

CONNECTIONS ACADEMY EAST ~ STAFF DIRECTORY BY DEPARTMENT

Updated: January 2026

Phone Number: 224-544-5920

Fax Number: 224-544-5921

STAFF MEMBER NAME & TITLE	PHONE EXTENSION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	AT CAE SINCE
BUILDING CONTACT			
Mrs. Elaina Shannon, M.A. <i>Founder & Principal</i>	102	eshannon@connectionsacademyeast.net	2008
Mrs. Melissa Mowder, M.A. <i>Assistant Principal</i>	103	mmowder@connectionsacademyeast.net	2006
Dr. Ruth Tompkins, Psy.D. <i>Senior Psychologist</i>	101	rtompkins@connectionsacademyeast.net	1999
Dr. Annie Rush <i>Asst. Senior Psychologist</i>	130	arush@connectiondacademyeast.net	2022
Dr. Charlotte Edwards, Psy.D <i>Psychologist & Autism Consultant</i>	233	cedwards@connectionsacademyeast.net	XXX
FOUNDERS & ADMINISTRATION			
Dr. Sol Rappaport, Ph.D. <i>Founder, Administrator & Auxiliary Supervisor</i>	XXX	srappaport@counselingconnections.net	1999
Mr. Erik Billings, MBA <i>Founder</i>	XXX	ebillings@counselingconnections.net	2017
Dr. Gwen Grant, Psy.D. <i>Auxiliary Supervisor</i>	XXX	ggrant@counselingconnections.net	XXX
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF			
Mrs. Melinda McCabe, B.A. <i>Office Manager</i>	108	mmccabe@connectionsdayschool.net	2002

08/06/2025

Mrs. Linda Norman <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	100	lnorman@connectionsacademyeast.net	2016
Mrs. Angelica Rodriguez <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	100	arodriguez@connectionsacademyeast.net	2018
PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTANT			
Dr. Michael Greenbaum, M.D. <i>Psychiatric Consultant</i>	XXX	N/A	XXXX
SCHOOL NURSE			
Mrs. Amber Morris, R.N. <i>School Nurse</i>	131	amorris@connectionsacademyeast.net	2024
BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS			
Mr. John Nelson, M.A. <i>CDS, SC, NCA & CAE Senior Intervention Specialist</i>	136	jnelson@connectionsdayschool.net	2002
Ms. Laura Grimes, M.A <i>Asst. Senior Intervention Specialist</i>	236	lgrimes@connectionsacademyeast.net	2006
Mr. Timothy Scroggins <i>Restorative Intervention Specialist</i>	134	tscroggins@connectionsacademyeast.net	2019
Mrs. Charisma Beyda <i>Restorative Intervention Specialist</i>	149	cjohnson@connectionsacademyeast.net	2016
Mr. Johnnie Reeves <i>Restorative Intervention Specialist</i>	134	jreeves@connectionsacademyeast.net	2020
Mr. Elie Walker <i>Program Intervention Specialist</i>	N/A	ewalker@connectionsacademyeast.net	2019
Ms. Allison Bujak <i>Program Intervention Specialist</i>	N/A	abujak@connectionsacademyeast.net	2021
Mr. Traell McClellan <i>Restorative Intervention Specialist</i>	106	tmcclellan@connectionsacademyeast.net	2018
Ms. Tonee Taylor <i>Restorative Intervention Specialist</i>	106	ttaylor@connectionsacademyeast.net	2024
Mr. James Bublick	107	jbublick@connectionsacademyeast.net	2021

<i>Restorative Intervention Specialist</i>			
TEACHERS			
Mr. Christopher Carlsen <i>Falcons High School Teacher - English</i>	113	ccarlsen@connectionsacademyeast.net	2015
Mr. Nicholas Laymon <i>Falcons Jr. High School Teacher</i>	112	nlaymon@connectionsacademyeast.net	2019
Mrs. Courtney Stedman <i>Falcons Elementary School Teacher</i>	110	cstedman@connectionsacademyeast.net	2021
Mr. Jordan Gonzalez <i>Eagles Middle School Teacher</i>	121	jgonzalez@connectionsacademyeast.net	2020
Mrs. Amber Raymond <i>Eagles Middle School Teacher</i>	119	araymond@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Mrs. Elizabeth Operzedek <i>Eagles High School Teacher - Science</i>	117	eoperzedek@connectionsacademyeast.net	2020
Ms. Brittany Linhart <i>Falcons Instructional High School Teacher</i>	114	blinhart@connectionsacademyeast.net	2021
Ms. Cassie Naylor <i>Eagles Elementary Teacher</i>	122	cnaylor@connectionsacademyeast.net	2024
Mrs. Dalia Afify <i>Eagles High School Teacher - Math</i>	118	dafify@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Mrs. Deanna White <i>Eagles Elementary Teacher</i>	124	dwhite@connectionsacademyeast.net	2024
Mr. Aaron Silverberg <i>Eagles High School Teacher - History</i>	120	asilverberg@connectionsacademyeast.net	2015
Mr. Andrew Freeman <i>Eagles Elementary Teacher</i>	123	afreeman@connectionsacademyeast.net	2024
Ms. Diana Melchor <i>Falcons Instructional Substitute Teacher</i>	111	dmelchor@connectionsacademyeast.net	2022
Mr. Kenny Floyd <i>Physical Education Teacher</i>	0	kfloyd@connectionsacademyeast.net	2023
Mr. Jack Feeley <i>Physical Education Teacher</i>	0	jfeeley@connectionsacademyeast.net	2021
Mrs. Debora Isberner <i>Reading Specialist</i>	211	disberner@connectionsacademyeast.net	2017

Mrs. Jennifer Kirby <i>Math Specialist</i>	104	jkirby@connectionsacademyeast.net	2015
Mrs. Samantha Bobella <i>Lead Teacher</i>	211	sbobella@connectionsacademyeast.net	2016
THERAPISTS			
Dr. Martin Touchett <i>CAE Program Therapist</i>	241	mtouchett@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Dr. Ajla Hodzic <i>Doctoral Fellow Therapist</i>	141	ahodzic@connectionsacademyeast.net	2024
Ms. Christina Osorio <i>Doctoral Intern Therapist</i>	125	cosorio@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Ms. Katie Murray <i>Doctoral Intern Therapist</i>	244	kmurray@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Mrs. Eleanor O'Meara <i>Doctoral Intern Therapist</i>	139	ecomeara@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Ms. Tiana Ghazzali <i>Doctoral Intern Therapist</i>	138	tghazzali@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Ms. Kayla Coakley <i>Psychotherapeutic Extern Therapist</i>	244	kcoakley@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Ms. Lucy Hoying <i>Psychotherapeutic Extern Therapist</i>	125	lhoying@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Mr. Dylan Wijas <i>Psychotherapeutic Extern Therapist</i>	144	dwijas@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Mr. Jack Berens <i>Psychotherapeutic Extern Therapist</i>	242	jberens@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Mrs. Nicole Carey <i>Part-Time CAE Therapist</i>	137	ccarey@counselingconnections.net	2025
Mrs. Maria Carlson <i>CAE Program Therapist</i>	237	mcarlson@counselingconnections.net	2021

Ms. Alexandria McNeil <i>CAE Program Therapist</i>	142	amcneil@connectionsacademyeast.net	2024
Ms. Nerissa Hall <i>CAE Program Therapist</i>	140	nhall@connectionsacademyeast.net	2024
Carolina Manriquez <i>Part-Time CAE Therapist</i>	206	cmanriquez@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Ms. Melissa Tegeler <i>Music Therapist</i>	132	mtegeler@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Ms. Katie Ryan <i>Art Therapist & Art Therapy Group Leader</i>	132	kryan@connectionsacademyeast.net	2022
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, SPEECH & LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND TRANSITION SERVICES			
Mrs. Crystal Hall, B.S., OTR/L <i>Occupational Therapist</i>	209	chall@connectionsacademyeast.net	2010
Dr. Kacy Puntillo, Ph.D., OTR/L <i>Occupational Therapist</i>	209	kpuntillo@connectionsacademyeast.net	2016
Dr. Ashli Price <i>Occupational Therapist</i>	209	aprice@connectionsacademyeast.net	2025
Mrs. June Klein-Koonin, M.A., CCC/SLP <i>Speech & Language Pathologist</i>	215	jklein@connectionsacademyeast.net	2015
Mrs. Sima Kamenetzky, M.A., CCC/SLP <i>Speech & Language Pathologist</i>	215	skamenetzky@connectionsacademyeast.net	2016
Mrs. Lauren Marks, M.A., CCC/SLP <i>Speech & Language Pathologist</i>	215	lmarks@connectionsacademyeast.net	2019
Mrs. Grace DeHoff, MA., CCC/SLP <i>Speech & Language Pathologist</i>	115	gdehoff@connectionsacademyeast.net	2024
Ms. Rachel Merke, B.S. <i>CDS, SC, NCA & CAE Transition Coordinator</i>	133	rmerke@connectionsdayschool.net	XXX