



Lucy West

I graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BA in Political Science with an Environmental Sustainability minor. I speak English and French, and plan to learn German as my third language. I enjoy reading and crochet.





Adriana Wenberg

My name is Adriana Wenberg and I'm from Slovakia. This is my second year at TCGIS and I'm an Educational Assistant. I support students on their academic journey and love to see them further develop. In my free time, I love to spend time in the nature hiking, canoeing, collecting mushrooms.... . I also love gardening, reading and spending time with my family.

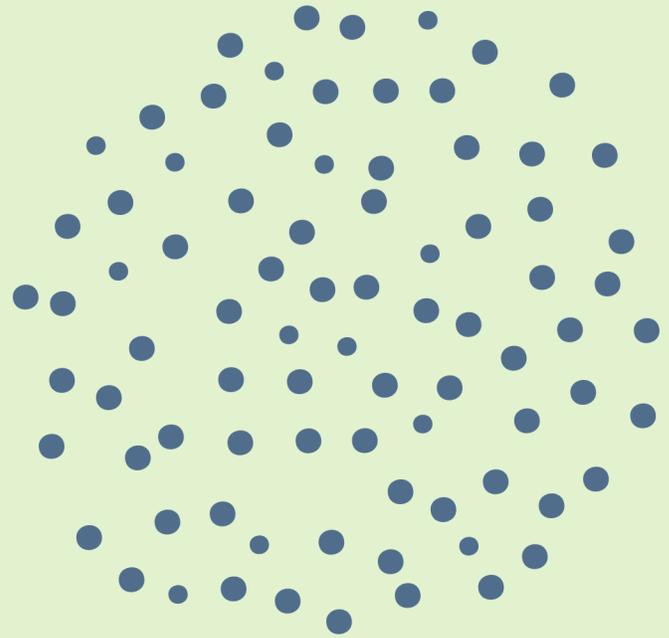




Tim Singleton

This is my sixth year at TCGIS. I worked here from 2016-2020, and came back in April of 2025 and am happy to be back! I was an exchange student in my Sophomore year of high school, and I lived in a suburb of Stuttgart and went to a Gymnasium. I took some German in college and love speaking it when I can. I have been to over 30 countries, I love math and sports. I have one son who is 11 years old and in 5th grade in Apple Valley. I have a sheepadoodle named Blueberry who we got over the summer, so she is still a puppy. I look forward to this school year!





Noah Brentlinger

Hello! My name is Noah Brentlinger and I am an EA here at TCGIS. I love interacting with students and working in the middle school. Outside of work, I like to read and spend time with family and friends, whether it's watching movies, playing games, or just grabbing a coffee!





Em Knoer

Hallo! Ich heiÙe Em und ich benutze they/them pronouns. I was born and raised in Minnesota. I went to college in Duluth at the College of St. Scholastica where I earned a minor in German and a double major in Sustainability Studies and Global, Cultural, and Language Studies. My brother currently lives in Berlin so my family has been to Germany twice to visit him. My parents live in Lakeville and once a week we have a family dinner night together that my mom usually cooks. I currently live in Northeast Minneapolis and enjoy hanging out with my friends and trying restaurants in my neighborhood. I love sushi and Indian food the most right now. We also go bowling and play trivia.

This is my second year working at TCGIS and I am excited to get to know more students and practice my German skills.



Nia Gogo

Hi!! My name is Nia gogo and this is my first year at TCGIS! I'm so excited to get to meet everyone and (hopefully) learn some german!

In my free time I like to lounge around with my 2 dogs whom I live with all my hearts, and go on bike rides with my dad! Most of my summer was spent working at the science museum summer camps but I was lucky enough to go to Colombia with my family!

This is my second year working at TCGIS and I am excited to get to know more students and practice my German skills.



Phil Johnson

My name is Phil Johnson and I recently moved to the Twin Cities area from Shawnee, KS. I am the guy on the right in the picture. The other guy is Alex and we now make our home in Shoreview. We have been together for 23 years, and married for the last 11 years. We like to travel, spend time with our dogs and renovate houses. I hold a B.A. in German from Illinois State University and an M.A. in TESOL from the University of Missouri Kansas City. I taught high school German and for several years was an ESL teacher in various adult education programs. I have also held positions as a Special Ed Para as well as ELL Aide in both elementary and high schools. I am excited to join the staff at TCGIS and look forward to getting to know my new colleagues and students. Additionally, I am beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to hear and speak German on a daily basis.

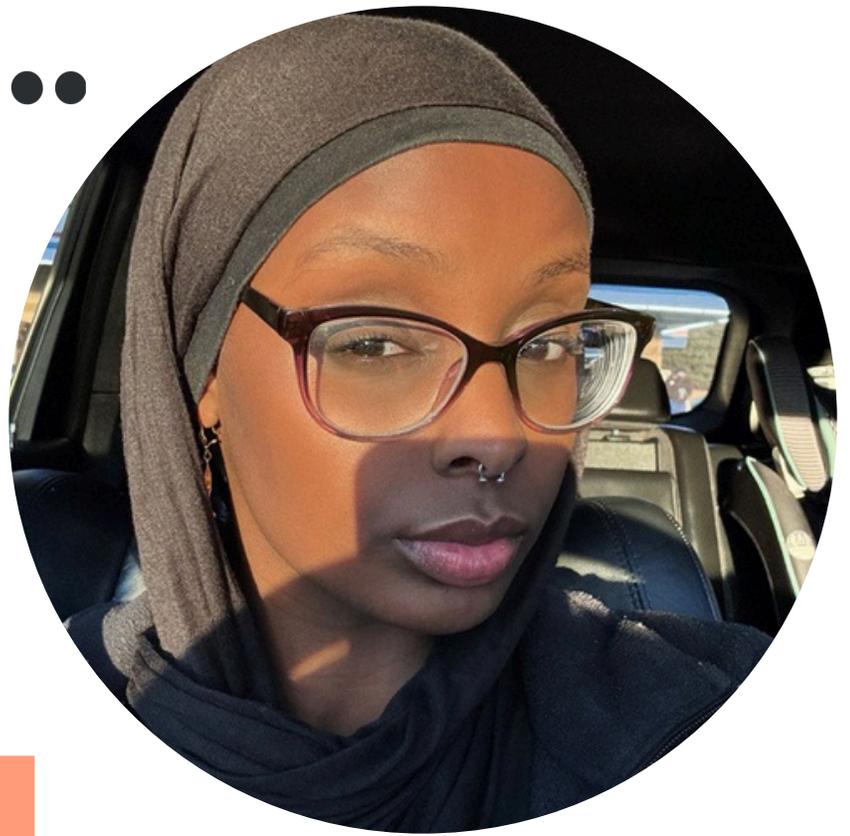




Charles Buckner

I'm currently contracted through Zen Educate but joined TCGIS in January 2025 and have greatly enjoyed becoming part of the community. I'm assigned to elementary school but also cover classes in middle school as needed. In my free time, I enjoy staying active through basketball and regular workouts.





Fartuun Sheik

Hello, my name is Fartuun Sheikh.

I am currently employed through Zen Educate and have a strong passion for working with children. I enjoy engaging in activities such as cooking, going for walks, going to the gym, and spending quality time with my family. I'm also pursuing a degree in Education, with the goal of continuing my work with children in a Setting 3 environment.





Lisa Lindel

Hi, my name is Lisa Sindel. I'm 27 years old and I've been living in Minnesota since September of this year.

My husband, our son, and our golden retriever Coby recently moved here from the South of Germany, and we're excited to start this new chapter of our lives here.

Back in Germany, I began studying to become a elementary school teacher, and I'm currently continuing my studies with the goal of working in education here as well. Teaching and working with children has always been a passion of mine.

In my free time, I love spending time outdoors — hiking and going on long walks with my family and our dog. I also enjoy skiing in the winter and curling up with a good book whenever I get the chance.





Heran Mamo

My name is Heran Mamo, and I'm excited to join TCGIS as a Special Education Assistant. I have a background in social work and experience supporting children in both Germany and the U.S. I enjoy helping students grow in a caring and inclusive environment. I speak German, English, Oromo, and Amharic. In my free time, I love singing, spending time with family, and being involved in my church community.





Arlette Atencio

My name is Arlette Atencio, I am 19 years old. I am a certified nursing assistant. I am Mexican, Norwegian and German. I graduated from a christian homeschooling program. Apart from Minnesota I also lived in Nebraska for about 4 years. I have been a Nanny since I was 14 years old and I also work part time at a restaurant named Zambonis in downtown Saint Paul. I love to read, do DIY projects but never finish them and go on walks with my dog.