

Name: Andrew Wetzel

Experience: I was born into a family of educators, so this is a bit of an unfair query. Regarding me, myself, and I making my way as a professional in the world, I have been teaching for 18 years.

Subject(s): PYP Teacher

Qualifications: I am licensed in Elementary, English as a Second Language, and Special Education with graduate degrees in English as Second Language and Special Education.

*The most interesting thing I have done...*

On a whim, my family and I took a trip to Burma during the ever-so-slim break between one junta and the next in early 2018. It was a magical trip that helped me connect with another Asian culture.

What will you bring to ABIS?

I hope to bring enthusiasm in everything that I do, professionalism to every relationship, and inclusivity—as a mindset—for the entire organization.

What makes you passionate about your subject?

This is an easy one! I am passionate about mentoring students who are learning to read, write, and think mathematically. I'm also passionate about coaching students to monitor their thinking so that literacy and numeracy become a means to learn about the world.

The best teacher I ever had...

The best teacher I ever had taught me almost two decades ago; however, she's still teaching me today. Janaki Natarajan taught me that the answers to all of my questions are within my grasp within myself. Because of this it's one of my professional visions to teach all of my students how to view themselves as self-directed learners.

My hobbies...

I enjoy people-powered: trail walking, hiking, trail running, and overnight, hut-to-hut & long-distance backpacking. To keep in shape to do what I love without strain, I run and lift weights. During any downtime, I love listening to mixed music and watching films.

My dream dinner guests...

If I could dine with three people, then I would choose Jason Bentley, Clarissa Ward, and Beth Rodden as my company. If they're unavailable, then Chie, Luna, and Bear (my brother, Chie's brother-in-law, and Luna's uncle) will do.

Name: Chris Lee

Experience: I've been teaching Art & Design since 2002

Subject(s): MYP & DP Art & MYP Design teacher

Qualifications: I have a BA (Hons) in Fine Art, and a PGCE in Art & Design



The most interesting thing I have done...

Swimming with whale sharks in the Philippines was incredible. To be so close to such enormous but gentle creatures was amazing, I'd love to do it again.

What will you bring to ABIS?

I'm aiming to bring a positive attitude, a good sense of humour and a willingness to try new things. I'll also aim to bring a big appetite for hummus and falafels!

What makes you passionate about your subject?

In life, we are surrounded by Art - our world is full of vibrant colours, shapes, lines, textures and patterns. I love being creative, and I take inspiration from travelling to different places and seeing the diverse range of Art styles on offer.

The best teacher I ever had...

The best teacher I had was an English teacher called Mr Kent, he was able to bring Shakespeare alive through his passion and knowledge. He made each lesson a fun learning experience and helped the entire class to grow and achieve success.

My hobbies...

I enjoy watching and playing football, although I watch it better than I play it! I love to travel, I've been to around 50 countries so far. I did like reading until my two children came along! Now I enjoy spending time with my family and of course making Art.

My dream dinner guests...

**Brian Clough (Football manager),
Marcel Duchamp (Artist)
David Bowie (Musician)**

3 irreplaceable characters



Name: Dorothy Banas

Experience: 19 years

Subject(s): PYP/MYP Physical and Health Education

Qualifications: I have a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and a Master's degree in Education.

The most interesting thing I have done...

When I was in Korea, I got a chance to travel almost the whole part of the country by riding a bike. Korea has an amazing bike path that connects its regions. The Korean Tourism Organization publish excellent maps which point out key attractions, national landmarks and historical sites. One of the most challenging part I did during the bike ride is finishing Korea's most popular cycling route which is a 660 kilometer ride between Seoul and Busan in 4 days.



What will you bring to ABIS?

To make Physical Education a positive, engaging, enjoyable experience where students will be encouraged to be creative, be physically active and be themselves in a safe environment. I will present these activities in a positive and professional manner, to maximize the self-esteem and self-confidence of my students. As a result of physical education, my students will learn that physical fitness is crucial for maintaining a healthy lifestyle, not only now, but for the rest of their lives.

What makes you passionate about your subject?

To me, having a meaningful role in others' lives is extremely fulfilling, and as a physical education teacher, I feel I am in an ideal setting to do so. I firmly believe all of my students are special and possess a variety of talents and skills. It is my mission to expose my students to a wide range of activities that will encourage them to discover and enhance their skills.

The best teacher I ever had...

As educators, we tend to think back and reflect on the teachers who made a difference in our lives. Some of those teachers pushed us to do our best and some of them left an impact powerful enough to make us believe we could do anything. I can remember quite a few teachers who had a gift for teaching and continue to influence my instruction today. My favorite teacher and one who made all the difference in both my personal life and in my career was my Professor in the University Mr. Henry C. Daut. He created engaging lessons that helped me access complex concepts and make connections. He created a learning environment where taking risks was encouraged. He made me see things about myself that I never realized. He believed in me, and I wanted to live up to his good opinion of me.

My hobbies...

I love biking and exploring different places. I basically love all sports, but I play Badminton almost every day. I would like to continue practicing my new favorite sport which is skiing.

My dream dinner guests...

I was very close to my father who had already passed away. If given a chance he is the first person I want to have dinner with, second is our President Rodrigo Duterte and third is Ms. Kim Yeon Koug one of the best Volleyball players in the world.

Name: Ferdi Kaya

Experience: I have been teaching for 16 years.

Subject(s): DP & MYP Physics and Maths

Qualifications: BS and MS Honors in Physics and Math Education from Bogazici University, Istanbul

The most interesting thing I have done...

I danced Salsa. I met wife in Salsa classes. I offered Vietnamese students salsa classes in summer school when I was in Vietnam. I started with just a couple of kids and in 2 weeks I had 15 students. It was hard as they were really shy but we made it.

What will you bring to ABIS?

Sense of humor, the joy of exploration and learning by making many mistakes.

What makes you passionate about your subject?

Practical and observable side of physics. I am interested in different languages and as math is the language of all sciences, I love it. Also, as I always say "Life is hard so is physics so Physics is life". When I see the joy of learning math and science on my students' faces and once they make them part of their life, I fall in love with what I am doing again and again.

The best teacher I ever had...

My high school math and history teachers. Our math teacher was able to use her two hands to write at the same time. She was the smartest human being I ever met. She was able write and answer our questions by looking at our eyes without looking at the blackboard. Our history was like a fortune teller. He knew what would happen in the future just by analysing what happened in the past. Also, he was really good at all other subjects and had great sense of humor.

My hobbies...

I love playing and following football (Besiktas and Liverpool). Playing drums, dancing salsa, biking and spending time with my son. At the moment, he is my TOK teacher. I am a huge foodie and enjoy cooking, eating different cuisines. My wife tests all the new recipes on me and I love that. I am also a good travel buddy if someone makes the travelling plans for me (:

My dream dinner guests...

**Gordon Ramsey
(he would cook for us),
Keanu Reeves
(we will talk about his
interesting life story), and,
Julia Roberts (for her Mona
Lisa smile)**



Name: Fernando Beukes

Experience: I have 14 years of teaching experience

Subject(s): PYP/ MYP PE

Qualifications: Bachelor of Physical Education and Sport (EIEFD)

Master of Education: Elementary Education (The College of New Jersey)

Professional Educator License (Illinois)

QTS (England)



The most interesting thing I have done...

I once abseiled down a steep rock face and rafted down a choppy river later that day. It was one of the most exciting days of my life!

What will you bring to ABIS?

I hope to bring an innovative, enthusiastic and caring approach to my teaching practice at ABIS. I also hope to build and maintain strong, positive relationships with the ABIS community.

What makes you passionate about your subject?

I have learned many valuable life skills through the practice of physical activity and sports, and I also have wonderful memories from my sporting days at school. My personal experiences motivated me to become a teacher, specifically a physical education teacher.

In PE, I try to create learning experiences that are meaningful, interactive, social, and fun for my students. When a student achieves their physical or health goal, the happiness you see on their face is priceless.

The best teacher I ever had...

My dad would be my number one teacher because he taught me about life. However, the best school teacher I ever had was called Mr. Farmer - he was my Geography teacher. He was a tall gentleman with broad shoulders and was always dressed for success. Mr. Farmer delivered his lessons so creatively and interestingly that you seldom had a problem understanding the taught content.

My hobbies...

I love playing sports; I would rarely say no to playing a friendly game of football, basketball, badminton, golf, etc. I also love going on long road trips, and I like outdoor pursuits such as camping, hiking, and off-roading. I also enjoy cooking, but only for my family.

My dream dinner guests...

Trevor Noah
Shaquille O'Neal
Cristiano Ronaldo

Name: Jaymz McKind

Experience: I have 20 years of full time teaching experience

Subject(s): PYP Teacher

Qualifications: I hold a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of Education in ESOL. In addition, I am TEFL certified.



The most interesting thing I have done...

One of the most interesting things I have done is traveled to the Shaolin Temple in Henan, China and learned Kung Fu from original Shaolin Temple monks.

What will you bring to ABIS?

I hope to bring my enthusiasm for teaching and learning to ABIS. Also, I look forward to sharing my martial arts knowledge with staff and students as well and promoting fitness and healthy living.

What makes you passionate about your subject?

The opportunity to pass on skills and knowledge that will continue to benefit our future generations. Being able to make a positive impact on our youth and also learn from them is a great honor!

The best teacher I ever had...

The best teacher I ever had was my seventh grade History teacher Mrs. Jones! I always remember it wasn't as much what she taught me, but how she made me feel as a student. She built a great rapport with her students. She inspired us, encouraged us, and left us with no doubt that she genuinely cared about us.

My hobbies...

I absolutely love traveling and learning about new cultures. I have learned so much about myself and life in general from the people of the world. Physical fitness and martial arts training are a very important part of my lifestyle. I enjoy reading, spending time with family, and enjoying nature.

My dream dinner guests...

If I could have dinner with three people dead or alive it would be the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), George R.R. Martin, and Grandmaster Wang Zi Ping.

Name: Matthew Richmond

Experience: 23 years, 21 of them overseas

Subject(s): PYP Coordinator & Library

Qualifications: BA (Hons) Education; MA in Applied Educational Leadership & Management

The most interesting thing I have done...

I completed the Great Wall Marathon here in Beijing. Don't ask how long it took me - and certainly don't ask me how I was beaten by someone wearing a giant rhino costume!

What will you bring to ABIS?

Knowledge and experience, a positive attitude and approach, a sense of fun and perspective, and a commitment to contributing to the school community.

What makes you passionate about your subject?

I love how we have the opportunity to have a positive impact and influence on the students with whom we are lucky enough to work. I am a huge advocate for the PYP - and especially the Learner Profiles.

The best teacher I ever had...

My favourite teacher was my Year 5 teacher, Mr. Allison - which could have been because he was cricket mad! The best teachers I had were always the ones who were able to make learning seem fun - even when challenging!

My hobbies...

I am a big sports fan - I have played and taken part in many sports over the years. I have completed a marathon (never again!), some short triathlons, Spartan events, and played lots of football, cricket, and golf.

My dream dinner guests ...

Can I cheat for this?! I'll have a few tables of 3 and will rotate for the evening!

Table 1: Nick, Tim, & Dan - my 3 brothers - it's been way too long since we've had the chance to get together!

Table 2: My children, Jacob & Annabel, and their mum, Sally

Table 3: Shane Warne, Darren Clarke, Harry Rednapp

Table 4: Marc, Pete, and Lee - friends I made when I first moved overseas to teach many years ago!



Name: Peter Lawson

Experience: I've been teaching for 22 years

Subject(s): PYP Music

Qualifications: I have a degree in performance from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, and a PGCE with specialist instrumental teaching from the Manchester Metropolitan University. I also have a CELTA.



What will you bring to ABIS?

Energy and verve, quirky and interesting collaborations, a real passion for music. Marrying fun with high expectations.

The most interesting thing I have done...

I gave an interview in Turkish on national radio in Turkey. I had an interview entirely in Japanese to work for the board of education in Chiba, Japan- I had to be fluent in order to get the job. I had beer and pizza with Radiohead in 1993. I skydived above Byron Bay, Australia after a 6 day surfing holiday. I cycled all over Istanbul and lived to tell the tale- I even wrote a song about it. I busked my way around the south of France with a string quartet in the 90s. I did a voiceover in Japan for a very weird anime film. I married a Turk! And I had my cello read by a psychic....what a story that one is.

What makes you passionate about your subject?

I get to create and teach music every day! It never gets old. Every child has the ability to participate and appreciate the joy of creating music whilst developing their understanding of the world around them. I am lucky enough to be able to help kids realise the sounds in their heads into the classroom and beyond. What's not to love about that? Oh, and I get to teach music every day!

The best teacher I ever had...

Roger Ladds, one of my cello teachers for three years. He pushed me to achieve my full potential before university, creating lots of playing opportunities with a variety of ensembles.

My hobbies...

I love cycling trails and big hills. Swimming is something also love, along with hiking. Anything outside floats my boat. And of course music!

My dream dinner guests...

My friends Phil, Morris and Jacob, who all live in Japan. It's been too long since we saw each other.

Name: Sanaa Hamdallah Elbayed

Experience: 15 years experience in art teaching

Subject(s): PYP & MYP Art

Qualifications: I have a master degree in Specific Education, Department of art Education from University of Alexandria. I am certified for PYP and MYP visual art and MYP design subject



The most interesting thing I have done...

My masters degree is the most interesting thing I have done, I was passionate about the topic because it has a strong goals and supporting every woman around the world, and I hope one day to do my PhD in the same topic too (violence against women).

What will you bring to ABIS?

Building a strong teamwork to achieve the school goals, building trustful relationships with the students and making them have a colorful minds.

What makes you passionate about your subject?

I love watching skills growth, making students express their feelings through art and make them believe that art for everyone even when you don't have the talent you can do an art piece.

The best teacher I ever had...

My mom is the best teacher I have ever had, she is always supporting me, believes in my skills, in my way of life and she always courages me to have new experiments.

My hobbies...

I love dancing, singing, learning on new instruments, discover new places, love ballet, yoga and I love to attend musical shows and plays.

My dream dinner guests...

**Alexander the Great
Hatshepsut Pharaoh
King Solomon**

I thought they were great leaders with great powers, it will be an amazing dinner.



Name: Srikala Raghuraman (Sri)

Experience: Teaching for 17+ years

Subject(s): PYP Teacher

Qualifications: B.Sc (Math), B.Ed & Masters in Computer Applications



The most interesting thing I have done...

The most interesting thing I have done is choosing to become an IB educator which has given me heaps of opportunities to explore places and things out of my comfy little zone. What a cliché to say but barely anyone can deny the excitement in getting to see new places, meeting people from various cultures, feeling inspired by new ideas, relating to the many many similarities while appreciating the uniqueness in each. If I should mention one little interesting thing in specific, parasailing above the turquoise waters of Fiji would surely top the list. Not that adventurous a thing generally, but hey! for someone who is a nature enthusiast but not really that sporty, these baby steps are the way to begin!

What will you bring to ABIS?

I regard most of the positive changes in me as an outcome of learning and I would be totally thrilled to hear the same from the kids I teach. I am keen to put action-packed units of inquiry in to practice in ABIS. It would be lovely to see kids take action on scales big, medium, small, and tiny, making a difference. My motto last year was 'Make it Count' and I intend to keep it rolling this year not just because it is time consuming to come up with another catchy term (it is!) but because this turned out be a fantastic reminder for me to be mindful of each student's needs and work towards making learning meaningful and purposeful for all. Just a bit of a warning- To help me with this, I will be more than happy to shamelessly reach out to ABIS community, bounce ideas off great minds and seek all sorts of possible support.

What makes you passionate about your subject?

Being a PYP Homeroom teacher, I am absolutely thrilled by the idea of facilitating kids develop and express the much needed enthusiasm to learn rather than teaching subjects as such. The curious twinkle in the students' eyes puts me on an upbeat even when I have to teach some old monotonous thing at times. Literacy, math and the Programme of Inquiry offer plenty of scope to teach problem solving approach and growth mindset. And what triggers the passion more is the interaction with kids, particularly when they think aloud - be it a critical remark or an innovative thought or just some expression of pure innocence!

The best teacher I ever had...

If I have to mention just one teacher, I am happy to sing the praise of my Year 10 head teacher Mr Venky; with his bubbling energy and stamina, no one could tell he was 65. He had so much zing and had a 'get up and get going' attitude. He was very knowledgeable and had remarkable enthusiasm for life and never even once showed 'I am always right' disposition. I owe big thanks to all those who lit little light bulbs and made me say inside my head, "Aah, so this is how it is done!".

My hobbies...

When I have time in hand, I usually go for long walks as it's fairly the easiest, most inexpensive and highly satisfying thing to do. When there is time and space to get messy, I pick some colors and a plain canvas to paint. And if I can get messier, it's time to copycat DIY projects (copycat (thanks to the highly skillful YouTube influencers), most of which rather turn out to be perfect examples for 'Reality Vs Expectation'. Reading, cooking, having long chats with family and gardening are part of my everyday pastime.

My dream dinner guests...

*Top 2 places are always confirmed -
Harriet Tubman and
David Attenborough; the last
one keeps changing but for now,
it's Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson.*

Name: Theophilus Wusu Gowu

Experience: 20 years of teaching

Subject(s): DP Biology and MYP General Science

Qualifications: Masters in Public health (MPH)
International postgraduate certificate in Education (IPGCE)
Masters coursework in Environmental Science
Bachelor in Biological Sciences



The most interesting thing I have done...

To pursue two postgraduate programmes in the same year and combining it with my job. It was a challenging moment but I feel proud of my accomplishments.

What will you bring to ABIS?

My worth of experience and an ability to inspire my students to achieve the best for themselves in biology.

What makes you passionate about your subject?

How easily it is applicable to real life situations. Biology doesn't look abstract at all!

The best teacher I ever had...

Primary 4 teacher. She found an interesting way of making me develop an interest in reading at an early age. She was a friendly and yet a stern teacher.

My hobbies...

My hobbies include listening to world events in the news on TV and the study of historical artifacts.

My dream dinner guests...

**Nelson Mandela
Michelle Obama
Desmond Tutu**

