



Da Vinci Instructional Leadership Team



Nathan Barrymore Principal Da Vinci Communications – nbarrymore@davincischools.org

Nathan Barrymore is the Director of Da Vinci Communications and a founding faculty member of Da Vinci Schools. Nathan strongly believes project-based learning provides students with a set of skills which prepare students to succeed in college and in their careers. He has rolled out industry inspired and led projects at Da Vinci, and believes in exposing students to professionals and professional work practices in high school to inspire and prepare students for the professional world. Nathan believes computer based instruction has the ability to personalize and democratize education, and this form of instruction will be a pillar of the curriculum at Da Vinci Communications. Nathan earned his B.A. in philosophy, politics and economics from Claremont McKenna College, and his teaching credential from UCLA Extension.



Allegra Johnson Special Education Director – ajohnson@davincischools.org

Allegra Johnson is honored to be a member of the amazing staff at Da Vinci. Allegra is originally from Sacramento, CA and attended college in the San Francisco Bay area. She has spent the past 4 years serving as both an SDC and Resource Specialist at Markham Middle School and Centennial College Prep Academy, both middle schools in south Los Angeles. She holds a B.A. in Humanities from New College of California, and a M.A. in Special Education from Loyola Marymount University. Allegra enjoys photography, music, and film. She is excited by all of the possibilities for incorporating her passions into her work, while also supporting students during their time at Da Vinci.



Kim Merritt Director, Da Vinci Extension – kmerritt@davincischools.org

Kim Merritt is an educator, entrepreneur, animal hoarder, and writer of articles she hides in drawers. After leaving New Jersey as a child, Kim became a California local. She spent her undergraduate years studying English and playing volleyball at California State Dominguez Hills. She then co-founded a youth volleyball organization and headed up the coast to earn her credential and Masters of Education from Pepperdine University. In 10 years of teaching Kim led the Associated Student Body and Marine Science Academy at Lawndale High School, and then joined the Da Vinci team. She is passionately connected to learning by doing and hopes to help shape the future of education by embracing the Da Vinci mindset of doing things differently. She is passionate about traveling the world, getting lost in the trees snowboarding, and family. She is currently a doctoral candidate at Pepperdine University, and is the director of Da Vinci Extension, a university transfer and career pathway program for current Da Vinci students who wish to complete their freshman general education college coursework at Da Vinci while gaining on-the-job work experience through paid and unpaid internships.



Kate Parsons Principal, Da Vinci Design – kparsons@davincischools.org

Kate Parsons is Director of Da Vinci Design and a founding teacher at Da Vinci Schools. She developed and implemented the Academic Intervention Program at Da Vinci Design during the 2012-2013 school year and served as a BTSA teacher mentor as well as a WASC self-study team member in years past. Kate has five years of teaching experience in science and mathematics subject areas. She has served as a class advisor to facilitate student activities and fundraising, and has experience coaching competitive club soccer teams. Kate earned her B.S. in Education and Chemistry from Manhattan College in New York where she was also a member of the women's soccer team. She earned her M.Ed. in Educational Administration and Leadership through Arizona State University. She is excited and honored to be leading an outstanding community of teachers and learners who exhibit such amazing creativity and ingenuity in their work.



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Michelle Rainey Principal, Da Vinci Innovation Academy – mrainey@davincischools.org

Michelle Rainey is a founding teacher for the Da Vinci Schools and a proud parent of two Da Vinci Innovation Academy students. She is excited to continue her educational path as Director of the Innovation Academy and looks forward to working with students, families and staff to develop curriculum that will inspire students and prepare them for a life of learning and curiosity. Before joining Da Vinci in 2009, Michelle was a founding teacher at Lawndale High School, where she worked since 1998. During that time she completed the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification process. Michelle earned her B.A. in English and M.A. in Education at UCLA. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and two young daughters, trains in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu, and is a devoted pet owner. She is ecstatic to continue this journey in education by collaborating with the Da Vinci family!



Steve Wallis Principal, Da Vinci Science – swallis@davincischools.org

Steve Wallis is the Director of Da Vinci Science and a co-founder of Da Vinci Schools. He oversees the day-to-day operations at Da Vinci Science, is the primary person responsible for recruiting and supporting new teachers, and promotes curriculum and technology integration in the classroom. Steve is credentialed in physics, biology and chemistry with National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification. He earned his B.S. in Psychobiology from UCLA in 1998, his M.Ed. from UCLA in 1999, and his National Board Certification in chemistry in 2003.



Dr. Scott Weatherford Director, Da Vinci Institute – sweatherford@davincischools.org

Scott Weatherford is excited and honored to be the Director of the Da Vinci Institute. Scott graduated from UCLA with degrees in Economics and History, earned an M.Ed at UCLA as well, and began teaching at Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles. Scott taught government and economics for three years at Da Vinci Science before moving into this new position. Scott has also taught in Boston, MA, and been an instructional coach, an assistant principal, and a principal at schools in Los Angeles. Scott earned an Ed.D. from UCLA in 2010.



Matthew Wunder, Ed.D. Chief Executive Officer – mwunder@davincischools.org

Matthew Wunder is the Chief Executive Officer and a Founder of Da Vinci Schools with 25 years of experience as a teacher, counselor, school administrator, and entrepreneur in managing public education resources. Matt is a member of the board of trustees of Talking Teaching Network and serves on the statewide educational reform committee, CERTICC. He has previously served on the board of trustees of Palisades Charter High School, on the Association of California School Administrators ACSA/CAPEA Committee, and as an educational consultant for the California League of Schools, where he developed curriculum for school administrators and facilitated professional development sessions. As a faculty member at Loyola Marymount University, he has taught Business in Education, Leadership in Instruction, and Learning and Achievement to master's level students. From 2002-2008, Matt served as Principal of Wiseburn School District's Richard Henry Dana Middle School, where he led the school to becoming a California Distinguished School and a National Forum Middle School To Watch. Prior to working in the Wiseburn School District, Matt served as a school counselor in the Santa Monica-Malibu and Manhattan Beach Unified School Districts. Matt earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arizona. He holds a Master of Education degree, teaching credential, PPS credential in School Counseling, and Tier I Administrative Credential from Loyola Marymount University. His doctorate in Education Technology was earned from Pepperdine University.