

Lifting Up Asian American and Pacific Islander Staff Voices



Joanne Pham

Thousand Oaks Elementary
School
M/M Ed Specialist

Favorite Book: Alice in
Wonderland

Favorite Food: All Foods are
delicious!

**What do you love to do
when not working?:** Get
boba milk tea, try new
restaurants, run my crystal
business with my best friend

"I come from a Vietnamese household; both of my parents were immigrants that escaped from Vietnam during the Vietnam War. My parents worked hard to give my brother and I a good life. My parents have strong values that stem from Vietnamese traditions but my parents felt that it was more important to assimilate to American values. However, that did not stop me from learning about the traditions and the core values of family and respect. It wasn't until I went to college where I joined many Asian American culture clubs (Hmong Student Association, Vietnamese Student Association, Kilusan Pilipino Club, Matsuri Japan Club, etc) where I became more appreciative of my culture and other Asian cultures.

"I'm a big believer in the importance of upholding cultural traditions and beliefs that help people learn more about a culture and providing opportunities to allow people to immerse themselves into a culture."

AAPI Heritage Month

Berkeley
PUBLIC SCHOOLS