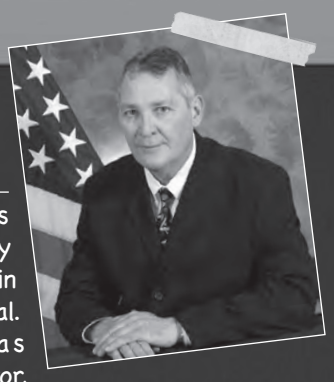


Michael A. Ochoa
The Sullivans School
vice principal

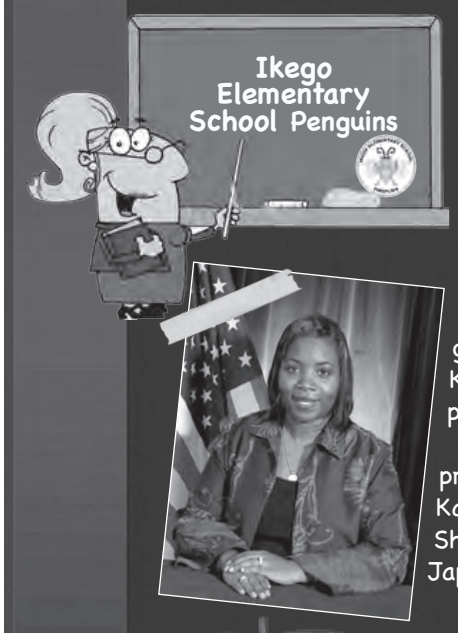
Born and raised in Texas, Ochoa holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master's degree in Education from Texas A&M International.

Previously Ochoa served as mathematics teacher, Athletic Director, Okinawa Activities Chair, Far East Coordinator, travel coordinator, basketball and soccer coach, class sponsor and any other need for Kadena High School, in Okinawa, Japan, as well as various other positions.

Dr. Jacqueline M. Ferguson
The Sullivans School
assistant principal

Ferguson holds a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, emphasis 1-8 grade and a Master's degree in Educational Administration, a Doctorate in Curriculum, Supervision and Instruction with an emphasis in Elementary Education and a specialization in reading.

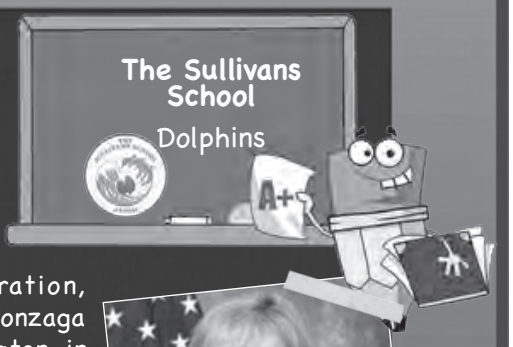
Prior to returning to DoDEA, Ferguson served as an assistant professor for Texas A&M University, San Antonio in the Department of Education. Her experience includes two DoDEA schools: Wetzel Elementary and Yokosuka Middle School, as well as elementary schools in Texas.



Gwendolyn Baxter-Oakley
Ikego Elementary School principal

Baxter-Oakley holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from Howard University a Master's degree in Education degree from South Carolina State University, Leadership Certification in Educational Administration from State University of West Georgia, and post graduate studies in Educational Leadership K-12 at North Central University doctoral program.

Previously, she served as assistant principal at Vogelweh, Elementary School, Kaiserslautern, Germany-DoDDS Europe and Shirley Lanham Elementary School in Ayase, Japan.



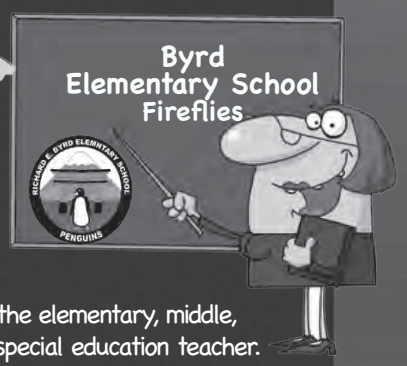
Dana Chandler
The Sullivans School principal

Chandler holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Special Education Credentials (P-12) from Washington State University in Pullman and a Master's degree in Administration, Curriculum and Instruction from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington in 2003 and has been a principal since.

Previously, Chandler was the principal at Sollars Elementary School in Misawa, Japan.

Prior to coming to Japan, Chandler, a Northern Idaho native, was a principal in Idaho and Washington State. Chandler served at both the elementary and the high school levels as a school administrator in Clarkston and Westport, Washington and Lewiston, Idaho and served as the Ocosta School District Special Education Coordinator, 504 Officer and Gifted/Talented Program director in Westport, Washington.

Valerie Rainey
Ikego Elementary School principal



Rainey has been an educator for 12 years. She began her education career in Utah prior to joining DoDEA in 2009. Rainey taught at the elementary, middle, and high school levels and is an experienced special education teacher. While in Utah, she held the positions of assistant principal and principal.

Previously, Rainey served the Japan District from Incirlik, Turkey, where she re-entered the classroom to reconnect with students and keep her classroom experience current and fresh. While administration is her passion, Rainey feels at home in the classroom and enjoys interacting with students, teachers, and parents to build strong school and community relationships.

Ruth Russell CFAY/ CNRJ School Liaison Officer

Russell stood up the first Navy Child and Youth Education Services School Liaison Officer program in Japan.

She previously served as a school liaison officer for the US Army at Fort Jackson, SC.

Russell is a certified teacher and formerly taught at the middle school level. As a former Army spouse, she personally experienced dealing with deployments and transitioning her own children during multiple moves.