



Our **3<sup>rd</sup>** **Community** Meeting

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June 27, 2020



## **AVANTE'S ALL-STAR TEAM**

**It is our pleasure to present the first members of the “all-star” team that will be joining us in providing your children with the best PBL education and making Avante Global School the leading institution in the country.**



# ALL STAR TEAM



TAMICA GROVES



AMARIS SALAZAR



NATALY USECHE



MARIA ELENA RESTREPO



PILAR NOGUERA



ELIZABETH OTOYA



ADRIANA LOPEZ



FRANK LOCKER



AMARAL CUNHA



SILVIA TOLISANO



RAY TROTTER



SUZIE BOSS



BARRY DEQUANNE





*USA – Brazil  
Colombia*

## AMARIS SALAZAR

Amaris brings over 24 years of experience teaching and leading some of the best and most innovative institutions in USA, Brasil, and Colombia. She led the opening of two schools for the prestigious Project-Based network Expeditionary Learning, a joint venture between Outward Bound and the Harvard Graduate School of Education and was one of the lead writers of the English Language Arts curriculum for the common core standards for the State of New York. As Director of Teaching and Learning at the Graded – American School of Sao Paulo, in Brasil, Amaris led the academic transformation to Project - based learning, “competency based” assessments, and more personalized resources for students.

Amaris holds a Bachelors of Arts in Elementary Education and Spanish, and two (2) Masters of Arts Degrees, one in Counseling and another in Educational Administration. Her passions include educational development, cooking and traveling the world. We are honored to have her as the Director of Avante Global School in Cartagena.



*USA*  
*Bahamas*

## TAMICA GROVES

Tamica brings over **10 years of experience** as Elementary Teacher, Instructional Coach, and Curriculum Coordinator for Schools in the US and abroad. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Southern California (USC) and a **Masters Degree in Arts and Humanities in Education** from New York University (NYU).

She has a personal passion for languages, social studies and developing special children programs for learning support and enrichment.

Tamika joins us from The Island School in Bahamas.



*Colombia  
United Kingdom*

## **PILAR NOGUERA**

Pilar brings over **12 years of experience** as a teacher, private tutor, and General coordinator for pre-schools in Colombia and United Kingdom. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Early Child Education with Honorific Mention from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá, and a **Masters Degree in Educational Leadership** from **University College London (UCL)**.

She has a passion for languages and for designing innovative curriculums focused on stimulating children's thinking.

Pilar joins us from Pepe Grillo ASPAEN.





*Colombia*

## ELIZABETH OTOYA

Elizabeth brings over **12 years of experience** teaching children from nursery through kindergarten, 2 of those years as a lead teacher at institutions in Bogota, Barranquilla and Cartagena. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Bogota and is currently finishing her **Specialization in Education Psychology at Universidad de la Sabana (Bogota)**.

She has a passion for subjects related to early stimulation, educational organization, and improving learning environments, and spends personal time volunteering for social causes in underprivileged communities.

Elizabeth joins us from Colegio Jorge Washington.



*Colombia  
USA*

## NATALY USECHE

Nataly will be leading our “Signature Programs”, components of the curriculum dedicated to developing Music, Dance, and the Arts. She brings over 7 years of experience as a teacher, group leader and curriculum advisor for pre-school, elementary, and higher education institutions in Colombia and USA. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Universidad del Bosque (Bogota) in Music Education with an emphasis in Latin-American music and piano.

She has a passion for purpose driven child development in arts and music and volunteering her musical talents to support a variety of community projects in the city.

Nataly joins us from HI 5 Academy.





*Colombia*

## MARIA ELENA RESTREPO

Maria Elena brings over 5 years of experience in Educational Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Childhood Neuropsychology in public and private institutions, having led two special programs at La Casa del Niño Children's Hospital and successfully running her private practice at Neurosentidos. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Universidad de la Sabana in Bogotá and a Specialization in Children Neuropsychology from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Cali.

She has a passion for pediatric special education and rehabilitation in complex cases, doing volunteering work in underprivileged communities, yoga instructor and mindfulness for children.



*Colombia*

## ADRIANA LOPEZ

Adriana will be serving as our Academic Secretary in charge of managing the day-to-day aspects required to support and advance our learning community (faculty, parents and children). She has over 7 years of experience managing business operations in the retail and consumer industry and in the design, development and implementation of the graphic, layout, and production communication materials. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design from Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano with an emphasis in Audiovisual and Multimedia Projects.

She has a passion for arts, cooking and volunteering for social causes in underprivileged communities.





