

Swansfield Summer Newsletter (4th Edition – August 10, 2020)

## Meet the Swans in the Pond

Hello Swansfield Community,

We're less than a month away now from the start of school and we're getting excited. Hope you are, too! Today we meet Intervention and Related Arts team members. If you're a newly registered family, you can find previous newsletters with staff introductions on our website at <http://ses.hcpss.org/news/2020/07/meet-swans-pond>.

### Instructional Support Team

#### **Tara DiVenti, GT Resource Teacher**

Hi! My name is Tara DiVenti and I am one of two GT/Enrichment resource teachers at Swansfield. This will be my 18th year at SES and I am so fortunate to be part of such a supportive community! I love teaching at Swansfield because I've had the opportunity to work with wonderful students and a dedicated staff. When I'm not teaching, I love going to the beach, reading, and taking walks with my family. I am looking forward to returning to the virtual classroom and seeing all of you soon.

#### **Laine Malcotti, GT Resource Teacher**

My name is Laine Malcotti and I am one of the GT resource teachers. This is my 26th year of teaching, and my 11th at Swansfield. I am so fortunate to teach students from K-5, and I love watching them grow academically, socially, and emotionally. I grew up in Columbia and attended Longfellow Elementary and Harper's Choice Middle School, and graduated from Centennial High School.

#### **Toni Sommerville, Reading Support Teacher**

My name is Toni Sommerville and I am the proud RST (reading support teacher) at Swansfield. I will be starting my 25th year of teaching. I love sharing books and the joy of reading with students and staff. A few of my favorite authors are Maya Angelou, Jacqueline Woodson, and Ezra Jack Keats. This summer I spent time enjoying my family, going on walks, and trying really hard to learn how to make fluffy homemade rolls.

#### **Nikia Darden, Reading Specialist**

G'reetings Swansfield! I am Ms. Darden and I am joining the Swansfield family as a reading specialist, having last worked at Forest Ridge ES. I have been in the field of education for 13 years, and a reading specialist for seven. I am so excited to learn with all of you for years to come! I hope you are enjoying some fun, sun, and a few good books!

#### **Keynora Greenwood, Reading Specialist**

I'm Keynora Greenwood, one of the reading specialists at Swansfield. I enjoy being able to work closely with students in small groups. I love to read, spend time with family, bike

and roller skate. "It's easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." - Frederick Douglass

### **Lisa Hairston-Jones, Reading Specialist**

My name is Lisa Hairston-Jones. I am a reading specialist and I work with students in many grades. My job is to help students see the love and joy that reading can bring! When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, trying new recipes, traveling, and reading. I look forward to us all working, learning, and being together soon.

### **Pattie Schuit, Reading Interventionist**

Hi ! My name is Pattie Schuit. I am a reading interventionist here at Swansfield. This is my fourth year at this school and I love being a Swan! When working with my students, I love helping them discover a love for reading. It's my favorite part of teaching.

### **Michele Glenn, Mathematics Support Teacher**

Hello Swans! My name is Michele Glenn and I am the mathematics support teacher. This will be my 26th year in HCPSS and my second year at Swansfield. I LOVE working with teachers and students and talking about math. I can't wait to meet our newest Swans!

### **Jennifer Gillum, Math Focus Teacher**

Hello! My name is Jennifer Gillum. This will be my 21st year teaching! I am the math focus teacher. I have two children. Emma is 21 and Jack is 19, and they both attend James Madison University. So, if you see me wearing purple you know why! Go Dukes! I also enjoy exercising and shopping :) I am truly excited to meet all of the new Swans this year.

### **Aubrey Phamdo, Interventionist**

Hi! My name is Aubrey Phamdo. I'm an interventionist here at Swansfield Elementary. I am always inspired by my students as they prove to show passion for a brighter future. My drive as an educator is inspired by Nelson Mandela when he said, "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world."

### **Janine Powers, ESOL Teacher**

Hello! This coming September I will begin my 11th year here at Swansfield; it will be my 12th as an ESOL teacher. I enjoy learning about the different countries and cultures of the students here at Swansfield as it is probably one of the most diverse student populations in the county. In my spare time I enjoy sports, reading, and music. Have a great rest of the summer and see you soon!

### **Staci Kunferman, ESOL Paraeducator**

I enjoy working with students, laughing with them and making them smile.

### **Related Arts**

**Lorrayne Dever, Art Teacher**

My name is Lorryne Dever and I am one of the art teachers at Swansfield Elementary School. This will be my fifth year teaching at Swansfield. I am so excited to meet my new students and see all the beautiful artwork we are going to make together!

### **Jennifer Moon, Art Teacher**

Hello! I am Jennifer Moon and this will be my sixth year teaching art at SES. I like to bake, cook, and do crafts with my two daughters who are six and nine years old. I really miss all of my friends at SES and look forward to meeting everyone virtually soon.

### **Josiah Marsh, Band Teacher**

Hello! My name is Josiah Marsh and I will be your band teacher at Swansfield. I just moved to Maryland with my wife after graduating from Liberty University. I am very excited to work with students as they explore music and find passions that will last a lifetime. Thank you for welcoming me to Swansfield!

### **Sarah Lahan, Strings Teacher**

My name is Sarah Lahan and I am the orchestra teacher at Swansfield. I'm excited to begin my fourth year at the pond! My favorite thing about teaching is seeing my students grow into confident musicians and have fun making music together.

### **Megan Heavner, Music Teacher**

Hello! I am so excited to be coming back to SES for my second year teaching general music! I love playing the piano and helping students learn to read music by playing games and doing fun activities! When I am not at school, I love spending time with friends and cats!

### **Devaney Ross, Music Teacher**

Hi! I'm Miss Ross, and I teach music with Ms. Heavner! I love to sing, play the piano, and strum on my ukulele. Fun fact- I have a twin sister who is a nurse!

### **Cynthia Steinebrunner, Media Specialist**

Hello! My name is Mrs. Steinebrunner and I am the library media specialist at Swansfield. One of the best things about working in the library is that I get to know each and every one of our students. I have exciting things planned for our library and our library media classes this year, and am looking forward to sharing them with you!

### **Jamie Berry, PE Teacher**

Hi! My name is Jamie Berry and I am one of the PE teachers at Swansfield! I love to stay active by cycling, playing sports, and going on hikes. My favorite thing about Swansfield is that we have two gymnasiums and all of the staff make learning fun every day. I cannot wait to see all of our returning students and meet the new students this fall. Enjoy the summer and try to stay active!

### **Will Winder III, PE Teacher**

Hello! I am Mr. Winder and I am one of the PE teachers at Swansfield Elementary School. I love to play golf in my free time and I have been practicing a lot this summer! One of my favorite quotes to live by is, "The obstacle in the path becomes the path for within every obstacle comes the opportunity to improve our condition," - Ryan Holiday. Every day has its challenges but it's our job to flip the script and look at these "challenges" as an opportunity for growth and to maintain positivity. I look forward to working with everyone this school year!

### **Taffie Barnes, Technology Teacher**

Happy summer! My name is Taffie Barnes. I have taught for 12 years and this is my third year at Swansfield. Though I have been in many grade levels, I am excited to be a part of your related arts teams as your technology teacher this year. One thing I really enjoy is traveling. I love seeing new places and making memories. I am excited for the 2020-2021 school year and look forward to working with students using technology.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

- **Live Read Aloud:** Monday, August 10, 7pm. Code: ses-storytime
- **Grade 3 Virtual Gathering** Tuesday, August 11, 11am. Code: ses-gr3-aug11
- **Grade 2 Virtual Gathering:** Wednesday, August 12, 11am. Code ses-gr2-aug12
- **Grade 5 Virtual Gathering:** Thursday, August 13, 11am. Code ses-gr5-aug13