

# Divine Savior Academy

*A Christian Academy Dedicated to Excellence*



Staff Directory  
2017-2018

# DIVINE SAVIOR MINISTRIES



**Pastor Carl Leyrer, M. Div., Ph.M.** Founding Pastor of Divine Savior Ministries  
Senior Pastor, Divine Savior Church

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**Ext:** 2115

**Email:** [carl.leyrer@divinesaviorchurch.com](mailto:carl.leyrer@divinesaviorchurch.com)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Divinity: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Master of Philosophy and Letters: Universidad Interamericana, Saltillo, Mexico

**Experience**

44 years in administration and pastoral ministry, founding pastor of Divine Savior



**Pastor Carlos Leyrer, MBA, M.Div.** President, Divine Savior Ministries

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**Ext:** 2114

**Email:** [carlos.leyrer@divinesaviorministries.org](mailto:carlos.leyrer@divinesaviorministries.org)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Arts: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Business Administration: Florida International University

Master of Divinity: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

**Experience**

11 years in administration and pastoral ministry at Divine Savior



**Tim Biesterfeld, MSIE** Head of Schools, Divine Savior Ministries  
Elementary & Middle School Principal

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**Ext:** 1120

**Email:** [tim.biesterfeld@divinesaviorministries.org](mailto:tim.biesterfeld@divinesaviorministries.org)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Intercultural and International Education: Florida International University

Pursuing Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership: Florida Atlantic University

**Experience**

15 years in teaching and administration, 9 years at Divine Savior



**Dana Kirchoff**, Vice President, Divine Savior Ministries

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**Ext:** 4116

**Email:** [dana.kirchoff@divinesaviorministries.org](mailto:dana.kirchoff@divinesaviorministries.org)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Writers Extension Program: University of California, Los Angeles

**Experience**

11 years in marketing and communications, 5 years at Divine Savior



**Ileana Ortiz**, Business Manager, Divine Savior Ministries

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**Email:** [ileana.ortiz@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:ileana.ortiz@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degrees**

Interior Design Degree: Universidad Autonoma del Caribe

Industrial Engineering 2-year Degree: Universidad Technologica

**Experience**

16 years in private industry, 8 years at Divine Savior

# DIVINE SAVIOR CHURCH



**Pastor Carl Leyrer, M. Div., Ph.M.** Founding Pastor of Divine Savior Ministries  
Senior Pastor, Divine Savior Church

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**Degrees**

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Divinity: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Master of Philosophy and Letters: Universidad Interamericana, Saltillo, Mexico

**Experience**

44 years in administration and pastoral ministry, founding pastor of Divine Savior



**Pastor Steve Mueller, M. Div.** Associate Pastor, Divine Savior Church

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**Ext:** 4107

**Email:** [steve.mueller@divinesaviorchurch.com](mailto:steve.mueller@divinesaviorchurch.com)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Arts: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Divinity: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

**Experience**

19 years in pastoral ministry, 5 years at Divine Savior



**Becky Mueller**, Staff Minister, Divine Savior Church

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**Ext:** 2118

**Email:** [becky.mueller@divinesaviorchurch.com](mailto:becky.mueller@divinesaviorchurch.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

7 years in teaching, 14 years in independent business, first year at Divine Savior

# DIVINE SAVIOR ADMINISTRATION



## **Ben Troge, M.Ed.** High School Principal

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**Ext:** 4108

**Email:** [ben.troge@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:ben.troge@divinesavioracademy.com)

### **Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Education: Belhaven University, Minnesota

Pursuing Doctorate of Education in Educational Administration: Concordia University, Oregon

### **Experience**

16 years in administration and teaching, 10 years at Divine Savior



## **John Althoff, M.Ed., Ed.D.** High School Dean of Students

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**Ext:** 4103

**Email:** [john.althoff@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:john.althoff@divinesavioracademy.com)

### **Degrees**

Bachelor of Business Education with Computer Science Minor: Ferris State University, Michigan

Master of Science in Educational Leadership: Ferris State University, Michigan

Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Florida International University

### **Experience**

12 years in administration and teaching, 11 years at Divine Savior



## **Tim Biesterfeld, MSIE** Head of Schools, Divine Savior Ministries Elementary & Middle School Principal

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**Ext:** 1120

**Email:** [tim.biesterfeld@divinesaviorministries.org](mailto:tim.biesterfeld@divinesaviorministries.org)

### **Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Intercultural and International Education: Florida International University

Pursuing Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership: Florida Atlantic University

### **Experience**

15 years in teaching and administration, 9 years at Divine Savior



## **Ryan Loberger**, Elementary & Middle School Vice Principal, 6th Grade English

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**Ext:** 1119

**Email:** [ryan.loberger@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:ryan.loberger@divinesavioracademy.com)

### **Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Pursuing Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Concordia University, Oregon

### **Experience**

7 years in teaching, 6 years at Divine Savior



## **Amy Arguello, M.Ed.** Elementary & Middle School Dean of Students, Director of School Music

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**Ext:** 1118

**Email:** [amy.arguello@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:amy.arguello@divinesavioracademy.com)

### **Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Science in Education: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse

### **Experience**

15 years in teaching and administration, 9 years at Divine Savior



**Shawna Mehlberg, M.A.Ed.** Early Childhood Director, PreK-4 Teacher

**Ext:** 4106

**Email:** [shawna.mehlberg@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:shawna.mehlberg@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education, Early Childhood and Elementary Education Majors:  
Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Education in Early Childhood Education: Concordia University, Minnesota

**Experience**

9 years in administration and teaching at Divine Savior



**Ryan Kirchoff, M.Ed.** Director of Curriculum and Instruction,  
High School English Chair, Director of Golf Operations

**Ext:** 4211

**Email:** [ryan.kirchoff@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:ryan.kirchoff@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education, Secondary English Certification: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Concordia University, Oregon

**Experience**

15 years in teaching, 5 years at Divine Savior

## ADMISSIONS DEPARTMENT



**Juanita Wells**, Director of Admissions

**Ext:** 4112

**Email:** [juanita.wells@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:juanita.wells@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education and Family Development:

Universidad Santo Tomas de Aquino, Colombia

Graduate Studies in Special Education and Psychology: Universidad San Buenaventura, Colombia  
and Florida International University

Kumon Certification

**Experience**

36 years in administration and teaching, 10 years at Divine Savior



**Erika Biesterfeld**, International Program Coordinator,  
Director of Girls Basketball Operations

**Ext:** 4110

**Email:** [erika.biesterfeld@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:erika.biesterfeld@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, Minor in Social Sciences: Wisconsin Lutheran College

Pursuing Master in Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages:

Concordia University, Nebraska

**Experience**

5 years in teaching at Divine Savior

# ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT



**Dan Unke, MCAA** Director of Middle & High School Athletics,  
High School Physical Education Chair, Director of Boys Basketball Operations

**Ext:** 4152

**Email:** dan.unke@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Coaching and Athletic Administration: Concordia University, California

**Experience**

12 years in administration, coaching, and teaching, 8 years at Divine Savior



**Jon Romsdahl, MSIDT** Director of Elementary & Middle School Athletics,  
Middle School English Chair

**Ext:** 1302

**Email:** jon.romsdahl@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology: California State University, Fullerton

**Experience**

16 years in teaching, administration, and coaching, 10 years at Divine Savior



**Anthony Salvaggio, MS, LAT, ATC, CSCS, EMT-B** Athletic Trainer

**Ext:** 4248

**Email:** athletic.trainer@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor in Health Science: Florida International University

Master in Science, Athletic Training Education Program: Florida International University

Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist

Emergency Medical Technician, Florida Licensed

**Experience**

5 years as certified athletic trainer, 3 years at Divine Savior



# BUSINESS DEPARTMENT



**Ileana Ortiz**, Business Manager, Divine Savior Ministries

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**Ext:** 2112

**Email:** ileana.ortiz@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Interior Design Degree: Universidad Autonoma del Caribe

Industrial Engineering 2-year Degree: Universidad Technologica

**Experience**

16 years in private industry, 8 years at Divine Savior



**Marisol Andrade, MBA** Business Operations Coordinator

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**Ext:** 4105

**Email:** marisol.andrade@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Arts in Business Studies: Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK

Master in Business Administration: Gloucestershire University, UK

**Experience**

1 year at Divine Savior



**Vanessa Arias**, Business Office Administrative Assistant

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**Ext:** 2100

**Email:** vanessa.arias@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs, Universidad Santa Maria, Caracas, Venezuela

**Experience**

4 years of experience in sales, event planning, customer service and staff management, first year at Divine Savior



**Christy Aguirre**, Elementary & Middle School Administrative Assistant

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**Ext:** 1100

**Email:** christy.aguirre@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Associate of Arts in Exceptional Student Education: Miami Dade College

**Experience**

12 years in education, 3 years at Divine Savior



**Gladys Mata**, High School Administrative Assistant

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**Ext:** 4100

**Email:** gladys.mata@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Certification: Early Childhood through the Early Learning Coalition

**Experience**

18 years in education, 2 years at Divine Savior

# COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



**Staci Landwehr**, Communications Coordinator

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**Ext:** 4111

**Email:** [staci.landwehr@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:staci.landwehr@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education, English Concentrate: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

7 years in teaching and as school librarian, 1 year at Divine Savior



**Stephanny Martinez**, Director of Art and Design

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**Ext:** 4115

**Email:** [stephanny.martinez@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:stephanny.martinez@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design: Miami International University of Art and Design, Florida

**Experience**

4 years in tutoring, 2 years as a graphic designer at Divine Savior



**Danielle Weber, MALI** Public Relations Coordinator

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**Ext:** 4114

**Email:** [danielle.weber@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:danielle.weber@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Arts in Leadership and Innovation: Wisconsin Lutheran College

**Experience**

7 years in administration and teaching, first year at Divine Savior





# COUNSELING DEPARTMENT



**Monica Sanchez, LMHC** School Counselor

**Ext:** 1146

**Email:** monica.sanchez@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Psychology: Liberty University, Virginia  
Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling and Marriage & Family Therapy:  
Palm Beach Atlantic University, Florida  
Licensed Mental Health Counselor: State of Florida

**Experience**

9 years in counseling, 4 years at Divine Savior



**Sarah Jimenez,** Director of College Counseling

**Ext:** 4118

**Email:** sarah.jimenez@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science: New York University  
National Association for College Admissions Counseling  
Florida School Counselors Association

**Experience**

14 years in counseling and teaching, 8 years at Divine Savior



**Tom Welch, MSE, MEDCI** Director of College Counseling

**Ext:** 4117

**Email:** tom.welch@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota  
Master of Arts in K-12 Curriculum and Instruction: Eastern Michigan University  
Master of Science in Education, Counseling: University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh  
Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC) & Nationally Certified School Counselor (NCSC)

**Experience**

31 years in counseling, administration, and teaching, 5 years at Divine Savior

# FACILITIES DEPARTMENT



**Jairo Salcedo,** Head of Maintenance

**Email:** jairo.salcedo@divinesavioracademy.com

**Experience**

2 years at Divine Savior



## **Ana Gomez, M.Ed.** Director of Exceptional Student Education

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**Ext:** 1215

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### **Degrees**

Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting: St. Thomas University, Florida  
Master of Education in Educational Leadership: Grand Canyon University, Arizona  
National Institute for Learning Development Certified Educational Therapist  
Florida Association of Christian Colleges Certification

### **Experience**

12 years in teaching, 2 years at Divine Savior



## **Julia Leyrer**, Exceptional Student Education Teacher

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**Ext:** 1215

**Email:** [julia.leyrer@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:julia.leyrer@divinesavioracademy.com)

### **Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota  
NILD Search and Teach Certification

### **Experience**

11 years in teaching at Divine Savior



## **Yamirely Saad**, Exceptional Student Education Teacher

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**Email:** [yamirely.saad@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:yamirely.saad@divinesavioracademy.com)

### **Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Trinity International University, Florida

### **Experience**

12 years in teaching, first year at Divine Savior



## **Khadija Tafari, M.S.Ed.** Educational Support Teacher

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**Ext:** 4203

**Email:** [khadija.tafari@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:khadija.tafari@divinesavioracademy.com)

### **Degrees**

Bachelors of Science in Sociology & Psychology: Florida State University  
Masters of Science in Curriculum & Instruction, Specialization in Special Education Studies:  
Florida State University

### **Experience**

4 years in teaching, first year at Divine Savior

# FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT



**Gabriela Vargas, M.S.Ed.** Director of World Languages Program

**Ext:** 1305

**Email:** gabriela.vargas@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Psychology: Catholic University Andres Bello  
Master of Science in Foreign Language Education: Florida International University  
TESOL Certificate: Florida International University

**Experience**

7 years in teaching, 4.5 years at Divine Savior



**Jessica Spiegelberg,** English Language Learners Program Teacher

**Ext:** 4205

**Email:** jessica.spiegelberg@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Spanish: University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh  
English as a Second Language Certification

**Experience**

11 years in teaching ESL, 3 years at Divine Savior

# TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



**Michael Babler, MET** Director of Instructional Technology

**Ext:** 4124

**Email:** michael.babler@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota  
Master of Educational Technology: Boise State University, Idaho  
Graduate Certificate in Technology Integration

**Experience**

11 years in teaching and administration, 7 years at Divine Savior



**Caleb Troge,** IT Systems Administrator

**Ext:** 4131

**Email:** caleb.troge@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Associate of Arts in Electrical Engineering: Miami Dade College  
CompTIA A+ Certificate

**Experience**

2 years in technology services at Divine Savior



# EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF



**Cari Romsdahl**, Substitute Teacher

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**Email:** cari.romsdahl@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

13 years in teaching, 10 years at Divine Savior



**Henriette Vernimmen**, Events Coordinator, School Librarian

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**Ext:** 1212

**Email:** doral\_activities@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Management: Miami Dade College  
English as Second Language Certification

**Experience**

23 years in administration, management, and customer service, 4 years at Divine Savior

# HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY



**Alissa Ambroso**, High School Social Studies Teacher

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**Ext:** 4206

**Email:** alissa.ambroso@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education, Social Studies: Wisconsin Lutheran College

**Experience**

1 year teaching at Divine Savior



**Michael Babler, MET** Director of Instructional Technology

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**Ext:** 4124

**Email:** michael.babler@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota  
Master of Educational Technology: Boise State University, Idaho  
Graduate Certificate in Technology Integration

**Experience**

11 years in teaching and administration, 7 years at Divine Savior



**Jim Butz** Middle & High School Spanish Teacher

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**Ext:** 4202

**Email:** jim.butz@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education, Major in Spanish: Hope College, Michigan

**Experience**

7 years in teaching, 1 year at Divine Savior



**Anna Kalyanova, MA** High School French & Latin Teacher

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**Ext:** 4212

**Email:** anna.kalyanova@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Master of Arts in English, French, and Classical Literature: Donetsk National University, Ukraine

Master of Arts in Romance Languages (French): Wayne State University, Michigan

**Experience**

11 years teaching at the university level, 1 year at Divine Savior



**Ryan Kirchoff, M.Ed.** Director of Curriculum and Instruction

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High School English Chair, Director of Golf Operations

**Ext:** 4211

**Email:** ryan.kirchoff@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education, Secondary English Certification: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Concordia University, Oregon

**Experience**

15 years in teaching, 5 years at Divine Savior



**Erik Landwehr, MAIS, Ed.D.** High School Theology Teacher

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**Ext:** 4204

**Email:** erik.landwehr@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies: Crown College, Minnesota

Doctor of Education: Northcentral University, California

**Experience**

22 years in teaching, 1 year at Divine Savior



**Scott Loberger, M.Ed.** High School English & History Teacher

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**Ext:** 4213

**Email:** scott.loberger@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

21 years in teaching, first year at Divine Savior



**Rosanna Manstretta, M.Sci., M.Ed., Ed.D.** High School Spanish Teacher

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**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Rafael Urdaneta University  
Master of Science in Applied Mathematics, University of Zulia  
Master of Science in Teaching Mathematics, University of Zulia  
Doctor of Philosophy in Education, Rafael Bellosó Chacín University

**Experience**

22 years in teaching at the university level, 1 year at Divine Savior



**Peter Mathwig, M.Ed.** High School Math Teacher

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**Ext:** 4301

**Email:** [peter.mathwig@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:peter.mathwig@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Secondary Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota  
Master of Science in Education, Emphasis in Instruction: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

12 years in teaching, first year at Divine Savior



**Erik Parsons**, High School Math & Social Studies Teacher,  
Director of Tennis Operations

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**Ext:** 4309

**Email:** [erik.parsons@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:erik.parsons@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

9 years in teaching, 6 years at Divine Savior



**Ginger Poulos, MBA** High School Business Department Chair

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**Ext:** 4201

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**Degrees**

Bachelor of Business Administration, majoring in Marketing and Management, University of Miami  
Master of Business Administration with a Management Specialization: University of Miami

**Experience**

8 years in private industry, 9 years in teaching, 6 years at Divine Savior



**Andrea Rodriguez**, High School Art Teacher

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**Ext:** 4127

**Email:** [andrea.rodriguez@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:andrea.rodriguez@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Fine Arts: University of Central Florida

**Experience**

5 years in teaching, 1 year at Divine Savior



**Jonathan Ross**, High School Mathematics Chair,  
Director of Track & Field Operations

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**Ext:** 4314

**Email:** [jonathan.ross@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:jonathan.ross@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education, Major in Mathematics: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

12 years in teaching, 5 years at Divine Savior



**Charis Scharf**, Elementary, Middle, & High School Music Teacher

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**Ext:** 4130

**Email:** [charis.scharf@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:charis.scharf@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Arts in Widerange Choral and Instrumental Music Education: Wisconsin Lutheran College

**Experience**

2 years teaching at Divine Savior



**Jason Schultz**, High School Theology Chair

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**Ext:** 4207

**Email:** [jason.schultz@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:jason.schultz@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Arts in English and 6th-12th Grade Education: Wisconsin Lutheran College  
Religion Certification: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

21 years in teaching, 4 years at Divine Savior



**Jeremy Seeger**, High School Math Teacher, Middle School STEM Teacher

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**Ext:** 4307

**Email:** [jeremy.seeger@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:jeremy.seeger@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Pursuing Master of Science in Education, Emphasis in Instruction: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

8 years in teaching, first year at Divine Savior



**Scott Sievert, M.S.Ed.**, High School English Teacher

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**Ext:** 4214

**Email:** [scott.sievert@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:scott.sievert@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Science in Teaching: College of St. Scholastica, Minnesota

**Experience**

18 years in teaching, 5 years in business, first year at Divine Savior



**Khadija Tafari, M.S.Ed.** Educational Support Teacher

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**Ext:** 4203

**Email:** khadija.tafari@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelors of Science in Sociology & Psychology: Florida State University  
Masters of Science in Curriculum & Instruction, Specialization in Special Education Studies:  
Florida State University

**Experience**

4 years in teaching, first year at Divine Savior



**Kristina Troge, M.S.Ed.** High School Science Chair, STEM Teacher

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**Ext:** 4312

**Email:** kristina.troge@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education, Secondary Science, and Staff Ministry: Martin Luther College,  
Minnesota  
Master of Science in Science Education: Montana State University  
Certification: Project Lead the Way STEM Program

**Experience**

10 years teaching, 6 years at Divine Savior



**Dan Unke, MCAA** Director of Middle & High School Athletics,  
High School Physical Education Chair, Director of Boys Basketball Operations

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**Ext:** 4152

**Email:** dan.unke@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota  
Master of Coaching and Athletic Administration: Concordia University, California

**Experience**

12 years in administration, coaching, and teaching, 8 years at Divine Savior



**Matt Willems**, High School STEM & Science Teacher,  
Director of Girls Volleyball Operations

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**Ext:** 4304

**Email:** matt.willems@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, Major in Science: Martin Luther College, Minnesota  
Certification: Project Lead the Way STEM Program, IED, and POE

**Experience**

16 years in teaching and coaching, 3 years at Divine Savior





# MIDDLE SCHOOL FACULTY



**Tim Babler**, Middle School Religion Chair

**Ext:** 1313

**Email:** [tim.babler@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:tim.babler@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota  
Pursuing Master of Arts in Music and Worship: Liberty University, Virginia

**Experience**

5 years teaching at Divine Savior



**Luke Hartzell, M.Ed.** Middle School Math & Science Teacher

**Ext:** 1306

**Email:** [luke.hartzell@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:luke.hartzell@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota  
Master of Education in Experiential Education: Minnesota State University, Mankato

**Experience**

14 years in teaching, 1 year at Divine Savior



**Kurt Hoppe**, Middle School Math & Science Teacher

**Ext:** 1301

**Email:** [kurt.hoppe@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:kurt.hoppe@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

12 years in teaching, 4 years at Divine Savior



**Phil Kurbis, M.S.Ed.** Middle School Technology Teacher,  
Director of Boys Soccer Operations

**Ext:** 1303

**Email:** [phil.kurbis@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:phil.kurbis@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota  
Master of Science in Instruction: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

8 years in teaching, 2 years at Divine Savior



**Melanie Laete**, Middle School Social Studies & Science Teacher

**Ext:** 1304

**Email:** [melanie.laete@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:melanie.laete@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, Minor in Science: Wisconsin Lutheran College

**Experience**

2 years teaching at Divine Savior



**Ryan Loberger**, Elementary & Middle School Vice Principal, 6th Grade English

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**Ext:** 1119

**Email:** ryan.loberger@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Pursuing Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Concordia University, Oregon

**Experience**

7 years in teaching, 6 years at Divine Savior



**Al Meihak**, Middle School Social Studies Teacher

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**Ext:** 1312

**Email:** al.meihak@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

19 years in teaching and administration, 4 years at Divine Savior



**Edili Pichardo**, Middle School Social Studies & English Teacher

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**Ext:** 1308

**Email:** edili.pichardo@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education, majoring in Elementary and Secondary Spanish Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

2 years in teaching, first year at Divine Savior



**Jon Romsdahl, MSIDT** Director of Elementary & Middle School Athletics,  
Middle School English Chair

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**Ext:** 1302

**Email:** jon.romsdahl@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology:

California State University, Fullerton

**Experience**

16 years in teaching, administration, and coaching, 10 years at Divine Savior



# ELEMENTARY FACULTY



## **Brittany Babler**, 2nd Grade Teacher

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**Ext:** 1211

**Email:** [brittany.babler@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:brittany.babler@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

5 years in teaching at Divine Savior



## **Nicole Gibson**, 2nd Grade Teacher

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**Ext:** 1104

**Email:** [nicole.gibson@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:nicole.gibson@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degrees**

Associates Degree in Science: University of Wisconsin, Manitowoc

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

5 years in teaching, 1 year at Divine Savior



## **Amelia Nemmers**, 2nd Grade Teacher

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**Ext:** 1103

**Email:** [amelia.nemmers@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:amelia.nemmers@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

3 years in teaching at Divine Savior



## **Rebecca Balge**, 3rd Grade Teacher

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**Ext:** 1108

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**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

7 years in teaching, 2 years at Divine Savior



## **Julie Hoppe**, 3rd Grade Teacher

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**Ext:** 1106

**Email:** [julie.hoppe@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:julie.hoppe@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

4 years in teaching, 3 years at Divine Savior



**Julia Marshall, 3rd Grade Teacher**

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**Ext:** 1105

**Email:** [julia.marshall@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:julia.marshall@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

First year at Divine Savior



**Joshua Gibson, 4th Grade Teacher**

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**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

5 years in teaching, 1 year at Divine Savior



**Hannah Stellick, 4th Grade Teacher, Theater Department Chair**

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**Email:** [hannah.stellick@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:hannah.stellick@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Arts, Major in Elementary Education and Theatre: Wisconsin Lutheran College, Wisconsin

**Experience**

3 years in teaching at Divine Savior



**Heidi Sullivan, 4th Grade Teacher**

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**Ext:** 1205

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**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

5 years in teaching, 1 year at Divine Savior



**Justin Marshall, 5rd Grade Teacher**

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**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

First year at Divine Savior



**Katie Meihak**, 5th Grade Teacher

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**Ext:** 1206

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**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

14 years in teaching, 4 years at Divine Savior



**Emily Westra**, 5th Grade Teacher

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**Ext:** 1202

**Email:** [emily.westra@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:emily.westra@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

1 year in teaching at Divine Savior

## EARLY CHILDHOOD FACULTY



**Alexandra Muñoz**, PreK-3 Teacher

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**Ext:** 2105

**Email:** [alexandra.munoz@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:alexandra.munoz@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education with ESOL Endorsement:  
Florida International University

**Experience**

4 years as teaching assistant, first year at Divine Savior



**Melanie Rodriguez**, PreK-3 Teacher

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**Ext:** 2106

**Email:** [melanie.rodriguez@divinesavioracademy.com](mailto:melanie.rodriguez@divinesavioracademy.com)

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education: Florida International University

**Experience**

First year at Divine Savior



**Shanna Kurbis, PreK-4 Teacher**

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**Ext:** 2101

**Email:** shanna.kurbis@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

3 years in teaching, 2 years at Divine Savior



**Shawna Mehlberg, M.A.Ed. Early Childhood Director, PreK-4 Teacher**

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**Ext:** 4106

**Email:** shawna.mehlberg@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education, Early Childhood, and Elementary Education Majors:  
Martin Luther College, Minnesota

Master of Education in Early Childhood Education: Concordia University, Minnesota

**Experience**

9 years in administration and teaching at Divine Savior



**Leah Unke, PreK-4 Teacher**

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**Ext:** 2102

**Email:** leah.unke@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

9 years in teaching, 6 years at Divine Savior



**Jennifer Bello, M.Ed. Kindergarten Teacher**

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**Ext:** 2104

**Email:** jennifer.bello@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Education: University of Miami, Florida

Master of Science in Education, Major in Reading: Barry University, Miami

**Experience**

12 years in teaching, 4 years at Divine Savior



**Abby Molina, Kindergarten Teacher**

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**Ext:** 2103

**Email:** abby.molina@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

8 years in teaching at Divine Savior



### **Shawna Smith**, Kindergarten Teacher

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**Ext:** 2107

**Email:** shawna.smith@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education, Major in Early Childhood Education:  
Wisconsin Lutheran College

**Experience**

1 year in teaching at Divine Savior



### **Laura Del Rio**, 1st Grade Teacher

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**Ext:** 1102

**Email:** laura.delrio@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood with ESOL Endorsement: Florida International University

**Experience**

7 years in teaching, 4 years at Divine Savior



### **Kelly Loberger**, 1st Grade Teacher

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**Ext:** 1101

**Email:** kelly.loberger@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

14 years in teaching, first year at Divine Savior



### **Elise Wordell**, 1st Grade Teacher

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**Ext:** 2108

**Email:** elise.wordell@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Science in Education: Martin Luther College, Minnesota

**Experience**

7 years in teaching, 2 years at Divine Savior

# ENRICHMENT TEACHERS: PreK-8th Grade



**Ana Alvarez**, Elementary & Middle School Art Teacher

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**Ext:** 1208

**Email:** ana.alvarez@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor in Media Arts and Animation: The Art Institute of Tampa, Florida

**Experience**

5 years in education, 1 year at Divine Savior



**Patricia Angel**, Elementary Spanish Teacher for Non-native Speakers

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**Ext:** 1200

**Email:** patricia.angel@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor in Spanish: San Diego State University, CA

**Experience**

1 year in teaching, first year at Divine Savior



**Marggorie Gomez, M.E.**, Middle School Spanish Teacher

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**Ext:** 1311

**Email:** marggorie.gomez@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering: Universidad Rafael Maria Baralt, Venezuela

Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering: Universidad del Zulia, Venezuela

**Experience**

3 years in teaching, 1 year at Divine Savior



**Gilberto Luna II, MSEM** Chess Teacher, Coach, & Tournament Director

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**Ext:** 4133

**Email:** gil.luna@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Applied Science in Emergency Management: Miami Dade College, Florida

Master of Science in Emergency Management: Nova University, Florida

Official Chess Expert, Three-time National Championship Team Member,

2011 State of Florida Coach of the Year

**Experience**

19 years in teaching and coaching, 7 years at Divine Savior



**Charis Scharf**, Elementary, Middle, & High School Music Teacher

---

**Ext:** 4130

**Email:** charis.scharf@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degree**

Bachelor of Arts in Widerange Choral and Instrumental Music Education:  
Wisconsin Lutheran College

**Experience**

2 years in teaching at Divine Savior





**Susana Serrano, MA** Elementary Spanish Teacher

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**Ext:** 1200

**Email:** susana.serrano@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor in Psychology: University of Malaga

Master in Social Psychology: University of Barcelona

**Experience**

8 years in teaching, 5 years as educational consultant, first year at Divine Savior



**Jenny Sotomayor,** Elementary Physical Education Teacher

---

**Email:** jenny.sotomayor@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Marketing and International Business: Florida International University

Certification from Education Preparation Institute: Broward College, Florida

**Experience**

9 years in teaching, first year at Divine Savior



**Cameron Sullivan, MSHSEM** Middle School Physical Education Teacher,  
6th Grade Homeroom

---

**Email:** cameron.sullivan@divinesavioracademy.com

**Degrees**

Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies: Chico State University, California

Master of Science in Homeland Security: San Diego State University, California

Teaching Credential in Physical Education: Sacramento State University, California

**Experience**

1 year at Divine Savior

# TEACHING ASSISTANTS



**Pam Welch**  
PreK-3 Assistant



**Veronica Zweegman**  
PreK-3 Assistant



**Sara Butter**  
PreK-4 Assistant



**Maria Paulina Nieves**  
PreK-4 Assistant



**Wilna Velez**  
Kindergarten Assistant



**Lizett Loeza**  
Kindergarten Assistant



**Cristy Marchant**  
Kindergarten Assistant



**Andreina Gonzalez**  
1st Grade Assistant



**Martha Luz Moreno**  
1st Grade Assistant



**Ana Russo**  
1st Grade Assistant



**Gloria Calle**  
2nd Grade Assistant



**Rosie Diaz**  
2nd Grade Assistant



**Lauren Ross**  
Early Childhood  
Assistant



# Divine Savior Academy

Staff Directory  
2017-2018

