



Mrs. Heaton

I am an experienced and dedicated educator with a diverse background in teaching elementary grades. I taught 4th grade for six years and 1st grade for another six years. Additionally, I have a background in art education, which brings a creative flair to my teaching style. I hold a teaching degree from California State Long Beach, a CA multiple subject teaching credential, and an AZ teaching credential. I am married and have 3 wonderful children- all who attended or currently attend WGA. Our family also includes a golden retriever, a cat, and whatever else my children can talk into our lives, which currently means a red eyed tree frog and a new bearded dragon addition in July. I love to spend time with my family, go camping and hiking, read a good book, walk on the beach, water ski, and anything crafty- drawing, painting, and sewing being just a few. I enjoy working with children and have a particular passion for teaching reading. I have loved being a part of the WGA community as a parent and am now excited to expand that into also being a part of the WGA teaching team and to inspire and challenge the 2nd grade gifted students.



Mr. Kurbat

I am a passionate educator with 12 years of teaching experience. My teaching career includes instructing 2nd, 5th, and 6th grade students in the Chandler Unified School District and in the Gilbert Public School District. I received my Bachelor of Science Degree from Northern Arizona University (Elementary Education;1997) and my Masters in Education Degree from Arizona State University (Curriculum and Instruction: 2004). Along with my classroom experience, I have been a property claims representative (Farmers Insurance and American Family Insurance) as well as a business analyst for a consulting company that implements Salesforce for school districts, small colleges, and some major universities. My time spent in the private sector has helped me to develop a good understanding of how a child's education prepares them for their future career. My wife and I live with our three sons, my mom, and our 2 dogs. We enjoy spending time in the mountains, exposure to performing arts, reading good books, and just hanging out at home. I am so excited to join the team at WGA and I look forward to meeting all of our students and their families.



Mrs. Murphy

I am a third-generation educator. I received a Master of Education degree from The Ohio State University with certification in elementary education (K-8) 2001 and my Bachelor of Fine Arts *cum laude* in Dance Performance at The Ohio State University (1999). I began my teaching career in Ohio. My teaching experiences are diverse including River View Local School District, Gilbert Public Schools, Chandler Unified School District, and Cleveland Metropolitan School District. I have had the privilege of working for CUSD at Shumway Leadership Academy and Weinberg Gifted Academy during WGA's Inaugural school year. I have taught kindergarten, first, second, third, six, seventh, and eighth grade. In addition to my classroom teaching experiences, I am a classically trained dancer and choreographer. During undergrad I performed as a member of The Ohio State University Dance Company. My husband and I are proud parents of four wonderful children. We have two dogs. I love all things family including Friday movie night, game night, and pool time. I look forward to returning to WGA to continue my quest of challenging students to take risks and develop their own ideas.



Mrs. Zitar

I have been teaching gifted students in CUSD for my entire teaching career. I've had the privilege of working at Tarwater, Ryan, Knox Gifted Academy and COA Elementary Connect, prior to joining the Weinberg Gifted Academy team. I graduated from Arizona State University with my Bachelors of Arts in Education (2004 *Summa Cum Laude*) and Masters of Arts in Education (Curriculum and Instruction, 2009, *Summa Cum Laude*). I am endorsed in gifted education, K-8 Mathematics, early childhood education and Structured English Immersion. I have worked with gifted elementary students in both traditional self-contained classroom settings and non-traditional self-contained settings utilizing integrated problem-based learning, project-based learning, and design thinking. I have designed and presented math professional development at the local, state and national level. I love working with students, teachers and pre-service teachers. I have a passion for gifted and math education. Before becoming a teacher, I spent 10 years as a legal secretary for civil litigation firms in downtown Phoenix. I am married, and we have four grown children. We also have four labrador retrievers and three cats! I love all things ``geek" including Disney/DoctorWho/Marvel/StarWars/LOTR etc. I also love to read, garden, bake bread and spend time with my family.