

Angie Bellino - Nordstrom

Angie Bellino shares her welcoming spirit with students and families in her class and with her colleagues at Nordstrom. She works with SDC teachers to mainstream students and make sure that her classroom is an inclusive environment where all students feel valued. After seventeen years in education, she continues to improve her craft and expand her knowledge. Angie is an enthusiastic leader for PBIS at Nordstrom and in the District. In addition, she inspires both students and staff by leading the Just Run program, implementing the Sharks Reading program, and co-coordinating the Odyssey program at Nordstrom.

Christina Deharo - Barrett

Christina Deharo has been a part of the MHUSD community as a substitute and student teacher before becoming a teacher at Barrett in 2007. She has a special relationship with students and families at Barrett because she understands their struggles. Like many Barrett parents, Christina's immigrant parents could not seek a higher education because they had to work for their families to survive. Christina is able to meet families where they are by using her fluency in Spanish and, sometimes, going so far as making home visits. She exemplifies the spirit of community and learning at Barrett as the EL coordinator, co-leader of assemblies, holding math tutoring after school, and participating in the Light Grant with her colleagues.

Nancy Friday - Los Paseos

Nancy Friday spearheaded the creation of the STEAM Lab/Maker space at Los Paseos. She procured chrome books for students to use for this lab so students can work together in this space after school. Nancy's second graders are learning that technology is a tool for learning by using Kindles to improve literacy. Nancy enhances the culture of family at Los Paseos by communicating with parents on a daily basis. She always finds time to help solve problems rather than dwelling on the problem itself. Her love of teaching and trying out new strategies is infectious. She is first to listen and strategize a solution to problems that arise.

Laurie Gallegos – Jackson Academy of Math & Music

Laurie Gallegos is one of the District's certificated GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design) Trainers. The GLAD charts and student work exhibited in Laurie's class are evidence of the high expectations she has for herself and her students. Her literacy skills allow them to expand their learning in all content areas. Laurie's goal is that students develop to see beyond what is asked, so they know that their abilities are not limited. Laurie gladly shares the knowledge she has learned in her classroom and from Professional Development with her colleagues. She is able to transfer what she knows into trainings for adult learners and she continues to supports her colleagues after the training.

C.J. Goularte – Live Oak

When C.J. Goularte's students visit Live Oak, they are grateful for the high expectations he had for them in his class and at Live Oak because they know he was truly preparing them for life after high school. C.J.'s classroom is student centered. He believes that every lesson he teaches must be relevant to his students. His classes explore the world of politics and government in a safe and inclusive way. His goal is to train the leaders of tomorrow to engage in the political process in a critical way. It is here you see the true strength of CJ as a teacher. C.J. is also "the Voice of Live Oak." His energy and passion for Live Oak comes through the microphone and adds to the experience of each game.

Sandy Hillesland – P. A. Walsh STEAM Academy

Sandy gives 110% or more for her students. She is constantly working with her students to meet their academic needs on her own time, both at recess and at lunch. She is always willing to try new teaching methods, such as STEAM-related activities, using Google programs, and an integration of two different math programs she finds effective. Sandy often provides an inclusive environment for SDC students. Whenever school events outside of the regular day are happening, Sandy can be counted on to help out in any way she can. Whether it's stepping up and helping run Mini Mermaids, teaching Wolf Den, or helping run the annual carnival, you can find Sandy always doing something to support our students at Walsh.

Cathy Moss – Non-Site Based Teachers

Cathy is a great professional worker who is organized and goes out of her way to support all schools and gather information in order to make changes at the district level. She is a ray of positive light that is working so hard with our intern teachers within the mentor program, as well as juggling multiple other duties/responsibilities at the DO. This year, Cathy worked with students at Nordstrom to initiate a service-learning project. Cathy advocates for students by going to sites and working with students to support them progress. Cathy is an MHUSD parent and works with the community in Morgan Hill on various projects.

Jennifer Niemann – El Toro Health-Science Academy

Jennifer Niemann is an outstanding example of excellence in the teaching profession. She is a passionate and dedicated educator who shares a deep commitment to equity and the belief that each and every student can learn. Each day, Jennifer may teach 3 to 4 different lessons, run differentiated Guided Reading groups, math centers, tech programs, meaningful writing prompts, lead a Safety Patrol troop, and so much more. Jennifer's students thrive because she creates lesson where they experiment the unknown, get their hands dirty and for discover a true desire to learn about themselves and the world. Jennifer is also a valued colleague because of her positive mindset and work ethic.

Brian Paulson – Central

Brian Paulson joined the Central staff when the District needed to implement the on-line program because Silicon Valley Flex Academy closed only weeks before school started in 2016. Brian was able to enroll students, in grades 6 to 12, into this new digital program without them missing a beat or a day of school. Brian has been able to work with a variety of students and meet each of their needs through the on-line classes. Last year, Brian had each student produce a page for the program's yearbook. Students were able to share their work with their parents and create a life-long memory. This year Brian has also taken on the Independent Studies students. Because of Brian Paulson, we are able to serve more students in Morgan Hill.

Sally Pollard – Paradise Valley Engineering Academy

Sally Pollard is one of the first teachers that our students will meet. She has over 34 years of experience perfecting the art of teaching children not only how to read, but more importantly, how to communicate their feelings and express their care for one another. She is able to do this by building a welcoming environment where all students feel accepted and secure. Sally has integrated both technology and engineering in her classroom and is always willing to learn new things that will improve her teaching practice. Sally is also a strong leader on the PVEA campus helping us to build a positive collaborative environment as an MHFT Site Representative and member of the Leadership Team.

Rosemary Thompson – Murphy

Rosemary Thompson has had an impact throughout our district because, for many years, she was the substitute people relied on when they were out. In 2015, she was hired as a SPED teacher at Murphy. Rosemary now serves on the Murphy Leadership team as the department chair for SPED. Rosemary works extremely hard to meet the needs of all of her students. Her positive mindset helps to create a welcoming and inclusive environment throughout Murphy. The word most people associate with Rosemary is respect. The staff respects her work, her spirit, her opinion, and she always shows respect for her students and colleagues.

Cortney Woodward – San Martin – Gwinn Environmental Science Academy

Cortney has had a great impact on SMG's middle school program because she has experience in both secondary education and Special Education. While she was first hired here as a general education teacher, Cortney has taken on SPED responsibilities, so that we can serve all of our students' needs. Cortney's impact goes far beyond the classroom. She initiated our mentoring program which allows middle students to act as mentors to younger students on campus. In addition, she co-sponsored our Gay-Straight Alliance on campus because she wants all of our students to feel safe and secure.

Tanner Ziegleman – Britton

In his first year as a teacher, Tanner Ziegleman has already become an integral part of the Britton staff. As our ASB director, Tanner has planned, set up, worked, and cleaned up after all of Britton's dances, awards assemblies, on-site sporting events, and our 6th grade Parent Night. He oversees all club registration and has organized and promoted school events that are essential to maintaining Britton's positive school culture. He has also taken on the Production of Britton TV and serves on our PBIS Leadership Team. Tanner Ziegleman has more than survived Year 1 of Teaching – he has earned the recognition of Britton Teacher of the Year.

MHFT Teacher of the Year – Jeanie Wallace

JEANIE WALLACE was hired as a teacher by MHUSD in 1985 and has worked for the district for 33 years. She began her career at Britton Middle School as a social studies and math teacher and moved to Ann Sobrato High School in 2004 as a founding member. As she retires this year, we would like to recognize her commitment to students, teachers, and families in Morgan Hill by nominating her for MHUSD's Teacher of the Year.

Jeanie has been an ASB advisor, taught Geography, Civics, Economics, Math, U.S. History, and established our highly successful AP U.S. History (APUSH) program at Sobrato. A compelling public speaker, Jeanie's passion for her subject area is contagious. One of Jeanie's gifts in the classroom is her ability to help students make connections between the content and their own lives. Each year, she helps to organize a mock political convention for high school seniors, helping them to understand the importance of civic engagement and see how local, state, and national politics impact day-to-day life. In the past, she has taken groups of students to visit Washington D.C. This past Monday, she organized a trip to Sacramento to see how our government operates at the state level. Jeanie Wallace practices what she preaches, and is a newly elected School Board Trustee for Gavilan College.

Incredibly generous with her time, for the past five years, Jeanie has volunteered to mentor students aspiring to take the AP U.S. Government & Politics exam. She works with students during tutorial to provide them with the opportunity to learn this curriculum in addition to their full course load. Jeanie sets up movie festivals after school to enhance her APUSH student's understanding of the material. Jeanie is often at school for hours after the school day ends, working with students or planning curriculum.

Jeanie is an ardent advocate of service to the community and has spearheaded Sobrato's pilot program that expands community service opportunities throughout all four years of high school. The new program aims to connect students with organizations throughout the local community in order to inspire lifelong connections and a commitment to service.

For the past several years, she has been the advisor for Sobrato chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance, which is a non-profit organization that seeks to change the world by working for equality, human rights, and literacy. Sobrato's chapter has made their focus climate change, advocacy for sustainability, and international human rights.

Early in her career, she became a Building Rep for Morgan Hill Federation of Teachers (MHFT) and served as a staff representative for 15 years. Throughout that time, she has published the award-winning MHFT Newsletter which is distributed to over 400 teachers throughout the District.

Jeanie Wallace is brilliant, generous, committed to social justice, and passionate about educating students to be part of thriving communities. Her dedication to education, civic engagement, and social justice is an inspiration to students and colleagues alike.