

For the 2018-2019 school year, we are excited to have new staff members join our CES family. You can learn a little about each new staff member below:

We welcome Ms. Allen to our Kindergarten team! Meet Ms. Charlee Allen:

Ms. Vallerio and her family moved to North Carolina from northern Virginia, in 2015. She comes to CES with great experience, she taught in Virginia for twelve years. Upon moving to N.C., she stayed at home with her own children for two years. Ms. Vallerio taught preschool at Davidson United Methodist Church during the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Vallerio loves to read, travel, and spend time with her family. Ms. Vallerio has traveled the world- visiting many areas in central America, South America, Europe, and Asia. She even received her scuba diving certification in Fiji!

Ms. Allen is moving to Cornelius from Ballantyne, where she was a teacher at Elon Park Elementary. She is an Appalachian State graduate and also holds a Master's degree from UNCC, in Reading Education. This will be Ms. Allen's tenth year in teaching! Ms. Allen also has experience as a Literacy Facilitator and Reading Specialist. She enjoys reading, going to the beach, and spending time with her husband, Josh, and one-year-old son, Cameron.

In First Grade, we welcome a familiar face- Meet Ms. Madeleine Curtis:

Ms. Curtis just graduated from UNCC. You may recognize her, as she spent all of last school year at Cornelius, as Ms. Kinne's student teacher (in Kindergarten). Ms. Curtis says that this experience taught her two things: First, that she really loves teaching, and second, she loves Cornelius Elementary! Ms. Curtis has also had wonderful experiences teaching English intensives in Spain and Ukraine, as well as tutoring many diverse learners in reading and math. Ms. Curtis' favorite things to do include traveling, hiking, and reading. Her family is native to Huntersville, N.C., and she noted that she has loved growing up in the Lake Norman area.

In Second Grade, we welcome Ms. Mandy Leonard:

Ms. Leonard is a CMS veteran teacher of 9 years. She worked previously at Ballantyne Elementary School, where she taught 1st grade, 2nd grade, and Kindergarten. Ms. Leonard graduated from Appalachian State University in 2009 with her bachelor's degree in elementary education, and graduated from Queens University in 2017 with a master's degree in educational leadership. Ms. Leonard just recently got married and moved to the North Charlotte area, which prompted her move from Ballantyne Elementary. She enjoys spending time with her new husband and pets (Marshmallow the maltese, Sonny the golden retriever and Poppy the short hair cat). And, of course, she loves to read! Ms. Leonard is so excited to start her 10th year teaching, as a Cornelius Cougar!

In Third Grade, we welcome another familiar face- Ms. Anitra Freeman:

Ms. Freeman has most recently served as a Teacher Assistant, at CES, for the last six years. Ms. Freeman has worked with the LLI, Leveled Literacy Intervention, program with students in grades Kindergarten-5th Grade. She recently graduated from UNCC with a Graduate Certificate in Elementary Education. Ms. Freeman loves to read, shop, and spend time with her family and friends. She has noted that she is so grateful to have the opportunity to be on the 3rd Grade team! She is looking forward to an exciting year!

In Fourth Grade, we welcome the return of Ms. Amy Fitchett:

Ms. Fitchett is returning to CES, after spending the past school year at Blythe Elementary. Ms. Fitchett has been teaching for 15+ years in grades PreK, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, as well as at the University level. She has also been a new teacher support coach and is currently working on her doctorate at UNC Charlotte, in Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. Fitchett shared that she has a delightful daughter, a fun loving husband, and an evil cat. She and her family recently spent two weeks in Hawaii, snorkeling and hiking (2 of her favorite activities)! Mrs. Fitchett also loves to cook and camp! Ms. Fitchett is thrilled to be returning to Cornelius Elementary!

We welcome a new Teacher Assistant, meet Ms. Cara Aiello:

Ms. Aiello and her husband moved into the Highland Creek area from Catawba, NC. She was a substitute teacher for 8 years, for Catawba County Schools. Ms. Aiello is originally from Upstate New York and moved to North Carolina with her family in 2007. She loves to spend time with her family and taking walks with her Pug, Phil. Ms. Aiello has two daughters, 18 and 20 years old. Meghan is starting her freshman year at UNCC and Katy is a junior at Lenoir Rhyne University. Her husband Joe is a math/science teacher at Bailey Middle School. Ms. Aiello is excited to begin her journey as a Cornelius Cougar!