Dr. David Trajtenberg 'Dr. T' was born in Philadelphia, PA. He earned his BA degree from Franklin and Marshall College as a chemistry major, his MA from Harvard University in Teaching and Curriculum, an additional MA from the University of Southern Mississippi in School Leadership, and his PhD from the University of Colorado.

He has taught and served in a variety of teaching and leadership roles ranging from preschool all the way through high school; he has worked in Virginia, Colorado, Japan, Peru, and now Vietnam. He is extremely excited to be joining the St. Paul American School Hanoi community with his wife and three children. Dr. Trajtenberg believes in the power of positive communication and collaboration; he encourages you to stop by and introduce yourself. In his spare time, David is an avid cyclist, distance runner, photographer and magician.
Mr. John James North comes from the U.S. He is a proud graduate of the Pennsylvania State University. At Penn State he earned his Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, with a content focus on social studies. After college Mr. North moved to New Orleans where he taught for seven years as a high school social studies teacher in Jefferson Parish. After finishing his seventh year in the Big Easy, Mr. North moved to Vietnam to broaden his understanding of the unique cultures and peoples of Asia. In the 2014-2015 school year, Mr. North taught English to secondary age students in the Hanoi school system. In his free time, Mr. North enjoys nothing more than being on the stage. He has acted in 20 main stage productions including The Wizard of Oz and Beauty and the Beast. He has also directed, choreographed, written, and worked with children’s theater. Mr. North endeavors to use the skills he has learned in teaching and on the stage to make learning a fun and engaging experience for students of all ages and backgrounds. It is with great excitement that John joins the St. Paul’s community and he looks forward to another rewarding year with his students and colleagues.
Mr. Toby Walker comes from the U.S. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1989 from the State University of New York and then continued his studies at Marquette University, where he studied Economics. After 20 years working in business, Mr. Walker returned to his true passion, teaching. For the past five years, he has taught in Thailand, China and Vietnam and has enjoyed every minute of it. He enjoys traveling, food, sports and spending time with his friends and family.
MEET OUR TEACHERS

Mr. La Roi Williams comes from the U.S. He graduated from Morehouse College receiving a BA in English Literature. After graduating from law school, he practiced appellate and criminal law for 12 years. During that time, he published numerous legal publications. He is TEFL/TESOL qualified and has recently finished his MBA at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom. Mr. Williams has traveled extensively, visiting over 25 countries, he loves American football and enjoys reading.

He taught English at The Second High School attached to Beijing Normal University, and Sino Bright No. 8 International High School in Beijing. He has a passion for helping students to become better writers and improving their English in all areas. He is very patient, caring and believes that students should have fun while learning.

Mr. La Roi Williams
Mr. Jackson Blackburn was born and raised in the United States. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry in 2010 before he worked as an outdoor educator and summer camp professional in the mountains of Colorado for many years. Mr. Blackburn finished his Masters of Arts in Teaching secondary science in the summer of 2017 and is eager to continue his classroom teaching practice.

Mr. Blackburn has a passion for teaching students science through rigorous inquiry-based projects in a student centered classroom. He is excited to teach Chemistry, AP Chemistry and Physical Science again during his second year at St. Paul. In his free time, Mr. Blackburn likes to explore the natural beauty of the Earth through travel, running, and climbing. His ultimate goal as educator is to integrate science, environmental literacy, and extended outdoor expeditions for secondary students.
Mr. Soroush Khoshroo was born in Tehran, Iran and was raised in Texas. He received a Bachelor of Science in Biology, Master of Science in Health Care Administration and an M.B.A. from the University of Texas of Arlington. Mr. Khoshroo has experience teaching science at an international baccalaureate and AVID demonstration high school. While teaching high school in Texas, Mr. Khoshroo founded Young Men Unite, a peer mentor-ship organization that fosters over 100 students yearly. Through academic enrichment, exposure to schools, professionals and community service projects, YMU helps build young men into successful adults. In Soroush’s free time, he is playing basketball, practicing photography or travelling the world to engage in all of the cultures and beautiful places!
Mr. Zach Vilinskis comes from The U.S. He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and graduated from the University of New Mexico receiving a Dual License in General and Special Education Teaching. Mr. Vilinskis has experience teaching high school social studies, ESL, PE, and special education. In the past 10 years of his Teaching career he has taught in USA, Australia, Kuwait, New Zealand, and now Vietnam. Along with Zach's dedication to education he also enjoys mountain backpacking, traveling and weight lifting.
Mr. Joshua Jones comes from the United States. He has a Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics from the University of South Carolina, and a Master's of Science in Mathematics Education from Syracuse University. He has taught at Syracuse University and at Guangzhou Foreign Language School. He believes his teaching can be characterized by a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson:

“The revelation of thought takes a mind out of servitude into freedom.”

This quote leads him to urge students to think. He allows students to explore mathematics through exploration activities, and draw conclusions from observations. The students guide their own learning in his classroom; namely, he is there to create a stimulating learning environment and to facilitate their learning. Moreover, after the exploration, he uses the students' conclusions — which they drew during the exploration — as a bridge to introducing formal academic language. He has learned this technique — among many others — from teaching abroad; hence, he is excited to continue developing his teaching at St. Paul American School Hanoi.
Mr. David Coley comes from the East Coast of the United States, but traveled to the Midwest for his undergraduate education at the University of Chicago, earning a B.A. in Mathematics. Since receiving his teaching certification, he has taught high school mathematics at two prestigious private schools in Southeastern Pennsylvania. In his teaching, David focuses on helping students develop the skills they need to become independent problem solvers. He does this by giving students plenty of practice with problem solving and by encouraging students to write and reflect on clear exposition of their ideas and of their techniques. When he’s not working with young people, David enjoys traveling, eating global cuisine, and trying to recreate the foods he likes in his own kitchen.
Mrs. Brown was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Business Education from West Virginia State University. She is currently completing her Master’s of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University.

For the past four years she has taught Computer Science in middle school in Columbia, SC. Kinyatta believes in creating an exciting and engaging environment in the classroom in order to maximize student learning potential. She enjoys time well spent with students. Kinyatta and her husband is looking forward to starting their second year of marriage at St. Paul American School Hanoi. They are thrilled to have the opportunity to teach, learn, and explore while living in Vietnam.
Ms. Misty Wayland is from the United States. She has a Bachelor of Arts with focuses in Psychology and International Studies from Portland State University and Master of Arts in Teaching from Pacific University. Previous to the last two years teaching at St. Paul, she was teaching at-risk youth in public schools and residential treatment facilities for six years.

Ms. Wayland loves exploring new places with her children, exercising, creating her own art and finding ways to improve the lives of children experiencing poverty in Siem Reap, Cambodia. She looks forward to another year of teaching in Vietnam.
Ms. Stacey Barta comes from the United States. She has been active in the performing arts since the age of 4, finally studying music professionally as a United States Marine Corps Musician earning her music degree at the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, Virginia and then earning her Bachelor of Arts from National University. As a musician in the Marine Corps, Stacey traveled extensively to perform for communities, special events such as the Canton Football Hall of Fame, Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, as well as the opportunity to meet and perform with/for famous people such as Harry Connick Jr., BB King, Lee Greenwood, Muhammed Ali, to name a few.

Off stage, Ms. Barta has over 16 years of teaching experience as a public & private school educator, drum corps/marching coach, music director, choreographer, and as owner of her own music company and is well versed in woodwinds, brass, percussion, voice, piano, guitar, dance, and musical theater. Her competitive bands and choirs earned national and international rankings of gold and silver.

"I love teaching because it gives me the opportunity to share my knowledge and experiences with children, encouraging them to be successful in the world beyond our walls through responsibility, communications, respect, self advocacy, and pride in one's choices and actions." Stacey's favorite quote is by Paul Shane Spear: "As one person I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person."
Ms. Elena Cheng comes from Taiwan. She is a candidate for the Master's Degree program of E-Learning from The College of Science, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. In 2008, she received her Certificate of Proficiency in Teaching Chinese as a Second Foreign Language. She also received her Certificate of Advanced Studies from Beijing Language and Culture University, China in 2011. She taught Mandarin at The Chinese Language Center of National Cheng Chi University, Taipei, Taiwan for 6 years. She also had experience working as a Mandarin Lecturer in Delhi, India and Hanoi for more than 3 years.

In her teaching, Ms. Cheng uses a student-centered approach to determine the best learning strategies and memory techniques. She also believes self-learning ability can be trained in the teaching process, and always encourages students to use Chinese to express their ideas, while having enthusiasm to learn the culture of China.
Ms Mylan Pham comes from Paris, France, but she has a great deal of passion for Vietnam because of her grandfather that was Vietnamese.

She graduated with a degree in Foreign Languages at the University La Sorbonne, Paris along with a French Foreign Language Teaching Certification from the Alliance Française Institution.

She has lived in Hanoi for 3 years with her family. She has been teaching at British International School (BIS) and Lycée Français A.Yersin. She is very enthusiastic about teaching, and she is a dedicated worker that is passionate for languages; she speaks 3 languages fluently (French, English, Spanish) and started learning Vietnamese language.
Ms. Trang Le was born in Hanoi, Vietnam. She is a graduate of Linguistics from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities. Her studies have included courses in Sociology, Psychology, Language, and Education. After completing her BA, she immediately had an advantage to do her Master's Degree in her interested area, linguistics. She has experience in teaching Vietnamese for native and non-native speakers for over 13 years including 8 years teaching in international schools. She also finished her teaching degree after 2 years at the Teachers College. Having worked with international students for a long time, Ms. Trang Le has offered her students a safe, structured environment which fosters their learning.

She has a passion for helping students communicate with local people, understand Vietnamese culture and build up their language skills to get ready for any Vietnamese certificate exams. She's so excited for her 7th year working with St. Paul students.
Molly grew up on a small island off the coast of Maine and spent lots of time being active in the outdoors. She was a three sport varsity athlete in high school and college and developed an interest in the mind-body relationship. She conducted research in college and found a positive relationship between exercise and cognitive ability. This project sparked Molly’s interest in health and wellness. She went on to earn her Masters Degree in Nursing from Yale University with a specialty in Pediatrics. She has coached youth sports for the last eight years.

Molly was working in Oregon as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner prior to coming to Hanoi. She loves spending time with children and teaching them about healthy lifestyle choices and their growing bodies. Molly is a registered nurse in the School Health Center at St. Paul and teaches High School Health Class. She has given several presentations to students and staff on Emergency Response, Healthy Lifestyle Choices for Kids, and Puberty among others.
Mr. Jacob LaPlante comes from the US. He was born in California but traveled as part of an Air Force family as a child. He graduated from Oregon State University with a BS in Kinesiology focusing on Bio Mechanics. He earned his Master degree in Teaching from Oregon State University specializing in secondary science. He has focused his teaching on physics and physical science. Mr. LaPlante worked in emergency medicine and as a medical administrator for 5 years before falling in love with teaching secondary students and deciding to become a teacher. In that time he also worked at Oregon State University's Force Lab researching the bio mechanics of sports related injuries. Mr. LaPlante's wife is also a secondary Mathematics teacher and together with their young son they enjoy spending time in the outdoors and studying natural phenomenon from a scientific and mathematical perspective they can bring into their classrooms.
Mrs. Lisa LaPlante comes from the U.S. and received her BA in Education with a focus in Math and her MA in education from Western Oregon University, and recently added an advanced mathematics endorsement. She has taught 5th grade through high school math. She believes that math should be engaging and related to the real world. Mrs. LaPlante has had a passion for teaching since she was 7 years old and decided she would be a teacher when she grew up. The love of teaching and watching others grow has not faded since those early years.

When she’s not teaching, Mrs. LaPlante enjoys reading, hiking, paddle-boarding, and exploring the outdoors with her husband and young son. She is looking forward to seeing all of the great places that Vietnam has to offer!
Mr. Stephen James has a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Education and has been teaching since 2010. He's taught at both middle school and high school levels in Augusta, Georgia and Atlanta, Georgia in the United States. Stephen was born into a Panamanian family and has language learning from two points of views. He enjoys learning new languages and loves teaching in Vietnam. During his free time, Stephen enjoys traveling, learning new languages, going to the gym and painting.
MEET OUR TEACHERS

Mrs. Amy Krauth grew up in Lisbon, Portugal; she moved to the States to go to college, ending up in Springfield, Missouri. There she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education from Evangel University and a Masters in Education degree from Drury University. After twenty years in Missouri, Mrs. Krauth wanted to travel the world, so she and her husband moved to Asia in the fall of 2016.

Mrs. Krauth has over 18 years teaching experience at the high school level. She has spent the last two years teaching in an international school in Shanghai, China. She loves teaching and working with students as a club sponsor and coach. Outside of school, Mrs. Krauth enjoys hiking, going to the beach, and travelling.

Mrs. Amy Krauth
Mrs. Sarah Webster comes to us from New York State where she has been teaching science for the past 10 years. Sarah obtained her Master’s Degree in Secondary Education from The College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York. Her passion for teaching comes from her desire to share her love of studying the natural world and the environments we live in, with students of all ages. Sarah has also spent time as an advisor of various Science & Environmental clubs over the past several years, and she likes to encourage her students to enter competitions and grants in subjects they are passionate about. These efforts have lead Sarah and her teams of students to go on to win numerous contests and grants over the years.

Sarah will be living in Hanoi with her husband and two small children. She is very excited to join the St. Paul team in teaching Science this year. Outside of teaching, Sarah enjoys spending time with her family, swimming, traveling, exploring the great outdoors, and trying new and exciting foods.
Mr. Chad Fitzsimmons comes to St. Paul Hanoi from his hometown of Portland, Oregon. He holds a B.A. in Secondary Education from Western Oregon University, as well as an M.A. in Curriculum Design and Instruction from Portland State University. Mr. Fitz, as his students usually refer to him, has been coaching, teaching and mentoring teenagers for the past 12 years, and he has spent the last 5 years teaching English Language Development at Clackamas High School, just outside of Portland. There, he’ taught English to immigrant and refugee students from all around the world, representing over 30 countries and 20 languages over those years.

Mr. Fitz likes a classroom that functions as a family; working together not only improves learning, but also makes it more fun. As a community, we can appreciate one another, push each other toward our respective goals, and support one another through the long year ahead. In class, he pushes students to find their voice, express their creativity, and embrace the sorts of mistakes they can learn from.

When he’s not in the classroom, Chad plays soccer and obsesses over his home team, the Portland Timbers, reads whenever he can, and spends time with his growing family. He looks forward to bringing his energy and knowledge to St. Paul, and can’t wait to jump in and become part of this incredible community!
Ms. Acree is originally from Boise, Idaho in the US and recently taught in Thailand. She comes to St. Paul with a background in IB studies, EL Learning or Expeditionary Learning, Outward Bound and Common Core curriculum development. Her time in the classroom has shown her that today’s generation of students require teachers who can galvanize a relevant use of technology, instill a need for collaboration and teach the literacy of the world as much as the literacy of the word!

With a Bachelors of Arts in Education as well as a Literacy Endorsement from Boise State University, she feels blessed to have taught in schools that are extremely innovative and focused on educating the whole student. Her former colleagues both in Thailand as well as at Anser continually inspired her learning through inquiry-based research, a project-based curriculum, applicable literacy, community involvement and critical awareness. She believes in establishing a strong school culture that is holistic and upholds a clear vision; one which demands high expectations to be executed through an authentic and motivating curriculum. Ms. Acree’s philosophy is to fully embody the ideal that all students should be taught in a collaborative environment where they procure a sense of interdependence and responsibility to the world around them.

When she's not in the classroom, she can be found adventuring with her son Shae. They enjoy water sports, skiing, traveling, reading and spending time with people who make them laugh. Ms. Acree is thrilled to be joining the St. Paul family!
Mr. Justin McCormack was born in New York, and has taught in both NY as well as Oregon. He has received degrees in both states as well, and most recently completed his Master’s Degree program specializing in educational technology.

Mr. McCormack’s focus is on critical thinking, encouraging students to share ideas in a collaborative setting. Using project-based learning, Mr. McCormack emphasizes the importance of higher order thinking using design thinking and a variety of other strategies that require students to take a hands-on approach to their own education.

In his free time, Mr. McCormack enjoys traveling and exploring the outdoors. He bikes, hikes, climbs and is always ready for an adventure.
Blaire Hart is from the U.S. She graduated from the University of Oregon with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature in 2003 and a Master’s in Education in TESOL from the University of Georgia in 2012. She has taught English as an Additional Language since 2009 in elementary schools, high schools, technical colleges, and universities in the U.S. and overseas. She was the instructor for a TEFL Teacher Trainer Course in Atlanta, Georgia. During her most recent stint abroad, she also led various teacher trainings throughout India as a U.S. State Department English Language Fellow.

Ms. Hart believes that students learn language when it’s relevant, authentic, and engaging and therefore tries to foster an environment in her classroom where lessons are student-centered and include a variety of interests and learning styles. Her favorite part of teaching is learning about her students from around the world, listening to their experiences, and connecting with them during these interactions.

In her free time, Ms. Hart enjoys being outdoors, seeing live music, reading, and spending time with her husband and young daughter.
Ms. Shannon McCartha comes from Atlanta, Georgia, USA. She earned a Bachelor's of Science from Agnes Scott College in 2013 with majors in Biochemistry and Mathematics. She worked as a special needs care giver while earning her certification in secondary math and science education. Ms. McCartha has spent the last four years teaching middle school math in Dunwoody, Georgia.

Outside of teaching, she enjoys baking, traveling and physical activities such as hiking, rock climbing, and aerial silks.
Ms. Audry Pallas is coming from New Orleans, Louisiana. She graduated from James Madison, an honors college within Michigan State University in 2011. She has taught both middle and highschool science for seven years in both public and charter schools. While she loves teaching all things science, she is incredibly passionate about environmental sustainability and empowering students to harness their creativity through engineering.

An avid runner and hiker, when she is not in the classroom, you can find her enjoying the great outdoors.
Ms. Liz DeFranco was born and raised in southern Oregon, USA. She has a Bachelor of Arts in music from Lewis & Clark College and has recently earned her Master’s of Counseling from Oregon State University. Liz has worked with middle and high school aged students in outdoor education for several years in Utah and Alaska and enjoyed the hands-on learning opportunities it created for the students. Liz focuses on building connection and community with the students she works with and is excited to support them with social and emotional learning, academic success, and college and career readiness.

In her spare time, Liz enjoys riding her bike, singing, frequenting bakeries, hiking, and soaking in the many different kinds of beauty in the world.
Laura comes to Hanoi from the United States. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor’s degree in Government while simultaneously earning her teaching certificate through UTeach Liberal Arts. Laura has eight years of classroom teaching experience teaching a range of social studies from AP World History, Sociology, and World Geography. Additionally, she has written American History, World History, and World Geography curriculum for the University of Texas’ Online High School. What Laura loves most about teaching is watching her students grow throughout the year and finding new ways to work on challenging assignments. She is so excited for her first year at St. Paul and is excited to work with her new students and colleagues.

Outside of school, Laura enjoys traveling and is looking forward to being close to so many destinations. She loves to read on a variety of topics but has a book club with other teachers where they read young adult fiction. She also enjoys working out, cooking, spending time with family, and time spent binge watching a good TV show.

Ms. Lauren Krause
Pat Hughes was born in Boston, Massachusetts but attended Jakarta International School in Jakarta, Indonesia. Pat lived in Jakarta for 18 years and grew up as a Third Culture Kid. Pat has a bachelor’s degree in Physical Education from Bridgewater State University. He has been living in Atyrau, Kazakhstan for the last 4 years working at an international school, teaching K-12 PE as well as being the school’s Athletic Director. Pat’s hobbies and passions are coaching, surfing, basketball, volleyball, working out and playing fantasy football. Pat and his wife, Lisa lead an active lifestyle and are very excited to explore Vietnam and to be part of a great team of educators.

Pat joins us with his wife, Lisa Hughes.
Ms. Bravo has a MSc. in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition from the University of Oxford, a M.A in Applied Linguistics (Chinese) from Beijing Language and Culture University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language and Culture from Tianjin Normal University. She also obtained the Examiner Certification for the Diploma of Spanish as Training Certification for Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language from the Cervantes Institute in Beijing.

She has taught Spanish and Chinese for more than six years at different educational levels (elementary to university) in Cuba, Vietnam and China.

She is very excited to return to St. Paul after a year away in Oxford. This time she will bring innovative educational techniques and new teaching and learning methods to improve the educational process in our school. Ms Bravo also loves languages, travelling and dancing.
Mr. Brian Murray is originally from the UK and holds a BSc in Physics from the Queen's University in Belfast. He also has a TEFL certificate. He first became interested in working with children during his time at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast. For the past years he has taught a wide range of age groups in Taiwan, ranging from kindergarten to junior high school. Brian believes in creating a fun and engaging environment in the classroom in order to maximise students learning potential. He has taught English, science and math.
Ms. Danielle is originally from sunny California in the United States and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Design from North Carolina State University’s College of Design with a minor in Business Administration from the Poole College of Management. Additionally, Ms. Danielle holds a Masters of Science in Teaching and Learning from Colorado State University and a TEFL certification.

Ms. Danielle moved to South Korea in 2014, and loved it so much she stayed for over 3 years! During her time, she grew to appreciate how important it is to foster a personalized approach to education, and still strives to create a learning experience tailored to each student's passions and individual needs.

Even though Danielle immediately loved Vietnam's beautiful landscape and delicious foods, she still finds herself missing Korean barbecue at least once a week. When she's not nibbling on kimchi, you can find her reading, walking her dog around the lake, or painting in her studio.
Chuckie Carver was born and raised in Rutherfordton, North Carolina. After graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2010, he spent the 2010-2011 academic year working as a substitute teacher. He later moved to Zhengzhou, China in the fall of 2011 to teach English at the Henan Institute of Education. While teaching and providing lectures on American culture, he decided to pursue his M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration at Vanderbilt University.

After graduating from Vanderbilt, worked as a college admissions counselor with ENREACH Education in Xi’an, China, and later in Chengdu, China. He is excited to Join the St. Paul community in 2018, and enjoys helping students in improving their writing abilities, developing their senses of self, and finding the right colleges for their futures.

Outside of work, he loves lifting exercising, traveling, and watching sports.