

# Meet the Newest Additions to Unified School Districts 211-212-213



**Terri Nicholson**

Northern Valley High School Science

Terri Nicholson is teaching high school science for the Northern Valley School District. She was born and raised in Salina. She graduated from Marymount College with a BS in Biology and a minor in Chemistry and Mathematics. After graduating, she went back to school to earn her teaching certification. Ms. Nicholson has two grown daughters. The oldest is living in Salina and will be starting school to obtain her nursing certification and the youngest is a sophomore at West Texas A&M University majoring in dance. Ms. Nicholson has been teaching for 17 years and is looking forward to teaching at Northern Valley.



**Amy McKinney**

Northern Valley Business and Junior High Computer

Amy McKinney is the new business and junior high computer teacher, as well as a library aide, at Northern Valley. She will also be helping coach junior high girls basketball, starting in November. Mrs. McKinney is a Northern Valley alumni and is very excited to return home to pursue teaching. She and her husband, Chance, recently moved into the country and are enjoying the peace and quiet of their new home. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading and outdoor physical activities.



**Kelli Perez**

Northern Valley Home Economics

Kelli Perez is the Home Economics teacher for Northern Valley. This is Mrs. Perez's ninth year of teaching. She has a BS in Family and Consumer Science. She grew up in southwest Kansas and moved to Norton last year with her family from Cimarron. Mrs. Perez and her husband, Rudy, who is the high school principal in Norton, have three children — Zane, a sophomore at Norton; Kylie, a fourth grader at Eisenhower; and Lauren, a pre-schooler at Northern Valley.



**Chuck Zimmerman**

Northern Valley High School Physical Education

Chuck Zimmerman will be teaching physical education, as well as other classes, at the Northern Valley High School. He will also be coaching high school volleyball and basketball and assisting with track. He is a graduate of Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva and has taught for 31 years — six at Montezuma, 13 at Cunningham, three at Baileyville, and nine at Norton. He and his wife, Kathy, who is the Waddell and Reed financial advisor for the Norton and Almena area, have been married for 31 years. They have two children — Jason, who works in Wichita; and Lindsey, who works in Hays. When not working, Mr. Zimmerman enjoys golf, fishing and being outdoors, while Mrs. Zimmerman likes reading, walking and meeting new people.



**John Vincent**

Northern Valley Librarian

John Vincent is working in the Northern Valley School District's library. He grew up on a farm north of Long Island and attended Northern Valley Schools. In 1990, he graduated from Bethany College in Lindsborg with a degree in Religion and Philosophy. After college, he joined the Lutheran Volunteer Corps and worked at the Luther Place Homeless Shelter in Washington, D.C. In 1996, he spent a year in London, also working with the homeless at the Simon Community. From 1997 to 2006, Mr. Vincent worked at the Washington National Cathedral Museum Store in Washington, D.C. as a music and book buyer.



**Karen Cox**

Northern Valley Library Consultant

Karen Cox is a library consultant for the Northern Valley School District. Mrs. Cox retired after 25 years as an English teacher and librarian in Minnesota and Kansas schools and is now at Northern Valley. She is a mother of four and a grandmother of 11, three of whom are Northern Valley students. Mrs. Cox's husband, Barnett, farms near Long Island.



**Manuela Matos Astorgano**

Northern Valley 5th thru 12th Grade Spanish 7th Grade Science

Manuela Matos Astorgano is the fifth through twelfth grade Spanish teacher and the seventh grade science teacher at Northern Valley. Ms. Astorgano was born in Barcelona, Spain. At the age of 10, she moved to Leon, a city in northern Spain, where she attended high school until her senior year, when she came to the United States as an exchange student in Tennessee. She studied college in Leon and received a Master's degree in Biology Sciences. In the six years she studied, she was an exchange student in the Canary Islands for one year; in Colima, Mexico for six months; and in Amsterdam, Holland, for six months. In Amsterdam, she finished her degree doing a research project in the Cellular Structure department. After graduating, she taught English and science in Spain, and worked as a biologist doing lab work for a research project and an internationalization marketing project.

*Thanks, Teachers!*



**Cheri Griffith**

Northern Valley 5th thru 12th Interrelated

Cheri Griffith is the interrelated teacher for the fifth through twelfth grade at the Northern Valley School District. She earned a Bachelor's degree of science in Education in 2001 and a Master's degree in Special Education in 2004, both at Fort Hays State University. Mrs. Griffith taught for five years in Phillipsburg and for one year in Meriden. She is married to George Griffith and has four children — Seth, Jason, Nathan and Kristin. The highlight of her summer was the birth of her first grandchild, Austin, who was born to her son Jason and his wife Heather in Hays.

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