

New Staff 2017-2018 Bio's

District

Dawn Davis

Dawn Davis has been appointed to the position of **Director of Student Services** for the Portland Public Schools. Mrs. Davis has many years of experience as both a teacher and an administrator. She most recently has served as the Director of Pupil Services in Regional School District 8 (RHAM) and prior to her position in Region 8, she served as the Director of Special Education, Assistant Principal and Director of Early Childhood in the Andover Public School District. Her experience working with students of all ages will be a tremendous benefit for the district. Mrs. Davis brings her passion and commitment to working with students with special needs, staff, and family members and will provide the leadership and organizational knowledge necessary to meet the needs of Portland students. Mrs. Davis received her Bachelor of Arts in child development/education from Connecticut College, a Master's degree in Special Education and a 6th Year Diploma in Education Leadership from Southern Connecticut State University. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Connecticut in Educational Leadership. Mrs. Davis is a board member on the Connecticut Council for Exceptional Children, a disaster responder for the American Red Cross, and a volunteer first-responder firefighter/EMT in her hometown. In her spare time, Mrs. Davis enjoys photography, scuba diving, kayaking and gardening. She will begin her work in the Portland Public Schools on July 1.

Charles Britton

Dr. Charles Britton has been appointed to the position of **Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology** for the Portland Public Schools. Dr. Britton has many years of experience as both a teacher and an administrator. He has been an educator for 23 years, serving as the principal at Amity Regional High School, assistant principal and principal at Coventry High School, and as a high school social studies and English teacher in the Milford Public Schools. Prior to accepting the position in Portland, Dr. Britton was an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Literacy at Sacred Heart University. As a professor at Sacred Heart, Dr. Britton opened several lines of research, including studies investigating the efficacy of secondary literacy interventions and reading instruction.

Dr. Britton earned a Doctorate of Educational Leadership from the University of Connecticut, a Sixth Year Degree in Educational Leadership from Southern Connecticut State University, and a Masters in the Art of Teaching from Quinnipiac University. He is a life-long Connecticut native and resides in Wallingford with his wife, Jen, and two children, Chase and Cassidy. "I am delighted to join the Portland Public Schools," Britton said. "Portland has a strong base of community support. I look forward to developing relationships that will help ensure the success of all Portland students."

Dr. Britton brings a wealth of experience and a clear focus on students and learning and I am pleased to have him on our team. He will begin serving as the Portland Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology on or about August 10th.

PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Jaclyn Clarke

Jaclyn Clarke is the newest addition to the **English Department** at Portland High School. She has spent the past two and a half years as a teacher in Hartford, CT at Classical Magnet School. She taught ninth grade literature and eleventh grade American Literature at Classical. Jaclyn thrives in being very active in her school community. The past two years, she has mentored seniors with their Capstone assignments, participated in Open Houses, participated in diversity clubs, and coached middle school and high school sports, such as basketball and soccer. Jaclyn received her undergraduate degree in English Literature and double minors in African American Literature and Spanish at Western New England University in 2011. In 2012, she received her Master's in English for Teachers at Western New England. Then, she attended University of Saint Joseph to obtain her teacher certification through the Masters of Education program in 2015. Jaclyn enjoys music, plays the piano, is a huge T.V. buff, and loves her black lab! She loves to read and always looking for a new book to motivate and inspire her. She understands the joys and lessons literature has to offer and this shows through in the classroom when she teaches. Jaclyn is looking forward to working in Portland and with the staff, parents, and students!

Dylan Bernard

Dylan Bernard, A Technology and Engineering Educator, has accepted the position of **Technology Education teacher** at Portland High School for the 2017-2018 school year. Dylan graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a BS in education from the School of Engineering, Science and Technology, and was awarded Cum Laude, The Technology Education Departmental Honors Award and earned the Nasa Space Grant. Dylan completed his student teaching experience at Plainville High School and the Middle School of Plainville in Communications Technology classes. During the summer, Dylan has also worked at the CCSU summer camp program, Tech It Out, in a 3d Modeling class as well as continuing to work at AC Moore in Plainville. During his time at CCSU, Dylan became the President of several student organizations that promoted community service, and worked on the Go Baby Go project where CCSU students team with high schools to modify ride on toy cars for children who have disabilities and do not have the mobility to move independently. Dylan is excited to bring his technology skills to Portland.

Sean Ring

Sean Ring has accepted the **Social Studies teacher** at Portland High School for the 2017-2018 school year. Sean obtained his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Western New England University and his teaching certification from Central Connecticut State University. He is currently in the process of getting a Master's degree from Walden University. Sean has taught social studies at Thomas Edison Middle School in Meriden and Daniel Hand High School in Madison. Sean's goal in teaching is to create a unique, meaningful, and engaging learning experience for students who enter his classroom. Sean has a high level of interest in all sports and worked as an assistant football coach at Northwest Catholic for seven seasons.

PORTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Jennifer Bell

Jennifer Bell will be working at Portland Middle School as a **Math teacher**. She attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute, The Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden and the University of Central Florida for her undergraduate work. She has a B.S in Marketing with a minor in Industrial Engineering. Jennifer has her Master's Degree from Wesleyan University in Liberal Studies with a concentration in mathematics. Jennifer went through the ARC program and was certified to teach Mathematics in 2001. She spent the last sixteen years teaching math in grades 7 and 8 at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. She was a team leader for grade 8 from 2009-2017 and worked closely with the high school math department, outside consultants from LEARN and the curriculum superintendent to edit and revise the math curriculum to align with the common core. Jen enjoys most outdoor recreation including horseback riding, soccer and softball. She currently is an assistant coach for Portland Travel Soccer and Basketball.

Reagan Fitzgibbons

Reagan Fitzgibbons is a **Registered Nurse** with 19 years of nursing experience. She is the new school nurse at Portland Middle School. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Reagan comes to our school system with a background in adult and pediatric emergency nursing, pediatric behavioral health, and homecare. She enjoys precepting nurses and teaching nursing students. She would like to get her Master's degree to teach nursing students in their clinical rotations. In addition to being a mom of four, Reagan enjoys spending time running, cycling, swimming and getting out on the trails. She enjoys the challenges of endurance sports, and recently completed her second Ironman.

BROWNSTONE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Sheryl McDonough

Sheryl McDonough is the new full-time **Social Worker** at Brownstone Intermediate School. Sheryl was the interim Social Worker at BIS for the 2016-2017 school year. Sheryl has spent the majority of her career in schools, as a Social Worker in Southington, Family Resource Center Coordinator in East Hartford and New Britain and Coordinator of School Age Services in New Britain. She began her career as a preschool teacher at Yale. She has an undergraduate degree in Human Development and Family Relations and a Master's Degree in Social Work, both from UCONN. When not working, Sheryl can usually be found hanging out with her husband, Jim and boys Andrew (13) and Ryan (11) at one or another ball field.

GILDERSLEEVE SCHOOL

Shayna Camiel

Shayna Camiel is happy to serve as a **Special Education teacher** at Gildersleeve School in Portland. Shayna received her undergraduate degree in Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Connecticut. Following her undergraduate career, she went on to obtain a master's degree in Education Psychology at UConn. Shayna has completed two internships working with elementary school students, in Coventry and Farmington. Prior to moving to Connecticut, Shayna worked as the Education Assistant for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston. Shayna is excited to co-teaching alongside general education teachers. Her personal interests include traveling, yoga, cooking, and reading.

Colleen Oliveira is the new **Math Interventionist** at Gildersleeve School. Mrs. Oliveira has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies from UCONN as well as a Master of Science degree in Education from the University of Bridgeport. She is currently working on completing her second Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. Mrs. Oliveira has been home with her two young children for the past four years, but prior to that, she taught seventh grade math in Tucson, Arizona. Prior to her teaching career, she spent over six years working in investments. In her spare time, Mrs. Oliveira enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, running and has recently taken up stand-up paddle boarding and surfing (and loves it!). She is very excited to be a part of the Portland community!

Ashley Woronoff

Ashley Woronoff is the new **Registered Nurse** at Gildersleeve Elementary School. Ashley is a 2003 graduate of Portland High School. She earned a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Saint Joseph, graduating with honors in 2007. For the past ten years, she has worked on a medical cardiology unit where she cared for medically complex patients and also became involved in various committee work. Ashley was the 2011 recipient of the Linda Richards/June Long Excellence in Nursing Award and in 2013, she had the honor of representing Hartford Hospital's Nursing Performance Improvement Council at a national research conference in Atlanta, GA. In her free time, Ashley enjoys family time boating and enjoying the outdoors with her children, Cora age 3, & Alexander age 1 1/2. She is looking forward to sharing her passion & commitment to the wonderful profession of nursing in her new position at Gildersleeve Elementary School.

Betsy Bielefield has joined the Gildersleeve School team as a **paraprofessional**. Betsy was a middle school Science teacher for 30 years and paraprofessional 2 years in Middletown. She received her B.S. in Elementary Education from WCSU and M.S. Science Ed. from CCSU. In her free time, Betsy enjoys reading, gardening and travel. Betsy's most recent trip was to the Galapagos Islands.

Sarah Mannix will be a **paraprofessional** at Gildersleeve School. Sarah has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a Concentration in Children and Youth from Eastern Connecticut State University. She has eight years of experience working with young children at Children's Lighthouse Childcare and Learning Center in Portland and two years of experience as a Nanny for three children in North Carolina. Sarah's professional goals are to one day go back to school for Counseling and to continue her career in the Portland Public School District. Sarah's personal interests include DIY projects and crafting, outdoor sports, and hiking with her husband and her dog.

VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL

Gayle LaBrec

Gayle LaBrec is thrilled to serve as the new **music teacher** for Valley View School and Gildersleeve School. She holds a M.S. in Education from the University of Bridgeport and a B.A. in Music, Summa cum Laude, from Central Connecticut State University. Ms. LaBrec previously worked with students in Old Saybrook and Westbrook Public Schools, and has directed a children's choir for five years. She also enjoys coaching young musicians to prepare

for performances, playing woodwinds, piano, and singing in various musical ensembles, and spending time with family and friends.

Kathleen Barningham

Kathleen Barningham has recently been hired as a **part-time Language Arts and Math tutor** at the Valley View School in Portland. She is a retired teacher from the Hartford Public Schools where she worked as a bilingual Special Education teacher, a first and second grade teacher, Literacy Coach (K-6), and Early Literacy Coach (PreK-K). After retirement, Kathleen worked part-time for six years at CREC as an Early Literacy and Numeracy Facilitator for the Open Choice program. One of the schools assigned to her during the last two years with Open Choice was Valley View School. She was finally teaching in her hometown of Portland where she has been living for the past 28 years with her husband, Richard, and two children, Mark and Arleen. With her new tutoring position at Valley View, she is looking forward to provide interventions to help our students achieve academic success in their foundational years.