

McKinley Staff Updates

Retirement

A big congratulations to Ms. Deborah Talbott, who this summer retired after 24 years teaching in the district! Ms. Talbott was known for being deeply passionate about teaching, always the first one to jump in to join a committee, and fearlessly learning about and trying new curriculum and methodologies. She was an inspiration for lifelong learning and for her love of education. She has positively impacted the lives of so many families over the years (over 700 students having gone through her classroom doors!), as well as the lives of the staff who had the privilege of working with her, and all those who benefited from her kindness and compassion. We appreciate everything she has done for us at McKinley and wish her the best in her retirement.

Instructional Coach

Congratulations to Ms. Kimberly Marshall, our Instructional Coach who has become the new District Social Emotional Learning Teacher on Special Assignment (SEL-TOSA)! We are excited that our McKinley Lion will be sharing her expertise and passion for social justice and social-emotional learning to support the entire district!

I am also pleased to announce that our own Ms. Madelyn Ross will be our new Instructional Coach! Ms. Ross graduated from UCLA with a BA in World Arts and Cultures, and received her MA in Education from Stanford University. Having taught 1st grade and TK at McKinley, Ms. Ross is knowledgeable and experienced with our school site vision, methodologies, strategies, and curriculum. She has had numerous leadership roles at McKinley, including being a member of the Site Leadership Team, Math Teacher Leader, and Educational Technology Jedi. In addition, she has been a leader on District leadership teams including being school site representative on the Teaching and Learning Council, member of the Early Learning Committee, and member of the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Ross has led staff professional development in topics such as educational technology at both the school site and at the District's SMMUSD annual Teaching and Learning Conference, and has led PD in the community such as her workshop at the Getty Center that focused on virtual field trips. Ms. Ross has been involved in the school community promoting family engagement by co-facilitating Literacy Night, serving as PTA/staff Liaison on the PTA Executive Board, and tapping into the Reggio philosophy to engage parents in her classroom. She also has promoted student engagement through her innovative project-based learning experiences, and through coordinating enrichment such as leading the student newspaper, The McKinley Times. She also has spent the last 7 years volunteering her time as a playroom volunteer at the Stuart House (UCLA Rape Treatment Center). Ms. Ross brings her helpful, patient, calm, enthusiastic demeanor to the role. Congratulations to Ms. Ross!

In order to ensure that Ms. Ross's teaching vacancy is filled by an educator of the highest quality that fits with the excellence of the McKinley staff, hiring for the vacancy will occur next spring when there is more time for the hiring process. This school year, Ms. Ross will help maintain consistency and stability as students return to campus by continuing in her TK teaching role, while also doing key Instructional Coach duties part-time. She will provide support to staff by leading Data Meetings, conducting Demo Lessons, sharing resources, conducting parent workshops, and leading Professional Development. After this transition year, she will move into the Instructional Coach role full-time in the 2022-23 school year.