

# SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL, II

1920 N. Braeswood, Houston, Texas 77030

## MEET OUR ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY

**MARGOT E. TERRY HEARD**, founding General Partner of Saint Nicholas School I and II, and Headmistress, has a BS degree in Child Development from the University of Texas, Austin, received in 1964. She has been a teacher and school head in Episcopal, Catholic, and private schools, including being the founding administrator of four schools, including the Saint Nicholas (1987, 1995) and Medical Center Charter (1996) schools. She wrote the textbook series, *Languages Through Phonics, Books R, A, B, and C*, in 1997, and another, *Languages Through Phonics: Infant Learning Books 1-6*, as well as the *LP Handwriting Workbook* in 2003. She is also the CEO of Medical Center Charter School. Additionally, she is involved in developing outdoor education and ranching projects, including providing local food for the school kitchen, and planning the next development of the school and ranch properties.

**WILLIAM HUGH HEARD**, Chaplain, has a BA degree from Texas A&M in English and a Master of Divinity degree from the Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, and is an Episcopal priest. He has work toward a PhD in Politics in Literature from the University of Dallas, and was published in *National Review* in 1977: "The Chinese Legacy: Marxism as a Political Religion". He is currently working on writing a curriculum that includes Homilies for Chapel Services based on the Anglican lectionary including Bible content, theology, Christian literature, character development, and the ground rules followed at Saint Nicholas Schools. He is also involved in studying permaculture and ranching projects.

## FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

**JOHN DECKER**, Controller, for Saint Nicholas Schools has a BSBA in Accounting from Auburn University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has provided full direction and P&L management of foreign and domestic multisite and subsidiary operations with excellence in employee retention, use of technology, and understanding of customer service. Some areas of expertise include work with lending institutions, tax accountants, contract negotiations, and mergers and acquisitions. He serves as Business Manager for Medical Center Charter School. At Saint Nicholas he is currently involved in vendor selection, finance, and redesign of the school and ranch properties.

**LAUREL WELKEY**, Accounts Receivable, has responsibility for parent accounts and contracts, Uniform Shop income, and other income for the schools. She has an Associate in Arts Degree from the Houston Community College and is working towards a degree in accounting from the University of Houston. She has attended numerous employment related workshops. In Human Resources she manages payroll, benefits, worker's compensation, and file documentation. She serves on the Board of Directors for Medical Center Charter School.

**FAITH HARDIN**, Accounts Payable, is experienced in accounting, administration and computer programs. She assists in the Financial Department and with other administrative duties.

## ADMINISTRATION

**M. ELIZABETH HEARD CLARKE**, Elementary Head Teacher, has a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, with additional courses in upper-level Spanish and history. She had post graduate work at the University of Texas at Dallas in education, philosophy, management, instruction, and curriculum. She has Montessori Certification through the National Center for Montessori Education, Houston, and has many years of teaching experience in Montessori and Catholic schools. She sings in her parish choir and is a soloist. She completed her Montessori internship at Saint Nicholas in 1988 and returned to the school in 2010. She is bilingual and serves on the Board of Directors of GPO, Inc., the General Partnership of the school and ranch entities.

**GRACIELA GARCIA** is Director of Montessori Teacher Training for Saint Nicholas Schools. She studied psychology at the University of Houston and has Primary Certification from the National Center for Montessori Education, Houston. She came to Saint Nicholas School in 1987. She supervises and trains the Montessori teachers and provides workshops, purchases materials, and completes evaluations. She also serves as Chairman of the Board of Medical Center Charter School.

**SUPARNA VASHISHT** is Curriculum Director for Saint Nicholas Schools and Assistant Principal for Medical Center Charter School. She received a Bachelor of Science in Education from India, a Diploma in Child Psychology, and a Masters in Early Childhood Education. She completed her North American Montessori Training Center Certification for age six to nine, and was named Outstanding Teacher for Saint Nicholas School in 2002. She presents workshops, completes teacher evaluations, and meets with parents and teachers.

**BERNADETTE LUCIA P. CASTRO** is Director of Admissions for Saint Nicholas Schools and the Licensing Director. She had previous Montessori school management and admissions experience. She received her Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Economics from St. Theresa's College, Cebu City, Philippines, and studied Early Childhood Education at the University of California in Los Angeles, California. She has administrative duties for both campuses, does workshops, and meets with parents and teachers. She is the recruiter for hiring for all positions and schools. Her duties include licensing standards, food service, purchasing, maintenance, work schedule supervision, and communication. Ms. Castro also serves on the Board of Directors of Medical Center Charter School.

**ARIANA SYDNEY MILLER** is studying marketing at the University of Houston- Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel Management and has business administrative experience. She manages the front desk and the administrative duties of the office, assisting parents, the Director of Admissions and other administrators.

## FINE ARTS AND LANGUAGES

**KEVIN MCGREGOR CLARKE, Ph.D.**, is Choirmaster for Saint Nicholas Schools. He obtained his Bachelor of Music degree in 1984 from the New England Conservatory in Boston. He was a Fellow in Church Music at the Washington National Cathedral in 1986, and then served as Cathedral organ scholar at Bristol Cathedral, England. He received his doctorate from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, Austin. His current position is organist and choirmaster at St. Theresa's Catholic Church and School in Sugar Land. His choirs have sung in residence at cathedrals in England, including Westminster Abbey. His

considerable accomplishments include those of composer, organ recitalist, conductor, lecturer, and producer of CD recordings.

**SHERWOOD TIMOTHY WILLIAMS** teaches French for Saint Nicholas Schools and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in French from the University of Kentucky, Lexington, and a Bachelors of Art in Psychology from the University of Texas, Austin. He has experience teaching French in high school and at Saint Nicholas teaches infants through grade 8 at SNS and MCCS. He is completing the development of the French edition of the *Languages Through Phonics* series for Infants through Level II for Saint Nicholas.

**DEBORAH JEAN WHITTINGTON**, Latin and Classics teacher for Saint Nicholas Schools, has a Bachelor of Arts in French with a minor in Latin from the University of Houston, with extensive study in economics at the University of Texas, Austin, and biological sciences at San Jacinto College. She has an ESL Instructor Certificate from Literacy Advance. She has a Massage Therapy Certificate and has operated a small business with massage services. She is bilingual English-French and has solid skills in Latin and Spanish. She has taught all subjects, including high school Latin. She is a published poet, including in an international poetry anthology, *The Theatre of the Mind*, Noble House Publishers, London, UK. She volunteers for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic and the Capital Area Food Bank. Ms. Whittington came to Saint Nicholas in 2009. She teaches infants through grade 8 at SNS and MCCS. She is completing the development of the Latin edition of the *Languages Through Phonics* series for Infants through Level II for Saint Nicholas.

**CLAUDIA LIZETTE DOMINGUEZ**, Spanish teacher for Saint Nicholas Schools, has a Masters in Education in Counseling and Guidance Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Texas at El Paso. She is Texas Certified as a School Counselor EC-12, Generalist 4-8, and Spanish 6-12. She is bilingual. She has been a reading intervention teacher, Spanish teacher, Track Coach, and UIL Mentor. She teaches confirmation class in her parish and she teaches infants through grade 8 at SNS and MCCS. She will be completing the development of the Spanish edition of the *Languages Through Phonics* series for Infants through Level II for Saint Nicholas.

**SYLVIA C. MUNZER**, Music, Choir, and Piano teacher, has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mathematics/Education at the University of North Texas, with honors. She holds Texas and California Teacher Certification and has post-graduate courses in mathematics, education, and music. She has many years at NASA in engineering, management, design, mission, quality assurance, development and test for developing software for ground systems, training simulations and systems engineering and development for both NASA and DOD projects. She has achieved many awards including the NASA Achievement Award and the NASA JSC GEM Award. She has been a frequent guest speaker and taught seminars and courses. Her experience also includes teaching piano and viola. Her interests include painting, sculpture, flying (private pilot), and golf. She teaches infants through grade 8 at SNS and MCCS.

**JOYCE ELIZABETH CARR**, Art Teacher, has a Bachelor of Art in Applied Design, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of Houston, Clear Lake, and Post Graduate courses in Multidisciplinary Future Studies. At Texas State University at San Marcos she completed post graduate courses in Education, Reading, and Bilingual/ESL. At St. Thomas University, Houston, she took post graduate courses in Gifted and Talented Education. She holds Texas Teacher Certification in General Education and Art 1-8. Ms. Carr taught English and Art in a multilingual International Baccalaureate school in Singapore. She has also taught

art, movement, theatre, gifted and talented, and bilingual classes in Texas. In St. Eustatius, Netherland Antilles she taught a PK-P3 class all subjects. She has traveled throughout the Americas, the Caribbean, Australia, and Asia. She has set up exhibits, conferences, and contests, and presented workshops in her many areas of expertise. She teaches infants through grade 8 at SNS and MCCS.

**GORDON REUTZSCH** is our Coach and Physical Education Teacher and holds a degree in International Tax Law and Sport Science from the University of Bremen, Germany and a Masters degree in International Finance and Strategy from the University of Sciences Po, Paris. He has worked for the London Stock Exchange and is proficient in three languages. He is a Licensed Fitness Trainer and teaches Primary and older students at SNS and coordinates sports activities between the MCCS campus and other schools.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY DEPARTMENTS**

**KAVITHA SHETH**, Elementary Teacher, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Education from the University of Bombay, India. She has completed her Montessori Certification for Lower Elementary ages six to nine from North American Montessori Training Center. She has many years of teaching experience, and was named Outstanding Teacher for Saint Nicholas School in 2010.

**MARY ANDERSON**, Middle School Teacher, has a Master of Arts in Teaching, a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education with a minor in Biology, and an Associate of Arts in Math. She has additional studies in elementary statistics and calculus applications and attended the Rice Institute Pre-A/P Math and Science for Middle Schools. She is Texas Certified Generalist 4-8. Her teaching experience includes physical education, math, algebra, science, technology, and theology in Catholic schools and a charter school. She has coached volleyball, cheerleaders, softball, booster club, after school tutoring, and student council.

## **PRIMARY DEPARTMENT**

**BERNADETTE PHILIP**, Primary Teacher, has an Associates degree in Early Childhood Education from Ashworth College and she received a Child Development Associate Credential from the National Credentialing Program, awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition. She also received Montessori Certification for ages two through six from the North American Montessori Association. Ms. Philip is a member of the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, and Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She was named Outstanding Teacher for Saint Nicholas School in 2009.

**CARLA M. CALDERON**, Primary Teacher, received Montessori Certification from the North American Montessori Training Center for Infants through age Three. She is currently attending Houston Community College and plans to major in Early Childhood. She has also received training in presenting *Languages Through Phonics* curriculum.

## **INFANT/TODDLER DEPARTMENT**

**ARLENE DEYON-CALLIS**, Infant Teacher, is working towards her Montessori Certification from North American Montessori Training Center for Infants Through Age Three. She has attended SNS workshops in presenting *Languages Through Phonics* lessons and record keeping.

**MARY MEDILLIN**, Infant Teacher, is working towards her Child Development Associate degree from Houston Community College and her Montessori Certification from North American Montessori Training Center for Infants Through Age Three. She has also attended SNS workshops in presenting *Languages Through Phonics* lessons and record keeping.

**MAYRA CASTILLO**, is working towards her Montessori Certification from North American Montessori Training Center for Infants Through Age Three. She has attended SNS workshops in presenting *Languages Through Phonics* lessons and record keeping.

**MARIA CHAVEZ**, Orientation Teacher, received Montessori Certification from the North American Montessori Training Center for Infants Through Age Three. She has also attended SNS workshops in presenting *Languages Through Phonics* lessons and record keeping.

**MARIELL EDWARDS**, Orientation Teacher, is working towards her Montessori Certification from North American Montessori Training Center for Infants Through Age Three. She has also attended SNS workshops in presenting *Languages Through Phonics* lessons and record keeping.

**SENDI PONCE**, Orientation Teacher, is working towards her Montessori Certification from North American Montessori Training Center for Infants Through Age Three. She has also attended SNS workshops in presenting *Languages Through Phonics* lessons and record keeping.