ROLAND HAYES SCHOOL
New Staff Introductions
School Year 2025-2026

Each year we welcome new staff to our school and this year is no different. While we miss those educators who have moved on to retirement or new professional challenges, we are excited to introduce our new colleagues!

Below you'll find a micro-biography written by each of our new staff. When hiring for new team members, a process we take very seriously, we take our time to find just-right practitioners to join our team. We are confident that this new crop of professionals will add tremendous value to our collective work and vision.

Please reach out to these folks! They'd love to hear from you, hear about your children, and learn more about Heath from your perspective. Each can be reached via email using the following formula: firstname_lastname@psbma.org

This year, we welcome:

Paige Roberts, RISE Teacher
Hello everyone! My name is Paige Roberts, and I'm so excited to be joining the Roland Hayes team as the new RISE Special Education teacher. I recently earned my Master's in Special Education, focusing on Severe Disabilities, from Endicott College. I've worked in the Special Education department for almost four years in a variety of roles. I am extremely passionate about partnering with teachers, families, and students to create inclusive, supportive, and engaging learning environments where every student can thrive. Outside of school, I love challenging myself in Spartan races, exploring the outdoors, cooking new recipes, and getting lost in a good book. I'm really looking forward to being part of this amazing community and building strong connections with students, families, and colleagues alike!

Deborah Azarzar, English-Language Learners (EL) Teacher

Hello, Hayes community! I am thrilled to join you as a K-8 EL teacher this year. Coming to Hayes completes a professional circle for me in the Public Schools of Brookline, as it is where I worked as a student teacher during my undergraduate training at Wheelock College back in 2001. I taught fourth grade at Lawrence School for ten years, third grade for two, and most recently joined the EL staff at Lawrence as an intern while completing a TESOL program at Bridgewater State University. At our home in Brighton, my husband and I spent this summer wading through a vast sea of Magna-tiles maintained by our two daughters, ages seven and three, and training our five month old Cavapoo puppy, who jumps about and is incredibly fluffy. I look forward to meeting, learning, and growing with you this coming year!

Christina Butler, PE Teacher
My name is Christina Butler and I'm so looking forward to joining the Wellness Department at Hayes this year! For the past three years I've been teaching at Brookline High School, where I focus on helping students develop strong fitness habits, teamwork, and sportsmanship. This year, I look forward to encouraging younger students to stay active, build confidence, and discover the joy of movement in a fun and supportive environment. As a mother of four (including a 4th grader!), strength coach and Athletic Trainer I hope to bring all of this knowledge and practical experience to 4th grade PE at Hayes. When I can find spare time I enjoy walking my dog in the woods, lifting weights, listening to podcasts, and reading. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and a great school year.

Megan Cassidy, Northeastern University Cooperative Student
Hello! My name is Meg Cassidy and I'm very excited to be the Northeastern University Cooperative student at Roland Hayes this upcoming fall semester. I have worked for the last few years at my local community

center, as an assistant teacher, summer camp counselor and organizer of afterschool activities. My last cooperative position was at the Museum of Fine Arts, in the Community Arts department, which combined my two favorite things: community and the arts! The thing I love most in the world is writing, and sharing this love of writing with others. I can't wait to meet all of you, and to become a part of this passionate and welcoming learning community!

Anjali Lappin, METCO Adjustment Counselor
Hello! My name is Anjali Lappin. I am one of the METCO Adjustment Counselors within the Public Schools of Brookline, entering my 5th year in the district. I am also working in 3 other elementary schools this year in the district as well as Hayes. I earned my undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education from Lesley University and completed a dual Master's Degree major in School Adjustment Counseling/School Social Worker and Mental Health Counseling from Cambridge College. I have always known I wanted to work with children, and the counseling setting proved to be a perfect fit for me. I have felt very rewarded helping children through all the ups and downs of their growing up journey, and I look forward to continuing that passion this year. Outside of my work life, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, playing my instruments, and traveling as much as I can.

Matt Picard, 7/8 ELA Teacher
While certainly not new to our school, Mr. Picard takes on a new role this year as our new 7th and 8th grade ELA teacher. We are thrilled to have him in this vital teaching position and are excited for our middle school students to have the opportunity to learn from Mr. Picard.

Morgan Waite, 7/8 Special Education Teacher
Ms. Waite has done well here at Hayes for the past two years, serving as a long-term substitute teacher while a staff member has been on an extended maternity leave. We have now been able to hire Ms. Waite onto the team permanently and fully expect students to continue to thrive under her care this year and in years ahead.