



NWCS Homeschool Program Staff



Laura Bula - Secondary Math, and Dual Credit Math

I grew up in Spokane, WA, and graduated from Mt. Spokane High School in 2001, where I also earned my AA degree through the Running Start program. I attended Pensacola Christian College and graduated in 2004 with a B.S. in Mathematics Education, and in 2009 I graduated from Western Governors University with a B.A. in Mathematics Education where I also received my Washington State Teaching Certificate. In January of 2014 I completed the requirements for my Professional Teaching Certificate for the State of Washington. This year (2022) I have been approved to be an adjunct professor for Northwest Nazarene University to teach college level mathematics in the high school classroom. I have 18 years of secondary math teaching experience, the first 4 of which were full time at a private school in the Seattle area, and then the next 7 were full time at NWCS. The past 7 years have been here at the NWCS Homeschool Program. My husband James and I have 3 boys. Twins, Austin and Caleb, who are 8, and Isaac who is 5. The twins will be in 2nd grade at Northwest Christian's full-time Colbert campus, and Isaac will be starting kindergarten there this year as well. My husband James is a supervisor at Costco, in Spokane Valley, and has worked there for over 14 years. We love camping, hiking, kayaking, being outside, being together, and exploring new places. Summer is definitely our favorite time of year!



Abby DeVries - Preschool

I have been a stay-at-home mom for the past 9 years. My husband Peter and I have three children Nora (10) Stella (8) and Caleb (6). As a family we love camping, hiking and hobby farming. My desire is to raise my children in a home that serves the Lord and to bring them up to have complete faith in Him and have a firm foundation to stand on when they leave home. I have been to India on mission twice. My last trip in 2019 I was honored to teach a non-English speaking children's class at a pastor's conference. Here the Lord showed me the compassion and love I had for teaching young kids. Through an abundance of prayer in the last year God has led me to this job and homeschooling my three children full time these last two years. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve Him and come along side of Mrs. McRae in teaching your preschool children.



Brenda Dillon - Grades 1/2

I grew up in Spokane bouncing back and forth between private schools, public schools, and homeschooling. This gave me the freedom to think outside the box regarding my own education and my children's education. In 2007, I graduated from Eastern Washington University with a bachelor of secondary education in English. My first job out of college was teaching high school and middle school English, Bible, and journalism at Northwest Christian Schools. I loved the four years I taught at NWCS. Then I had the opportunity to stay home with my first child. I now have four children and have been homeschooling for seven years. I have also had the opportunity to work with children of all ages as a teacher at my church's Sunday school program, a preschool leader at Bible Study Fellowship, and on the board of an American Heritage Girl's Troop. I love working with children of every age and am passionate about the positive experience homeschooling can be for so many families.



Jennifer Edwards - Kindergarten

I grew up in the Spokane area, attended East Valley High School and graduated from Eastern Washington University in 2003 with my bachelor's degree. After graduation, I decided to move to Memphis, Tennessee. At the time I did not understand why God led me to make this decision but it was the best decision I could have made, and He blessed me in so many ways on my journey. I have always loved working with children and have done so my whole life, from volunteering with the Muscular Dystrophy Association for over 8 years, St. Jude's children's research hospital and working in the children's ministry at my church. This love for children led me to work as a Teacher Counselor/Supervisory for emotionally disturbed youth in a residential treatment setting in Memphis for over 2 years. This is also where I met my husband. I then had the amazing opportunity to teach at a Christian Academy. I taught both Kindergarten and Pre-K 4. I had the privilege to teach for 6 years and absolutely loved every minute of it. There is such a joy in seeing a child learn and discover something new. I loved my time teaching, and it was bittersweet for me to make the decision to leave my job and stay home with my kids. I felt God called me to stay home and homeschool my kids (something I never thought I would do). I love being able to teach my children and be a part of their everyday life. In June 2015, my amazing husband moved us back up to Spokane because he knew it was my desire to be around my family. God opened so many doors along the way and we have really loved being in Spokane. This year, I will be homeschooling my, soon to be 8th grader, 4th grader and 2nd grader. In my free time I love to exercise, read, and spend time with my family. This will be my sixth-year teaching in the program and my 8th year as a parent in the program. I am so excited for all that God has planned for this year. I am looking forward to an exciting year of learning and getting to know each of you!



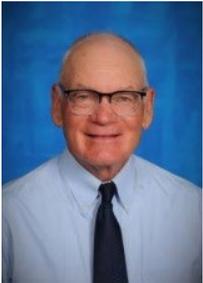
Tara Gelhausen - K-12th Physical Education

I am the oldest of eleven children in a homeschool family, and I had lots of practice teaching a variety of ages and personalities in my younger siblings. I grew up in Spokane, attended public school through fifth grade, homeschooled from sixth grade through my sophomore year of high school, then completed AA in Liberal Arts through the Running Start program. I met my husband, Wade, at our church. We have been married for 13 years and have two girls, Nora and Elise. I was blessed to stay home with them when they were tiny and have been homeschooling since Nora was five. We joined a homeschool cooperative where I taught classes for four years. We continue to be involved in our church and I facilitate the nursery and help run VBS. We love being active and have participated in a wide range of sports: soccer, softball, baseball, gymnastics, tennis, and swimming, along with yoga, hiking, biking, ballet. This year we started indoor rock climbing. My daughter Elise is a 5th grader here at the homeschool program. Nora is a 7th grader in Odyssey. This is my fourth year teaching Physical Education at the homeschool program as it is superbly rewarding. I love coaching students through learning skills and playing games. God has blessed me beyond what I deserve. My goal to share God's love and grace with students each week.



Karolyn Graham - Lobby Attendant & 2/3 Grade Music

I am a missionary kid from Africa. I was born in Zambia and moved to Kenya where I graduated from high school at Rift Valley Academy. I then attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI and graduated with a BA in English. My parents moved to Pasadena when they returned to the U.S., so after college I moved there and taught 3rd, 4th and 5th grade from 1997-2000. I met my husband, John in Pasadena (also a missionary kid- from Papua New Guinea) and once married, we moved to Boise, ID where my two kids Esther (20 years old) and Benjamin (18 years old) were born. I home-schooled them for their first five years of school; Esther graduated from NWC in 2021 and Benjamin is a senior this year. I substitute taught in the Riverside School district for several years and I continue to substitute at NWC (K-12) in addition to teaching piano lessons. I love teaching and enjoy playing with the worship team at church. I also have served in AWANA as a SPARKS director and have been involved in VBS many years. My family and I love the outdoors...camping, backpacking, hiking and biking. We live on several beautiful acres with goats and chickens. I am excited to be a part of the NWC homeschool program and getting to know the kids, parents and teachers here.



Jack Hancock - High School History, PE, and Bible

God called me to be a teacher for His Glory over 36 years ago. My professional journey started in the public school system, however I quickly gained a teaching position at a small Christian school in Edwall, Washington. The freedom to use God's Word and to integrate the Bible with the history curriculum excited me to the extent that I never returned to the public school system. After six years of teaching in Edwall, I was employed to teach history and Bible at Northwest Christian Schools (NWCS) in 1993. During these initial years, God invested in me by challenging me to be an elder in a new church plant in Spokane while teaching middle school at NWCS. The combination of serving as an elder and in a Christian School empowered me to grow in my ability to effectively integrate the Word of God with any historical curriculum assigned to me. Additionally, I earned a Master's Degree in History to help stimulate me as a true historian. Next the Lord intervened through circumstances as I served in administration at NWCS for 22 years, while adding a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. And most importantly, God by His incredible Grace gave me a life partner Carol who encourages me every day in all that I do as I attempt to love the Lord with my heart, soul, mind, and strength.



Sarah Hilsen - Junior High History, Logic, and Study Skills, High School Technology and ASB Leadership, Secondary (9-12) Academic Coach

I am a native Spokaneite. I was born and continue to get older right here in Spokane. I met Jesus at a "Say So" night at a Young Life Camp when I was in high school and we have had an incredible relationship ever since. After twenty-two years of focused youth ministry, I was called to bring it in from the streets and into a classroom. As for the ol' resume, I have earned: BA in Sociology and Literature, BAE Secondary English Education Minor: History, Eastern Washington University, Washington State Certified Teacher, and OSPI B.E.S.T. Mentors Certified. My former employers are Youth for Christ, Young Life, and Central Valley School District, and now making it back for my 4th consecutive year here at NWCS Home School Program! My husband Matt and I celebrated 20 years this July! He is the IT Operations Director for Multi-Care Inland Northwest Region. My daughter Lexi (17) is a senior at University High School through the CVVL program and our daughter Ava (13) is an 8th grader at Horizon Middle School. My favorite font is Time New Roman size 11. My favorite cartoon is *Phineas and Ferb*,

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." | Timothy 4:12



Jennifer Huseland - Elementary and Secondary Spanish, Dual Credit Spanish

Although I was born in Philadelphia, I moved to Wisconsin soon afterwards, where I lived until I was 8. My parents then joined Wycliffe Bible Translators and we moved to Peru where I grew up in the jungle. It was there that I saw the gospel on full display and trusted Christ for salvation and life. When we returned to the States, I attended Dordt College in Iowa and received a B.A. in elementary education with a minor in Spanish. I also met and married my husband Brian there. We then taught for 3 years in a one-room Christian school on the prairies of South Dakota. When we started having kids, my husband took a teaching job in California. After living there for 3 years, we joined a small team going to the U.K. to plant an International Presbyterian Church. By this time, we had 3 girls and I homeschooled them while we were there. Upon returning to America, Brian got a job at Northwest Christian School as a 4th grade teacher and we settled into Spokane in 2007. We now have 5 girls (24 and married, 21 and married, 19, 9, and 7). I have so enjoyed teaching in the homeschool program these last 5 years. I love showing your kiddos the glory of God in the study of language and culture. Christian education has played a huge role in my life, and I am excited to continue to share with the next generation the wonders of God's world, expanding their horizons and deepening their Biblical worldview.



Sara Jones - Grades 2/3

I was born in Montana but moved to Yakima, WA when I was eight years old. I spent the rest of my childhood there with my parents and three sisters. I moved to Spokane in 1998 to attend Whitworth University. While at Whitworth, I met my husband, Greg, and completed a bachelor's degree in nursing. After getting married and graduating, we moved to Liberty Lake and later to Spokane Valley. I worked as a labor and delivery nurse and a school nurse but gave up my paid employment to be a stay-at-home mom after the birth of our daughter. We have four children, Aubrey (18), Nathan (16), Dane (14), and Johanna (12). Greg and I have been happily married for twenty-two years. We are beginning our twelfth year as a homeschooling family and our sixth year in the NWC Homeschool Program. I have been teaching our children at home, teaching and leading children in our church's kids ministry, and am excited to be back for my fourth year as a 2/3 teacher. I am also currently working on my master's degree in Elementary Education! My favorite way to spend my free time is with people! I enjoy going on dates with my husband, coffee and conversation with friends, hanging out with my sisters and parents, and having adventures with my kids. I read all the time (we have a Little Free Library in front of our house!), crochet, and love a good nap. I'm so excited to be back and looking forward to what God has in store for us this year!



Katie Kohlstedt - Secondary Art

I moved to the Spokane area as a young adult after spending my growing up years in Northern California. It was here that I met and gave my heart to Jesus Christ, my precious Savior and Lord - He utterly changed the course of my life. My heart's desire is to bring glory to God in every area of my life and to be found faithful in what He has called me to. My husband Ray & I have been married for 30 years and have 5 grown children - 4 daughters and 1 son. We were led to homeschool them in the early years, attended public school in the middle years, and then we felt led again to finish homeschooling my youngest 3 girls through high school. I found a real love for teaching when my kids were at home.

I have also taught Sunday School, led junior church, and kid's choir. In addition, I have taught art, journalism & sewing classes at Deer Park's Home Link for the past 8 years. Teaching is what truly brings me joy and is my happy place! Whether teaching art to little kiddos, working on a school newspaper with middle schoolers, or leading teens & women in beginning sewing classes, my life is full! I serve in my church in both women's & children's ministries and have led a small group ladies Bible study the past few years. My family is one of the greatest blessings of my life - including 3 beautiful grandchildren!

My life verses are found in Psalm 30: "He has turned my mourning into dancing, taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness. I will sing praise to You now and forever!"



Rebecca Lamb - Elementary Art

I grew up in Spokane and attended Northwest Christian from Kindergarten to the beginning of tenth grade when I transferred to Mead High School. While at Mead I took 2 art classes each semester, joined the Yearbook staff and was able to complete a semester at Spokane Skills Center for Graphic Design. After I graduated in 2007, I went on to receive a degree in both Graphic Design and Web Design from Spokane Community College. In 2010 I married my husband, Eric who I met at my home church, Crossover. We have 3 children, Micaiah (11), Selah (7) and Benaiah (6) who all attend the traditional NWC. The two older kids go to the full-time school and Benaiah will be in our PreK program again this year. Art has always been a passion of mine and I am so blessed that God has allowed me to teach in the homeschool program.



Kara LaVoie - Administrative Assistant

I'm Kara. I've been married for 26 years and have five incredible kids! I've been a homeschooling Mom for 20+ years. Throughout our homeschooling journey, we have witnessed God's faithfulness as we sought (and continue to seek) to provide the best educational opportunities for our children; each with their own unique needs and giftings. I have worked with homeschooling families in multiple capacities over the years, most recently at Deer Park Home Link. I enjoy researching, organizing, encouraging, reading, writing, and people watching. I look forward to working with the Homeschool Program at Northwest Christian School.



Madison McRae - Kindergarten

I was born in Spokane and spent most of my childhood here. When I was young, my parents served as missionaries in Russia and were later church planters, all the while homeschooling me and my seven younger siblings. Experiencing first-hand the power and impact of a Christian education has given me both a passion for it, and a deep respect for the sacrifice and commitment it often takes. In 2016 I married my amazing husband and moved to his native British Columbia. We are blessed to be back in Spokane now with our daughter, Zoia (5) and son Darian (1). After several years of tutoring and investing in my younger siblings' homeschool education, I graduated with my B.A. in Elementary Education from Western Governors University and am so excited to be returning for my 4th year at the Homeschool program! After several years of investing in the Preschool class here at NWC Homeschool, I am thrilled to be teaching Kindergarten this year. Both in my personal and professional life, I have been so blessed to be a part of this community.



Courtney Manuel - High School Science, Dual Credit Science, Health, and Senior Leadership

I grew up here in Colbert on 30 acres to explore and run wild. I participated in every sports season available from 4th grade up until my senior year at Mead High School. I did not grow up in the church, but God called me to Himself as a sophomore/junior in high school. I was very involved in Young Life and my youth group. It was in those relationships I learned of the value of Christian education. I attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma WA and received both a BSPE pre-physical therapy and MAE in Education.

I have taught for over 15 years in many settings and many subjects. I am passionate about most everything and love to share that with my students. The goal is to see God and His character in everything I teach as a means of sharing the gospel to each student. I am currently homeschooling my 3 school age children and preschooler. I have a passion for science; the discovery, the problem solving, and love the aha moment when it all makes sense. I believe in hands on learning and if a student figures it out themselves it is information not easily lost. I hope to pass on my passion for science and a confidence that they can figure it out!



Christy Noller - Grades 3/4

Growing up in Upstate New York I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. After graduating from Philadelphia College of Bible (now Cairn University), earning double degrees in Elementary Education and Bible, I taught third grade at Dayton Christian School, Ohio for three years. My husband and I met and were married there in 1997 while I was teaching, and two classes of my 3rd and 4th grade students sang at our wedding! We moved here in 1999 and built our home in 2000 while I substitute-taught in public schools all around Spokane. We are celebrating our 25th anniversary this year! We have four kids. Twins Alex and Katie were adopted from Russia in 2002, at the age of 7. They are now 27. Our younger two, Tanner and

Chloe, are 20 and 18, both having graduated from NWC. Our kids have done it all: public school, homeschool and Christian school! Our homeschooling years were my favorite. Besides teaching with the Homeschool Program, I also teach piano and manage our two Air BNB's, all things I love to do! This is my seventh year with the Homeschool program and I am absolutely delighted to be returning.



Colin Pfening – 2/3 Grade Spanish and Kindergarten Music

Colin graduated in the NWCS Homeschool Extension Program in 2020 and is currently a junior at Whitworth University pursuing a double-major in Business Marketing and Spanish. He spent the spring of 2022 as part of his Spanish major, studying in Guatemala and Costa Rica. He has a heart for ministry and kids and is also on staff at Crossover Church.



Charissa Phillips - High School Biology, Junior High Science

I was born in Saskatchewan Canada, a pastor's kid, then moved to California, then Oregon and Washington. It wasn't until I left the public school system and entered full time into the Running Start program at age 16 that God gave me confidence in who He'd made me to be. I was able to win Grandview's Jr. Miss, and the next year received my high school diploma and 2-year Associate of Science Degree from Yakima Valley Community College in the same month. From there I finished a four-year degree at Seattle Pacific University, majoring in Communications with an emphasis on Pre-Med, and minored in Biology. I worked at Seattle Biomedical Research Institute in the lab, as well as for American Medical Response as an Emergency Medical Technician in Seattle. In my desire to be a wife and mom and not

have the competition of a career, I forewent medical and nursing school and decided to work at Providence Alaska Children's Hospital for almost 5 years as a nurse tech. I loved it, and married my husband Bryan, an engineer, in Anchorage, Alaska. When we began having children, I became a full-time Mom and Home Educator. Married almost 18 years, we have 8 children, ages 7 to 16, whom I have homeschooled for 12 years. This is our fifth year in the program. I have also enjoyed leading Bible studies for the past 26 years, and love sharing Jesus with kids as a Sunday school teacher. I also love our three Havanese dogs, hiking, and the outdoors, reading and conversations over coffee. I have always loved science, especially Biology. We love this homeschool program, the people and it is Christ-centeredness. It is an honor and wonderful adventure to share my passion for God and His incredible designs with your awesome kids.



Sarah Pounder - Preschool

Originally from Philadelphia, I graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with dual certification in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. After years of working for local public-school districts, underprivileged and at-risk youth programs, and private Christian schools, I decided to join Wycliffe Bible Translators. Serving in Papua, Indonesia as a teacher of missionary kids at Hillcrest International School was a life-changing experience. Having lived a mostly sheltered life, I was able to experience a third world country and see the impact of the gospel on those hearing it in their heart-language for the first time. In Papua, during a short, three-week visit of mutual friends, is where I met my husband Luke. Since

moving to Spokane, I have taught first grade for Spokane Public Schools, earned Master's from Walden University, been married for eight years, and been blessed with two daughters. This journey of becoming a parent has opened up new opportunities for professional and spiritual growth and I am excited to see what God has planned as I join the NWCS Homeschool team.



Nathan Schmidt - Elementary Music

I was born in Tennessee but moved to Peru before the age of five.

Growing up as a missionary kid in the Amazon jungle, I had a pet kinkajou and several boa constrictors. And yes, I swam with piranhas. I studied music and theatre in college and graduate school and traveled on choir tours to exciting places like Europe and Texas. I have been fortunate to do a lot of fun things, like help write a musical to perform in New York City, play the lead in a short film, be a church pianist for seven years, and write the music for my own wedding. I have a wife and five kids, all of whom enjoy music. Playing the piano for over a quarter century, I love to teach and infect other people with a love

for music that gives all the glory to God.



Deanna (Deena) Stewart – Registrar

BS-Business and Marketing, Eastern Washington University

Deanna Stewart, our registrar, and her husband Don exemplify the multiple ways families use the Homeschool program. After working 7 years in fundraising in all the public and private schools in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, God laid it on the Stewart's hearts to homeschool if ever given the opportunity. 9 years later after adopting 2 children, God granted them that desire. Deanna shares, "Homeschooling for 15 years has blessed and humbled our family. I find it a great honor to help families in their homeschooling endeavors with the support of NWCS." The Stewarts have been married for 25 years and have 2 adult children and one 11th grader. One of her favorite verses this year is Psalm 116:1-2 I love the

LORD, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.



Jena Tinklenberg - Academic Support

I grew up in Nebraska and went to college in Iowa where I received my bachelor's degree in Social Work. There I also met my husband Michael while running cross country. Since moving to Spokane in 2011, I received my Masters in Elementary Education through Whitworth University and an endorsement in Special Education through Pacific Lutheran University. I have worked as an Autism paraeducator for the West Valley School District for three years and one year as a Behavior Intervention Teacher for Central Valley School District. My husband and I have been married for fourteen years and have moved six different times to four different states. We have three children: Alayna age 6, Nolan age 4 and Zachariah age

1. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my husband and kids, watching and participating in almost every sport, being outside, boating, reading, and vegging out in front of the T.V. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you this school year while further investigating what the Lord has created.



Stephanie Van Ornum - Grades 4/5

I grew up in Puyallup, WA and then moved to Spokane during my freshman year of high school. I went to Whitworth College and received a bachelor's degree in religion and a certification for ministry. I went to Whitworth to get a BA in elementary education and took many education classes my first two years. However, God had a different plan as He prepared me for ministry with children in the church, instead of the classroom. Out of college I worked for 7 years as a children's ministry director. I loved teaching children the Word of God and equipping teachers to share their faith. I met my husband Adam at Whitworth and we have been married for 16 years. We have two sons, Aidan who is 14, and Nathan who is 11. Once my second son was born, I became a stay-at-home mom. My husband was

homeschooled K-8th grade and asked me if I would consider it for our children. I immediately fell in love with homeschooling. Being with my boys, learning, and exploring together has been one of the greatest joys of my life. We were a part of a co-op for many years where I taught Apologia science, writing, history, and other fun classes. I love teaching and nurturing children and see this as my life's work. I enjoy reading, long walks, camping, one-on-one time with loved ones, paddle boarding, and time with my family at our property near Sacheen Lake. I am thrilled to get to partner with parents to enrich their children's education at NWC homeschool.



Ruth Wagley – Program Director

BS-University of Wisconsin-Madison Dietetics and Management

I have enjoyed the privilege of directing the NWCS Homeschool Program for 11 years. My husband Doug and I came to Spokane to serve New Vision Lutheran Church in 1994, a conservative, evangelical fellowship dedicated to serving God's most vulnerable people in the Hillyard, Chief Gary and Shadle communities. We homeschooled our five daughters, while ministering as a family, preschool-8th grade and each engaged a unique high school education that included homeschooling, public education, and community college experiences. I love encouraging homeschool families and supporting their needs as parents and students navigate God's best plan for Christian education together. I enjoyed many

years in the independent homeschool cooperative community in Spokane and taught the Homeschool Qualifying Course for several years.

This year my life verse is: 1 Peter 1:8 Though you have not seen Jesus, you love Him, and even though you do not see Him now, you believed in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.



Nicole Wagner - Grades 5/6

I grew up in Enumclaw, WA and realized my love of teaching at a young age. I taught swim lessons through my high school years and becoming an educator seemed like an obvious next step. I attended Whitworth University and received my Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and my Teaching Certificate in 2004. After earning my undergraduate degree, I was employed as a substitute teacher for the Spokane School District and enrolled in Whitworth's master's in education program. In 2006, I graduated with my master's degree. Earlier that same year I married my high school sweetheart. He graduated from Gonzaga and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army. We were stationed at Fort Hood,

Texas shortly after we graduated. I taught 5th grade for two years and loved the experience. After two years in TX, we were transferred to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. While stationed there, we began having our own kids. At that stage in life, I decided that being a stay-at-home mom was what I desired. In 2013, my husband's military orders took him to the Corps of Engineers Seattle District Headquarters. We happily moved back near family in Western Washington. We had two more girls. I began working very part time coaching the Girls High School Swim Team at my alma mater. In 2016, we decided that leaving Active Duty and becoming a Reservist was in the best interest for our family. We knew we wanted to raise our four girls in Spokane. God opened door after door to get us here. During our last four years in Nine Mile Falls, I have mostly been a stay-at-home mom. For the last two years I have had a very small job teaching advanced math to 4th and 5th graders at Nine Mile Falls Elementary. We regularly attend and are actively involved in First Free Methodist Church. Our four girls ages 11, 9, 6 and 4 will be attending the NWC Homeschool program this year. This is our second-year homeschooling. I am extremely excited to see all God has in store for this coming year.



Melinda Webb - Thursday Assistant & Kindergarten Art Teacher

I grew up in Spokane until my senior year of high school, we then moved to the west side of the state and I attended Bates Technical School. I was a Certified Dental Assistant for 20 years until homeschooling our children. My husband and I have been married for 26 years and have four children (one through adoption) and two grandchildren. All of our children have attended Northwest Christian Homeschool Program and two of them have graduated from it. I have homeschooled for 15+ years and taught children all of my adult life in one way or another. The part I enjoy the most in my teaching/mother role is making a difference in a child's life. I look forward to teaching kindergarten art this year and being a substitute

teacher.



Melodie Workman - Secondary Literature, Dual Credit English & Newspaper

I grew up in Tampa, Florida in a Christian family. Education runs deeply in my blood and vibrantly through my heart. My parents were both educators and trained me with the understanding that education is not the end goal but a strong pathway to success. As I grew, I knew I was made for and called to this same ministry. I have always enjoyed taking the complex and making it simple, seeing concepts click in people's eyes, and making the mundane and undesired into exciting and desirable. When I realized that English education was a means to reach every learner, that it was pertinent to every field of study and every avenue of life, that I could strengthen and equip young people for life using literature and composition, I knew I had found my specified calling. I pursued this calling at Pensacola Christian College where I first received my B.S. in Music Education and later received my M.S. in English Education. I taught junior high and high school English in New Mexico for two years. Then I moved to California and taught at the collegiate level for eight years. After having my second child, my husband and I decided it was time for me to take some time away to raise our own children. My son, Jude, is now nine years old and my daughter, Paige, is six years old. This year marks my 17th year teaching students from ages 12 to 40, and I love it as much now as I did the first day I stepped into the classroom. I'm honored to have a small part in each student's week, to introduce them to great literature, and to reinforce the line of truth that God has imprinted on each of our hearts through written word.



April Young – Administrative Assistant

I am proud to have been raised here in Spokane and continue to shine God's love into this community. I have a Big, Beautiful Blended and Blessed family with my husband Tim, and our 6 children. Tim is a High School teacher in the Public Sector and I have been in the Education, Admin and Support world for 15 years. In raising our Children (24, 21, 18, 16, 8 and 3) I have been called to teach them each individually in many ways over their childhoods and life situations. I have home school, co-op, Montessori, Public, Hybrid and Private school experience behind me, and have been blessed in that my previous careers have enabled me to serve and love on my personal family, along with the families and students I have served. I believe that God's plan for each of us is divinely unique and that we are equipped with just the right skills to meet these families and students where they are, helping fulfill God's promise and vision for them and their lives. I am excited to be a part of the NWCS family and trust that I will get to continue my own personal growth and build meaningful, Christ centered relationships with others. Outside of spending a lot of time with my family and our dogs (2 Great Danes and a French Bulldog), I enjoy creating and crafting. I also spend a lot of time with my church family and small groups and am always on the hunt for a good read or study. This season in my life I am staying on "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12