



Nicholas Willis

Associate Principal for the Class of 2028 and Students Last Name A-F

Email

nwillis@sandi.net

Phone

Office: 619-605-8100 (x3059)

E-mail: nwillis@sandi.net

Phone: (619) 839-7155

Ext.: 1260

Room: Front Office

Department: Admin

Last Updated: February 10, 2026

STAFF BIO

Nicholas was born and raised in New Jersey. After following in his father's footsteps to Penn State University, he traveled to Trinidad and then served in Peace Corps Morocco. Upon his return to the US, he moved to New York City and began teaching science in Harlem. During his 11 years of teaching, he taught biology, chemistry, forensics, genetics, AP Environmental Science, and A.V.I.D. Along the way, he obtained a Master's in Teaching from Pace University and a Master's in Administration & Supervision from Fordham University. After leaving the classroom, Nicholas worked in several positions within the New York City Department of Education central office, supporting teacher teams and administrators across the City.

In 2018, Nicholas and his wife, originally from San Diego, drove across the country and moved to Bonita with their two small children. They are very happy enjoying a larger living space, better weather, and spending time with friends and family.

Nicholas is excited for his 8th year as Canyon Hills High School Associate Principal!

EDUCATION

San Diego State University

2022 - Present

Doctorate (Edd), Educational Leadership

Fordham University

2010 - 2011

Masters, Educational Leadership

Pace University

2003 - 2005

Masters, Teaching

Pennsylvania State University

1996 - 2000

BS, Life Sciences

CANYON HILLS HIGH SCHOOL



ABOUT CANYON HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

VISION

Canyon Hills High School is a diverse community of active learners, inclusive of all people and voices, committed to preparing our students to be lifelong independent learners ready for the complexities and challenges of tomorrow.

MISSION

We embrace our diverse community and promote equity, inclusion, respect, and self-advocacy. We achieve academic success, without feeling the pressure of conformity, by engaging in complex issues with creativity and collaboration to support our growth and learning.

Core Values (How do we live our mission to achieve our vision?)

Equity

We create and learn in our culturally responsive and inclusive classroom communities.

We empower students to express their ideas and voice.

We celebrate and raise up unique ways of learning.

We open access and provide equitable support through our systems to promote success for all.

We do not exclude or create barriers for some by ensuring our systems and policies are inclusive.

Belonging

We embrace diversity in a multiethnic world.

We feel valued, seen, and included.

We welcome all in a safe environment.

We model respect and place relationships at the forefront.

We support our students' emotional and academic needs in partnership with families and the community.

Thriving

We hold high expectations for ourselves and our students.

We teach relevant academics and skills that promote success beyond high school.

We create student-centered, academically challenging environments.

We promote self-advocacy and ownership of learning.

We provide multiple pathways to success.

We measure our growth and success over time as a means of continuous improvement.

HELPFUL LINKS

[Canyon Hills High School's Home Page](#)

<https://www.sandiegounified.org/schools/canyonhills>

Principal Renfree's Blog

<https://serrahighschool.wixsite.com/blog>

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