

HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

September 2016:

Ms. Josephine Aiello

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World Language: Italian

15 years at High Point

B.S. in Spanish and Secondary Education, SUNY New Paltz

M.A. in TESOL, Hunter College

M.S. in Italian Studies, Middlebury College



Ms. Aiello is entering her 15th year at High Point! Prior to joining the High Point family in September 2001, Ms. Aiello taught Spanish and Italian in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Spanish in Port Jervis, and served as Academic Director for a semester abroad in Siena, Italy.

Her love for languages and her own excellent teachers motivated Josephine Aiello to become a World Language teacher. Ms. Aiello recalls, “I always loved learning languages, studying foreign cultures and traveling.” Ms. Aiello’s passion for studying cultures is apparent in her teaching and permeates her classroom. When you enter her classroom, room 425, you are immediately drawn to the beautiful student art painted on the walls and ceiling tiles, which give a small taste of Italian culture. Ms. Aiello believes strongly in promoting values such as intercultural awareness and understanding in her classroom.

Due to the fact that Ms. Aiello has a passion for Italian culture, it is no surprise that her favorite part of teaching comes from lessons involving art and culture. Ms. Aiello discusses her favorite moments of teaching, “When I see lots of smiles and enthusiasm during lessons, especially the ones involving art and culture of Italy, I feel excited.” However, it is not only Italian art and culture which cause her to beam brightly. When students are able to use their Italian, whether in the United States or abroad, it brings a warm smile to Ms. Aiello’s face. “It gives the students an amazing sense of accomplishment, empowerment, and purpose, no matter how small the exchange,” explains Ms. Aiello.



In her own words:

1.) What do you think is unique and special about High Point?

High Point is one of the most aesthetically beautiful schools I've ever seen. Every wall pulsates with life from the artwork and all kinds of student projects that represent what we're about and what are students are capable of. One of the best aspects of High Point is the employees: teachers, administrators, and staff alike. I am amazed at the level of teachers' dedication to their students and craft, which I have seen in every department.

2.) Tell us about some of your interests and family life.

I have two darling children: Kyle, 20 and Lilah, 18. I believe that raising them has helped me in many ways to be a better teacher, especially in becoming more patient and understanding of teenage development and behavior. They've also helped to keep me current on teen slang, idols, popular culture and technology, and have saved me endless hours of struggle at the keyboard trying to decipher icons that have no obvious meaning to me.

I love hiking, going to the beach, traveling and playing Scrabble. I'm also working on perfecting the Italian art of "il dolce far niente", simply, "the sweetness of doing nothing".

3.) What is one of your favorite quotes?

"Someday, after mastering winds, waves, tides and gravity, we shall harness the energy of love, and for the second time in history of the world, man will have discovered fire." - Pierre Teilhard de Chardin