

Lutheran High School 2011-2012 Faculty and Staff

Administration



Dan Gehrke, B.S., M.S.

Executive Director

Teaching or Administration 16 years at DLHS

After graduating from Concordia University Wisconsin in 1995, Dan Gehrke served at DLHS as a math and theology teacher for eleven years. During those years, he was the varsity baseball coach and a c/jv basketball coach. He is now a member of the Metro League Coaches Hall of Fame. After completing his master's degree in educational administration in 2005, he became principal at DLHS prior to the 2006-2007 school year. Dan has extensive administrative training, participating in the Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools Leadership Training and 10 Talent Visionary Leadership programs. He currently serves on the ALSS board of directors. He and his wife Kristin have three young children: Ellie, Asher, and baby Gehrke due in July.



David Ness, B.S., M.S.

Principal at LHSP 1 year

Teaching or Administration 16 years

David Ness grew up on a farm in Minnesota where he learned the importance of family, heritage, faith, and Christian education. He graduated from the University of Minnesota – Morris with degrees in History and Social Science Education. As a history teacher, he taught in both Minnesota and North Dakota, serving his previous ten years at Oak Grove Lutheran School in Fargo. While at Oak Grove, he completed his master's degree in Educational Leadership at Minnesota State University – Moorhead. In addition to teaching and coaching, he served in various administrative roles including Assistant Principal, Academic Dean, Middle School Principal, and Director of Campus Ministries. David is in his first year serving as Principal at Lutheran High School – Parker. His family is grateful for the prayers and support of many as they experience this new adventure together and with their Heavenly Father's provision and grace. David and his wife Sara are the proud parents of Daniel, Samuel, and Rachel.



Loren Larrabee, B.S., M.S.

Weight Training Teacher 31 years, 15 years at DLHS

Athletic Director 16 years, 13 years at DLHS

Loren Larrabee is a 1972 graduate of Denver Lutheran High School and a 1976 graduate of Concordia Teachers College in Seward Nebraska. Loren participated in football, basketball and baseball during his time at Denver Lutheran and while at Concordia was a member of the football and baseball teams. His post graduate work was done at Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois while he was teaching at Valley Lutheran High School in St Charles, Illinois. In 1983 Loren accepted a call to Martin Luther High School in St Charles, Missouri to teach and be their first athletic director. He then moved his family to Nebraska, where he taught in the Deshler public schools system until 1996 at which time he received his call to teach at Denver Lutheran. He has coached numerous sports with football, basketball, baseball having

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been his primary focus. Loren has served as the president of the Metropolitan League for 9 years and is a member of the Metro League's hall of fame. Recently, Loren was recognized as the 2A Athletic Director of the Year for the 2010-2011 school year. Loren and Deb, his wife of 35 years, have 3 sons and 3 grandsons.

Teachers and Coaches (listed alphabetically)



John Adam, B.A.

Head Boys Basketball Coach 10 years at LHSP
Assistant Boys Basketball Coach 5 years at DLHS

John Adam will be returning for his 11th season as Head Boys Basketball Coach at Lutheran High School-Parker. During his tenure, Adam has had 27 players make All-League/District teams and six All-State selections. The team has reached the State Tournament the past three years including finishing 2nd in 2011 and 5th in 2010. He was awarded the Northern Front Range League's Coach of the Year Award for the 2006-07 season and had the honor of being selected as a clinic speaker at the 2007 CHSCA Master Clinic. He was voted the Mile High League's Coach of the Year Award for 2009-10 and was a member of the 2010 All-State Games coaching staff. Coach Adam also had an article published in the May/June 2009 edition of Winning Hoops Magazine. A graduate of Denver Lutheran High School (1988), Adam had a very successful high school basketball career, posting a 75-11 record in his 4 years which included a State Consolation Championship in 1986-87 and a 20-3 record and #4 ranking in state his senior year. In 1992 he graduated from Metropolitan State College with a degree in Marketing. He currently is the State Director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Coaches Ministry. He and his wife Karen have been married for 14 years and the couple has one son, Mark who is ten. The family resides in the Southwest Denver area.



John Amschel

Head Soccer Coach 5 years, 4 years at DLHS 1 year at LHSP
Assistant Basketball Coach 7 years, 3 years at DLHS 4 years at LHSP
Head Baseball Coach First year at LHS

After graduating from DLHS in 2000, John played baseball at Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin. He began coaching baseball as head JV coach at West Allis Hale in Wisconsin for two seasons before moving back to Colorado. While in Colorado John spent two seasons as head "C" squad coach at Thomas Jefferson High school, before heading over to LHSP accepting a position as assistant varsity coach and has held that position for the last 5 years. John also was head JV girls basketball coach for 3 years and also the head soccer coach at DLHS for 4 years before moving over to LHSP for all 3 sports. John spent the 10-11 school year as the head soccer coach, head JV girls and varsity assistant basketball coach, and head JV and varsity assistant baseball coach at LHSP.

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Paul Blomenberg B.S.

Science Teacher

3.5 years, 3 years at DLHS

Paul graduated with a BS in secondary education with a physical science field endorsement in Dec. of 2007 from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. Immediately following graduation he taught physics, chemistry, physical science, and health at Hauser High School in Hope, IN. While working there he received a call to serve at Denver Lutheran High School. While at Denver Lutheran he has taught physics, chemistry, government, and computer applications. He has also enjoyed coaching 7th and 8th grade boys basketball at St. John's for three years.



Ryan Bredow, B.S.

Director of Marketing

1 year, 1 year for CLHSA

Director of Admissions

2 years, 2 years at DLHS

Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach

Ryan graduated from Concordia University in Nebraska in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education, earning endorsements in English and Health. During his time there, he was a member of the men's basketball and baseball teams for 4 years, spending his 5th year as a Varsity assistant/J.V. coach for the men's basketball program. After graduation, Ryan took a teaching position at Denver Lutheran High School. After 6 years in the classroom, Ryan moved into an admissions role at the school, which later included a marketing role within the Colorado Lutheran High School Association. This passion fueled the pursuit of a Masters degree in Marketing through the University of Colorado at Denver, which he is set to finish in the fall of 2012. Outside the office, Ryan has headed up the boys basketball program at DLHS for the past 6 seasons. During his tenure, the Lights have continued a tradition of excellence, winning 70% of their contests (94-40 overall record) during that span. In 2009, DLHS was Co-Champions of the 3A Metro League, and advanced to the Regional final in '09 and '10. In 2011, Lutheran experienced their finest season in recent memory, winning a District championship, a Regional championship, and captured the school's first State championship in boys basketball since 1986. Ryan was also named the All-Colorado Coach of the Year in 2011. In the summer time, Ryan has enjoyed expanding his knowledge of the game through various clinics and camps, highlighted by experience as a camp coach at Duke University and the University of Connecticut. Recently, he was selected to be a speaker at the CHSCA Clinic in July. Ryan and his wife, Rachel, have been married for 8 years. They are blessed with a daughter, Isabella, who turned one in January, and are expecting their second child in late June.



Nel Clausen, B.A.

Communications Secretary

7 years at LHSP

Nel graduated from Concordia College in St. Paul, Minnesota with a BA in Elementary Education. She has taught elementary school at a number of schools in Missouri, Kansas, California and Colorado. She was a secretary at Denver Lutheran for 7 years and has been at LHSP for 7 years.

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Brooke Davis, B.S.

Social Studies Teacher	5 years, 5 years at LHSP
Head Girls Soccer Coach	5 years, 5 years at LHSP

After graduating from Denver Lutheran High School in 2001, Brooke attended the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. While at UTC, Brooke earned a B.S. in Secondary Education with an emphasis in History. She was also a member of the Division I women's soccer team and served one season as student assistant coach. During her tenure at Lutheran High School Parker, Brooke has taught multiple courses in the social science department, including World Geography, World History, Modern History, Psychology and Sociology. She is currently completing a Masters Degree in Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment from Regis University. Mrs. Davis also leads the women's soccer program as Head Coach of the varsity and junior varsity Lady Lions. Her teams have shown consistently increasing success over the last few seasons. In 2010, the Lady Lions completed the best season in school history with a 2nd round appearance (top 16) in the state tournament, before ending the season against the #1 seed. Brooke and her husband Chris have a son, Kamden, who is 8-months old.



Paul Duensing B.S.

Social Studies Teacher	10 years, 10 years at DLHS 1 year, 1 year at LHSP
Band Director	22 years, 22 years at DLHS

Mr. Paul Duensing graduated from Concordia University in Seward, NE in 1977 with a Degree in Secondary Education with a major and minor in Music and a minor in Social Studies. He has been a Band Director and teacher of various Social Studies and Technology classes at Lutheran High Schools and elementary schools in Honolulu, Hawaii, Houston, Texas and in Denver, Colorado. He has been teaching at Denver Lutheran High School since 1987. Besides directing the Band at DLHS for 22 years, Mr. Duensing has taught instrumental music and beginning and intermediate band at 9 Lutheran Elementary Schools in the Denver area. Mr. Duensing has been involved with extra-curricular activities involving Jazz Band, Pep Band for football and basketball games, and directing the pit orchestra for Lutheran High School musical productions. Some of those musicals included Oklahoma, Godspell, West Side Story, The Sound of Music and The Music Man. He also planned 11 fun and successful band tours to different parts of the United States, including Hawaii, between 1989 and 2009. As major fund raising for these tours and fund raising for other groups at DLHS, he has managed a concession stand at Mile High Stadium, Coors Field and Invesco Field for 21 years. Graduate work in instrumental music and technology has been done at University of Hawaii, University of Houston, University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University, University of Colorado and Lesley/Cambridge University. Paul and his wife, Nancy have been married 34 years. She is music director at Peace Lutheran Church and has been teaching piano lessons in the Denver area for the past 23 years. Together, they have been blessed with four children.

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Mark Duitsman, B.S.

PE Teacher 8 years, 7 years at LHSP
Sports Information Director
Head Girls Basketball Coach 6 years at LHSP

Mark graduated from Concordia University, Nebraska, where he played college basketball for four years. He received his B.S. in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Theology and Physical Education. After graduation, he taught physical education and coached girls' basketball at Faith Lutheran Jr/Sr High School in Las Vegas, NV. Since accepting the call to Lutheran Parker in 2004, Mark has taught classes in both the Theology and Physical Education departments in addition to serving as the Dean of Students for the past two years. During his coaching tenure, the girls' basketball program has become a consistent contender at the state level, posting no fewer than 15 wins in each of the past four seasons. This past season, the Lutheran Parker girls qualified for the state tournament. Mark has earned league Coach of the Year honors twice, and this fall will be receiving his Masters Degree in Coaching and Athletic Administration from Concordia University, Irvine. Mark and his wife, Abbie, have a two-year old daughter, Lillian, and are expecting their second child in July.

Miranda Ghali, B.A.

French 14 years, First year at LHS

Ms Ghali migrated from Alexandria, Egypt in 1999 to pursue new opportunities in the United States. In Egypt, she received a Bachelor of Arts in French Language and Literature from Alexandria University. She taught French at Girard High School for more than 14 years where her parents taught as well as where her daughters grew up. She was a librarian for the same school for seven years also. After two years in California, Ms Ghali moved to Colorado and has worked at Douglas County Libraries for eight years. She also tutored French for many years along with her work at the library. She resides in Highlands Ranch with her husband Pastor Naem and her two daughters, Veronia and Helpees.



Cheryl Guillory, B.A.

Resource 14 years, 4 years at LHSP

After graduation from Northeastern Louisiana University, Cheryl worked as a nurse for several years. After the birth of her only daughter, Lauren, she decided to go back to school for education. Cheryl was one of the original founders of Core Knowledge Charter School in Parker. She taught and tutored Math and English at CKCS for ten years before coming to Lutheran High School.

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Chris Loesel, B.A.

Theology and Music Teacher
Head Choir Director

2 years, 2 years at LHSP
2 years, 2 years at LHSP

Chris Loesel grew up in St. Charles, MO and graduated from Concordia, Nebraska in December of 2008 with a B.S. in Education with endorsements in Theology and Vocal Music. While at Concordia, Chris was a member of the Concordia University A Cappella Choir for 4 years, the University Chamber Choir for 2 years, and the Concert Band for 2 years. In the fall of 2008, Chris student taught at Denver Lutheran High School and in the fall of 2009 was called to teach full time at Lutheran High School Parker. Over his first two years, Chris has grown the Concert choir from 12 in the 2009-2010 school year to 39 starting the 2010-2011 school year.



Sandy Loptien, B.S.

Science Teacher

15 years, 4 years at LHSP

Sandy, who grew up in the mountains of Colorado, graduated from Colorado State University in the spring of 1987. She graduated with a B.S. in Mathematics and has taught in both alternative and traditional settings. During her time at LHSP she has taught pre algebra, algebra, statistics, physical science and biology.



Daryl Moe

Head Football Coach

1 year at LHSP

Coach Moe graduated from Littleton High School in 1992 and started his coaching career in 1997 as an assistant coach at Littleton High School. He worked for the Lions for four seasons as the varsity linebackers coach, offensive Line coach and offensive coordinator. Moe then moved on to become the Head Football Coach at Academy Charter High School for the 2001 campaign. With Moe at the helm, the Wildcats won the school's first ever varsity football game in just the programs second year of existence. From Academy Charter, Moe went on to Regis Jesuit High School where he served as the Assistant Head Coach and Offensive Coordinator for three seasons. Moe helped lead the Raiders to back-to-back conference titles and three straight class 5A play-off appearances. After his time at Regis, Moe went to Adams State College for two seasons as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. During his time at Adams State, Moe's offensive unit broke 32 NCAA Division II offensive school records and helped lead the Grizzlies to two consecutive winning seasons. From there, Moe returned to Regis Jesuit High School for his second stint serving as offensive coordinator for two seasons, helping lead the Raiders to two consecutive 5A play-off appearances. In 2009, Moe returned to Littleton High School as the offensive coordinator. Upon the completion of the season, Moe accepted the Head Football Coaching position at Lutheran High School Parker. During his first season, the Lions had their most successful varsity football season ever, finishing the season with 6 wins and qualifying for the 1A state Football playoffs.

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Denise Noffze, B.A.

English Teacher
Guidance Counselor

24 years, 8 years at DLHS
8 years, 8 years at DLHS
3 years at LHSP

Denise grew up on a farm near Rogers City, MI and then attended Concordia University in Ann Arbor, MI where she earned her BA in education with a major in English and minors in Social Sciences and PE. Denise taught 5th-8th grade at Lutheran grade schools in Michigan: St. Paul's in Farmington Hill, St. Paul's in Northville, and St. John's in Fraser. She was Athletic Director at all three schools as well as the Youth Director for St. Paul's Farmington. After visiting Colorado twice and loving the mountains, it was a dream come true when Denise was called to teach English at Denver Lutheran High School in 2000. In addition to teaching English, she led the CrossPlay group which visited the area Lutheran grade schools to present chapel and talk about DLHS. Soon after beginning master's classes for guidance and counseling, Denise became a part time counselor. In 2008, Denise became the part time counselor for DLHS and LHSP; counseling teens and guiding them in the college planning process has been a joy. She especially enjoys hearing from alumni about their college experiences!



Alicia Oates, B.A.

English and PE Teacher
Head Volleyball Coach

8 years, 8 years at DLHS
8 years, 8 years at DLHS

After finishing her collegiate volleyball career at Concordia University Nebraska, Alicia was a student coach at Concordia for one year. Following her graduation, with a B.S. in Secondary Education, she took a call to Denver Lutheran High School where she has been the Head Volleyball Coach for the past eight seasons. During her tenure, the program has maintained a winning tradition, posting a winning record in 15 out of the last 16 seasons. Alicia has coached volleyball at the club, high school, and collegiate level over the past 12 years and continues to expand her knowledge through various coach's clinics and camps.

In 2009, she was named the Metro League Coach of the Year. This past season, Denver Lutheran was a State Final Four qualifier and three of her athletes were named to the All-State Team. While at Denver Lutheran, she has taught various courses in Business, English, and Health/Physical Education.



David Renquest, B.A., M.S.

Math Teacher

22 years, 17 years at DLHS

Dave graduated from Concordia University Irvine, CA. in 1989 with a degree in Mathematics/Spanish and Secondary Education. After his first 5 years of teaching at Lutheran HS of Orange County he accepted a call to teach at Denver Lutheran as full-time Spanish teacher. He served as head football coach for 8 years which included a Metro League Championship and a State Final Four appearance. He also coached basketball and baseball during his time there. He served as the Assistant Principal for 16 years after earning his Masters Degree in Educational Administration. He also taught Math and Spanish during his years at DLHS. Dave has also enjoyed a long career as a basketball official at both the high school and collegiate level. He is the Regional Director for the basketball officials in the Denver Metro area. Dave and his wife Kim have been married for 20 years and have a seven year old son, Nate.

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Troy Stelling, B.S.

Theology and English Teacher

21 years, 12 years at DLHS

Assistant Football Coach

18 years, 11 years at DLHS



Troy graduated from Concordia University Nebraska, with a B.S. in Secondary Education, and majors in English and Speech/Drama. He taught and coached at St. John Lutheran High School in Ocala, Florida before accepting a call to Denver Lutheran High School in 1999 to teach Theology and English. Troy also has taken graduate classes in Family Ministry from Concordia University Nebraska. He was the head Softball coach at St. John as well as an assistant football coach. He has continued to be an assistant football coach and Head JV coach at Denver Lutheran and is currently the JV girls Tennis coach. Troy has also used his degree in Theatre and directed Spring Shows at Denver Lutheran.

Annie Suarez, B.A.

PE Teacher

6 years, 1 year at LHSP

Girls Assistant Soccer Coach

10 years, 1 year at LHSP



Annie graduated from California State University in the East Bay Area with a BA in Liberal Studies and a Minor in Sociology. She started her Master's Degree in Education with Grand Canyon University this year. She was a collegiate scholarship athlete in soccer at NCAA Division I Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma and NAIA Division I Biola University in La Mirada, California. Annie has taught multiple courses in the English and Physical Education Departments, including AP Language, AP Literature, British Literature, Advanced Composition and Rhetoric, Sophomore English, Weight Training, Life Sports, Team Sports and Intro to PE. Mrs. Suarez is the Varsity Assistant women's soccer coach and coached the Debate Club for the Lions in 2011. The Debate Club competed in the Douglas County Mock Trial competition in February of 2011 in which one of her student's was named Best Witness for Douglas

County Schools. She is also the AEEA International Student Liaison and Coordinator in partnership with Lutheran High School on the Parker campus. Annie and her husband Victor moved to Colorado from California two years ago, have two dogs, and live in Arapahoe County.

Daniel Vanderhyde, B.S.

Theology and Math Teacher

1 year, 1 year at DLHS



After graduating from DLHS in 2005, Daniel attended Concordia University, Irvine, where he double-majored in Mathematics and Music. While at Concordia, Daniel played soccer and performed with the Concordia Choir. He graduated in 2009 and completed his teaching credential in 2010. During his first year at DLHS, Daniel taught Math and Theology while conducting the Concert Choir and Light Brigade. He coached baseball at DLHS and served as the choir director and organist at University Hills Lutheran Church.

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Matthew Zoeller, B.A.

Spanish Teacher

6 years, 4 at DLHS

Yearbook Advisor

3 years at DLHS

Mr. Zoeller graduated from the University of Montana in Missoula, MT in 2004 with a degree in Spanish Education. His first two years as a tie-wearing professional were spent in a public school in Henderson, NV, where he also coached men's volleyball. After taking a research year in the Spanish Pyrenees, Mr. Zoeller, a life-long LCMS Lutheran, decided to move to Denver for the skiing and search for teaching jobs via the internet. As the Holy Spirit would have it, he landed in the Lutheran system and has not looked back. In his free time he enjoys outdoor activities.

Not featured yet in this document:

Brad Stoltenow	Head Wrestling Coach
Linda Elliott	Head Cheer Coach
Dean Horan	Head Track Coach
Tom White	Head Golf Coach
Chris Gray	Head Cross Country Coach