David joined SMNS in 2016. He has been an educator since 1991 and a school/non-profit leader since 2000. He has taught, lead schools, developed programs, advised youth groups, and operated large organizations. Other roles include adjunct college instructor, state certified consultant and American Red Cross instructor. David holds a BS in Human Development and Family Relations from University of Connecticut, a MS in Early Childhood Education Administration from Nova Southeastern University and all but a dissertation toward a PhD in Leadership: Early Childhood and Elementary Education, from NYU. He recently earned his Master’s in Jewish Instructional Education from Gratz College. David lives in Trumbull, CT, with his wife and has two children.

Deidre joined SMNS as a teacher in 2007. In 2018, she began her new role as Assistant Director. She earned her CDA in 2009 and recently completed her CDC Connecticut Director’s Credentials course of study. Prior to becoming a teacher, Deidre had over 20 years’ experience in business management including holding the position of Director of Underwriting for a special risk insurance company specializing in college and university student and athlete coverage. She studied Art at SUNY Purchase. She is one of ten children and is the mother of three daughters. She is a long time resident of Greenwich and has served in executive positions, including president, of several local PTA boards. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, art, reading, and spending time with her grandson, David and her dogs.

Tracey began working at Temple Sholom in 2016, both in the Selma Maisel Nursery School and in the Temple Sholom main office. She earned a BS in Industrial Psychology from the University of Michigan. Prior to joining Temple Sholom, Tracey had a career in marketing in the fashion industry. Tracey and her husband live in Rye Brook, NY. She has a daughter, Sydney, and a son, Brett.

Barrie joined SMNS in 2021. She earned her Master’s in Special and General Education from City College of New York and taught in the NYC Department of Education as a Special Education teacher for 14 years teaching grades Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Barrie has two children who have attended SMNS. She joined our teaching team to pursue her love of early childhood education and because of her love for the school and the educational environment it has provided her own children. She lives with her husband and children in Rye Brook, NY.

Anna joined SMNS in 2019. Growing up in a big family in the Netherlands. She always knew that she wanted to work with children. Anna’s education and most of her experience has been overseas. Anna taught at the preschool at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center and art at the Stepping Stones Museum in Norwalk. She has served as a volunteer in the Stamford Public Schools and public library. Anna was a classroom mom for her three children and is a member of Mothers of Multiples of Lower Fairfield County. She lives with her three children and her dog in Stamford, CT, and enjoys hiking, dancing, and learning every day in different ways.

Barbara joined SMNS in 2019. She has been teaching preschool in Fairfield County for over 22 years. Barbara attended Syracuse University where she majored in Elementary and Special Education. She finished her teaching program and received a BA in English at Eastern Connecticut State University. Barbara lives in Trumbull, CT, with her husband, Lee and children, Jude and Kenna, and their pup, Ringo. She enjoys spending time with her family; they love to bike, hike, travel, camp, go to concerts and just enjoy the busy-ness of life. Barbara also loves reading and collecting children’s books. She even wrote one herself and just had it illustrated!
Catherine joined SMNS in 2008 and has more than 20 years of teaching experience. Previously, she taught at the Stamford JCC Sara Walker Nursery School and Roxbury Elementary School. She holds a degree in Early Childhood Education from Mitchell College. Children and reading have always been her passions, so teaching comes naturally for her. She loves to spend time on her boat, read and play with her dog Baxter. She also volunteers with ARI, an organization that promotes independence to adults with special needs. Catherine lives in Stamford, CT, with her husband, Ed. They have three children, David, Amy and Matthew.

Cindy joined SMNS in 2018. She earned her BA in English at Tufts University and her Master’s in Cinema Studies from NYU. Cindy loves working with young children and has done so for many years. She was a teacher at JumpStart, a unique preschool for children with special needs, for eight years. Cindy has also taught Arts & Crafts at Creative Kids in Greenwich and Best Time Ever in Stamford, and ran the Stamford Chapter of PJ Library. When not busy with her husband, two teenagers, and two huskies, Cindy is an avid reader and blogger, and enjoys doing crossword puzzles. She loves TV theme songs, dancing, old movies, and, of course, crafting.

Blake joined SMNS in 2020. She earned her Master’s Degree in Special and General Elementary Education and her Bachelors in Early Childhood Education and Sociology from Manhattanville College. Blake has been working as a preschool teacher since 2010. She is loving everything about being part of SMNS, and immediately felt very connected to the community. She feels very lucky to be working with such wonderful children and supportive families. Blake lives with her husband, two children, and bulldog in Irvington, NY. She enjoys playing tennis, traveling with her family and loves being a mother.

Caitlin first joined SMNS in 2020 as a 2’s teacher. She graduated from University of Bridgeport with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Services. Caitlin plans to continue her studies towards a Master’s in Education. Prior to joining our teaching team, Caitlin was an Assistant Teacher at Easton Country Day School and Rogers International School in Stamford. Caitlin is dedicated to working with children and watching them grow. In her spare time, she enjoys the theater, both as an observer and volunteer designer.

Dana joined SMNS in 2019. She earned a Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Education/Special Education for ages birth through 6th grade at Manhattanville College. Dana started her teaching career at a play-based emergent curriculum nursery school for four years. Her passion for teaching came from her five summers working as at Ramah Nyack in early childhood. Previously, she was a kindergarten teacher in White Plains, NY, and at a private school in Greenwich, CT. When not in the classroom, Dana loves to spend time with her family, especially her nieces. Her favorite place is the Bronx Zoo and in her free time she loves to read.

Cindy Nacson-Schechter
Infant/Toddler Teacher

Blake Guzman
4’s Teacher

Caitlin Schiller
Preschool Teacher

Cindy Nacson-Schechter
Infant/Toddler Teacher

Dana Robin
3’s & Preschool Teacher

Blake Guzman
4’s Teacher

Caitlin Schiller
Preschool Teacher

Dana Robin
3’s & Preschool Teacher

Cindy Nacson-Schechter
Infant/Toddler Teacher

Blake Guzman
4’s Teacher

Caitlin Schiller
Preschool Teacher

Dana Robin
3’s & Preschool Teacher

Cindy Nacson-Schechter
Infant/Toddler Teacher

Blake Guzman
4’s Teacher

Caitlin Schiller
Preschool Teacher

Dana Robin
3’s & Preschool Teacher

Cindy Nacson-Schechter
Infant/Toddler Teacher
Eileen joined SMNS in 2020. She has a BS in Music Education from Concordia College and holds a CDA from the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington DC. Eileen has worked in the field of early childhood education for more than 20 years. Previously, she was the Teaching Director at Stamford’s Noah’s Ark Nursery School. Eileen is a cellist and enjoys performing and teaching the instrument to children and adults. She also sings with the Norwalk Community Chorale and serves as chairperson on the Board of Directors. Eileen is married with three children. Her favorite activities are gardening and spending time with her two grandchildren.

Gail joined SMNS in 2020. She holds a BA in Sociology from Brooklyn College. Previously, she was a teacher at Greenwich’s Bridges School for 16 years and the studio teacher at Rye Presbyterian Nursery School for six years. Gail participated in the 2000 Reggio Emilia Study Tour in Italy and has continued her Reggio journey through workshops, symposiums and seminars. With a passion for STEAM, she participated in the Teacher Educator Institute at Boston’s Museum of Science and loves to see the children’s eyes light up when they make new discoveries. She loves spending time with family, cooking, reading, gardening and hiking.
Kayleigh joined SMNS in 2020. She also teaches music privately to children ages birth-5 and in surrounding nursery schools, in addition to parent-child music classes for Music Together of Fairfield County. Kayleigh comes from a family of teachers and always knew she wanted to work with children. She has worked in the childcare field since 2010, in professional and residential settings with experience with multiples and special needs children. Kayleigh lives in Stamford, CT, with her husband, Greg, and their cat, Ruby. She loves to spend time with family, read, travel, dance, sing, cook, and be outdoors and at the beach.

Lorena Balne
Infant/Toddler Teacher

Before joining SMNS in 2020, Lorena was a co-founder/owner of Green Moon Children's Art Studio, creating art programs to meet the developmental needs of children from 18 months to 12 years. After selling her business in 2015, she returned teaching pre-school at Five Mile River Nursery school in Rowayton, CT. She holds a Bachelor's from the University of Connecticut in Human Development and Family Studies. Her areas of interests include brain development, early literacy and art with young children. Lorena lives in Norwalk, CT, with her husband, son and daughter. She continues to dedicate her time to providing developmentally appropriate learning experiences to young children.

Jillian Chittenden
Gym Specialist

Jillian joined SMNS in 2018. She graduated from Manhattanville College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sports Studies. Prior to joining SMNS, Jillian was the Assistant Director at The Little Gym in Eastchester, NY, and held several youth leadership positions in sports and recreation programs. She is very passionate about working with children. In her spare time, Jillian enjoys playing rec sports including volleyball, which she played in college, and softball.

Kim Schwerber
4's Teacher

Kim joined SMNS in 2016. She graduated from Skidmore College where she also volunteered at the faculty pre-school. She has a Master’s in Education from NYU, where she received her certification for Pre-K through 6th Grade, as well as a Master’s in Theatre Education from Emerson College. Kim has over 15 years experience teaching in both NYC public/private schools. She has produced, directed and co-produced theatrical shows for children at the Stamford All School Musical. She also has extensive experience in training and coaching gymnastics. She lives in Stamford, CT, with her husband, Brett, her children, Marley, Jed and Rio. In her spare time, she enjoys skiing and playing tennis.

Jennifer Bonn
Preschool Teacher

Jennifer joined SMNS in 2019. She earned her Bachelors of Education at Mayville State University. Prior to joining our teaching team, Jennifer taught in the pre-school program at The Ridge Street Country School since 1996. She was very active in the 2’s, 3’s and 4’s programs, as well as being a Group Head Leader during their summer program. She loves chocolate and reading.

Jill Chittenden
2’s Teacher

Before joining SMNS in 2021, Kyra taught at St. Paul’s Day School in Riverside, CT. She is studying early childhood education and has several years of experience working with children in various youth programs. Kyra loves working with children in their formative years and helping them explore the world around them as they grow and experience new things. She lives in Riverside with her family and dog, Tessa. Kyra has been a ballet dancer since the age of three and loves to share her passion for dance and music with others. She enjoys reading and baking in her free time, as well as traveling.

Kim Schweber
4’s Teacher

Kim joined SMNS in 2016. She graduated from Skidmore College where she also volunteered at the faculty pre-school. She has a Master’s in Education from NYU, where she received her certification for Pre-K through 6th Grade, as well as a Master’s in Theatre Education from Emerson College. Kim has over 15 years experience teaching in both NYC public/private schools. She has produced, directed and co-produced theatrical shows for children at the Stamford All School Musical. She also has extensive experience in training and coaching gymnastics. She lives in Stamford, CT, with her husband, Brett, her children, Marley, Jed and Rio. In her spare time, she enjoys skiing and playing tennis.

Kayleigh Follis
Preschool Teacher

Kayleigh joined SMNS in 2020. She also teaches music privately to children ages birth-5 and in surrounding nursery schools, in addition to parent-child music classes for Music Together of Fairfield County. Kayleigh comes from a family of teachers and always knew she wanted to work with children. She has worked in the childcare field since 2010, in professional and residential settings with experience with multiples and special needs children. Kayleigh lives in Stamford, CT, with her husband, Greg, and their cat, Ruby. She loves to spend time with family, read, travel, dance, sing, cook, and be outdoors and at the beach.
Marcy joined SMNS in 2021. She earned a BS in Education from the University of Hartford with dual degrees in Elementary and Special Education, and MS in Special Education from Fairfield University. Throughout the years, Marcy has taught special education in Stamford Public Schools, Judaic Education in local synagogues, and pre-school at Gan Yeladim in Stamford. She has four grown children (a boy and three girls), along with a rabbit, birds and cats. Marcy loves teaching, spending time with family and friends, gardening, and going to antique fairs.

Ora joined SMNS in 2000 and has been a Hebrew teacher in the Temple Sholom Learning Center for many years. She was born in Israel and earned a degree in Early Childhood Education from Israel called Seminar Beth Berl. She has over 30 years of teaching experience and previously taught at the Sara Walker Nursery School in Stamford, CT. Ora loves working with children and their families. Ora is married, and has two sons and two grandchildren.
Sheri Jacobson  
3’s Teacher

Sheri joined SMNS in 2018. She got her start in education in the Early Learning Program of the Darien Public Schools. She has previously been the President of The Center for Women at the Stamford JCC, Development Administrator at Congregation Shir Ami, a cheer mom, a theater mom and an all-around carpooling mom. Sheri and her husband live in Stamford, CT, and have two daughters, Leah and Sophie. Sheri is passionate about seeing children flourish through building their confidence, feeding their curiosity and having fun.

Szilvia Taylor  
3’s Teacher

Szilvia joined SMNS in 2021. She previously taught at Christ Church Nursery School in Rye, NY, as well as the New Canaan Nature Center Preschool and at the Hungarian School of Magyar Studies Youth Program. Szilvia grew up in Budapest, Hungary, where she studied Culinary Arts before earning her Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education at Norwalk Community College. She brings her creativity and love for music, arts and culinary knowledge into the classroom each day. Szilvia’s passion for cooking and baking is still present and she loves to share it with children.

Sydney Goldman  
Preschool Teacher

Sydney joined SMNS in 2018 and teaches Kindergarten at the Temple Sholom Learning Center. She earned her BS in International Child Development from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Sydney has taught English in South Korea. Her greatest joy is seeing the bright smiles, discovery, and learning in her students while watching them grow and develop. In her free time, Sydney loves to travel to new places and to volunteer with children wherever she can. She also loves spending time with her dog, Oliver.

Vivian Ward  
Floating Teacher

Prior to joining SMNS In 2021, Vivian taught at the French American School of New York in Larchmont, NY, teaching three and four-year-olds in both French and English. She holds a Bachelors of Arts Degree and Child Development Associate Certificate. Vivian and her husband live in Rye, NY. She is the mother of five children, and in her spare time she enjoys cooking, reading and spending time with her dog, Lucky and her cat, Charlie.