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# TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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## Meet the Teachers

### Entra Casa Cassasa

New HS Spanish Teacher's Ready for the Challenge

By Nicholas Agrella  
Staff Writer

Being a new teacher at a school is a big and scary time for a new teacher, but little did this year's new teachers know what they were getting themselves into.

Teaching at a new school for the first time during a pandemic comes with a serious amount of rules, patience, and skill -- dealing with technical difficulties, having a back up lesson plan, and even changing the way you teach -- that some teachers truly aren't ready for.

In Mrs. Jessica Cassasa's very first period as the new Spanish teacher she wasn't able to see her A period, she made it through half of B block, and just barely made it in C block. Technology wasn't working whatsoever, having serious wifi issues, making everything much more difficult. The horror story that all teachers think about on the first day had come true for Mrs. Casassa, and that is during a year without a pandemic.

Jessica has set up a schedule ensuring she's ready for the next day - work and assignment wise. Mrs. Cassasa says, "inch by inch life's a cinch yard by yard. Life is hard." This has been her motto for getting through this tough COVID schedule.

Having class online for Mrs. Casassa has been very weird in numerous ways. A few examples include making connections with students which is nearly impossible to do over a screen not seeing their face because of how all classes have started to be on zoom. Another being a weird to start the year on the screen, something that she is not used to doing, overall being very stressful. This is weird for her because she has always taught with paper/handouts, in amends to having everything digital to prevent the spread of COVID.

Since Mrs. Cassasa's has been teaching during COVID she feels that it has significantly increased her teaching skills - one way being how interesting it is to see how many work/assignments that can be made digital, as well as pushing herself to revamp lessons and thinking in a way that would make things better for the students. It also helps to think more about breaking things down, and seeing things from student POV. Such as going through



New THS Spanish teacher Mrs. Jessica Cassasa (courtesy photo).

the lessons and seeing if they are up to par with what we should be learning as well as seeing if there's anything that needs to be edited. This also gives her a way to test out all new and old technology first, to prevent any students from having issues with any technological problems.

Mrs. Cassasa, who lives in Peabody, has seemed a very good fit for our school and community, coming from a middle school

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By Lauren Hall  
Staff Writer

Often, students don't stop to think about the things around us such as the new teachers at our school. Blythe Cowen, the new history teacher at Triton high school who was in for a challenge when moving, and starting at a new school during the pandemic.

Mrs. Cowen had just moved here from Hull, Massachusetts where she taught history when she then made the big decision to switch schools to Triton, and moved up here. She had her interview over zoom, and hadn't even gotten to see the inside of triton before she had gotten hired. When asked why she made the decision to come to triton, she said "I liked the message of Triton, that every student has their own voice here."

Mrs. Cowen said that becoming a new teacher can be extremely scary, but there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. She started in a completely new area, at a completely new school during a worldwide pandemic. At the time of this writing, She had not yet met her students in person, yet they have met her. Meeting her students over zoom, she hasn't had time to get to know, or connect with her students. Yet so far, other teachers and students say she has been an amazing addition to our school, and very pleasant to be around.

According to other teachers and students at our school, Mrs. Cowen has been an amazing addition to the triton staff, and only good things have been said

### History on the Move

THS History Teacher Relocates from South Shore



New THS history teacher, Mrs. Blythe Cowen (courtesy photo).

about her. Mrs. Lisa Herzl, who has been a part of the triton staff for more than a dozen years, has amazing things to say about the new teacher. Mrs. Herzl said "She has seamlessly joined our department, and school community, and has brought a lot of great experience and insight to us."

Another veteran of the history department, Mr. Dan Boyle also had very kind words to say about Mrs. Cowen. "She has already been a wonderful addition to our department and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from other places that she has taught."

Both teachers agree that she has brought much knowledge and positivity with her presence. They both say that with the current situation, she has made the most of it, and done an amazing job fitting in and being a great teacher during the pandemic.

Not only are other teachers saying good things about the new teacher, but so are the students. After speaking with one

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## Teaching Our Youngest: Boselli Moves to Pre-K

By Sammie Mariniello, Staff Writer

Mrs. Morgan Boselli is a fresh face in the Pre K department at Pine Grove School. Although Mrs. Boselli is known in the PGS community because of her past as a second grade teacher, this is a new phase for her.

Boselli says that it is always hard to go down grade levels as a teacher, but that she's enjoying it so far. She has 2 little boys at home, one in kindergarten and one in third grade, and being in Pre K she only works part time, which means more time with the family. This family is pretty active too, which means less work, more play! They love to go on bike rides, hikes, and spend lots of time at the beach over the summer.

"I think that where we thrive the best," says Boselli. "Just being outside and being active together." And with Covid-19 on the loose, this family has been spending more and more time outside, just soaking in Vitamin D.

When they're not out in nature, they are at home doing their school and work, both for Mrs. Boselli. Although she's been a teacher for forever, Mrs. Boselli claims that it is harder to teach your own kids than someone else's.

"My boys behave better for people other than me, so I think that it's always easier to work with other people's kids," she says. Having to teach her kids at home and her students at school has been difficult, but she says she has been enjoying the teaching time.

"Every day is different. Its not a boring job. I'm never sitting down, you know? I don't have my (apple) watch buzzing at me to tell me to stand up or walk around."

Many students love Mrs. Boselli, both as a teacher and as a person. I spoke with 2 students from her second grade class 10 and 11 years ago, and they still remember her well.

"I remember she was the sweetest ever!" Bridget Tucker states. She loved Mrs. Boselli, and looks up to her as a teacher. Bridget wants to be an english teacher one day, and she claims that Mrs. Boselli is one of her inspirations and role models. She loved the

way that she brought the class together, especially during story time.

"She was such a good story teller, like when she'd read stories aloud I got really into them." Tim Rasmussen also loved Mrs. Boselli. He says that she was one of the best teachers he's ever had. "Ten years later and I still remember her class, and I barely remember what I had for breakfast." He loved the way that she taught every subject, even math which he always disliked.

"Mrs. Boselli had a way with her students that made me feel comfortable in the classroom. I think she will do amazing with the Pre K Students." I think she will be rocking the Pre K classroom this year and for as many years as she wants, hopefully many.



PGS Pre-kindergarten teacher Morgan Boselli (courtesy photo).

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# Astuccio Getting A’s as New Admin.

## First-year Asst. Principal Adjusting to New Role

**By P.J. Lees**  
*Staff Writer*

Mr. Michael Astuccio is the latest and, according to some of his colleagues, greatest in the line of Assistant Principals of Newbury Elementary School.

As this is his first year in his new role, The Triton Voice decided he should be interviewed. When asked what Astuccio was most excited about for his new role as Assistant Principal, Astuccio said he is most excited about giving back to his community.

“I am looking forward to working with the folks at NES again.” said Astuccio, who is a Triton Alum, class of 2009.

He mentioned how he is happy to be able to return to the Newbury community, as he has many fond memories of his previous time there as a classroom teacher.

Ms. Chris Astuccio, Michael’s mother and longtime Triton teacher, was asked her stance on [Micheal] Astuccio’s progress, and his new role as Assistant. She responded with how proud she was of Astuccio, saying “I was so proud of Michael when he was appointed AP [Assistant Principal] because as a parent there is nothing more pleasing than the success of your child, no matter their age.”

Ms. Beth Yando, the Principal of Newbury High School. Yando was asked about her decision in hiring Astuccio. “I had the honor of hiring Mr. Astuccio for his first teaching position at NES. We are excited he has returned to NES! Mr. Astuccio does an excellent job forming relationships with students and teachers. We are so fortunate to have him at NES as the Assistant Principal.”

Another question was why he made the switch from teaching to management and administration. Astuccio originally was a teacher, but he wasn’t just in the classroom. He was on tro school boards, the

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program, and the Professional Development Committee at Pine Grove School.

Being on those two boards gave him a bit of initial experience with school wide collaboration. He said the experience “opened my eyes up to broader



Mr. Michael Astuccio is the new assistant principal at Newbury Elementary School (courtesy photo).

ways to support students by strategically designing and revising school systems/structures to leverage student success and the quality of school experience.”

He remembers being extremely enthusiastic about the idea, and so chose to pursue a degree in Educational Leadership.

Astuccio should have expected a fairly normal first year, but that’s far from what he received. He mentions how he never expected to be learning the science behind viral transmission as a requirement for his position.

Then again, neither would anyone else before this year.

Astuccio says that “it’s not just me in this role -- COVID-19 has kind of hit the “reset” button for everyone. It’s like we’re all back to year one.”

Astuccio got his undergraduate degree at Stonehill College, and then Endicott College for his Masters. He also graduated from the institution he is currently employed at, in 2009.

Astuccio thought back, to see if there was ever a snapping point that he underwent to realize he wanted to teach, or if it was just an innate feeling. He found that it was a bit in between those two feelings.

Astuccio recalls from a young age that he “enjoyed school and learning, thanks to many wonderful Triton teachers along the way, and so I think by the time I reached junior year, I knew I wanted to teach.”

# Stepping Up to Teaching

## Decoteau Joins SES Third Grade Teaching Staff

**By Joshua Plummer**  
*Staff Writer*

Energetic and vibrant: These are two adjectives that describe new third grade teacher at Salisbury Elementary Sarah Decoteau, according to her fellow third grade teacher, Lisa Bissell

James Montanari, Principal of Salisbury Elementary, has also acknowledged her great work so far. In an interview with Montanari, he said he has noticed how great she is in her new environment. He stated that “Ms. Decoteau has been great with making connections with her students and her students’ parents.”

He has also complimented her on her taking a risk with joining the SES staff as a third grade teacher even though she is inexperienced with the 3rd grade because her past job was in the first

grade. “I like people that take risks and get out of their comfort zone.” He has also stated his confidence in her filling the shoes of now retired third grade teacher at SES Jennifer Sheets.

Decoteau has worked to create relationships with her and other students even amidst the COVID pandemic. Her students in her “Lunch Bunch ” program are more than happy to be able to put students in

breakout rooms so that her kids can have time with their friends during lunch where they can eat together and talk amongst each other without her monitoring everything they do.

She stated in our interview that she is “trying to give them social opportunities away from learning activities.

She did express her frustration with the online schooling. Decoteau stated,

“It is hard to make connections with the students when we are not all physically present in the classroom.” Obviously, she has been doing a great job adapting to the new environment, according to her colleagues.

Fellow third grade teacher at SES Lisa Bissell describes Decoteau as “

young, vibrant, and energetic.” She explains that she is always jumping in to give her ideas during meetings and she is a pleasure to work with, but she said that she “fit right in” multiple times during the interview.

Decoteau has been a great addition to SES and the Triton Community, her colleagues said. She has been very caring towards her students and has been able to make strong relation-



Salisbury Elementary School third grade teacher Sarah Decoteau (courtesy photo).

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where they started Spanish earlier, she has taught at multiple levels. She speaks Spanish, has an Ecuadorian mother, and a Puerto Rican father, bringing with her a cultural aspect that she can share with students, something Mrs. Scott the main foreign language teacher who is also Mrs. Cassasa’s mentor, does not have access too in her home setting.

When Mrs. Cassasa was asked why she started to teach Spanish she replied, “I am very proud of my culture and want to share it with students. I love making connections with students and getting to know them as people.”

Leaving high school she had no idea what she had wanted to pursue as her career. One day her Spanish teacher told her that she would be very good at teaching, and the teacher saw something she didn’t see in herself. Once she had gotten into college at UNH she experimented with it and enjoyed it heartily. She taught at Portsmouth high school as an undergrad, then taught k-8 Spanish in Rye, New Hampshire. After that she taught at Beverly Middle School.

“She was really fantastic during the interview process and has been since, said Principal Patrick Kelley, who helped hire Mrs. Cassasa. “She’s very creative, thoughtful, and connects well with students. During her interview she had 4-5 students watching, she taught a few sample lessons and did a very great job with each part of it. Students felt as though she was the best candidate to relate too for students, and her experiences in philosophy and creative teaching practices were very, very big within the hiring process.”

After going through the interviews for new foreign language teachers fellow high school Spanish teacher, Ms. Jennifer Scott was asked what she saw in Mrs. Casassa that she didn’t see in the other candidates.

“I guess she just seemed like she’d be very relatable for students’ interactions. For the students in the interview, she seemed that she connected very well with them. She approached them at the right level, to her it was immediately a good fit. Her demeanor to me was very confident and comfortable with what she’s doing. It is a very awkward time to have an interview on zoom, so to show something like that coming over the zoom call is a very good sign for me.”

Mrs. Scott said she believes Mrs. Cassasa is really personable and very much a team player. She is very collaborative and shares a lot of ideas.

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of her students, Emily Johnson, There was more amazing things to hear about Mrs. Cowen. “She does such an amazing job teaching history, I find myself wanting to actually learn more, she makes history class more interesting.” After talking with Emily, it gave a different perspective, Mrs. Cowen has made a very positive impact on the students as well as the triton staff.

With the current circumstances, it makes it hard to consider other things that are happening around us. With the pandemic we would expect new teachers to be confused, and scared to teach students, and maybe not do as well as they usually would, But Mrs. Cowen has broken those expectations and showed a lot of people her amazing teaching skills and knowledge at Triton High School.

## Meet Our Staff Writers

This Week’s Triton Voice Brought to You By...



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