



# MATES Board of Directors Candidates

2022-2024 Term

## Frank DeVito



There is nothing more important than knowing MATES provides its students with an excellent opportunity for educational growth. Education is so much more than the curriculum, it's about the environment. MATES was founded on the principles of community. We come together to not only support our students but also to help them thrive.

- I would bring my authentic self to the role with the lens of inclusion for all students and all members of the MATES community. My core values include objectivity, fairness and empathy. I bring my broad-based experience in human resources and administration. My strengths include problem solving, leadership, collaboration, team building and bringing people together to find common ground. I highly respect confidentiality and take great pride in being a trustworthy collaborator. I am hoping to build on what I believe is already an incredible legacy. I am a proud parent of two MATES students.
- My goal is to lead with kindness and understanding. I will ensure that all people feel welcome because we are so much stronger when we work together for the common good of our students.

## Sarah Schwendimann

Hello! My name is Sarah Schwendimann and I am excited to be running for a second term on the MATES board! I am so proud of our school, its resilient and amazing staff, and our families and community. As a current board member and parent I have supported our school by:

- ✓ Supporting a safe return to campus in Fall 2020
- ✓ Striving to hear from and listen to a variety of perspectives on all school topics
- ✓ Serving as board member lead for family outreach/recruiting for prospective families as well as charter advocacy within the community
- ✓ Attending conferences in support of charter schools, equity, and other key topics
- ✓ Volunteering in MATES classrooms and the library and serving on the Curriculum and Technology Committees

When not volunteering or mom-ing an awesome MATES 3rd grader, I am the chair of the English and Humanities Division of Glendale Community College and a contributing editor of the journal College Teaching. I previously served seven years as GCC's Curriculum Coordinator where I helped to develop courses and programs in everything from cloud computing to fitness training. I have a Ph.D. and M.A. from UCSB and a BA from Scripps College.



Ballots sent home on Wednesday May 4th!

**All Ballots Due Back to MATES by May 12th at 4:00pm!!!!**

\*More information can be found at: [www.matescharter.org](http://www.matescharter.org)



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## **Sarah Reznick**



Sarah was blessed to have a positive early elementary school experience at a Valley Elementary Magnet. This school molded her lens on how education can embrace the whole child -- emotionally, spiritually, and educationally. This school instilled in her a love for the arts and music, and a passion for education. Sarah's parents later started a car wash in Thousand Oaks, which gave her the opportunity to attend Westlake High School. Sarah is a Certified Financial Planner® with Edward Jones where she is a partner in the firm. Sarah and her family feel blessed to have won the lottery in getting her first son into MATES. She sees the spark that she experienced in elementary school, which brought her to want to be a part of the fabric of the school through the Board of Directors. Sarah has enjoyed her time being a board member. Although challenging at times, she felt it was an important time to help the school thrive. Sarah has a current 4th and 1st grader and, in 2024, an incoming kindergartener. Her husband, Joel, is an alum of the original Meadows school.

## **Shawn Wain-Ku**

I still remember how we felt when we heard our son Aero's number called in the lottery and our enthusiasm for MATES has not waned. I am continually awed by the faculty, staff and parent involvement and since I will be part of this amazing community for the next 10 years when our youngest graduates, I want to do what I can to contribute to this school's tradition of boundless support for our children's education and futures - so thank you for considering me to be one of your parent representatives on the Board of Directors. I believe my uniquely varied life experiences will be the perfect addition to the Board. I received my undergraduate Chemistry degree from Harvard University but always pursued music and theatre throughout my schooling. Like a "good" Asian-American son, I started medical school at Columbia University but left to pursue a career as a modern dancer. I then performed in the Broadway and National Touring companies of numerous Tony Award-winning shows; had a brief stint as the lead actor in an internationally acclaimed film; returned to school to earn my MFA in Cinematic Arts from USC; and began my career as a film director and writer. I have always been a doer - often the first to roll up my sleeves. For each of my Broadway shows, I was the key fundraising organizer. I also have experience teaching in both urban-outreach and higher education. If elected to the board, I bring my scientific analytical thinking, communication skills, outreach experience, expertise in the performing arts, and tireless work ethic to help further the important mission forged here at MATES.



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## Valerie K. Imbriale



I am very grateful to have this opportunity to be a candidate for a parent member on the MATES Board of Directors. I would be able to utilize my education and experience as a school psychologist (over 12 years). I can apply my expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. I know how to work with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community. I have worked in all socio-economic areas, and I am a mother of a first grader at MATES and soon to be Kindergartener. I have also taught at various community colleges including our local Moorpark Community College. I am aware of all the facets of education and more importantly the importance of social emotional development in children. I am passionate about MATES, knowledgeable about school culture, operations, mission, and vision of MATES. What also makes MATES special is its attention to the "arts." As a school psychologist, I have learned, that working in the arts helps students to develop creative problem-solving skills. Having this type of instruction helps children with the development of motor skills, language skills, social skills, decision-making, and inventiveness. Intelligence does not have one definition. Intelligence comes in many forms, and this should be embraced. Overall, I can apply my principles of educational psychology, developmental/clinical psychology, and behavior analysis to meet learning and behavioral health needs of our children.

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