

**La Cañada Unified School District**  
**2016-17 New Teaching and Counseling Staff**

Armstrong, Ted

Position in LCUSD: Adapted P.E. teacher at PCR and LCE

High School: Hesperia High School

College: Cal State San Bernardino (Played intercollegiate soccer at CSUSB)

Degrees: BS in Physical Education; MA in Education/Kinesiology

Credential(s): Single Subject Physical Education; Adapted P.E. Specialist

Other Professional Experience: LAUSD (Physical Education and Adapted P.E. teacher); La Canada High School Fitness Center Manager; Personal trainer/speed coach; US Soccer Federation "B" licensed coach.

Bontemps, Charisse

Position in LCUSD: 7th grade Math teacher at LCHS 7/8

High School: The Mary Louis Academy in Queens, NY

College: Long Island University (undergraduate); New York University and University of Phoenix (graduate)

Degrees: B.S. in Mathematics; M.A. in Math Education

Other Professional Experience: New York City Schools and Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (taught grades 6, 7, and 8); Served as a teacher coach in the Monterey Peninsula USD and taught Math for ALF this summer at LCHS.

Brar, Ravi

Position in LCUSD: Kindergarten teacher at PCR

High School: Southern Okanagan Secondary

College: Okanagan University College and University of British Columbia (undergraduate)

Degrees: B.A. in History and Elementary Education

Other Professional Experience: Kindergarten teacher at Oliver Elementary School in British Columbia and at Proctor Elementary School in Castro Valley, CA (also taught first grade at Proctor), and taught 2nd grade at Marengo Elementary School in South Pasadena USD.

DeSimone, Kevin

Position in LCUSD: LCTV teacher

High School: La Canada High School

College: California State University, Northridge

Degree: B.A. (Communication Studies)

Credential(s): Designated Subjects: Industrial and Technology Education (pending)

Other Professional Experience: LCHS Theater Paraprofessional, Summer Arts Conservatory at LACHSA, Manager and Instructor at the Theater Education Group, and Shakespeare performer/instructor at the Alex Theater in Glendale.

Geckle, Karl

Position in LCUSD: LCHS Chemistry teacher

High School: Somers High School, Somers, New York

College: University of Delaware (undergraduate); Mercy College (graduate)  
Degrees: B.S. in Chemistry; M.A. in Adolescent Education (Mercy College)  
Credential: Single Subject Chemistry  
Other Professional Experience: Dulaney High School in Timonium, MD (Chemistry teacher). At Dulaney also served as Varsity Soccer Assistant Coach, Film Club Sponsor/Advisor, and Chemathon Coach/Coordinator.

Hays, Yvonne

Position in LCUSD: LCHS Counselor  
High School: Stuyvesant High School, New York, NY  
College: Dartmouth College (undergraduate); University of Pennsylvania (graduate)  
Degrees: B.A. in History; M.S. in Education (Psychological Services)  
Credential: Pupil Personnel Services  
Other Professional Experience: North Gwinnett High School in Suwanee, Georgia and Decatur High School in Decatur, Georgia (School Counselor); Maranatha High School in Pasadena, CA (College Counselor), St. Margaret's Episcopal School in San Juan Capistrano, CA (Associate Director of College Counseling), Independent Educational Consulting and UCLA Undergraduate Admissions Reader, Publications Manager for Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

Kang, Andrew

Position in LCUSD: LCHS Math teacher  
High School: Crescenta Valley High School  
College: UC Irvine (undergraduate); California State University, Northridge and Talbot School of Theology (graduate)  
Degree: B.A. in Psychology and Social Behavior  
Credentials: Single Subject Math and Multiple Subject  
Other Professional Experience: Crescenta Valley High School in La Crescenta, CA (Math teacher, Boys' Water Polo and Swim coach); Bancroft Middle School and Berendo Middle School in Los Angeles, CA (Math/Science teacher).

Kassarjian, Michael

Position in LCUSD: LCHS Math and Engineering teacher (Project Lead the Way)  
High School: James Monroe High School, North Hills, CA  
College: UCLA (undergraduate); Penn State University (graduate)  
Degrees: B.S. in Materials Science and Engineering; M.S. in Ceramic Science (Crystal Chemistry)  
Credential: Single Subject in Math, Chemistry and Physics  
Other Professional Experience: Northwood High School (AP Statistics) and Lakeside Middle School (Math) in Irvine, CA; Director of Curriculum and Professional Development Leader, CPM Education; Educational Testing Service, AP Statistics Test grader; Engineer-Scientist, IBM Corporation

Kha, Christine

Position in LCUSD: 6th grade teacher at PCY  
High School: Gabrielino High School, San Gabriel, CA  
College: California State University, Fullerton (undergraduate); Cal Poly Pomona (graduate)

Degrees: B.A. in American Studies; M.S. in Elementary Curriculum and Instruction

Credential: Multiple Subject

Other Professional Experience: Aveson Global Leadership Academy in Altadena, CA (6th – 8th and Beginning Code teacher, Projects Lead Teacher & Instructional Leadership Team member); Oxford Preparatory Academy in Chino, CA (7th grade teacher); Code.org certified, Italy and South Africa Study Abroad.

Lee, Jeenie

Position in LCUSD: 8th grade Math teacher at LCHS 7/8

High School: Arcadia High School

College: UC-Irvine (undergraduate); USC (graduate)

Degrees: B.S. in Biological Sciences; M.A. in Education

Credential: Single Subject in Math

Other Professional Experience: Young Oak Kim Academy in Los Angeles (8th and 6th grade Math and STEAM teacher); Administrative Director, Learning Edge Education Center in South Pasadena; SAT Math tutor, Focus Learning Center in La Crescenta.

Lloyd, Anya

Position in LCUSD: 4th grade teacher at PCY

High School: South Pasadena High School

College: University of Oregon (undergraduate); University of Oregon and Sonoma State University (graduate)

Degrees: B.A. in Sociology; M.A. Teaching and Curriculum

Credential: Multiple Subject

Other Professional Experience: Camino Grove Elementary in Arcadia (3rd grade teacher).

Messina, Adriana

Position in LCUSD: 1st grade teacher at PCY

High School: South Pasadena High School

College: Pepperdine (undergraduate); Azusa-Pacific University (graduate)

Degrees: B.A. in Interpersonal Communications; M.A. in Education

Credential: Multiple Subject

Other Professional Experience: Celerity Palmati Charter School in North Hollywood, CA (2nd grade teacher); Trained in the JumpStart Literacy Curriculum.

Munday, Jennifer

Position in LCUSD: String Orchestra Conductor at LCHS

High School: Fountain Valley High School

College: Chapman (undergraduate); USC (graduate)

Degrees: B.M. in Music Education and Violin Performance; M.M. in Music and Violin Performance

Credential: Single Subject in Music

Other Professional Experience: Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony, Orange County Chamber Orchestra, Oregon Bach Festival, several years as a private music instructor in the La Canada and La Crescenta communities.

Myers, James

Position in LCUSD: Instrumental Music/Band teacher at LCHS 7/8

High School: La Canada High School

College: San Diego State University (undergraduate); Bard College (Longey School of Music/graduate)

Degrees: B.A. in Music and Classical Trumpet Performance; M.A. in Music Education

Credential: Single Subject in Music

Other Professional Experience: Music teacher for ALF, La Crescenta Adventist and West Adams Prep (Los Angeles); Jazz performances at San Diego State University and musical performances at various Southern California churches.

Rizzo, Chris

Position in LCUSD: P.E. teacher at PCR

High School: Taft High School

College: Wayne State (Nebraska)

Degree: B.A. in Exercise Science and Wellness

Credential: Single Subject in Physical Education

Other Professional Experience: Physical Education and Algebra 1 teacher and coach at Taft High School, Woodland Hills, CA; Physical Education teacher and Dean of Students at Animo College Prep (Los Angeles); Coach at Sierra Canyon School (Chatsworth, CA).

Rogers, Esther

Position in LCUSD: Counselor at LCHS

High School: Meridian High School (Michigan)

College: Central Michigan University (undergraduate); University of Alabama-Birmingham (graduate)

Degrees: B.A. in Psychology and M.A.'s in: School Counseling, Education (Social Sciences), and Educational Leadership

Credentials: Pupil Personnel Services and Administrative Services

Other Professional Experience: Teacher in Carthage, NY; Teacher and MS and HS Counselor, Shelby County Schools, Columbiana, AL.

Sandoval, Michael

Position in LCUSD: PE teacher at LCHS 7/8

High School: Glen A. Wilson High School

College: California State University, Fullerton (undergraduate); University of Phoenix (graduate)

Degrees: B.S. in Kinesiology and M.A. in Education

Credential: Single Subject in Physical Education

Other Professional Experience: P.E. teacher at Giano Intermediate School and an intervention and P.E. teacher at Northam and Hurley Elementary Schools (Rowland USD). Has also worked as an Assistant basketball coach at Los Altos HS.

Stanley, Melissa

Position in LCUSD: English teacher at LCHS

High School: Crescenta Valley High School  
College: UC San Diego (undergraduate); California State University, Los Angeles (graduate);  
International Christian University (Tokyo, Japan)  
Degree: B.A. in Anthropology  
Credential: Single Subject in English  
Other Professional Experience: Judson International School (High School ESL teacher) and Japan  
Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) (Assistant Language teacher)

Tseng, Anne

Position in LCUSD: 1st grade teacher at LCE  
High School: Arcadia High School  
College: Cal Poly Pomona (undergraduate); Pepperdine (graduate)  
Degrees: B.A. in Liberal Studies; M.A. in Education  
Credential: Multiple Subject  
Other Professional Experience: Culver City Unified School District, Extera Public School and  
Crescendo Charter Academy (Kindergarten teacher) and a BTSA mentor.

Valdez, Erick

Position in LCUSD: 1st grade teacher at PCY  
High School: John Marshall, Los Angeles, CA  
College: California State University, Los Angeles (undergraduate and graduate)  
Degrees: B.A. in Urban Learning/Technology Leadership and an M.A. in Education  
Credential: Multiple Subject  
Other Professional Experience: 1st grade teacher at Castle Heights Elementary School in Los  
Angeles (also taught 4th grade at Castle Heights), Kindergarten teacher at Dayton Heights  
Elementary School in Los Angeles, and a 4th and 5th grade teacher at Angeles Mesa Elementary  
School in Los Angeles. Erick has also served as Technology Coordinator, teacher representative  
on School Site Council, Grade Level Chair, UTLA rep and Common Core lead teacher, as well as  
organizing an annual student trip to Astronaut Camp.

Walsh, Kerri

Position in LCUSD: 4th grade teacher at PCR  
High School: St. Joseph High School  
College: USC (undergraduate); California State University, Northridge and Vanguard University  
(graduate)  
Degrees: B.A. in Communication;  
Credential: Multiple Subject  
Other Professional Experience: Queen Anne Elementary, Los Angeles, CA (2nd and 3rd grade  
teacher); El Sereno Elementary School in Los Angeles, CA (3rd grade teacher), Top Learning  
Center, tutor.