Hello! My name is **Ashley Athey**, and I am your child's Middle School (6-8) teacher for 2026-2027. I am so excited to get to know all my students!

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME & OUR CLASSROOM

This is my 4th year as a middle school lead teacher and my 6th year at TPS, and I'm so grateful to be part of this amazing community. I have 2 wonderful boys, one entering 8th grade and one in 4th, who keep me on my toes! At home, we share our space with 4 cats and a dog (and a few hermit crabs that will be joining our classroom this year). Life is busy, joyful, and never boring. I love embracing my weird side, and that shows up in our classroom every day. I aim to create a fun, safe, and creative space where students can be themselves, take risks, and grow. Some of my favorite things include photography, watching gloriously bad sci-fi movies, collecting crystals, fossils, and other odd treasures, and playing video games (one of my favorite ways to connect with my students). I often bring a bit of that quirky spirit into our lessons!

Your child can call me Ms. Ashley, and my pronouns are she/her.
You can reach me at aathey@theprojectschool.org.

HIGHLIGHTS YOU CAN EXPECT IN OUR FIRST FEW WEEKS

During the first week of school, our focus will be on community building and connection. Students will participate in team-building activities, icebreaker games, and collaborative challenges designed to help them feel safe, seen, and supported. We'll work together to create classroom agreements and set shared expectations that reflect respect, inclusion, and responsibility. As we move into the second week, students will begin to explore our academic subjects – reading, writing, math, science, and social studies – through fun, engaging activities that help us learn more about their strengths, interests, and learning styles. We'll also do some light assessments to help guide instruction and support each student's growth.

INTRODUCING OUR ARTS & INCLUSION TEACHERS

Here are some additional educators who support the learning of our students:

Sara Irvine (Ms. Sara, she/her) – Visual Arts Specialist
Howdy from (K-8) Visual Arts at TPS with Ms. Sara. I've been with TPS since its 2008 inception and am one of the founders of this wild and wonderful place. When I'm not at TPS2 wrangling the Visual Arts Rodeo, I am at home with my 5 horses, 5 dogs, and one cat. One of my favorite times of year is when all the TPS babes come to Yard Dogs Farm for Field Days. Giddy-up! Reach me: sirvine@theprojectschool.org.

Chris Bultman (Mr. Chris, he/him) – Performing Arts Specialist
Mr. Chris has been the Performing Arts specialist for TPS since 2010, and this year marks his 32nd year of teaching. He began in 1994 at The Curtis School in Los Angeles, where he also spent many of those sixteen "California years" as a performer in music, theatre, and TV – including brief co-starring roles as rather random French doctors on the soap opera "Days of Our Lives." Aside from his passion for all things performing arts, Chris loves outdoors, his dog Moshi, and his big, loving family! Reach me: cbultman@theprojectschool.org.

Ishika Sinha (Ms. Ishika, she/her) – Middle School Inclusion Teacher
I am the Middle School Inclusion Teacher and excited to start my 5th year at TPS. This is my fifth year as an inclusion teacher, and middle school is my favorite place to work. As much as I enjoy being a teacher, I love learning from young minds. When not at school, I like spending time with my two children. In addition, I am an 8th grade math teacher and love all things math and science. Reach me: isinha@theprojectschool.org.

WHERE OUR CLASSROOM IS LOCATED

Our classroom is in the Main Building on the second floor on the west side. Your child will enter through the Main Building front door, up the ramp, each morning. Once they enter the front door, they'll turn left to head to the west hallway. They will turn right in that hallway and follow it as it wraps around to the main stairwell in the center of the building (by the café). They will take those stairs to the second floor. Once there, they will find our classroom in the second door on the right, down a slight hallway! It sounds a bit confusing but will make a ton of sense after doing it just once!

WHO ELSE AT TPS CAN HELP!

We want to make sure that you know that everyone on our staff is excited to welcome you and your child, and eager to help all of you feel comfortable at the start of the new year! Specifically, we want to mention some key people and the roles they play, along with their contact information. You can always find their names and contact information on the website, too:

Lori Ihle – School Principal
Contact Ms. Lori with overarching instructional questions (beyond classroom curricular topics)
lihle@theprojectschool.org

Nicole Eller – Special Education Coordinator
Contact Nicole with questions about Individual Education Plans and support services
neller@theprojectschool.org

Alex Wulf – Office & Facilities Manager
Contact Alex with administrative and payment questions
awulf@theprojectschool.org

Angie Fish – Food Services Director
Contact Angie with meals-related questions
afish@theprojectschool.org

Bri Jacobson – Health Aide
Contact Bri with health and medication questions
health@theprojectschool.org

Rene Riley – Life Skills Coach | Mike Emmert – Social-Emotional Learning
Contact Ms. Rene & Mr. Mike with social-emotional or socio-econonic support needs
rriley@theprojectschool.org | memmert@theprojectschool.org

Amy Jackson – Communications & Outreach Director
Contact Ms. Amy with communications, website, and events questions
connect@theprojectschool.org

I cannot wait to welcome everyone to a great year!
Ashley

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This institution is an equal opportunity employer.