



厦门长菁外籍人员子女学校  
ACHIEVE XIAMEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Empowered **Learners** | Effective **Communicators**  
Complex **Thinkers** | Global **Collaborators**  
赋能学习者 高效沟通者 复合型思考者 全球协作者

## Holly Bredemann

Secondary School Principal,  
Advanced Placement Coordinator,  
United States



- Certificate in School Management and Leadership, Harvard Graduate School of Education and Harvard Business School
- Master of Education in Best Practices, National University, United States
- Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, National University, United States
- Rich international education experience world-wide (US, UAE, Italy, China, etc)



"When a teacher believes in the abilities of every student in the class and the students know it, they will succeed. Through the use of the NGSS standards and assessment, students are able to demonstrate understanding to real world problems through practical applications instead of rote memorization, enabling all students to show what they know in many different ways. Failing is inevitable in everyone's life and knowing how to fail well, understand the mistakes made, and keep trying is a key to success. Each student will be aware of this philosophy and know that we learn the most from our failures and be pushed to keep going until they succeed."





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## Said Hasanov

Director of Technology Integration & Innovation (DTII), Azerbaijan



- Bachelor's Degree in Applied Mathematics, Baku State University, Azerbaijan
- Over 17 years of experience in the Technology field based in international schools in China, Qatar, Azerbaijan, etc
- Specialized in Technology, Innovation, and Integration
- Apple Teacher; Microsoft Educator Trainer; IB Workshop Leader
- Multi-language speaker in Azerbaijani, English, Russian, and Turkish

“

"I believe that technology plays a vital role in education today, offering new and exciting ways to engage students, enhance learning outcomes, and prepare them for the future. Technology is a powerful tool that can help us educators and our students support our vision and mission through enabling communication, facilitating collaboration, developing creativity and critical thinking skills, setting goals and reflecting on our learning, transforming learning engagements and embracing innovation. "





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## Ryan Witte

Secondary Social Studies Teacher,  
AP Teacher, United States

- Master of Education,  
Regis University
- Double Bachelor's in Chinese Language  
and Government, University of Texas
- Rich international education experience  
world-wide
- Fluent in English and Chinese



"I support students to develop their own unique ideas, perspectives, and solutions, yet with the understanding that the world is constantly in flux and that decisions must be made in light of changing circumstances, the varying needs of different groups, and thorough consideration of potential consequences. In the teaching of historical events and modern-day issues in my role as a Social Studies instructor, I will endeavor to provide our future leaders with the tools and skills necessary to seek out all information, critically evaluate all evidence, and carefully examine issues and concerns from many different perspectives before making important decisions on any matter."







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## Shaheer Aziz

Secondary Social Studies Teacher, UK

- Bachelors of Arts (Honours) in Business Marketing, Middlesex University, UK
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (International), the University of Nottingham
- 12 years experience in teaching English, History and other Humanities in China, Kuwait and Turkey
- Coaching experience in Cricket and Football
- TEFL Certification



“

"Education and knowledge is never ending and one person can never stop learning. Any one person can learn from another. Through continuous learning in life, we will continue to grow and become better. Each year I try to improve myself, learn more and grow to be the most positive educator I can, so I can help students enjoy education and yearn for knowledge to improve themselves in the most positive way."







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## James Leyton

Secondary Social Studies Teacher,  
AP Teacher, United States



- Master of Arts  
in Industrial/Organizational Psychology,  
University of Houston-Clear Lake,  
United States
- Bachelor's Degree in Psychology,  
Texas A&M University, United States
- Teaching Certificate from the United States
- Over 10 years experience in teaching Social  
Studies, History, Geography, and Economics  
in United States, China, and Vietnam
- Experienced in teaching IGCSE and AP  
courses



"I have placed mindfulness at the core of my teaching model. Trained in Psychology, I collaborate with the School Counselor to anchor our classes in a Humanistic approach. I aim to enhance the students' understanding of self, and root them in a sense of community. Nurturing the communitarian aspects of the classroom, I provide a space where respect for themselves and their peers can be developed and practiced. I will continue to support the students as they grow, not only academically, but as individuals and young adults finding their place in the world."





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## Wilma Piao

Secondary Science Teacher, Philippines

- Master of Education in General Science, Philippine Normal University
- Bachelor of Secondary Education in General Science, Philippine Normal University
- Innovative science teacher with rich teaching experience in Biology, Physics and Earth Science in international schools
- 21 years of teaching experience

“

"Innovative Science teacher with nineteen years of experience. A highly motivated and dedicated teacher in helping students reach their full potential to become transformative learners. Commended by the Vice-Principal and the Student Formation Officer for classroom management skills and discipline. A diligent educator who blends innovative and traditional methods to produce a solid foundation of lifelong learning. "





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## John Mickelson

Secondary Science Teacher,  
AP Teacher, United States



- Bachelor of Science,  
South Dakota State University
- 10 years of teaching experience in  
South Korea and Vietnam
- More than 5 years of experience in  
international schools
- Teaching Certificate from the United States

“

"My classroom learning philosophy focuses on differentiated instruction and comprehensive formative assessments, along with technology integration. Recognizing that students have different learning styles and abilities which require incorporating different scaffolding strategies such as visual aids, additional resources for struggling students, or challenging high-achieving students with more complex material, to accommodate all learners sufficiently. Using data to determine student progress, identify areas where students need additional support, and help students take ownership of their own learning and make continuous improvements."







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## Danny Carratala

Secondary English Teacher,  
AP Teacher, United States

- Master of Arts in Mass Communications  
University of Florida, United States
- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology  
Florida International University, United States
- 13 years of teaching experience in  
secondary schools in Florida, United States
- Teaching Certificate from the United States;  
TEFL Certification



"My educational philosophy and career ideal is that all children, regardless of their national origin, race, color, religion, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, and familial status are unique and deserve a fair, yet challenging educational environment where they can grow mentally, emotionally, and socially. It is my life's goal to create a classroom that is conducive to this type of atmosphere where students can truly meet their full potential. "





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## Ife Smenkh-Ka-Ra

Secondary EAL/English Teacher,  
Trinidad and Tobago



- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, University of the West Indies St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
- Moreland University Teaching Certification; TESOL Certificate
- 5 years teaching experience in international schools
- More than 10 years of teaching experience

“

"As an EAL teacher with a background in teaching mathematics in Trinidad and Tobago, and having lived and taught in China since 2015, I firmly believe that learning should be a fun, entertaining, and challenging experience. Recognizing that mastering English, much like mathematics, can be daunting for many students, I am committed to breaking down those barriers and making language learning accessible and engaging for everyone. I strive to create a positive and inclusive learning environment where students feel supported and encouraged to take risks and explore new concepts. My goal is to continue fostering this supportive atmosphere, ensuring that every student feels empowered to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential in learning English."





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## Matthew Briggs

Secondary EAL/English Teacher, UK



- Master's Degree in English Literature and Language, University of Nottingham, UK
- Master's Degree in Secondary Education, Teaching and Learning, University of Sheffield, UK
- Bachelor's Degree in English, University of Trinity and All Saints, UK
- Over 12 years experience in teaching English in China and Saudi Arabia
- PGCE Certificate
- Experienced IB and AP teacher

“

"I prefer to work in student-centered environments, as I believe these conditions provide a strong foundation for transformative learning, where students can engage with new perspectives and gain deeper critical insight through their past experiences. The objective of my classes is to encourage and motivate students to seek higher education opportunities at prestigious universities overseas, which will enable them to develop their potential and realize their aspirations. I hope that AXIS graduates will become role models and contribute to the development of China into a global, international, and entrepreneurial nation, as they embrace change with determination and resilience. I am eagerly looking forward to the upcoming academic year and anticipate the valuable contributions that new students will bring."







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## Paul Loerlein

Secondary Math Teacher,  
AP Teacher, United States

- Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, Eastern Michigan University, United States
- 10 years of teaching experience in Secondary Math
- Rich experience teaching Science, STEM, and ESL
- Teaching Certificate from the United States

“

"First, I want my students to develop a conceptual understanding of how the math they learned has meaning in a broader context. Second, I want my students to walk away with greater confidence in their own mathematical abilities, better equipped to successfully approach math in the future."





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## Rachel Ormiston

Secondary Math Teacher, UK



- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Mathematical Education and Learning, University of Sunderland, UK
- PGCE Certificate; TEFL Certificate
- Over 6 years experience in teaching Mathematics in China and Saudi Arabia

“

"As a mathematics teacher, my educational philosophy is rooted in the belief that maths should be accessible, engaging, and relevant to students' lives. I focus on integrating real-life examples into my lessons to demonstrate the practical applications of mathematical concepts. By connecting maths to everyday situations, I aim to make learning more meaningful and to spark students' curiosity and enthusiasm. I strive to create an inclusive classroom where every student feels valued and supported. I believe mistakes are valuable learning opportunities, and I foster a safe space where students feel comfortable taking risks and learning from their errors. My goal is to help students see the value of mathematics in their daily lives, giving them the confidence to tackle challenges both in and out of the classroom."





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## Paul Gray

Secondary Math Teacher, UK



- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting & Finance, University of Wales, UK
- PGCE Secondary Mathematics with Qualified Teacher Status
- Over 10 years experience in teaching Mathematics in UK, China, and Saudi Arabia

“

"My education philosophy is geared around encouraging and developing a growth mindset, whilst removing the fear that is sometimes associated with mathematics. By fostering a classroom culture where mistakes are seen as a learning opportunity and where students work collaboratively to lift everyone up, this helps to ensure that students feel safe and supported in the mathematics classroom."







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## Pavle Živojinović

Secondary Music Teacher, Serbia



- Master of Music – Piano, University of Arts, Serbia
- Bachelor of Music, University of Arts, Serbia
- Over 9 Years of Music Teaching Experience in Serbia and China
- Award winning coach of students in international competitions
- Experienced concert pianist

“

"The biggest gift we can give our students is an education that is student-centered. For students to learn, they must be involved in their own education. The best learning happens when it is cooperative and collaborative in nature, letting students learn from each other and become more actively engaged in their learning."





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## Rosie Turner

Secondary Art Teacher, AP Teacher,  
Wales, UK



- Postgraduate Certificate in Education  
Secondary Art and Design with QTS,  
University of Warwick, United Kingdom
- Bachelor of the Arts (Honours) Illustration,  
Cardiff Metropolitan University, United  
Kingdom
- AP Art and Design Summer Institute, The  
University of Texas at Arlington
- Over 8 years of teaching experience



"To create an environment conducive to deep learning, students must be at the heart of every lesson. Building students' creative confidence and problem-solving techniques through process-based art-making requires continual reflection and practicing visual literacy skills. We draw our inspiration from exploring materials coupled with observations of local and international contexts. This practice enriches students' visual language and empowers them to develop their unique creative voices. Our dedicated Art studios offer students specialist spaces to express their interests and explore new processes and ideas."





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## Chad Eppley

Secondary PE Teacher/Coach,  
United States



- Master of Arts in Teaching,  
Pacific University, United States
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology,  
Lees-McRae College, United States
- 5 years experience in teaching PE in  
China
- Experienced in basketball coaching

“

"Physical education is a basic requirement for a holistic education and is crucial in helping instill lifelong fitness habits in our young people. Not only does PE provide a base knowledge for living a healthy life but through sports education young people learn important life lessons like leadership, teamwork, and goal setting."







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## Sophie Wang

Secondary EAL Teacher, China



- Bachelor's Degree in English, Chengdu Institute Sichuan International Studies University, China
- Over 11 years of experience teaching in international schools
- Experienced English and AP teacher

“

"My educational philosophy is grounded in the belief that true learning transcends traditional boundaries, fostering intellectual curiosity, innovation, and a deep sense of global responsibility. I am committed to creating a dynamic and inclusive environment where students are encouraged to think critically, collaborate across disciplines, and engage with diverse perspectives. My career ideal is to inspire and mentor students to become visionary leaders and compassionate citizens, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and ethical foundation to drive positive change for themselves and the world around them."





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## DeeDee Lyu

Secondary STEAM Teacher, China



- Master of Contemporary Painting in Brera Academy of Fine Arts, Italy
- Bachelor of Chinese Painting in Hubei Academy of Fine Arts, China
- More than 6 years experience in teaching Arts in China
- Winner of Honorary Award in the "World Expo Dream" comprehensive art exhibition at the Kip United Nations Pavilion at the 2015 Milan World Expo

“

“对于教育者而言，艺术的意义不仅止于自身，还在艺术之外。艺术须有助于孩子培养健康的社会态度、坚定的精神意志、良好的个人习惯和自我担当的意识。”





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## Lingling Qian

Secondary Chinese Teacher;  
Chinese Department Lead, China



- Master of Arts in Teaching, Chinese Language, Union College Graduate School, United States
- Bachelor of Arts in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language, Heilongjiang University, China
- Teaching Certificates from New York State and Massachusetts State; Chinese National Teaching Certificate
- 8 years experience in teaching Chinese in the United States; 2 years experience in teaching Chinese in China
- Experienced IB MYP/DP and AP teacher

“

"As an experienced Chinese language and literature teacher, I am deeply committed to the holistic approach to learning. My goal is to cultivate a classroom environment that is welcoming and inclusive, where students feel encouraged to express themselves freely and engage in meaningful class activities. Embracing the philosophy of lifelong learning, I actively seek opportunities to broaden my knowledge and perspectives, constantly striving to enhance my teaching practice and better support my students on their educational journey."







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## Siming Hu

Secondary Chinese Teacher,  
AP Teacher, China



- Master's degree in Teaching and Curriculum, Michigan State University, United States
- Bachelor's degree in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, Shanghai International Studies University
- Full teaching registration in New Zealand
- Teaching certificate in the State of Michigan, United States
- Rich international education experience worldwide (New Zealand, United States, China, etc)

“

"I believe that student-centered education is an effective teaching model because teachers could apply varied teaching methods to help different kinds of students learn and grow. In addition, a teacher's role is not only just to teach knowledge but also to take care and nurture the students."





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## Cindy Zheng

Secondary CAL Teacher, China



- Bachelor of Arts in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language  
Xiamen University of Technology, China
- Teacher Qualification Certificate
- National Mandarin Test Certification
- Teaching experiences in kindergartens and middle schools
- IB PYP Trained



"I think every student is curious in their own way. I believe that being curious helps people learn for real. For me, Chinese isn't just about words and sounds - it's like a big place to explore. I teach in a way that works for each person, based on what they like and need. I watch how they're interested and what they ask, so I can make my lessons fit what they want to know. I want my students to keep learning, even after they leave the classroom. Learning shouldn't stop when class is over - it's something they should do in their lives. Whether it's Chinese or anything else, I want them to always want to know more."





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## Gina Ding

College Admissions Counselor  
& Student Boarding Coordinator, China



- Master of Arts in School Counseling ,  
Northern Kentucky University, United States
- Bachelor of Arts, Xiamen University, China
- International College Advising Certificate,  
University of Pennsylvania Graduate  
School of Education, United States
- Experienced college counselor and  
English teacher



As an experienced college admissions counselor, I believe in the transformative power of education and its profound impact on a student's life. My philosophy of education focuses on guiding students to explore their interests, potentials, and purposes in life. I am committed to helping them navigate the complex landscape of university admissions, aiming to find the best "fit" where they can achieve academic success and thrive in college life. Throughout this challenging process, I aim to nurture students' self-awareness, critical thinking skills, and resilience, which I believe are equally crucial as the admissions results. Additionally, I enjoy networking with college admissions professionals and college counselors from various schools nationwide and internationally to stay abreast of the latest college application policy changes and developments.







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## Annie An

School Counselor, China



- PhD in Neuropsychology, Maastricht University, Netherland
- Master of Science in Physiology, South China Normal University, China
- Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology, Southern Medical University, China
- Psychologist Certificate in China
- Experienced psychology teaching and psychological counseling
- Multilingual in Chinese, English, and intermediate Dutch

“

"I have been doing research and clinical in mental health for more than 10 years. The purpose of education is to let the young people make their own future, and let them survive and thrive in the world in their own way. I hope I could make this journey easier. Every little seed grows into different kinds of plants, respect that."

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## James Wood

Secondary EAL Teacher, Australia



- Master of Applied Linguistics  
- Griffith University, Australia
- Bachelor of Arts (Video Game Design)  
- Griffith University, Australia
- Certificate IV in TESOL
- Experienced teaching English in  
Australia, Thailand, and Japan
- Experienced teaching Digital Design &  
ICT & AI Program in international  
schools

“

"As an educator with a background in linguistics, technology, design and currently completing a Master of Education, I am passionate about fostering creativity, critical thinking and communication. I strive to help students find their voice, express ideas clearly and engage in meaningful conversations. By combining diverse literary works, modern technology and real-world connections, I create an inclusive and engaging environment where students can build strong communication skills and discover the power of language to connect and inspire."

