th Grade Teacher	Chinese

My name is Fan Tatar Yang. I am a lead teacher with 8 years of experience working with all grade levels and all programs at SLLIS. I enjoy building a strong classroom culture with my students and having everyone feel included. I graduated from Michigan State University with a Master's Degree in teaching and curriculum. While in undergraduate school, I majored in Second Language acquisition, East Asian Studies and geography. When I am not teaching, I go hiking, camping, and rock climbing. I also love cooking and trying new food.

My maternal grandfather is the 37th-generation descendant of Genghis Khan, so I am the offspring of the greatest world conqueror! I speak 5 languages (Chinese, Mongolian, Korean, Russian and English) so far and I would love to master and conquer more.

Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Boubacar Gueye	Dakar, Senegal	5th Grade Teacher	French



Born and raised in Dakar-Senegal, Boubacar Gueye always felt the need to advocate for children. As a leader, he started a group in 2015, Gueye Family, mobilizing young people to take action to end the orphan crisis, raise awareness, and support illiterate citizens to have a better, healthy lifestyle. Boubacar is passionate about teaching, soccer, board games and beach activities. He served as an elementary teacher from 2010 to 2015 at Coumba Ak Samba Ndar private school in Saint Louis of Senegal, helping students develop self esteem and life lessons by fostering healthy conflict resolution, critical thinking, and communication. Boubacar holds a B.A degree in English and African American Studies at Cheikh Anta Diop University and a Master's degree in Business Administration. Boubacar is excited to be part of the St. Louis Language Immersion School team and community and can't wait to learn from his colleagues and share his experiences and skills.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Brein Salazar		ELA Teacher	Middle School

Collecting new experiences and connecting with other humans is Brien's life purpose. Self expression, whether through spoken language, written language, art, or other means is key to sharing our individual and unique perspectives. Brein hopes to empower and give the tools needed to students to better interact with each other and the world around us. Brein is ecstatic about joining SLLIS!



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Dr. Miao Zhao	China	Math Teacher	Middle School

Miao Zhao comes from China. She graduated with her bachelors in tourism management from Inner Mongolia Normal University in Hohhot, China. She then moved back to her hometown Shenyang and decided to have a greater impact on the education of students, and went to the Shenyang Normal University to pursue a Master degree in Curriculum and Pedagogy (M.A.). She holds a Ed.D from University of Missouri, St- Louis (UMSL) in Educational Practice with a focus in student's competency. Miao's passion for teaching Mandarin motivated her to seek a role with SLLIS, and she is excited to use her wonderful blend of experience, enthusiasm, knowledge, and skill to create a legacy.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Daniel Mejía Rodríguez	Honduras	Science Teacher	Middle School

Daniel Mejía Rodríguez is a native of Honduras in Central America. He is a certified professional educator with over twenty years of experience in the field of bilingual education. He has taught at both elementary and middle schools molding young minds. Daniel holds a degree in Pedagogy and Educational Administration, a major in Science of Education Universidad Nacional de Honduras and a minor in Educational Research, Teaching English to Young Learners from George Mason University. Daniel's hobbies include soccer, world amateur radio, and astronomical radio experimentation.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Pei-Yu Chuang	Taoyuan, Taiwan	Chinese Teacher	Middle School

My name is Pei-Yu Chuang. I'm from Taoyuan, Taiwan. I'm now a master degree student majoring in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language. I love playing basketball, baking and gardening.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Jonas Vilaire	Haiti/Mexico	French Teacher	Middle School

Hello, bonjour, y buenos días a todos! My name is Jonas Vilaire and I am a Haitian Mexican teacher who has been involved in teaching for 16 years. As for teaching credentials, I hold a BA and an MA in TESOL/ Applied Linguistics and I am currently pursuing a Phd in education (Educational technology). I have had the chance to teach French and English to all age groups and levels in Mexico, as well as Spanish for foreigners. In addition, I have also been a teacher trainer and a speaking examiner for Cambridge University in Mexico for the last 7 years. In my free time, I enjoy doing outdoor activities such as basketball and soccer. I am thrilled about the opportunity to teach in a world-class school like St. Louis Language Immersion School and to join the community.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Aura Zuleta	Bogotá, Colombia	Spanish Teacher	Middle School

My name is Aura Zuleta and as a new member of staff at St. Louis Language Immersion School, I am excited to be given the opportunity to work with such a wonderful community about whom I have heard great things. I am from Bogotá, Colombia. I have been a teacher for about 17 years and worked in the USA for the past five years. I value the dedication of teachers; how we challenge and support all students so they can have meaningful experiences that enrich their personal growth.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Sarah Fogle	Missouri, United States	Teacher	Special Programs

Sarah Fogle is a Missouri native who is excited to join the SLLIS team. She has taught for 6 years after earning a Bachelor's in Science of Education from University of Central Missouri. Ms.Fogle is certified in Elementary Education and Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical Special Education. When she is not teaching, Sarah enjoys spending time with family, friends, and her cat Murphy. She also enjoys outdoor activities and creating stained glass art.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Meira Sondov-Gold	St. Louis, Missouri	Teacher	Special Programs

Meira Sondov- Gold was born and raised in St. Louis. She has been teaching for ten years. Meira received her master's degree in Special Education from Fontbonne University. Meira loves traveling, watching sports, cooking and her dog Gonzo. She is very excited to join the SLLIS team for the 2022-2023 school year.





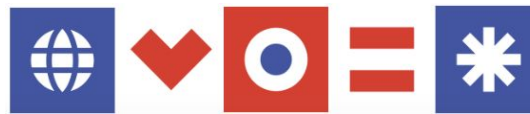
Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Samantha Shiver	United States	Social Worker and Special Education Support	Special Programs

Samantha is both a Social Worker and Special Education Teacher, and her passion is fusing both together in order to optimize student success. She has been working in Education since 2011 and is invested in student growth both academically and behaviorally. As such, she has unwavering high expectations for all students and truly believes every student can learn and grow with the proper support and structure. Mrs. Shiver also enjoys partnering with families to ensure student success because it takes a community to raise our youth to be productive citizens and understand their greatness. Mrs. Shiver's hope is that every student walks away from her knowing their education is the single most powerful tool they will ever invest in. Outside of school, Mrs. Shiver has a beautiful blended family with four kids. She enjoys family time, cooking, reading, cross stitching, sports, and anything outside.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Ericka Marchbanks	United States	School Psychologist	Special Programs

Ericka Marchbanks is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist who received her Educational Specialist degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Ms. Marchbanks is passionate about empowering children to pursue their interests and goals. She values hands-on learning experiences that facilitate student inquiry, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Ms. Marchbanks firmly believes that all students have the ability to succeed with the appropriate support in place, and is dedicated to identifying and implementing those supports. Outside of school, Ms. Marchbanks enjoys time with family, game nights, puzzles, cross stitch, sand volleyball, and tennis!





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Samantha Sudduth	O'Fallon, Illinois	Speech/Language Pathologist	Special Programs

Hi everyone, my name is Samantha Sudduth and I am thrilled to be joining the SLLIS team as a speech-language pathologist! I am a recent graduate of Missouri State University's master's program in speech-language pathology. Prior to obtaining my master's, I attended Saint Louis University, where I majored in speech pathology and French. During my time at SLU, I spent a semester volunteering at SLLIS within the French School. Now, I'm looking forward to working as an SLP and using my passion for language to help students become confident learners and communicators. In my free time, I enjoy crocheting, spending time outdoors, and exploring anything and everything related to French language and culture.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Emily Dorris	United States	Behavioral Health Therapist	Special Programs

Emily is a PLPC/Therapist who recently relocated to the Saint Louis area from Cape Girardeau, Missouri. She graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2019 from Missouri State University and continued her education by pursuing a Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Southeast Missouri State University, where she graduated in 2021. Since graduation, Emily has been passionate about providing accessible and inclusive mental health care to communities, especially in schools! In her free time, she enjoys crafting, embroidery, hiking, musical theatre, and spending time with her dog and husband. Emily is overjoyed to join the SLLIS team and can't wait to meet students this upcoming school year!





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Taylor Macker	St. Louis, MO	Occupational Therapist	Special Programs

My name is Taylor Macker and I graduated from Maryville University in 2018 with my occupational therapy degree. I was born and raised in St. Louis and carry a lot of STL sports pride (Go Blues! Go Cards!). In my free time, I love spending time with my family, my friends, and my goldendoodle, Phoebe. Working with children has always been a passion of mine and I am thrilled to be able to join the SLLIS family.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Angela Jones	St. Louis, MO	Paraprofessional	Special Programs

Hi, I'm Angela, and I began my career at E. St Louis Public Schools and St. Louis Public Schools in 2006 as a voluntary board member serving on a few financial and academic boards.

In 2014, I joined SLLIS as a program coordinator for a before and after school program called Mosaic. Currently, I serve as a paraprofessional, where I provide instructional, behavioral and other support to students in and outside the classroom. I enjoy working with students one on one and seeing them thrive emotionally, socially and academically.

As a paraprofessional and substitute teacher, I support the staff by making myself available when I am needed. I maintain classroom discipline and carry on classroom procedures, with the focus of learning continuity.

I have a Business Administration Associates Degree and secretarial certification. I serve as a trustee for the Brentwood Public Library. I have four children and I'm very active in supporting their pursuit for education.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Kristen Carroll	United States	Interventionist	Special Programs

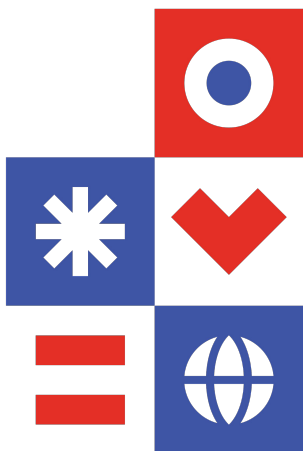
Hello! My name is Kristin Carroll and I am excited to be joining SLLIS in the role of Math and Reading Interventionist! I have been working in the educational field in various settings for the last 30 years. I have been a special education teacher, ABA therapist, early childhood teacher and served most recently as a Math Interventionist in the Webster Groves School District. I have a passion for teaching and advocating for equality in education! I grew up here in St. Louis, where I currently live with my husband and three cats. I love to travel, read, listen to music, garden and create and appreciate art of all genres. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know everyone this coming school year at St. Louis Language Immersion School.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Claudia Murillo Rodriguez	Mexico	Paraprofessional	Special Education

Hello, my name is Claudia Rodriguez and I was born in Mexico and migrated to the United States at a very young age. Facing so many obstacles has given me the drive to help people in any way feasible. During the 21-22 school year I worked for Affton Early Childhood and became extremely passionate about working with children and being part of their growth. My objective is to create a fun and safe learning environment for our children all while learning about each one individually. During my free time I love spending time with my family and helping my children with school lessons. I am a very driven and ambitious person so I am excited to be part of SLLIS. I look forward to working with such a great community!





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Andrea Boccalon	Mexico	Paraprofessional	Special Education

I am very passionate about my job, I truly believe that education is the key to success. Children need to be confident in their abilities and their work. They need to understand that they are special, and that they are wonderful for just being themselves. I love practicing empathy and compassion everyday with my students.

As a teacher, I hope to influence children not only in their grades but also in their ability to solve problems.

Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Aaron O'Laughlin	Arnold, MO	ELL Instructor	Specialist

I have been working in the ESL field for 15 years. Prior to coming to SLLIS, I worked in Daejeon, South Korea. I worked with High School, Junior High, and Elementary students; I worked with adults on business, academic, and conversational English; I worked with college students ranging from the PhD to Bachelor degree level; I worked with business people. During my years in South Korea, I had the chance to work with students and leaders from each part of the world as well as with those from major businesses and Universities (Hankook Tire's Research and Development department, LG, Samsung, The Korean Research Institute of Research and Technology, The Korean Aerospace Institute, The Korean Research Institute of Standard Science, etc.). Though experience is one of my educational pursuits, I come to SLLIS with a diverse set of degrees. I have a B.S. in Missiology and Cultural Studies, an MA in Teaching English as a Second Language, and a Teaching Certification in ESL. I have several other degrees, but the ones needed for my job at SLLIS are listed. I am very thankful to be a part of the SLLIS family and community. My one goal as an ESL teacher is to see students thrive in literacy. In addition to school, I enjoy fishing, competitive powerlifting, and driving long distances in areas where I know I need to read a map.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Paige Sinclair		ELL Instructor	Specialist

I am a Master English second language (ESL) teacher with background in elementary education, and middle school English language arts. In my role at SLLIS, I am thrilled to learn from students, collaborate, and be multilingual learners together. My interests: art, traveling, and writing will be integrated in my classroom environment.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Michele Voss	Jamaica	School Nurse	Support Staff

I was born in Jamaica and moved to the States when I was in 8th grade. After high school I served in the U.S Army for four years, then the U.S. Army Reserves for two years while attending University. I have 29 years of Nursing experience, most of them adult Oncology/ BMT. For 5 years I worked at many different School Districts in St Louis as a School Nurse through a HealthCare Agency, grades K-12. I have been at SLLIS since 2018. While my children were in High School I served on a few Committee's for their School District, most notable to Close the Achievement Gap in Testing / Learning. In 2021 I was surprised and honored to receive the ASHA School Health Professional of the Year Award and nominated for the 2022 LifeChanger Award. Regardless of school district, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or belief system I believe that every child deserves a good nurse.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Aneesah Warfield	St Louis, MO	Substitute Teacher	Specialist

I have a strong passion for working with children. I have experience working with and providing care to children of various ages. I look forward to having a positive impact on the students and parents at St.Louis Language Immersion school and look forward to meeting everyone!



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Gilner Zephyr	Haiti	Substitute Teacher	Specialist

Teacher Gilner Zephyr is passionate about teaching. He started teaching at a very young age and has already devoted more than 20 years to the service of education. He gives all his students a place of choice in his life and is committed to helping them succeed by directing them towards the great paths of learning and life.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Juan Pablo Escaray	Maracaibo, Venezuela	Phys. Ed. Teacher	Specialist

Hi my name is Juan Pablo, I'm originally from Venezuela, I have been teaching for 20 years of which 8 have been with SLLIS. I have a degree in Physical Education, Sports and Recreation from one of the most important universities in my country. I like the philosophy and vision of SLLIS for wanting to incorporate students into diverse cultures and languages. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, doing sports like softball, basketball and volleyball, going to the gym, and swimming.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Taylor Davis	United States	Music Teacher	Specialist

Taylor Davis was born in Alabama and moved to Colorado after obtaining his Master of Arts in Education from the University of North Alabama in Florence, Alabama in 2019. For the past four years, Taylor has taught Music and Theater classes in K-8 and K-12 public schools in Colorado. Taylor enjoys playing the clarinet and ukulele, reading, and cooking new recipes in his free time. Taylor believes that everyone should get to experience the joy of music and is very excited to be on the team at SLLIS!





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Perla Rivera	Florissant, MO	Art Teacher	Specialist

Miss Perla was born into Spanish speaking family and learned English early in her life as she herself underwent a full immersion model as she attended school in the Hazelwood district. She has a Bachelor of Fine arts and a Masters of Educational Psychology with an emphasis on character and citizenship education. Perla has been a part of the SLLIS family for ten years now where she has taught art for the better part of a decade.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Baldomero Alvarez	Spain, Andalucía	Computer Science, Technology and Literacy Teacher	Specialist

Baldomero loves playing chess and cooking. He holds a Bachelor in Education, Master in Psychology, Master in Educational Technology, and is working on a Computer Science. This 21-22, we have a big challenge and a really fun time in front of us with Amazon Engineer Curriculum for middle school and amazing new class on 4th floor for the whole school.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Allison Nash	United States	Generalist Teacher	Specialist

Although Hoosier born and bred, Allison Nash is excited to be learning and teaching in St. Louis. Allison graduated from Earlham College in 2022, with a Master of Arts in Teaching and a Bachelor of Arts in English. Allison travels as much as she is able and has spent time in Haiti, Japan, England, and the Netherlands, and lived in New Zealand for several months. When not teaching or traveling, Allison spends time with her family and friends, reads a lot of books, and plays video games. She is so excited for the new school year at SLLIS.



Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Cristian Anaya	Colombia	Library, Literacy, & Media Specialist + Introductory French	Specialist

Mr. Anaya is a caring, multicultural, and cooperative world languages teacher who is highly committed to pupils' learning process, character development, child well-being and safety. He is passionate about education and learning, as both are powerful sources to make the world a better place.





Name	Home Region	Role	Program
Blanca Murillo	Mexico	Receptionist	Central Office

Hola! Originally from Mexico, I have been working with SLLIS since 2012! I love my co-workers and getting to greet everyone who comes to our school.

