



WALDORF SCHOOL
ORANGE COUNTY

New Faces - New Roles

Dear WSOC Community Members,

It is with great pleasure that I announce, on behalf of the College of Teachers, the hiring of new faculty members who will join our WSOC family this year. The process of meeting, interviewing, and vetting the candidates has been a wonderful one. These new faculty members will bring their own vibrancy and experience to our Waldorf family, and have been attracted to WSOC by our commitment to Waldorf pedagogy, our full curriculum, and our strong community.

All of these talented new teachers look forward to becoming part of our community and working with our students. We are delighted to welcome them to the Waldorf School of Orange County with the care and support needed to ensure a successful transition into our community.

Regards,
Brooke Natzke
College Chair

School Administrator - Kevin McDuff

Kevin comes to us from Sunrise Waldorf School in British Columbia, where he was the Head of School and Business Administrator. After 10 years as an administrator at Sunrise, he and his wife were ready to move back to California. Kevin holds a B.C K - 12 Teaching Certificate in English and Journalism. He was formerly a software consultant and database application developer. His son and daughter attended Highland Hall Waldorf School in Northridge, and both are grown and currently living in the U.S.

Business Manager - Kim McGovern

Kim arrives from Brethren Christian School where she was leading the school through a financial review for their accreditation. She was formerly the Human Resources Manager at First Christian Church and schools for six years and brings many years of HR and business management skills. Kim is a graduate of U.C. Davis, and holds a Certificate of Continuing Education. She has two children who attended Playgroup at WSOC years ago and her nephew is currently a student in our high school.

Music Teacher - Jessica Haddy

Jessica Haddy has been the concertmaster of the Southern California Philharmonic since 2016. She was a featured soloist for the ensemble in 2018 and 2021. In 2019, she was the contractor and concertmaster for Tustin's Ballet Nutcracker performances at the Plummer auditorium. Currently, she is the Principal 2nd Violinist with the Mira Costa Symphony and has performed with the Golden State Pops, Culver City Chamber Orchestra, OC Symphony, Dana Point Symphony and the Debut Symphony.

As a soloist, Jessica has been invited to perform at the Laguna Beach Sunset Serenades and the Hortense Miller Estate concert series. In 2020, harpist Jillian Lopez and Jessica recorded an album featuring French and Argentinian composers. She filmed a concert at the historic Bembridge House with pianist Anthony Lopez, performing pieces celebrating the fall season. She has been featured on Mission Viejo's television network as a soloist and has performed solo concerts for the Mission Viejo Arts Alive concert series. The Krutz Strings company named her as their Brand Ambassador in 2018. She performs regularly with her husband, Ryan Haddy. The violin and guitar duo started up Haddy Music. Together they perform private events and have been featured at music festivals. She developed her own company, Haddy Music, which is highly reviewed and was featured in Riviera Magazine's Best of OC for event music. Currently they are working on composing and recording their own music.

While working in Los Angeles, Jessica has appeared in music videos with Elton John, Sheryl Crow, Sting, Il Divo and Randy Travis. Jessica was also the violinist for the first musical stage production of Quadrophenia written by Pete Townsend of The Who. She is currently the orchestra assistant and conductor at CdM High School and Middle School, strings teacher at Free Society Academics, and Linden Tree Learning Enrichment. A featured strings instructor for the Newport Mesa district string conference in 2020. A Laguna Beach resident, she teaches at her home studio and instructs nationally for the online music company, Tunelark. Before having her daughter Ravelle, Jessica taught violin, viola and cello at the Journey School in Aliso Viejo and was the strings coach for the Aliso Niguel High school orchestras.

Nursery Teacher -- Maria Morioka

Maria Morioka has joined our Early Childhood department as our Nursery Teacher. She has lived and worked in Japan, Brazil, Germany, and the United States. She loves to share songs and stories from different cultures. She holds a B.F.A. with honors from the ArtCenter College of Design and worked at Wieden+Kennedy Tokyo before beginning her path as a parent and a Waldorf teacher. She received her Waldorf Certificate in 2015 from the Waldorf Institute of Southern California and completed her practicum in Early Childhood, Grades, and Subject Class. Maria has taught in Early Childhood, Grades, Subject Class, and High School in Waldorf and non-Waldorf settings. She enjoys working with different age groups and experiencing firsthand the depth and beauty of human development. Her hobbies include but are not limited to playing the piano, Plein-Air painting, horseback riding, and watching the pattern of the waves at the beach.

The Early Years Teacher -- Holly Richards

Holly Richards will be taking on The Early Years work (previously known as Playgroup and Bridge), building on the earnest devotion of Teacher Jenell, Miss Michaela and Miss Claudia. Holly brings to this position her 25 years of experience at WSOC, including Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Grades 1-5, Early Childhood Teacher Preparation, and mentoring as a Regional WECAN Representative (two years). Her seven years teaching Early Childhood Education classes at Saddleback and CSUF will also support this new endeavor. She earned her B.A. in Child and Adolescent Development from California State University at Fullerton, her M.A. in Human Development with a focus on Leadership in Education from Pacific Oaks College, and her Certificate in Waldorf Education from Rudolf Steiner College. We are pleased to welcome Miss Holly back to Early Childhood.

6th Grade Teacher -- Storm Dye

Storm Dye will be joining us as the Class of 2028 class teacher, rising into 6th grade. Mr. Storm comes to us with five years of Games teaching experience at Journey School, a member of the public Waldorf movement. He earned his B.A. in Psychology from California State University, Fullerton and will be continuing his Waldorf teacher certification this fall. In addition to his Journey School teaching experience, Mr. Storm spent 6 seasons as an outdoor educator for Trackers Earth and has performing arts experience, including middle school dance instruction at Camden Hall.

High School Math Teacher - James Mesevage

James Mesevage will join the High School Math faculty. Mr. Mesevage comes to WSOC with Waldorf High School math teaching experience from Green Meadow, Baltimore and Sacramento Waldorf Schools. He earned his B.A. in Music from Philadelphia College of Performing Arts, his M.A. in Mathematics and Mathematics Education from Columbia University, and his Certificate in Waldorf Education from Sunbridge Institute. Mr. Mesevage is expected to complete his Doctorate in Education from Columbia University in 2022.

High School Athletics Director - Nicola Weiss

Nicola Weiss grew up in Switzerland in a very free-spirited learning environment where it was important that children explored what they were passionate about and built their learning from there. She has 5 children, ages 20, 19, 19, 19 and 17, all raised in the United States in the same experiential way. Nicola coached soccer for 12 years while her kids were growing up and for the past 8 years she has managed the Lacrosse program at Edison High School. For 2 years she also managed the Track and Field team at Edison while her daughter competed. Nicola finds deep satisfaction in developing opportunities for students to be active and looks forward to continuing the growth of our high school Athletics program.