



# MERION MERCY ACADEMY

## 2020-21 New Faculty

**Daniel Bagio (Mathematics Department)** earned a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Saint John's College and has participated in a Post-Baccalaureate Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught upper-school math courses and specializes in teaching students with diverse learning needs. Daniel's work has been published in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, the *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, and *Frontiers in Public Health*. Daniel will be teaching Geometry, Honors Calculus, and Algebra this year.

**Debbie Bevilacqua (Development Office)** is no stranger to MMA! When her daughters Lisa '11 and Julie '15 were students, she served as the President of the Parents Association. Recognized for her many talents, in 2015 Debbie was brought onto the MMA staff as the Spirit Shop Manager and in 2016 as co-moderator of the yearbook. She began to take on more responsibilities in the Development Office as well and is now beginning the school year as the Parent Engagement and Activities/Spirit Shop Manager. Her responsibilities include managing the Spirit Shop and coordinating the Parents Association along with overseeing special projects and co-moderating the yearbook. Debbie earned a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Elaine Estes (Language and Theology Departments)**, who taught Spanish in our World Language Department last year, returns to MMA this year to teach Spanish and Theology. She holds a B.A. in Spanish and Secondary Education and minors in Theology and Religious Studies and Latin American Studies from Saint Joseph's University. While at Saint

Joseph's University, Elaine was an NCAA athlete who served as co-captain of the Varsity Cross Country and Track and Field teams.

**Shana Hogg (Science Department)** is an experienced educator who has taught Chemistry and Environmental Science at the high-school level and Organic Chemistry at the graduate level. She has also worked as a forensic scientist for the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education. She earned her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and has both a B.S. in Chemistry and a B.S. in Forensic Science from the University of New Haven. She also has a minor in Criminal Justice and a Certificate in Law Enforcement. Shana will be teaching A.P. Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, and Chemistry this year.

**Briana Scott (Language Department)** will be teaching Spanish this coming year. Briana is a graduate of Chestnut Hill College where she earned an M.Ed. in Education in Spanish. In addition, she holds a B.A. in Spanish Language and Culture from West Chester University and she also studied in Spain at the University of Salamanca. Briana has a great deal of experience and has taught Spanish to students from the elementary up to the secondary levels.

**Steven Heitzer (Music Department)** will lead our Orchestra. He is a member of Opera Philadelphia, Philadelphia Brass, Fairmount Brass Quartet, Bach Festival Orchestra of Bethlehem, Reading Symphony, and Ocean City Pops Orchestra. He is also a frequent performer with Delaware Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, Lancaster Symphony, and the Walnut Street Theatre. Steve's many performing credits include Dave Brubeck, Branford Marsalis, Roger Daltry & The Who, Weird Al Yankovic, Vanessa Williams, Andrea Bocelli, Don Rickles, Peter Nero, and Luciano Pavarotti. Steven's main musical interest besides playing classical trumpet is arranging music. He has scored nearly 200 brass arrangements for The Philadelphia Brass, Delaware Symphony, and Ocean City Pops Orchestra, as well as works for

various string quartets, choirs, and organists around the Philadelphia region. He received his undergraduate degree from Temple University and his master's degree from Manhattan School of Music.

**Michelle Johnson (Music Department)** is leading Melodies from Heaven, Merion Mercy's Gospel Choir. Michelle earned her bachelor's degree in Music (Vocal Performance) from the New England Conservatory of Music. She went on to earn several advanced certifications, such as a Performance Certificate in Opera Performance from Boston University's Opera Institute, a certificate in Italian Language from Oberlin (Italy), and an Artist Diploma from the Academy of Vocal Arts. Michelle is an award-winning performer with more than a decade of teaching experience in places such as the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. She has also worked as an invited lecturer/masterclass technician throughout the country at institutions such as Iowa State University, Temple University, and Oberlin Conservatory.