

Bishkek International School

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL FORM TEACHERS 2024/25

Form Teachers in Grades 6-12 are responsible for student support and behavior in their grade level.

Grade 6 Co-Form Teacher



Janyl Namazbekova

Ms Janyl graduated from Arbaev Kyrgyz State University as a Biology teacher, and has work as both a school teacher and research in the Agency for Geology. In this role she had an internship in the Natural Historical Museum in Oslo, Norway, to expand her knowledge and skills in paleontology, which contributed to her being part of team which discovered dinosaur fossils in Kyrgyzstan. Ms Janyl joined BIS in August 2021.

Grade 6 Co-Form Teacher



Marc Garreta

Mr Marc graduated as a psychologist in the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain and also holds a Masters degree in Learning Difficulties and Disorders from Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. Mr. Marc has a wide variety of teaching experience in Spain, Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan. Mr Marc loves teaching his own language as well as working with schools to make them as inclusive as possible. He joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

Grade 7 Co-Form Teacher



Nurzhamal Aymova

Ms Nurzhamal graduated from the French Department of foreign languages at the Kyrgyz National University. Since graduating with a Master's Degree, she has worked as a French teacher at the National University, with Alliance Française and with international organizations. Ms Nurzhamal joined the BIS team in October 2019.

Grade 7 Co-Form Teacher



Francois Spies

Mr Spies graduated from the University of the North West in South Africa, with a bachelor's degree in Education of technology specializing in Mechanical Engineering and Graphic design. He taught design in schools in South Africa for several years before joining the BIS team in summer 2024. Mr Spies strives to motivate learners to become critical thinkers and to think outside the box to solve problems.

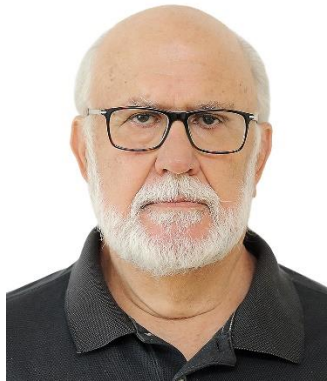
Grade 8 Co-Form Teacher



Anna Smirnova

Ms Anna has both Bachelor and Master degrees from the Kyrgyz State Academy of Physical Culture and Sports as a PE teacher. She is also a basketball referee with the Federation of Basketball of the Kyrgyz Republic. Ms Anna joined the BIS team in 2019 as a basketball coach, and as a full time PE teacher in August 2021.

Grade 8 Co-Form Teacher



Steve Wagenseller

Mr Steve holds a BA in Psychology, a Master's in Drama & Theatre, a Master's in Educational Technology, and has many years of teaching experience in Jamaica, Minnesota, Hawaii, Kuwait, Myanmar, and Mongolia. In his various postings, Steve has taught ELA, social studies, psychology, video production, choral music, and Defense Against the Dark Arts (a thinking skills course.) In the realm of dramatic arts, he has worked as an actor-singer, a playwright, director, and producer, in addition to teaching performance skills. His favorite hobby is writing humorous songs to entertain or inform.

Grade 9 Co-Form Teacher



Lané Spies

Ms Lané graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics with Risk and Investment Management from the Northwest University in South Africa. She has experience in the logistics and financial services industry before making the transition into tertiary education. She worked for a private university in South Africa as a senior student advisor, helping local and international students choose a qualification that suits their academic potential and lifetime goals. She also assisted with the administration and registration of all the students she worked with. She is very excited to be part of the BIS team and help all students be successful in their future endeavors.

Grade 9 Co-Form Teacher



Stephen Labanowich

Mr Stephen holds a Master's degree in Education from Niagara University (Lewiston, NY) and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Trent University (Peterborough, Ontario). He is a member of the Ontario College of Teachers and a JET Program alumnus (2016-2022). Before joining BIS in January of 2023, Stephen was teaching English in Japan and Korea.

Grade 10 Co-Form Teacher



Aigul Sakieva

Ms Aigul graduated from the Kyrgyz State University with a degree in English Language and Literature. She has 15 years of teaching experience in diverse educational institutions in Kyrgyzstan. Prior to embarking a teaching career, she was a part of scholarship program at Shriram Institute of Business and Information Technology School in New Delhi, 2005. Ms Aigul also studied at Indiana University, USA, under a Fulbright scholarship in 2014-15 and has CELTA and related certificates on teaching methodology for the English language. Ms Aigul joined the BIS team in summer 2021.

Grade 10 Co-Form Teacher



Alexander Sheyerman

Mr Alexander is a graduate of Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. He had been doing experimental research in Condensed Matter Physics for the last 10 years. During his doctoral studies at the University of British Columbia he was teaching undergraduate Physics and Engineering courses. In teaching Alexander emphasizes experimental nature of Sciences and focuses on the development of research skills. Alexander joined the BIS team in March 2023.

Grade 11 Co-Form Teacher



Nazira Abakirova

Ms Nazira holds a degree in Economics from the Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University, where she was awarded a scholarship from the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan for her research on economic development in Kyrgyzstan. Ms. Nazira has extensive experience tutoring mathematics to middle-school students and delivering training programs for adults. She also holds an MBA degree and an MA in Teaching, both from the American University of Central Asia. Ms Nazira joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

Grade 11 Co-Form Teacher



Jan Scott

Mr Jan has a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Russian from the University of Florida and has taught in both universities and language schools before joining the BIS team in August 2018. Mr Jan became Head of the English Department in summer 2021, teaching English and Theory of Knowledge in the IB Diploma Programme, and leading English teaching throughout the school.

Grade 12 Co-Form Teacher

Claire Berger



Ms Claire is originally from Texas, USA where she received a BA and MA in International Affairs. She has lived and worked in various locales throughout Asia, Europe, and Oceania, and initially joined BIS in 2020. She rejoined the BIS team in August 2024, following a period of academic research in New Zealand and teaching in Romania, and is looking forward to inspiring critical thinking and a passion for history among students.

Grade 12 Co-Form Teacher

Andrew Wheeler



Mr Andrew has a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, Cross-Cultural Studies, and Peace Studies from Whitworth University, Washington State, and a teaching qualification through the University of Florida. Before joining the BIS team in August 2018, he served for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer teaching English as a Foreign Language in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan. He also recently completed his Masters in Anthropology at the American University in Central Asia.