



PAULO FREIRE FREEDOM SCHOOL

DOWNTOWN

47 E. Pennington St. | Tucson, AZ 85701 | 520.352.0057 | paulofreireschool.org

September 10, 2016

Dear PFFS-Downtown Families,

Paulo Freire Freedom School prides itself on its cadre of qualified, passionate, and caring teachers. We strive to have 100% of our teaching staff deemed & “highly qualified” as defined by federal guidelines. Under the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, we are required to provide parent notification of the qualifications of our teachers. Below are brief bios of our teaching team.

6/7th Grade Team

Joe Boehm has a BA the University of Arizona in the areas of Biology, Geo-sciences and English and a M.Ed. in Teaching and Teacher Education. Joe taught for 2 years in Japan and 5 years at Flowing Wells High School, teaching several science courses and helping to develop the robotics team. Joe joined PFFS-Downtown’s initial design and planning team for PFFS Downtown in May of 2013. Joe is highly qualified to teach Science and English, he will be taking the state test this year to become highly qualified in math as well.

Marcus Whitaker has a degree in sociology from Manchester Met University in England. Marcus has taught in Malawi, London and at Utterback and Civano Community School in Tucson. He has a language arts and social studies teaching certificate and is highly qualified to teach both those subjects.

Seth Smith graduated from the UA with a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and a minor in Spanish. He has four years of teaching experience including two years of teaching at PFFS-University. He is highly qualified to teach in Spanish, Math and Science.

Kathy Moore has a BA in sociology with over thirty units of science course work. She has endorsements in middle school math and general science and twenty years of teaching experience at the middle school, high school, community college, and university level. She is highly qualified to teach science and math.

8th Grade Team

Deborah Barca has a BA in Psychology and Sociology from Southern Connecticut State University, a MA Social Studies Education and Curriculum and Teaching for Columbia Teachers College and has completed her coursework toward her PhD in Science and Sustainability Education at the U of A. She is highly qualified to teach science and social studies. She will be taking the state test this year to become highly qualified in math as well.



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Patrick Kelly graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and has a Masters of Fine Arts in the area of Conceptual Design and Information Arts and at San Francisco State University. Prior to coming to PFFSD, Patrick taught 6th, 7th, and 8th grade at Utterback Magnet Middle School. Patrick is highly qualified to teach English and art.

Special Education Team

Caitlin Dean has a BA and MA in History from Newcastle University in the U.K. Prior to joining PFFS-Downtown she taught at the International School of Kigali, Rwanda for three years and was involved in service learning and social justice projects that connected the school with the local Rwandan community. Caitlin is highly qualified in the area of social studies.

Sherry Mulholland has a BA in Rehabilitation Counseling and a MA in Special Education. She has worked in public schools for over 20 years. She is adjunct professor at the University of Arizona teaching in the Disability and Psychoeducational Studies Department. Sherry is a highly qualified Special Education teacher certified in severe and profound disabilities.

Please see the bios section of our website for more information about our staff.

Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions about our staff. We are excited about this school year, and we hope you and your child are as well.

Best,

JoAnn Groh

Principal, Paulo Freire Freedom School – Downtown