Meet Some of Crestwood’s Newest Staff Members

Barb Kirby, 4th grade

Ms. Kirby brings to her classroom a variety of experiences in teaching and in life. She grew up in a suburb of Milwaukee, earned her bachelors degree from the UW-Madison, and has a Masters degree in Education. Along the way, she obtained teaching licenses in Grades 1-8, English as a Second Language, and Art. She lived in California for 10 years where she taught at a private school and substitute-taught in San Francisco public schools. Additionally, she worked for the National Park Service as a Park Ranger! Ms. Kirby returned to Madison, where she taught at the middle school level for 6 years and then at Shorewood Elementary for 13 years in 4th-5th grades and ESL. In her free time, she loves to travel and continue learning the Spanish language. In recent years, she has spent time in Alaska, California, New York, Vermont, Cuba, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Colombia.

Lorimer Cushman, Librarian

Mr. Cushman uses his wide breadth of training to help Crestwood students make the most of their printed and digital opportunities. He grew up in southwestern WI, holds degrees in English (undergraduate) and Elementary Education (Masters), and has an ESL license. During the course of his career, he has taught multiple elementary grades in New York City, Chicago, and Madison.

When asked about the modern roles librarians play in elementary digital education, Mr. Cushman stated that by the time students leave Crestwood, they should be “Digital Citizens” and capable of using most of Google Suite proficiently. His goal is to take what students are working on, especially in 3rd-5th grade Science or Social Studies, and enhance that learning experience by having them create and share something using digital tools. In one example, his 2nd grade students created animated videos based on an insect they researched. As part of his new position, Mr. Cushman is also currently
enrolled in the Library Media Specialist distance program at UW-Whitewater. He notes that the first class focused on library portal usability, and he has enjoyed learning how to make Crestwood’s library portal user-friendly and accessible. Mr. Cushman currently resides in Monona with his wife and their two young daughters. He is a Cubs fan, and his hobbies include attending concerts, tennis, and golf.

Nobel Perez, Bilingual Resources

Ms. Perez uses her cosmopolitan upbringing and experience to assist bilingual students in their learning. She grew up in the Midwest and South America, and she earned her undergraduate degree from the UW-Madison. She has been part of the MMSD for 11 years, starting as a Spanish-English interpreter, then teaching in a 4th grade dual language immersion program before becoming our Bilingual Resource teacher. Eight years ago, Ms. Perez was an interpreter for Crestwood! While an interpreter works with families to communicate with teachers and the school, the Bilingual Resource teacher uses her teaching credentials to help children from different language backgrounds approach the material they learn in the classroom.

Currently, Ms. Perez splits her time between Crestwood and Muir Elementary. Her hobbies include hiking in the woods, reading about nature, traveling, and watching international movies.

Crestwood Community News

Crestwood Community Circle  
December 12, 2017, 6:30-8:00  
Crestwood LMC

****NEW DATE****

Behavior Education Implementation at Crestwood Elementary
Our school district has implemented a Behavior Education Plan that affects our kids.

Please join us for a discussion about why the district adopted the Behavior Education Plan, and how the plan is being implemented at Crestwood.

Special guest presenter Rudy Bankston, a Restorative Justice Coach in the Madison Metropolitan School District and partner with Crestwood’s Restorative Practices Leadership Team, will lead us through an interactive discussion of a national trend that exists in our community: the criminalization of students of color.

This interactive presentation will help the Crestwood Community explore the “why” behind the Behavior Education Plan and lead us into a conversation about how the Behavior Education Plan is being implemented at our school.

We hope you can join us and be a valuable voice in the important ongoing conversations about the Behavior Education Plan.
THANK YOU for helping make another Explore Art Night a success!

There were about 50 student exhibits, all of them unique and creative. There were nine class projects, a hands-on group project on the blue lockers (hallway between gyms), and our community birds project, all of which will be on display all throughout the school for the next little while, so be sure to check them out next time you're in the building. There were several hands-on demonstrations, and we are grateful to the artists who donated their time, skills, and in some cases materials so everyone who wanted to participate went home with some new knowledge and perhaps a button or copper necklace.

Special thanks are in order:

- to the many volunteers who helped the event run smoothly;
- to Mr. Basseuner, the art teacher for all of his creative involvement and coordination;
- to Principal Hanson for her support and help passing out exhibitor ribbons;
- to Dave, the custodian for being so friendly and helpful with set up and clean up.

One last thing: we found a watch on the sign-in table at the end of the night. If you're missing a watch, check with Cindy in the office.

Susan, Rebecca, Nikki, and the ABC

Crestwood Warm Clothing Drive

Nov. 17-30, 2017

We are looking for clean, gently used children's snow pants, coats, boots, hats, gloves, and mittens that we can add to our closet here at our school. Thanks!!!

Please drop off any donations in a bag anytime in our Main Office. Your donations will go to good use! Questions? Please call Abby Tejeda, social worker, at 204-1137
Upcoming Events

Holiday Bazaar: December 2

Vendors can still apply to be part of Crestwood’s Annual Holiday Bazaar on December 2. Contact Patricia Montero by Monday, November 20 to apply for this event or to get more info: montero324@hotmail.com.

And, let your friends and neighbors know they can come to Crestwood on December 2 to get their holiday shopping done while supporting local vendors, artists, and craftspeople!

Fall and Winter Dates at a Glance

Nov. 22-24 – Thanksgiving holiday - No school

Dec. 2 – Holiday Bazaar, 9:00am-3:00pm

Dec. 8 – No school

Dec. 12 – Crestwood Community Circle (CCC) meeting, LMC, 6:30-7:30pm

Dec. 22-Jan. 2 – Winter break - No school

January 3 – School resumes

January 9 – Crestwood Community Circle (CCC) meeting, LMC, 6:30-7:30pm

January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No school

January 19 – Early dismissal @ 11:35am (No school for 4K)
Opportunities to Get Involved

Volunteer Opportunity – Bridges Materials

We now have a regular volunteer opportunity to help support teachers and staff with the tasks associated with implementing Bridges at our school. The main tasks include copying, laminating, and preparing other classroom materials. No math or art skills required. Kids are welcome.

These work sessions are held every other Monday from 2:00-4:00 pm. The tasks vary from session to session based on teacher requests. You can sign up for the remaining work sessions before winter break at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054fa5ae29a7f85-bridges.

If you have any questions about this volunteer opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact Fern Knepp, fern.knepp@gmail.com, or Debbie Kennedy, dgoodfriendk@madison.k12.wi.us or 204-1128.

Wish List is a list from Crestwood staff of items they would like to make our children’s school days better. If you’d like to donate any of the following to our Crestwood community, it will be greatly appreciated!!

If you have items to donate, please either take them to the blue bin marked Wish List in the workroom, or send them to school with a note that they are for the Wish List.

Please check back in future Crickets to see if there’s anything you can donate towards Crestwood’s Wish List. Thank you!!

General List:
- Snacks – especially microwaveable popcorn, and Flavor Blasted Goldfish
- Gum - mint and bubblegum flavored
- Socks - boys all sizes, gently used or new (nursing staff have plenty of girls socks)
- Gently used girls’ pants, sizes 4-16
- Flexible seating

Class Specific:
- Ms. Ari - Disinfecting wipes
- Ms. Bretl – disinfecting wipes
- Mrs. Fuhrman – ipad chargers, used or new
- Ms. Miller – coffee filters, paper towels, napkins
- Mr. Moyer – old keys
- Ms. Rodriguez – paint brushes, round plastic white paint pallets, plastic cups, disinfecting wipes
News from the Office

When is School Closed for Weather?
Winter weather is here! MMSD’s top priority is the safety of students so guidelines are followed to make decisions about whether school will be open or closed.

MMSD tries to keep schools open
When schools close, many families have issues with child care. As a result, MMSD tries to keep schools open if it’s safe to do so. However, parents can always make the decision to keep their child(ren) at home in bad weather.

Review these frequently asked questions about district policies so you’ll know what to expect and how to find out when schools are closed.

5th Graders: Considering Spring Harbor?
Spring Harbor Middle School is an environmental studies magnet school located in the Memorial attendance area. Any student who lives in this attendance area is eligible to apply for Spring Harbor’s lottery. Enrollment priority will be given to students living in the former Spring Harbor Elementary School attendance area and to siblings of students currently attending Spring Harbor who will continue to attend as 7th or 8th graders next year. Fifty percent of the students will come from the Jefferson attendance area and the remaining 50% will come from the Toki attendance area. Each year 90 students are selected.

On January 17 at 6:00 pm, Principal Pam Waite and her staff will be hosting an open house for potential incoming 6th grade parents and students. In addition, a member of Spring Harbor staff will be visiting with our fifth grade students when school resumes after winter break. Anyone interested in attending Spring Harbor MUST submit an online application: https://springharbor.madison.k12.wi.us/apply.