

Long-Term Substitute Bios

Jean Gould (In-person 1st Grade Teacher)

Following careers in international community development and marketing management, Jean began her teaching chapter as a substitute 10 years ago at WES. Witnessing the magical work her children's teachers performed every day, she was herself inspired to teach. Lead Teacher in K-4 at Synapse School and ultimately Director of SEL there, Jean received her BA from Johns Hopkins, MBA from Yale and CA Teaching Credential from NDNU. She is delighted to join the 1st grade team. Jean, her husband Jeff, and sons Owen and Liam (who attended WES pre-K through 8th grade) now live in Portola Valley.

David Kirk (Middle School Support)

My name is David Kirk and I hold a Bachelor of Arts in History from San Francisco State University. For the past 12 years, I have been fortunate enough to be a part time guest teacher in both the Woodside and Menlo Park School Districts. Not only have I worked closely with students in the classroom, but I have also substituted in such specialty classes as Physical Education, Art, and Music. I truly enjoy the sense of community at Woodside School and look forward to spending time with the 8th Graders as they finish their careers as Wildcats.

Jake Niebaum (Middle School Support)

Attended CSU Hayward and Humboldt State University

BS Biological Science, MS Kinesiology - Exercise Physiology, teaching credential in life science and introductory science. Over 15 years of experience as a substitute teacher and long-term substitute teacher with many districts and all grade levels.

Janet Perez (TK-K Virtual Academy Teacher)

After getting a Masters in Special Education and her teaching credentials, Janet taught at several schools in special ed classes before moving into general education, teaching third and fifth grades. She stopped teaching to be with her growing family for about 20 years but contributed in many ways to her children's schools. From 2014-2018 she served as a paraeducator at Woodside, and then moved into a role as a substitute. Kids at all ages bring her joy!

Jordan Smith (5th-8th Grade Physical Education)

My name is Jordan Smith and I am teaching P.E. at Woodside Elementary School for the rest of the school year. I recently graduated from the University of the Pacific with my teaching credential and this is my first year of full time teaching. I am very excited to meet and work with all the students, staff, and parents this year!

Lynn Thieme (Middle School Support)

Ms. Lynne Thieme possesses a Multiple Subject California Teaching Credential with a Cross-cultural, Language, and Academic Development (CLAD) certification with Middle Level Emphasis from San Jose State University and has been guest teaching in the Woodside Elementary and Menlo Park City School Districts. Ms. Thieme is a former Vice President of Engineering and Design in the technology industry with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Mathematics and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of Illinois.

In Ms. Thieme's own words, "I am excited to join the Woodside staff and am eager to bring my knowledge, experience, and passion for education to your classrooms and students!"