



Dear Parents,

We are excited to introduce our new faculty members for the 2021-2022 academic year. This group of new employees joins us from around the globe, and we look forward to the contributions they will make to the VMS community. Each was carefully chosen from a well-qualified and distinguished pool of applicants. Please join me in welcoming them to VMS.

In the history department, we are welcoming **Johan Semaan** and **Andy Sotter**. Johan made the transition from The American School of the Hague in the Netherlands to fill out our Upper School history team. He's worked in independent schools for over twenty years and we are thrilled to learn from him. Andy will be joining our Middle School team, teaching social studies, and joins us from Wisconsin.

We also welcome some new members of our 2nd and 3rd grade team, as Victoria Adams has transitioned to first grade and Shannon Peterson has moved into the Director of Student Support Services role. **Corky Evans** will join us as the reading teacher and 2nd grade Homebase teacher. A long-time Eagle Valley resident, Corky comes to us from Vail Christian Academy. **Neha Pall** will join us as the writing teacher and 2nd grade Homebase. She is moving to the Valley from the Bilingual European School located in Milan and has over 16 years of experience working in independent schools around the globe. We will also be welcoming **Britta Scherpf** as a 3rd grade Homebase and science/social studies teacher. Britta has been an educator in the Valley for many years, most recently at Avon Elementary as a special education teacher.

Our Middle School faculty is also excited to welcome **Jake Rainey** and **Quinn Pinaire** to our team. Jake will guide our Learning Above & Beyond (LA&B) students and comes to us from Acton Academy in Austin, Texas. Jake is excited to bring his experience working in an entirely project based learning school to VMS. Quinn will join the Middle School math department and comes to us from Stone Creek Charter School in Gypsum where he is a middle school math teacher.

Our visual arts department is also gaining a new, cross-divisional teacher, **Phoebe Brookes**. Phoebe is moving from Oxford, UK where she is currently working at the Dragon School Oxford. Phoebe will be working in all divisions and we are excited for her global perspective and extensive teaching experience. We are also excited to welcome **Emily Heidelberg** as our new Lower School music teacher. Emily is making the move from Minnesota and is excited to join us in Vail.

Our world language department will also be growing by one this year, as we welcome **Huining (Rebecca) Zhang** as our newest Mandarin teacher. Rebecca joins us from Georgetown University where she graduated with a Master of Arts in English. She has been teaching Mandarin at Georgetown through their East Asian Language and Cultures Department.

Our Student Support Services division also welcomes two new members and continues to grow. Former Lower School teacher **Adrienne Arnason** will be taking over the ski program, as Lizzy Reed will transition into the Middle School Dean role. We are excited for Adrienne to be able to work with ski program students who she has known since they were in the Lower School. We also welcome **Mike Santambrogio** as our new school counselor. Mike is a long-time Vail Valley resident who transitions to VMS from the Hope Center where he worked as a school based mental health clinician.

We are excited for this new group of teachers to bring life experience, new perspectives, and new passions to our students as we enter into the 2021-2022 school year. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the building again in August.

Sincerely,

Sallie Lodewyck  
Director of Human Resources