

Christy Dillon

Assistant Head of School
Crystal Springs Uplands School
Hillsborough, CA



Christy Dillon has been at Crystal Springs Uplands School for 29 years and has worn a variety of hats, including Head of the World Languages Department, College Counselor, Head of the Upper School, and for the past six years, Assistant Head of School. In her current role, she oversees the school's 6-12 curriculum, is responsible for hiring and teacher supervision, teaches one section of French or Spanish, and is an Upper school advisor.

Prior to coming to Crystal, Christy taught French at Sewickley Academy a co-ed independent school outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and spent a year teaching English language at a boarding school in Normandy, France. She has also taught in the public schools.

Christy earned her B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh where she tripled majored in French, Spanish, and Education. She is also certified to teach in the state. She also holds a M.A. in French from Middlebury College in Vermont with a focus on culture, language and literature.

In her free time, Christy enjoys traveling, films, and spending time with her family.

Eileen Doyle

Former Head of School
St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School
Thousand Oaks, CA



Eileen Doyle served as Head of School at St. Patrick's from 2005 to 2011. Previously she had served as Head of The Family School in Los Olivos from 2003-2005. Prior to these headships, Eileen spent twenty-two years as a teacher and then administrator at St. Matthew's Parish School in Pacific Palisades.

A native of New York, Eileen earned a BA in French from Marquette University and then an MA in French from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Once in California, Eileen earned her teaching credential at Pepperdine and an M.A. in Educational Leadership from LMU.

Still active in educational activities, Eileen serves on the Commission on Schools for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, as a docent for school tours at the Huntington Library, and as a Senior Recruiting Advisor for CalWest. When not involved in activities related to education, Eileen enjoys reading, the theater, travel, and running.

Eileen and her husband John have two adult children. Daughter Kara is an English professor at Union College and son John is a business consultant on the west coast. Identical twin grandsons, Colin and Thomas, also provide much joy and activity for Eileen and her family.

Jennifer Foley Tolbert

Head of School
Saint Mark's School
Altadena, CA



SAINT MARK'S SCHOOL

Jenn Foley Tolbert is in her first year as Head of School at Saint Mark's. For the past seven years, Jenn served as the Middle School Director at Polytechnic School in Pasadena, CA.

Prior to that, she was the Associate Director of Admissions at Campbell Hall School in North Hollywood, CA and Director of Diversity and Middle School Director at the Gordon School in East Providence, RI. Jenn taught English and social studies for nine years before moving into administration.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from St. Michael's College and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Columbia University, Teachers College.

In her free time, Jenn enjoys being with her family of six children and her husband. Jenn also enjoys gardening, cooking, playing basketball, eating ice cream, and listening to jazz music.

Kevin Newman

Assistant Head of School for Strategic Partnerships
Windward School
Los Angeles, CA



Kevin Newman is in his sixth year at Windward School. Before finding himself in his current position, he spent his first two years at Windward as the Associate Director of the Upper School assisting in areas as diverse as admissions, student mentoring, college counseling, and the development of curriculum.

Kevin earned an M.B.A. from UCLA in 2001 and an Educational Doctorate Degree from UCLA in 2004 with a focus on supporting diversity in independent schools and creating a sense of belonging for students, families, faculty, and staff.

Having worked in a variety of educational settings over the last twenty years, the constant has been Kevin's dedication to and close connection with his students and their families.

On a personal note, Kevin is the proud father of two children, Alina (10) and Kole (13), whom he readily describes as amazing.

Melinda Tsapatsaris

Assistant Head of School
Wildwood School
Los Angeles, CA



Melinda Tsapatsaris is in her sixth year as assistant head of school at Wildwood School. In her role, Melinda oversees yearly program task forces, collaborates with the head and board leaders to implement major strategic initiatives, and serves as the main liaison with Wildwood's parent association.

Before becoming assistant head of school, Melinda served as the director of upper school for four years after having taught humanities and literature at the middle and upper school level for four years. Before coming to Wildwood as a founding faculty member, Melinda worked in public schools, teaching high school English.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education from Ohio University and her Masters Degree in Teaching from Brown University.

Melinda is a board member at Westland School as well as the Center for Reflective Communities. She is the mother of Dot, age 6; Theodore, age 3; and Ephy, age 10 months.

Patty García Word

Assistant Head of School
The Oaks School
Hollywood, CA



Patty García Word is entering her sixth year as Assistant Head of School at The Oaks, a progressive, independent K-6 school. At The Oaks, Patty oversees the planning and development of curriculum, teacher professional development and evaluation, student admissions and retention, and middle school placement.

Before coming to The Oaks, Patty was the Director of Counseling at Bishop Alemany High School. With over 20 years in education, Patty has a range of experiences such as teaching Spanish and other high school courses, serving as Foreign Language Department Chair, and providing college readiness counseling and coordinating outreach programs as a College Counselor.

Patty has a deep commitment to multiculturalism and diversity and began her career in educational equity programs like Upward Bound and the Educational Opportunity Program.

She holds a Masters in Education from Stanford University and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Public Policy Analysis from Pomona College.

Patty and her husband, Jerry, are the proud parents of two sons Joaquín (10) and Teo (13).

Peter Reinke

Assistant Head of School
The Buckley School
Sherman Oaks, CA



Peter Reinke leads faculty recruitment, development and retention and oversees the K-12 academic program. He also teaches Advanced Placement Government and has designed courses on the legal system and the antebellum South.

Prior to coming to Buckley, Peter spent seventeen years as a teacher and leader at the Head-Royce School, the oldest K-12 preparatory school in the western United States. At Head-Royce, Peter chaired the History Department and was co-director of Heads Up, a partnership with the Oakland Unified School District that works with urban youth.

Peter has extensive experience in public policy relating to education; he served as an assistant to United States Senator John Chafee, working on education and other children's issues, and later served as a public commissioner of California's teacher retirement system, the second largest public pension fund in the nation. Peter is also a co-founder and past treasurer of the Vincent Academy, a K-5 public charter school in west Oakland and was a founding board member of United States Senator Jim Jeffords' literacy foundation.

He currently serves on the Southern California Advisory Council for the Bay Area Teachers Collaborative.