



Javier Lucero

PASTORAL CARE & WELLBEING

Contact & Details

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Location: Dubai,
United Arab Emirates

Parish: Saint Francis of Assisi
Jebel Ali - Dubai, U.A.E.

Education

Master of Education

Grand Canyon University - USA

Curriculum and Instruction in Reading:
Elementary Education

Obtained in October 2010

Bachelor of Science in Education

New Mexico State University - USA

Elementary Education K-8

Obtained in May 2007

Parish References

Fr. Liubomyr Fylypchak
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Work References

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Profile

Passionate educator with a strong focus on pastoral care, student wellbeing, and the holistic development of children. With Christ at the center and with 18 years of experience across a range of educational roles, I lead key initiatives in pastoral care, behavioral support, safeguarding and student life. I work closely with students, staff, and families to foster a positive school culture built on empathy, compassion and consistency. Skilled in supporting students with behavioral challenges and guiding families through complex situations with compassion and clarity. Known for creating engaging, purposeful experiences that unite and strengthen the wider school community. Also, in support of a range of parish events and initiatives.

Work Experience

GEMS International School Aug 2016 - Current

Primary School Wellbeing Lead

2024-Current

- Primary Leadership Team:** Contribute to whole-school planning, staff development, and strategic decision-making.
- Pastoral Care:** Lead systems that support student well-being, positive relationships, and early intervention.
- Behavior Intervention (PBIS):** Oversee behavior expectations, staff coaching, and data-informed responses under the PBIS framework.
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Manage safeguarding referrals, documentation, and compliance while coordinating with external agencies. Level 3 Certificate.
- Head of Houses:** Strengthen belonging and school culture through House events, student participation, and consistent recognition systems.
- Head of Student Leadership:** Develop pathways that promote student voice, responsibility, and leadership from Early Years to Grade 5.
- Student Life:** Plan and deliver assemblies, celebrations, and community-building activities across the school.
- Social & Emotional Learning:** Embed SEL routines, class meetings, and curriculum practices that reinforce emotional literacy and positive behavior.
- Coordinating with Counselors:** Work closely with counsellors to align interventions, pastoral support, and family engagement.
- Parent Meetings:** Lead and support meetings with parents regarding behavior concerns, safeguarding matters, and action planning.
- Optimus Well-being Award:** Support systems, evidence gathering, and practice improvements that contributed to successful award accreditation.
- Mental Health First Aid:** Certified with the FAA Level 2 Award in First Aid for Mental Health, supporting staff and students with early recognition and response to wellbeing concerns.
- Professional Development:** Design and deliver training for staff on well-being, behavior, safeguarding, and positive classroom culture, ensuring consistent practice across the school.

Primary School Head of STEAM & Innovation Coach

2018-2024

- Primary Head of STEAM:** Led the school's STEAM vision by supporting staff, guiding instructional practice, and driving innovation across grade levels.
- Pre K – Grade 5 Innovation & Technology Integration:** Supported teachers in embedding technology and creative tools into daily learning, ensuring developmentally appropriate practice from Early Years through Grade 5.
- Innovation Lab Design & Construction:** Oversaw the planning, construction, and setup of a fully functioning STEAM and innovation lab, including equipment selection and learning-space design.
- Concerts & Performances:** Coordinated student performances and supported staff in preparing high-quality showcases that highlighted creativity and confidence.
- Art Exhibitions:** Led the organization of school art shows, ensuring student work was curated and displayed in a professional and engaging way.
- Coaching, Teaching & Training:** Provided coaching and training for teachers, modeled instructional strategies, and delivered workshops that built staff capability.
- STEM Programs & Initiatives:** Developed and ran STEM-focused projects, clubs, and events that promoted hands-on learning, problem-solving, and student engagement.
- Device & Resource Management:** Oversaw the distribution, maintenance, and effective use of devices and learning resources that supported classroom instruction.

Grade-Five Homeroom Teacher

2016-2018

- Classroom Learning:** Delivered engaging, transdisciplinary lessons that built independence, collaboration, and confident problem-solving.
- Assessment & Feedback:** Used ongoing assessment, conferencing, and reflection to track progress and respond to individual learning needs.
- Student Agency:** Guided students through group projects, research tasks, and exhibition-style work that strengthened ownership and responsibility.
- Digital Integration:** Integrated technology, thinking routines, and research skills to support deeper inquiry across subjects.
- Awards & Recognition:** Named 2018 GIS Teacher of the Year and selected as a finalist for the Mariamma Varkey Award for outstanding contribution to teaching and learning.

Curriculum Vitae of Javier Lucero

Previous Experience

Teacher 2013 - 2106
Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

Al Khazna School
Abu Dhabi Education Council

- 2015-2016 Fourth and Fifth Grade English Teacher.
- 2014-2015 Fifth Grade English and Science Teacher
- 2013-2014 Sixth Grade English and Science Teacher

Instructional Technology Specialist

2010 - 2013

Phoenix, arizona, U.S.A.

Educational Services

District Office

Cartwright School District

- Instructional Technology Specialist
- K-8 training, staff support, policy writing, resource allocation, innovation projects and pilot programs
- Oversaw 20 primary and middle schools

Teacher 2007 - 2010

Phoenix, arizona, U.S.A

Borman Elementary School

Cartwright School District

- 2009-2010 Seventh Grade Self-Contained Structured English Immersion
- 2007-2009 Seventh and Eighth Grade Social Studies

Recent & Ongoing Initiatives

Data Collection & Management
PASS and Upstrive Student Surveys & Toddle Behavioral Data:
Collect and analyze pastoral data from PASS (Pupil Attitudes to Self and School) survey and Upstrive in order to guide and adapt student life engagements. Using this data, social and emotional learning, school assemblies and daily school routines were created and adapted. Using the Toddle pastoral module, staff duty assignments are adapted to meet behavioral needs throughout the school day, improving supervision and support.

Leadership | Head of Department for PYP STEAM & Innovation | 2022 - 2024

STEAM teaching, learning, coaching and training. Resource and facilities management for primary school including directing the use of the science lab, maker space, robotics lab, 1-to-1 iPad program, digital citizenship initiatives, ISTE standards rollout, and mobile device management systems while integrating innovative learning engagements through core-curricular teaching and learning. Piloting and leading various innovation projects that have become common place in learning throughout the primary school.

Pastoral Care | PYP Head of Houses | August 2017 - Current

Facilitating student-led school events and initiatives through the four-house school system including service learning projects, school events, activities and campaigns in collaboration with school leadership and school committees.

Pastoral Care | GIS Student Wellness | August 2020 - 2024

Contributor and member of school wellness committee that ensures student, teacher and parent wellness through school initiatives, events, programs and trainings.

Award | GIS Teacher of the Year & finalist for the 2018 Mariamma Varkey Award | Academic Year 2018 - 2019

Selected to receive teaching award by various stakeholder committees for teaching practices and service to the school and local community.

Founder and Coordinator | The Social Awareness Club at GIS | Academic Years 2016 - 2019

Organization: GEMS International School Al Khail | Description: Initiated and facilitated student driven service-learning projects and collaborations with various philanthropic and charitable organizations around the UAE.

Development & Design | Abu Dhabi Education Council Online Learning Management System Academic Years 2014 - 2016

Role: Designer & Development | Description: Initiated and designed foundational structure for the Abu Dhabi Education Council's first online learning management system.

Presenter | TESOL Arabia - Teaching Methods for Enhancing 21st Century Skills K-12 November 2014

Session: Engaging 21st Century Thinkers with Mobile Devices | Description: Facilitated an innovative session on utilizing mobile devices for language development and content projects.

Lead Facilitator | Camp Plug & Play 8.0 | Session: Mobile Media | July 2013

Organization: Arizona K12 Center | Description: Facilitated a teacher-centered session on the creation of digital media with iPads and iPods with an emphasis on photography and filming techniques.

Conference Co-Organizer | D2D Youth Leadership Conference 2013 | April 2013

Organization: Dare 2 Dream AZ/Phoenix College | Description: Creator and curator of youth leadership conference website and registration systems as well as conference presenter.

Lead Facilitator | Gifted Geeks 83 Service-Learning Project | March 2013

Organization: Special Services Department - Cartwright School District | Description - Designed and facilitated service-learning photography project for gifted students using mobile devices.

Recent & Ongoing Initiatives

Pastoral Care

Play and canteen procedures development:
Implementing grades 2-5 canteen and playground procedures, with teacher and student feedback, in order to improve the overall social, play and safety experience for students and staff.

Facility Design & Resources

Designer of school STEAM lab - Innovation Hub:

Designer of three-room innovation and STEAM lab used in primary school for a wide variety of learning experiences including Design Thinking, music production, robotics, science explorations, 3D printing and design.

Pastoral Care: Student Leadership

Spirit of Gratitude:

Initiated a primary school initiative called, *Spirit of Gratitude*, in which house captains designed a website with learning engagements for each day of the week that celebrated themes related to gratitude while maintaining literary connections.

Pastoral Care: Student Leadership

Mind, Body & Spirit Week:

Created and delivered a primary student wellness initiative with student leadership staff and student leaders that highlights the whole student, mind, body and spirit, where students take part in a variety of events that brings awareness and joy to holistic wellness.

Pastoral Care: Student Leadership

Student Leadership Elections:

Facilitate yearly student house-captain speeches and elections for primary school along with a weeks-long exploration of the characteristics of outstanding leaders.

Pastoral Care: Student Life & Events

Splash Splash Spirit Week:

Lead a primary-wide celebration of learning and swimming at the end of each school year in which students and teachers take part in engaging swimming and outdoor activities that uplift spirits and unite the school community.

Pastoral Care: Student Life & Events

House points management and weekly announcement:

With the support of house captains, maintain the IB learner-profile based house points system and weekly announce house team leaders as well as events across the school.

Curriculum Vitae of Javier Lucero, Continued

Conference Co-Creator and Co-Organizer | **EdCamp Phoenix West** | February 2013
Organization: EdCamp Phoenix West | Description: Created and organized EdCamp Phoenix West with duties including but not limited to presenting, soliciting sponsors, website creation/maintenance, creation of promotional materials and registration management. www.edcampphoenix.org

Co-Presenter | **OELAS Conference 2013** | Session: **From No Tech to High Tech** | December 2012

Organization: Office of English Language Acquisition Services - Arizona Department of Education | Description: Chronicled the journey of technology integration into English language development classrooms as well as the curation of resources that support meaningful classroom technology integration.

Facilitator | **Camp Plug & Play 7.0** | Organization: **Arizona K12 Center** | June 2012

Description: Co-facilitated numerous technology integration sessions throughout a 5-day technology professional development for teachers.

Conference Presenter | **D2D Youth Leadership Conference 2012** | April 2012

Session: iJournalism: Mobile Journalism | Organization: Dare 2 Dream AZ and Phoenix College | Description: Facilitated conference session to youth leaders on the ability to become journalists using mobile devices.

Conference Presenter | **Arizona Reading Association Conference 2011** | October 2011

Session: Web Tools in the Reading Classroom | Organization: Arizona Reading Association | Description: Facilitated session on the integration of web tools into reading instruction through project-based learning.

Co-Author | **Differentiating Staff Development Through Multiple Methods** |

September 2011

Publication: Innovative Learning | Organization: International Society for Technology in Education | Description: Co-authored article on various methods for differentiated professional development with an emphasis on technology integration.

Co-Facilitator | **Camp Plug & Play 6.0** | Session: **Fantastic Films** | July 2011

Organization: Arizona K12 Center | Description: Facilitated teacher-centered session on the creation of films and movies in the classroom using digital cameras and video editing software.

Conference Presenter | **Cochise Instructional Technology Conference** | July 2011

Session: Getting to Know the TIM (Technology Integration Matrix) | Organization: Cochise College - University of Arizona South | Description: Facilitated session highlighting Arizona's Technology Integration Matrix (TIM) with an emphasis on the characteristics of technology-integrated learning environments.

Co-Facilitator | **Arizona Center for STEM Teachers Summer Institute 2011** | June 2011

Session: iPad Orientation and Integration | Organization: Arizona Center For STEM Teachers - University of Arizona | Description: Facilitated orientation of entry level features on the iPad and iPod as well as project-based applications for science, mathematics, technology and engineering classrooms.

Co-Facilitator | **Camp Plug & Play 6.0** | Session: **Project-Based Learning** | June 2011

Organization: Arizona K12 Center | Description: Facilitated a 5-day teacher-centered training on project-based learning and classroom application with technology integration.

Recent & Ongoing Initiatives

Pastoral Care

#NoJunkCampaign

With student leaders and pastoral care staff members, developed a healthy eating campaign that saw house captains collecting data on junk food and plastic waste in order to implement initiatives to bring awareness and increased positive habits across the primary.

School Events

Winterfest

Facilitated a school-wide audition and variety show that highlighted the talents of all stakeholders of the school community.

Student Leadership

Movie with the Stars - Student leadership reflection workshop and celebration

Co-created a yearly end-of-year reflection workshop and celebration for whole-school student leaders in which an evaluation and reflection of school events led to changes in the proceeding year.

Student Leadership

House Spirit Week

With student leaders, organize yearly school-spirit events that orient students towards teamwork and embodying the IB learner profiles.

Student Leadership

Dubai 30x30 Fitness Challenge

With house captains and along with the Dubai-wide fitness initiative 30x30, lead fitness-oriented activities for students in primary that allow them to explore new ways of staying healthy.

School Events

Arts Week

With support from the primary arts department, lead a whole-primary Arts Week in which students and parents take part in concerts, workshops, school plays, busking, flash mobs, arts exhibitions and a variety of other arts-oriented learning experiences.

Curriculum Vitae of Javier Lucero, Continued

Creator and Organizer | **Camp Innovation Tech** | Organization: Cartwright School District | June 2011

Description: Created and organized 1-week laboratory camp for teachers to practice project-based learning strategies within various subjects including robotics, journalism and alternative energy.

Training Certification | **Cognitive Coaching** | Organization: Center for Cognitive Coaching | May 2011

Description: Received training and certification on Cognitive Coaching, a supervisory and peer coaching model that enhances cognitive processes that mediate thinking in order to enable metacognition about teaching practice.

Co-Presenter | **Mobile Learning Experience 2011** | April 2011

Session: iPod Touch Implementation from the Ground Up | Organization: Arizona K12 Center

| Description: Presented information on the effectiveness of iPod Touch implementation including the sharing of resources for large-scale integration.

Co-Presenter | **MEC 2011 (Microcomputer in Education Conference)** | March 2011

Session: From Crawl to Sprint: Launching a Dynamic Resource-Centered Tech Program |

Organization: Arizona State University | Description: Facilitated session outlining the process for creating a technology-rich program or initiative at schools and in districts.

Featured Teacher | **Arizona's Technology Integration Matrix** | September 2010

Organization: Arizona K12 Center | Description: Featured in Arizona's Technology Integration Matrix in multiple filmed lessons that demonstrate exemplary teaching practice in the context of technology integration.

Technology Integration Matrix: azk12.org/tim Example Lesson: bit.ly/Xg2XMK

Founder and Lead Sponsor | **The Social Awareness Club** | 2007-2010

Organization: Borman School - Cartwright School District | Description: Founded and

sponsored a service-learning club for students that accumulated over 1500 hours of community service in various capacities throughout the city of Phoenix while promoting and advocating for diversity and assistance for the needy.

Founder, Organizer, and Facilitator | **Maryvale Community Parent University** | 2009-2010

Organization: Borman School - Cartwright School District | Class Taught: Intermediate English as a Second Language

Description: Founded, organized and facilitated classes meant to enrich the lives of parents through learning in various subjects including English, entry level technology and art among others.

Co-Facilitator | **Cartwright Summer Institute** | Session: **Balanced Math** | June 2010

Organization: Cartwright School District | Description: Facilitated professional development that centered around quality math practices through the approach of balanced math instruction.

Award | **Dunkin' Donuts Teacher Hero Award** | March 2010

Description: Received teaching award for service to the school and community through blood drives, community service, school events, parent classes and effective teaching practices.