



Who's New at Convent Elementary

2021–22

Melissa Au — Associate Teacher (Grade 3 with Maria Magtanong)

Melissa joins our team with a variety of prior experience working with children. She was a camp counselor at the Presidio YMCA, where she provided direct care and supervision for youth in their seasonal day camp, and also an assistant coach within the YMCA's swim team. Most recently she was a student teacher for Grades 2–5 at Argonne Elementary. Melissa received her degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Teaching and a minor in Education. She recently completed the Multiple Subject Credentialing Program at San Francisco State University.

Rebekah Austin — Associate Teacher (Grade 4 with Corinne Corrigan and Scott Tay)

Rebekah graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a B.A. in English and a B.S. in Linguistics, and was a research fellow at the University of Oxford. Rebekah most recently worked as a learning specialist at the U.C. Berkeley Athletic Study Center and taught as a distance learning pod teacher at Marin Country Day School. Also of note, in high school Rebekah started a micro-financing organization program that taught socio-economics and finance, and was subsequently hand-selected by Hillary Clinton to be a young global representative of the U.S. Department of State to China. Additionally, Rebekah was a finalist and selected as the lead fellow featured on NBC International in the documentary series *20 Under 20* created by Peter Thiel.

Christina Clark — Performing Arts Faculty (Elementary Music Co-Teacher, Grades K & 1)

Christina is a San Francisco native and attended primary, high school and college in the city. She has spent the majority of her professional career teaching in Catholic schools and is thrilled to join the Convent & Stuart Hall community. Christina holds a B.A. from the University of San Francisco, a multiple subject teaching credential from San Francisco State University and a certificate in Catholic school administration and management from Loyola Marymount, where she is currently working on her M.A. in Leadership and Administration. She brings a plethora of music and classroom teaching experience.



**Convent &
Stuart Hall**

Schools of the Sacred Heart San Francisco

Marilyn Cummins — Associate Teacher (Grade 2 with Betsy Tamayo)

Marilyn is a familiar face around the Convent Elementary community. She got her start as a much-loved teacher within the After School Program and stepped into a long-term substitute position in second grade at Stuart Hall during the last school year. She has now joined the Associate Teacher program and will continue to be an integral part of the second grade team during this upcoming school year. Marilyn has also been involved as a citizenship tutor for Cathoic Charities and received a B.A. in Communications from Santa Clara University.

**Eileen Emerson-Boles — Religion, Theology and Spirituality Faculty
(Grades 6 and 8)**

Eileen is a Washington, D.C. native and a child of the Sacred Heart having graduated from our Sacred Heart school in Bethesda, M.D. (Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart). She has been working in San Francisco schools for the past 14 years, including her most recent tenure at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory where she served as instructor of religious studies, parent engagement specialist, accreditation coordinator and oversaw volunteer service. In addition to Eileen's extensive teaching experience, which includes subjects such as church history and academic literacy, she has served as an administrator in various capacities. Eileen earned her B.A. from Mount St. Mary's College, an M.A. from College of Notre Dame and holds an Ed.D. from the University of San Francisco. Eileen loves to travel. This past summer she visited her 49th state!

Austin French — Associate Teacher (Grade 1 with Mary Welday)

Austin received a B.A. in Wildlife Conservation and Management from Humboldt State University, which she aspires to integrate into her teaching practice. She has combined her interests in science and education in prior positions as a museum educator at Lawrence Hall of Science and as a therapeutic riding program volunteer at Field of Dreams Farm. Additionally, Austin was recently a program aid and activity coordinator for a medically based day program for adults who are dependent on others for care.

Julia Hall — Grade 5 Science Faculty

Julia is passionate about creating a positive, challenging and engaging classroom experience for fifth grade students. Julia has a background in environmental geology, has spent a lot of time learning in the field and enjoys making science a tangible subject. Outside of the classroom she spends her free time reading, training for the upcoming



**Convent &
Stuart Hall**

Schools of the Sacred Heart San Francisco

San Francisco Marathon and looking for fun new house plants. Julia holds a B.S. from the University of California Davis and an M.A. from the University of San Francisco.

Caroline Keehn — Associate Teacher (Grade 3 with Zoë Scott)

Caroline comes to us with a B.A. in Communication and a minor in Economics from Santa Clara University. She is originally from the Chicago area, where she was involved in gymnastics and ice hockey, and was an avid volunteer for organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Girls' Club and her local church. Prior to joining the Convent & Stuart Hall community, Caroline was a broker intern at Coldwell Banker and Compass Real Estate, and led street hockey clinics and supported marketing for the San Jose Sharks.

Maria Magtanong — Grade 3 Lead Teacher

Maria has become an integral part of the third grade team during her time at Convent Elementary, and we are thrilled that she will be stepping into a lead role this year. Maria joined our community with seven years of classroom teaching experience in the Philippines. Upon moving to San Francisco, Maria taught at Seabird Preschool in San Francisco and is now entering her third year at Convent. She holds a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Education and an M.A. in Developmental Psychology from Ateneo de Manila University.

Josiah Paye — Grade 5 History Faculty

While not new to our community, Josiah will assume a new role during the upcoming school year. He graduated from Stanford with a B.A. in History and his passion for the subject drew him to this position. Prior to joining the Convent & Stuart Hall faculty, Josiah worked as a substitute teacher in Nevada County schools, acquiring experience in various classrooms at the high school level. Additionally, he has coached high school basketball on the Peninsula, in Grass Valley and, most recently, at Convent & Stuart Hall.

Leandra Peloquin — Counselor

Leandra joins us with a wealth of experience in social work and counseling. She has a B.S. in Administration of Justice, an M.A. in Social Work from San Jose State University and is a licensed Clinical Social Worker. Leandra has experience with a range of ages, from young children through college-aged students, and in a variety of capacities. In her prior roles, Leandra has worked at the YWCA Silicon Valley Counseling Department and



**Convent &
Stuart Hall**

Schools of the Sacred Heart San Francisco

the YWCA Rape Crisis Center in San Jose, at Notre Dame High School as a counselor and at San Francisco State University as a mental health case manager.

Mikayla Reichold — Associate Teacher (Grade 2 with Diane Holland)

We are thrilled that Mikayla will remain with our Grade 2 Convent students after joining the community as a long-term substitute last year. She came to us as a well-regarded teacher in the After School Program after graduating from San Francisco State University with a B.A. in International Relations and Recreation. She has also worked as an aquatic student manager and special projects manager at San Francisco State University, and as a swim instructor at La Petite Baleen Swim School.

Tessa Rosa — Elementary Dean, K–2

Tessa is a Bay Area native born and raised in Palo Alto. She now lives in San Francisco with her husband, Tony, and two children, Jackson (Stuart Hall Gr. 6) and Lily (Convent Gr. 3). Tessa worked in the Hillsborough City School District for 11 years where she taught first grade, kindergarten and transitional kindergarten. During this time, Tessa worked with the leadership team, administering school-wide and district-wide professional development training on a wide variety of topics from SMART board training to differentiated instruction strategies and pedagogy learned at Harvard's Project Zero. Here at Stuart Hall, Tessa has stepped in as a substitute teacher in second grade and Kindergarten. She and her family were so happy to be reunited with the Convent & Stuart Hall community last year after three years living abroad in London. Tessa holds a B.A. from San Diego State University and an M.A. in Differentiated Instruction Strategies from Graceland University.

Amy Tan — Performing Arts Faculty (Vocal Music Teacher Grades 5–8)

Amy was born and raised in Penang, Malaysia. She and her husband, Chauncey Aceret '06, Convent & Stuart Hall's Performing Arts Department Chair, relocated to San Francisco in 2019 to work at the school. While Amy is new to California, her nine years of collegiate training took her from Miami to Charleston to Cleveland. Amy holds a B.A. from the College of Charleston and an M.M. from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She is a professional musician and enjoys teaching music to students of all ages. Amy concentrates her musical abilities on the piano, her primary instrument and first love. Her musical journey has led her to learn and teach many different instruments, which is why working at Convent & Stuart Hall has been so fulfilling. In addition to professional endeavors, Amy is a huge foodie, enjoys long walks and hikes, and loves watching movies and playing video games.



**Convent &
Stuart Hall**

Schools of the Sacred Heart San Francisco

Mary Welday — Grade 1 Lead Teacher

Mary is well-known within the Convent & Stuart Hall community due to her long tenure with the school as well as her great love of teaching and early childhood. While Mary has worked with first grade boys for the past 19 years, she got her start on the Convent side of campus, serving in the After School Program. Mary's wealth of experience in early childhood education is well-regarded within the community, and we are grateful for her return to Convent Elementary.