



Aloha La Pietra Families,

The beginning of the 2024-2025 school year is just around the corner! It was such a joy to see our students back on campus last week as they prepared for another year of learning and growing.

As we get ready to kick off the new school year, we would like to introduce you to some new faces you'll be seeing on campus! Please join us in welcoming all of our new faculty and staff members. They are so excited to meet you! Continue reading below to learn more about each of them.

[View Faculty & Staff Directory](#)

NEW SCHOOL YEAR REMINDERS

Upload Forms to Magnus Health

A friendly reminder that all required health and athletic forms, as well as laptop agreement and authorization forms, need to be uploaded to [Magnus Health](#) before the first day of school.

Order School Lunch

Please click [here](#) to order lunch for August and view the menus [here](#). Meals are provided from Monday, August 5th - Friday, August 30th. Please contact Erin Awai at erin.awai@sodexo.com with any questions. Thank you!

Laptop & Textbook Pickup and Photo ID Make-Up

Students who were not able to pick up their laptops on July 26 may pick them up at the main office on the first day of school on Monday, August 5. Textbooks will also be available for pickup that morning in the Student Learning Center until 8:25 a.m.

Photo ID Make-Up Day will take place on **Tuesday, September 3** from 1 - 3 p.m. in the Student Learning Center.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at info@lapetra.edu or at (808) 922-2744. We can't wait to start the new school year with you!

NEW FACES ON CAMPUS



Ms. Alison Beste

Ms. Alison Beste Director of Curricular Innovation

As the Director of Curricular Innovation, Ms. Beste works with La Pietra teachers, students, and administrative members to support innovative thinking and develop enriching learning experiences. She believes that at its best, learning is dynamic, relevant, collaborative, and fun!

Fun Fact: Ms. Beste once ate a raw witchetty grub (a high protein moth larvae and traditional Aboriginal snack) in the Australian Outback.



Ms. Jacinda Gonzales

Ms. Jacinda Gonzales Science Faculty

Meet Ms. Jacinda Gonzales! She will be teaching science at La Pietra and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Loma Linda University.



Ms. Katie Graham

Ms. Katie Graham English Faculty

Ms. Katie Graham is an English teacher at La Pietra. She has two cats: one named Victoria (an angel) and another named Evelyn (the gremlin).



Mr. Kevin Hetzel

Mr. Kevin Hetzel Art Faculty

Mr. Kevin Hetzel is an Art teacher at La Pietra and holds a BFA in Illustration from the University of the Arts and an MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.



Mr. Justin Lai

Mr. Justin Lai Educational Technologist

In the new role of Education Technologist, Mr. Justin Lai empowers the school community to use technology creatively and effectively in their work and learning.

Fun Fact: Mr. Lai has seen three of the four major U.S. sports championship trophies in person.



Ms. Claire Mitchell

Ms. Claire Mitchell Math Faculty

Ms. Claire Mitchell is a math teacher at La Pietra. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies, with a focus on Biology, from Dartmouth College.

Fun Fact: Ms. Mitchell founded Dartmouth's first official dance team!



Mrs. Olga Reppun

Mrs. Olga Reppun Social Studies & English Faculty

Mrs. Olga Reppun is a Social Studies and English teacher at La Pietra. She holds a Bachelor's degree in English and Elementary Education, as well as a Master's degree in English, both from Cherepovets State University in Cherepovets, Russia.

Fun Fact: According to family lore, Mrs. Reppun's first word was "tractor."



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