

SUNSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# CAMP @ SUNSET

FALL 2023, ISSUE 1



## REMINDERS

PLEASE HAVE A PHOTO ID  
READY EVERY TIME YOU  
SIGN YOUR CHILD OUT.

PAYMENT IS ALWAYS DUE  
BEFORE THE 1ST DAY OF THE  
MONTHLY SERVICE PERIOD TO  
AVOID A \$10.00 LATE FEE PER  
CHILD.

## AFTER SCHOOL CARE

After school care offers a vibrant environment for our students to explore and enjoy. Filled with engaging activities and opportunities for social interaction, it transforms the hours after school into a time of fun and excitement. From creative arts and crafts projects that unleash their imagination to friendly sport matches that boost their teamwork skills, every moment becomes a chance to learn and have fun.

The camaraderie among peers and the guidance of caring adults create an atmosphere where laughter and curiosity flourish. After school care not only provides a safe space but also a platform for kids to forge new friendships, discover their interests, and make cherished memories that last a lifetime.



## MEET OUR LEADERS



**XIMENA ALVAREZ**

Hello, my name is Ximena Alvarez! Back in 2022, I graduated from MAST Academy, and have since begun my journey as a student at Florida International University where I'm pursuing my passion for psychology. I enjoy working with the children in after care and strive to make their time after school fun and meaningful. There's nothing that warms my heart more than sharing quality time with my loved ones – my friends and family. When I have free time, you'll often find me at the beach, soaking up the sun's rays and submerging myself into the ocean. I am so excited to continue working with the children of Sunset Elementary and can't wait for new memories to be made.



**ALEAH BONITTO**

Hello! My name is Aleah Bonitto, and I am thrilled to be returning as an activity leader for after school care at Sunset Elementary School. Over the past two years I have had the privilege of engaging the children through various forms of activities. I believe in creating a safe and nurturing environment for students to unwind and continue their growth after school hours. My philosophy for after care is centered around providing a safe, inclusive, and fun environment where every child feels valued and encouraged to explore their interests. I believe in fostering a sense of community, promoting teamwork, and celebrating individual accomplishments. From creative arts and crafts, STEM/ Science projects, outdoor games and innovative technology use, my objective is to strike a balance between recreational and educational activities. I also encourage open communication and active participation to ensure that each child's voice is heard and their ideas are integrated into my class setting. My goal is to create lasting memories for the children in after care. I aim to foster a positive impact on their lives and to help them develop skills that extend beyond the school setting. I am grateful to be part of this community and look forward to collaborating with parents and most importantly, the incredible children at Sunset Elementary. Let's make every afternoon an adventure of learning and fun!

## MEET OUR LEADERS



**GREGORY  
BARRENECHE**

Greetings! I am delighted to introduce myself as a dedicated activity leader at Sunset Elementary. My primary aim is to be a fun mentor while imparting meaningful education and upholding a strong sense of fairness. With a shooting star personality, I am committed to bringing out the best in every student as they embark on their journey of reading, writing, and running. Nurturing your child's ability to think critically is my daily goal, and I achieve this by challenging their capabilities through thoughtfully crafted activities tailored to their individual needs. I firmly believe in the power of hands-on learning, and I personally create activities for each and every student. This approach allows me to fully engage with their learning process and ensure they get the most out of every educational experience. I am eager to work together with you and your children to foster a stimulating and supportive learning environment.



**MIGUEL  
CORDOBA**

I'm Miguel Cordoba, and I take pride in my strong work ethic and dependable nature. I enjoy creating a space for the children to be open to crafting solutions from the materials we have, making the best of every situation. Whether it's tackling projects at work or embracing outdoor activities, I'm dedicated to giving my best. Balancing an active lifestyle with my responsibilities is key, and I also value the importance of taking quiet moments for self-reflection. If you're seeking a reliable individual who embodies hard work and a balanced approach to life, I'm here.

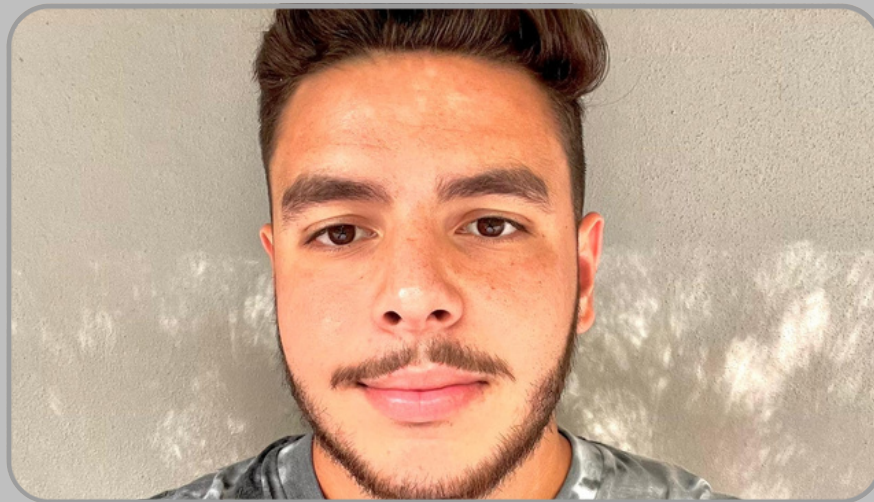


## MEET OUR LEADERS



**EVELYN GUERRA**

Welcome, parents and students, to our after school care program! My name is Evelyn Guerra and I am proud to be one of the Sunset elementary after school care activity leaders. I really enjoy working with children because of their boundless energy and the joy they bring to learning. I am currently in my inaugural year at Miami Dade College, pursuing a course of study in Psychology. My motivation for selecting this field is rooted in my desire to effect positive change in the lives of children, and I am eager to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to make a meaningful impact in their development and well-being. It brings me joy to work with a program that aims to provide a safe, engaging, and nurturing environment for your kids after school hours.



**RAFAEL GUERRA**

Hello, my name is Rafael Guerra, and I am thrilled to work as an activity leader at Sunset Elementary. Let me share a little about myself and my background. I have always been passionate about sports, especially basketball, and baseball, and I have played and watched sports for many years. I am in my third year at Florida International University, majoring in Psychology. My interest in psychology extends beyond the classroom and plays a crucial role in understanding children's social and emotional development. As your activity leader, I aim to provide a safe, positive, and enjoyable environment for your children to explore their interests and discover new talents. I am thrilled to be a part of your children's after school journey and look forward to getting to know each of them better.

# MEET OUR LEADERS



**LORANA GUSTINVIL**

Hello! My name is Lorana Gustinvil and I am the proud cheerleading coach and an after-school care activity leader here at Sunset. I am currently a nursing student at the University of Miami with aspirations of becoming a NICU Nurse. As a dedicated nursing major, I possess a deep understanding of the importance of empathy, care, and effective communication – qualities that are essential not only in the medical field but also in guiding and nurturing young minds. When I am not pursuing my passions, you can find me immersed in the world of books. This love for reading translates into my teaching approach, where I encourage my students to explore new horizons, develop critical thinking skills, and embrace learning as a lifelong adventure. Incorporating my passion for cheer, my nursing background, and my love for reading, I have an innate ability to connect with my students on multiple levels.



**ADA MERCIER**

Hi! I am Ada Mercier and I was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I started my career in the advertising industry with J. Walter Thompson in San Juan covering general and Hispanic markets. I later moved to New York City with Gray Advertising as a senior account manager. I graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a bachelor's degree in French and Minors in Fine Arts and Business Administration. I also have a master's degree in Fashion Merchandising from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. I have always loved being around children and teaching. During my spare time I taught mosaic workshops to students of different ages. I am currently a paraprofessional at St. Thomas the Apostle school and an activity leader at Sunset Elementary. Greeting parents and students with a friendly smile, I help match each child with the right guardian, making sure they leave our care safely. It's a task that demands patience, efficiency, and a keen eye for detail. I find immense satisfaction in creating a reassuring environment for both the kids and their families. Being a part of these children's daily routine and contributing to their safety and well-being is incredibly fulfilling.

# MEET OUR LEADERS



**JAHDIRA OSBORNE**

**Hey hey! I am one of the Sunset Elementary activity leaders for this year. My name is Jahdira and I have always valued learning, which is what I would love to impart on the children. I plan to use varied styles of crafts that engage them mentally and physically while incorporating skills through audio/visual/kinetic learning. I graduated from Florida International University, am a high school International Baccalaureate candidate, and have always been encouraged through my programs to THINK GLOBALLY. So I ask for your trust in me to bring a broader world perspective with your growing and glowing children in this 2023-2024 school year.**



**EDI SHINTANI**

**Hello, Sunset Elementary Family!**

**I am Ms. Edi and I have been working at Sunset since 2014. I was born and raised in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in a Brazilian/Japanese family. I moved to Miami almost 20 years ago. I have a master's degree in Language Arts and a relevant background in Education, Child Development, Behavior Management and Creative Learning Methods. Also, I participated in many organizations volunteering during my academic years, further solidifying my dedication to supporting young learners. My expectations as an ASC Leader go above and beyond to provide emotional support, academic assistance, and a friendly presence that children can rely on and make a positive influence in their lives. I love teaching, learning from my students, traveling, and spending time with my family. Additionally, I have a passion for art, music, and photography.**



## MEET OUR LEADERS



**TATIANA SOLTAU**

**Hello Parents and Students! My name is Tatiana Soltau and I am proud to say I'm one of the after school care leaders for this school year. I am currently a student at Miami Dade College where I am studying nursing. In the future it's my dream to be a Pediatrics Nurse. It's such a gift to be able to work with your children and I hope to be able to make a positive impact on their lives. Whether that be helping them develop new skills or just providing them with a positive environment to be themselves.**

**VANESSA VAZQUEZ**



**Hello there! I'm Vanessa, your friendly after school care leader for Sunset Elementary. In after care we explore, learn, and have loads of fun. We engage in crafts and activities that spark ingenuity, and bring us all together in unity, embracing each child's unique individualism. I believe in the power of fostering a warm and supportive environment where kids can grow and flourish and I'm determined to keep my own spirit as youthful as my wonderful students throughout the year. Let's embark on this incredible journey of learning and discovery together.**

# MEET OUR LEADERS

OCTOBER 2023



**CRISTIAN VILLAGRA**

**Hi everyone! My name is Cristian Villagra, and I am an enthusiastic individual who enjoys being an activity leader at Sunset Elementary. Some of my passions include soccer and video games. My background in sports and gaming has honed my leadership skills and ability to engage with children of all ages. My enthusiasm for fostering a fun and inclusive environment promises to make the students' experiences at Sunset Elementary truly unforgettable.**



**AMANDA IZQUIERDO**

**My name is Amanda Izquierdo. I'm happy to be joining the Sunset Elementary After School Care team. I am Cuban American and have spent most my life in sunny South Florida. I have my AA in psychology and my BA in Environment Sustainability. I plan to go for my Masters in Psychology to possibly work with struggling youth through nature therapy. I dedicated six years to Everglades National Park as a naturalist tour guide and truly believe nature is absolutely healing. I have worked as an assistant for 3rd grade and as an after school program leader in Utah, but the work I did with the Girl Scouts of Alaska was the most impactful because I learned the best ways to engage with kids is through authenticity. They have also taught me there is no such thing as a bad kid but simply a kid looking to connect and express themselves, especially creatively through art as I am an artist myself and have found this to be a powerful outlet in finding your true voice. I also know the importance of teaching our students about caring for their only planet. They are our future and I hope to leave a lasting impression on the children I teach for years to come.**



## MEET OUR LEADERS



**GHADEER ALTABBA**

My name is Ghadeer Altabba, and I am excited to introduce myself as your child's new after school care teacher. It is my pleasure to join the Sunset Elementary community and work alongside you to provide a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment for your children after their school day. My primary goal as an after care teacher is to ensure that your child feels safe, engaged, and supported in their after school activities. As we embark on this journey, I'm confident that your child will not only have fun but also develop valuable skills and express themselves in unique ways. I look forward to seeing the wonderful creations they'll come up with and the smiles on their faces as they enjoy our arts and crafts activities. Thank you for entrusting me with your child's care after school. I am excited to be a part of their creative and educational journey.



**ADRIANE HESSE**

Hello I'm Adriane, a dedicated after school care leader. I bring a unique blend of academic knowledge and maternal warmth to my role. Having pursued psychology for three years in Brazil, I possess a deep understanding of child development and behavior, enriching my ability to nurture and guide the young minds under my care. As a mother to a spirited 10 year old girl, I effortlessly connect with children, fostering a sense of security and trust among them. My passion for a child's well-being extends beyond my professional life; I have worked with children for several years, demonstrating my natural affinity for creating a playful and supportive environment. My genuine love for children, coupled with my educational background and hands-on parenting experience, makes me not only an excellent caregiver but also a role model for the young ones I mentor.

## MEET OUR LEADERS



**SANDRA SMITH-MOISE**

Hello! I am Sandra Smith-Moise, assistant principal for community education, responsible for implementing and overseeing the after school care and enrichment programs here at Sunset Elementary School. As an educator for 36 years, I have enjoyed empowering others through fostering personal and academic growth and a deeper appreciation for the world around us. I launched my career as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Roseau, Dominica, and have worked with Miami-Dade County Public Schools as a teacher, assistant principal, and founding dean of the nationally recognized and award winning Parent Academy. I am fortunate to lead a dedicated team of outstanding activity leaders and enrichment teachers whose mission is to provide a safe and enriching space for students after regular school hours. It's more than just supervising students; it's creating a space where students can explore their interests, engage in creative activities, and build meaningful friendships. I am honored to contribute to their overall well-being and education, ensuring they have a supportive environment to thrive and have fun during after school hours.



**ROLANDO MORALES**

Hi! I am Mr. Morales, the community school specialist at Sunset Elementary. My role is incredibly rewarding. As a dedicated member of the school community, I work closely with parents to help with program enrollment, I respond to inquiries from parents and students regarding class offerings, attendance, fee payment and registration procedures. Each day brings new challenges and opportunities to make a positive impact for our Sunset families. This is not just a job for me; it's a calling to help shape the future and ensure that every child has the best possible experience after school. I take pride in being an important link between the school and the community, and I am inspired by the work we do each and every day.















