



Silver Springs Staff

Marty Mathiesen - Principal



I started my career in 1987 as an English teacher, basketball, baseball and football coach. I taught at Colusa High School and Orland High School for my first 8 years in education before taking an assistant principal position at Fortuna High School in 1995. For the next eight years at Fortuna I worked in various administrative positions including assistant principal, principal, and assistant superintendent for the District. In 2004 I moved to Nevada City as principal of Nevada Union High School where I remained until 2011 when I accepted the principal position here at Silver Springs High School.

In those days Silver Springs was a place where “*kids who get into trouble*” were sent for punishment. Teachers were generally transferred to Silver Springs if they were low on the seniority list.

11 years later am extremely proud to have built a team of dedicated professionals who have provided a school that our kids and families deserve.

My vision a decade ago, was that Silver Springs would be a “School of choice”; furthermore, when jobs opened up , teachers would compete to work here. The last round of hiring we had over 80 applicants for two teaching positions. Currently, we have a waiting list of teachers in our district who want to work here because of our wonderful reputation of a great work and school environment. I have utilized this positive momentum to attain a strong staff of talented, passionate, and skilled educators. We look forward to coming to work and sharing our days together; we made it that way. Welcome to Silver.





Bethany Williams - School Counselor

Born and raised in Nevada County, I find it an honor to work in my community. I started at Silver Springs HS in 2005 as a case manager for the Young Parents Program with a focus on social work.

In 2014, I transferred to Bear River High School to start my career as a School Counselor. I returned to Silver Springs in 2019 after much consideration of the type of school counselor I wanted to be. What I love about working at Silver Springs is the small school environment, dedication of the staff and working with students on all aspects of their lives.



“Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always.” Robin Williams

Kathryn Baca - English



Though this is my first year with Nevada Joint Union High School District, I have been teaching for 15 years. I have my B.A. in English and a M.Ed. in Cross-Cultural Education. I have taught all levels of English from ELD to AP as well as programs designed for students far below grade-level in reading. I also created an SEL program at my previous school.

At Silver Springs, I teach both English 3 (American Literature) and English 4 (British Literature). My focus is on elevating students' reading and writing skills using the CCSS as a roadmap. Here in Room 4, we strive for growth via an inquiry-based approach utilizing goal setting and reflection. In addition, I am the Student Activities Director. My goal is to help students take ownership of their high school experience and make the most of it!



Hello, my name is Randy Fields and I have had the pleasure of working with our students here at Silver Springs in the media center/computer lab/Library for the last 15 years. I believe that students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care and strive to live that out each day with them as they come through the doors of my room.

I also have the privilege of coaching our sports league here at Silver which includes flag football, volleyball, basketball, and softball. We have been defending champions for the last three years in all our different sports.

Taking students on a variety of field trips is also something I have the privilege to do including hikes, NBA games, MLB games, Alcatraz, Sailing trips, hockey games, and college football games. I love working at Silver and the students that have come through all these years of which several still drop in to say hello every now and then. It's awesome to see how they have succeeded in life after leaving us here at Silver.



Lily Gicker, English and Fine Arts

I have been teaching in Nevada County for fourteen years, including seven at our juvenile hall, and four years here at Silver Springs. I am passionate about alternative education, and I believe creativity and communication are two really important skills to teach our kids.

In English, I teach a curriculum based on SEL topics. We practice language skills that will help us be understood in the world, and help us to make sense of the world.

In art, my curriculum is focused on drawing and painting, using technical skills to express ourselves creatively, as well as learning about art history.



India Greeley - Silver Strong

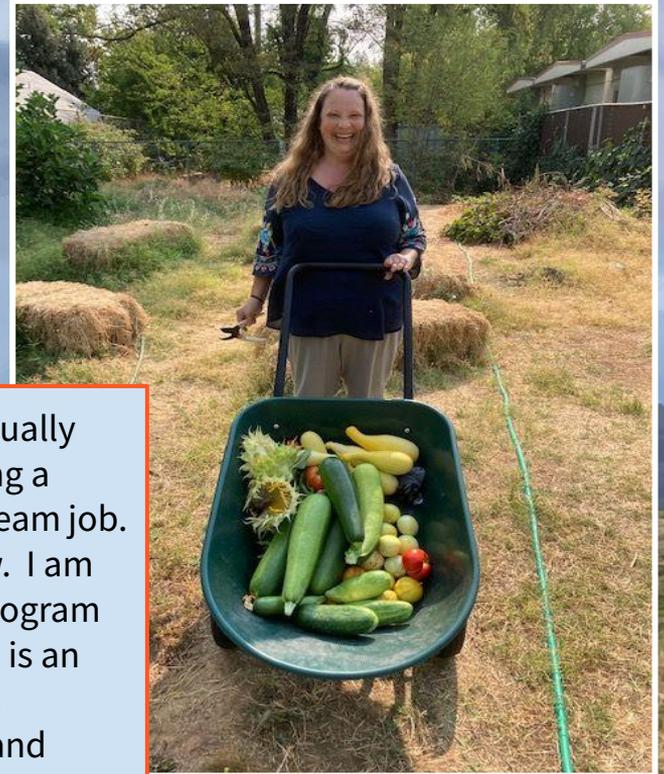
I have been teaching for the Nevada Joint Union High School District for 6 years. I am a credentialed Educations Specialist (Mild/Moderate) with English Language Learner and Autism Spectrum Disorder authorizations. I am also a Registered Yoga Instructor, and a certified Social Emotional Learning facilitator as well as trained in IIRP Restorative Practices. I teach a social-emotional learning course called Silver Strong. We focus on the CASEL standards: self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, decision making, and relationship skills. I use my skills as an Education Specialist, Masters expertise in Education of Arts and Learning, yoga, mindfulness, breath work, and restorative practices as pedagogical tools to bring relevance to the curriculum and bridge gaps between teaching and learning styles.

Artwork by Ahna Lewis (12th), SSHS 2021



Julie Gregerson Education Specialist (RISE)

I was born and raised in Nevada County, and actually attended this high school (way back when). Being a Special Education teacher here at Silver is my dream job. I have been teaching here for almost 8 years now. I am currently a case manager/teacher for the RISE program (Reaching Individual Success in Education). This is an SDC class for young people who struggle with an emotional disability. Our focus is to infuse SEL and trauma informed practices, in all classes. My students and I are also caretakers for our school learning and healing garden.



Paul Haas - Math

The screenshot shows a Google Sheets spreadsheet with the following content:

- Formula bar: $=114000/(0.4-0.085)$
- Row 4: Blank
- Row 5: **Break-Even Point= Total fixed costs / (selling price - variable costs)**
- Row 6: Blank
- Row 7: **Example**
- Row 8: Ace Manufacturing produces o-rings for the military. It plans to manufacture 433,000 o-rings to be sold at \$0.40 apiece. The fixed costs are estimated at \$114,000. Variable costs are \$0.085 per unit. How many o-rings must be sold for Ace to break even?
- Row 9: Table header with columns: Total Fixed Costs, Selling Price per Unit, Variable Costs per Unit, Break-Even Point in Units
- Row 10: Table data: \$114,000.00, \$0.40, \$0.085, 361,904.76
- Row 11: Blank
- Row 12: **PRACTICE**
- Row 13: Table header with columns: Total Fixed Costs, Selling Price per Unit, Variable Costs per Unit, Break-Even Point in Units Sold
- Row 14: Table data: \$127,000.00, \$0.98, \$0.360, (cell highlighted in yellow)



I have been in education for 35 years and have degrees in Public Communication and Liberal Studies as well as a Multiple Subject Credential and an Administrative Services Credential. I have taught various positions in elementary, middle schools, and high school as well as serving as a county administrator and high school principal. Currently I teach Personal Finance/Business Math part-time at Silver Springs High School.

I also am the Morning News Anchor and a Reporter for local radio station KNCO NewsTalk 830 AM. I have also been the Electronic Communications Manager for a business management software company.

A major goal of my math program is the integration of technology to enhance problem solving including the use of spreadsheets as an organizational tool as well as a calculator.



Tamara Haas

English 4, Independent Study, Work Experience

Welcome to room 2. During 1st - 4th periods, you'll find English 4 students working diligently on their coursework and their Senior Portfolio. I meet with I.S. students during 5th & 6th, and support our employed students during 7th period in our Work Experience class.

As a 35 year teaching veteran, I still love coming to work everyday and have especially enjoyed my 15 years here at Silver. I have a B.A. in Liberal Studies and hold a Multiple Subject and Single-subject English credential.

I've worn many hats at Silver, but currently am in charge of the yearbook, student recognition program, and coordinating the Senior Portfolio project.





Steve Hansen - Restorative Practices Coordinator (RAYS)

I'm Steve Hansen and I'm the Restorative Practices Coordinator for the Nevada Joint Union High School District. I have served as an English teacher and TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment), over the course of 29 years, and my role this year is to assist teachers and administrators in building relationships and creating community. When students make poor choices, we seek to ensure student accountability, address harm done to the school community, and work to prevent future harm.

One exciting aspect of Restorative Practices is RAYS (Restorative Accountable Youth Solutions), a peer-led team of trained students who work restoratively with students who have made poor choices. Please take a moment to watch the RAYS video linked here!

[Check out our RAYS program.](#)





Dennis Houlihan - P.E. and Weight Training

I taught physical education for 14 years at previous schools and 5 years at Nevada Union (a comprehensive high school in NJUHSD). I came to Silver Springs as the Science teacher. I recently accepted a position as the PE/Weights teacher at Silver. I am happy to get back to teaching within the primary focus of my credential. I would like to bring a different approach which is tailored to the variety of challenges among our students. I would like to introduce social games as well as field/team games, running, walking and mental health activities. The weights class will be an introduction to full body workouts which will help students understand muscle involvement. I will continue to build great relationships with our students while taking an interest in their physical and mental/social health.





GRASS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dedication — Excellence — Partnerships

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER / ZACK LAFERRIERE



Hello friends! Welcome to the office of the School Resource Officer. Don't be nervous, it's just me... Officer Zack (Grass Valley Police Department's SRO for Silver Springs). I have a passion to help empower youth to reach their fullest potential. When I'm not thinking about donuts, I bring to the table my 17 years as a Police Officer where I've had the roles of a Police Detective, Field Training Officer, Corporal, and Patrolman. This is my 6th year as an SRO and I'm excited about my role in the Restorative Justice process here at SSSH.



When you enter my office you'll notice an inviting brown leather couch, artwork hanging from the wall and my goofy smile behind a small desk. To be here, you don't have to be "in-trouble", but you do need to be prepared to be honest with yourself. I enjoy being an honest and compassionate mirror for students to navigate the challenges in their life. I enjoy working one-on-one with students to build up their existing strengths, reframe old perspectives, and help them pursue the life they want to be living.



Jenifer Layton, MFT, PPS
School Social Worker
Silver Springs Wellness Center

In addition to being an alumni of our district, I have worked for NJUHSD since December 2012. I have been working in mental health for over 15 years. I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and started in the district working as a Mental Health Therapist, providing Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) for students with IEPs. During that time I worked to earn my Pupil and Personnel Services credential. As a result, I was able to accept a position as a School Counselor. After two years as a School Counselor, I wanted to return to a scope of work that focused more specifically on student mental health, and am currently the School Social Worker at Silver Springs High School working in the new wellness center.

Shawn Silva - Algebra A/B and Algebra C/D

Welcome to Room 1, where I strive to make math phobias disappear and math challenged students realize that “yes they can!” do math. Every decision I make in my classroom is made only after I have asked myself “what is best for the students here at Silver Springs?” The answer isn’t always the same as it would be if I was working at a comprehensive high school. Those schools did not work for our students, otherwise they wouldn’t have come to Silver Springs. I strive to teach in a calm, non-threatening manner and leave my students with a feeling of accomplishment and success, knowing that if they do the work, they will succeed. I feel that not only am I teaching them math, but also important life skills that many of them have yet to develop.

I have been a math educator for over 21 years, teaching middle school and high school, classes for those who struggle with math and those that excel. At Silver Springs we are a tight knit family of educators who believe in the “whole person” approach.

After 13 years, I still love coming to work every day, working with this team and striving to make every student realize that “yes, they can!” do math.



$$Y = mx + b$$

$$(3x + 5)(2x - 7)$$

$$8x - 1 > 2x + 5$$

Jill Sonnenberg - Intervention TOSA/Learning Center



With credentials in English and Library Media Services, I served as a librarian at one of our comprehensives for the past 14 years, and started as Silver's Intervention Coordinator in the fall of 2021. I collaborate with our district's other intervention coordinators on district-wide initiatives but feel the crux of my position occurs in my classroom, also called the Learning Center. The Learning Center accepts drop-ins from classes as well as hosts multiple students on its study hall roster.

Students are encouraged to complete work, do free reading, check grades, and pursue other interests in the Learning Center. Students often receive personalized encouragement. Trained in IIRP's Restorative Practices, my goal is to serve as a "warm demander" in all domains of a student's growth, with a focus on their academic achievement.

While there is also a component of On Campus Suspension (OCI) most students come to the Learning Center voluntarily, to complete work or to simply opt into the setting. There is often a social component among students which makes the learning center a pleasant space to visit and work.



Field Trip to Nevada
County Media 10/21
Student-created video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTX1AdpOM2E>

Matthew Zavala - EMRHS Therapist



I have experience working with individuals, families, and adolescents in varying mental health settings. I utilize a person's inherent strengths and personal insights to help them navigate their understanding of themselves and their relationship to self. I believe that through the challenges of self-examination true and lasting peace can be found. By assisting clients in accessing conscious presence, hardships and the accompanying emotions these experiences evoke can be used as a gateway into greater emotional and personal growth. My work with clients seeks to empower them through finding congruence in their lives, a greater sense of self-love, and deeper meaning in their present experiences.

I have earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from CSU Long Beach and a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant. I am currently a registered Marriage and Family Therapy Intern and have extensive experience working with individuals and adolescents.

Classroom Support Staff

Paraprofessionals Rock!



Kim Owens - Resource Paraeducator

Hi my name is Kim Owens. I absolutely enjoy being part of the Silver Springs team. My work is meaning, enriching and rewarding. I work with students during the school day in regular/special education classes aiding with general direction, guidance and forging forward for academic and behavioral successes. I am also the SPED IEP Coordinator. I arrange student IEP meetings, manage student files, and document distribution and tracking. I have also accepted the role of TUPE Coordinator working with six Peer Educators bringing Tobacco Use Prevention Education and Awareness to our student body. Prior to finding my home away from home at Silver Springs, I worked with the Contra Costa County Office of Education as a Career Guidance Liaison.



Dana Deily - Resource Paraeducator

A Nevada County native, my first career after graduating from Chico State was a Social Worker investigating child abuse. My second career as a Para at Silver Springs began 13 years ago. Working in Special Education and General Education, specializing in Math and Senior Portfolios, I am flexible and help students with any subjects.

Married with children, one Angel child, and raising two granddaughters, my life experiences help me to have unconditional compassion, understanding and care for all of the students.

In addition to students keeping in contact after high school, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing a student who others have previously given up on, succeed.



Office Support Staff



Jennifer Thompson - Principal's Secretary

I started working for the District in April of 2017, at the District payroll office. In December of 2019, I accepted the Principal's Secretary position at Silver Springs and am pleased with my decision to work here. I enjoy interacting with the students and assisting parents and staff on a daily basis.

Karen Mead - Guidance Specialist/Registrar

I've been employed with NJUHSD since 1999 and arrived at Silver Springs in 2008. I've seen many changes at Silver and am proud to be a part of its evolution. I enjoy working on transcripts to ensure that students receive all the credits they're due. Graduation is the ultimate goal!

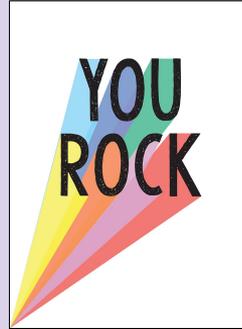


Office Support Staff



Faustine King - Student Services Specialist

Hello, I'm Faustine King. I began working as a Paraeducator at Silver Springs in 2017. I currently support in the RISE Program (Reaching Individual Success is Education). I have speciality training in Mental Health First Aid as well as Pro-Act professional assault crisis training.



Sabri Torkman - Campus Security

I was born and raised in Israel. I'm fluent in 3 languages. I migrated to the US at age 20. I was a business owner. I retired from law enforcement. I have worked at Silver Springs school for the past 5 years. It is with all honesty this has been the most rewarding job I've had.



Facilities Support Staff

Charles Anderson - Grounds



Damon Johnson - Custodial

Graduate of Silver Springs Adult Education 2006!

Larry Nunnink - Maintenance Supervisor



