

New Teachers 2015-2016



Naomi Edmonds
Preschool Teacher

Naomi Edmonds

Naomi Edmonds graduated from Brigham Young University – Idaho a year ago in Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education. Last year she taught Kindergarten at the Irving Kindergarten Center in Blackfoot. Ms. Edmonds loved working with the students and parents and watching as they learned throughout the year.

This next year she is so excited to be working in the Snake River School District, and hopes that she will be able to help each of her students grow and develop individually. At the end of the year Ms. Edmonds hopes that her students will be able to remember how much fun they had while learning their alphabet, learning to write, and learning math. Throughout the year students will learn even more as they work with their parents and practice the skills they learn at school.

Naomi likes to sing and dance. She did Scottish Country dance for ten years as she was growing up. This fall she will be starting Scottish Country dance again and she is so excited. Other things that are enjoyable to her are sewing and crafts.

Mrs. Edmonds is from North Carolina where her mother and father are still living. She has an older sister in North Carolina. Her younger sister and brother-in-law just had a little baby girl! Her whole family was really excited to have the first grandchild and niece join their family.



Kari Godinez
Kindergarten Teacher

Kari Godinez

Kari Godinez is teaching Kindergarten at Moreland Elementary. She is excited to work with the team of educators there and build a great relationship with all. She earned her degree from University of Phoenix and completed student teaching in a third grade classroom. Mrs. Godinez says that her education and student teaching were wonderful experiences which required a lot of hard work.

Mrs. Godinez is often found outside doing yard work, volunteering to help others with their yard, home improvements, and other needs, or just relaxing with a great movie. She enjoys playing different games with her family such as Phase 10, Uno, and Spot It to name a few. She loves amusement rides and she likes to go with her family to Lagoon every year, usually during Frightmares.

As a teacher, Mrs. Godinez' expectations and goals are to continue learning and becoming the best professional she can be. Her motto for life is you learn something new every day and hopes to take in all she can to continue to grow as a person and teacher. Mrs. Godinez plans to create a fun and caring learning environment for her classroom and hopes students will most remember her class as one where learning was fun and a classroom in which they weren't afraid to participate and felt comfortable to share their ideas. Parents are always welcome into the classroom and she loves volunteers. Communication is important and her door will be open to discuss concerns that may arise.

Kari is married and she has two children—a daughter who is 18 and a son who is 4. She has one dog, two cats, and one fish. Together, they enjoy camping, taking rides in the car, barbecuing with family, and just hanging out.



Angie Richardson
First Grade Teacher

Angie Richardson

Angie Richardson joins the staff at Moreland Elementary and will be teaching the 1st Grade. She has six years experience teaching Kindergarten and First Grade. She recently finished her Masters Degree in Education.

Angie's goal is to have each student actively engaged in learning. She strives to be a team player and have an active part of PLC.

When asked how can the parents and patrons best help you do your job, she states, "Working with students at home and communicating with me when there are concerns. Students are best served when teachers and parents work together."

Mrs. Richardson enjoys reading, gardening, and spending time outdoors with her family. She especially likes to ski and mountain bike. She is married to Weldon and has two amazing children, ages 11 and 9. They enjoy spending time together, especially in the outdoors.



Amy Ogden
First Grade Teacher

Amy Ogden

Amy Ogden will be teaching 1st grade at Moreland Elementary. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from Idaho State University. Amy taught at the Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center for 8 years. She mostly taught 2nd grade but also had the opportunity to teach 3rd, 4th, and 5th mixed grade level classes.

Mrs. Ogden's favorite thing to do is go camping with her family. She also likes to crochet.

As part of the staff at Moreland, she is hoping to learn new teaching strategies and expand upon her previous experience. She is excited to be teaching in the community. She says, "I want to make a difference in the lives of children and help them become successful and responsible individuals. I want my students to remember my class as being a fun and loving environment, where they feel safe and welcome at all times."

The best way that parents and patrons can best help her do her job is by supporting their children. Parent volunteers are welcome in her classroom and very much appreciated.

Amy's husband is Ryan Ogden. They have been married for 13 years and have 3 daughters. Kadance is 10 years old. She will be in 5th grade. Kinzie is 8 years old. She will be in 3rd grade. Kennedy is 3 years old. Amy and her family like to go camping and fishing together. They also really like to play card games together.



Jennifer Capell
Second Grade Teacher

Jennifer Capell

Jennifer Capell is ecstatic to be teaching at Riverside Elementary in 3rd grade! She has been teaching for over 10 years in the public school system and was the owner of XYZ preschool for four years. There are two amazing kids in her life. Dalton is 14 and Sabrina is 18. Jennifer has been married for 19 years to Dana, who is a fabulous, funny guy. Her favorite things to do are anything to do with her family. They love to play the piano, fish, boat, hunt, camp, ride 4-wheelers and anything to do with the outdoors. The arts have always been a passion of hers.

Mrs. Capell grew up playing the piano, singing, and dancing. She finished her Master's in Education with an emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction and Math Education at Northwest Nazarene University. She quotes David Sousa 2006, How the Brain Learns: "The arts develop cognitive competencies that benefit learners in every aspect of their education and prepare them for the demands of the 21st century." Mrs. Capell would like to thank you for entrusting your students with her so that she can prepare them for the 21st century.



Julie Ann Carter
Second Grade Teacher

Julie Ann Carter

Julie Ann Carter is so excited to be able to teach second grade this year. She began the journey to become a teacher as soon as she got out of high school. She went to college and completed the requirements for her AA. Shortly after she graduated, she had her first baby and decided to be a stay-at-home mom. They had three more children and Julie Ann loved being home with them more than anything. They are all older and more independent now, so she decided it was time to go back to school. Mrs. Carter graduated with her Bachelor's this past December and then completed the ABCTE program in May. She is still in awe that she was fortunate enough to get this job so soon after completing her schooling. She loves being around children so much!

Mrs. Carter's main goal as a teacher is to make sure each one of her students feels like they can accomplish hard things. She wants them to love learning as much as she does and wants them to know how important they are to her.



Laura Hepworth
Second Grade Teacher

Laura Hepworth

Riverside Elementary welcomes Laura Hepworth to their second grade teaching staff. She graduated from BYU-Idaho in December 2014. She student taught at Bonneville School District. Laura has substituted for Snake River School District for two years, but extensively from January through May of 2015.

Ms. Hepworth's goal is to strive to give her students a quality and well rounded education from a loving and supportive teacher that loves children and the teaching profession.

How can parents and patrons help her do her job? By going over the work sent home with their student, reinforcing and supporting what is being taught, reading with their student, by volunteering, and by having teachers and parents be partners in the learning process.

Ms. Hepworth enjoys reading, writing children stories, water sports with her family, shopping with the girls and creating games for parties, family reunions or get-togethers. Laura is the daughter of Mike and Carol Hepworth. She has four siblings who also attended Snake River Schools. Her family believes in serving and being an involved part of the community.



Brittany Tomaski
Third Grade Teacher

Brittany Tomaski

Brittany Tomaski will be teaching third grade at Riverside Elementary. She recently taught fourth grade at Endeavor Hall Charter School in West Valley City, Utah. Mrs. Tomaski's goals are to learn and grow with her students this year. She has a love for learning and she wants to be able to show that to her students. She says, "If I am a great teacher, great things will happen in my class!"

She asks parents and patrons to "be supportive and accessible, not only supporting me as a teacher but supporting their student as a learner." She wants her students to remember her class as a place they went to enjoy learning. She wants them also to remember her as a caring, supportive teacher who helped them reach their goals and succeed.

Brittany loves animals, the beach, museums, reading, making crafts, and being outside. She was born and raised in New Jersey, and most of his family still lives there. She has two older sisters who are both married, one who has two girls, and another who has twins on the way who she cannot wait to meet!



Cory Loveland
Fourth Grade Teacher

Cory Loveland

Cory Loveland will be teaching fourth grade at Rockford Elementary this year and is "excited to become a part of the Snake River Community!" Cory graduated from BYU-Idaho with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education.

Mr. Loveland is hoping to show how much fun and productive school can be. He hopes that he can be a positive force and male role model for the students at Rockford. He suggests that it would be helpful if parents had his back in helping implement a learning environment at home as well as school, by reading at home and making sure homework gets done.

Cory has been married for 3 ½ years. He and his wife met up in Rexburg while going to school. They have a two year old little girl. He loves sports and the outdoors.



Karen Olinger
Special Education Teacher

Karen Olinger

Karen Olinger is pleased to be working as Extended Resource Special Education Teacher at the Snake River Middle School this year. She taught Special Education and Fourth Grade in Downey Elementary last year. She worked in the Special Education Resource Room at South Fremont Junior High for three years previously. She is excited to continue teaching students and helping them reach their potential. Parents are invited to visit with her and in her classroom because they know their children best, and are a main key to their children's growth and success. She is looking forward to making new friends. She likes to practice speaking Spanish and Chinese with uncritical listeners. For a change of pace from a busy day's routine, she enjoys gardening, family history, and learning through books and internet. She is the mother to 7 children and has 6 grandchildren.



Chris Huffman
Jr. High Social Studies Teacher

Chris Huffman

Snake River Junior High welcomes Chris Huffman, Social Studies Teacher. Mr. Huffman taught Social Studies for two years at Wendell High School and seven years at Butte County High School.

Mr. Huffman's main goal is to have students remember the enthusiasm and passion that he has for the subjects he teaches. Parents and patrons can help him by being supportive and letting him know that he is doing a good job.

Mr. Huffman loves to play sports. His favorite sport is basketball. He also loves to spend time with his family. He has been married for 11 years to his wife, Rebecca and they have three children.



Michael Mow
Jr. High PE/Health Teacher

Michael Mow

Michael Mow is a husband, father of 4, coach, youth group leader, camper, small business owner, volunteer, Crossfit instructor, strength and conditioning coach and if you ask his wife, a fairly decent cook.

Mr. Mow was born and raised in Arizona, but his wife convinced him that a move back to her home town was a smart move for them. They have been back for almost 11 years and couldn't be happier.

Mr. Mow explains, "I admit that for many schools, PE programs have become a glorified recess. Students need PE classes that are built around positive social interaction, and Physical Education is uniquely equipped for this."

When asked how students can be successful in his classroom, Mr. Mow says, "my experience and training has taught me that students at this age need to be successful most of the time and challenged some of the time. If I can succeed in creating a program for your child that gets them active, promotes critical thinking, creative problem solving, and the ability to use knowledge in real-life settings, we can put them on a path to a life of fitness and wellbeing."

"I feel very lucky to be part of the great staff at Snake River Junior High and the community it serves. Thank you for the trust you have put in me and I will do my best to... (As my grandmother use to drill into me.) Help your students, "Be a little better and try a little harder" every day."



Heather Parkinson
Jr High Science Teacher

Heather Parkinson

Snake River Junior High School welcomes Heather Parkinson to their 8th grade teaching staff. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Western Governors University. Ms. Parkinson has taught high school chemistry and biology. She has also taught online instruction for GradPoint and NovaNet.

Mrs. Parkinson's goal is to bring science into the 21st Century. She explains that we are surrounded by technology so let's use it! Also, science should be hands on and exciting. She hopes that her students remember her class as being fun and learning a lot about our earth. How can parents and patrons help her do her job? She would like parents to encourage their children to think outside of the box and learn to use a higher level of thinking.

Mrs. Parkinson loves hiking, cooking, BYU Football, and camping. She has been married for five years and has a one year old daughter named Chelsea.



Chelle Mangum
Jr. High Special Ed Teacher

Chelle Mangum

After an 8 year absence, Mrs. Chelle Mangum returns to Snake River Junior High School as a Special Education teacher. She worked in the district for 14 years teaching Band, Humanities and Elementary Music.

"It's nice to see old friends and new faces. I'm teaching children of those students I taught my first year at Snake River High School – nearly 20 years ago!"

During those 8 years, Mrs. Mangum received a dual teaching certificate in Elementary Education and Special Education and has taught in four different school districts. "I can tell you from experience that students in the Snake River School District have a better work ethic than anywhere else I've ever taught. I appreciate the warm welcome I have received – it's like coming home again. And I love the 5 minute commute to work!"



JeNene Anderson
District Music (Strings) Teacher

JeNene Anderson

JeNene Anderson, is the new Snake River District Music (Strings)Teacher grades 4-12. She earned her Master's in Education in 1991 from Idaho State University and her Education Specialist Degree from Idaho State University in 1994.

Ms. Anderson looks forward to continuing the wonderful strings tradition at Snake River. She hopes to help students experience the joy of playing music together. She wants students to learn that doing their best and striving for excellence can be a lot of fun. She loves playing music and hopes they will too. When asked how the parents and patrons can best help, Mrs. Anderson says, "This district is well-known for the fantastic support of the arts from staff, parents, and patrons. I look forward to working with everyone. I know without them, I cannot be effective but I am counting on a lot of support from the wonderful people in the Snake River School District."

JeNene enjoys playing the piano and cello. She also likes to see new places. She traveled to all the counties in state with one of her sons and to all the 48 contiguous states with another son. She and her husband graduated from Snake River High School. Also, two of her seven grandchildren are students in the district as well. "It's good to be home!"



Jana McBride
Secondary Drama Teacher

Jana McBride

Jana McBride is the district's new Secondary Drama Teacher. Jana has been the assistant high school musical director in the past for 8 years and for the past 2 years she has been the musical director. She also directed the Snake River Children's Musical. Her goal as a drama teacher is to have her students come away with a good basic knowledge of how a theatre runs and be ready for an audition. We asked her what she hoped her students will most remember about her. Jana said, "I want students to look back and remember that drama was fun and I want them to remember how the skills they learned there can apply to daily life." Parents and patrons can help her do her job. "I am always needing help with costumes, props, set, donations, posters, t-shirts, publicity, and programs. I will take all the help I can get."

Jana enjoys music, theatre, reading, hiking, and spending time with her family. Her and her husband, Scott, have six children. Scott, Jana, and her children have all attended Snake River.



Danny Roberts
District Band Director

Danny Roberts

Danny Roberts is the district's new Band Director. He is currently finishing his Music Education degree from Idaho State University. For two years, Danny had the wonderful opportunity to march with the Blue Knights from Denver, Colorado. He also participates in a big band located in Idaho Falls that mostly plays swing and jazz and who attend multiple events around the area.

About his goals and expectations, he said, "As a new teacher, I have my goals set high, but within reasonable reach. I want my students to enjoy the experience of music. Once I am able to get my feet wet, we can explore bigger options to allow the students to have amazing experiences." He also believes that communication is key. "I am hoping for a lot of involvement from the parents, at least, what they can provide. I also hope they can see that a music program is a great asset to character and they support their children in all they do."

Danny and his wife, Kelsy, recently were married and both are attending Idaho State University. They have two cats, Peaches and Plum.



Carissa Christiansen
Health Occupations Teacher

Carissa Christiansen

Carissa Christiansen is working as the health professions instructor at the high school. She has been a registered nurse since 2004 and graduated from BYU-Idaho's nursing program. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2006. Her professional background is mainly in labor and delivery and postpartum/well baby care. She also has varied experience in the Oncology, Hospice, Medical/Surgical, Neurological, Mental Health, Extended Care, and educational fields of nursing. She has worked at Mountain View Hospital, Bingham Memorial Hospital, LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City, and EITC, where she was a clinical instructor at State Hospital South.

Carissa is excited for the opportunity to teach at Snake River. She hopes her students find her classes to be engaging and fun, and an overall positive experience. I would love if every student left my class with a desire to pursue a career in the healthcare profession, it's a wonderful field full of opportunity and reward.

The majority of her time is spent being a wife to her husband of 10 years, Dane, and mother to 4 kids, 2 boys and 2 girls. When she gets the chance, she enjoys playing the piano, singing, scrapbooking, dancing, playing volleyball, cooking, gardening, and watching movies or TV shows.



Shayla Martin
High School Business Teacher

Shayla Martin

Shayla Martin joins the staff at Snake River High School and will be the Business Education teacher. After receiving a Bachelor's in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Business, she was offered a fellowship through the NASA Idaho Space Grant Consortium to continue on for a Master's in Instructional Technology at Idaho State University. She was able to work with teachers and students across the state to coordinate a LEGO® Robotics Mars Rover Challenge for 4th-6th grade students. During the summer, Shayla worked as the Lead Teacher for Kid University, a summer camp for 1st-6th graders, and now she is excited to start her teaching career at Snake River.

Mrs. Martin's goals for teaching at Snake River include building a large Business Professionals of America chapter, creating a great yearbook each year, and fostering community support for the students. She wants each student to graduate with the skills that they need to have to successfully enter the workforce and/or post-secondary education.

Shayla grew up in the Snake River area, and says that it is exciting to be closer to family again. She has been married for 9 years to her wonderful husband. In her spare time, she loves going on hikes, camping, and fishing.



Ashli Nelson
High School English Teacher

Ashli Nelson

Snake River High School welcomes Ashli Nelson as an English Teacher. She graduated in 2011 with her Bachelor's Degree from Idaho State University. She has been a teacher in the Idaho Falls School District.

Ms. Nelson's goal as a teacher is to make sure students learn critical thinking and to also think outside the box. Another goal she has is to help students prepare for future educational ventures and to be confident about their composition skills. We asked her what she hoped her students will most remember. She said she hopes that students remember her for encouraging them to form their own unique identities through writing and critical thinking. Parents and patrons can help her do her job. She says, "Expressing the needs of a student or helping me understand the learning cycle the student has expressed is very helpful. Additionally, encouraging your student, I believe, is directly related to their motivation in school."

Ashli loves basketball and her favorite team is the Chicago Bulls. She also loves her two dogs and she likes to take them swimming or running. She considers her family to be her best friends and says she wouldn't be as far as she is today without them.



Amber Harrison
High School Home Economics

Amber Harrison

Amber Harrison joins the high school teaching staff as the Family Consumer Science Teacher. She graduated from Idaho State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Family Consumer Science and a minor in Consumer Economics. She recently did her student teaching at Blackfoot High School.

Mrs. Harrison hopes that her students will use what they learn in her class for the rest of their lives and that they will feel comfortable and welcome. When asked how parents can best help her do her job, she said, "support their kids in making good choices and becoming future leaders of our community." Her goal is to eventually begin a culinary program for high school students.

Amber is married to Jeb, who is a coach and teacher at Century High School. She has two sons; one 14, who is going to Century High School along with his dad, and one who is 10, who wants to be the President of the United States OR a head football coach. Amber enjoys cooking and has a passion for culinary arts, and of course, loves football.



Dallin Peterson
High School Social Studies Teacher

Dallin Peterson

Dallin Peterson will be teaching social studies classes at the high school this year. Dallin graduated from BYU-Idaho with a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education. He recently finished student teaching at South Fremont High School in St. Anthony.

Mr. Peterson wants his students to remember his class as the class that made them actually care about politics. Parents and patrons can best help him do his job by talking to their children about politics, history, current events, etc. His goal is surviving his first year with his sanity still intact, which should be considered a small success. His biggest goal is to improve his ability to make detailed lesson plans.

Dallin is the 4th of five children, four of which are male. He says his poor sister was overwhelmed by testosterone. Dallin is a huge Ultimate Frisbee player and he also likes to play along with trivia shows to see if he could win. He is a big Utah Jazz fan.



Kimberly Lewis
School Psychology Intern

Kimberly Lewis

Mrs. Lewis is the district's new School Psychologist Intern. She graduated from Idaho State University with her Master's in Human Exceptionality. Kim's goal is to put a child's interest and needs first in any situation possible. She won't have a class but if she could do a social skills group with a class, she would hope that they would remember the skill being taught.

Kim and her husband have been married for 19 years. They have five children, four boys and one girl. Their ages range from 17 down to 6. They also have two dogs. In her spare time, she loves to attend any one of her five children's activities or watching them perform. She would love to go on an Alaskan cruise and see whales in real life.