

Instructor Bios

Jill Chiodini, M.Ed., is currently an 11th grade humanities teacher at the San Diego Met High School. She has over 16 years of experience teaching both English and humanities to 9th, 10th and 11th graders at Helix Charter High School and the High Tech High charter schools. She has extensive experience in interdisciplinary curriculum design and project based learning.

Heather Eggleton, M.A., has facilitated and coordinated courses for the university's professional development programs since 2003. She has been an elementary classroom teacher since 1996. Her higher education and experience have helped guide her students and have helped other students enhance their learning. Heather got her B.A. in Diversified Liberal Arts from USD and her M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from SDSU.

Jenifer Fazy, M.S., earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education K-9 from Trinity Christian College and earned her Master's Degree in Educational Technology Integrated into Curriculum and Instruction from DeVry University in which she graduated with Distinction. Jenifer currently teaches 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Jenifers interests include making her own movies, videos and music and being with her three kids.

Ronalee Johnson, M.Ed., earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. She also has a Masters Degree in Educational Technology. She brings with her the knowledge and experience of teaching in the classroom for over twenty years. Her expertise is teaching mathematics at the middle school level. She has served as a Master Teacher, Technology Lead Teacher, Department Chairperson, AVID District Director, and was selected as Teacher of the Year.

Chris Nickel, M.Ed., completed his undergraduate degree at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN and his Master's degree at Colorado State University. He currently teaches at Boltz Middle School in Fort Collins, CO. He has also served as adjunct faculty at Colorado State University where he instructed courses on adolescent development and middle school pedagogy as a component of the STEPP (Student Teacher Education and Principal Preparation) program. Chris enjoys golfing, photography and spending time with his family.

Nancy Pavlovics, M.Ed., earned her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of Oregon and her Master's degree in Education from Oregon State University. Nancy has taught in public, as well as private institutions and has presented, lectured and trained for schools, districts and state conferences. When Nancy is not teaching/grading she is spending time with her kids and enjoying photography.

Marisa Thompson, M.A., Teacher Education., has fifteen years of experience teaching various levels of English including advanced and support classes. As a district leader, she assesses success and develops goals and curriculum, K-12, and designed a role to become their first Innovation Support coach. She is a designated cooperating teacher for several credential programs and a Professional Development instructor for University of San Diego. Besides teaching, she has traveled with students on educational trips to Europe, South America, and Asia. Traveling internationally for 30 years, she believes in "the power of education, the transformative effects of travel and experience, and the joy the unexpected can bring" and pushes students to move past "so-called limitations" by embracing student voice, choice, talent, and inspiration. Her experiences culminate in a pedagogy she calls "Instruction-less Teaching," which includes her TQE Method, currently in classrooms around the world from kindergarten to graduate school. Marisa appears on many podcasts including Cult of Pedagogy, writes for her own blog and others, and speaks regularly at districts' professional development, universities' credential programs, and education conferences. She recently won the 2019 Ed Innovate Live Pitch competition and was named CUE's 2019 San Diego Innovative Educator of the Year.

Lauren Wilensky, M.A., in Teaching and Learning (Curriculum Design) serves as an educator specializing in teaching English in Title 1 secondary schools in San Diego for over two decades. In addition to her experience teaching English in grades 6th-12th, she has worked in many roles with teachers; district literacy coach, English Department chair, mentor to many student teachers as well as Induction Coach for new math teachers. In her current teaching practice she integrates culturally responsive practices, Project Based Learning, student voice and agency, inclusive practices as well as technology integration so all students can learn

Erin Wyatt, M.A. in Educational Leadership, currently teaches 8th grade English and Academic Language Development at Correia Middle School in San Diego. Before teaching at Correia, Erin spent 15 years working at High Tech High, a project based high school in San Diego. There she taught Humanities to 9th and 10th graders, developed an internship program for 11th graders, and worked as an advisor to a cross grade level group of students. Her almost twenty year teaching career includes work in a variety of settings. She enjoys being a teacher leader, working with school administration, and mentoring new teachers. Erin's passion lies with designing and engaging students in meaningful curriculum. She loves working with educators in creating classrooms that make success attainable for all students.