



STAFF DIRECTORY



VIMY RIDGE
ACADEMY

Mr. Adam Biddulph



Mr. Biddulph is pleased to be teaching high school English at Vimy Ridge Academy for the 2025-2026 school year! Mr. Biddulph believes strongly in the quote “education is about people who meet.” He heard this at the end of a lecture in University, and it has stuck with him through his career thus far. This quote reminds him that we can learn so much from listening to each other with an open heart, and an open mind.

Mr. Biddulph lives close by in the Idylwyld neighborhood with his husband and pet tabby cat! He is originally from Leduc, where he attended High School where back in the day, he was a student athlete, competing in track and field year round. After High school, he graduated from the University of Alberta in 2017 with a Bachelors of Education, and has been teaching High School with EPSB since 2018, mostly at Eastglen High School. In addition to teaching High School English this year, you can also find Mr. Biddulph teaching Grade 9 Leadership, helping our cross country running teams, and facilitating our school GSA every Wednesday at lunch in Room 113. He is also a professional artist, specializing in collages. Mr. Biddulph loves Lord of the Rings, watching Survivor and eating nachos!

Ms. Lauren Bohnet



Miss B has taught at six different schools, each offering unique experiences that have shaped her approach to teaching, and she is thrilled to be with the Vimy Ridge community! With a major in Biological Sciences from the University of Alberta, she's passionate about all things science, especially human systems biology. She loves hands-on learning— the more labs and demos, the better. She loves incorporating curiosity and creativity into her classes, encouraging students to explore and experiment as they learn. She also brings global perspectives into her teaching, drawing from her experiences traveling to 34 countries (and counting)! When not at work, you can find her travelling, coaching or playing volleyball, biking, exploring new music, thrifting and most importantly petting every dog she walks past!

Mr. Tony Cannon



Mr. Cannon grew up in Abbotsford, BC where he graduated from Abbotsford Senior Secondary. He went on to study at the University of Victoria and earned a Bachelor of Education in Physical Education and Mathematics. Prior to teaching in Edmonton, Mr. Cannon taught in Abbotsford, Kelowna, and Southport (Australia). He has been teaching with Edmonton Public Schools since 2007, having previously taught at Parkview and kisêwâtisiwin school. Rugby and soccer were once the dominant sports in Mr. Cannon's life; he now enjoys a variety of outdoor activities with his family including mountain biking, hiking, climbing, sailing, paddleboarding, pickleball, and skiing.

Mr. Rick Carriere



Rick Carriere previously taught at Vimy from 2004 until 2012 after serving as General Manager of the Western Hockey League's Medicine Hat Tigers from 2000 to 2004 as well as scouting for the Tigers until 2012. From 2012 – 2018 Mr. Carriere worked for the Edmonton Oilers as Senior Director of Player Development. The Edmonton native was also a Head Coach in the Western Hockey League, as he guided the Red Deer Rebels from 1994 to 1996 and then became the Tigers' Head Coach and Director of Hockey Operations from 1996 to 2000, prior to moving into the General Manager position. Rick was also an Assistant Coach for the Calgary Flames' American Hockey League affiliate, Saint John Flames from 1992 to 1994. While attending the U of A, Carriere played for the Golden Bears from 1981 to 1985, where he earned his Bachelor of Education degree playing for Clare Drake and Billy Moores. After graduating from the U of A, Carriere returned to NAIT and began his coaching career as an assistant coach to Perry Pearn from 1985 to 1989. In 1989/90 he took over the Head Coaching position for one year before going to coach the SEIBU Bears in the Japan Hockey League from 1990 – 1992.

High School PHYS ED – Hockey
Social Studies and English/LA

Mr. Todd Cavanaugh



Mr. Cavanaugh is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, having earned a degree in Education with a Major in Industrial Arts and a Minor in Mathematics. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2012 and has since then worked in both the Prairie Spirit School Division and Sun West School Division. Mr. Cavanaugh made the move to Edmonton with his wife in the fall of 2018. He joined the Vimy team on December 21, 2018 as a temporary Sport Fit and Science 9 teacher before moving into Construction on February 4, 2019. He has taught both at the junior high and high school level for the last 9 years. This year at Vimy Ridge, he is teaching junior high and high school Construction. He is proud to help run the Vimy Ridge Rotary Club. During his free time you will likely find Mr. Cavanaugh on the river valley bike trails, kayaking down the river, or dumpster diving for construction treasures.

Mrs. Jill Chimera



Mrs. Chimera is a graduate of the University of Alberta, having earned a degree in Education with a Major in Physical Education and Minor in French. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 2003 and has since then worked in both the Black Gold Regional School District and the Edmonton Public School District. She has taught both at the junior high and high school level for the last 22 years. This year at Vimy Ridge, she is teaching Sport Fit, Softball, Golf and French as a Second Language.

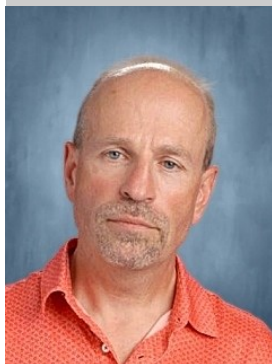
Alongside teaching, Mrs. Chimera enjoys coaching various sports such as Volleyball, Basketball and Slo-Pitch. When not teaching, you can find her at the basketball court, volleyball court or the hockey rink watching her son play these sports.

Ms. Jill Chmilar



Ms. Chmilar is an experienced educator now in her 10th year of teaching, with the past eight years spent at Vimy Ridge Academy. A proud graduate of the University of Alberta, she holds degrees in both Education and Psychology. During her university years, she was a standout defender for the U of A Pandas Hockey team, helping the team win three National Championships. At Vimy, she combines her love of teaching and coaching. Born and raised in Edmonton, Ms. Chmilar now gives back to the hockey community by coaching local minor hockey. When she's not at the rink, she enjoys skiing and sledding in the winter, and camping in the summer with her family.

Mr. Michael Chute



Mr. Chute is currently in his twenty-seventh year of teaching, and his twenty-sixth year at Vimy Ridge Academy. Being one of Vimy Ridge's original staff, he has been part of the evolution of this amazing school. Mr. Chute currently works in Student Services as the school's Registrar and helps to provide academic support and guidance to our Vimy population, especially in support of our students' post-secondary aspirations. Aside from his interests in math and music, he also has a strong interest in Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) research, and was involved in a pilot AAI program at Vimy in support of student and staff wellness. Mr. Chute is keen to have students succeed in their math classes, as this will have a positive impact in their science classes (particularly in physics) as well as in their future post-secondary endeavours. "Don't be afraid to try...your chance for success improves dramatically!"

Mr. Paul Copeland



Mr. Copeland is a graduate of the University of Alberta, and has been with Edmonton Public Schools for the last 24 years. He loves teaching with such a wonderful group of staff and students here at Vimy Ridge Academy. He hopes to pass on his passion for history and all things social studies to all of his students. Mr. Copeland has taught all high school Social Studies courses including the International Baccalaureate & AP programs. When not at school Mr. Copeland spends his free time with his beautiful wife Lorianne and his energetic and handsome son Jackson.

Ms. Andrea Cove



Ms. Cove has returned for another year at Vimy teaching both high school and junior high. A graduate of the University of Alberta, she earned degrees in Education, specializing in English and Social Studies, as well as Arts, studying Anthropology and Comparative Literature. Ms. Cove was born in Edmonton but raised in Kamloops, B.C. and Calgary, Alberta. Moving around and visiting various provinces across Canada as a child, Ms. Cove has always been an avid traveler. She has backpacked through Europe and would like to one day participate in a teaching exchange abroad. Ms. Cove is excited to see the drive to succeed that Vimy students possess and looks forward to encouraging their creativity and love of learning. When not teaching, Ms. Cove can be found renovating her house, or enjoying the nearby River Valley.

**Mrs. Tina
Covlin-Dewart**



Mrs. Covlin-Dewart has been an instructor in Vimy Dance since 1996. She has her B.Ed., B.P.E. (dance), and M.A., focusing on dance injuries. Working with grade 7 and 8 students in social studies is both a challenge and a pleasure, and her students always bring unique perspectives to their learning. Learning with and from students is an important part of her teaching. Mrs. Covlin-Dewart is a strong advocate of the arts and encourages all students to reach their potential through dance, be it artistically, physically, technically, or emotionally. Her favorite parts of the teaching day are interacting with students one on one and seeing them shine. She is the Program Director for Vimy Dance and is a well-known choreographer and teacher in the Edmonton dance community. Her husband and two children help her to bring a family perspective to her teaching.

Mr. Cody Crummer



Mr. C graduated with an after-degree in Education from the University of Alberta. He has worked at Vimy in various short-term roles and looks forward to spending this year with Vimy staff and students. He is completing his Master's in Coaching from the University of Alberta. Mr. Crummer grew up playing various sports and continues to be involved in soccer. When not at school, he can be found on the soccer field or outdoors in the river valley, biking or canoeing.

Mr. Kent Dochuk



Mr. Dochuk has a Bachelor of Education and Physical Education, with a specialization in Health and Fitness Promotion. This is his seventh year at Vimy Ridge. He brings a great deal of playing and coaching experience to the Vimy staff. He has played hockey in the WHL and AJHL. He has coached and taught various ages in hockey from Initiation to University. Mr. Dochuk is looking forward to the challenges of working with the students at Vimy and being a part of a dynamic staff in a very unique school and program. When he is not teaching or on the ice with *Vimy Hockey*, you will find him at the rink enjoying watching his three boys playing hockey.

Mr. M.P. Duxbury



I am happy to be teaching at Vimy Ridge Academy, where I can combine two of my passions, teaching and soccer. I have two degrees from the University of Alberta, a B.A. and a B.Ed, as well as various coaching qualifications.

I have spent most of my life in Edmonton and am happy to be living and raising a family in what I consider my hometown. I have been lucky enough to travel extensively which I feel adds to my teaching of social studies. Soccer has been very good to me, allowing me to travel and push myself, testing my limits. I am happy to be giving back to the sport that has given me so much.

Mr. Steven Dyck



Mr. Dyck has been teaching with Edmonton Public Schools since 2004 and has experience with all levels of Mathematics from grade 7 all the way up to Math 30-1 and Math 31 including International Baccalaureate. In previous positions he has been Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator and Department Head of Mathematics. His focus for this year is improving math results at all levels by putting emphasis on the basics and building student's confidence in their skills. In his free time Mr. Dyck coaches hockey for his son and daughter and finds time to play recreation hockey himself.

Mr. Geoffrey Evans



Born in Halifax and raised in Fort Saskatchewan, Mr. Evans has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta, with a French Major and an English Minor. He also has a Master of Arts in Missiology from Canadian Theological Seminary, which he uses in his leadership role at Wyeclyff Bible Chapel in Sherwood Park. Mr. Evans has had the privilege of teaching at Vimy Ridge Academy since it opened in 1999, having taught previously at Bonnie Doon School. He is married with a daughter, Dorothy, and a son, Robbie. This year, he is teaching Junior High French and language arts. Mr. Evans hopes that his students will always strive to do their best work as they study and learn this year, and that they will find their studies enjoyable, finding personal meaning in the material that will help them to make the knowledge and skills they learn their own.

Mr. Blair Faulkner



Blair Faulkner is a graduate of the University of Alberta, having earned both his Education and Physical Education degrees in 2005. Born and raised in Lloydminster, he became a goalie by default. The youngest of three boys, Mr. Faulkner strapped on the couch cushions for many a game of basement hockey with his older brothers. All of this practice prepared him for his goaltending position later in life; with stops in the AJHL, SJHL and WHL. Mr. Faulkner has been at Vimy since 2013. He has worked with the goaltending program in Vimy Hockey, as well as taught Physical Education and Math. Most recently, he has moved into one of Vimy's Assistant Principal roles. Each year at Vimy, Mr. Faulkner has been challenging Mr. Rolheiser for the cleanest desk award and strives to keep the self-appointed title away from him. Being outdoors and staying active are strong passions of his as he enjoys biking, skiing, squash, paddle boarding and golfing. Mr. Faulkner is also kept busy at home with his two daughters as he and his wife, Jaclyn, continue to watch them grow and spend time traveling together as a family.

Mr. Kris Fedun



I was born in Edmonton but attended many schools in northern Alberta. I eventually went to Simon Fraser University on a football scholarship. I transferred to the U of A to finish my football career and obtain a Bachelor of Education in 1999 (PE Major/Family Studies minor). I immediately started teaching in EPSB, and after three years, I took off to teach in Frankfurt, Germany, for two years of work and travel. Upon my return, I taught for another four years at Jasper Place High School. I then became a Certified Athletic Director at Ross Sheppard High School and filled that role for four more years. I became an assistant principal at Kate Chegwin for one year and returned to teaching at Vimy the following year. This is now my 12th year at Vimy.

Personal accomplishments have been playing Golden Bears Football (1994- 1999), being certified as Canadian Athletic Administrator, climbing Kilimanjaro, being a 13-time Ironman finisher and 6-time half Ironman finisher, and qualifying for the 2026 Ironman World Championship in Kona. I have also fulfilled my passion for travelling to Western Europe, parts of Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, and most of North America. None of this would be possible without the love and support of my two girls (Nina and Leona) and my wife, Karen.

Ms. Kaitlyn Fenton



Ms. Fenton is a graduate of the University of Alberta. She obtained a Bachelor of Kinesiology and Bachelor of Education with a Major in Physical Education and a Minor in Biology. This is Ms. Fenton's fourth year at Vimy Ridge Academy. She is excited to be with the Vimy Ringette program as it combines her passion for physical activity, coaching and teaching. Ms. Fenton grew up playing on a variety of sports teams and other extracurricular activities. She plays ringette, hockey, volleyball, slo-pitch and any other activities that keep her active in her free time.

Mr. Sam Fix



Mr. Fix was born and raised in the Edmonton area. After pursuing a career in academics at the U of A, he realized his passion for working with youth and quickly changed faculties into Education. Mr. Fix grew up playing many sports, including hockey, lacrosse, volleyball, golf, and water-skiing. Mr. Fix is a PGA of Canada Golf Professional and is very excited to be a part of the Vimy Golf program. He is extremely grateful to work alongside the exceptional staff and students that make up the community of Vimy Ridge Academy.

When not at work, Mr. Fix enjoys spending time with his lovely wife and three beautiful daughters as well as his many nieces and nephews. In the winter, he can usually be found at the hockey rink either playing or watching his nieces/nephews; in the summer if he is not spending time with his family at the lake, he is likely golfing or riding his motorbike.

Mrs. Janel Fuller



Mrs. Fuller strongly believes in the important role that physical and mental wellness play in academics. Growing up in a small town she participated in every sport that was offered. She still enjoys playing volleyball, ball hockey and slo-pitch whenever she can, but can more often be found in the bleachers cheering on her children. In her downtime, she enjoys reading, yoga, and camping. Mrs. Fuller is looking forward to a great year of fostering lifelong wellness and learning in all her students!

Mrs. Bethany Ganton



Mrs. Ganton is looking forward to a great year at Vimy as Department Head of CTS, LOTE, and Fine Arts. This year she is teaching Foods.

Whenever she gets the chance, Mrs. Ganton loves to travel. She has lived in four countries and has travelled to many more as she enjoys learning about and living in different cultures. When she is not teaching, she loves spending time with her husband, children, and friends. She is delighted to be at Vimy Ridge and feels lucky to have the opportunity to share her passion for language, culture, and food with her students.

Ms. Joanna Gill



Born in Edmonton, Ms. Joanna Gill has had a range of professional experiences prior to becoming a teacher. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Anthropology, followed by a Master of Education in International/Global Education, both at the University of Alberta, with sights set on working in education policy development in Alberta. However, after spending two years teaching in Mexico, she decided to try different pursuits, and gained experience as a research assistant for both Alberta Education as well as the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Alberta. She has also worked as a mental health therapist, but her main job was recruiting international students for the University of Alberta, allowing her to travel to South and Southeast Asia as well as to the US for 6 years. Ms. Gill realised that she still wanted to teach, so she returned to the University of Alberta to complete her Bachelor of Education after-degree in Social Studies and English as a Second Language. Between work and personal travel, she has visited 27 countries, and in 2023, she returned from three years in London, UK on a diplomatic posting with her husband, who is in the Canadian Armed Forces, teaching English literature in a public school while she was there. When she has spare time, you can find Ms. Gill birdwatching, learning to improve her watercolour skills, gardening, reading, and planning new travel adventures with her husband.

Mrs. Christy Hansen



Mrs. Hansen is a graduate of the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Physical Education and Bachelor of Education. She is excited to join Vimy's Sport Fit program as it combines her passion for physical fitness and teaching. Over the last 10 years she has stayed home with her daughters and has been actively involved with coaching volleyball. She has enjoyed watching these athletes not only develop within the sport but embrace a hard work ethic that will benefit them for life. Christy looks forward to coming back into the school system where she can teach a larger range of course material and continue her passion of positively impacting student's lives.

Mrs. Kari Harris



Mrs. Harris is a graduate of the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Education specializing in Physical Education. She has taught multiple subjects from grade 7 to 12 and has been with Edmonton Public Schools since 2002. She has coached many sports over the years and has a passion for helping youth develop skills that will last them throughout their lives. Mrs. Harris also has a Master's of Arts Counseling Psychology degree from Yorkville University. She practices as a Registered Provisional Psychologist outside of school hours specializing in adolescent and adult therapy for a variety of mental health issues. She also delivers sport psychology sessions to teams and sees athletes for performance related mental health concerns. During her free time, she is usually watching her sons play sports, coaching, working with sports organizations and volunteering at places like the distress line for the Canadian Mental Health Association. Mrs. Harris is excited to help break the stigma surrounding mental health and hopes to be a welcoming counselor to all students at Vimy.

Mr. Joshua Hubert



Mr. Hubert is a product of Edmonton, and attended both MacEwan University and the University of Alberta, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and an after degree in Education specializing in Social Studies and Special Needs. He spent the first 4 years of his career teaching in a district behaviour site, and is excited to join Vimy this year as the instructor in the brand new Esports program. In his spare time, Mr. Hubert enjoys playing soccer as a keeper, playing a variety of video games, drawing, and spending time with his wife, dog, and soon to be daughter!

Ms. Hannah Ilkiw



Ms. Ilkiw completed her education at the University of Alberta where she obtained a Bachelors of Kinesiology and a Bachelor of Education. She grew up dancing, as well as playing other recreational sports, and has furthered her training by becoming a member of Viva Dance Company. Although she has taught for Vimy Dance for many years previously, this marks her fifth year teaching academics as well as other sport programming at the school. Ms. Ilkiw is thrilled to be teaching the new Pre-Kinesiology highschool option course that is being offered at Vimy. Away from teaching, Ms. Ilkiw enjoys travelling, being outdoors and staying active. You will likely find her paddle boarding on the river, cross-country skiing, or enjoying a walk through the river valley in her free time.

Ms. Blanca Jacobs



Ms. Jacobs graduated from The King's University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Mathematics and an After Degree in Secondary Education. Throughout her life she has been a dedicated soccer player, playing for various teams at various levels. Although her dreams to become a professional player were cut short due to injury, Ms. Jacobs still finds joy in playing. After completing her junior and senior high at Vimy Ridge where she was part of the Green and Gold Academy, she is excited to be back in the environment that she grew up in and can identify with!

Mr. Chris Kleinmann



Mr. Kleinmann graduated from the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta with a major in sciences and a minor in physical education. Mr. Kleinmann's current teaching assignment includes the following courses: Biology 20 and 30, Science 9, and Hockey 8/9. Mr. Kleinmann has been involved in coaching many different sports that include hockey, ringette, baseball, volleyball, basketball, golf, and badminton. Mr. Kleinmann has a strong passion for staying fit by participating in a variety of activities. You can typically find Mr. Kleinmann on the golf course and hiking the trails in our Rocky Mountains during the summer months, the arenas and curling rinks in the winter, and running or riding his bike through the trails of Edmonton's beautiful river valley throughout the year. Mr. Kleinmann always enjoys participating in any sport/activity and is always looking for new activities to try out.

Mr. Kyle Lamont



Mr. Lamont is thrilled to begin his first year at Vimy Ridge Academy, where he brings his enthusiasm and expertise to the English, Social Studies, and Science departments. A graduate of the University of Winnipeg, he holds two bachelor's degrees: one in Education and another in Physical and Health Education (BPHE). These degrees provide him with a broad educational foundation and specialized knowledge in health, preparing him for careers in teaching, the fitness sector, or recreation.

With a deep passion for sport, film, music, pop culture, and literature, Mr. Lamont strives to create a classroom environment that is both dynamic and inclusive. His teaching philosophy centers on connecting curriculum to real-world interests, helping students engage meaningfully with the subjects they study.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Lamont enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, watching sports, playing hockey, and attending country music concerts. He's excited to be part of the Vimy Ridge community and looks forward to a fantastic year ahead.

Mr. Kevin Lang



Mr. Lang graduated from Concordia University of Edmonton with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and French. He continued his post-secondary education at The King's University of Edmonton, where he completed an After Degree in Secondary Education. Throughout his life, he has stayed active by playing competitive soccer, working out, and exploring new hiking trails in the mountains. As a Social and French teacher, he appreciates various cultures, traditions, architecture, and languages. This enticed him to travel to 20 different countries throughout Europe. Mr. Lang attended Vimy Ridge Academy in junior high, where he was part of the Green and Gold Academy, and he is excited to be back in the very school that helped develop him into the athlete/ individual he is today.

Mrs. Amanda Letestu



Mrs. Letestu graduated from the U of A with a degree in Physical Education. She first came to Vimy Ridge as a sports performance practicum student where she worked with different academy's in the weight room. After a brief stint as a personal trainer, Mrs. Letestu returned to the U of A and completed her after degree in secondary education, majoring in Physical Education and minoring in Biology. Mrs. Letestu has a passion for sports and recreation. She is a big believer in multi-sport athletes and that a great physical education program is the gateway to living a full and active lifestyle. Mrs. Letestu has competed in volleyball, basketball, badminton, cross country, track and field, and softball during her highschool years. She now spends time training and running Ultramarathons. She has ran, walked and crawled her way to a 100 miles! Her other passion is to be in the mountains where she spends much of her summertime trail running, hiking and camping. Her ultimate goal in life is to try as many activities as she can. She lives by the motto, "It's okay to be scared, do it anyways, do it scared." When Mrs. Letestu isn't roaming off onto a trail, she is spending time with her husband, Lee and her 3 son's.

Mrs. Georgia Mader



Georgia Mader was born in Romania and immigrated to Canada at the age of five. She graduated from an Edmonton high school, and received a division one basketball scholarship to North Dakota State University. She has played basketball at numerous post secondary institutions and graduated from University of Alberta with her Education degree. Georgia has worked at Memorial Composite High School, Eastglen, Westmount, and W.P.Wagner. She has coached basketball for over 12 years and has a passion working on skill development with young athletes. When not at work, Mrs. Mader enjoys spending time with her husband, two children and two dogs. She enjoys travelling and exploring new places with her family. She is very excited to be at Vimy Ridge Academy!

Ms. Terra Mahood



Terra Mahood completed her Education degree at the University of Alberta in December 2008. Although she has taught in Vimy Dance since its inception, she was thrilled to join the VRA staff in January 2009 as an academic teacher as well. Ms. Mahood graduated from the Edmonton School of Ballet Teacher Training program in 1991 and furthered her studies in both ballet and academics. She achieved her Licentiate exam in the Cecchetti Method in 1993 and completed her first university degree, with a major in Psychology, in 1997. Ms. Mahood is excited to be teaching in the classroom as well as in the dance studio, and hopes to offer a unique perspective to both her dance and academic students while inspiring them to achieve their personal bests. She is excited to be teaching Social Studies, French, and Dance.

Mr. Curtis Malin



Director/Instructor – The BJJ Program at Vimy Ridge and Donnan School

Curt Malin has been a teacher with Edmonton Public Schools for the past 19 years. Before teaching with Edmonton Public Schools, Mr. Malin taught for 5 years with Bosco Homes, a school for at-risk children.

Curt grew up in Edmonton, playing hockey with South Side Athletic Club (S.S.A.C.), then played two years with the Powell River Kings in the B.C.H.L before earning an NCAA scholarship to Anchorage Alaska. He played three seasons in the NCAA before returning to Edmonton to finish his degree, where he played with the U of A Golden Bears hockey team, winning the National Championship during the 2000-2001 season.

Having to medically retire from hockey after the 2001 season, Curt began his martial arts journey culminating on April 22nd, 2012, when he became the 12th Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu black belt in Alberta. It took Curt over 10 years of intense study and hard training to reach this coveted milestone. Curt's favourite aspect of Jiu-Jitsu is the foundation of leverage and reliance on technique rather than having to be strong or athletic. Curt is in his 18th year running the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Program, teaching in the program at both Donnan Elementary and Vimy Ridge Academy. The BJJ Program continues to be the only martial arts program offered in partnership with a major school board in North America.

Outside of school and teaching/training Jiu-Jitsu, Curt enjoys training with his wife for triathlons, traveling, and looking after his 4 dogs.

Mrs. Jillian Marino



Jillian Marino has been with EPSB for 30 years and worked as a teacher at Mary Butterworth, John D. Bracco, Nellie McClung at Oliver, and Queen Elizabeth High School. She began her leadership journey as a Department Head of Social Studies, and then continued in the role of an Assistant Principal at Queen Elizabeth (2001-2005), J. Percy Page (2005 - 2009), Jasper Place (2009 - 2012), and Eastglen (2012-2013) High Schools. She has been the Principal at John D. Bracco Junior High from 2013-2018 and now Principal at Vimy Ridge Academy. She was the captain of the volleyball and basketball teams and played defense on the field hockey team in high school, while attending the International School of Islamabad, in Pakistan. She went on to play volleyball at the University of Victoria until she sustained an ankle injury in her first sky-diving expedition. She completed a Bachelor of Arts with a major in French and a minor in History at UVic and then obtained her post-degree Bachelor of Education at the U of A. She has coached volleyball and basketball at both the Junior High and Senior High levels. She has experience with athletics in Track Cycling and supporting National Team athletes in World Cup events and the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg. She has also cheered on her husband in the World Master's Games in Rugby here in Edmonton. Currently, her favorite role is on the sidelines supporting their son at both indoor and outdoor soccer games, as well as their daughter at gymnastics and on the ice in Figure Skating. As a leader in our district, Jillian believes in building community, supporting students in academic achievement, developing leadership and citizenship in youth, mental health safety and wellness, and ensuring student and staff success in the teaching and learning journey together.

Mr. Kelly McClain



Mr. McClain is very excited to join the Vimy staff and be a part of the Hockey program. He completed a Physical Education/Education Combined degree from the University of Alberta in 2003. He is teaching grade 7/8 Social Studies and grade 9 hockey. He was a member of the Goldenbear Hockey program from 1998-2001 and was part of the Back to Back National Championships in 1999-2000. Mr. McClain has spent his summers working with kids in a variety of sports and summer camps. Mr. McClain has taught tennis, waterskiing/wakeboarding, and hockey since graduating from university.

Ms. Dani McGinnis



Ms. McGinnis is in her 14th year with the Science Department at Vimy Ridge. Ms. McGinnis has been teaching Junior and Senior High Sciences, focusing on Chemistry and AP Sciences, since earning her Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta. Throughout her career Ms. McGinnis has not only travelled internationally with students to participate in Science Fairs, but has also coached Basketball, Volleyball and Badminton at the City and Provincial levels. When not teaching, Ms. McGinnis enjoys spending time in the mountains camping and hiking with her husband, son and German shepherd.

Ms. Alexandra Melnychuk



Ms. Melnychuk earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta. She is passionate about literacy and hopes to ignite a love of stories in her students. She has played sports all her life, and she comes from a family of basketball players.

When Ms. Melnychuk is not at work, she loves spending time in nature with her two little boys, reading great books, playing music, watching the Riverhawks play baseball at RE/MAX Field, and most of all, spending time with her family and friends.

Mrs. Melanie Nesimiuk



Mrs. Nesimiuk was born in Saskatchewan and lived in Swift Current until she moved to Kelowna for high school. She lived in Kelowna, Victoria, Port Coquitlam and Pitt Meadows, BC before moving to Edmonton. She earned her Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Alberta. Mrs. Nesimiuk taught in elementary gifted and talented and Mandarin bilingual programs before taking some time off to raise her family. She came back to teaching in the Blackgold School Division where she taught from pre-kindergarten to grade 6 and in the role of Learning Support Teacher. Mrs. Nesimiuk then worked for the GRIT Program (now Kids Included) as an Education Lead working with students with complex needs. She is happy to be rejoining the Edmonton Public School Board and excited to be one of the ISP teachers here at Vimy Ridge Academy. In her spare time, Mrs. Nesimiuk can usually be found at the rink watching her 3 boys play hockey.

Mrs. Natalie Noble



Mrs. Noble was born and raised in northern British Columbia. She played varsity basketball with the Grande Prairie Regional College Wolves and received ACAC Academic and Athletic awards both years. She transferred to the University of Calgary to play basketball with the Dinos while she earned her first degree in Kinesiology. Travelling overseas to study in Perth, Western Australia, Mrs. Noble received a Graduate Diploma of Education from Edith Cowan University with a major in Physical Education and minor in Biology. She has coached many school and community sports teams and can be found playing indoor and beach volleyball, paddle boarding or biking in the river valley, and cross country, downhill or water skiing throughout the year. Being active outdoors and traveling (40 countries and counting!) are passions of hers. She enjoys hiking in the mountains or camping at the lake with her husband and their three young kids. Mrs. Noble is very proud to have joined the talented team of staff and students at Vimy and is excited to be part of the Sport Fit, Science and Foods Programs.

Mrs. Lily Ofori



Mrs. Ofori is both internationally and Canadian educated with many years of experience teaching, mentoring and helping children and youths succeed in school and in the community. In her professional career, she has engaged with students from diverse backgrounds, including special students, individuals from vulnerable groups and socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

She believes education provides tools for learners to discover themselves and ask questions about the world around them. Her role as an ISP teacher at Vimy Ridge is to be resourceful and innovative, and facilitate the best environment to enable learners to adapt, explore, and gain confidence about their innate potentials and discover the world around them.

Mr. Derek Patter



Mr. Patter was born and raised in Edmonton and had the privilege of attending Vimy Ridge as a student from grades 7-9. Now as a teacher he is thrilled to be in his first year at Vimy teaching in the Hockey and Sport Fit programs. He graduated from the University of Alberta with his Bachelor of Education. Prior to attending the University of Alberta he played 3 seasons in the SJHL, splitting his time between the La Ronge Ice Wolves and the Humboldt Broncos. When he's not at school you can find him hiking, biking, golfing or spending time with family and friends. Mr. Patter looks forward to an amazing year at Vimy and helping everyone achieve their best!

Ms. Jenna Persson



Ms. Persson earned her Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta with a major in English and a minor in Biology. She began teaching at Vimy Ridge Academy right after the start of the 2020-2021 school year, and, even though she started late, she was warmly welcomed by staff and students. As she begins year six at Vimy, she feels like a Raider through and through. Ms. Persson has taught a variety of courses at Vimy, including Art, Film Studies, Leadership, and Photography, but her passion lies in teaching English Language Arts. Ms. Persson loves working with students to help them find success and achieve their goals. When she isn't teaching, Ms. Persson loves cooking, gardening, reading, and spending time with her family.

Mr. Spencer Pukalo



Mr. Pukalo is a graduate of the University of Alberta, having earned a degree in both Physical Education and a degree in Special Education. Born and raised in Edmonton, Mr. Pukalo played hockey for the South Side Athletic Club as well as Rugby for the Strathcona Druids. Mr. Pukalo enters his third year as Department Head of Physical Education and is excited to be working at Vimy Ridge in the hockey program. His goal is to support all young athletes to develop their skills and physical literacy across all programs offered at Vimy. When not at Vimy, Mr. Pukalo enjoys spending time with his wife and dogs. Other passions include snowboarding or hiking in the mountains and spending all the time he can at the golf course.

Mr. Jimmy Quinlan



Mr. Quinlan comes to Vimy Ridge Academy having completed his Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta. He graduated with a major in Mathematics and a minor in Physical Education. As well as teaching those students enrolled in Vimy Lacrosse, Mr. Quinlan will be teaching High School Sport Fit and High School Mathematics. Even though he chose a major in Mathematics due to his love for numbers, his greatest thrill in life is playing each and every sport he can. Mr. Quinlan truly believes the lessons learned in sport can be applicable to almost anything at any time in life. When not in a classroom, Mr. Quinlan enjoys working out, golfing, riding his bike or talking someone's ear off. A former professional lacrosse player and coach, Mr. Quinlan will be back behind the bench of the Saskatchewan Rush of the National Lacrosse League for his fourth season as Head Coach and Assistant General Manager. This will be his nineteenth year in the National Lacrosse League as either a player or coach. He is very excited for his eighteenth year of teaching in the classroom and on the field. Mr. Quinlan is married to his amazing wife Shelby and has three beautiful daughters, Gracie, Sadie and Annie.

Ms. Jordie Richardson



Ms. Richardson is in her first year at Vimy, joining the school after spending 10 years at Donnan School's Sport Fit Academy. She holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta with a major in Physical Education and a minor in Physical Sciences, where she also played on the Pandas golf team. In 2023, she completed her Master's of Education in Physical Education and Health, also from the U of A. Ms. Richardson is excited to be a part of the Vimy Ringette Academy and to teach Junior High Math and Sciences to some of her former students.

In addition to playing on the Pandas golf team during her undergrad, she has 20+ years of experience coaching and playing water polo internationally. In her free time, you can find her on the golf course in the summer, or playing ringette and water polo in the winter. She also enjoys taking her two dogs, Neville and Ronix, on long walks. Ms. Richardson is excited for the new environment and challenges ahead, as well as the opportunity to see her former students continue to grow into amazing young adults.

Mr. Travis Rolheiser



Mr. Rolheiser continues his tenure at Vimy, where he has taught both junior high and high school Social Studies and Biology. He also completed his student-teaching practicum at Vimy while graduating from the University of Alberta in 2014. Mr. Rolheiser is extremely grateful for the opportunity to continue working with the Vimy Hockey students while sharing his knowledge and experience of the hockey community at all levels. Prior to Vimy, Mr. Rolheiser played in the AJHL, WHL, ACAC & CIS/USports, winning league and national championships in 2010 and 2014. Outside of the Vimy halls, he can be found spending time with his wonderful wife and daughter, golfing, and maintaining an exquisite backyard lawn.

Ms. Lara Ruppell



This is Lara's 4th year at Vimy Ridge Academy. She teaches in The Hockey Program as well as social studies and is also the Athletic Director for the school. She is excited to share her many passions in all aspects of a healthy life-style with her students and promote life-long active habits through her involvement with Athletics here at Vimy Ridge Academy!

Lara is a University of Alberta graduate from the Physical Education/ Education program and was a member of the University of Alberta Pandas Women's Hockey Team, winning 4 National Championships in her 5 years as well as numerous Academic All-Canadians and Canada West All-Stars. Lara is a Hockey Canada HP1 level certified coach and has been coaching female hockey for over 20 years including Team Alberta, Sherwood Park Midget AAA Fury, Edmonton Bantam AAA Lightning and was the assistant coach of the MacEwan University Women's Hockey Team from 2010-2022. Lara has played many sports both recreationally and competitively since graduating from University as well, she returned to the U of A in 2016 to complete her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and competed in Canada West Golf for the U of A during her Masters. Lara continues to play ice hockey, ball hockey, softball, golf, and many other recreational activities in her free time.

Mr. Neil Sande



Mr. Sande is an extremely proud member of the staff at Vimy Ridge and has been teaching with EPSB for 28 years. His experiences range from grade 6 to grade 12, with a primary focus in math and science for the past 20 years. Mr. Sande has been very involved in coaching school sports particularly volleyball and track and field. Further, he is excited to be in his 20th year of coaching with the Green and Gold Soccer Academy. Mr. Sande is looking forward to having a phenomenal year at Vimy Ridge and bringing his passion for academics and athletics to the classroom, volleyball court and to the field.

Ms. Annalise Schellenberg



Ms. Schellenberg graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Arts in Recreation Sport and Tourism and an After Degree in Secondary Education. During her time at the University she played on the Pandas Soccer team from 2011 to 2015 and represented Canada playing for the University National Team at the World University Games in both South Korea and Taiwan. She is very excited to be returning to these halls after graduating from Vimy and the Green and Gold Academy in 2011. Ms. Schellenberg is looking forward to being a part of the community that she valued so much growing up.

Mr. Rob Schmidt



Mr. Schmidt is very excited to be back at Vimy Ridge Academy in the role of Program Director for the Outdoor Pursuits program. He completed a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) and a Bachelor of Education Degree at the University of Alberta and began working for Edmonton Public Schools in 1999. Mr. Schmidt has been involved in outdoor activities for many years and in his spare time you can find him riding his mountain bike, fishing on a river or enjoying himself on the ski slopes. Mr. Schmidt is an active member of the ski racing community and is the past Alpine Chair for Snow Valley Racing.

Mrs. Madeline Sherren



Mrs. Sherren is a graduate of the University of Alberta where she graduated with distinction. She spent 10 years abroad, travelling and working in many countries. In her travels she gained valuable life experience as well as fluency in both Spanish and Catalan. In Spain, Mrs. Sherren taught English, worked in an international school, and took groups of students to Malta for English programs. Mrs. Sherren believes that language learning should be engaging and that students should be involved in authentic activities and tasks that reflect the students' personal interests. In addition to Spanish, Mrs. Sherren also teaches Social Studies and enjoys it very much. Outside of school Mrs. Sherren enjoys spending time with her family, camping, hiking, biking, kayaking, travelling, and gardening.

Mr. Philip Smyth



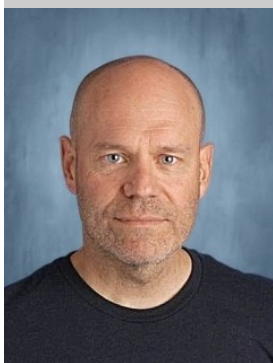
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Mrs. Erin Spence-Berjian



Mrs. Spence is a graduate of the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Education, majoring in Math and minoring in Physical Education. This is her seventh year at Vimy Ridge Academy. Mrs. Spence is a former alpine ski racer and continues to love to ski. She also enjoys x-country skiing, running, biking, hiking and fitness. That said, she spends most of her spare time being a mom (a.k.a. cook/house cleaner/taxi driver/spectator of sports and drama productions/etc.)! Mrs. Spence loves to explore the world and road trip with her family in their VW camper van.

Mr. Gord Stretch



Mr. Stretch enjoyed a career as an exploration geologist before teaching. His background in Earth Sciences includes a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in geology, from U of A and Queen's University. This education, combined with 15 years of field work in gold, base metals and diamonds exploration, gave him a decent background in many aspects of natural sciences, and he enjoys trying to pass it on to today's youth. When not in the classroom, Mr. S enjoys music, biking, golf, disc golf, a little breathing meditation, and hanging out with his kids.

Mr. Andrew Thomson



Mr. Thomson is looking forward to another year at Vimy Ridge Academy in the English department. He is a graduate of the University of Alberta, earning both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees there in Secondary Education. He is happy to have the opportunity to continue to share his passion for literature, film, music, and pop culture with his students. When not at school, Mr. Thomson can be found spending his time with his family, at an excessively loud concert, or hitting the road on his motorcycle.

Ms. Aadra Vanderbleek



Ms. Vanderbleek graduated from MacEwan University in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in Mathematical Sciences. Through working as a data analyst and a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT)/Professional Canine Trainer (PCT-A), she discovered the joy of teaching. In 2020 she went back to school to pursue a Bachelor of Education degree.

Born and raised in Edmonton, Ms.V grew up spending most of her free time at the lake with her family - on the water and in the sun as much as possible! This is her first year teaching at Vimy Ridge Academy. In her spare time you will always find her with her dogs (Morten & Nora) or on the water! She competes with her dogs in plenty of dog sports including agility, disc and mantrailing!

Mr. Jason Wass



Mr. Wass graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in Physical Education and Education. At the U of A he wrestled with the Golden Bears, he was a two-time national medalist and a part of three Conference Team Titles and one National Team Title during his five years with the team. After retiring from competition in wrestling he began to train and compete more frequently in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and he currently holds the rank of black belt. In 2017 he competed in the IBJJF World No Gi Championship earning a Bronze medal in his division. Mr. Wass enjoys also spending time with his family outdoors in the river valley as well as camping and hiking in the mountains.

Mr. Jordan Wheaton



Mr. Wheaton has been with Vimy Ridge Academy since 2015. He received his Bachelor of Commerce degree in 2012. After working as a retail manager for one year, he pursued his passion for education. He completed his Bachelor of Education degree in 2015 at The King's University with a minor in Mathematics and Social Studies. Mr. Wheaton grew up playing lacrosse for the Sherwood Park Titans, the St. Albert Junior Miners, and is currently a member of the Fort Saskatchewan Senior Rebels. Mr. Wheaton also grew up playing hockey in Sherwood Park, where he played for the U18 AAA Kings, as well as coaching with SPKAC and Fort Saskatchewan Major Hockey. Mr. Wheaton is married with two amazing daughters, Ivy and Eden. When not teaching, you can find Mr. Wheaton at the gym, walking his dog, with a lacrosse stick in his hands, or spending time with his amazing family.

Mrs. Lindsay White-Thornton



Ms. White-Thornton was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree (English, History) from Concordia University and a Bachelor of Education Degree with Distinction (Social Studies, English Language Arts) from the University of Alberta. She began her teaching journey with Vimy Ridge Academy as a Program Partner, teaching for Vimy Dance, in 2000. Since that time, Ms. White-Thornton has added English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Leadership to her teaching portfolio, and is currently the Department Head of Student Leadership.

Ms. White-Thornton has a diverse background from which she pulls inspiration for her teaching practices in classrooms and studios alike. Having worked for the Government of Alberta (Human Services, Employment and Immigration), Alberta Health Services, and local non-profit agencies in a variety of roles, Ms. White-Thornton has developed a passion for life-long learning- something she works to develop and share with her students, as well.

When she's not at Vimy, she enjoys camping, yoga, music festivals, and spending time outdoors with her children and pup.

Mr. Brad Whittingham



Mr. Whittingham is part of the Social Studies Department and Sport Fit Program at Vimy Ridge Academy. He is a graduate of the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Physical Education and Bachelor of Education. Mr. Whittingham has been with Edmonton Public Schools since 2000, teaching Social Studies, Physical Education, Work Experience, and being involved with Student Services working with at-risk students. He has enjoyed coaching Basketball and Rugby throughout his career and is passionate about helping students explore and be successful in the many opportunities at Vimy. Mr. Whittingham was born and raised in Edmonton, competing in hockey, rugby, boxing, baseball, basketball, and various other athletic endeavours. He has also been an avid outdoors enthusiast throughout his life, camping, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, water skiing, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and paddling. He hopes to help instill a passion for lifelong learning and an active lifestyle in all his students.

Mr. James Wilson



Mr. Wilson is a graduate of the University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Health and Physical Education, and immigrated from Auckland, New Zealand. Mr. Wilson has been with Edmonton Public School Board since 2017 teaching math, science and grade 6 elementary. Mr. Wilson teaches math, science, exploration of film and the baseball/softball program. Mr. Wilson has worked as a professional baseball coach since 2014. He has worked as a development officer for the New Zealand Baseball Association and the Auckland Baseball Association. Mr. Wilson is now the pitching coach for the Edmonton Riverhawks in the summer and also the pitching coach for the Edmonton Collegiate Hawks in the fall and spring. Mr. Wilson has a 2 year old daughter and recently welcomed his son in spring. Mr. Wilson absolutely loves being a Dad. In his limited spare time, you will see him playing golf with friends or spending time with family.

Mrs. Nancy Youngs



Nancy Youngs graduated with honors and distinction from the University of Alberta in 1992 with her Bachelor of Physical Education and in 1994 with her Bachelor of Education degrees. While attending University she was a team member of the Panda's Basketball Program from 1990 to 1992. Before transferring to the U of A, Nancy played college volleyball for the Red Deer College Queen's, as well she was a team member for their golf program and cross country running team. After graduating, Nancy obtained a teaching position at McNally High School teaching physical education, fitness and math. Nancy obtained her level 3 certification in the sport of basketball and went on to coach the girls program at McNally. They had a very successful eight years, making it to provincials three times. Nancy spent four years co-coaching the Midget Girls Alberta Basketball Team. After McNally, Nancy became the Department Head of Physical Education and Athletics at T.D. Baker school for two years; she then completed six years at Ross Sheppard High School, one of those years being the Assistant Department Head of Athletics. During these years Nancy coached high school volleyball, basketball, and track and field. In 2009, Nancy took a leave of absence to start her own business; she is currently teaching part time at Vimy Ridge and running her business.

Nancy is very passionate about sport and athletics. She completed her first Ironman in 2006, and continues to keep sport important for herself and her children. Nancy believes that teaching is getting to know students, staff and parents on a more genuine level. A true measure of teaching comes from the success that lies within the framework of the school and in how each individual within that foundation collaborates to create something that is magical for the students of our future.

She believes we, as teachers, teach for the student's future and for our own. Teaching is a passion. One must be willing to take a risk in order to have our children reap the true rewards from the profession.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Mr. Travis Bouchard



Travis is the Director for Vimy Esports, Vimy's newest academy. He has a passion for sports and technology and was fortunate to be offered a position with AAD in 2009 so that he is able to focus daily on both of these passions while working at Donnan and Vimy. Since 2009, Travis has been the AAD Communications Director and in that role, he is tasked with promoting all of the AAD programs at Donnan and Vimy, building/repairing all of the AAD computers, designing, developing and administering all of the AAD websites and social media accounts and designing the AAD student-athlete clothing. Travis comes from a traditional sports background where he has coached hockey at the PeeWee AA, Bantam AA and AAA levels as well as Baseball at many different levels and holds many coaching and safety certifications in each sport. He has sat as an executive member on both the Sherwood Park Minor Baseball Board and the Edmonton Disc Golf Association Board. Travis is also the Alberta co-representative for the National Education Council for Esport Canada and the Vice Chair of the Alberta Scholastic Esports League (ASEL) Advisory Committee. When he's not at work, Travis enjoys disc golfing, reading, video games, music and spending time outside with his wife Stefanie and sons Lincoln and Griffin.

Mr. Sean Connauton



Sean Connauton has been working as a skating and hockey skills coach since 2011. He has coached in the US, Finland, Sweden, and across Canada. Sean is passionate about working with students of all ages and abilities. In 2013 and 2014 he was the assistant coach of Team Brick Alberta and co-head coach of Team Jr. Brick Alberta.

Born in Edmonton, Sean attended Donnan Academy through Junior High. He went on to play in the AJHL and won a Doyle Cup Championship with the Camrose Kodiaks. Sean then played NCAA Division 1 hockey and while at Brown University he was also on the varsity golf team. In the summer of 2009 Sean attended the Edmonton Oilers Rookie Camp.

Sean's younger brother Kevin is also a Donnan alumni and has been a professional hockey player since 2010 including 10 seasons in the NHL and was a member of Team Canada at the Spengler Cup in 2022. Kevin has engaged Sean as coach throughout his career, and the brothers have been fortunate to be teammates, opponents, as well as co-coaches together.

In addition to hockey and golf, Sean enjoys many other sports including snowboarding and skiing. He also loves spending time with his family and friends.

Mr. Nathan Dempsey



Born and raised in Spruce Grove, Nathan played his entire minor hockey years in Spruce and then went on to play in the W.H.L for the Regina Pats. He was drafted in the 11th round 245th overall to the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1992. Nathan was team captain of the St. John's Maple Leafs from 1997-2002 and won the Fred T. Hunt AHL League Memorial Award which honors the player best exemplifying the qualities of sportsmanship, determination and dedication to hockey – 2001/2002. Nathan then went on to play 260 games in the N.H.L with Toronto, Chicago, Los Angeles and Boston. In his career, he has played over 850 games during a 14 year professional career in the N.H.L and A.H.L that spanned Canada, United States, and Europe. Nathan is excited to bring his experience, knowledge and enthusiasm of the game to the students at Vimy Hockey.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Mr. Ryan Faulkner



Ryan grew up in Lloydminster, AB spending much of his time at the hockey rinks. Although hockey is his favourite, he enjoys trying all types of sports and continues to include physical activities to his daily routines.

Ryan comes to AAD with a Physical Education and Recreation degree from the University of Alberta. His passion for sports and education led him to us in 2015 as a hockey instructor at Vimy and has since transitioned to the Vimy Campus Director.

Ryan has a strong belief in developing a true athlete through experiences in many sports and athletic adventures. He encourages all students to enjoy multiple sports activities while focusing and pursuing one sport of choice.

Mr. Dylan Flasch



Dylan grew up in Lloydminster spending most of his time at the ballpark. Following high school, Dylan graduated from Lethbridge College with a Business Administration Diploma and a Certificate from New York University in Global Sports Management. During college, Dylan was named a Canadian College Baseball Conference All-Star and won the Canadian College World Series in 2017. He then moved on to play for the Moose Jaw Miller Express & Lethbridge Bulls of the Western Canadian Baseball League.

Following his playing career, Dylan coached the Badlands Baseball Academy, Central Alberta Sox, Edmonton Collegiate Hawks, and Edmonton Riverhawks. His roles included working with players of all positions, recruiting, scheduling, social media, and using player development technology. Dylan is now the Marketing & Communications Coordinator for AAD and is also an instructor with the Vimy Baseball program.

Mr. Bryan Fountain



Bryan joined Vimy Ridge in 2024 as the Strength and Conditioning Coach, where he oversees all weight room training across the academy.

Hailing from Barrhead, Bryan was involved in every sport the town offered, competing in baseball, hockey, track and field, badminton, golf, and volleyball. He reached provincials in nearly all of these sports, winning provincial titles in golf and volleyball, and a U18 Club Volleyball National Championship with FOG.

He earned his Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology with a major in Sports Performance from the University of Alberta, where he was also a member of the Golden Bears Volleyball team. Bryan earned multiple Academic All-Canadian Awards and competed in USPORTS Nationals every season with the Golden Bears. He completed his Master's degree in Strength and Conditioning at St. Mary's University in London, England.

Bryan is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the NSCA. His career includes stints at OHA Edmonton and Firstline Fitness, where he trained hockey players from U11 to current NHL professionals. He also spent a year in Germany as the Assistant Coach and Head Strength and Conditioning Coach for a Division 1 Men's Volleyball team.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Mr. Chris Holt



Chris has worked with local and international sports teams for the past 20 years including rugby, hockey, basketball, and dance. He holds a certificate in Sports Physiotherapy and has a special interest in the area of pediatric sports injuries. A clinical educator with the University of Alberta, he is a regular presenter and research collaborator, and was recently recognized with a UofA Teaching Award. Chris' unique treatment style focuses on empowering patients, both young and old, to overcome obstacles through education and exercise.

Mr. CJ Jayasekera



Coach CJ brings 25 years plus of coaching experience and a dynamic approach to the Vimy Ridge Academy High School. His passion is nurturing the next generation of ball players and community leaders, helping them achieve their goals. Focused on building strong fundamentals, he fosters a positive, challenging environment that promotes a love for the game and personal growth through discipline, teamwork, and resilience.

His journey began at the University of Auckland, where he studied Psychology and Education. While coaching grassroots programs and national teams in New Zealand, he developed a deep curiosity for understanding long term growth, movement, psychology, and optimal athlete performance.

His extensive coaching resume includes current role as Baseball/Softball Performance Director at Vimy Ridge Academy High School (2019-present), National Team Head Coach roles with Baseball New Zealand (2000-2011), Technical Director of Baseball at South Jasper Place Minor Baseball (2011-present), Assistant Coach with the WMBL Edmonton Prospects Summer Collegiate Team (2014-2018), and coaching positions with Okotoks Dawgs Baseball (2008-2009), St Albert Cardinals (2011-2014), Edmonton Expos (2020-present), and Evolution Baseball (2024-current). Additionally, he has held various provincial roles with Baseball Alberta, Baseball Canada, Baseball New Zealand, Baseball Australia, and internationally with the Baseball Confederation of Oceania & Pacific. His expertise extends beyond coaching, as he is also a certified umpire, movement coach, mental skills coach, sports fields turf manager, and NCCP Learning Facilitator.

Born in Ceylon, raised in New Zealand, and now residing in Edmonton, Coach CJ's passion for the game is evident in his dedication to continuous learning and holistic coaching. Outside of baseball, he enjoys the outdoors, music, and challenging physical activities like climbing and martial arts. His adventurous spirit is highlighted by his ambitions to climb Mt. Everest and explore space.

At Vimy Ridge Academy High School, Coach CJ is excited to empower young athletes both on the field and in life, guiding them toward their goals with high expectations and unwavering support.

Mr. Jeff Jones



Mr. Jones is the longest-serving member of the AAD team. He has been with AAD since 1998 and, after doing an exceptional job as a lead hockey instructor at Donnan and Vimy Hockey, has taken on the responsibilities of Executive Director since 2004. His commitment to the belief that "Academic Training" AND "Physical Training" must be equal partners in the development of a student athlete has proven to be true for many students who have walked through the doors of Vimy Ridge Academy and Donnan School.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Mr. Mo Kelly



Mo graduated from Vimy Ridge Academy in 2016, taking part in the lacrosse program. He is now starting his first year at Vimy as a lacrosse instructor. Growing up in Fort Saskatchewan he played for the Rebels Minor Lacrosse club before playing for the Jr A Sherwood Park Titans and the Jr A Edmonton Blues. Mo played collegiate lacrosse at the NCAA Division II level, graduating from Chestnut Hill College with a degree in exercise science. Since graduating from college Mo has been coaching numerous levels of lacrosse in the RMLL, Razorbacks Lacrosse Club and travel teams for Northstrong lacrosse. If Mo is not on the lacrosse floor or field you can find him outside biking, golfing or snowboarding. Mo is very excited for his first year back at his alma mater instructing lacrosse!

Ms. Ariana Kresic



Since joining AAD in 2022, Ariana has served as the Ringette Director and assisted in hockey as a junior high and high school goalie instructor, as well as a cognitive instructor. She earned her Kinesiology Diploma from Red Deer College while competing with the women's hockey team, and went on to complete her Kinesiology Degree at the University of Alberta. Since graduating, Ariana has stayed involved in hockey, mentoring under goaltending instructor Kurtis Mucha and serving as a head coach in the AFHL. Ariana is excited to continue her journey with the athletes and staff at Vimy Ridge.

Mr. Josh Lee



Josh is in his first year as a full-time instructor. Born in Yellowknife NT, moving to Edmonton in 1996 he has called Edmonton home for the last 27 years. Josh attended Vimy from 2002-2004, and it played a crucial part of his development, and he credits the great instructors he had while he attended the school.

Josh played four years in the AJHL For the Sherwood Park Crusaders and Fort McMurray serving as captain his last year. Josh has coached for the past 11 seasons, spending time at SSAC U15AAA Winning a Western Canadian Championship. LJAC U18AAA and a Provincial Championship. The past 5 seasons he was the Assistant GM/Associate Coach of the Waywayseecappo Wolverines in the MJHL. In his spare time, Josh works for the Manitoba junior hockey league, and is still connected with the Wolverines. With a decade of experience in power skating and on/off ice skill development. Josh is very excited to be back at Vimy, and share his passion for the game. Developing great humans, on and off the ice. Away from the rink Josh enjoys spending time with his wife, family and friends.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Mr. Cody Leeming



Originally from Harrow, Ontario, Cody moved to Alberta in 2021. Cody played AAA and Junior hockey in the Windsor/Essex country area finishing with the Essex 73's Jr hockey club where they would win the league back to back years in 2016 & 2017. During his junior years of hockey, Cody worked as a skills instructor for Proven Performance Hockey as well as coaching his high school hockey team.

Upon finishing up playing, Cody then jumped into the coaching side of the game immediately with the Essex 73's followed by two seasons as an Assistant Coach with the U18AAA Windsor Spitfires team and with the Lasalle Vipers Jr Hockey team. He then moved to Olds, Alberta where his brother was the coach of the Olds College Broncos Women's team where he became an assistant coach with the program as well as the U18AA head coach for the Olds Grizzlys minor hockey team. After another two years in Olds, Cody moved to the Edmonton area in 2023 where he became the head coach of the U17AAA Leduc Oil Kings as well as following his brother to MacEwan University Griffins Women's hockey program as an assistant coach. During those two years, Cody spent time as support staff for the Vimy Hockey Program. Currently, Cody is in his second season as the U18AAA head coach in Leduc as well as transitioning to the skills coach for the women's team at MacEwan. This will mark Cody's first season as an on ice instructor for the hockey program.

Ms. Sarah Lehman



Program Director/Instructor.

Sarah began playing when she was 10 years old in St. Albert. When her family moved to Ontario she played box lacrosse for the Whitby Warriors and field lacrosse for the Oshawa Lady Blue Knights where she won multiple Provincial Championships and Ontario Summer Games. Sarah attended Limestone University where she was a four-time All-Conference player, three-time All-American, and captained the team her senior year. With Limestone, Sarah won four Conference Championships and played in the National Tournament all four years, competing in two National Championship title games. As a Saint, Sarah broke a number of single season and all-time scoring records. She still ranks in the top 20 for single season assists and all-time points in Division II. In 2011 Sarah captained the U19 Canadian National team that captured the Bronze at the World Championship in Hannover, Germany. After graduating from Limestone in 2014 with a major in Strength and Conditioning, Sarah moved to England where she coached school teams and regional teams. Sarah coached the Wales U19 "B" Team at the Home Internationals Tournament and was the assistant coach of the U19 Wales National Team that competed at the 2015 World Championship in Edinburgh, Scotland. Sarah is currently the Director of the Vimy Lacrosse Program, Women's Director of the Edmonton Razorbacks, and the head coach of Team Alberta U19 Field. She is also the head coach of the U19 Canada West Development team. Away from the field, Sarah loves spending time with her family, chasing her kids around, and playing pickle ball and golf!

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Mr. Kurtis Mucha



A Native of Sherwood Park, Kurtis grew up playing in the SPKAC system before moving onto playing for the Portland Winterhawks and Kamloops Blazers of the WHL. His playing career finished at the University of Alberta Golden Bears, winning 2 national championships.

A valued member of AAD since 2015, Kurtis heads the goalie department on both the junior and high school portions of Vimy Hockey. Through weekly sessions with the goalies, Kurtis strives to improve each athlete that he steps on the ice with.

Outside of AAD, Kurtis is the Goalie Coach for the Edmonton Oil Kings of the WHL, among many other associations and teams in the province.

Ms. Heather Osgood



Heather's deep-rooted passion for health and wellness led her to earn a degree in Physical Education and Recreation from the University of Alberta, where she majored in Sport Performance. Her career has been built around developing strength & conditioning programs for athletes across a range of sports, with a particular focus on using sport to empower young women. Heather has worked extensively with the University of Alberta Women's Hockey Team, NAIT Women's Hockey Team, and Grant MacEwan Women's Hockey Team. She also played a pivotal role in the U18 AAA St. Albert Slash's historic three consecutive ESSO Cup National Championship victories.

Having spent a decade as the Strength and Conditioning Coach with Team Alberta's U18 Female Hockey Program, where she helped secure multiple National Championship medals, Heather is now transitioning into a new role in Outdoor Pursuits. While this area is a new focus for her, she is excited to bring her wealth of experience in athlete development, leadership, and team-building to the program. Her background in high-performance sports provides a strong foundation for delivering an exceptional and holistic experience for student-athletes as they explore new physical challenges and outdoor adventures.

Ms. Brittanie Ouimet



Britannie is starting her second year as a Lacrosse Instructor at Vimy. Brittanie started playing box lacrosse at 10 years old for the Westlock Rock, and transitioned to the field game at age 17. Brit has competed in three national championships as a member of Team Alberta - 2013 and 2015 for box and 2018 for field. Brittanie played collegiate lacrosse at Limestone University where she earned All-Conference, All-Region and All-American honors while also serving as team captain during her senior season.

Since graduating from Limestone in 2021, Brittanie has moved back to the Edmonton area. She has been coaching several youth teams with the Edmonton Razorbacks and North Strong Lacrosse. Brittanie is looking forward to another fantastic year at Vimy Ridge!

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Dr. Erika Persson



Dr. Erika B Persson, MD, FRCPC, DRCPSC, Dip Sport Med
Pediatric Sport Medicine Physician

Dr. Persson completed her medical degree and Pediatric Residency at the University of Alberta and completed her Pediatric Sport Medicine Fellowship at the University of Manitoba. She is the only Pediatric Sports Medicine Physician in Northern Alberta and a handful of Pediatric Sports Docs practicing in Canada. She is a diplomate and past president of the Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine.

Dr. Persson has a passion for youth sports including performing arts and aesthetic sports. As a team physician, Dr. Persson has been part of numerous multisport games including the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games, the 2018 Winter Olympics; the 2016 Youth Winter Olympic Games and the 2015, 2017 and 2025 editions of the FISU Universiade games. She has also been part of the sponsored medical team for multiple Canada Games. She is a National team physician with Skate Canada and Canada Soccer for the Women's U20 National Team.

Dr. Persson is an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Alberta. Her practice in Pediatric Sports Medicine is community based in Edmonton and St Albert. She is the current CPD Chair at CASEM and at the University of Alberta she is involved in teaching Medical Students and Residents both in the classroom and clinic. She is also an elected member of the U of A Faculty of Medicine Clinical Promotions Committee.

In her free time, Dr Persson loves to be outside with her family biking, cross country skiing and camping and travelling to new places and exploring the local culture and food.

Mr. Stacey Rayan



This is Stacey's second year as a full time on ice instructor. He has been with the hockey program for 5+ years as an on ice support instructor. Stacey grew up in Sherwood Park playing his minor hockey for the Kings association where he has also coached for over 10 years. Stacey also played his junior hockey for the Crusaders in Sherwood Park of the AJHL and then went on to play College hockey at NAIT where he captained a national Championship team. When he finished College he went on to play in the first division in Germany and the ECHL for 3 years, Stacey graduated from NAIT with a finance diploma.

Stacey is very excited to be apart of the hockey program where he can share his knowledge/passion with the staff and students in the hockey program. Stacey also has a son attending his second year in the hockey program at Vimy Ridge.

Mr. Bruno Zebie



Born and raised in France. Moved to Edmonton when I was 12. Played soccer at various levels, from youth soccer in Edmonton to university, to professional soccer. 13 years of coaching experience. Played for the University of Alberta and now assistant coach at the U of A. Went to Vimy Ridge Academy for grades 9-11 and have been coaching there for about 8 years

Our Amazing Office Staff



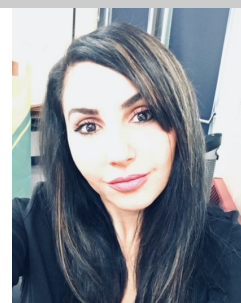
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