

Meet the Middle Years Team



My name is Travis Himmelright. This year I have the pleasure to fill two new roles here at NVSS. I will be the Vice Principal within the Middle Years "wing" and I will be teaching Woodwork for grades 7 through 10. This is a departure from my previous role of MY teacher for the past 9 years and a long history of teaching Physical Education and Social Studies. I am a husband, father of 3, coach, yard tinkerer, avid outdoorsman, and closet environmentalist. I look forward to working with and supporting your child, the MY teaching team, and you as parents/caregivers. Feel free to contact me via email thimmelrightesd91.bc.ca or text 250 570 8094.

The Grade 7 Team

JOEL MUELLER

My name is Joel Mueller. I was born and raised in Vanderhoof and am returning after 11 years of adventuring with my family in both Northern Alberta and Salmon Arm. For much of my career I have taught anywhere from grades 5 to 7 and look forward to bringing my experience to the middle years wing here at NVSS. I have a tremendous passion for all sports and truly enjoy being outside in nature mountain biking, fishing, running, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking. I look forward to coaching many sports here at NVSS and to help all the new grade 7 students to feel both welcome and successful in their first year here at the high school. jtmuelleresd91.bc.ca



JEANETTE LAPRE

Hi! My name is Jeanette Lapre. This will be my second-year teaching at MYNVSS. This year I will be teaching Math and Numeracy. This summer I was in Nelson for the month of August taking courses as I work towards my BEd. On my time off I like to hike, walk my dog Trigger, and bake. I look forward to working with you this year. jlapre@sd91.bc.ca



JUVEN SOMCIO

Good day everyone! My name is Juven (joo-ven) Somcio (some-see-yoh). Students address me as Miss Somcio; however, in the past, my students also addressed me as Miss S. I was born in the Philippines in a city called Cagayan de Oro. My family and I immigrated to Canada in January 2010 and lived in Edmonton ever since. During times when I'm not teaching in my classroom, I like to travel in places I have not been before. This summer, I backpacked Mexico for two months, which enabled me to cross a couple things off of my bucket list. I was able to learn how to surf and was able to release baby sea turtles back to the ocean (shown in my picture). Apart from travelling, I also enjoy learning languages. This usually comes naturally from travelling. Lastly, I consider myself a bit of a foodie. I love to try cuisines from around the world and trying to recreate them in my kitchen. I am very excited for this school year to begin alongside calling Vanderhoof my new home. jsomcio@sd91.bc.ca



JANA-RAE KADONAGA

My name is Jana-Rae Kadonaga and I am teaching grade 7 Literacy and Social Studies this year. This is my 8th year teaching grade 7 at MYNVSS and I love it! I spend a lot of time supporting my family in their sports activities and love cheering on my three teenagers in their passions. One of my favorite things to do is art, and while I enjoy a few different mediums, pottery is what I do the most of. I have a studio in my home and spend a lot of my free time working in it. I enjoy the outdoors and spending time in nature with my favorite people and my pets. jkadonaga@sd91.bc.ca



The Grade 8 Team

AMBER BEYORE

My name is Amber Beyore and I've been teaching in the middle years since 2017 with a math focus. I have two young children and enjoy making candles in my spare time. I am extremely excited to teach the grade 8s as I taught them last year. abeyore@sd91.bc.ca

EMILY BROOKS

Emily Brooks is from Midland, Ontario. She enjoys just about any outdoor activity, especially if it involves her two dogs. Emily has an Honour's Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from the University of Ottawa and completed her Bachelor of Education at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. ebrooks@sd91.bc.ca

DANE PHILIPENKO

Hello! I'm Mr. Philipenko (or Mr. P, for short). I grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, and just moved to Vanderhoof in early August. This will be my first year at NVSS and I will be teaching Humanities to my Crew as well as Physical and Health Education to all the Grade 8's.

I love being active and getting outside. Most of my sporting experience lies in playing and coaching basketball, but I enjoy playing any and all games, hiking, and camping. I love baking, I am terrible at remembering song lyrics, and my favourite pizza is pepperoni and mushroom. I am really excited for the year and can't wait to get to know all of you! dphilipenko@sd91.bc.ca

HEATHER HINZ

Hi there! My name is Heather Hinz but the students call me Ms. H. I will be returning this year to teach Grade 8 Science and Humanities and will also have the privileged of leading Yellow CREW. I am passionate about science especially biology and ecology and cannot wait to get my learners outside engaged in the wetlands and forests that surround us. When I am not working at school I am kept busy with taking classes at UBC and spending time with my fur-babies. This summer I brought home a new addition to the clan, a Miniature Schnauzer puppy named Aspen...so now I have privilege of having three fur-babies to keep me extra busy. I also love hiking, canoeing, gardening and COFFEE!!!!!! I cannot wait to meet my new students and their families ☺. Please feel free to stop by and say hello and meet our class pet, Gizmo who is a Bearded Dragon. Hope to see ya soon!!!!!! ☺ hhinz@sd91.bc.ca

MARILOU NIGHTINGALE-Gr. 7 & 8 Case Manager

This is my first year as Case Manager. The last 5 years I have been working with the grade 8's as a Learning Support Worker. I like working with the teachers, staff and the students. I had worked in all of the schools before coming to NVSS, so it has been fun to see the students who come from the schools. I am excited for this year. I am married to Jim, we have had 5 children. We have lived in four countries on 3 different continents. We are also local coffee roasters here in Vanderhoof. I enjoy being outside, riding horses, canoeing, and gardening. I also like quilting, art, photography and music. mnightingale@sd91.bc.ca