

Danina M. Garcia

(425) 298-3029 danina.garcia@gmail.com

Education: M.Ed Curriculum & Instruction: Reading Specialist University of Maryland, College Park, MD
B.A. English with Teaching Certification/B.A. French Messiah College, Grantham, PA

Pennsylvania State Certified: English (7-12), French (K-12)
District of Columbia Certified: English (7-12)
Washington State Certified: Endorsement in English Language Arts
Maryland Certification as Reading Specialist pending

K-12 Education Experience

Saint Francis International School: 5th-8th Grade Language Arts & Humanities
Silver Spring, MD August 2012 – Present

Designed and delivered standards-based Language Arts curriculum for 5th-8th grade literary study and composition in a Title I Catholic school where more than 60% of students qualified for Free & Reduced Price Meals.
Founded 5th-8th grade drama program, producing 1-3 performances for family and community annually.
Designed and delivered 6th-7th grade Humanities curriculum combining Language Arts and Social Studies.
Taught drama and remedial reading/writing in summer school programs.
Integrated Responsive Classroom methods into homeroom and daily instruction.

University of Maryland Summer Reading Clinic: Reading Teacher
Greenbelt, MD Summer 2016

Screened students for reading challenges using a variety of tools including Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment, Developmental Spelling Analysis, and Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test IV.
Prepared and provided intensive three-week intervention in spelling, reading comprehension, writing and fluency for struggling readers in grades 2-5 under the supervision of the University of Maryland's Reading Specialist program.

Columbia Heights Education Campus: 8th Grade English Language Arts Teacher
Washington, DC August 2011 – August 2012

Designed and delivered a Common Core standards-based, data-driven curriculum of 8th grade literary study and composition in an inclusion-model school.
Collaborated with daily ESL co-teacher to provide grade-level instruction to newcomer and beginning English-Language-Learner students.

Northwest Chinese School: English Enrichment Teacher
Seattle, WA April 2009 – June 2011

Created and offered a weekly English Enrichment course for students in grades 4 to 9.
Designed and delivered a state-standards-based curriculum of grammar, vocabulary, creative, and expository writing, tailored within each class to individual student needs and interests.

BuildaBridge International: Homeless Initiative Project Summer Coordinator
Philadelphia, PA May – August 2005

Worked as coordinator for the expanded Arts Discovery program of BuildaBridge International, a nonprofit seeking to serve the homeless populations of Philadelphia through the creative arts.
Met with the staff of shelters to assess the need for and prepare arts-integrated programs.
Designed and piloted an Arts & Writing program for children at NPIHN family shelter.

Other Experience

Ryther Child Center: Residential Counselor

Seattle, WA

July 2010 – August 2011

Worked as part of a team of counselors in a residential care facility for children ages 6 to 14.
Provided daily support to help children cope with aftereffects of trauma and navigate their days.
Resolved escalating situations using Traumatic Crisis Intervention verbal techniques.

Ladybug Montessori School: Assistant Teacher

Seattle, WA

February 2009 – June 2011

Supervised 16 students between the ages of 3 and 6 years old.
Provided one-on-one lessons as necessary according to the Montessori method.
Designed a weekly pre-reading class combining Montessori methods, Handwriting Without Tears, and Linguistic Remedies.

Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project: Vendor Outreach Coordinator; Organizing Director

Seattle, WA

September 2006 – February 2009

Supported 350 homeless and low-income men and women selling Real Change News in the Seattle metropolitan area, assisting them in improving sales and accessing services if necessary.
Resolved conflicts among vendors, customers and community members in a constructive, respectful way.
Created training materials on newspaper sales, social service resources, and political engagement for vendors.
Hired, trained and supervised vendor services and organizing staff.
Organized two public protest encampments at City Hall and a community forum at Seattle University.

International Justice Mission: Campus Coordinator

Messiah College, Grantham, PA

January 2003 – January 2006

Founding member of Messiah College chapter of the International Justice Mission, a student-led sponsored human rights organization with an active membership of nearly 100 students and weekly meetings.
Organized fundraising and awareness raising activities including a campus-wide letter-writing campaign, an annual clothing sale, a benefit concert with popular band Ten Shekel Shirt, and assorted smaller events.

Honors & Special Qualifications:

Responsive Classroom Level I & II training.
Individual Montessori training through Ladybug Montessori.
Messiah College Graduate Summa Cum Laude with Honors in English.
Member: Sigma Tau Delta - International English Honors Society.
Recipient: Ernest L. Boyer Education Scholarship, 2005-2006, Boyer Scholar 2005-2006, High Scorer Pennsylvania State Praxis II (English Literature), Diplome Approfondi de la Langue Francaise (Strasbourg, France) 2005.
Successful grant writer for BuildaBridge International (2004) and Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project (2007-2008 Women's Funding Alliance).
Messiah College May Week: Member of a student panel speaking on writing and curriculum at the college level. May 18th, 2006.
Grantham, PA. Remarks published in "Connecting: This Listening Thing" by Helen Walker in the Winter 06/07 edition of *The Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives On Learning*.

Danina Garcia - Professional References

Kirk Gaddy, Middle School Team Lead, Saint Francis International School. 443-285-1663, kgaddy@sfismd.org

Dr. Gaddy served as my direct supervisor at Saint Francis International School where I taught Language Arts and Humanities for five years.

Jennifer Stauder, Middle School Math, Saint Francis International School. 301-908-5225, jstauder@sfismd.org

Ms. Stauder was my colleague at Saint Francis International School for three years.

Tobias Harkleroad, Principal, Saint Francis International School. 301-434-2344, tharkleroad@sfismd.org

Mr. Harkleroad was my principal throughout my time teaching Language Arts and Humanities at Saint Francis International School.

Timothy Harris, Executive Director, Real Change News. 206-441-3247, director@realchangenews.org

Mr. Harris is the executive director of Real Change News, a street newspaper and homeless community organizing group in Seattle, WA. He served as my direct supervisor during my tenure as Real Change's vendor service coordinator and later director of community organizing from 2006 to 2009.

Sevana Sammis, ESL Co-Teacher, Columbia Heights Education Campus, 818-523-1674, sevana.sammis@dc.gov

Ms. Sammis was an 8th grade ESL teacher at Columbia Heights Education Campus in Washington, DC. As CHEC practiced a full inclusion model for newcomer ELL students, Ms. Sammis co-taught in my classroom for half of each period to provide support for all students and enable best practices for ELL students.