

Rosslyn Academy Elementary School

Update on Teacher Roles for 2020-2021

As a result of a modest decrease in enrollment, as well as a change in plans for a small number of teachers, a few teachers have moved to different positions for the coming school year. All the teachers who are moving to new core positions are qualified, experienced elementary school teachers who were already teaching at Rosslyn Academy.

To increase the excellence of our online instruction, we have also asked our core teachers to "specialize" in the core subjects, so rather than having all four core subjects taught by one core teacher, we have two teachers teaching the core subjects -- each teacher teaching two of the core subjects to all the students in the grade. How these students will be divided up for the classes varies according to the grade level and the enrollment in that grade.

Preschool will continue with **Mrs. Mel Kirkpatrick**, as in previous years. Mrs. Kirkpatrick will also be assisting with the English Language Learners.

In kindergarten, for this semester, the teachers will be **Mr. John Schunk** (teaching math and English language arts to all KG students), and **Ms. Michelle Brekhus** (teaching social studies and Christian religious education to all KG students)

In first grade, the teachers will be **Mrs. Beth Brinkley** (teaching math and language arts to all 1st grade students), and **Ms. Michelle Brekhus** (teaching social studies and Christian religious education to all 1st grade students).

For those who do not know Ms. Brekhus, she has most recently been serving in our English Language Learners and Highly Capable Learners support. Before that, she taught fifth grade core at Rosslyn Academy. She has over 20 years of experience in teaching core elementary classes.

In second grade, **Mrs. Ruth Kamau** will continue as a core teacher (teaching math and Christian religious education) and she will be joined by **Mrs. Suzanne Slaughter** (teaching language arts and social studies). Mrs. Slaughter has several years' experience teaching core elementary school, and she has most recently been teaching science, music and library in our kindergarten and preschool programs.

In third grade, **Mrs. Christa Gitonga** will continue as core teacher (teaching language arts and Christian religious education) and she will be joined by **Mrs. Rileigh Schunk** (teaching math and social studies). Mrs. Schunk has previously taught third grade core at Rosslyn Academy, and has most recently been teaching in the learning support department and heading up our Intellectual Virtues program.

Fourth grade will continue with the same core teachers as last year with **Mr. Jon Hravatic** (who will teach math and Christian religious education to all fourth graders) and **Mrs. Sue Hravatic** (who will teach language arts and social studies to all fourth graders).

Finally, fifth grade will continue with the same core teachers as last year with **Mr. Antony Ritton** (who will teach math and Christian religious education to all fifth graders) and **Mrs. Zawadi Thanji** (who will teach language arts and social studies to all fifth graders).

In addition, we are welcoming another highly qualified and experienced full-time learning support teacher to elementary school this year, **Mrs. Leah Eardensohn**. She has been teaching special education in an elementary school in Texas since 2018, and prior to that, taught ES learning support in Kentucky and Kansas. Mrs. Eardensohn holds a masters degree in special education and has a passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus with children.

Mrs. Rebecca Mercer, who was teaching in ES learning support last year will continue in that capacity part-time, and will also be teaching Health and Wellness this year while **Mrs. Rosemarie Hanson** is on sabbatical.

You will recognize many other familiar teachers in the elementary school, with **Ms. Kerry Jividen** continuing in Physical Education, **Mrs. Sandy Arensen** in art, **Mr. Jacob Hebert** in grades 1-5 science, and **Ms. Sheila Antoinette** in Kiswahili and Kenyan Culture. **Mrs. Rachel Ritton** is still the ES counselor, **Mrs. Angela Gitonga** continues to serve as ES librarian (and will teach some preschool and kindergarten science), and **Mrs. Sarah Rondeau** continues in the ES learning support department.

We are working hard to prepare for the start of the school year, two weeks from now. It will be an unusual semester (as everything is right now!) but also a semester of rich learning and connection.