Meet the 2021-22

JLS ADMIN TEAM

Chris Grierson
Principal

Chris is starting his 23rd year in public education and is looking forward to his third year as JLS Principal. Chris has served PAUSD since 2002. Before rejoining the JLS community, Chris was the Principal at Duveneck Elementary School for eight years. Before becoming a principal, Chris taught Video Production and Media Broadcast to JLS 7th and 8th graders; it was in this role that Chris first became familiar with JLS students and staff, and loved being known as a Panther. Chris has also been a 6th grade Math/Science teacher, and he spent many years as a teacher at the elementary level. Chris holds two Masters Degrees, one in Public Administration from Notre Dame de Namur University and another in Education from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Chris also received his B.A. in English from UCSB. Chris and his family live in Half Moon Bay, where Chris grew up. His daughter Alla will be starting 8th grade this year, and his son Soren will be in 6th Grade. When Chris isn’t at work, you might find him playing at the beach with his family, riding his bike, or cheering on Liverpool FC.

Hanisi Accetta
Assistant Principal
8th Grade

Hanisi is excited to be returning to JLS for her 3rd year and will be serving as Assistant Principal embarking on her 23rd year in education! Her background includes a rich array of teaching and administrative roles giving her experience in California, Oregon, Colorado, New York, and Ghana, West Africa. Hanisi has a Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Portland State University, and studied history as an undergraduate at UCSB and Western Oregon University. She has taught a wide variety of Social Studies, English, and Advanced Leadership courses at both the middle and high school levels. Hanisi also led teacher development think tanks in Helsinki, Finland and partnered in national school improvement initiatives with the University of Chicago. Hanisi grew up in Mill Valley and Encinitas, and is happy to be returning to sunny California after many rainy years in Portland, Oregon. When away from JLS, Hanisi loves spending time with her husband and two children running, biking, skiing, and backpacking in the beautiful outdoors.

Jeff Downing
Assistant Principal
7th Grade

Jeff is joining the JLS family for his 13th year in education after serving in Alum Rock, Newark, and Fremont Unified School Districts. He has taught in a variety of grade levels and subject areas at both the elementary and middle school levels. While a computer teacher, Jeff became a content presenter for Google Apps for Education (now GSuite) and was a consultant to Common Sense Education as they developed Digital Citizenship Curriculum. Jeff’s most recent experiences had him serving as an Elementary Assistant Principal and a Title 1 Specialist at the Middle School level where his focus was on equity work and developing systems for student success. He holds a Master’s Degree in Organizational Management and has an insatiable desire to continue to learn and try new things. When not at JLS, you will find him spending time with his family traveling, hiking, or simply enjoying a meal at a new restaurant.

Kim Lohse
Administrative TOSA
6th Grade

Kim is excited to start her first year as an Administrative Teacher on Special Assignment and her 28th year in education. For 15 of the last 16 years in Palo Alto Unified, she has taught English and Creative Writing, and has been an enthusiastic Connections teacher at JLS. Kim started teaching in special education and has taught in Hawaii and New York, in addition to California. She holds a B.A. in English, an M.F.A. in Poetry, a Master’s Certificate in Translation Theory, and is completing an M.S.Ed. in Teacher Leadership. Kim and her family live in Redwood City with a dog and several chickens. Her son, Erik, is starting first grade at Fairmeadow, and her daughter, Sarah, just graduated from Gunn and is starting her first year at Purdue University. Kim loves writing, gardening, cooking, traveling, and hiking with her family when she isn’t supporting the teachers, students, and families at JLS. Go Panthers!