



We Are Daniel Webster

Get to Know the Staff Members that Are Working to Make Our School Great

Moraima Machado, Principal

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Ms. Machado received a B.A. in Special Education and then went on to receive a Law degree at Universidad Central in Venezuela. She started teaching in 1990 and considers herself a long life learner. In 1997, she received her Master in Linguistics and in 2006 she received her second Master this time in Administration at U.C. Berkeley. She was inspired to enter the field of teaching by her aunt who without being a trained teacher, volunteered to help the kids in her community with their homework. Ms. Machado believes that for a child to succeed it takes a person to believe in that child. Her aunt and her mom really believed in her. Every child can pursue a college career - no matter their parents social economical status.



Ms. Machado believes that for a child to succeed it takes a person to believe in that child. Her aunt and her mom really believed in her. Every child can pursue a college career - no matter their parents social economical status.

- **Favorite Movie:** *Life is Beautiful* by Roberto Benigni
- **Favorite Food:** Loves all food, Arepas (Venezuelan food), Thai and Indian are her favorites.
- **Favorite Book:** *La Isla Bajo el Mar* by Isabel Allende
- **Favorite Children's Book Writer:** Roald Dahl

Chris Telles, 1st Grade

Mr. Chris, as he is known, comes from East Los Angeles and went to college in Los Angeles at Cal State Northridge. He is a long-standing and beloved member of



our DW family, having spent all of his eleven years teaching with us. Mr. Chris chose a career in teaching because he was inspired by others who work for social justice. He believes that an equitable education system can help to bring about positive change in society. What he loves most about his job is witnessing students achieve proficiency in areas that had previously proven challenging for them. He also loves a good read-aloud that thoroughly engages his kids.

- **Favorite Food:** Tamales
- **Favorite Book:** A tie between John Kennedy Toole's *A Confederacy of Dunces* and *A Fraction of the Whole* by Steve Toltz
- **Favorite Movie:** A three way tie between *All About Eve*, *Shakes the Clown* and *Alien*

Sarah Newton 2nd Grade

Born in Ventura, California Ms. Newton received a B.A. from Sonoma State University and went on to obtain her teaching credential from Cal Lutheran University. She has been teaching for 6 years, 4 of which have been at Daniel Webster. She was inspired to teach by her father who was also a teacher. She hails from a large family that had a strong love of learning. She loves her students and the awesome and funny staff at Daniel Webster. She also is glad to work in a small school with a caring community. She has a dog named Frannie Lee.



She hails from a large family that had a strong love of learning. She loves her students and the awesome and funny staff at Daniel Webster. She also is glad to work in a small school with a caring community. She has a dog named Frannie Lee.

- **Favorite Food:** Vegetarian burritos
- **Favorite Author:** Bukowski
- **Favorite Movie:** *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*

Leah Ballantyne, 2nd Grade



Leah was born in San Francisco and received a B.A. in Spanish and American Multicultural Studies and then went on to receive

her BCLAD credential at Sonoma State University. She has been teaching for three years, one year teaching English in Granada, Spain and two at Daniel Webster. Initially thinking that she would pursue school counseling as a career, Leah's plans changed after teaching abroad. The experience influenced her to instead follow a path towards the classroom. She loves working at a small school where everyone acts like a family and cares about each other. She has no pets, but loves cats!

- **Favorite Foods:** All foods, but sushi and Indian food are at the top of the list.
- **Favorite Book:** She loves the historical fiction genre, especially *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez.
- **Favorite Movies:** All the films of the director, Pedro Almadovar.

- Quiz -

Daniel Webster Elementary School's namesake was known to be a famous: (A) Businessman (B) Basketball Player (C) Writer (D) Senator and Secretary of State