Hello! My name is **Jen Ruff**, and I am your child's Intermediate (3-5) teacher for 2026-2027. I am so excited to get to know all my students!

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME & OUR CLASSROOM

I am very excited to be returning to the 3/4/5 team (I have spent the last two years downstairs in the K/1 classroom)! Upper elementary is my real thing ☺. Before being at The Project School, I taught a multi-age K-6 classroom at Harmony School. In that room, I primarily worked with the older students. This is my 21st year of teaching. I am excited to explore my passions with your children -- books, science, projects, math, and art! I have lots of ideas about the work we will do in the classroom this year. I am mom to my 17-year-old artist/musician, Clem, and my 15-year-old basketball-loving son, Tal. My husband, Paul, is a screenwriter. Outside of school (and sometimes also in) you will find me obsessing about and researching plants to grow for my yard (and other people's yards). I also love, love, love animals (particularly insects).

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

HIGHLIGHTS YOU CAN EXPECT IN OUR FIRST FEW WEEKS

The beginning of the year is all about building the community – getting to know each other, getting to know what is in the classroom and what goes on in the classroom. I'm ready to just jump in and get started! I am excited to know your children – their passions, their joys, their struggles and strengths.

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.

Nicole Eller (Nicole, she/her) – Intermediate Inclusion Teacher
I am looking forward to another year as the Inclusion Teacher at The Project School, serving students in grades 3-5. I provide academic and additional supports and strive to challenge students, so they meet their full potential. Meaningful connections allow students to thrive, succeed and find joy in learning. Identifying needs is key to providing quality supports. I am the parent of twin TPS grads entering high school, and a recent high school grad dipping her toe into young adulthood. I vote for mysteries as the best genre. Reach me: neller@theprojectschool.org.

WHERE OUR CLASSROOM IS LOCATED

Our classroom is in the Main Building on the third floor on the east 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 right to go to the east hallway. They will then make an immediate right and take the staircase up TWO FLIGHTS to find our classroom at the very top! If there are students with mobility issues, there will be an elevator for their use. And when family members are visiting, if they have mobility issues, the elevator will also be available for them.

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-economic 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!
Jen

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This institution is an equal opportunity employer.