

New faces, in new places

CUSD's administrative team welcomes new members, and some familiar faces with new titles, for the 2021-22 school year.

Shane Schmeichel, Director of Special Programs

Shane Shmeichel has been with CUSD for 10 years. He first served as the Director of the award-winning Coronado School of the Arts, then became the CHS Assistant Principal, and then CHS Principal. Shane has over twenty years of experience in education; including counseling, teaching, curriculum design, and administration. *"We are fortunate in CUSD to have the support of CSF, CoSA Foundation, and many other entities. Through the support of our local nonprofits combined with state and federal grants, we are building amazing STEM and Arts experiences. I am excited to take my past experiences supporting elementary and middle schools to personalize well-articulated experiences for our students."*



Karin Mellina, Coronado High School Principal

Karin Mellina has been with CUSD for 18 years. She began as a Coronado Middle School humanities teacher, then went on to CMS Assistant Principal, and CMS Principal. Karin has Masters degrees in Counseling Psychology and Education. She is a passionate advocate for students and believes that every single child has the ability to excel. Karin is excited to build new relationships and absorb the Islander culture. *"I want everyone to feel they have a trusted leader. I have very high expectations but they are also met with support to ensure those expectations can be met."*

Shane Bavis, Coronado High School Assistant Principal

This is the first year for Shane Bavis at CUSD. He began his teaching career in the Boston area and has been in education for over 22 years. He spent the last 16 years at Anaheim Union High School District. He has taught all grade levels of English from AP to collaborative classes, served as the school newspaper advisor, and 9th grade lead. As a Teacher Coach, Shane helped other teachers to embed the critical soft skills needed for collaboration and college and career readiness. *"I am excited to continue my journey, being a part of this amazing new family at CHS. I am looking forward to being an advocate for both our students and staff - championing their needs making CHS an amazing place to learn and grow!"*





Brooke Falar, Interim Coronado Middle School Principal

Brooke Falar is beginning her 16th year at CUSD. Her first role in the district was as a choir teacher at CHS. Brooke taught band and choir at CMS and was the ASB advisor for four years. *“CMS is such a special place, and I am honored to be the interim principal. After a very challenging year, I am looking forward to RECONNECTING with each student on the CMS campus!”*

Alison Keehan, Coronado Middle School Interim Assistant Principal

Alison Keehan has been with CUSD for 8 years. She has been in education for 17 years and served CUSD in multiple roles in special education, including 7th grade Education Specialist and program specialist working at CMS, CHS, and the adult transition program. She previously served as a temporary interim assistant principal and is excited to be back in the role. *“I am most looking forward to finding a way to make connections with each of our students. I want to make every student feel safe, included, and loved!”*



Jeff Kozlowski, Special Education Coordinator

This is the first year for Jeff Kozlowski at CUSD. He came to the district from Palo Alto where he was the Head of School at Sand Hill School, a private school for students with language-based learning differences. Jeff has 25 years of education experience including as a special education teacher, special education administrator, and Head of School. *“It’s an honor to work with such a collaborative team of professionals in Coronado Unified. I’m most excited to support student success and wellbeing by helping children understand their strengths, embrace their differences, and follow their passions.”*



Maria Simon, Public Information Officer

Maria Simon has been involved with CUSD for 18 years in various roles. As a parent she served on the Site Council and as PTO President at both Village Elementary and Coronado Middle School. She was a Governing Board Trustee (2012-2020), serving as Board President for three years. Maria is also a journalist and former non-profit marketing and communications manager. *“I am excited to support the district by facilitating accurate, timely, transparent communication that will contribute to engaged and supportive community involvement. I look forward to highlighting the incredible things our staff and students accomplish every day.”*

