



## **American Paradigm Schools Appoints Six New Staff Members to Enhance Student Success Ahead of 2024 School Year**

*APS supports new hires with professional development events, enhancing academic standards*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA; Aug. 14, 2024**— American Paradigm Schools (APS), a nonprofit organization overseeing a network of four charters located in North Philadelphia, has promoted three of its current staff members to new roles—Claire Cunningham as Academic Coach and Kenneth Jones and Tho Phan as Math Coach Curriculum Specialists on its Academic Team as well as three new team members to the organization—Aishwarya Gautam and Venkat Keerthan Boddu join APS as Educational Data Analysts, while Gabrielle Snow has been appointed as Client Experience Coordinator.

Cunningham, Jones and Phan all served in previous positions at APS—Cunningham, a former 12th grade English/AP language and composition teacher at Tacony Academy; Jones, an Instructional Coach; and Phan, a teacher at First Philadelphia—and join APS’ Academic Team ahead of the 2024-2025 school year where they will support educators by helping improve teaching practices and enhance student learning—everything from classroom management, strategic learning, student engagement and more. Cunningham holds a bachelor's degree in secondary English education and master's degree in urban education from Temple University. Jones holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from University of Maryland Eastern Shores and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Drexel University while Phan holds an A.B. in East Asian studies from Brown University and an M.S.Ed in elementary education from the University of Pennsylvania.

“As we prepare for the new school year at APS, I’m thrilled to announce that three of our dedicated team members are stepping into new roles within our organization,” said Ashley Redfearn, CEO of American Paradigm Schools. “Claire, Kenneth and Tho’s journey with us has been marked by exceptional talent, unwavering commitment, and relentless hard work. At APS, we believe in the strength of our team and their advancement is not only a testament to their personal achievements but also to the supportive and nurturing environment we strive to create at our schools. I’m confident they will continue to inspire and lead with the same passion and dedication this school year.”

APS also welcomes three new team members to its staff ahead of this school year. Prior to their roles at APS, Gautam served as a data analyst intern at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama while Boddu brings extensive data analytics knowledge from previous roles at Daikin and Escalent. As educational data analysts, Gautam and Boddu will meticulously analyze a broad spectrum of data such as attendance records, test scores, and other critical performance indicators that provide deep insights that drive our educational strategies. Snow joins APS as a



Client Experience Coordinate, where she'll be responsible for collaborating with schools and external stakeholders to coordinate events and manage communications, ensuring a seamless and engaging experience for all involved. Gautam holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from MIT World Peace University and master's degree in computer science from the University of Texas at Dallas and Boddu holds bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Shiv Nadar University and master's degree in business analytics from the University of Texas at Dallas.

"We are thrilled to welcome Aishwarya, Venkat, and Gabrielle to our APS team," Redfearn continued. "Their unique expertise and dedication will significantly enhance our ability to tailor educational strategies ensuring a smooth and engaging experience for our students and stakeholders. Aishwarya and Venkat's deep analytical skills will be invaluable in driving data-informed decisions, while Gabrielle brings extensive communication and customer service experience that will help us strengthen our community connections and relationships with external stakeholders. Their contributions will play a pivotal role in supporting our mission to provide an exceptional educational experience for every student."

As part of APS' mission to provide a world-class education, the organization is committed to supporting its educators, ensuring they're prepared ahead of and during each school year. This summer, APS hosted its New Teacher Induction (NTI) program, which requires new hires to obtain a Level II teaching certificate in Pennsylvania. Throughout the school year, educators will engage in professional development designed to elevate teaching standards and enhance student learning experiences.

For the new academic year, all APS schools will embrace Pennsylvania's STEELS (Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability) standards. As part of APS' continued professional development, its educators will be provided training in using innovative instructional practices, engaging performance-tasks, and real-world applications, further fostering a culture of creativity, science, and collaboration among its staff and students.

### **About American Paradigm Schools**

American Paradigm Schools (APS) is a nonprofit charter management organization that supports and serves four charter schools in North and Northeast Philadelphia. These schools are: First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School; Lindley Academy Charter School; Memphis Street Academy; and Tacony Academy Charter School. For more information, visit [www.ap-schools.org](http://www.ap-schools.org).

American Paradigm Schools are dedicated to equity and excellence for all learners, while celebrating the uniqueness of our communities. Our values drive our dedication to providing a world class education.



**Media Contact:**

Kali Gill, Gregory FCA

610-731-4179 (cell)

[kali@gregoryfca.com](mailto:kali@gregoryfca.com)

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