



**NEW** Staff for the 2018-2019 School Year

**H.B. Whitehorne Middle School School Social Worker –  
Child Study Team**



Dr. Albaliz (Alby) Tello is very excited to join the Child Study Team at H.B. Whitehorne Middle School as the new school social worker. She is a multilingual and bicultural clinical social worker with over 10 years' experience in counseling. She has experience working with the developmentally disabled, children and families, and in mental health.

Dr. Tello most recently served as the Director of Career Development and an adjunct professor at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. She obtained her B.A. in Psychology and Fine Arts from New York University and earned her MSW from Fordham University. In 2018, she earned her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, Administration, and Policy from Fordham University. In addition, she provides individual and family counseling in a private practice where she utilizes mindfulness, play, and art techniques. She is eager to collaborate with the teachers, staff, parents, and the community to promote wellness both in and out of school.

In her free time, Dr. Tello enjoys yoga, hiking and spending time with her dog Chance.

## **H.B. Whitehorne Olmstead 5th Grade Special Education Teacher**



Angie Abdelrehim is proud to be joining the staff of H.B. Whitehorne Middle School as a 5th grade Special Education teacher. Ms. A is particularly excited to be starting her teaching career in the Verona Public Schools as she is an HBW and Verona High School graduate herself.

Ms. A received her bachelor's degree in Media Culture and Communication from New York University. After working in technology sales for 2 years, Ms. A realized that her true calling was teaching and went back to school to receive her Master of Arts in Teaching English and Students with Disabilities from Montclair State University. Ms. A is not only excited to return “home” to HBW, but is grateful to start her teaching career doing what she is truly passionate about - helping students overcome their obstacles and reach their full potential.

When she was not in the classroom, Ms. A spent 5 years representing her hometown of Verona in the Miss NJ USA and Miss New Jersey America pageants. Ms. A passionately promoted her social platforms of anti-bullying, raising cultural awareness and promoting self-confidence, all issues she intends to incorporate into her own classroom.

# Verona Preschool Program Half Day Integrated Preschool Teacher



Ms. Alana Fazio is proud and excited to announce that she will be joining the Laning Avenue School as our newly hired Integrated Preschool teacher for the 2018-2019 school year. In 2014 she graduated with her Bachelor's degree from Cabrini College in Radnor PA with a dual major in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. This will be Ms. Fazio's third school year being an Integrated Preschool teacher.

Ms. Fazio started her career as an educator by becoming a paraprofessional at an alternative school located in West Amwell NJ for the 2014-2015 school year. For the 2015-2016 school year she then became a 1:1 paraprofessional in a self contained preschool classroom in her old elementary school located in Montgomery Township NJ. After finishing up a successful two year stint as a paraprofessional, Ms. Fazio was offered a year long leave replacement position in the Burlington Township Public School System as an Integrated Preschool teacher. Continuing to show her passion and dedication she was offered another year long leave replacement as an Integrated Preschool teacher for the 2017-2018 school year in the Hopewell Valley Regional School District.

Ms. Fazio truly believes she has found her forever school in the Verona Public Schools. She looks forward to making meaningful, differentiated and engaging lesson plans for her students, being a strong advocate for her students, collaborating with her school team and getting to know the Verona community. Ms. Fazio grew up in a little town in central Jersey called Montgomery Township. She currently resides in Ewing NJ but is moving to Mt. Arlington in August. In her free time she enjoys reading, being with her dog Missy, relaxing outside, bike riding and having the company of her two nephews, family and friends!

## **District Behaviorist Ms. Raskin**



Ms. Raskin is thrilled to be joining the Verona team, and knows she has big shoes to fill! She is excited to collaborate with the Verona teachers, support staff and parents.

Ms. Raskin received her B.A. in Psychology at Boston University and decided to stay in Massachusetts for graduate school. She attended Lesley University where she received a dual Masters Degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. Immediately following her graduation from Lesley University, she returned to New Jersey and enrolled in the Rutgers University Applied Behavior Analysis program.

For the last 4 years, Ms. Raskin has been working in a private school for students with Autism. She prides herself on building meaningful and lasting relationships with her coworkers and students, and is eager to begin relationship building within the Verona team!

## **Verona High School School Social Worker - Child Study Team**



Ms. Priya Basak graduated from Rutgers University with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Psychology. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who earned her Master's from the Rutgers School of Social Work in 2007 and has her certification in School Social Work. She has extensive experience providing therapy to children, adolescents, and their families in a variety of settings.

She has been successful in providing support to students with varied needs by implementing individualized interventions to address their emotional, behavioral, and/or academic concerns. Her clinical experience includes but is not limited to working with children and adolescents who have depression and anxiety to those who are on the spectrum.

For the past six years, Priya worked at Montclair High School in the Effective School Solutions program providing therapeutic and academic support to students by working hand-in-hand with school staff and the student's families. She is excited to bring her expertise to Verona High School.



## Speech and Language Therapist at FN Brown



Diane Conboy is delighted to be joining the staff of F.N. Brown Elementary School. She can't wait to start working with the faculty, students and their families to help the students achieve their speech & language goals. Ms. Conboy received her M.S. degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders at Hunter College in NYC. Prior to that she studied at Montclair State University where she earned a B.A. in Communication Sciences & Disorders as well as a post-BA certificate in special education. Ms. Conboy is an active member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Ms. Conboy has experience teaching in elementary schools in both New York and New Jersey. For the past 16 years she has been with the Verona Public School system as a speech therapist in our Preschool-Elementary programs. Ms. Conboy is very proud of having written & received several grants to bring innovative projects to Verona, including Michelle Winner's Social Thinking. In 2017, Ms. Conboy was honored to receive an Excellence in Teaching award from VFEE. This year Ms. Conboy is looking forward to completing a two-year program in Orton-Gillingham Multisensory Reading which has been offered through Verona's partnership with Fairleigh Dickinson University.

When she is not in school Ms. Conboy loves to garden, travel, and spend time with her family. She and her husband have two wonderful children and two mischievous dogs.

## Speech and Language Therapist at Laning Preschool Program



Mrs. Gillian Betcher received her Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Indiana University and her Masters degree in Speech Pathology from Montclair State University. She is joining the Laning Preschool staff after working between F.N.Brown and Brookdale Elementary School since 2012.

Mrs. Betcher is passionate about working with children of all ages in order to facilitate language development and improve peer relationships. Children strengthen their expressive and receptive language skills through fun and motivating experiences!

As a graduate of Verona High School, Mrs. Betcher is thrilled to continue her career in a district that she loves. She is married to a fellow Verona graduate and they are raising their son as a Caldwell Chief (they just bought a house)!

Mrs. Betcher is looking forward to collaborating with families and staff members to promote language development and create language rich experiences.