

MEET OUR TEACHERS:



Becky Marsh, Gifted Magnet Program Coordinator, Gifted Resource Teacher, and science teacher, holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an Emphasis on Gifted and Talented from UCCS and a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Baylor University. She is in charge of testing and identifying students as Gifted and Talented, guiding the GMP, and mentoring teachers who are new to the program. She enjoys helping sixth graders understand more about the world around them through her sixth-grade science curriculum. Mrs. Marsh was honored with the 2020 Crystal Apple Award for instructional excellence in D11. In her spare time, she enjoys snowboarding, reading, gardening, paddle boarding, and spending time with her kids. (rebecca.marsh@d11.org)

Julie Lounello, the Gifted Magnet math teacher, loves sharing her passion and skills with her students on a daily basis. She was born and raised in Celina, Ohio. She earned her undergraduate degree at Indiana Wesleyan University while majoring in mathematics and education. Mrs. Lounello then earned her Master's degree from Michigan State University in Curriculum and Development with an emphasis in Mathematics and Leadership. She has been working in Colorado Springs School District 11 since 2004. Mrs. Lounello leads the Rubik's Cube Club, Math Counts and girls' softball. In her free time, she enjoys reading, quilting, hiking, traveling, and visiting family with her husband. (julie.lounello@d11.org)



Jennifer Strand teaches Language Arts and absolutely loves being immersed in thought-provoking literary works while igniting the same passion for reading and writing in others. Ms. Strand holds a Bachelor Degree in English & Theatre from Ft. Lewis College and a Master of Education from Regis University. She has lived in Colorado Springs most of her life and graduated from Air Academy High School. Over the years, her roles in District 11 have included instructing several high school literature classes and serving as the Gifted Resource Teacher at Mitchell High School. In her spare time, Ms. Strand enjoys gaming (board and video), reading, and relaxing with friends. She shares her home with two cats named Gandalf and Gimli and hopes to soon add a dog to the mix. (jennifer.strand@d11.org)

Kayla Perkins is passionate about the power of language and the written word. She teaches Language Arts and Social Studies. Ms. Perkins was born in Pueblo County, but has lived in Colorado Springs since she started college. She earned her Bachelor's degree from UCCS. Ms. Perkins was thrilled to have her student teaching and first official teaching job in District 11. At Sabin, Ms. Perkins is one of the WEB Coordinators and helps facilitate several clubs and after school activities. Ms. Perkins has traveled around Colorado, but has plans to travel to Europe and New Zealand. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, running, hiking, camping, and of course, reading. (kayla.perkins@d11.org)



Chris Smith leads students on a fascinating journey of exploring the world around them and discovering new ideas through science. After growing up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Grove City College and a Master of Educational Leadership degree from Grand Canyon University. With a passion for the outdoors, Mr. Smith enjoys hiking, rock climbing, and skiing. In the community he serves as a D11 instructional coach, mentors student teachers from UCCS, and directs a local summer camp. Each day he shares a love of science through interactive lessons, innovative labs, and creative team work. Mr. Smith was honored with the 2014 Crystal Apple Award and received the Teachers First Award from news channel KOAA5. Students thrive as they apply science to daily life and investigate chemistry, physics, biology, astronomy, geology, ecology, and more! (christopher.smith@d11.org)

Deneil Hill loves to share her passion for Social Studies with students. She has spent much of her life in the Front Range area, growing up in Boulder, Colorado. She earned an undergraduate degree in History from Eastern Oregon University. Her love of history and writing led Ms. Hill to continue her education at Binghamton University, where she became a PhD candidate after receiving a Master's of Arts degree in History. After spending several years as an instructor at the university level, Ms. Hill is very excited to teach for the Gifted Magnet Program at Sabin. In addition to teaching Social Studies, she is a certified yoga instructor. Ms. Hill spends most of her spare time with her children and can often be found outdoors—hiking, biking, camping, and stand-up paddle boarding—or knitting. (deneil.hill@d11.org)



Sam Bello teaches math and science through the lens of discussion and inquiry. He grew up in Frederick, Maryland near our nation's capital. Mr. Bello attended West Virginia University, earning a Master's in Elementary Education and specializing in Middle School Mathematics. The mountains beckoned him to Colorado Springs and he has made the most of outdoor exploration. Outside of the school setting, you can often spot Mr. Bello on the local trails, on top of Colorado's many 14,000 ft. peaks, skiing, or in the rock climbing gym. He takes pride in and serves as a passionate WEB Coordinator, while always trying to pique the curiosity of his students and make Sabin a place for everyone. (samuel.bello@d11.org)