

New Kinzie Staff 2017-18

Greetings Kinzie Families! My name is Elsa Diaz-Santiago and I am delighted to be part of this

amazing school! This is my 20th year as an educator in the Chicago Public Schools. Over the

course of my career, I have served students as a bilingual classroom teacher, administrator,

but more importantly, as an advocate for the rights of all students to a high-quality

education. I am passionate about language learning and the opportunities it affords to our

students in a global society. As our school's English Learner Program Teacher, I strive to

ensure that our students have the instructional supports needed to be successful

academically and linguistically. I look forward to meeting our students' families and,

together, watching our children grow into successful individuals!

Elsa Diaz-Santiago, English Learner Program Teacher

I have been a CPS educator for 18 years in a primary bilingual classroom. As I begin my 19th year as a World language Spanish teacher, I look forward to sharing my love for culture and language with Kinzie students. I am a daughter, wife and mother raised on the southwest side. My family loves to travel and I have a great passion for photography, history, and scrapbooking.

Candace Prado, K-8th World Language Spanish Teacher

My name is Brenna Robinson. I am from Omaha, Nebraska. I attended the University of Texas at Austin and majored in Deaf Education. After my studies at Texas, I moved to Chicago and began my second degree in American Sign Language Interpretation at Columbia College. I love spin classes, singing, traveling, anything chocolate, and decaf almond milk lattes!

Brenna Robinson, Interpreter

My name is Jennifer DiGiacomo. I am a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as well as a Learning and Behavior Specialist. I received my degrees from Illinois State University. Throughout my teaching experience, I have taught all ages in all settings. I taught in a residential behavior school for Deaf boys ages 10-21, an oral preschool program for the Deaf, a total-communication program for 1st-8th graders, and Orozco's Deaf and Hard of Hearing program in CPS. Most recently, as a full time teacher I worked at Ray Elementary in both their preschool Deaf program and middle school Deaf program before transferring to Curie High School's Deaf and Hard of Hearing program. All of these experiences have instilled my continuous love for teaching and learning and my passion to work with children who have unique needs. When I am not teaching, I enjoy traveling, cooking, spending time outside, trying new restaurants, doing yoga, reading, and binge watching my favorite shows!

Jennifer DiGiacomo, Teacher of the Deaf