



Welcome  
Back West  
Wolves!

Get to  
Know Your  
West  
Elementary  
Staff

# Principal Karen Newton

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Hello West Community!

I am excited to continue in the role of Principal of West Elementary this year. I have ten years of administrative leadership experience and I have been the Principal of West Elementary for four years now. This year, I am excited to be the Principal at both West and Midland Elementary. I am surrounded by a group of amazing educators at both schools. I believe strongly in working collaboratively and creating a climate of self and collective efficacy. I believe our highest priority is student learning, academic and social. At West we set high expectations for faculty, staff and students. We believe in personal accountability and feel we must all take responsibility to meet expectations. We have a truism that we recite in our morning announcements. "We are awesome at West because we always do our best!" I look forward to working with you in partnership to ensure in these "unprecedented times" that all our students continue to grow!

Karen Newton

# Assistant Principal Jarrod Torrez

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Hello West Community!

I am excited at the opportunity to serve as the assistant principal for West Elementary School. I have 18 years of experience in education as a teacher, coach, and administrator. With my knowledge of technology, I am ready to support all students and staff to ensure that effective education happens no matter where it occurs. My former coworkers and students would describe me as someone with high standards who likes to make learning fun. Any free time I have will be spent watching movies, trying out many of the amazing restaurants in the area, watching sports of any type, or playing golf with my wife and two sons. I am looking forward to getting to know the community and support all families!

Jarrod Torrez

# Dean of Students Ann Yenne

## Contact Information

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I have been a teacher in District 11 for 21 years, and this year I will be splitting my time between my 4th/5th grade class and Dean. I'm excited to try something new, but I will miss being in my classroom all day. I have a strong connection to the Westside community, and look forward to seeing everyone in person again.

I have two children of my own. My son teaches 5th grade in D11 and my daughter is a doctor of psychology in California. My free time is spent with my dogs and with friends playing pickleball and making music.



# Front Office Staff

## Tina Reeves and Andrea Tabarez-Halcomb

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I have worked at West for 3 years in the front office. I have lived in , Italy, Virginia, Texas and Colorado. I have 3 dogs who I love taking for walks every day.

I am Ms. Andrea and this is my first year at West...as a staff member. However, I am not new to West because I started as a parent many years ago when all 3 of my kids were students here! I truly feel at home at West and I cannot wait to meet everyone this school year!



Contact Information

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Email:

[andrea.tabarez@d11.org](mailto:andrea.tabarez@d11.org)

# School Nurse Christine Nicks



Contact Information

Phone: 719-328-4916

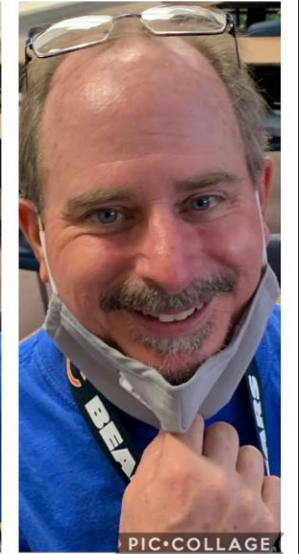
Email: [christine.nicks@d11.org](mailto:christine.nicks@d11.org)

# Social Worker and Counselor Mrs. Walker and Mr. Webb



I have been a Social Worker in D11 for 14 years, this is my 11th year at West! The best part of my job is spending time helping students and watching them grow. Sam and Josie, therapy dogs, love to give and get love from students and staff!

Hi everyone, I'm Mr. Webb and I am pretty new to West Elementary. This will be my third year here. However, I grew up here on the westside of Colorado Springs. I just love the westside!



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<https://cssd11.webex.com/meet/steven.webb>

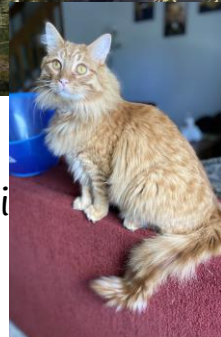
# Preschool Avery Schulzki and Carissa Condor



Hello! I am Miss. Avery I am the Preschool Teacher! This is my second-year teaching, and it has been an interesting first two years. I am so excited to be a part of the West Family. I love hiking, watching movies, eating Sushi, and have a fur child, Harvi! I come from a family of educators, both of my parents are teachers in the district,, and a fun fact, they taught at West Middle in the mid 1980'!



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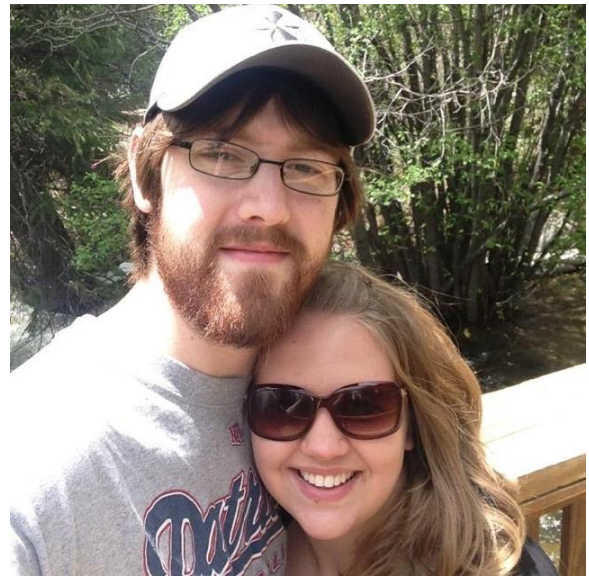




# Kindergarten/1st Grade Mrs. Ackerman

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Hello! I have been teaching for nine years including eight wonderful years at West and I have loved it! I enjoy my time being outside enjoying nature and my garden. My family has three dogs that keep us continually entertained. I also have a three-year-old daughter who attends preschool here at West.



# Kindergarten Mrs. Kindt and Mrs. Evans



Hi! I've been teaching for 20 years. This is my 8th year at West. I teach the morning half of kindergarten, which includes reading and writing. I have 3 children, and they all attended D11 schools from Kdg. - 12th grade. I love reading, hiking in the mountains, gardening, photography, and teaching

Kindergarten!

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Hello! I have been working for D11 since 2003 and my own children are 3rd generation West students. I teach the afternoon half of kindergarten, which focuses on math, science, and social studies. I love kindergarten and can't wait for our in-person year to begin!

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# 1st Grade Mrs. Bergland

## Contact Information

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# 2nd grade Ms. O'Brien

## Contact Information

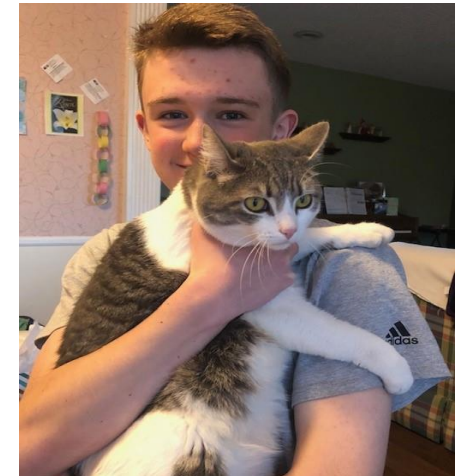
Phone: 719-328-4949

Email: keegan.obrien@d11.org

WebEx Personal Room:

<https://cssd11.webex.com/meet/keegan.obrien>

This is my third year here at West and my 22nd year teaching overall. I earned my bachelors degree in Biology and Music from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota and my Master's degree in Elementary Education from Colorado College. I have two children of my own who are both in high school. We have also have a dog, two cats, and two parakeets who are quite loveable and hilarious. I am excited for a great year with my 2nd graders!





I'm entering my 5th year at West and have taught for 22 years. I love camping, hiking, reading, and spending time working on my home.



I have a fur baby, Ella who goes pretty much everywhere with me. If she could, she'd be at school with me too!

## 2nd/3rd grade Ms. Moin

Contact Information

Phone: 719-328-4952

Email: [elisabeth.moin@d11.org](mailto:elisabeth.moin@d11.org)

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I have taught 2nd and 3rd grades the majority of my teaching years. I love to laugh and make learning fun. My students will also say I challenge them to give their best! One of my favorite things about teaching is building relationships with students and parents.

# 3rd grade Mrs. Kelly

## Contact Information

Phone: 719-328-4950

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Hello There!

I hail from San Francisco, California, having attended school there through 12th grade. I then received my BA in Liberal Studies at San Jose State University in San Jose, California. I lived and worked in Stockton, California, as an elementary school teacher. Then, my husband and I moved to Virginia Beach, Virginia. There we lived for 17 years, and I received my MA in education from Regent University, so I've taught in both California and Virginia prior to moving to Colorado Springs. I have taught for nearly 16 years, including appointments to District 20 and District 49. I was also a reading interventionist for 7 years with District 11. Currently, I'm blessed to be part of the West staff and third grade team.

My husband is a college professor, my daughter graduated with her degree in psychology, and my son is currently pursuing his doctorate. I have an LA rescue dog named Scout the Wonder Dog and a way-too-old cat named Bianca.

In my free time, I enjoy reading mystery novels and attending Space Foundation workshops since I am also a teacher liaison for the foundation.



# 3rd/4th/5th grade Eagles Ms. Beaudreau

## Contact Information

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I am so excited about this year. The West Eagles Program is always up for a challenge filled with plenty of problems to solve and journeys to take. This year is full of project possibilities. We love to balance the joy of learning with leadership opportunities.

In District 11 I have worked 22 years as both a classroom teacher and a teacher coach. Before teaching in D-11, I spent 6 years teaching in both New Mexico and Texas.



# 4th grade Ms. Taylor

Contact Information

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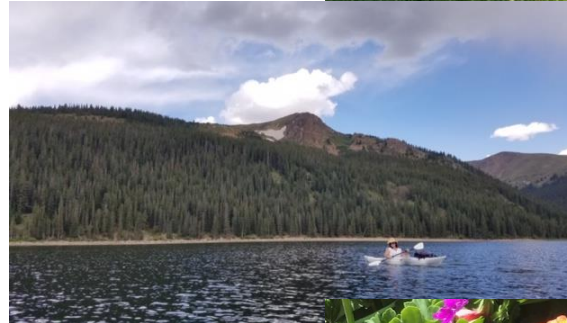
WebEx Personal Room:

<https://cssd11.webex.com/meet/rachel.taylor>

Hello, West families-

I am happy to be working at West Elementary for my 9th year!

I have lived in Colorado Springs for a really long time. I have two pretty cool sons, and two amazing grandsons. I like spending time in my garden, and paddling my new kayak.





# 4th/5th grade Ms. Haag and Ms. Yenne

For more info about our class: [Open House](#)

zi

What an interesting year this is going to be! I'm Ms. Haag, and I am eager to meet you all in person. This is my first year at West. I love running, camping, and looking at bugs!



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I'm excited to be teaching in the mornings with my 5th graders who were in my room last year as 4th graders and many new faces. I can't wait to see you all in person again!

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# 5th grade Mrs. Elliott

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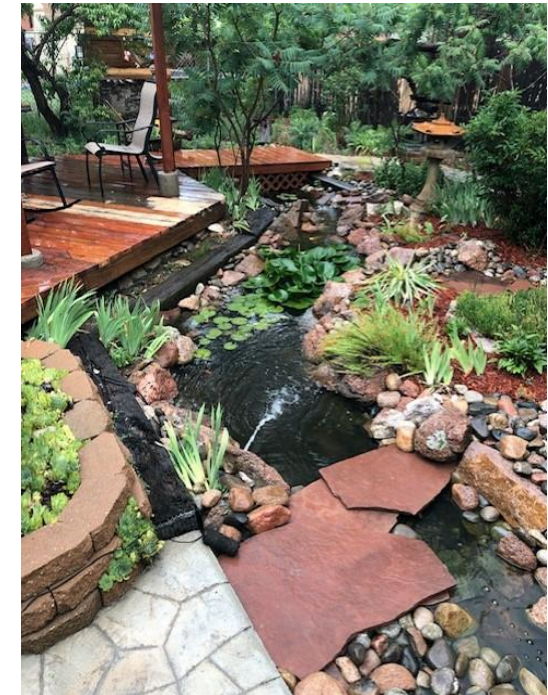
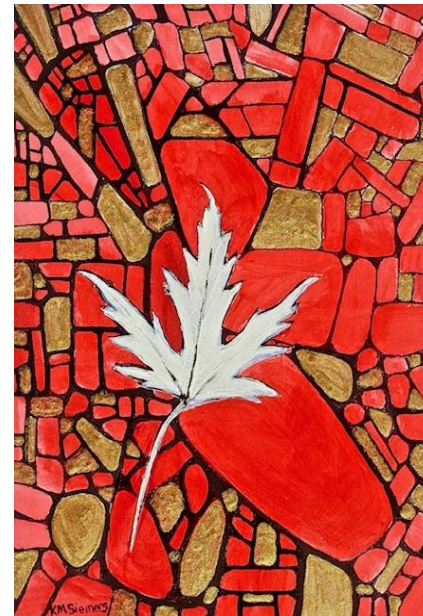
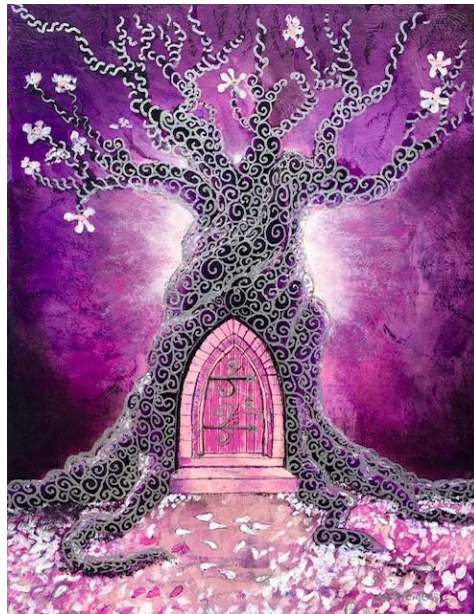
## Most important to me:



# Art Mr. Siemers

Contact Information  
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Hello! This is my 19th year teaching elementary art with D11. I have also been at West for over a decade. When I'm not in my garden relaxing next to my goldfish pond, I can be found making art. I studied drawing, painting, and sculpture at both Kansas State University and the Norwich School of Art & Design in the United Kingdom. It is my pleasure to work with your children to develop their skills at making visual art!



# Music Mrs. Walker

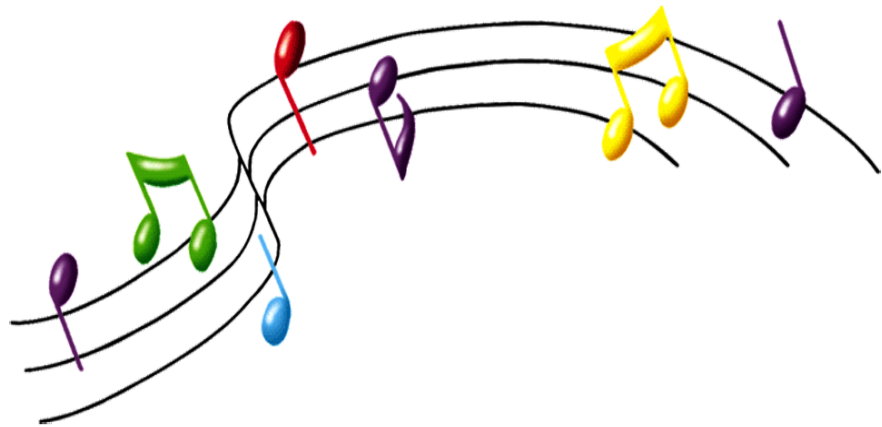
## Contact Information

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I am starting my 22nd year as a music teacher and my 5th year here at West. I have a wonderful husband and a 12-year-old stepson.

I love to play flute, marimba, and piano. In my spare time, I like to read and hand embroider/hand quilt crib size baby quilts for friends and family.

# Physical Education Mr. Jergensen

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Email: [justin.jergensen@d11.org](mailto:justin.jergensen@d11.org)

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Hello West Wolves Families! This is the start of my 7th year in education. I have spent all 7 years here at West Elementary. I love everything there is about the Westside, Westside families and this unbelievable culture. My family grew up in this community, at one point owning Meadow Muffins and the old building in Old Colorado City. I grew up going the Boys and Girls Club that most of our students go to before and after school.

I am so excited to continue to bring the culture of sport and exercise to our families here at West. GO WOLVES!!

# Band & Orchestra Mrs. Kennedy

Contact Information

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4th & 5th Graders can join  
Band & Orchestra!

**BECOME A  
MUSICIAN!**



Contact Mrs. Kennedy  
for information.

# ELL Mrs. Baldwin

## Contact Information

Phone: 719-328-4962

Email: [christine.baldwin@d11.org](mailto:christine.baldwin@d11.org)

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Hello, there! My name is Christine Baldwin, and this is my 3rd year as the ELL teacher and a Literacy Interventionist at West. My husband was in the military for 30 years, and we have 3 grown children. I have been in education for 30 years and have been able to teach in several states and a few foreign countries. I love to travel and meet new people, read good books, get away to the mountains, and spend time with my family. I feel so lucky to get to spend my days with the amazing students and staff here at West!



My Family



Teaching in Guatemala



# LTE Ms. Smee and DST Lee Kortrey



**Keep Kids  
Coding!**



Contact Information

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PIC-COLLAGE



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PIC-COLLAGE

This is my 22nd year working for District 11, I started right after moving to Colorado Springs in 1999. During the time I've been in D11 I've worked as a Library Technology Technician at Rudy Elementary, then as a Library Technology Educator at Washington Elementary and, since 2009, at West Campus. I love this old building and the students that attend school here. I hope to work at West for many years to come. If you have any technology issues while remote learning do not hesitate to call 329-4924.

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**Special Education  
Mrs. Walczak  
&  
Mrs. Muehlbauer**

**KINDNESS**

IS A LANGUAGE  
THAT THE  
DEAF CAN HEAR  
AND THE BLIND  
CAN SEE.

- MARK TWAIN



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This is my 10th year teaching special education, my second year at West. Being a military family, I've also taught in Kansas and North Carolina. I have two beautiful girls and a new puppy! I love spending time outside hiking, going for walks, and enjoying nature. Remote learning has come as a new challenging hike, but I'm very excited to see what I can learn and how it can benefit my students!

# Special Education Assistants

## Miss DyAnn, Miss Sara, Mr. Jacob



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This will be my 20th year working in Special Education. I always get excited seeing ALL the new and returning students! I am originally from Iowa however; I have been in Colorado 40 years now.

Looking forward to making this year fun!



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[jacob.foreman@d11.org](mailto:jacob.foreman@d11.org)  
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# TLC Mrs. Crook

Hi! I am the Teaching and Learning Coach. I have been teaching for 26 years. I have only been at West Elementary for a couple of years but I have been a part of District 11 for 24 years. I have taught many grades but have a particular love for the primary grades.

I have many roles in my position. I work closely with Ms. Newton to ensure that West students are getting the very best! I work with teachers to look at student data to inform instruction, provide resources and information to help them deliver the best instruction and I also coordinate interventions for students.

At home, I am a mom of 2. I have a daughter who started college this year and a son who attends Doherty HS. These two keep my husband and I very busy. We also have the best rescue dogs and 2 crazy cats.

## Contact Information

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# Interventionists/Read180

Ms. Shargel, Ms. Green, and Ms. Kostanian



## Contact Information

Phone: 719-328-4959

Email: [anne.shargel@d11.org](mailto:anne.shargel@d11.org)

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I am starting my 22nd year of teaching in D11. I have taught 2nd-5th grades and GT. This is my 2nd year of being a reading interventionist. It is very rewarding to watch students become life-long readers.

I am starting my 5th year teaching reading intervention at West. Prior to that, I taught Kindergarten for 5 years. I enjoy going camping and spending time with my family and dogs.

## Contact Information

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WebEx Personal Rooms:

<https://cssd11.webex.com/meet/amanda.green>

<https://cssd11.webex.com/meet/margarita.kostanian>



# Speech Mrs. Ducote



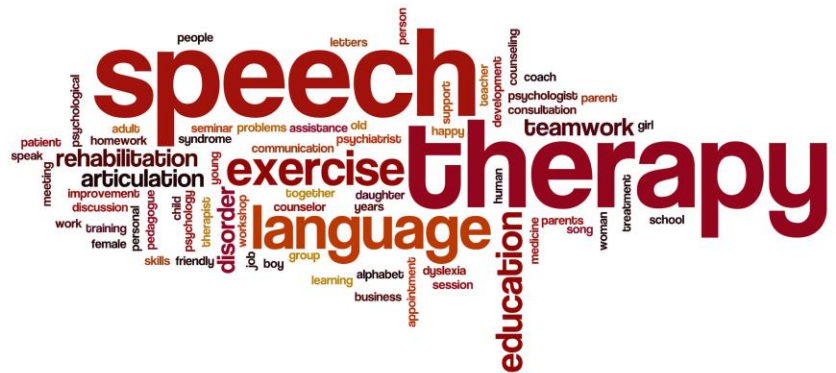
Contact Information

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Email: [katherine.ducote@d11.org](mailto:katherine.ducote@d11.org)

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<https://cssd11.webex.com/meet/katherine.ducote>



Hello! I am the speech therapist here at West, and the kids know me as Miss Kathy. I have been practicing speech pathology for 24 years in both inpatient and outpatient rehab, public schools, home health, and early intervention. This is my second year working part time for D11 at West Elementary.

# GT Tanya Ehlinger

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# Community Liaison Melody Collins-Bass

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Email: melody.collins-bass@d11.org



[Click to add text](#)

Hi West Campus Families,

This is my 19th year with D11 Schools and 11th here at West. Prior to moving to Colorado 22 years ago, I was a bit of a global nomad. Growing up in a military family and then working for the Army as an adult I have had the opportunity to live and travel all over the US and Europe. However, I am happy to say I have found my forever home here in Colorado Springs. The Westside is especially near and dear to my heart.

I am the proud mom, step-mom and step-grandmother to 4 daughters and 13 step-grandkids.

I also share the privilege with my husband to be the "human" parents to 2 dog fur babies.

As the Community Liaison for both the Elementary and Middle School I network with many churches, community agencies and organizations to help provide resources and services for our West Campus staff, students and families. If I can be of assistance please don't hesitate to give me a call, send me an e-mail or stop by my office. I would love the opportunity to get to know you.

# Food Services Robin Valdes

## Contact Information

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Email: [robin.valdes@d11.org](mailto:robin.valdes@d11.org)





Watch us  
grow!

