

ACST New Faculty Bios 2020-2021



Matt Kaun - Secondary Mathematics

Matt will be joining his wife, Catherine, who has been teaching 1st grade at ACST this year. They have been teaching together overseas for the last 25 years in the UAE, Morocco, Chile, Myanmar, and Saudi Arabia. Originally from Washington State, Matt has taught secondary mathematics courses from 8th grade algebra 1 through AP and IB Math classes. In his free time, Matt enjoys reading, walking, hiking, bicycling, and snow skiing. Matt and Catherine's home base is Sandpoint, Idaho, USA.



Justin Peavey - Secondary Learning Support

Justin is excited to join the ACST family with his wife, April, and two children, Teddy and Penelope. Justin received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Prior to moving to Kansas, he spent two years as a high school Drama teacher in Mayodan, North Carolina. In 2010, he moved with his wife to Overland Park, Kansas where he was given the opportunity to teach high school Special Education. Since then, he has earned a Master of Science in High Incidence Special Education. He has experience teaching Learning Supports in both the Middle and High School setting. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with friends and family, reading, coaching basketball, and gaming- both the video and board variety.



April Peavey - Grade 5 Teacher

April, her husband, Justin, and their two children Teddy (age 8) and Penelope (age 4) are thrilled to be joining the ACST family. April received her Elementary Education degree with a Concentration in the Arts from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Since then, she has been teaching in Kansas for the past ten years. At Eudora Elementary School, she has been a fifth-grade teacher, fourth-grade teacher, and most recently the Art Teacher for 800 students, Kindergarten through 5th Grade. April currently specializes in flipped instruction, using video production and creativity to deliver content and differentiate. In her spare time, she enjoys printmaking, taking dance classes, writing, hiking, and enjoying time with friends. As this will be her first experience teaching internationally, she is excited to discover new hobbies with increased travel, meeting new people, and experiencing a new culture.



Marie Dexter - Grade 2 Teacher

Marie Dexter has been working as an international educator for four years. She has taught both first and second grade students in China, South Korea, and Wisconsin. Marie comes from the small town of Wausau, Wisconsin, which is known for farming, ginseng, and cheese. Barry, her husband will be accompanying her to Tunis this fall. Additionally, she has a son named Alex, who lives in Chicago and works in computer security. In her spare time, Marie and her husband enjoy traveling, hiking, biking, and reading. She is very excited to meet her new students and their families this fall!



Josh Richardt - Elementary School Counselor

As an elementary educator, Josh believes academic success is interdependent with social, emotional, and physical wellness. Originally from Indiana, Josh has worked with kids for the past 16 years in theater education, outdoor camps, and as an elementary counselor. He obtained a Master's in School Counseling from the University of Dayton, Ohio in 2013. Josh's love of traveling began with study abroad in Australia and India, and he has continued exploring with his wife Suzy (a former Fulbrighter in Morocco) on visits to Turkey, Morocco, Austria, and France. An avid film fan, Josh also enjoys reading, cooking, playing guitar, juggling, and performing in local theater productions. He looks forward to starting his international school career in Tunisia and getting to know the ACST community.



Joe Bedetti - High School Business Management

Joe is originally from Boston and has been living abroad for the last 15 years. Along the way he has adopted a dog, met his wife and started a family. He has been living in Colombia for the past six years and previously worked in Belgium at St. John's International School. He is a former Peace Corps Volunteer (Suriname) and enjoys the outdoors. Joe currently teaches IB business and economics but dreams about one day convincing his wife to move to the jungle with him and help him run an eco-hotel. Until then, he will continue to try to learn new languages, ride motorcycles and teach his son how to fish.



Derek Harwell - Director of Technology

Derek Harwell has 25+ years in international education with an emphasis in technology, curriculum development and leadership. In addition to working in schools, Derek led organizations like TEDxAmsterdamED, AAIE, ISTE, Google Appevents, and ELMLE. He is an avid biker, baker and media enthusiast.



Carina Janura - Grade 9 Science

Carina arrived in Tunis in August 2019 with her husband, Peter, and two young children, Karolina and Oliver, to begin their four-year posting with the Canadian Embassy.

She is thrilled to join the ACST Community as their 9th Grade Science Teacher for the upcoming school year. In addition to several years teaching Math, Science, and Special Education in Ottawa, Canada, Carina has taught 11th Grade Science and Math with West Island College - Class Afloat (a school aboard a tall ship) and 7th Grade Math and Science at the American International School - Riyadh.

Most recently, she was the Learning Support Coordinator at Kyiv International School in Kyiv, Ukraine. Carina is originally from Nova Scotia, Canada, and is very happy to be living near the ocean again. In her free time, Carina loves spending time with her family, exploring our host country, traveling, swimming, running and yoga.