Mrs. Amy Grey

English Department

Rancho Mirage High School

31001 Rattler Road

Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

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Students of Mrs. Grey

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Dear Students:

My name is Amy Whittington-Grey and I am your English teacher for the 2019-2020 school year at the Rancho Mirage High School. Welcome to high school and my class! I’m excited to get to know you and have the chance to help you get your high school years off to a great start. Before becoming a part of the original staff at RMHS, I taught 10th and 11th grade English at Palm Springs Highs School. I loved teaching at PSHS (my alma mater), but I couldn’t pass up the chance to be a part of opening up a new high school in the district and being on the same campus as my oldest daughter. Prior to PSHS, I taught middle school in Desert Hot Springs for seven years. Returning to teaching high school has not only been a welcomed change, but also one that I have thoroughly enjoyed.

I first moved to the desert area with my parents when I was in the ninth grade. It was a huge adjustment being a new student at Raymond Cree Middle School. Even though, I’m generally a pretty outgoing person, being the “new kid” once you reach middle school age is always intimidating. Luckily, I was able to get back into cheerleading at the end of that school year when I made the Palm Springs High School Cheer Team. Since that time, I’ve continued to be involved in the sport that I fell in love with in third grade. I began coaching right after graduating high school when my cheer coach asked me to help train the incoming freshman cheerleaders and get them ready for games and competition. Many years later, I’m the co-founder and director of the Desert Elite Mavericks and have three daughters that are all involved.

I came into the teaching profession in a round-about manner after having been in the radio and television industry. After graduating from California State University Long Beach, I worked briefly in Los Angeles for an advertising firm and then for KPSI Radio (now Power 100.5) after my husband and I moved back to the desert. After becoming a victim of cutbacks at the radio station, I found myself registering to become a substitute teacher for the Palm Springs Unified School District. Since I was already actively coaching P.S.H.S. Cheer again and getting them ready for competition, I had teachers that requested me on a regular basis, making it a natural fit. My parents had always told me that I would make a great teacher and would like it since I liked coaching so much, but I shrugged it off saying it just wasn’t the same. I would have saved a lot of time if I had just listened to my parents from the start!

Twenty-eight later and I’m still doing what I love to do: coaching and teaching. Seven years ago, I seriously thought about giving up and leaving the teaching profession. It was an incredibly difficult year with very challenging students and absolutely no support from administration. I’m proud to say that I made it through and I’m probably a better teacher because of it. As you may have noticed, I’m a lover of quotes and one of my favorites feels so appropriate in describing my most challenging years: “That which doesn’t kill you, makes you stronger”! I’m excited to be a part of another year of our relatively new school, where we continue to develop traditions and create an amazing high school.

I have been married to my husband Todd for 31 years. We met on the Fourth of July almost 33 years ago right by where the Marilyn Monroe statue used to be located in Palm Springs. We have three beautiful, talented daughters: Mackenzie (a student at College of the Desert) and twins Addison and Ryann (thirteen today and in eighth grade at JWMS). We also have three dogs: Marley (a Maltipoo), Bronson (a poodle-something mix), and Lola (another poodle-mix). I am a true dog-lover and can’t imagine my life without a dog (or two or three…). Both of my parents live in the desert and my only sibling, my younger sister Andrea, moved back to the desert with her high-school -sweetheart husband and their two daughters. My maternal grandmother, who is 99, lives in Palm Desert and like my mother, looks at least twenty years younger than her real age.

When it comes to my classroom and how I teach, I hope that you’ll enjoy it. I’m a firm believer that you never stop learning and because of that, I’m constantly looking for new ways to present and implement things in my class. I’m a very visual learner, an extreme multi-tasker, and a true performer at heart. Pardon me for my craziness at times, but I never want to be anything, but myself in the classroom. I’m human and will make mistakes, but I will do my best to help you learn and improve in English. I had tremendous role models in high school when it came to English – which ultimately made me choose it as my subject area. I hope that you have a fabulous year and that together, we are productive and successful in my class.

Best regards,

Amy Grey

English Teacher

Rancho Mirage High School