



Middle School Faculty Biographies 2011-12

PRINCIPAL:

John Fowler, M.A.

Middle School Principal

jfowler@tarbut.com x 3014

Employed by TVT since 2009

John Fowler is Head of the Middle School at Tarbut V'Torah. Mr. Fowler's career in independent school education has been marked by a commitment to experiential education and collaborative leadership. He came to Tarbut from Milken Community High School in Los Angeles, where he served as a Dean of Academics and Student Life for four years. At the Athenian School in Danville California, where he worked for eleven years, Mr. Fowler was head of the science department and chair of the Board of Trustees' task force on environmental stewardship, an experience he recounts in The Greening of Athenian an article published in *Independent School Magazine*. He has chaired visiting accreditation teams for WASC and has served on accreditation teams for CAIS. Mr. Fowler was a 1999-2000 Klingenstein fellow and a member of the 2008-2009 cohort for the NAIS Fellowship for Aspiring School Heads. He holds an undergraduate degree from California State University, Hayward and an M.A. from Columbia University. Mr. Fowler is an avid hiker and mountain biker and volunteers his time for various trail maintenance associations.

ART DEPARTMENT:

Kevin Bachelder, M.M.

kbachelder@tarbut.com x 4261

Employed by TVT since 2007

Mr. Bachelder teaches and directs the Garage Band class. He is a recent recipient of a Master's Degree in Jazz Studies from the University of Southern California and he earned his Bachelor's Degree from the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. Over a 25-year career, Mr. Bachelder has performed for David Bowie and Wayne Shorter as well as recently

singing background vocals on a Capitol Records recording session with Steve Miller. He also performs regularly with his original project writing songs that inspire and contain grooves that are infectious.

Justin Fuller, B.A.

jfuller@tarbut.com x 4210

Employed by TVT since 2006

Mr. Fuller holds a Bachelor's degree in Ethnomusicology from Humboldt State University. Before coming to TVT, he taught ceramics at the JCC, and has additional experience as a private art instructor. Possessing a diverse skill set, Mr. Fuller teaches Middle School Art, Yoga and Digital Photography at TVT, while also working in oil, acrylic, charcoal, and mixed media. He is an advisor to the guitar club, member of a local band, and an avid surfer.

Joseph Waldron, B.S.

jwaldron@tarbut.com x 4214

Employed by TVT since 2008

Mr. Waldron holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Salisbury University, Maryland and a Master of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences from San Diego State University. Before coming to TVT he was an adjunct professor of dance at Palomar College, in San Marcos California. He is also the founder and artistic director of Axxiom Dance Collective with more than 15 years' experience in dance instruction.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT:

Linda Cooper, B.A.

lcooper@tarbut.com x 2913

Employed by TVT since 1996

Ms. Cooper received her Bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and holds a California Teaching Credential (with additional graduate work) from at Cal State Fullerton in Education. Ms. Cooper has been a long-time English Department faculty member at TVT, who has been involved as the TVT newspaper advisor for Journalism students, as well as the student staff who produce the TVT Yearbook. Ms. Cooper is the Dean of Students in the Middle School.

Lindsey Marino, M.A.

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Employed by TVT since 2011

Ms. Marino comes to TVT from the Vista Verde School in Irvine where she served as the 6th Grade Language Arts teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential and a Master of Arts in teaching all from the University of California, Irvine.

Craig Michalski, B.A.

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Employed by TVT since 2007

Mr. Michalski received his degree in English from Miami University. He went on to get certification in English from Cleveland State University and subsequently became a Johns Hopkins SDB fellow and participated in Stanford University's SPICE program. He has nineteen years experience as an English teacher, with 13 of those years in a middle school setting. He spent 4 years at The Harker School, a prestigious, independent school in San Jose, California, before joining the staff of Tarbut in 2007. Mr. Michalski teaches Middle School English at TVT and is a seventh grade team leader.

HEBREW LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE:

Gila David, B.A.

gdavid@tarbut.com x 2949

Employed by TVT since 2006

Mrs. David has a bachelor's degree in education and a teacher's diploma from the Lewinsky College. She has taught all levels of Hebrew at TVT and is particularly fond of grades 6-8.

Silvia Vidor, Ed.D.

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Employed by TVT since 2011

Dr. Vidor earned her Bachelor's Degree in Literature and Biblical Studies from the University of Haifa, Israel and a Master of Education from American Jewish University in Bel Air, California before earning her Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Phoenix, Arizona. She comes to TVT from Congregation B'nai Israel in Tustin, where she served as the Director of Education and Acting Principal. Dr. Vidor's extensive experience in education also includes work at American Jewish University, American Jewish University, and Weizmann Day School.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT:

Paul Chaffey, B.A.

pchaffey@tarbut.com x 4268

Employed by TVT since 2007

Mr. Chaffey received his Bachelor's degree from Occidental College. In addition he holds a California Teaching Credential and has many years' experience teaching Middle School through the California Public School system. At TVT, Mr. Chaffey teaches History, and is the Lead Teacher for the eighth grade.

Carol Crane, B.A.

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Employed by TVT since 2007

Mrs. Crane has her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, International Relations and French Literature from UC Santa Barbara and earned her Clear Credential to teach Social Studies and French at UC Irvine. She taught Social Studies for the GATE (Gifted and Talented) students at Venado Middle School, Irvine for ten years and teaches 7th Grade Medieval History.

Simon Fellowes, M.S.

sfellowes@tarbut.com x 4265

Employed by TVT since 2008

Mr. Fellowes comes to TVT from the public school system in Westminster, California. He has a Bachelor's in European History and English Literature from Northumbria University in Great Britain, and an MS from California State University, Fullerton. Additionally, Mr. Fellowes has a Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential. He expertly combines technology, multi-media, and student-centered learning in his classroom teaching style.

JEWISH STUDIES:

Becca Farber, M.A.

bfarber@tarbut.com x. 1107

Employed by TVT since 2011

Ms. Farber is herself a day school alumna, having graduated from Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville, MD before earning her Bachelor of Arts degree from List College Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University's Barnard College. She spent a semester studying abroad at Rothberg International School, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel before continuing her studies at the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education, Hebrew College where she earned a Master of Jewish Education and Certificate in Jewish Day School Education. She is also certified in the Pardes Educators Program, by the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Israel. Previously, Ms. Farber taught at Beit Chaverim Synagogue (Westport, CT), Yeshivat Hadar (New York, NY), the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center (Falls Village, CT), and the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy (Philadelphia, PA).

Noah Hurvitz, M.A.

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Employed by TVT since 2005

Mr. Hurvitz received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology from UC Irvine, followed by a Master of Arts in Education, with a Baccalaureate of Literature in Hebrew Letters from the University of Judaism, Los Angeles. Drawing from over a decade of experience in academia, Mr. Hurvitz teaches Judaic Studies in the Middle School. Prior to coming to TVT, Mr. Hurvitz served

as the Director of Education for the Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation, Louisiana.

Jill Jacobs, M.A.

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Employed by TVT since 2009

Formerly a middle school teacher at Sinai Akiba Academy, Los Angeles, California, Ms. Jacobs holds a Master of Arts in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, a B.A. in History from UCLA. In addition to teaching at Sinai Akiva, Ms. Jacobs has also served as the Education Director for the Holy Land Democracy Project at the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, Director of Jewish Education for the Merage Jewish Community Center, Jewish Programs Manager from the Peninsula Jewish Community Center in Foster City, California, an editor and writer for Jewish Family and Life! Media in Newton Massachusetts, the author of *Hebrew for Dummies* (Wiley & Sons; 2003) and the Judaic Coordinator for Morasha Jewish Day School in Aliso Viejo, California.

LIBRARIAN:

Cherille Berman, B.A.

cberman@tarbut.com x 3017

Employed by TVT since 1999

Cherille Berman is a graduate of University of Cape Town and the University of the Witwatersrand. After earning a multiple subject teaching credential, she became a school librarian for the Irvine Unified School District for nine years. In 1999, Ms Berman became the librarian for TVT's newly established library, where she now oversees the operations of both Lower School and Middle/Upper School libraries. As an active member of the community, she also serves as a Human Rights Commissioner for the Irvine City Council and as an Irvine Education Foundation Trustee.

MATH AND TECHNOLOGY:

Joy Berkowitz, M.A.

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Employed by TVT since 2009

Ms. Berkowitz holds a Master of Arts in Teaching with an emphasis on mathematics from Grand Canyon University, Arizona. In addition, Ms. Berkowitz holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Michigan State University, East Lansing. She comes to TVT from the Windard School in Los Angeles, California and has also taught at Milken Community High School and Michigan State University. She is a member of the Golden Key National Honors Society and a Sallie Mae New Teacher of the Year Finalist.

Andrea Bouwhuis, M.S.

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Employed by TVT since 2011

Mrs. Bouwhuis earned her initial degree from the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, before continuing her studies at California's National University, where she earned a Master's of Science degree in Education. She also holds a certificate in Cross-cultural Language and Academic Development, and is a proud Psi Chi Honor Society Member. Her nearly fifteen years of classroom experience include Fisher Middle School (Los Gatos, CA), Thurston Middle School (Laguna Beach, CA), Orange High School (Orange, CA), and Trabuco Hills High School (Mission Viejo, CA), where she also coached Girls' Volleyball and Basketball.

Mark May, B.S.

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Employed by TVT since 2001

Mr. May is a graduate of UC Los Angeles with a degree in Economics. He received his California Clear Credential in Mathematics from UC Irvine. Mr. May has taught mathematics for Irvine Unified School District, Tustin Unified School District, and at the Edgewood Campus of Fairmont Private School. Mr. May is proud to be one of our Middle School math specialists, while also continuing to teach one class in the Lower School. Mr. May is an avid gardener and has been known to bring the fruits of his soil to TVT.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Abby Pezzner, B.S.

apezzner@tarbut.com x 1125

Employed by TVT since 1998

Mrs. Pezzner received her Bachelor of Science from Penn State University. She was the Youth & Aquatic Director at the JCC in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and taught PE at the Montessori School and the United Hebrew Institute in Wilkes-Barre. Mrs. Pezzner has been the coach of TVT's Middle School Physical Education Department and Sports Teams for over ten years.

Joseph Waldron, B.S.

jwaldron@tarbut.com x 4214

Employed by TVT since 2008

Mr. Waldron holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Salisbury University, Maryland and a Master of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences from San Diego State University. Before coming to TVT he was an adjunct professor of dance at Palomar College, in San Marcos California. He is also the founder and artistic director of Axxiom Dance Collective with more than 15 years experience in dance instruction.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT:

Annabella Kraut, M.A.

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Employed by TVT since 2009

Ms. Kraut's diverse teaching experience includes the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, the Center for Talent Youth, Johns Hopkins University, the Princeton Review, and the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Ms. Kraut has earned three degrees through the University of Maryland; a B.A. in Anthropology, a B.S. in Psychology, and a Master's in Life Science. She enjoys Table Tennis and Badminton.

Joshua M. Sneideman, M.A.

akraut@tarbut.com x 4241

Employed by TVT since 2010

Mr. Schneideman graduated *cum laude* from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Art's degree in Geology before enrolling at Framingham State College where he earned his Master of Arts degree in Educational Leadership. He also holds a Massachusetts Certification in Earth Science for Grades 5-8. Mr. Schneideman is a U.S. Central American Environmental Hub Grant, the American Museum of Natural History's Theodore Roosevelt Grant, and served as President of the James Madison University Geological Association from 1997-1999. His prior experience teaching Middle School Science includes The Rashi School (Boston, MA), International School (Port of Spain, Trinidad), and The Lincoln School (Morovia, Costa Rica), where he was a recipient of the Peer Recognition Award.

SPANISH DEPARTMENT:

Kari Encisco

kenciso@tarbut.com x 4254

Employed by TVT since 2009

Ms. Encisco graduated from the University of California with a Bachelor of Arts in English and from Saddleback Community College with an Associate Degree in Spanish, where she was active in the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honors Society. She holds a California Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential. She comes to TVT with experience in both the public and private school sectors.

Sara Tache, B.A.

stache@tarbut.com x 2929

Employed by TVT since 1997

Ms. Tache received her Bachelor's degree from Education Instituto Pedagogico Anglo Espanol and did graduate work in Special Education and Conflict Resolution, at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico.

GRADE 6-8 LEARNING SPECIALIST:

Nancy Hetherington, B.A.

nhetherington@tarbut.com x 4252

Employed by TVT since 2009

Ms. Hetherington attended graduate school at the University of the Pacific, studying Learning Disabilities and Educational Psychology. She holds a Bachelor's degree in both Communicative Disorders and Humanities, also from the University of the Pacific. Other certifications include the Life Standard Elementary Credential, the Life Specialist Instruction Credential in Special Education, the Clear Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence, Clear Standard Early Childhood Education Teaching Credential, Cross-Cultural Language and Academic Development Permit Equivalent (CLAD), and over thirty years in education – including Santa Barbara, California; Kenai, Alaska; and most recently at Newport Mesa Unified School District.