

The slide features a white background with vibrant, multi-colored paint splashes along the top and bottom edges. The colors include yellow, green, blue, purple, pink, orange, and red, creating a festive and artistic border.

Welcome New Staff to Bucknell Elementary!

2026 – 2027

Bianca Brown

Montessori Lower Elementary Teacher

I'm thrilled to join the Bucknell Elementary team! I fell in love with Montessori while maneuvering through the ranks working with children from two and a half to 12 years old, over the past 20 years, thus learning that I enjoy working with the lower elementary age group. Now, I've been a certified lower elementary Montessori teacher for the last 8 years. When I'm not teaching, you can find me spending quality time with my two boys, dancing, and experimenting with fashion.



Fun Fact: cheetah print is my favorite color!



Miriam Caralos

Montessori Early Childhood Teacher

I'm so excited to join the Bucknell family as a Montessori teacher! I've had the privilege of teaching in Montessori environments for the past 19 years and was a Montessori child myself growing up in the Philippines. Montessori has continued to be part of our family, as both of my boys have experienced it too! Outside the classroom, I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, and watching movies together. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year at Bucknell!

Fun Fact: Thanks to my husband's military career, I've had the opportunity to teach in Montessori classrooms in five different states!

Kathleen Farmer

PAC Teacher



I have been a Preschool Autism teacher for going on 8 years and am excited to be coming closer to home to continue working with my favorite littles. Outside of school I like to spend time with my family and travel to see my long-distance best friends in Kentucky and California. We like to go to National Parks when we get together and just visited Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Yosemite this summer. I also spend time with my mastiff Fang, reading, or picking up another crafting hobby like embroidery or crochet.

Fun Fact: I've known my best friend since we were in kindergarten at Riverside Elementary!



Carley Fisher-Maltese

STEAM Teacher

I'm excited to be joining the Bucknell team and starting my first year here. I've been an educator for 26 years and love helping students explore, create, and solve problems through hands-on engineering design challenges. When I'm not in the STEAM Lab, you'll find me teaching preservice teachers how to teach math and science at George Mason University.

At home, I'm a mom to three football-playing boys, and this summer we celebrated a big milestone by sending our oldest off to college.

Fun Fact: I got a baby ringneck parrot this summer, and I'm obsessed with teaching him how to talk!

Caroline Hoke

Montessori Early Childhood Teacher



Hi everyone! I'm excited to be in my new role this year as a Montessori teacher with my Bucknell family. Outside of school, I stay busy with my three kids (ages 13, 7, and 1), who are always up for an adventure to a museum or the library. I also love crafting and spending time with my two dogs. I'm looking forward to a fun year!

Fun Fact: I have a bulldog... so I guess I was meant to end up at Bucknell!

Mansoureh Jaber

Montessori Instructional Assistant

I'm so excited to join the Bucknell Elementary community this year and be part of such a wonderful team! I love working with children and believe every child should feel seen, valued, and believed in. As a mother of two, I know how much a caring teacher can make a difference in a child's life. Outside of school, I enjoy gardening, doing arts and crafts, and spending time with my family. I especially love traveling with my family and making new memories together.



Fun Fact: I am a big animal lover especially when it comes to dog! I can never walk past a dog without stopping to say hello



Jennifer Nowicki

ECCB Teacher

I'm excited to join the preschool program at Bucknell Elementary as an ECCB teacher. Last year, I was honored to be an IA in the first Montessori program in FCPS. I've been an educator for over 20 years and my professional passions are early intervention, literacy, and language. My four children, ages 15 to 22, have grown up attending Fairfax County Public Schools. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy reading, running, and cheering on athletes at cross country and track meets.

Fun Fact: I got married at a castle in Scotland.

Zarina Rasheed

Montessori Instructional Assistant



Fun Fact:



Deepa Sinha

Montessori Lower Elementary Teacher

I am so excited to be a part of the Bucknell family this year! I have been a Montessori educator for 17 years, and I absolutely love witnessing those special "aha!" moments. When I'm not at school, I enjoy spending time with my 16-year-old dog, trying out new recipes in the kitchen, and making memories with my extended family. I can't wait to see what this new school year has in store and to get to know everyone.

Fun Fact: I love binge-watching Netflix murder mystery series!

Trish Smith

Montessori Instructional Assistant

I am looking forward to joining the Bucknell family this year. I have been an assistant in multiple Montessori classrooms over the past five years. I live in Springfield with my husband Geoff and my 11 year old son Jackson. In my free time I enjoy reading, watching movies and spending time with my family.



Fun Fact: I grew up on a farm in Kentucky and am a huge fan of the University of Kentucky basketball team.

Hagan Wilson

6th Grade Teacher



I have been a classroom teacher for 18 years and am excited to join the Bucknell Bulldogs this year as a 6th grade teacher! I love collaborating with other teachers, students and families to find creative ways to make learning engaging, meaningful, and fun. I enjoy messy projects, stale coffee, and school spirit days. I look forward to walking to work—and the opportunity to teach in the same school as my own children!

Fun Fact: I have a 15 year old blue tongued skink (lizard) named Sasha Lizzy. She is eager to meet her new classmates in 6th grade!

Vivienne Branson

ECCB Teacher



My name is Vivienne, and I'm so excited to begin my fourth year with Fairfax County Public Schools and my first year as an ECCB preschool teacher. I earned my Bachelor's degree in Integrated Studies with a concentration in Education from George Mason University and my Associate's degree in Teacher Education from Northern Virginia Community College. I come from a family of educators and have been especially inspired by my mother and the thoughtfulness, compassion, and care she brings to education. I have a particular passion for working with students with exceptionalities, and I believe every child deserves to feel a strong sense of belonging, confidence, and pride in who they are, just as I was fortunate enough to experience through teachers who made me feel truly seen and capable. I hope to bring that same sense of care, belonging, curiosity, and joy into learning every day!

Fun Fact: I love collecting odd little trinkets and knickknacks, especially tiny birds, and I'm always on the hunt for another little treasure to add to my collection!



Megan Kelley

Special Education Teacher

Hey! This is my 9th year as a teacher, but my first year in Virginia. I have taught in Hawaii, Alaska, and Maryland. I have spent the past 8 years in 6-12 working as a special educator, general educator (Algebra 1), and department chair. I have 2 little children; Karoline is 6 and Kyle is 2. My husband is a US Coast Guard pilot who travels the world. I'm looking forward to a great school year.

Fun Fact: I have a lot of “granny” hobbies: sewing, crochet, ect.

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