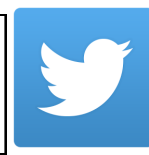




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RITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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MEET THE TEACHERS

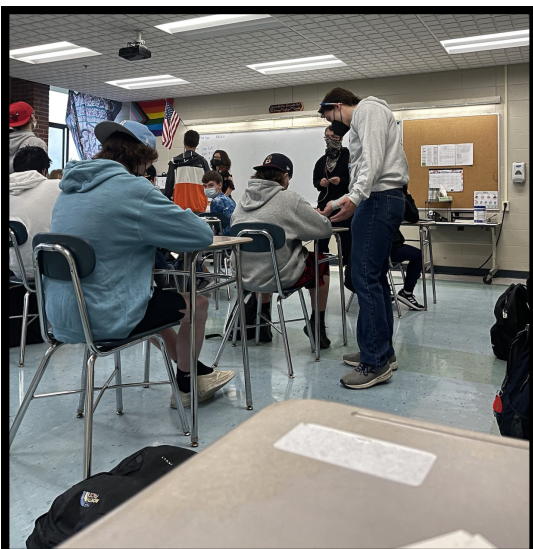
Forty-plus new teachers joined the district this year. Here are some of their stories.

From Student to Teacher Takesian Transitions Back to THS

By **Norah Lyons**
Staff Writer

Walking into room H123, there stands Triton graduate Louis Takesian, diligently helping a confused student. Actively engaged in assisting the student, Takesian doesn't even notice a reporter standing in the doorway. Newly graduated from Merrimack College, Mr. Takesian is excited to advance in his career in teaching.

From a young age, Mr. Takesian was fascinated with history books, films, and movies. He enjoyed spending time with his grandfather, who served in the Navy during WW2 and had discussions about warfare—knowing that he could take his passion for history and form it into a career excited Mr. Takesian.



Mr. Takesian works one on one with a student who is trying to work through a challenging paper. (Lyons photo).

Mr. Takesian has been working at Triton since 2017. He started as a substitute teacher in the TLC program. In the fall, he substituted full-time for history teacher Shawn McElligott, who was on paternity leave. Currently, Mr. Takesian works in the special education program. His day-to-day duties consist of visiting classrooms where his students need assistance. Takesian's favorite part of his career is helping students one-on-one and seeing how they progress, and he said, "it is extremely rewarding."

Special education teacher Mrs. Rebecca Takesian, his mother, who also works as a special education teacher, said, "Louis strives to meet the students where they are on their educational journeys. Louis is always ready to listen to a student's thoughts, ideas, and concerns which helps his students feel seen and heard."

Mr. Takesian's full-time teaching career path began to kick off right as the pandemic broke out. As a first-time teacher, he explained how the back and forth of remote and in-person learning made it challenging to connect with students. He claims it was troublesome to get a "read" of what students were like. However, Takesian explains, "Triton is a united community, teachers and students," making hybrid and online learning more manageable."

Mr. Takesian relishes his career as a teacher, advocating and encouraging the students. When looks of doubt and worry arise on students' faces, Takesian immediately lends a helping

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Student-Centered World Languages Vanderslice Fitting Right in After Move

By **David Pugh & Cooper Campbell**
Staff Writers

When one first walks into Mr. Michael Vanderslice's room, one can feel his calming effect. His room is softly lit, and he has a comfy chair and Spanish/Latin decor on the walls. He speaks in a friendly, upbeat tone. Even though he just began teaching here, Vanderslice feels at home at Triton.

"Everyone has been so welcoming and friendly and encouraging," he said.

Mr. Vanderslice was born in North Carolina where he grew up and spent most of his childhood. In middle school, he decided to take Spanish for his foreign language and he stuck with that through high school and college at North Carolina State University. He made this decision because of the rich culture of the people and all of the amazing, far away places that are Spanish speaking.



Michael Vanderslice in front of some of his favorite decorations in his classroom (Pugh photo).

Vanderslice got his start working with kids at summer camps where he would take them on hikes and even took students on an expedition to Mexico. After working at camps for 20 years, his love for kids inspired him to start teaching. The things that he loves most about teaching are so-called "lightbulb moments," when a kid starts to understand what they are learning about.

When asked about the teaching environment at Triton, Vanderslice said everyone was very "student-centered."

Mr. Vanderslice's love for Triton is not unrequited. When his coworkers and students were asked about him, they had good things to say.

"He comes across as a very genuine and good person," said principal, Mr. Patrick Kelley. His fellow Spanish teacher, Mrs. Olivia Cornell, does not disagree. "He's very passionate about the language and culture of Spanish."

The students love him too. Walking into Vanderslice's room, they feel comfortable; he has a cushioned recliner chair and he has many decorations on his wall.

Freshman Charlie Mollineaux described him as a very understanding person who is always willing to help students.

Big Move for Celia Counselor Moves Up To Assistant Principal

By **John Serino & Sam Mollineaux**
Staff Writers

Mr. Joseph Celia is making a difficult move during a difficult year to assistant principal of Triton High School. Celia has been working at schools since he was 23, and first started counseling at Lawrence High School before moving to other jobs. He came to Triton seven years ago, and came here as a marketing teacher before moving on to history, then special education, and later, adjustment counselor. Now, Celia has taken a position as interim assistant principal here at Triton. He says that the transition has not always been easy.

"It's a shift, and you have to make that shift in your head," Celia told the *Triton Voice*. He says that being a disciplinarian is a difficult aspect of the job, and that he rarely had to be stern in his prior positions at Triton. He said that the primary focus of the adjustment counselor was to build relationships with students. As assistant principal, he now has the added responsibility of enforcing the school rules. However, he seems to have made that shift already, said principal, Mr. Patrick Kelley, "He has done a terrific job starting what has been a challenging start of the school year."

Celia grew up in Lawrence, and attended Lawrence High School, where his father taught. When asked about whether or not that was an inspiration for him becoming a teacher, he said he hadn't really thought about it before, but that he definitely does



Mr. Joseph Celia poses with history teacher Mr. Shawn McElligott this week at Triton (Mollineaux photo).

admire his father. Before teaching at Triton, Celia taught at his alma mater, as well as Tewksbury. He has also been in and out of the restaurant business, and said he has no plans to go back into it at the moment, but hasn't written it off completely, despite it being a lot of work. Celia says he "is not sure" about future plans, but has made it clear that he welcomes change and embraces different careers, as opposed to sticking with one until he retires.

Students have noticed Celia's change in positions. Junior Cooper Campbell said that he is "a man who loves his job very much." Dr. Erik Champy says that wherever Celia is at Triton, he will be loved. Meanwhile, Assistant Principal Scott Brennan says that he is a great man who understands kids. Whether he is a assistant principal, class teacher, or adjustment counselor, Celia will continue to do what he loves in building relationships with students.

New Year, New School, Same Goal

Anderson Works to Improve Students' Lives

By **Samuel Lind & Louis Bohlen**
Staff Writers

A new face to the Triton community is bringing a positive attitude to her room, and she's working hard to help those that may find themselves there.

In previous jobs, Ms. Rihanna Anderson has done work in similar situations: helping students with prolonged periods of absence catch up on work they missed, and working to develop necessary mental skills for each of her students.

Transferring to THS from Beverly High School, Ms. Anderson is instrumental to the mental health of kids at Triton. While she's working with parents, hospital staff, and therapists, she's helping students ease back into Triton High School after they



Miss Rihanna Anderson Lind (photo).

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Markham's Remarkable Entrance SES Kindergarten Teacher is Making her Mark



By Channing Marengi & Olivia Bateman
Staff Writers

Crayons, markers and tiny dolls fill the room. Mini chairs and desks are equally spread apart from each other. The small desks face an easel that is lined with apple shaped cut outs with tiny numbers to depict a calendar.

Ms. Emilee Markham has started her first year here in the Triton District as the new kindergarten teacher at Salisbury Elementary. Her room is set up in beautiful subtle colors as she takes on her second year as a kindergarten teacher.

As two high school seniors, spending a morning back in kindergarten with Markham was a blast from the past. In an interview with Ms. Markham, she discussed how this adjustment to a new school has been for these first few weeks.

Recently, school during these times has been hard for kids and teachers to adapt to. She has been handling it well as kids and teachers have nothing but positive things to report.

Markham graduated from Curry College in 2019 to start her dream job as a teacher. Last year she taught at Swampscott Elementary and this is her first year in the Triton District. Markham said she decided to switch schools because of all the positive things she has heard about Triton's school system.

Growing up, Markham got her spark for teaching because of the influence of the teachers she had. She feels this year is going well for her and her students and she hopes to continue to pass on her love for teaching to these little ones. She expresses that she wants to provide a fun environment so they want to go to school every day and learn.

With COVID-19 learning for these kids has been nothing but a routine for the little ones as this is all they know. It is drilled into their brain that they have to wear the masks. Markham believes she has this system down pat as she includes as many breaks as possi-

Markham's morning routine with her students as they slowly start to come in (Marengi photo).

ble.

"We do a lot of breaks and one of the things we do is GoNoodle, it is a series of web-based videos, games, and activities focused on introducing short bursts of physical exercise into the classroom", Markham said.

She has learned from her prior year to not use bright colors because it is distracting for kids.

Special education teacher Ms. Aimee Farrell is Markham's mentor this year and loves the management in the classroom. The class itself works really hard, and they are quiet in the hallways and are very respectful.

Farrell says, "Some things we have noticed that work for her are the decor in her classroom is very calming, it isn't too flashy and overwhelming for the kids".

Markham is not in this process alone since she is constantly receiving positive feedback from teachers around her.

Jane Keeler, who is now the assistant principal, was formally in that room for 17 years. Markham has now taken over.

"She is a great teacher, a perfect fit for the job," Keeler said.

For a lot of these kids it is their first year of school because many did not attend preschool and because of the pandemic went to online school so they have to adjust to the school environment.

Lorraine Pollard is the assistant in Markham's room and she helps with whatever she needs and is happy to see where this year will go since it's gone great so far.

"The kids have really warmed up to her. Most of our students were home all last year and are adjusting to the classroom," Pollard said.

Not only do the teachers love her but the kids do too and it shows because they respect her.

When asking what their favorite thing about Ms. Markham class was one responded with, "I love playing with the toys, especially the toy trucks".

Another added, "I like her, she's very pretty".

Briley "She spoke to a similar program at Beverly High School to be sure she knew about the program. Ms. Anderson came highly recommended from colleagues that I had worked with in the past and really respected."

Briley has also been open about how Ms. Anderson is able to handle adversity and challenges that may come her way within the school.

"Ms. Anderson has been a rock star! A pipe burst on the first day of school and displaced the program into her office and she just rolled with it," said Briley.

Anderson could not have done all this alone. She has worked with a team of Triton staff members, including Mrs. (Rebecca) Bibeau, Mrs. (Nadine) Marcheterre, Mr. (Victor) Fidler, and more. When asked about Anderson, Mrs. Marcheterre, the school nurse, said, "Ms. Anderson has been a positive influence on many students since arriving at Triton High School. She is bright, cheery and very welcoming to all students who have been working with her ... All of the students that have been working with her

report that she has been supportive to them and frequently want to meet with her when having a hard time."

While her colleagues keep in touch with the students' academic strategies, Ms. Anderson is the one that handles the students' emotional needs.

Ms. Anderson deals with students in a special room dedicated to LIFT students. The room is adorned with a kitchen, break room, and lounge, creating a comforting environment for the students. Ms. Anderson tests the mental health of her students in a process called "screening". Students have to hit a specific criteria to be eligible for the LIFT program, and it is all related to their mental state. The BRYT program network wants to expand in the future, because as of now the system is somewhat limited geographically. It's prevalent in the northeast and northwest of the USA, but not too much elsewhere.

Mrs. Bibeau, school counselor and colleague of Anderson, spoke highly of her. "Ms. A is a kind young woman who has lots of drive and passion for helping students. We are super pleased to have

New School, Veteran Teacher Grade 5 Educator Hails from Haverhill

By Kyle Bouley & Jared Leonard
Staff Writers

After spending seven years teaching elementary school in Haverhill, Mrs. Chantel Alder needed a fresh start and new scenery. Luckily, an elementary school from the same district she called home for all her childhood came calling for an opening for a fifth grade teacher.

Now, Mrs. Alder, a Salisbury Elementary and Triton High School alum, is looking to create a family with all the staff and students at Pine Grove School as she starts the second leg of her teaching career.

Mrs. Alder remarked on how different an environment PGS is compared to anything else she's ever seen. Mrs. Alder enjoyed her time teaching in Haverhill but said that it was a "once you get in you can't get out" type of teaching environment. After seven years in Haverhill, moving into PGS "... was like night and day for me, everyone was so happy and welcoming, and it got me super excited to start"

In college, Mrs. Alder majored in English with the goals of teaching high school, but eventually fell in love with teaching elementary students. A return to a higher level of teaching definitely isn't ruled out for Alder, but when asked if she would want to move to the high school anytime soon her response was "Not anytime soon, I love where I'm at right now"

Mrs. Alder came to Pine Grove and joined the fifth grade team getting to know her fellow teachers next door. Her fellow fifth grade teachers had a lot of good things to say about her. Ms. Jillayne Stutz when asked a few questions about Mrs. Alder said.

"Mrs. Alder goes out of her way to help others-- students, staff, and teachers alike. One of my favorite things about Mrs. Alder is her passion and enthusiasm for teaching." Being an elementary teacher takes a lot of patience and responsibility, but Mrs. Alder stated that it's been her easiest year so far. Her students are respectful and curious, she said. "You don't have to talk with her long to see that she loves her job and is so committed to supporting her students," said Mrs. Stutz. Mrs. Julie Nichols has an aid at PGS, and she had high praise for the new teacher. "She just brings so much joy and excitement to this wing, we are all so lucky to have her here" Her students seem like they agree with Mrs. Nichols. One fifth grade girl exclaimed as she came into the room together Chrome-book charger, "I'll see you in 20 minutes Mrs. Alder," with a huge smile on her face she walked from colorful classroom.

Different then the way most people remember elementary school, this year Mrs. Alder is not just teaching the same children all day. In 5th grade, students now switch classes and learn different subjects from different teachers. This change was said to be the biggest teaching difference for Mrs. Alder. "Needing to know 60 names instead of 20 is a huge difference to me" Although it will take some getting used to, Mrs. Alder enjoys seeing different kids flow in and out of her classroom. In her classroom of about 20 students, she teaches from the huge white board at the front of class, facing the 20 smiling fifth graders eager to learn. Some may think that teaching younger kids would be hard, but her teacher mentor Ms. Donna Cappolla had a lot of praise for the newcomer. "She is thinking up great ideas to engage her students." Along with being able to entertain elementary schoolers, Alder has done it in a peaceful, fun, and loving manner. "Her students are so lucky to have her positive energy," said Mrs. Cappolla.

Mrs. Alder had plenty to say about the PGS families and community and how they made her switch that much easier. She was given all the tools she needed to move to a new school and the district made it extremely easy and a less stressful time. She praises the families of all her students for the constant encouragement and applause, as well as the school for being so well organized and prepared. "PGS is like a well oiled machine" is all she said when asked how well the school was run.

As Mrs. Alder's Pine Grove career just begins, one can already tell that she is set up to have a very successful time at PGS and isn't going anywhere anytime soon.



Ms. Chantel Alder, New fifth grade teacher at Pine Grove School (TRSD photo).

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return from hospitalization or prolonged leave. The LIFT (Learning Individualized For Transitions) program, coordinated by Anderson, prevents higher incidences of hospitalization by giving students a lot of support. One of the ways that she does this is by providing the students with different ways to handle their anxiety or other mental, emotional, or physical health challenges that they are facing.

"After they leave us they leave with a set of skills they didn't have before," said Anderson.

Anderson has been making an impact on the students here at Triton and her hard work and dedication to the program has not gone unnoticed by staff and faculty members. Ms. Karrah Briley, the now-head of the students' wellness department, said that Ms. Anderson is a respectable, professional, and motivated new member of the Triton community.

"Ms. Anderson has done her homework about the LIFT program, said Ms.

her with us at Triton."

Ms. Anderson is personally very excited about the move to Triton. She loves Triton, but is not a fan of the traffic required to get here. If it wasn't for the pipe burst in her first week, things would have gone absolutely perfectly. When she's not at school, it's likely you'll find Ms. Anderson watching television with her Bernese mountain dog-poodle mix, Lily.

Ms. Anderson seems to love her job helping the students of Triton. She wants a secure future for these children and,

TAKESIAN from page 1

hand. Unlike many teachers, Takesian encourages his students to figure things out themselves rather than just feeding them information. History teacher Ms. Jillian Lewis states, "He assists with keeping students on track with their work and helps manage any undesirable behavior that comes up." In hopes of eventually having his very own classroom teaching history, Takesian is just beginning his journey at THS.