



2020-2021 Preschool Staff Introductions

Welcome to our Montessori Community, we're looking forward to starting our new school year on July 30th 2020. We have missed everyone and look forward to having everyone back on campus, we would like to introduce you to our team. Our Lead Guides will be reaching out to schedule a day and time to meet with you and your families.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

480-222-0811

3959 E. Elliot Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85234

Founders



Dr. Kris & Rita Sippel

Preschool Founders/Owners/Co-Directors San Tan Montessori, LLC

Universities Attended: Franciscan University of Steubenville Ohio; Ottawa University Kansas; University of Phoenix; Argosy University
Degree Type: Bachelors in Elementary and Secondary education; Masters and Doctoral degree in School Leadership and Administration.

Going into our 15th year we are grateful for the opportunity to continue loving and serving our community by offering a welcoming and wonderful Montessori preschool experience infant through Kindergarten at San Tan Charter School.

Administration



Myra Icke

San Tan Montessori Administrative Assistant/Assistant Director

University Attended: Seychelles Polytechnique / Rifkins College Kenya
Degree Type: Accounting & Early Childhood Education

I am excited to be part of the San Tan Montessori Family. I started my career in accounting and made a change to Early Childhood Education after having my own children. I have over 10 years' experience in various roles in the Early Childhood Education field over the years, starting as an Assistant Pre-School Teacher and working my way to Assistant Director. The best part about working with young students is knowing that I'm making an impact in their lives. I was born in Kenya and my family moved to The Seychelles when I was 3 after Kenya got Independence from Great Britain. I moved The United States in 2001. I am married and have 2 daughters of my own. My favorite things to do are Cooking and a bit of Gardening.

Infants



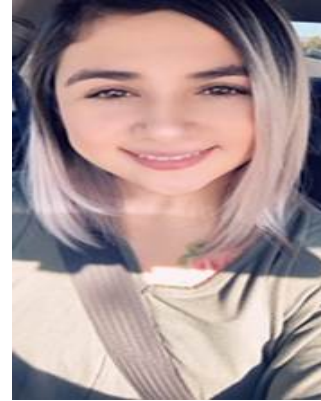
Anasazi Brewton

Lead Infant (Nido) Guide

University Attended: Arizona State University, Southwest Institute of Montessori Studies

Degree Type: AMI Montessori Birth to Three Teaching Certificate, MA in Education

Hello! My name is Anasazi Brewton and I have been working in education and mental/behavioral health with individuals of all ages for 10 years. I received my Master's degree in Education in 2015, and graduate this summer from the Southwest Institute of Montessori Studies with an AMI Montessori Birth to Three teaching certificate. I have focused on Montessori since 2019 and am excited to help build the first Infant "Nido" environment with San Tan. Prior to joining the San Tan family, I worked for 2 years as a mental/behavioral health counseling BHT and parent educator for families of children birth to 5-years-old. I am a member of the Infant-Toddler Mental Health Coalition of Arizona and love Montessori as it is a nurturing environment supportive of positive mental, physical, and social-emotional development. I treasure sharing each child's excitement and joy as they learn, explore, and takes strides towards independence, and I am honored to help create a nurturing and joyful school foundation for our kiddos.



Mayra Sujey Navarrete

Preschool/Infant/ Montessori Assistant

My name is Mayra Sujey Navarrete I have recently joined San Tan Charter School a few months ago. I am really excited and blessed to start my new journey. I recently moved here from Washington with my fiancé Jesse Magana and our 3 beautiful children Isabella Melody and Benji. In high school back in Washington I worked in the childcare for 4 years. I have children of my own so I've learned so much from them as well. I had always said I wanted to work with children. I love working at San Tan Charter School. I have a strong passion for working with children I like seeing them grow and learn and become independent. I like them learning new things and seeing how excited they get when learning new material. I have grown a very strong relationship with amazing co-workers who have helped me find a new way to connect with children

Toddler 1 (Young 1 & 2 Year Olds)



Jamie Dossey
Toddler Lead Guide
Attended North American Montessori
Center

I am the Lead Montessori Toddler teacher! This is my second year teaching at San Tan Charter and my fourth year working with toddlers. I love preschool and all the exploring, learning and fun we get to have. I grew up in sunny southern California and moved to Arizona 20 years. I have two beautiful children, Ava who is 8 and Jaxson who is 6. Last year we got a puppy who is a maltese/shih tzu mix and we spend a lot of our time playing and chasing him around. I can't wait to spend this year learning and growing with you!



Diana Smith
Toddler Montessori Assistant
University Attended: Maricopa Community College
Degree Type: Business Associates/Accounting - in
process

I recently joined San Tan Charter School. Previously, I worked in the service industry at Westrock hospitality group. I held multiple positions at Westrock throughout nearly 10 years with the resort and concluded as a manager within the in room dining team. I also worked for Angel's Wings Inc., a social services organization in Phoenix, helping children with disabilities at home or school. I have always been passionate about children, helping them grow and develop. The San Tan Charter School is a good opportunity for me to experience the Montessori culture. As part of the staff, I am here to love and support our students, families, and our team members as we work together to create an amazing learning experience for the students. I'm originally from Mexico but, grew up in Phoenix. I recently married in April 2019 to my amazing husband Craig Smith and moved to Gilbert. I love cooking, traveling, and spending time with my family.

Toddler 2 (Older 2 Year Olds & Young 3 Year Olds)



Adrianna Chavez
Toddler Lead Guide
Degree Type: AMI Certified

Hello my name is Adrianna I grew up in Tucson, Az. I have lived in both Texas and Hawaii. I come from a large family of 9 siblings. I have spent the past few years growing through international travel. I love to volunteer abroad and hope to continue that tradition as a form of self development.

I loving seeing the children become independent and caring towards each other. If these habits are developed at a young age I believe a child can achieve great things! I love being part of this bigger picture.



Marianne Bushman
Toddler Montessori Assistant
University Attended: Utah Valley University
Degree Type: Currently Attending

I started working at San Tan Montessori in March 2020. I've been working in both the Toddler and Primary rooms. One of my goals is to learn more about the Montessori program and to continue with that in my career. I'm planning on transferring to a college here and continuing to get my degree. I recently moved to Arizona from Utah earlier this year, and other than the heat, I've been loving it here.

I got married in May to my amazing husband, Quinten, and I'm hoping to convince him to let us get a pet real soon. I spent a year and a half on a service trip in Canada from 2017 to 2018, where I helped to serve the people up there and to build a better life for their communities. This was also where I met my husband, and we're planning on doing another (shorter) service trip in a few years.

Primary 1 (Older 3 – 5 Year Olds)



Zoriada Villarrubia Concepcion **Primary Lead Guide**

University Attended: University of Loyola in Maryland/University of Puerto Rico
Degree Type: Master Degree in Education, AMI Certified Primary Montessori Guide/Bachelor in Science, Certified as a Secondary Math Teacher

I was born in Puerto Rico. I have two boys that are in their twenties now. They went to Montessori schools and being involved as a volunteer made me grow in interest and knowledge of the Montessori philosophy. I became an Aide, a Catechist of the Good Shepherd, and then a Montessori Primary Guide. I discovered that this is my mission in life, which brings me joy and guides me to serve children in many ways. I have a passion for working with children. I love to apply the Montessori method to guide them to be independent and to develop to their own capacity at their personal pace. I enjoy preparing for them a special environment and facilitating materials, lessons, and other things they need to nurture their intellectual, emotional, and spiritual growth. I think it is a gift for me to be surrounded by children because they bring love, peace, hope, and joy. Other things that I also enjoy in life are dancing, reading, playing table games, listening to music, and being in contact with nature (beaches, rivers, rainforests, etc.). I am grateful and blessed for the opportunity of working at San Tan Montessori School and look forward to meeting the children and their families.



Audra Sein **Primary Guide**

University Attended: Gonzaga University for my B.A. in Psychology, ASU for my M.Ed. in Elementary Education, ASU again for my M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction: Literacy Education, and Southwest Institute of Montessori Studies for my AMI Casa dei Bambini (Primary) diploma
Degree Type: B.A., M.Ed., M.A., and AMI Primary trained

See Bio on next Slide



Karen Ruzicka **Primary Assistant**

University Attended: Santa Barbara City College and Southwest Institute of Montessori Studies
Degree Type: A.A. Business Management and in process of becoming a Montessori Primary Guide

See Bio on next Slide

Primary 1 (Older 3 – 5 Year Olds)



Audra Sein
Primary Guide

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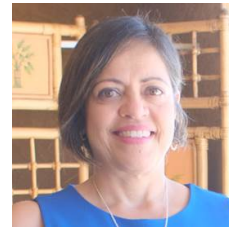
I'm Audra. I was born and raised in Chandler, Arizona. I have branched out a little over the years, though. I went out of state for my undergraduate degree to Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. During my time there, I spent an academic year studying abroad in Florence, Italy, which allowed me to see much of Europe. It was an amazing experience. In my early twenties, I spent two years teaching second grade on a small island called Saipan...in between the Philippines and Australia. This also proved to be an amazing experience. I have three cats...all of which I adopted while on Saipan and had shipped back to Arizona. Their names are Jives, Guava, and Papaya, and I love them all dearly. I am a huge Disney fan. My mom and I go to Disneyland/Disney California Adventure together at least once a year. I also love to read, and I aspire to write a book of my own someday.



Karen Ruzicka
Primary Assistant

University Attended: Santa Barbara City College and Southwest Institute of Montessori Studies
Degree Type: A.A. Business Management and in process of becoming a Montessori Primary Guide

I am drawn to STCS for their sincere aura of care and concern that is welcoming and promotes the feeling of belonging and betterment.



Zoriada Villarrubia Concepcion
Primary Lead Guide

Primary 2 (Older 3 – 5 Year Olds)



Kim Aguilar

Primary Lead Guide

University Attended: National Center for Montessori Education

Degree Type: Montessori Early Childhood Education

Teaching became my passion when I volunteered in my daughter's Montessori classroom, I decided I wanted to become a Montessori teacher when I witnessed firsthand the academic, social, and emotional growth of my daughter and her peers. I started training as Toddler Teacher in a Montessori school in 1999, even before I started my training, which I completed at the National Center for Montessori Education in Los Alamos, NM in 2006.

It is my mission to instill the love of learning in my students and develop their desire to become life-long learners. I feel very lucky and grateful to have had the opportunity to grow as a teacher these past 20 years and look forward to continue learning from my students and become a better teacher with each passing school year.



Chandra Ryals

Primary Assistant

University Attended: Auburn University

Degree Type: B.S. and M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education

I am originally from Birmingham, Alabama. I have lived in Gilbert for 5 years. I love so many things about living here.... the weather, the people, the landscape, did I mention the beautiful weather?!?

I have been a classroom teacher for 15 years. As my daughter enters her senior year of high school and my husband and I look forward to empty nesting soon, I am looking forward to transitioning to a new position as a classroom assistant. I love being able to still work with children on a daily basis and be a blessing to a classroom teacher as well.