

## **Spotlight on Dr. Carrie Nerheim, New OUSD Director of Student Services**

Orinda Union School District is thrilled to introduce Dr. Carrie Nerheim, our new Director of Student Services. Jennifer Woodman, the current OUSD Director of Student Services, is retiring after five years of outstanding service. Dr. Nerheim begins her new position on July 1, and she is excited to get started. Teaching runs in her family. She is a third generation teacher who is following in the footsteps of her mother, a teacher of developmentally disabled adults for 40 years, and her father, a continuation high school teacher for 20 years. Her parents' commitment to their students, coupled with Dr. Nerheim's own school experiences, convinced her to become an educator.

Dr. Nerheim wanted to become a teacher to provide a safe and joyful learning environment where *all* students would learn at high levels. Her teaching experience includes first through eighth grades. She also served as the Special Education Program Coordinator for extended school year for eight years and a peer mediation coordinator for four. After fourteen years in the classroom, she was hired as a Teacher on Special Assignment/Assistant Principal of a K-8 school, and the following year, she became the Principal of Murray Elementary School in the Dublin Unified School District where she remained for seven and a half years, working side by side with teachers, parents, and students to create a climate of inclusivity, rigor, and joy. Most recently Dr. Nerheim served as the Director of Student Services for Albany Unified, and she is eager to learn and grow with the team here in Orinda.

Dr. Nerheim grew up in Stockton, California, where she attended public schools in both Stockton and Lodi Unified School Districts. She had the unique experience of spending her fourth grade year in a two room school house on King Island. Following graduation from high school, she attended San Joaquin Delta College and after two years, she transferred to the University of California, Los Angeles, where she earned her B.A. in English. She later received her teaching credential from Chapman College, Monterey, and completed part of her student teaching at Fort Ord when it was still an active military base. She earned her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Administrative Credential from St. Mary's College, and on June 10th, 2018, she earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership for Social Justice from California State University, East Bay.

When asked what she most looks forward to about working in OUSD, Dr. Nerheim stated that she can't wait to learn and collaborate interdependently with teachers, instructional assistants, principals, parents, direct service providers, and our SELPA

partners to continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for every student. She is eager to be a support for our students, their families, and our staff.

In her free time, Dr. Nerheim loves hiking, biking, and reading. Her goal for this school year is to resume her yoga practice. Her absolute favorite thing to do is spending time with friends and family, especially the newest member of her family, her grandson, Wesley! Dr. Nerheim has two daughters, Molly and Kate. Molly works in marketing, and Kate is a (fourth generation) teacher.

Dr. Nerheim is proud to work in education and looks forward to the challenges ahead to provide equity, inclusivity, and rigor for all Orinda students in the ever changing educational landscape. You are encouraged to email Dr. Nerheim to welcome her to Orinda USD after July 1 at [cnerheim@orindaschools.org](mailto:cnerheim@orindaschools.org).