



# Newest faculty team members

2022-2023

# Drew Austen Science

My name is Drew Austen, and I am coming to Maggie Walker from Henrico County Public Schools, where I was an itinerant teacher of AP Physics, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, and Geometry at Deep Run, Godwin, and Glen Allen for the past five years. I am thrilled to finally be working at just one school teaching just my favorite subject—AP Physics. Before Henrico County, I taught for several years in Chesterfield County and one year at the International School of Belgrade in Serbia. I hold a master's degree in physics from VCU and hope to pursue a doctorate in physics education in a few years.

I am excited to get my students involved in many physics competitions, including the International Physics Olympiad, the AAPT PhysicsBowl, the High School Physics Photo Contest, and my personal favorite—the United States Association for Young Physicists Tournaments (USAYPT)—a high-level research competition in which students engage in “physics fights” with teams from other schools to advance each other’s understanding of the physics behind several problems that they had spent the previous year researching.







# Daide D'Urbino Science

I am originally from Milano, Italy.

I have also lived and studied in Japan and New Zealand, and I have been calling Richmond home since 2008.

I have bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from VCU. My research interests include organic polymer synthesis and chemical education.

I have been teaching chemistry at Clover Hill High School for the past five years.

I have a love for cooking and recently started making Neapolitan pizza. I also enjoy building and fixing all sorts of things, especially motors and electronics.

I have a huge passion for travel, and I try to visit my family back in Italy as often as I can.



# Brandon Gooss

## Science

This year will be my 15th year as an educator, my 20th year in the Army Reserve, and my 11th year as a father. I am married with two children and two dogs. We love traveling and having a good time. This summer, our family visited Kauai and had an amazing time. I have too many hobbies, but most of my free time recently has been spent working on my 1974 Porsche 914 and home renovations. I am thrilled to be joining the team and look forward to the new school year!

Brandon Gooss holds a Bachelor's Degree in Science and Physics from VCU. He comes to Maggie Walker with 13 years of teaching experience in Henrico where he taught at Highland Springs, Tucker, and Deep Run High Schools.







## Kelly Ndayizigiye Freshmen Counselor

I am very excited to be the freshmen counselor at Maggie Walker! I first earned my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and minor in family studies at James Madison University. After graduation, I explored the field of psychology, finding an interest in working with and supporting students in the school system and their mental health. While working in various positions, I learned how interconnected academic success and social/emotional growth are and why it is important for students to be supported. This motivated me to pursue a Master of Education in Counselor Education to become a school counselor. As a new counselor, I look forward to growing with the incoming class and finding my place at MLWGS.

Outside of school, my interests are trying new foods, exploring Richmond, and amateur photography.



# Alecia Nichols

## Languages, Spanish

As an MLWGS alumna (Class of 2012), I am so excited to rejoin the Green Dragon community! I studied Spanish and Mandarin Chinese at Furman University for my undergraduate degree and received a master's degree in Linguistics from the University of South Carolina. While earning my graduate degree at USC, I had the opportunity to teach hybrid college Spanish courses, which led me to pursue a career in education. For the past three years, I have taught Spanish at J.L. Mann High School in Greenville, South Carolina. This year, I received a Fulbright grant to teach English in Peru for the 2023 academic year, and I plan to use this opportunity to launch a language exchange program to connect our Maggie Walker Spanish students with Peruvian English learners and strengthen our international connections for years to come!

My teaching philosophy centers on universal accessibility and recognizing intersectionality or the way that our unique and complex identities contribute to the fabrics of local and international culture. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy rock climbing, playing video games, making art, and foraging for edible plants in the wild.







# Erin Ortiz

## Counseling, School Social Worker

In May 2012, Erin graduated from Gallaudet University with a master's in Social Work. Her program concentrated on school social work and education, with specialized training in working with individuals with disabilities, particularly D/deaf and hard-of-hearing students. She holds a Pupil Personnel License under the VA Department of Education and is also a certified trauma specialist, endorsed by NASW, the National Association of Social Workers.

Erin is also an MLWGS alumna from the Class of 2006. She currently serves on a GS Foundation steering committee that promotes and manages the bi-annual alumni showcase.

Erin's earlier work was as an adjunct professor in the VCU School of Social Work MSW Program and a case manager at Richmond CASA, a court-based advocacy program for children involved in cases of child abuse and neglect petitioned to the Richmond City Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. From there, Erin worked for Henrico County serving students and families attending HCPS for seven years.

Erin believes that children are the future, and it is our responsibility to cultivate growth and learning through a positive and productive learning experience, understanding that every child's and family's needs are individually unique. She is fueled by a desire to work within a school setting serving children, parents, families, faculty and staff, and the surrounding community. As well, her passion to ensure that all children are afforded opportunities to succeed, no matter what barriers may impede progress, adds to her motivation and propels her commitment and loyalty to school social work practice.

Erin looks forward to pursuing her LCSW in the next steps of her career. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Richmond City's southside with their dog, Bodhi, and are expecting their first child in late October 2022.



# Madeline Paturel Languages, French

Bonjour! My name is Maddie Paturel (Pah-tue-rehl) and I am going to be one of the French teachers. I went to William and Mary for both my undergraduate degree in French and my master's in education. I am also double-certified as an English teacher. In my time outside the classroom, I love to bake, sew costumes and dresses, and travel. I also really enjoy French musical theater, fantasy novels, and loving my amazing senior citizen dog Darla. My husband and I recently renewed our vows because he finally moved here from France; my picture is of the dress I made for that wedding with our adorable niece in her also homemade flower girl dress. I'm so excited to meet and work with you all!







## Kyle Rogers Social Studies

Hi! My name is Kyle Rogers, and I'm a Richmond native and recent graduate of VCU's Social Studies MT program. I primarily studied U.S. history while earning my History MA but also find world history fascinating, and I'm passionate about teaching both in the classroom and at historic sites. For me, the most fulfilling part of teaching is building positive relationships with my students and teaching each other about common interests. When I'm not working, I enjoy crushing it at trivia night, hiking in the Blue Ridge, playing my growing collection of guitars, and exploring Richmond's food scene with my friends. I take Wordle very seriously and look forward to competing with my coworkers to get the best daily score!