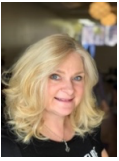


Please welcome our new Fine & Performing Arts Staff Members



Lara Becker – Fine & Performing Arts Coordinator

Lara Becker has been a teacher, club sponsor and director in District 214 since 1996.

Ms. Becker looks forward to her new role as Fine and Performing Arts Coordinator and the continuation as classroom teacher. She hopes to help facilitate our first District Theater Program New York Trip in the Spring of 2024. Additionally, she will continue to support and maintain an exemplary fine and performing arts program with support for the teachers, students, and community.



Jillian Hoffman – Art Teacher

My name is Jill Hoffman and I am proud to be a Hersey Alumni turned Hersey Teacher! I have a layered background in artwork and athletics after attending Harper, McKendree, and Durham University. School, art, and athletics have taken me all around the world, helped me meet incredible people and brought me back to where my love of school began. I will be teaching Art and Photo between Hersey and BG. I am excited to dive deeper into photography and explore mediums in Art Survey. I look forward to meeting my students and starting the new school year off with a love for process and new beginnings.



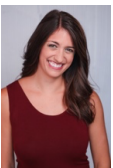
Christopher Kuzmanoff - Orchestra Director/Guitar/Music Workshop & Musical Pit Director

Christopher Kuzmanoff has been an educator for over 20 years and is excited to be joining the fine and performing arts staff at John Hersey High School. His expertise lies in the wonderful world of string education! He is an avid Violist, Classical Guitarist, and Banjo player. He is looking forward to fostering a strong sense of community within the string programs and helping the students of JHHS reach their full potential. Outside of education Mr. Kuzmanoff is a proud husband, father of two, bowler, golfer, and gamer.



Sarah Wade – Theatre Director (Musical, Winter & Spring Plays)

Sarah Wade holds a Masters in Directing from The Theatre Conservatory at Roosevelt University and a Bachelor of the Fine Arts in Theatre Education from Northern Illinois University. Along with her professional degrees, Sarah has extensive specialized training from a number of professional coaches. She is a Meisner Trained Actor who studied under Kathryn Gately, founder of the Gately Poole Acting Conservatory in New York. Sarah studied improvisational acting at Second City's Players Workshop with Eric Forsberg. While receiving her Masters in Directing, Sarah studied with directors from Steppenwolf Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Looking Glass Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. Sarah has experience teaching, directing and producing shows in the private schools, public schools and community theater settings. Previous directing experience includes Hersey High School, Lake Zurich High School, Northshore District 112, St. James School in Arlington Heights, and Department Head of Musical Theater at Metropolis School of Performing Arts. Currently Sarah is the Artistic Director of Harmony Youth Theater.



Ariana Cappuccitti – Musical Choreographer

Ariana Cappuccitti has been choreographing musicals and show choirs throughout District 214 for 10 years. As a Hersey choir and theater alumnus (Sideshow, Jesus Christ Superstar, Once on this Island), Ms. Cappuccitti is very excited to bring her passion for dance and storytelling to the Hersey theater program as the musical choreographer. When not in the theater, you can find her in the Hersey Social Studies/World Language Department teaching AP Psychology. As a choreographer, she hopes to create a space where students feel empowered to explore their creativity through movement, no matter their level of experience.