

Vol. 3, Issue 1

## MISSION

TRIAD provides an alternative educational experience, helping at-risk students achieve academic and social success while working towards their college and career educational goals.

## VISION

TRIAD is committed to building personal connections with its students to become lifelong learners and productive citizens within their local and global communities.



# WEEK IN REVIEW

## TRIAD SARASOTA Aug. 31 - Sept. 4

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Thank you for an amazing first week! Major kudos to our parents for their ongoing support and communication during this new norm of school. Our STAR students are beyond belief, they have been resilient and responsible, wearing masks, social distancing and engaged academically!

Our teachers, behavior technicians and support staff have been preparing for the re-opening of school for several weeks. They all participated in several district and school wide trainings on how to utilize different technology platforms, lesson planning, how to teach concurrently, use Zoom, Teams and several other academically related trainings.

Triad continues to prioritize Safety and Security. We have strict visitor policies in place, including clearly marked traffic patterns,

student sneeze shields on all desks, socially distant cafeteria set-up and clearly marked common area procedures.

I encourage everyone to continue to practice all safety measures over the holiday weekend. Wear your masks, social distance, wash your hands often and please do not engage in large group celebrations!

Sending Outrageous Love!

*Melanie*

Melanie Ritter  
Principal

**#TRIADSTRONG**



# Meet the Staff

## Administration & Office Support Staff



### **MELANIE RITTER - Principal**

I started out as an Assistant Director at Opportunity High in Sarasota, one year later, I became the Director at Richard Milburn Academy in Sarasota. I was there for a year and a half before taking a position as AP at Heron Creek Middle School. I was asked to take on a new assignment as an AP at The Phoenix Academy during my second year at HCMS. After completing the school year at Phoenix Academy, I was placed at RHS where I was an AP for 12 glorious years! I was then transferred to VHS for 2 years. During the summer of my second year at VHS, I took on a new role as Assistant Principal for Administration (APA). The summer of 2018 I was asked by the Superintendent to take over the leadership of Triad. I am so thrilled to be at Triad and move our school in a new direction with students who are college and career ready! Triad is truly my passion. On a personal note, I am married to David Ritter, arguably, the BEST husband in the world! I enjoy family time, golf, working out, traveling and most of all my JOB at Triad!



### **SUZETTE DILL - Administrative Assistant**

I have been working here at Triad for 16 years. The first 13 years was under the direction of the YMCA, and the last three years with Sarasota County Schools. In my free time I enjoy cooking, dancing, reading, traveling, listening to music and spending time with my family. I was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and I have been living in the sunshine state 30 years and currently I reside in North Port.



### **SAMANTHA HENDRICKS - Front Office**

I started out educating people on the importance of our coral reef systems down in the Florida Keys working as a Crew Member on a Glass Bottom Boat. Then I continued educating people and working with Marine Mammals at Island Dolphin Care in Key Largo where I was able to give people hands on experiences with different sea creatures, along with working with families and children with special needs through animal-assisted (dolphin) therapy and helping them reach their goals. Then I was called back home where I have worked with victims of Sex Trafficking and helping educate others on recognize risk-factors, red flags, and the methods of sex traffickers and recruiters. That's when I decided to go back into the school system to work with our at-risk youth in a variety of educational settings from Oak Park, RHS, VHS, and now my current home at Triad!



### **MONICA MEHSERLE - School Counselor**

I am so happy to be at Triad and loving the student-staff family we have here. I have really felt OUTRAGEOUS LOVE from all of you and I hope you feel outrageous love vibes back! I am available to students who have questions or want to chat about graduation, schedules, or life in general. Mrs. Adamson is working closely with me if you want to Zoom with her and me together! I have a sweet foster baby, Amelia, and she is the delight of my life right now!



# Meet the Staff

## Instructional/Classified Teams



### **THERESE GUINTHER - English/ILA**

Greetings Everyone! I am Mrs. Guinther and I will be teaching High School English Language Arts. I am originally from Wisconsin, where I have spent most of my life. I moved to this beautiful state in 2012 to be closer to my daughter and her husband, and have been teaching at Triad since that time. I am so looking forward to working with the students this year, whether by remote or in person! I am confident that this will be a wonderful and productive year! This year, I hope to encourage and engage students using their interests mixed with our curriculum. Contact Information:

Contact information:

(941)925-6693 Ext.56531

Therese.Guinther@sarasotacountyschools.net

I am also available to set up a zoom meeting if you email me.



### **KIMBERLY MEYER - Behavior Technician**

I am Ms. Meyer and this is my second year here at Triad School as a Behavior Technician. I have earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a minor in Psychology from the University of Cleveland State. In addition, I have earned a Master of Education from the HPERD (Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) department of Cleveland State University.

I've worked in different aspects of the Education field for the past 10 years.



### **TOMMIE WHEELER - Middle School Math**

My name is Tommie Wheeler Jr. I've been in the Sarasota County school system for 9 years. I enjoy reading, watching sports, working out, and playing chess. I plan on showing outrageous love to my students by assisting them with any issues they have and providing academic support.

The best method of contact is by email or by phone.

Email: Tommie.wheeler@sarasotacountyschools.net

Phone: 941-539-7590 (cell)



### **HEATHER MCNAMEE - Behavior Technician**

This is my 3rd year at this amazing school, and it has truly blessed my life in more ways than I can express. I currently hold an AA in Psychology; a BA in Psychology and I am currently in graduate school earning a MS in LCMHC. I have 3 different certifications involving Mindful based Stress Reduction Therapy, Gate Keeper, And Cognitive Processing Therapy. I have 2 Children: ages 17 AND 22. I am not sure what hobbies I have as I am pretty busy with grad school, but I used to be a mural painter some time ago. I absolutely LOVE Disney, and when I do have time, you can find me there.

# Meet the Staff

## Instructional/Classified Teams



### **MARTINA GREEN - English/ILA**

I have a PhD in education and have worked in colleges, universities, charter schools and public schools, mostly in alternative education. My hobbies are drawing, sewing, reading and riding motorcycle with my husband.

Contact information:

[martina.green@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:martina.green@sarasotacountyschools.net); GV - 941-840-0523



### **TYLER GIBSON - Behavior Technician**

I was born and raised in Florida. This is my third year as Triad and I am so honored to be here! I am a product of Sarasota County Schools, graduating from North Port High School in 2009. I graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University with a bachelors in Communication/Public Relations. I recently became certified to teach Business Education grades 6-12. I am also a member of the Emerging Educators program through the Barancik Foundation and Sarasota County Schools. My goal is to teach Business and/or English at the secondary level.



### **BRIAN UPHOLZ - Science**

My name is Brian Upholz. I have been a middle school science teacher for 9 years, I then taught music K-8 for 3 years, and now I am back in as a science teacher at Triad. I am a believer in Mindfulness and Social Emotional Learning.

My interests include meditation, painting, guitar playing, hiking, camping, and exercising. I am an animal lover too. I currently have 1 dog (just lost my senior lab and pug) and am married to my wife Amy.



### **MARIO CHARLES - Behavior Technician**

My name is Mario Charles AKA "Mr. Charles", I've worked in the IT field for over 20 years, I realized my true passion was making a positive difference in students' lives when I worked at Oak Park School as a Response team member. So when the opportunity to serve as Behavior tech, I didn't hesitate to step up to the challenge. I love what I do every single day for our "starts" at Triad. I look forward to helping them transition back to their district school.

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## Instructional/Classified Teams



### **ROBERT WHIPPLE - High School Math**

I am Mr. Whipple: Husband to an awesome woman, dad to 3 fantastic middle school kids, and a nerdy math teacher excited to be back at Triad! I have been teaching for about 6 years after receiving my education degree from Grand Canyon University. I also love playing and listening to music, golfing, or pretty much doing anything active and outside.

I plan on showing Outrageous Love this year by having a brief classroom discussion prompt each day to give students an opportunity to have their voices and thoughts be heard while also practicing hearing and respecting the different voices and thoughts of others.



### **BRITTANY BINZ - Behavior Technician**

My name is Brittany Binz. I am mother of a 6 year old daughter. I was born and raised here in Sarasota. I am a behavior tech at the best school there is, Triad! I have my Associates degree in early childhood development and I am only a few credits away from my bachelors in psychology with a minor in children's mental health and a concentration in behavior analysis. I then will obtain my master's to become a clinical psychologist. It is my dream to give back to the children that work so hard to make it. They deserve the attention and recognition. For my hobbies, I love working on cars, painting, gaming and riding horses. I hope to make a difference here at Triad and to give back to the same kind of programs that helped me.



### **IAN ELDREDGE - Social Studies**

I am from Miami. I have my Bachelor's Degree in Business Analytics from the University of Phoenix. I enjoy working out, playing video games, Cooking/Baking, Hanging out with my kids and hanging out with my wife. I love to travel and once we can again, plan on updating my passport and going to Europe.

Contact information:

(941) 925-6693 x56625

Google voice: (941) 840-1797

Email: [ian.eldredge@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:ian.eldredge@sarasotacountyschools.net)

IG: mreteaches



### **TYSHAMBRIA BALL - Clinic Aide**

Hello, my name is Tyshambria Ball, the Clinic Aide at Triad School, A graduate from Palmetto High School. After graduating from Palmetto High, I took my education further to State College of Florida and became a dental hygienist. All while doing so, I also took the class to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. From there I worked at many health care facilities and decided that I wanted to change up a little bit that's when I went on to full time helping my father's News Paper Company (Tempo News) become bigger. There my job was to type the paper up, edit the paper, and get it ready to be sent out to different businesses. 15 years later, I'm still there part time.

I also worked at Harlee Middle School for 9 years as a cafeteria worker, Clinic Aide, and Tutor for after school. Now, I'm here at Triad to give it my all and best at helping each student every day stay healthy and, in some way, achieve their goals. My hobbies are reading and cooking. We are Triad Strong, and we will push through this together. I know that 2020-2021 will be a great year for us! So Chin Up, Pencils Out, Triad Is Going in with A Fight.



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## Instructional/Classified Teams



### **RITA KUNZ - ESE Liaison**

My name is Rita Kunz and I am the ESE Liaison at Triad. I received my master's degree in education at the University of South Florida. Over the years, I have had different teaching opportunities which has helped me grow as an educator and understand the importance of quality education. A few hobbies that I enjoy are cooking/baking, traveling, yoga, and spending time with my family. I am so happy to be back on campus and I can't wait to see what the rest of our year has in store for us!



### **ALYSSA LUX - School Psychologist**

HEY! My name is Mrs. Lux and I am your school psychologist. I was born and raised in the Orlando area. I was a school psychologist there for almost 7 years. I went to FSU and UCF. I'm a die hard SEMINOLES fan and love watching college football. I really miss going to Disney every weekend with my daughter...like a lot. Now that I'm here its all about the beaches and being outside. I'm super excited to be with you all this school year. Last year I got to know some but cannot wait to share positivity and Outrageous Love to everyone. I usually try to see the positive in many situations or at least see how to get to the positive. We all have room to grow in everything that we do, always learning. I am here to talk, to listen, or to help in any way I can. I am here for you. We got this!



### **OFFICER DANIEL BIDWELL - School Resource Officer**

A career spent in National Defense and Public Service. I live to help others. I've lived in other countries for part of my military career and know how unique the US is!

- 20 years USAF retired First Sergeant
- 13 years retired Charlotte County Sheriff's Office -- Road Patrol Deputy / Field Training Officer
- 5 years Longboat Key Police Dept -- Patrol Officer
- 2 Years Sarasota County School District Police Dept -- School Resource Officer

Hobbies:

- Exercise (5 to 6 days a week)
- Riding the Harley Davidson
- FAA Private Pilot (Certified Private Pilot)
- FAA Repair Technician (If it Fly's I'm authorized to fix it)
- Scuba Dive (Deep Water Certified)

Divorced, three grown and gone children and I also have a 3 1/2 year old granddaughter who is absolutely Grandpa's girl!

Educational background:

MA with Honors in Homeland Security, American Public University  
BS in Aeronautics, Embry-Riddle World Wide Campus

# OUTRAGEOUS LOVE

## How do you plan to show Outrageous Love?

I plan on showing outrageous love by trying to give compassion and understanding to every situation that comes our way this year.

- **Samantha Hendricks**

I plan to show outrageous love by being available to Triad students as a safe landing place. - **Monica Mehserle**

I will give my undivided attention to each individual student when they need it. I will always be in their corner to support them, reminding them of how capable they are. I will be that never changing, ever constant support. - **Brittany Binz**

I plan to show outrageous love by engaging students in reading and English and supporting their success with everything I have.

- **Martina Green**

I plan on showing OUTRAGEOUS LOVE to students this year by helping them achieve and be the best they can be, even on there not so good days.

- **Tyshambria Ball**

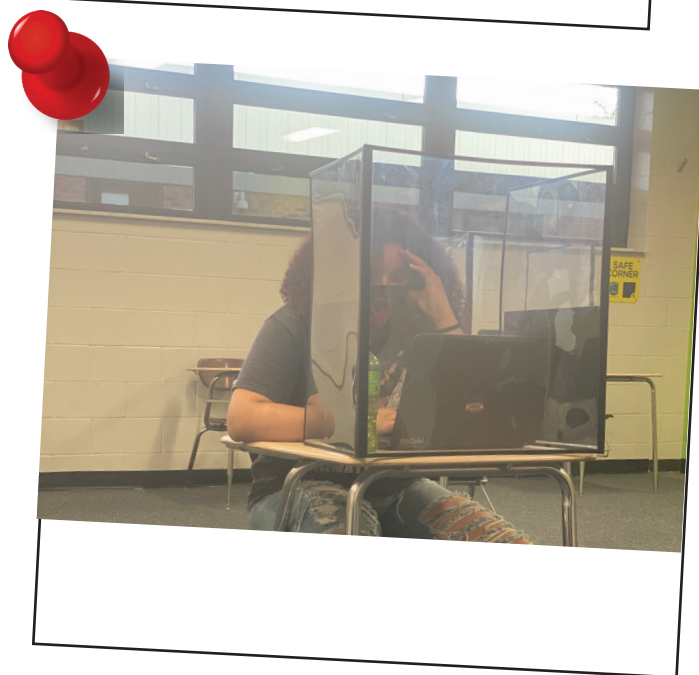
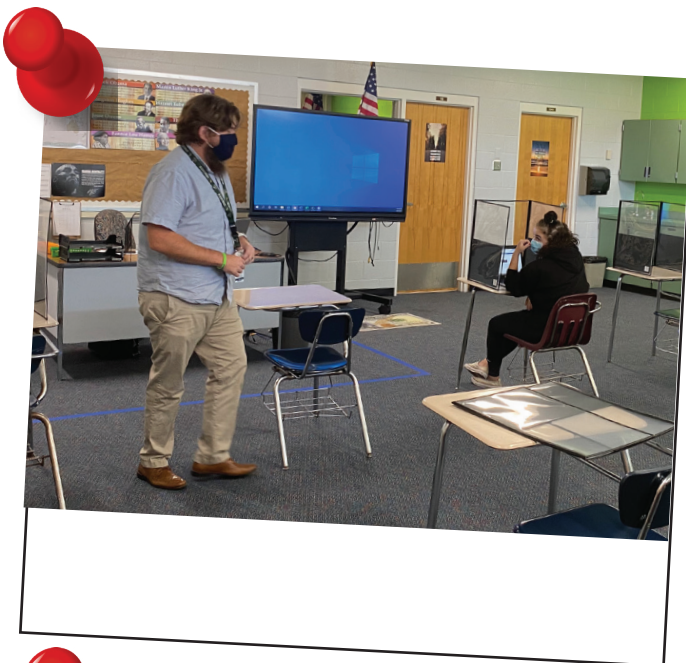
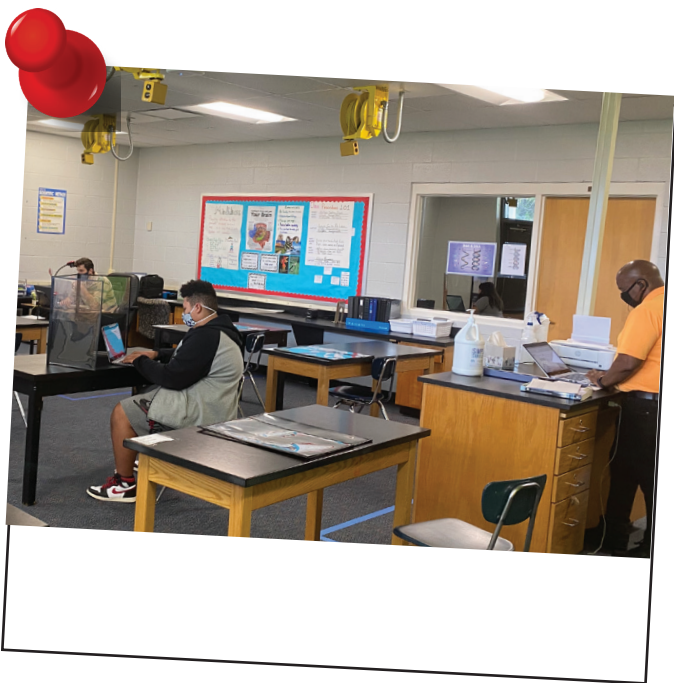
Shoutouts, rewards, truly caring about each person, building everyone up, supporting and working together.- **Alyssa Lux**

I plan on showing Outrageous Love by embracing, accepting and encouraging ALL students!

- **Melanie Ritter**

Compassion and grace via compassion and grace. - **Mr. Charles**

By letting students know that when mistakes happen, don't let them define their future. By having fun and being an out-of-the-box educator. - **Tyler Gibson**



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

**@TRIADSCS**

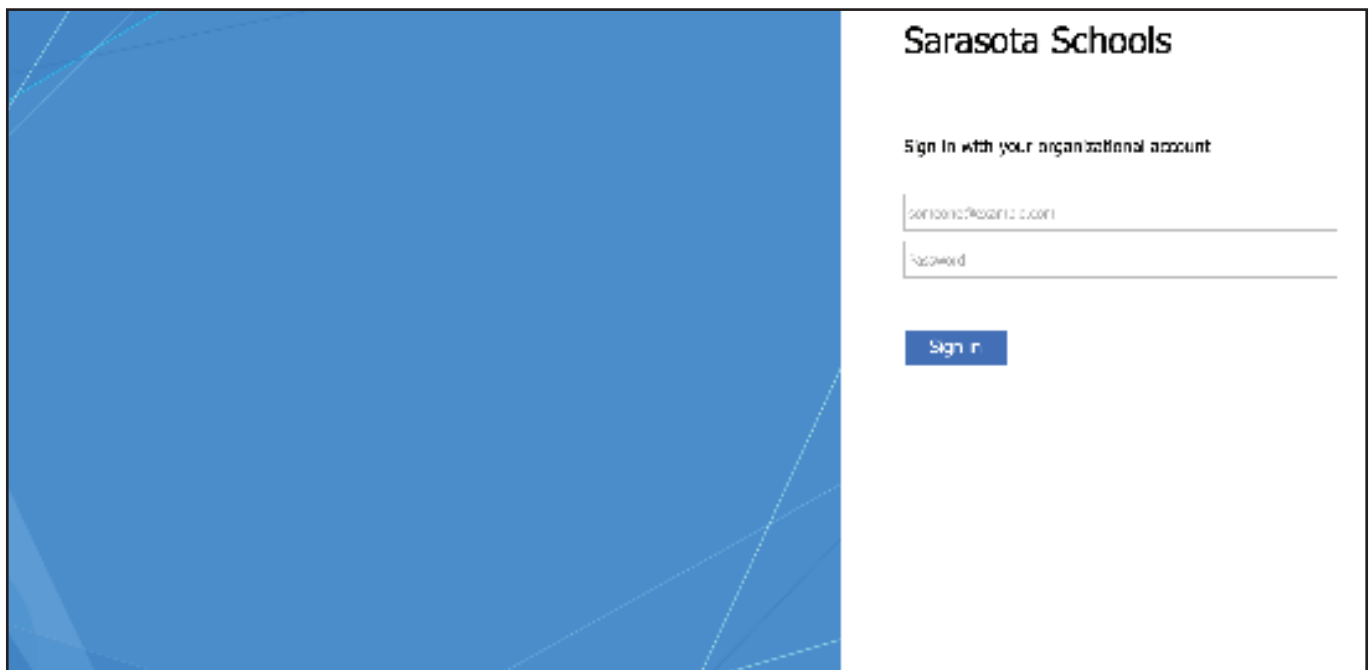
Facebook & Instagram



# How to Access Student Email:

Do you know your child's teacher may be emailing them on their student email account? Here are steps on how to access it:

- 1.** Visit <http://o365.sarasotacountyschools.net>
- 2.** Logon to Office 365 using student Nnumber@ and pin as their password
- 3.** Click on Outlook! Viola! They have access to the Sarasota County Schools District email.



**Sarasota Schools**

Sign in with your organizational account

**Sign in**

# OUR CORE VALUES

## RELATIONSHIPS RESTORATIVE RESPECT RESILIENCE

**TRIAD Sarasota**  
Sarasota County Schools  
4430 S. Beneva Rd.  
Sarasota, FL 34233  
(941) 925-6693

# KUDOS

**KUDOS to everyone** for getting through these last 3 weeks....I truly believe that it does take a village...and what an amazing village we have.

**KUDOS to all the students** who came to school ready to learn, both on campus and remote!

**KUDOS to my new Behavior Tech this year: Brittany Binz**

**KUDOS to all the students** that have shown up so far! Whether it's in class or online, this has been the most unique beginning to a school year that I have ever seen. Thank you for being here and figuring it out together with us!

**KUDOS out to students** who are showing up both in person and remote. So far I am really impressed with those who are present.

**KUDOS to all the staff** who have help track students down and get them in the door or on the screen.

**Want to give a big shout out to Mrs. Ritter** for believing in me and bringing me on board to teacher at Triad.

**KUDOS to students** both online and in person who are showing up everyday and working towards their goals.

**KUDOS to our Student STARS** who have done an amazing job this week academically, behaviorally and most of all for following our Safety procedures!

**KUDOS to our Amazing All STAR Staff** for your patience, compassion and Outrageous Love!

**KUDOS to our parents** for your ongoing support and communicating with staff in an effort to have a successful school year!