

Teacher	Biography
 <p data-bbox="212 579 412 611">Mrs. Burkhardt</p>	<p data-bbox="537 191 1593 611">This is my seventh year as principal of Menlo Park Elementary School. I have been apart of the David Douglas Family for forty one years. I actually graduated from David Douglas School District as did my two sons. I have been an educator for over thirty years. My career started as a substitute teacher. The first full time educator job I had was working at West Powellhurst Elementary School. I have taught every grade level from kindergarten through ninth grade. I also spent four years as a School Improvement Coordinator at Ventura Park School prior to becoming a Principal. Being an educator is the best job in the whole world for many reasons: you never stop growing and learning, you are part of a caring community, and the children bring you joy every day. When I am not at school I enjoy my family, dogs, fishing, reading, and being outdoors.</p>
 <p data-bbox="232 1165 391 1197">Mr. Orchard</p>	<p data-bbox="537 621 1593 1192">I've been working for David Douglas schools for over 20 years. Nineteen of those years have been as an Elementary Counselor at Gilbert Park and Menlo Park. For two years I worked as an Administrative Intern at Lincoln Park. Other experiences within the district have included assistant coaching water polo and swimming, and supervising at a counseling clinic. I have a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis in School Counseling from Lewis and Clark College and an Administrator Certification from George Fox University. I have three grown children and two elementary age grandchildren. We all enjoy family time together regularly. My wife and one of my daughters are Kindergarten teachers in other school districts so there is no shortage of education talk in our house. Our animals include two cats, a ball python, turantula, leapord gecko, bearded dragon and a hedgehog. Sometimes they (not the cats) get to come to school too. Personally, I like to compete in open water swimming events, take care of my yard, hike, read, play ice hockey, and have recently taken up running a couple times each week.</p>
 <p data-bbox="240 1524 383 1556">Ms. Dolton</p>	<p data-bbox="537 1268 1593 1493">Ms. Dolton graduated in 1993 from Eastern Oregon in LaGrande, Oregon. I taught 3 years in Gold Beach Oregon on the Southern Oregon Coast before moving to Portland in 1996 where I taught in a science magnet program in the Portland School District. I joined David Douglas in 1998 and have been here ever since. I've taught 2nd through 8th grade, the majority at the 4th and 5th grade level. Currently I am the student behavior specialist.</p>
 <p data-bbox="237 1902 391 1934">Mr. Devault</p>	<p data-bbox="537 1577 1593 1919">This is my 17th year as a P.E. teacher in David Douglas. I graduated from Central Washington University in 1999 with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Graduated from Washington State University in 2003 with a Masters Degree in Educational Administration. Originally was going to be a classroom teacher but was hired as a P.E. teacher and love what I do. I have a wife, 2 children, and 5 Saint Bernards. We spend a lot of our weekends competing in dog shows all over the Northwest with our dogs. I have a passion for firness and health. Outside exercise is my favorite. I lift weights, run, kayak, bicycle, and have even completed an Ironman Tirathlon. I hope to instill a passion for health and fitness in your children.</p>

A ROCK STAR
STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT
SPECIALIST

Ms. Courtney Nelson

Hello! I am Courtney Nelson. This will be my 21st year as a professional educator- yes! I grew up in Connecticut and attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where I earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Landscape Architecture. I moved to Portland in 1997 and earned my Masters in Teaching from Lewis and Clark College. This year I am starting my doctoral studies at Portland State University! Beginning in 1999, I've served students & families in Wilsonville, Oregon as a Classroom Teacher and Instructional Coordinator. I then worked nationally and internationally for 5 years teaching teachers and administrators as Director of Professional Development for Mathematics with a non-profit organization. Following that experience, I spent 6 years redesigning and supporting the elementary math curriculum for the Catlin Gabel School in Portland as their Elementary Mathematics Specialist. My professional interests include providing an equitable public education for all students, understanding how children learn mathematics, and learning about how the development of executive skills support student achievement. Outside of education, I love being an auntie, and love to garden, ski, swim, surf, travel and learn about languages & cultures.



Ms. Harrison

Hello, my name is Erin Harrison and I'm the Title I Reading Specialist at Menlo Park. I've worked in the David Douglas School District for 13 years at both the Elementary and Middle School levels. I completed my BA in English at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania and my Master's degree in Education with a focus on Reading at St. John's University in New York City. I moved to Portland in 2002 from New York City, where I was born and raised. In my free time, I enjoy the outdoors, especially hiking, camping, paddleboarding and snowboarding.



Mrs. La Mar

Hi! I am the Music Teacher at Menlo Park Elementary and have been teaching for 5 years. At Menlo Park I work with all students not only in the general music classroom but also in after school groups such as Marimba Band, Choir, Ukulele and more! I also have an active musical life outside of Menlo Park. I am a Trombonist, and Vocalist. I play the trombone with several musical organizations and sing with a few local bands too! As a multiinstrumentalist I also play other instruments in music groups sometimes. I graduated with my Bachelors in Music (Performance) from Western Oregon University and my Masters of Arts in Teaching (Music) from Oregon State University. I have taught music to every age from babies to adults and I love it! Sometimes I conduct concert bands and choirs too. In my free time I love to get my kayak out on the water, hike or any other way I can be in the sunshine.



Ms. Chapman

I'm Laura Chapman and I am the Language Development Specialist at Menlo Park Elementary. I'm originally from Pullman, Washington (Go Cougs!) but moved to Portland in 2017. I spent 7 years teaching in Asia (Thailand and China). I have a Bachelor's degree in Communications from Washington State University and an Master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Concordia University. I love exploring the world and learning about different cultures. I like to spend my weekends running, hiking, paddleboarding, skiing or anything else active.



Mrs. Stewart

This is Mrs. Stewart's 22nd year as a special educator! She has worked in the David Douglas School District since the fall of 2004. Mrs. Stewart has a Masters Degree in Special Education and is endorsed for both general and special education. In her personal life Mrs. Stewart enjoys spending time with her family and friends, cooking, and reading novels



Mr. Smith

I have had a blast with our Menlo students in the library over the last couple years. Now that we transition to distance learning, I believe we have opportunities to help our school community in new and creative ways. Feel free to contact me, Mr. Smith, through email or the school phone number.



Mr. K

I'm Adam Kappeler and I teach down in the Computer Lab. I enjoy it thoroughly because I love computers! Watching students improve their computer literacy skills is nothing short of amazing. From basic keyboarding to coding, they never cease to amaze me. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my three children, my wife, Rachael, and our two dogs. Drawing/doodling is a small hobby of mine as well.



Mrs. Riley

My name is Sally Riley, and I am one of the Speech Therapists that works at Menlo. I have so much fun getting to know my students and working with them on their speech goals. I have two children and one grumpy cat at home! I love to go on bike rides and nature walks with my family, play the violin and draw and paint with watercolors. I'm excited to meet your kids this school year!

A ROCK STAR
SPEECH
LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGIST

Ms. Charney

Hi! My name is Marissa Charney and this is my 2nd year as a speech language pathologist at Menlo Park Elementary. I am originally from the Los Angeles area, and moved to Oregon in 2013 to complete my bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Oregon. I love having a job that allows me to work with young children and their families every day, and to find fun and engaging ways to help students overcome their speech and language difficulties. In my free time I enjoy running, hiking, reading, and my newfound hobby of learning piano.