



**Dr. Mario Vanheuckelom was born in Belgium, and immigrated to the United States in 1992 at the age of 24. Shortly after becoming a U.S. resident, he began his education at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Science with a minor in Human Resources from National University, San Diego. He continued his education by earning a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Azusa Pacific and received his Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from the University of La Verne in California.**

**Prior to accepting the position at SHAPE American Elementary, Dr. Vanheuckelom served as a teacher and an administrator for a total of 13 years in California.**

**During his time as a teacher, he gained experience ranging from working within the K-6 elementary level, one on one home hospital teacher for severely handicapped students, and teaching adult education. As an administrator he has provided leadership from General Education to Moderate and Severe level. He is dedicated to hard work, yet knows that preserving balance between work and home life, and sustaining a good sense of humor are key elements to success. It is his goal to continue to utilize his experience, knowledge and passion for learning to serve the students and community at SHAPE Elementary.**

**Dr. Vanheuckelom has been married to his wife Michelle for 19 years, she is also a teacher, and they have three daughters. The Vanheuckelom family loves traveling, hiking, soccer, and spending time with friends and family.**

**He looks forward to another great school year at SHAPE American Elementary and collaboration with all in support of DoDEA's mission and our school's vision.**