



CTE *Currents*

Featured School: **Olympian High School**

Program of Study: Arts, Media and Entertainment

**Courses: Arts Management • Audio Technology • Business Technology
Multimedia Production • Video Production •**

**ELAINE
ELEFANTE-LEANO**



**OLYMPIAN
HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL**

When Olympian High opened in 2006, we began with the belief that all students should be college and career ready. We knew that students would be entering a highly competitive workforce based on global knowledge and technology. In addition, students need to be able to adequately integrate and apply twenty-first century skills (technical expertise and core academic knowledge) in formal learning beyond high school in a variety of settings. Students in our programs of study have completed

internships through our partnerships at the Olympic Training Center and in an industry-level professional recording studio.

With an emphasis on real world, real life skills, the Career and Technical Education programs of study established at Olympian will make it possible for these students to be prepared to participate successfully both in a rapidly-changing work environment and in the college pathway of their choice. More than ever, we are committed to the belief that all students can be college and career ready.

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**TEACHER PROFILE:
SYLVIA YAMASAKI**



**TEACHES:
• BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY**

Working in the corporate sector with many accomplished professionals inspired me to become a Career Technical Education Teacher. I realized that as a teacher, I could help create the professional foundation upon which students could build their future careers. Teaching the many competencies in management, marketing and business is an important part of the students' development in scholastic and business skills.

The Business Technology CTE course will prepare students for the workforce when they graduate. Students will have practical office computer skills that will help them get started in their careers. I'm proud that many of my students have passed the Microsoft Office Specialist Word certification assessment. *(cont'd)*

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**Elaine Elefante-Leano,
Olympian High School Principal**

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(Sylvia Yamasaki, cont'd)

The MOS certification verifies a wide variety of computer skills; not only in programs, but also for specific job functions such as managing budgets and presentations. MOS certification is an important and distinguished credential for students applying for college or jobs.

Today's students need to be prepared for today's world, as well as the future. The Business Technology course gives students a much-needed edge in competing successfully for better jobs and higher education. I believe that being a teacher is the most important profession there is.

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TEACHER PROFILE: JOAQUIN MCWHINNEY



TEACHES:
▸ MULTIMEDIA
PRODUCTION
▸ ARTS MANAGEMENT

I began working as a youth counselor for troubled teens that were detained in correctional facilities. This was my first experience working with young people and I discovered that I connected well with them.

I try not to judge students – I afford each one equal respect regardless of their achievement level, but I do ask that every student try their best. I try to instill a sense of pride in my students by my own example. I am honest about my limitations because I want them to see that I rely on people that have skills that I don't possess. I encourage students to recognize their strong points and advertise them but to also understand that we can't do it all by ourselves; we should be willing to reach out for help to people with skill sets that are different from our own. Intellectual humility is huge in my class. The maxim is: Admit the things that you don't know.

Bringing professionals into the classroom is another crucial component of instruction. Industries change very rapidly now; we have to keep our classrooms up-to-date. I see management and marketing as essential skills to have in any industry. No matter what business you get into,

knowing how to promote and market products and services using the new media (web presence, e-commerce) is an indispensable skill to have.

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TEACHER PROFILE: LYNN COPELAND



TEACHES:
▸ MULTIMEDIA
PRODUCTION
▸ AUDIO TECHNOLOGY

Originally, teaching was not my chosen profession. However, I come from a family of educators, and I did some student teaching in college. As a Career Technical Education teacher, I help my students to understand that learning is easy if you apply yourself. It takes eight exposures to any new material before your brain creates new neuropathways for that information *(cont'd)*

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(Lynn Copeland, cont'd)

to be memorized, so I explain to my students that multiple exposures in my class are a must. In class we do this through modeling, note taking, written assignments and exercises. The challenge remains getting them into the practice of studying their notes after they've taken them.

My parents encouraged me to learn all the trades or job skills possible, so that if one door closed, we could walk through another and continue to support ourselves. Career Technical Education in general provides this opportunity to students. I currently teach Multimedia and Audio Technology. Both courses are technology-rich, and each encourages students to be creative. These skills are of increasing relevance to a number of industries. This is an important advantage in a tough economy.

In the future, I would like to see Audio Technology articulated with a college so that students taking the course at the high school level would be eligible for college credit. My goals going forward include administering the initial exam for Pro Tools certification or partnering with a testing center in order to offer this certification to students who are interested in pursuing a career in sound technology.

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TEACHER PROFILE: STEVE EXUM



TEACHES: VIDEO PRODUCTION

I found my passion for design in college; the instructors who shared their intense zeal for superior design galvanized me to be a great designer. I had great teachers who were able to convey emotion and could impact an audience through the use of different media. In this environment I learned the power of mass communications, and I have been hooked ever since.

I attended SDSU with a Major in Journalism /Advertising and a Minor in Graphic Design; I received a Communications Certificate from the Advertising Arts College with an Emphasis in Art Direction and an

Associates Degree from Platt College in Media Arts, where I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in Web Design and Digital Video. I am the CEO of **xm|creative**, a design firm. Over the last ten years I have received two Communicator Awards, two Telly Awards and eight American Graphic Design Awards for my design and video work .

I became a teacher out of a desire to fuel students' creative drive for technology, video story telling in particular. In the present economy, our students need to gain the upper hand in order to pursue a college degree and to be ready for the working world. My video production course provides current industry knowledge and refined, marketable skills. The techniques students learn in class will equip them to communicate clearly through their video projects to any audience. Technology is ever-changing and expanding. The courses taught in the Arts, Media and Entertainment programs of study are preparing a young workforce for these new, challenging jobs. Career opportunities as videographers, directors, producers and writers have never been greater. These courses are vital so that our students can compete for good jobs. They will also prepare them to be admitted to higher education institutions.

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A Program of Study is a student plan that involves a multi-year sequence of Career Technical Education courses that supports core academic knowledge, skills, concepts and content with technical and occupational skills.