

Welcome New 103 Teachers!

Anna Ahne



My name is **Anna Ahne**. I live in Buffalo Grove with my husband, Phil, and my daughter, Olivia. I received my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and my Masters in Education for Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I also have ELL and Reading endorsements. I will be working as an ELL teacher at Sprague. My previous experience includes teaching Kindergarten for eight years in Lake Zurich and Berkeley. When I'm not spending time with my family and friends, I enjoy watching HGTV, crafting, shopping, and baking. I am so excited to work with the wonderful staff and students of District 103!

Katie Carmody

My name is **Katie Carmody**. I live in Chicago with my husband. I received my undergraduate and graduate degree in Psychology from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA, and my Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology from Marquette University. I will be joining the District 103 team as Speech Language Pathologist for Early Childhood and Kindergarten at Laura B. Sprague Elementary School. I began my career working with children with autism at Alexander Leigh Center for Autism in Crystal Lake. Since becoming a speech pathologist, I have worked with individuals of many ages but have found my passion is working with young children. I am so excited to work with the students at Sprague to help them communicate effectively! When not at Sprague, I can be found reading, taking walks, learning how to play the electric bass, and painting.



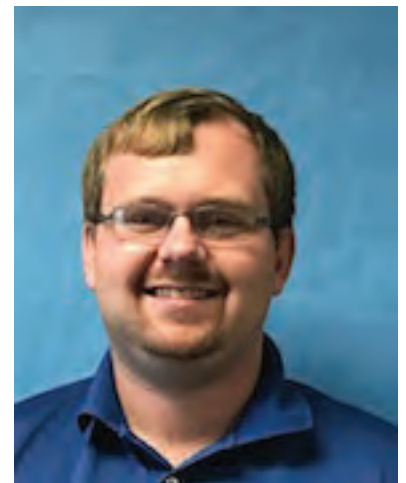
Tara Drazner



My name is **Tara Drazner**. I live in Deerfield. I received my Bachelor's degree from Illinois Wesleyan University (go Titans!). I have begun working on my Masters in Literacy Education and am also working towards earning a Reading Specialist Endorsement. I am thrilled to be joining the District 103 Team as a 3rd grade teacher at Half Day School. I have spent the past two years in Waukegan Public Schools District #60 teaching 1st grade at Andrew Cooke Magnet School for the Fine Arts and Sciences. Prior to that, I was a para-professional before taking over a 4th grade classroom in Wilmette Public Schools District #39. Teaching is a passion of mine, and I am honored to be a part of the Half Day community! In my free time I can be found in the dance studio, solving sudoku puzzles, or hanging out with family and friends!

Zack Duffy

My name is **Zack Duffy**. I live in Round Lake with my wife Tiffany, my son Garreth, and our dog Optimus. I received my undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. I am very excited to teach 8th grade science at Daniel Wright. I have previously taught at Clarence E. Culver school in Niles. Prior to that, I worked at Deerpath Middle School in Lake Forest. I am most excited to challenge students and to push them to achieve their best. My interests include all sports, traveling, and having as much fun as possible.



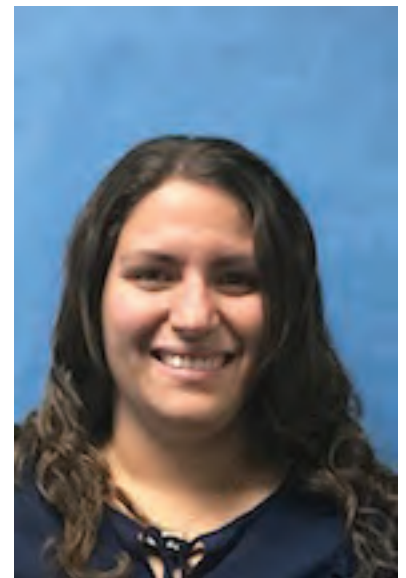
Alex Funk



My name is **Alex Funk**. I currently live in Chicago, not far from Wrigley Field. I received my undergraduate degree in Social Work from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, and my Master's Degree in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago. I will be the Social Worker for the Guided and IIP programs at Daniel Wright. I previously worked at a therapeutic day school for students with autism and emotional disabilities. I am excited to start working with the students, families and staff at Daniel Wright! In my free time I love yoga, biking, and traveling. (I will actually be traveling to Amelia Island, Florida to do a 100 mile bike ride in October!)

Carolina Gomez

My name is **Carolina Gomez**. I live in Mundelein with my husband and daughter. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am joining Daniel Wright as a 7th grade Spanish teacher. I have spent the past 2 years teaching Spanish for grades 6-8 at Waukegan Public Schools. I am thrilled about having my own classroom this year and meeting all of my students and their families! An interesting fact about me is that I am also a certified art teacher and enjoy practicing my art in my spare time as well as spending time with my family.



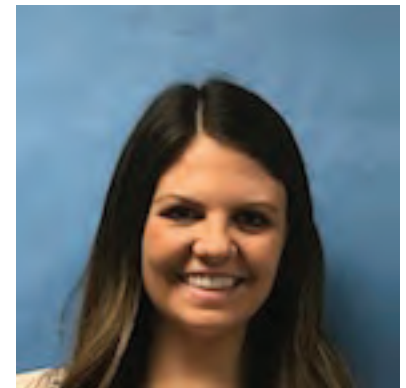
Nicole Graham



My name is **Nicole Graham**. I live in Libertyville with my husband and newborn baby girl. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa and my M.A.T. in Elementary Education from National Louis University. Last year, I was a 5th-grade teacher at Winkelman School in West Northfield District 31. Before that, I spent four years at Prussing Elementary in the Chicago Public Schools teaching grades 3-5. I am delighted to be a new member of the 4th-grade team at Half Day School. Teaching is my passion because children are a constant source of amazement and it is incredibly rewarding watching them learn and grow. When I am not teaching, I enjoy music, crafts, yoga, and spending time with my family and friends. I am looking forward to getting to know the students and families in the District 103 community!

Anna Healy

My name is **Anna Healy**. I was born and raised in Deerfield but moved to Chicago last year. I live very close to Wrigley Field and am a big Chicago Cubs fan! I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, and began my teaching career as a learning and behavior specialist in Community Consolidated School District 62 at Chippewa Middle School in Des Plaines. I will be joining District 103 this year as a learning and behavior specialist in the Intensive Instructional Program at Daniel Wright. I know what an amazing district 103 is, and I am so excited to get to know and work with all of the students, staff, and parents that make up this community.



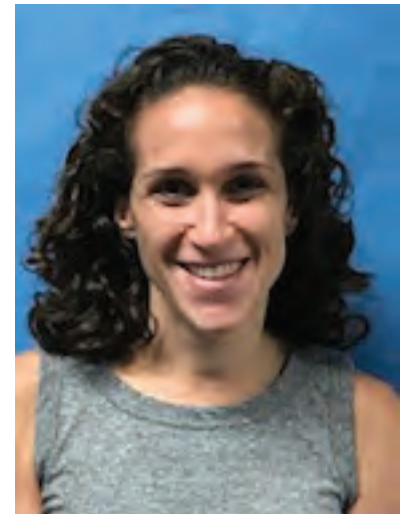
Lindsey Heller



My name is **Lindsey Heller**. I reside in Northbrook. I received my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and Special Education from Indiana University. I will be teaching grades 6-8 Special Education at Daniel Wright. I started my teaching career as a special education resource teacher and behavior specialist for kindergarten through 5th grade students in Northshore School District 112. For the past two years, I have been working in Community Consolidated School District 21 in Wheeling as a special education resource teacher for Kindergarten through 5th grade students. I was in charge of the bilingual, special education students. I am most excited about becoming part of the District 103 family and meeting all of the students. Outside of teaching, I am the freshman tennis coach and varsity assistant tennis coach at Glenbrook South High School in Glenview. I enjoy playing tennis, spending time with my family and friends, and traveling.

Sarah Herman

My name is **Sarah Herman**. I live in Deerfield with my husband and two children. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and my Master of Arts in Social Work from the University of Chicago. I will be joining District 103 at Half Day School as a social worker. I have been a school social worker for 9 years. My most recent experience was at the Noble Street Charter Network where I was a school social worker and Special Education Case Manager. Prior to that I spent three years in East Maine School District 63 at Gemini Junior High and before that at a therapeutic day school in Chicago. I am very excited to become part of the Half Day team and work with the students, families and talented staff of District 103. I am really looking forward to continuing my role as a school social worker and having the opportunity to work with students and families to help all students learn and grow academically, socially and emotionally. In my free time, I love spending time with my family, exercising and traveling.



Salvatore Ingratta



My name is **Salvatore Ingratta**. I live in Arlington Heights with my wife and newborn daughter. I received my undergraduate degree in Secondary Education from Dominican University, and my LBS1 endorsement from National Louis University. I will be joining the Daniel Wright staff as an 8th grade Special Education teacher. My previous experience includes teaching special education classes at Camelot Therapeutic Day School, Theodore Roosevelt High School, and John V. Leigh Elementary School. I have also previously taught ELA, History, Math, Science, Life Skills and Social/Emotional Strategies. I enjoy reading science and historical fiction, and I am a passionate Chicago Bears fan! I am most excited about joining the Daniel Wright team and getting to support the development of each student academically and socially.

Nicole Jackson

My Name is **Nicole Jackson**. I reside in Des Plaines. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a specialization in Spanish from The University of Illinois. I also have my Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction specializing in bilingual education from the University of Illinois. I will be teaching Spanish for Kindergarten and first grade students at Sprague School. My previous experience includes teaching first grade dual language in Schaumburg and recently, Kindergarten. I am most excited about teaching Spanish and watching the students grow! My interests include traveling and spending time with my family.



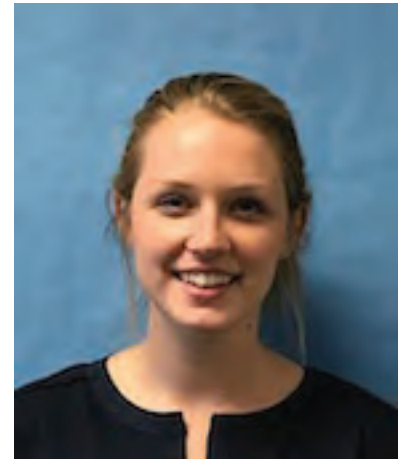
Angie Kagan



My name is **Angie Kagan**. I live in Gurnee with my husband, two daughters, and two cats. I attended the University of Illinois and received my undergraduate degree from Eastern Illinois University. I received two graduate degrees in Literacy and Administration from Saint Xavier University in Chicago. I will be working as a Literacy Specialist at Half Day School. My most recent teaching experience includes six years as a 2nd grade classroom teacher and five years as a Reading Specialist with K-4 students. I am most excited about working with students to strengthen their reading skills and to nurture their love of reading and books. During my free time I enjoy reading, running, gardening, vacationing with my family, and watching my two girls play sports. My favorite vacation destinations are Disney and the beach.

Sarah Kantor

My name is **Sarah Kantor**. I live in Buffalo Grove. I received my undergraduate degree from Bradley University. I will be joining the Daniel Wright team as a seventh grade science teacher. I have spent the past three years teaching in Peoria, Illinois, and I am thrilled to have moved back to my hometown! I look forward to a year filled with new chances to learn, grow, and inspire those around me.



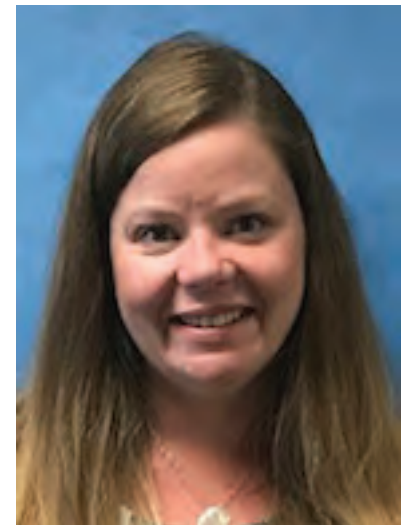
Stephanie Kodros



My name is **Stephanie Kodros**. I am originally from Glenview, and now reside in Niles. I have received my Bachelor's Degree in Culinary Arts from Kendall College and a M.A.T. in Health Education from Northern Illinois University. I am the new Family Consumer Sciences (FCS) teacher at Daniel Wright. My previous experience includes of being a Culinary Arts teacher within the CTE program in Chicago Public Schools, as well as a summer school Health teacher for district 211. I also have a prior career in Culinary Arts running various restaurant kitchens. My hobbies include cooking, ceramics, running, and knitting. I am super excited about getting to know my students and getting involved with after school activities at Daniel

Jenny Larsen

My name is **Jenny Larsen**. I reside in Lincolnshire with my husband Mike and children Lily (7) and Teddy (3). My new position is teaching first grade at Laura B. Sprague Elementary. My previous experience includes sixteen years of teaching in Chicago, fourteen of those years were as a first grade teacher. I am most excited about building a strong classroom community with my students. This strong foundation will set us up for an awesome year of learning! My interests include traveling, gardening, watching football, riding bikes and creating mosaics. I look forward to building a strong home school connection.



Ellie Marquis



My name is **Ellie Marquis**. I live in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago. I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Master's of Social Work from Loyola University Chicago. I will be joining District 103 as a 7th and 8th grade social worker at Daniel Wright. My previous experience as a social worker includes Catholic Charities in Cicero and the past three years at Waukegan High School. I am most excited about supporting student social/emotional growth, being involved in the school community, and getting to know the awesome students attending Daniel Wright. My interests include traveling, reading, biking, being on or near the water, and spending time with family and friends.

Katie McCraren

My name is **Katie McCraren**. I grew up in Highland Park but currently reside in Chicago. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I have spent the past two years as a 4th grade teacher at the School of St. Mary in Lake Forest. Prior to that, I was an educational associate at Hoffman Elementary School in Glenview. I will be teaching 3rd grade at Half Day School. In my free time I love spending time with my family and friends, reading, and staying active. I am thrilled to be a part of the distinguished District 103 team and to continuing being a positive and motivating educator for children. I cannot wait to begin working with the wonderful community of students, parents, teachers and staff!



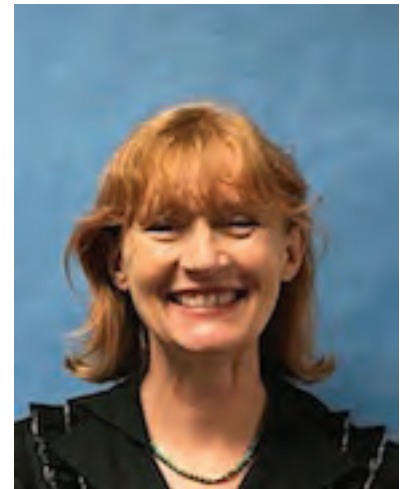
Amanda Nach



My name is **Amanda Nach**. I live in Des Plaines with my family. I received my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Illinois State University. I will be teaching 5th grade at Half Day School. I spent the past year teaching 3rd grade (at Half Day) and 5th grade (at Daniel Wright). I am very excited about the new Half Day facility and all the wonderful opportunities this district has to offer. When I am not teaching, I am performing in local community theatre shows and directing children's theatre.

Catherine Napper

My name is **Catherine Napper**. I live in Evanston, Illinois, my hometown, with my husband and myriad of pets. I received my undergraduate degree from Columbia College, Chicago, and my Master's Degree in Teaching from National Louis University. I am a mother to two grown children, a daughter and a son, and a step mom to three more! I will be working as the REACH teacher and Literacy Specialist at Half Day School. I am joining the D103 staff after 10 years as a teacher in McHenry School District 15, where I taught a multi-age 4th and 5th grade classroom. Prior to that, I was a teacher at Prairie Crossing Charter School, and I began my teaching career in Kildeer Community Consolidated School District 96. I have a background in fine and performing arts and continue to write and perform around the Chicagoland area. I also enjoy nature photography, studying Illinois history and archeology, organic gardening and swimming. I am absolutely thrilled to be joining the wonderful D103 learning community, and I look forward to sharing my talents, skills and love of teaching with the students here!



Elisabeth Owens



My name is **Elisabeth Owens**. I live in Chicago. I received both my Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Music Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am very excited to join the D103 music department as an orchestra teacher at Half Day School. Prior to D103, I taught at a Department of Defense School in Germany as a 7th-12th grade orchestra, choir, band, and piano teacher. I began my public school teaching career as an orchestra director in Lombard School District 44. In addition to teaching, I love playing violin in community orchestras and in musicals!

Nina Nusbaum



My name is **Nina Nusbaum**. I live in Lincolnshire with my husband and our cat, Smudgie. I received my undergraduate degree in Business Administration from University of Economics which is located abroad. I completed my first Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction in Mathematics at National-Louis University, and a couple of years later, I received my second Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. I have been teaching for 11 years in Chicago and for the new school year, I will be teaching 7th grade mathematics at Daniel Wright Junior High School. I am very excited to be a member of School District 103 and part of the Daniel Wright family. I am looking forward to meeting students and parents, and am thrilled to welcome everyone to the world of math. Together, we will let our minds wander the universe of mathematics and inspire ourselves and others to become reflective and principled inquirers, leaders and inventors. In my free time, I love hiking, biking, and volunteering for various animal shelters. I truly appreciate the change of all seasons, but fall is my favorite time of the year, as the colors become vibrant and scenic.

Christina Paulsberg



My name is **Christina Paulsberg**. I live in Wauconda with my three children and husband. I will be teaching physical education at Half Day School. My previous experience includes teaching in District 102 for seven years and working in Early Intervention. My passion is running. I have done several marathons including Iron-man Boulder in 2015. I am excited to help children find their passion for movement through physical education. Fun Fact: Daily physical movement increases blood and oxygen flow which improves attention and the ability to learn.

Marissa Petroski

My name is **Marissa Petroski**. I received my undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Spanish from The University of Iowa, and my Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago. I will be joining District 103 as a Social Worker at Sprague School. My past work experience has been spent in schools across Winnetka, Buffalo Grove, and Mundelein. I am very excited to be a part of the District 103 community and to share my passion for helping students develop their social emotional skills! My favorite pastimes are traveling with my family and trying new outdoor activities.



Lauren Prior



My name is **Lauren Prior**. I live in Glenview with my husband and one-year-old daughter. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Latin American Literature and Culture from New York University, and my Master of Science in Elementary Education from Northwestern University. I will be joining District 103 as an ELL and Art teacher at Half Day School. I spent the past five years in a K-8 Chicago Public School as a 3rd and 4th grade classroom and ELL teacher. I am excited to be joining a district where the teachers and staff embrace the diverse cultures and languages of their students. In my free time I enjoy reading, running, and traveling with my family. Fun fact: This summer we enjoyed a trip to the Amalfi Coast of Italy!

Caitlin Raquet

My name is **Caitlin Raquet**. I recently moved from Lakeview in Chicago to Buffalo Grove. I received my undergraduate degree in Psychology and French from Iowa State University, and my Masters in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago. I will be working as the 5th and 6th grade social worker at both Half Day and Daniel Wright. My most recent experience before coming to D103 was within the south Cook County area, serving those within CPS and surrounding districts. I worked exclusively with those who had special needs and those who required self-contained special education as the social worker for 3rd graders through the age of 22. Previous to that, I worked in Forest Park, Illinois with K-5 students at Betsy Ross Elementary as their school social worker. I enjoy running, the Chicago Blackhawks, spending time with my dog, Dave, and being around friends and family! I also have a great love for soccer, and was able to play from a young age into my collegiate career, leading me to be the co-coach for soccer this year at Daniel Wright. I am absolutely thrilled to begin this new school year!



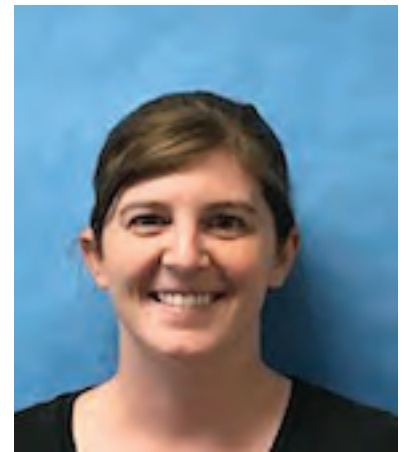
Eric Rexer



My name is **Eric Rexer**. I live in Hoffman Estates. I received my Bachelor of Science from Mansfield University in Pennsylvania and my Ph.D. at University at Buffalo in Buffalo, NY. My new position is Math and Science REACH Coordinator and sixth grade STEM teacher at Daniel Wright. My previous experience includes teaching Chemistry at the college level since 2009 and science at several high schools, middle schools, and junior high schools in the area. Prior to teaching I worked as a scientist in basic research and in the pharmaceutical industry. I am most excited about the diversity of students at Daniel Wright, and I am excited about the broad range of subjects we will be exploring. As a hobby I grow wild flowers and read continuously on a wide variety of topics.

Megan Schultz

My name is **Megan Schultz**. I live in Lake Zurich with my husband and daughter. I received my undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education from St. Norbert College in Wisconsin and my ESL endorsement from the College of Lake County. I will be teaching 2nd grade at Sprague School. My previous experience includes teaching an at-risk preschool class for seven years in Wauconda. I am a District 103 alumni, and I am very excited to be returning “home.” I am so excited to work with this wonderful staff and group of children! In my free time, I love spending time with my family and traveling.



Rebecca Seemann



My name is **Rebecca Seemann**. I recently moved to Wauconda from Lincoln Park in Chicago. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education History from DePaul University. My previous experience includes student teaching at Lane Tech College Prep, teaching Economics and Global Issues at Lake View High School, and teaching World Studies, US History, and AP US History at Roberto Clemente Community Academy. I will be joining District 103 as a 6th grade Social Studies teacher at Daniel Wright Junior High. When I am not teaching I enjoy traveling and spending time with my family at our farm in Union. I am looking forward to getting to know all of the incoming 6th graders and to becoming a member of such a diverse community!

Jenn Vander Pas

My name is **Jenn Vander Pas**. I live in Lake Zurich with my husband. I received my undergraduate degree from Illinois State University, and my Master of Arts in Reading Education from Concordia University of Chicago. I have spent the last seven years teaching first grade in Antioch School District #34, and I am excited to continue teaching first graders at Laura Sprague School this year! I am very excited to create a classroom community where we set goals and encourage each other to reach them. I believe in the philosophy of working together to achieve our goals. My hobbies outside of the classroom include reading, running, and watching sports. I am a big football fan! I love to travel, and I am looking forward to planning a trip to Europe soon. I am very excited to be a member of the D103 team, and I am looking forward to a great year!



Kristin Wood



My name is **Kristin Wood**. I live in Grayslake with my husband and two children. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and my Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University. For the past four years, I have been teaching Spanish at Woodland Middle School in Gurnee District 50. Prior to that I taught for five years in Libertyville District 70 at Highland Middle School. In my free time I enjoy reading, dancing and spending time with my family. I am thrilled to be joining the Daniel Wright team as a 7th grade Spanish teacher, and I look forward to getting to know my students and their families.

Katie Yan

My name is **Katie Yan**. I currently live in Vernon Hills. I received my undergraduate degree from The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I will be teaching 4th grade at Half Day. Previously, I was an 8th grade science and English language arts teacher at Park School in Grayslake. My interests and hobbies include singing, badminton, volleyball, tennis, cooking, and painting. I am excited to get to know the students and to help them grow as people.

