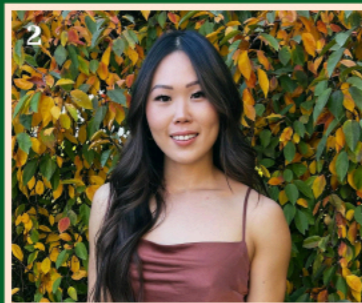


“I WANT STUDENTS TO FEEL SEEN AND HEARD.”



1. **ONE ON ONE**, Ms. Yuri Kim sits with a global studies student to support his learning. PHOTO BY ZAMZAM MOHAMED 2. **BATTLING COVID**, Ms. Yuri Kim (middle) poses for a picture in the gym. Kim took this picture during COVID because people were trapped inside their homes during the pandemic. “Fitness is the most influential aspect of my life. Whether it’s the gym

or outdoors, there is something really empowering on trying to improve my own physical health,” Kim said. PHOTO COURTESY OF MS. YURI KIM 3. **LOOKING CUTE**, Ms. Yuri Kim poses in a garden at a friend’s wedding. PHOTO COURTESY OF MS. YURI KIM 4. **DRESSED TO THE NINES**, Ms. Yuri Kim poses alongside other educators. Ms. Kim was at the 2022

Courageous Conversations About Race Summit in Washington D.C. “Brilliant educators, administration, and district personnels throughout the country came together to have critical conversations about race,” Kim said. PHOTO COURTESY OF MS. YURI KIM



# KNOW YOUR VOICE

ms. yuri kim supports students in and out of the classroom

Representation matters. As the sponsor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Alliance (AAPIA) and a co-advisor of Students Organize Against Racism (SOAR), having meaningful conversations about race and making students feel seen were important values to Ms. Yuri Kim.

Through Kim’s inclusivity in her classes like Global Studies, she worked to create a safe space for students inside and out of the classroom.

“I realized that although we only have about a five percent Asian and Pacific Islander population here at Overland, I thought it was important to provide representation and a place for students identifying as Asian or Pacific Islander to come hang out, celebrate our culture, and have meaningful conversations about our race and identity,” Kim said.

For SOAR and AAPIA members Selena Arcos Lopez ’25 and Jason Hoang ’24, Kim was their trusted adult.

“Ms. Kim has really advocated for us inside her classroom. Being able to give a space where you can speak your mind with no judgment is hard to find, but she has that aura and personality,” Aros Lopez said.

Kim’s personality in the classroom allowed “her to connect to students on a deeper level,” Arcos Lopez said.

“Whether it was college help or just a bad day, Ms. Kim would always be an attentive person,” Hoang said. By being available for her students, Kim allowed them to come to her when they needed to talk.

“Ultimately, I want students to feel seen and heard and for there to be less harmful effects on our children that will later impact them in life,” Kim said.

“She is one of the realest teachers in this school, giving the advice that you don’t always want to hear, but the advice that makes you the best version of yourself,” Hoang said.

As Arcos López and Hoang worked alongside Kim during SOAR, she did not back down from difficult truths.

“Education is a primary number one for SOAR. A lot of students and staff had no consciousness of the fact that the things that they were saying or doing does harm people, and it does offend people. When it comes to touching people’s hair, or calling a student whitewashed or being surprised that a student that doesn’t look white could speak English,” Kim said. Through her Transformational Equity Experience workshop for teachers, Ms. Kim made an impact on teachers around the district and educated them on racial consciousness.

All of her hard work and passion to change the community won Kim the Teacher of the Year award. She was one of two recipients, and was honored with math teacher Ms. Sydney Herman at the teacher of the year banquet.

“I feel very much honored, and I have a lot of gratitude for the educators, the community members and students that nominated me for Teacher of the Year. To have that acknowledgment felt very honorable, and I feel a lot of joy from that,” Kim said.