

Meet the West Powellhurst Staff



[Mrs. Meyer](#)

Room 25

Kindergarten

My name is Sasha Meyer and this is my 4th year teaching at West Powellhurst. I'm originally from Arcadia, California, but moved up to Oregon to attend Linfield College for my teaching degree. I live with my husband (Joe) and our two cats (Ollie and Momo). In my free time I love reading, traveling, trying new foods, and making music (violin, French horn, and ukulele). One thing I love about kindergarteners is their humor, and their excitement to come to school each day. I can't wait for the memories that this school year will bring!






[Mrs. Wyrostek](#)



Room 23

Kindergarten

Hello! My name is Elise Wyrostek and I am in my 12th year teaching at West Powellhurst. I taught English Language Development for 4 years and I am currently in my 8th year teaching Kindergarten. I am proud to be a part of the WP community. I love working with the little ones to help make their first experience in school a positive one. I was born and raised in Portland, OR. I received my Bachelor's degree at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA and my Master's in Education degree from Portland State. In my spare time, I enjoy scrapbooking, watching movies, eating various types of food, and spending time with my family.

	<p><u>Ms. Alexander</u> Room 21 1st Grade</p>	<p>My name is Lacy Alexander and it is my 5th year here at West Powellhurst Elementary. I am excited to be teaching 1st grade again. I have my Bachelors in education from Eastern Oregon University and endorsements in reading and ESOL. In my free time I like to take long walks with my dog Toby Dog, read, and ride four wheelers and my RZR.</p>
	<p><u>Ms. Hill</u> Room 22 1st Grade</p>	<p>This is my fourth year at West Powellhurst and I am looking forward to an amazing year teaching the Kindergarten/1st grade class! I was born and raised in Portland, Oregon and went to school in Southern California to get my Bachelor's Degree and Teaching License. This past summer I got the opportunity to live in Italy! The experience was incredible and I am excited to implement what I learned within my classroom. I love going to Disneyland, boating, traveling, and hanging out with friends and family.</p>
	<p><u>Ms. Skofstad</u> Room 24 1st Grade</p>	<p>My name is Kellie Skofstad and it is my 1st year here at West Powellhurst Elementary. I am excited to be teaching 1st grade this year! I have my Bachelors in education from Concordia University. In my free time I like to go on hikes, camping trips, and spend time with my family!</p>

	<p><u>Mrs. Richardson</u> Room 18</p> <p>2nd Grade</p>	<p>Hello! I'm Kami Richardson and this is my 14th year teaching here at West Powellhurst. I have had the pleasure of teaching 4th, Kindergarten, 1st grade and now 2nd grade. I chose to move around and get a wide variety of experience, and I'm so glad I did. I feel very comfortable at all elementary grade levels, and I understand the flow of knowledge from one grade up to the next. I love being a teacher because I get to see the "light bulbs" go on, their little faces light up with pride and excitement, and then awe and wonder as they become more curious about the world around them! GO WILDCATS!</p>
	<p><u>Mrs. Jennings</u> Room 17</p> <p>2nd Grade</p>	<p>My name is Jennifer Jennings and it is my 15th year here at West Powellhurst Elementary. I am excited to be teaching 2nd grade again. I love this age; it's fun to see the students explore and learn each day. I am starting my eighth year in this grade level, having spent the previous seven years in kindergarten. I am married and have two children. In my spare time I enjoy reading and watching my kids in their sports.</p>
	<p><u>Mrs. Fosse</u> Room 16</p> <p>3rd Grade</p>	<p>Hello West Powellhurst families and welcome to the ROARing twenties with the Wildcats! I am excited to be in the midst of my 13th year of teaching in the David Douglas School District and my 12th year here, at West Powellhurst, as a third grade teacher. However, I have already been a member of the David Douglas community for over 30 years, as I attended Gilbert Park Elementary School, Alice Ott Middle School and David Douglas High School, as a student, graduating in 2000! Teaching is an exciting profession because no two days are exactly the same! The students' passion & enthusiasm for learning, their hobbies and each other brightens my day! Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my daughter, paper crafting & card making, when I have the time. As always, thank you for supporting our students, classroom and school.</p>

	<p><u>Mr. Unverferth</u> Room 15 3rd Grade</p>	<p>John Unverferth was raised beneath the roar of jet engines in beautiful Parkrose. He continues to reside there, working the land to provide tomatoes and zucchini for his family of four. Some argue his greatest accomplishment in life was learning to spell his last name before entering kindergarten, while others say it was winning a coloring contest at the age of six with two broken wrists. He considers a great weekend to be one that includes sleeping past 8:00 and two trips to the Olive Garden. Exit polls indicate he is a lock to win “Favorite Male 3rd Grade Teacher at West Powellhurst” this year. If you happen to find yourself at West Powellhurst stop by room 15 to tell him hello.</p>
	<p><u>Mr. Buckner</u> Room 9 4th Grade</p>	<p>Hey Wildcats, My name is Rob Buckner I started teaching at West Powellhurst in 1998. I have taught 5th grade, been a School Improvement Coordinator, and am currently teaching 4th grade. Every year at West has been special because of the amazing students and families! I believe in building a positive, team focused, classroom community where all students are set up for success. Outside of school I am husband and father. As a family, we enjoy reading, hiking, camping and traveling to new places.</p>



[Ms. Serven](#)

Room 10

4th Grade

Hello Wildcats! I'm Sarah Serven, a fourth grade teacher at West Powellhurst. This is my 10th year teaching and my 5th year at WP. In fourth grade we will work on building a strong classroom community as well as developing skills of independence to be a successful student. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in geography and a Master of Education in curriculum and instruction, both from Portland State University. I live with my Husband James and cat Hasil in the Kenton neighborhood of North Portland. When I'm not teaching you can find me at the beach.









[Mr. Buhr](#)

Room 11

4th Grade

Hello! My name is Rick Buhr and I am very excited to be teaching 4th grade at West Powellhurst. I graduated from Lewis & Clark College with a Masters in Education and am very grateful for the opportunity to continue working with and learning from the excellent staff and students in this community. I have lived in Oregon for the past 12 years and graduated from the University of Oregon in 2010 with a degree in Comparative Literature and Spanish. I have worked and volunteered in a number of childcare environments over the past 5 years, ranging from preschool music classes to working as a K-5 after-school teacher. In my spare time (which no longer exists), I enjoy playing drums, reading, hiking and lying around with my two cats, Zaz and Zevon.

	<p><u>Mr. Baker</u> Room 7</p> <p>5th Grade</p>	<p>My name is Jason Baker and I teach 5th grade at West Powellhurst. I've been with the David Douglas District for 11 years, and have been a teacher at West Powellhurst since 2010. In that time, I have taught 1st, 4th, and 5th grades. I am originally from Florida but consider myself an almost-native Oregonian having lived here for 20 years now. I graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in English Literature, and attended graduate school at Lewis And Clark College right here in Portland. Besides teaching, I enjoy backpacking, biking to school when I can, and spending time with my family!</p>
	<p><u>Mrs. Perez</u> Room 12</p> <p>5th Grade</p>	<p>Hello! I'm Jenny Perez, a fifth grade teacher here at West Powellhurst. This is my 4th year as a full-time teacher at West Powellhurst, and my 7th year in education. Prior to becoming a Wildcat, I was a middle school teacher in Los Angeles, and a substitute teacher in David Douglas. I am a former Scot myself, and have also attended the University of Oregon and Loyola Marymount University. I love teaching, and students in my class not only learn the academic skills they need to be successful, but have a chance to build empathy and collaborate with others.</p>
	<p><u>Mr. Reamer</u> Room 8</p> <p>5th Grade</p>	<p>Hello West Powellhurst families! My name is Trevor Reamer and this is my first year at West and my second year teaching. I am excited to be at West teaching 5th grade! I received my BS at Portland State University and my Masters in the Art of Teaching at Concordia University. When I am not in the classroom teaching our amazing 5th graders I am spending time with my wife and son. We enjoy spending our free time outdoors hiking and going to the park with our dog. We also love watching our local sports teams (Ducks, Blazers, and Timbers) and my son's favorite show Chopped.</p>

	<p><u>Ms. Michel</u> Room 14 SLP-B</p>	<p>Hi Wildcats! I'm Chelsea Michel, and I am the SLPB (Supported Learning Program for Behavior) teacher! This is my first year teaching, and I have been loving working at West Powellhurst. I have my BA in theater and dance from Principia College, and my MAT in Special Education from Pacific University. I live with my fiancé, Adam, and our dog Ava. I love Disney, dancing, camping, being with my family, and spending time with my pets.</p>
	<p><u>Mrs. Olds</u> Principal</p>	<p>Welcome to West Powellhurst! I am Susan Olds and it is an honor to be the Principal of such a great school. I graduated from the Oregon Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Clinical Lab Studies and then went on to pursue a Master of Art in Teaching after teaching at a private Preschool for almost 7 years. I taught high school Biology, Anatomy, Medical Terminology, Earth Science and Health Occupations for 15 years in Georgia and Oregon before going to Portland State University to get my Administrative License. When I'm not at school I love to hang out with my husband and daughters as well as other family and friends. It's a joy to get to know the David Douglas community and I invite you all to visit the school and become a part of what we do everyday!</p>
	<p><u>Mrs. Hamness</u> Room 5 Student Behavior Specialist</p>	<p>Hello Wildcats! My name is Shelly Hamness and I am the behavior specialist at West Powellhurst. I graduated from Portland State University with a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice and a Master of Education. I completed the administrative license program at George Fox University and I am currently working on my Doctorate in Education. I have worked in the David Douglas School District for 20 years. Before WP, I was a teacher at Floyd Light and Ron Russell. Outside of school I enjoy hiking, traveling, and spending time with my family.</p>





[Mrs. Bakken](#)
Student
Achievement
Specialist




Hello! My name is Bekah Bakken and this is my first year as the Student Achievement Specialist (SAS) at West Powellhurst. I started my teaching career here at WP 14 years ago. In that time I have been a second grade teacher for 6 years, third grade for 2 years and fifth grade teacher for 5 years. I graduated from the University of Oregon with my Master's Degree and I am a proud Duck fan! I absolutely love teaching and thoroughly enjoy working in this community. When I'm not at work, I love spending time with my husband, Blake my 4-year-old son, Jack and 2-year-old daughter, Kate. We enjoy lots of outdoor activities such as hiking, snowboarding and going to Oregon Duck football games. I look forward to another fantastic year here at West!



[Ms. Espinosa](#)
Room 6
Counselor

Hello Wildcat families! My name is Lisa Espinosa and I am the 2019/2020 interim school counselors for this lovely elementary school. I was born in sunny San Diego, California but moved to Oregon about thirty years ago. I have a BA in Psychology with an emphasis on Marriage and the Family and a Master's in School Counseling/Consulting. Investing in children is an honor and a vital component in a child's life; investing in their academics and well being will eventually impact communities who will be future neighbors, coworkers, and leaders. Knowing that I am contributing to their lives is rewarding!

	<p><u>Ms. Eberharter</u> Room C</p> <p>Speech Language Pathologist</p>	<p>My name is Alice Eberharter, and I love being the Speech-Language Pathologist at West Powellhurst. 2019-20 is my 5th year as an SLP in the schools. I got my Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and History of Math at St. John's College in Santa Fe NM, and my Master's degree from Portland State University in Speech and Hearing Sciences. I'm originally from Idaho, but now I love living here with my husband in beautiful Portland, OR. When I'm not here at school, I love getting outdoors, reading a good book, and enjoying time with my family and friends.</p>
	<p><u>Ms. Lok</u> Room 19</p> <p>ERC</p>	<p>Hello! My name is Jamie Lok, I am so excited to be the ERC teacher at West Powellhurst this year. I have been at West Powellhurst since 2017, but have been teaching for many years. I am so excited to work with such a variety of students with different abilities. My favorite part of being a special education teacher is seeing the growth in students and their love for learning. I am always seeking ways to remove obstacles in learning so students can participate with the best of their ability. When I am not teaching I love spending time with my husband, two boys and my dog Turbo. We love exploring, playing outside, camping, hiking, or cross-country skiing.</p>
	<p><u>Mrs. VanDaele</u> Room 3</p> <p>Title 1</p>	<p>Hello! My name is Christy VanDaele and I am thrilled to be the Title I Reading Teacher at West Powellhurst this year. I started teaching at West Powellhurst in 1998. After nine years as a Wildcat, I moved around the district teaching at Gilbert Heights, Menlo Park, Alice Ott, and worked at the district office. While I have enjoyed a variety of teaching roles in the past 21 years in David Douglas, teaching reading is my passion! My husband, Brian, and I have two children. In my spare time I enjoy watching my children play soccer, cooking, reading, and going to the beach.</p>

	<p><u>Mrs. Balashov</u> Room 1</p> <p>LDS</p>	<p>My name is Raisa Balashova, and this is my 9th year as the Language Development Specialist at West Powellhurst. Before that I had been teaching English as a Second Language for 19 years at DDSD. I enjoy teaching students of diverse backgrounds and cultures. I also enjoy helping immigrant families to become part of the greater school community.</p>
	<p><u>Mr. Ng</u> Gym</p> <p>PE</p>	<p>My name is Jordan Ng and I have been teaching at West Powellhurst for thirteen years. I grew up in Gladstone, Oregon and graduated from Gladstone High School in 2000. After graduating I went to Oregon State University and got my bachelors in exercise and sport science and a Master's degree in physical education. Recently, I was awarded 2019 Oregon Physical Education Teacher of the Year. I spend my free time working out, being active and hanging out with my Labrador, Dallas. I am also a big sports fan and I love the Blazers and Oregon State athletics. Every year I want to educate and inspire all students in a variety of physical activities, so they find enjoyment and benefits to physical activity and lead an active and healthy lifestyle.</p>
	<p><u>Ms. Juday</u> Music Room</p> <p>Music</p>	<p>Hello! My name is Miss J and I'm the music teacher at West Powellhurst. I grew up in Portland, and graduated from David Douglas High School. I studied classical voice at Portland State University and got my Bachelor's in Music Education, and then continued on to get my Master's in Education. I have sung in various choirs for nearly 15 years. In my free time, I like to bake, explore nature, and do more singing. I am so lucky to be able to teach in this community!</p>



[Mrs. Unverzagt](#)
Library
Assistant

Hello, my name is Ms. Jamie and I am the Library Media Assistant at West Powellhurst. I have been working at West Powellhurst for 8 years. I hope to help our West Powellhurst students become excited about reading and the places it will take them.



[Mr. Reyna](#)
Computer
Technology

My name is Donovan Reyna and I am our Computer and Technology Assistant. This is my 6th year here at West Powellhurst and I love being a WILDCAT!! When I'm not in the lab, I coach football, basketball and track for our school district. I enjoy learning new and exciting facts, which is why I am on a Trivia Team with my friends. I love going to the movies with friends and family, and travelling in my free time. I love sports and my favorite teams to follow are the Chicago Bears, Los Angeles Lakers, and Michigan Wolverines. GO WILDCATS!!!



STUDENT TEACHERS

(L-R) Sophia Lim, Cree Nelson, Mary Caravia

(front) Whitney Kha



STUDENT TEACHERS

Micah Rydmark



SUN
Community
Schools

Hello from SUN! We are so excited to partner with the staff here at our West Powellhurst SUN Community School. We work for a local non-profit called Metropolitan Family Service (MFS) and we receive funding from Multnomah County and Portland Children's Levy to provide services for our families. These services include: extended day program, adult education, Paw Pantry, family events, resources and referrals for social services. We love West Powellhurst and the opportunity to serve! Please contact us with questions, comments or concerns.

SUPPORT STAFF



At West Powellhurst we value the hard work and dedication of our Instructional Assistants that move from room to room all day supporting students. They teach small reading groups, support in the classroom, and are involved in supervision every day.

Pictured are: Top Row (L-R) Katie McCanna, Dung Nguyen, Victor Sanchez, Donnyel Martin, Janet Linstead, Jessica Loose, Stacy Moats, Cliff Doran, Amy Wipper, Amy Chao, Griselda Delgado
Bottom Row (L-R) Mikhelle Kim, Vicky Walter, Donna Yarbrough, Olga Opanasyuk(seated), Cathy Ochs

		<p>Custodial Kings: Rob Wilson, Nathan Boles</p>
		<p>Queens of the Kitchen: Viktoriya Remorenko, Monica Galvez</p>
		<p>Medical Staff: Ann Sloan Not Pictured: Megan Gard</p>
		<p>Front Office: Not Pictured Shirley Monroy Norma Moats</p>