



## SummerTime News

*Included in this volume is the news of our newest members of faculty / staff at Pittsburgh Urban Christian School. NEXT week we will highlight ongoing learning opportunities for teachers as well as what is going on with our buildings! (809, our current school building and 813, our new purchase last year only a couple of doors down.)*

### Meet our new teachers!

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#### Jessica Cochran, 2/3 Grade

Dear PUCS Families,

Hello, my name is Jessica Cochran. I am a recent early childhood education and biology graduate from Gordon College in Wenham, MA. Following my wedding this past July, my husband (Josh) and I have moved to Pittsburgh from Ohio, where we are both from. We are beyond excited to be a part of the PUCS community. Josh will be attending Pitt Dental school, and I have the privilege of teaching 2/3 grade students here at PUCS. If you want to know a little bit more about me, I love being outside, learning new things, and going on adventures. I hope to incorporate my passions into the classroom and walk alongside my students in their learning journeys!



I am both honored and ecstatic to be a part of the PUCS community because of the Christ-centered warmth exuded by all the faculty, staff, and families I have encountered. I love the diversity focus and innovative thinking PUCS brings to foster the development of children. I feel beyond blessed to be involved and cannot wait to meet you all.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Cochran

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#### Joshmin Ray, Middle School Math

Hi Everyone!

My name is Joshmin Ray, and I am excited and honored to be joining the PUCS faculty this year as the Middle School Math teacher. I am looking forward to my return to the classroom after spending a few years in the robotics and software industry. There is no place I would rather teach!

Previously, I have taught in both Pittsburgh and



Philadelphia, all-boys, all-girls, and co-ed education, private and public, and boarding and day school. I have also worked in construction. It is my goal to incorporate all I have learned through these experiences into the classroom. I strongly believe that all students can excel at math and look forward to working with the PUCS students to expand their numeracy and problem solving skills and help them to apply these skills to the world around them.

My wife, Kim Daelhousen, and I live in Highland Park and you may have seen us around the neighborhood or just me around the halls, as I have been a substitute teacher at PUCS in the past! If you see me, don't hesitate to say, "hi!" I'm an elder and youth leader at Friendship Community Presbyterian Church, and I enjoy traveling, singing, and tinkering with the way things work.

See you all soon,

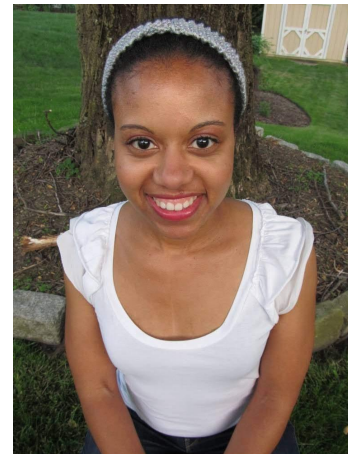
Joshmin

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### Alisha McCombs, ALL School Music (including Middle School!)

Hello PUCS family!

My name is Alisha McCombs. I am beyond excited to partner with you in teaching your children more about music. Music is such a dynamic medium for kids (and adults) to learn to express praise and worship to God! I'm a Christian, mother of 3 "spicy" kiddos (7, 5, 3). I'm married to John McCombs (teacher at Trinity Christian and assistant pastor at City Reformed PCA). I've been singing as long as I can remember. I've had vocal instruction for a number of years and piano lessons. I'm a graduate of Fisk University in Nashville, TN, where I sang with the Fisk Jubilee Singers ('04), and the University choir. I have toured the U.S and Europe with a group called the U.S Army Soldier Show ('06). I've led choir workshops, have given voice lessons, and am currently giving private piano lessons.



I'm thrilled to be working at PUCS! I've heard nothing but great things about the school! I like the unique approach to learning that allows for thinking "outside the box." I truly believe in equipping kids to go serve our great God in whatever capacity they choose. I especially love the idea of Christ being the heart of everything we study and enjoy.

For this school year, my objective is to create a welcome environment for the kids to learn and thrive musically. Specifically, I want the kids to meditate and discuss 2 questions: Does God love music? If so, how do we know that? What does music reveal about God's character? I plan to continue teaching the kids how to sing well together, teach the basics of ear training and music theory, and basic instruction/introduction to various instruments. If you have more questions about the music program, feel free to contact me!

In Christ's Love,

Alisha

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**Annan McGinley, Elementary Art**



Hello!

My name is Annan McGinley. I am so excited to be working with grades Kindergarten thru 3rd grade doing art projects. This is my second year working at PUCS. I attended PUCS from Kindergarten all the way to sixth grade. In sixth grade I had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Merryman, former Kindergarten teacher, on various art projects and have dreamed of working here ever since.

I am married to a skilled carpenter and we have 2 children. My oldest, Selah, is currently in second grade at PUCS and Liam will be in pre-school this fall. After college I spent some time working in a school with a Reggio Emilia curriculum, I was captivated! I then moved onto preschool with the Pittsburgh Public schools and childrens ministry with Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community. After my daughter was born I continued to work at Hot Metal as the Childrens Ministry Director and ended my time there after 10 years.

I enjoy traveling, photography, hiking, gardening, and making messes. If I had unlimited time and energy I would be a professional student. I am continually amazed by what children can teach us about faith and love. They have an amazing ability to create and explore. I can't wait to learn alongside these children and create beautiful messes.

“Take chances, make mistakes, get messy!” Ms. Frizzle

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### From the desk of Christy Wauzzinski (Education Director)

At PUCS we form Hiring Committees of stakeholders-parents, teachers, and me. The process starts with reviewing and seriously considering all candidates who apply. Then we decide on who the strongest candidates are and invite them to interview. Based on the interview results each committee selects the top few to do a demonstration teaching and I make calls to their references. Then the Committee makes the final decision on hiring. The whole process is bathed in much prayer and discerning discussion. I am especially grateful for the parents and teachers who give up many hours to ensure the integrity of our process.

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## Other Staffing Updates

**Kristen Kautza, our beloved 2/3 teacher, has transitioned out of her full-time teaching role and will be helping us this year as an Educational Consultant. She will be supporting teachers in the areas of classroom leadership and student exploration.**

**Please congratulate Susan LeCornu whose new title of Development Coordinator highlights her contributions to our fundraising and networking efforts.**

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Dear PUCS Family,

Your feedback is needed! Please go to the SurveyMonkey link below to take a quick & confidential survey about your child and family's experience at PUCS. Your feedback will help us plan for the 2018 –

Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Last year we had 53 parents respond. We hope to hear from everyone this year. Thank you!

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## Mark YOUR Calendars!

- **Mandatory NEW Family Orientation Dinner** -- an amazing opportunity to be welcomed by our directors, Dave Moore and Christy Wauzzinski : and hear and LEARN about your new school home. **MONDAY, August 27th, at 6pm!**
- **Back to School Parent Breakfast, hosted by the Development Office!** We hope you'll join us **WEDNESDAY, August 29th or THURSDAY, August 30th from 8:45 - 9:30 am** for breakfast and meet other PUCS parents and board members. Please RSVP to [susan.lecornu@pucs.org](mailto:susan.lecornu@pucs.org) by Friday August 24th!
- **ALL SCHOOL Overnight Camp!** PUCS Camp is a parent-,led event. All school overnight camp is on Thursday, September 20th - Friday, September 21st. We need parents to be involved in every aspect of camp. Look for more in the early school days! **KINDERGARTEN students MUST have a parent/guardian to attend.** All parents/guardians must have their PA Criminial History Clearance and PA Child Abuse Certificate completed to attend. Both clearances should be completed online -- you will find them at the bottom of the Parent page on our (new -- and always getting better) website [www.pucs.org/parents](http://www.pucs.org/parents)

Visit our Website

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STAY CONNECTED

