

### Claudia Zamudio-Larranaga (1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

Welcome to first grade! My name is Claudia Zamudio-Larranaga and this is my twenty sixth year teaching. I am really excited to get the school year started and on its way! I have many fun ideas and things planned throughout the year.

I would like to tell you a little bit about myself both personally and professionally. I was born in Mexico City. I started to work here in Albuquerque since 2006. I have a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and the Master of Science in Educational Psychology. I love going on vacations anywhere there is beautiful landscapes and beach. I like swimming and indoor cycling. My husband Michael was born here at Albuquerque and he works for Old Dominion Company. We have one son, Mikey who is now seven years old.

I am looking forward to a very successful year and I know you are too. I have high expectations for your child and I will do all that I can to help your child achieve those expectations. Thank you so much for the opportunity to work with your child.

### Dora Lavenburg (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

My name is Dora Lavenburg I am originally from Colombia, I arrived in the USA in 2006. In 2007 I started to work in Education in the Kansas City Missouri School District. I've been teaching different grades, from Pre-k to 2nd grade. My family and I moved to Albuquerque in 2013 and I got a job in Albuquerque Public Schools. I have a license in Education with a bilingual endorsement. I am taking classes at UNM in Special Education to obtain my Master's Degree.

My passion is to teach little minds to grow and shine. My experience as a learner of another language has been extraordinary in my life. I want my students to succeed and learn my home language because it opens doors. We can help others and we can be a better citizen for our society.

### Virginia (Ginger) Rivenbark (PE)

Status: Albuquerque resident for 20 years. 27 years married to Keith. Mother of 2 grown children, son Douglas 22, daughter Elizabeth 20.

Background: From NY State, attended college at St Lawrence University, BA in Government and Psychology. Intercollegiate swimmer and ROTC scholarship recipient. 7 years active duty US Army Corps of Engineers. Business owner and non-profit administrator. Experience as a Personal trainer and 12 years coaching swimming.

Personal: I Love working with children and people of all ages. Coaching sport and fitness as an opportunity to improve lives is my passion. I have been substitute teaching at CIS for the last 4

years. This is my first year teaching PE. I am looking forward to a fun and fitness filled academic year with the CIS community.

### Melissa Chavers (5th Grade)

My name is Melissa Chavers, and I have been teaching in different dual language programs throughout all of my 11 years of teaching. I am from Hermosillo, Mexico, but I have been living in Albuquerque, NM for about 7 years. I have a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Bilingual Education. I love being able to teach in two languages, and I have taught grades 3rd through 8th grade. During my down time, I love running and spending time with family and friends.

### Irene Cannon (Math)

Irene Cannon has been an educator for 24 years, 18 of which have been teaching math. She received her B.S. and M.A. degrees right here in Albuquerque at UNM. She spent 15 years at a school with 1200 students where she organized family nights, field trips, and community service opportunities. She also scheduled and supervised state testing, and worked with the HS students enrolled in CNM Dual Credit courses encouraging and guiding them throughout the semester to ensure that they received their credits. She looks forward to working with the families here at Corrales International and sharing her knowledge and love of math with our students.

### Michelle Adam (Spanish)

*¡Ole!* I am excited to join Corrales International and be a part of its International Baccalaureate Program as the MYP Spanish teacher! As a global citizen, raised in Spain, Switzerland, and the U.S., with an Argentinean father, I embrace diversity, language, and teaching students to become part of a global society.

I come to this school with 14 years of experience teaching Spanish from K through 12 at all levels. During the past 10 years, I've taught level I Spanish to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Southwest Preparatory Learning Center here in Albuquerque. Before that, I taught students grades 8-12 Spanish at all levels, including the highest level Spanish. In addition, I've taught Spanish to younger children of all grades (I taught in a program for elementary school kids at Albuquerque Academy) and adults.

As your student's language teacher, I aim to be as creative, dynamic, and hands-on as possible. I want students to come to class excited to learn a new language, or improve on their current skills. I bring my own background as a professional magazine writer, novelist, and artist to the

classroom, in addition to my years living in Spain and speaking Spanish. I have also performed to my novel with Flamenco guitarists and dancers in the U.S. and in Argentina, and am currently translating my novel (which takes place in Spain) to Spanish.

### Virginia Chang (Science)

I am excited to join the Corrales International School as a MYP Science Teacher. I bring my educational background and experiences to teach CIS students in the 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades. Previously, I've instructed mostly college-level courses with my degrees in Chemistry – USC (1993), UCSB (1995), and UNM (2003).

I am originally from Los Angeles, California. My husband, Mike, and I have been New Mexico residents since 1996 as he joined the NMT Chemistry Department then. We have two sons, Emil and Ivan. As a family, we enjoy watching NFL football and both NBA and NCAA basketball. We like hiking, camping, and exploring in the cooler Fall months. Mostly, we love watching movies together!