



Education STAFF

DIGITAL MEDIA



Marlon Gonzalez

Marlon Gonzalez is a photographer, educator, and site manager for the Prodigy multicultural arts program at Osceola Arts. With 25 years of experience, he has worked for renowned publications such as Time Out New York, YRB Magazine, and the Orlando Museum of Art, and has been featured in The New York Times and Photo Technique magazine. As an art teacher, he has spent the past 15 years teaching in public schools in Florida and New York City, with his students winning numerous Gold Keys in the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and other congressional awards exhibited in the state Capitol and Washington, D.C. Marlon holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in photography from Parsons School of Design and has completed programs from NYSS Arts at Ithaca College Photography Programs. Marlon is passionate about using photography and cinematography to tell stories. He believes that his work can serve as a powerful tool for communication and inspire his students to see the world from a unique perspective.

THEATER



Alyssa Hricko

Alyssa Hricko is a New Jersey native thrilled to be sharing her passion for theatre with the new generation. After graduating with a BFA in Acting at Adelphi University and a certificate in classical acting at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, she fell in love with comedy. She has performed at the People's Improv Theater, and spent many seasons on an Improv troupe at the New York Renaissance Faire. Since moving to Florida you can find her helping Osceola Arts with a variety of children's programs and performing in murder mystery dinner shows with Something New Studio around the Orlando area.

MUSIC



Rechel Nganga

Rechel Nganga has been playing violin for 40 years. She received her Bachelors in Music from Ball State University. Though she specializes in violin performance she also plays cello, viola, piano, and loves to sing! Rechel has been teaching orchestral music for over 20 years and is proud to be one of the founding teachers of the Osceola Arts Youth Orchestra.



Qiana Lamb

Qiana Lamb is in her 16th year of teaching. A native of North Carolina, she has taught band and orchestra in North Carolina, Tennessee and now Florida. This is Ms. Lamb's second year as an itinerant Orchestra Director in Osceola County. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education from North Carolina Central University and a Master's of Music from the University of Memphis. In addition to teaching, Ms. Lamb performs with the Hollingsworth Winds on clarinet and the Central Florida Community Arts Symphony Orchestra on viola. In her spare time, she enjoys going to Disney, taking road trips, and discovering new things to do.



Chris Burns

Christopher Burns is currently the Fine and Performing Arts Resource Specialist in Osceola County, Florida. He received his B.M.E. from the University of Central Florida and his M.M.E. from Boston University and his PhD in Music Education from the University of South Florida. When he isn't working for the school district, he loves working with little and big kids at Osceola Arts, teaching summer camps and music directing for shows such as Sister Act, Newsies, and Sound of Music!

YOUNG ACTORS COMPANY



Elijah Gragg

After touring the world with The Grand Illusions of Rob Lake for several years as the Chief Illusion Technician, Elijah is excited to be planting roots in Central Florida! Besides touring the world doing magic, Elijah has had the honor of Directing, Stage Managing and Performing in many shows in both Central Florida and all over Oklahoma. Elijah also served as the Cast Manager/ and Lead Performer at Frontier City Theme Park in OKC, OK for 3 years as well as performing at Darien Lake Theme Park in Buffalo, NY all under Silvertree Productions. Elijah is ECSTATIC to be serving as the Show Director, and Young Techs Company Director here at Osceola Arts. Elijah's goal in teaching at Osceola Arts is, to make sure he gives each student every tool they need to succeed in their future in the theatre industry!



Mary Mackin

Mary is thrilled you be a part of the Osceola Arts Education Team! She is originally from Castle Rock, Colorado, and attended Oklahoma State University studying Multimedia Journalism and Theatre Performance. She has a Masters Degree in Arts and Culture Management from the University of Denver to continue to pursue her passions within the arts. Mary has performed in theatres in Oklahoma, Colorado, and Florida, and has been a part of Walt Disney World entertainment. She is so excited to be a part of this team to encourage and inspire the young artists!



Kit Riffel

Kit is honored to have this opportunity to join the Osceola Arts Education Team! His passion for performing began in his hometown Wichita, Kansas where he participated in his local youth theater programs. This experience led him to perform in theaters across Kansas, Oklahoma, and Florida. He spent 9 years performing at Walt Disney World dancing through the parks in various shows and parades and currently performs at Universal Studios Orlando as an animated show performer. Kit hopes to build a safe space for all to explore their passions and creativity.

VISUAL ARTS



Matt Shaffer

Matt Shaffer received a BFA from Indiana University and an MFA from the University of Florida. He has previously taught at Santa Fe College, The University of Florida, The Armory Art Center, and The Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. He has taught ceramics at Tohopekaliga High School & Olympia High School. Matt has three children and in his spare time he enjoys playing music, riding rollercoasters, and dancing to the song Baby Shark.



Ida Jewell

Ida received her Bachelor's in Art Education and a minor in Art Therapy from Buffalo State, The State University of New York (S.U.N.Y.). She has taught in community art centers all over for over 20 years. Her philosophy of "Keeping the Arts Alive" is key in her own life as well as inspiring her students to experience the joy of creating every day. With inspirational journeys traveling to France and Italy, she shares the history and techniques of some of their most famous artists. Offering a wide variety of materials, she allows her students to explore and to develop their own creative abilities cultivating their own journey through the arts.



Amanda Sullivan

Mandy Sullivan has been creating with clay for over 20 years. Her experience with clay started in college where her love of the art form turned into a career. Over the years she's taught multiple classes and courses for all age groups, especially children. She's worked (including summer 2024) for a private summer camp in New York for over 10 years, educating children in pottery and ceramic arts. Mandy has also worked for known ceramic artist and designer, Christopher Spitzmiller where she expanded my knowledge on kilns and mass production pottery. Currently, she teaches high school ceramics at Tohopekaliga High School in Osceola County, FL.



Diahnn Perry

Diahnn Perry is a passionate self-taught artist and dedicated art teacher, specializing in working with children and young adults. She firmly believes in the transformative power of art as a means to enhance mental well-being and foster personal growth.

From a young age, Diahnn found solace and inspiration in creating art. Despite not having formal training, she honed her skills through countless hours of experimentation, self-study, and exploration. This self-taught journey allowed her to develop a unique artistic style characterized by vibrant colors, expressive brushwork, and a deep connection to emotions. She embarked on a mission to empower young individuals by providing them with a creative outlet to express themselves and self development.

As an art teacher of 6 years Diahnn takes a holistic approach, She firmly believes that art is a powerful tool for self-expression, self-reflection, and personal growth.



Jackelyn Adkins

Jackelyn Adkins was raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana prior to moving to Florida. She attended the University of Central Florida and received a Bachelor of Arts in Art Education with a minor in Graphic Design. Mrs. Adkins has been teaching for more than 10 years in all grade levels. Currently, she is the studio art teacher at Tohopekaliga High School as well as a professor in the Graphics department at Valencia College. Sparking creativity at all ages is what drives her in her profession, whether it be early elementary or post-secondary education.



Jack Seddon

Jack Seddon holds a BA degree in Art Education from the University of Central Florida. His 46 years in the Visual Arts field includes: designing and building fun houses for the Amusement Industry around the country. He also served as a mold/molder maker and scenic display artist for the Walt Disney World Company. Subsequently, he fulfilled a life-long dream and became an art teacher serving the Osceola County Schools. His passion is to encourage, equip and empower students to appreciate the arts in a variety of forms.