

***ROCK CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR 2007-2008
TEACHING STAFF WHICH REPRESENTS
605 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATION!***

Janet Allensworth - 16 Years Experience – Second Grade:

I enjoy being a part of the second grade team at Rock Creek Elementary! I love helping the students grow as readers and writers. I am married and have three children. I enjoy spending time with my family, watching the Cardinals and playing soccer.

Joe Ammann – 16 Years Experience – Educational Diagnostician:

After working in the business world for several years, I pursued a career dream and entered the teaching profession. My 16 years in the district have been most rewarding. I feel so privileged being part of such a dynamic, top-notch team!

Kelly Baker - 17 Years Experience – Counselor:

Becoming an elementary counselor twelve years ago was one of the best decisions I've ever made! I love working with students, staff, and families helping others to be as successful as they can be both academically and personally. I love being part of the Rock Creek Community.

Nickole Beseau – 5 Years Experience – Fifth Grade:

I'm happy to be at Rock Creek teaching 5th grade again this school year. I began my career working with children in summer programs and running enrichment programs at the Forsyth School in Clayton, Missouri. I'm originally from Kansas City but I attended college at Washington University here in St. Louis. I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Political Science. I then briefly left St. Louis for Chicago to attend graduate school at Northwestern, where I received a Master's in Elementary Education. While in Chicago, I also taught fourth graders for a school year before my move to Rock Creek. These days I enjoy spending my free time with my husband, John, and our dog, Charlie.

Rachel Boucher – 7.5 Years Experience – Second Grade

I have been part of the Rock Creek family since 2000. Every year has been exciting and memorable, as I have been lucky to teach such wonderful students. Rock Creek Elementary is a great place where I truly enjoy being around such enthusiastic students, staff, and parents. I have been married to my husband Jesse for nine years and we have two beautiful daughters. Jaida is four years old and Carlie is two years old. I graduated from the University of Missouri-St. Louis with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. I am currently working on my Masters in the Art of Teaching at Lindenwood University and expect to graduate next summer. In my classroom, I promote an

atmosphere of safety, trust, and respect. I work hard to build a sense of community among my students, and I emphasize the idea to teamwork. I believe that great things can happen when we work together!

Michelle Brommelhorst – 8 Years Experience - Learning Resource Teacher:

My ambition to become a teacher was fulfilled when I completed my student teaching here at Rock Creek. After such a rewarding experience working with students with special needs, I knew where I belonged. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to become a part of such a wonderful staff. I have always felt welcome and needed by both students and staff. I cherish the experiences that I have had with my students and look forward to helping them find the keys that will help them open the doors to their success.

Sara Buthod – 8 Years Experience – Second Grade:

Rock Creek is a special place to be! I started my career student teaching in a second grade classroom and have been here ever since. I believe that teaching is a team effort, which requires the parents, teacher and child to work together. This will help to ensure the success of each child. I look forward to another fantastic year!

Lori Clark – 18 Years Experience – First Grade:

I am so happy that I am able to be a part of the Rock Creek Elementary team. I have always taught first grade boys and girls. Even after all these years the children continue to amaze, inspire, and touch my heart every single day. My desire is to create a fun, safe, comfortable, loving environment in which every child will be encouraged, and helped, to reach their fullest potential. In my time away from school, I enjoy spending time with my family, being involved in my church, reading, traveling, and eating out.

Scott Clynes-10 Years Experience- Physical Education

I have been a physical education teacher for the past ten years, eight of which have been in the elementary level. I started teaching in the St. Charles School District, until this school year. I am married and have two lovely children: a boy and a girl and we just adopted Nick, a mini poodle. Some of my hobbies include exercising, swimming, and wood working. I am also FZN's girls volleyball coach and FZW's girls swim coach.

Abby Collins – Art

I am the part time art teacher at Rock Creek Elementary. This is my first year at Rock Creek, and I have the pleasure of teaching kindergarten and third grade. I graduated from Missouri State University in May and moved to the St. Louis area in July with my husband. I love to read, paint, sew, and go on walks with my new puppy, Cloud. I am looking forward to creating art this year with your little artists. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or would like to volunteer. My email address is acollins@fz.k12.mo.us.

Vicki Creydt – 18 Years Experience – First Grade:

I have always taught kindergarten or first grade. I have especially enjoyed learning about and implementing new and varied teaching strategies for enhancing early literacy. During my free time, I enjoy reading and spending time with my husband, three daughters and my grandchildren.

Jennifer Dreyer – 11 Years Experience – First Grade:

I love being a part of the Rock Creek community. First grade is such an exciting time for children, it's wonderful to be a part of the enthusiasm children have for learning. I strive daily to instill the love of reading into each of my students. I hope that my certification as a reading specialist helps me reach this goal. I love spending my free time with my husband and children.

Karen Drown – 11 Years Experience – Psychological Examiner:

I'm very excited about working at Rock Creek Elementary as a Psychological Examiner. I was a special education teacher and a school counselor prior to working in my current position. I hope that my experiences in those positions will help me to do well at Rock Creek with the students and parents that I have the opportunity to meet. In my spare time, I love to be with my husband and two children finding adventure everywhere we go.

Kelly Eckhard – 4 Years Experience – First Grade:

As I begin my fourth year of teaching at Rock Creek, I realize more and more each day how fortunate I am to be at a school that promotes learning in a positive and friendly environment. I find teaching to be a rewarding career that affords me the opportunity to help my students reach their full potential and feel good about themselves. I am a graduate of Saint Louis University and look forward to continuing my own education in the future. During my free time, I enjoy playing sports, running and hanging out with family and friends

Tania Farran – 12 Years Experience – Fifth Grade:

I'm always excited about teaching Fifth Grade at Rock Creek. We learn about so many enriching and fun topics each year. Getting to know my students and their families makes my job even more meaningful! In addition to being a fifth grade teacher, I am the K-5 Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator for F.Z.S.D. History is my specialty!

Sarah Hartland – 5 Years Experience – Second Grade:

I am excited to be back at Rock Creek and I am thrilled to be teaching second grade again. I continue to learn from my students and fellow staff members every day. I am currently pursuing my Master's degree. When I am not doing school related activities, I am reading or spending time with friends and family. I also have a fun and energetic three year old son that I try and keep up with!

Kristin Hawkins – 12 Years Experience – Fourth Grade:

I live in the O’Fallon area with my two children, Amanda and Adam. As a Fort Zumwalt graduate, I am honored to have the privilege of teaching the youth of today. I believe all children have the desire to learn, and my goal is to help children achieve their potential.

Jean Hedden - 23 Years Experience – Kindergarten:

My husband and I live in O’Fallon. We have two children who have graduated from the Fort Zumwalt School District. My family and I enjoy traveling, camping and outdoor activities. I have had the joy of teaching third grade, first grade, kindergarten, and preschool aged children. It is a great privilege and honor to have a child in their first year of school and create a positive and rewarding experience for the whole family.

Angela Henderson-First Year-Fifth Grade

I am so happy to be a part of Rock Creek. I am teaching with Tania Farran in a fifth grade class this year. She takes the morning and I have the afternoon. I graduated from Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis. I student-taught in the Fort Zumwalt School District, so I am very excited to be an educator here! My husband and I like to go camping and kayaking. I like to read, paint, watch movies, and scrapbook during my free time.

Christina Hogan – 7 Years Experience – Third Grade:

Since a young age, I have always wanted to be a teacher. I feel very fortunate to be teaching for such a great district and the one I graduated from. I love teaching third graders. I feel it is an important transition year for them and I love watching them grow and achieve new things. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends watching sports, scrapbooking, and playing games. It has always been my dream to be a teacher in the Ft. Zumwalt School District. I attended Ft. Zumwalt schools from 2nd grade through to my graduation from South High School. For the last 6 years, I have been teaching 3rd grade, I am very excited about teaching at Rock Creek! I look forward to working with my colleagues to make this year a successful one for myself and all my students. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my husband and daughter, usually watching sports (GO RAMS AND CARDINALS)!

Barb Hombs – 9 Years Experience – Fourth Grade:

I love teaching at Rock Creek! I am married and have six children (yours, mine and ours and only one is still at home) twelve grandchildren, and live in St. Peters. I enjoy reading biographies, watching Cardinal baseball and old musicals, car shows and writing children’s stories (none published yet). I received my Bachelor’s degree at Lindenwood University and completed my Master’s in Educational Administration.

Chris Huntsman – 7 Years Experience – Third Grade:

I am so excited to be a teacher at Rock Creek! I am a graduate of Fort Zumwalt South, so I know that I am in a wonderful district. This is my seventh year teaching and my second year at Rock Creek. I live in O'Fallon with my husband and daughter. I LOVE Cardinals baseball!!!

Jeanne Hutson – 14 Years Experience – Counselor

How fortunate I am to have the opportunity to spend part of each week at Rock Creek! This is my first year as a guidance counselor, having spent the last 13 years teaching post-secondary and secondary mathematics, most currently at FZ West High! Rock Creek counselor, Mrs. Baker, served as my mentor in preparing for this most wonderful profession. The excitement for education and the love of learning at RC is contagious. It is my goal to help each student catch it!

Keith Jennings – 10 Years Experience – Art:

I am one of the Art Teachers at Rock Creek Elementary. I am starting my eighth year. I have my Master's degree from Lindenwood University. I am very excited to work with the staff and students again and have another great year. The students will be given a chance to learn more about the arts while creating awesome artwork themselves.

Carri Kern – 9 Years Experience – Kindergarten:

This year the children will complete one of the most important milestones in their lives – the first year of school! I am looking forward to working with the children and helping them achieve their full potential.

Mary Martin – 24 Years Experience – Title I Reading:

I have been teaching at Rock Creek for twelve years. This is an exceptional school with a terrific team of parents, students, and teachers. My goal is to help students enjoy reading and become life-long readers. I'm married and have 3 daughters. I enjoy reading, gardening, and spending time with my family.

April Maher – 11 Years Experience – Third Grade

Hello! My name is April Maher, and I am very excited to be teaching at rock Creek Elementary this year. I have taught Third Grade in the Fort Zumwalt School District for the past six years at Mount Hope elementary. I previously taught Second Grade for four years in my hometown in central Illinois. I graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and one in Elementary Education. I am currently working on my master's Degree in Library Media Instruction. My husband and I have been married for 10 wonderful years! We moved to the St. Louis area to be closer to family. Most of our time we spend together watching reality TV. shows, eating out, reading, and hanging out with our friends and families!

Deanne McCullough – 18 Years Experience – Principal:

I feel very fortunate to be a part of such an outstanding group of professionals at Rock Creek Elementary. We continue to strive to provide the best education possible for our entire student body. The community atmosphere, high expectations and parental involvement here will strengthen student achievement. My past experiences include teaching third through fifth grades and high school Special Education. My husband, one of my sons and daughter live in the O'Fallon area and are involved in many school and sporting events. My oldest son is attending Kansas University, majoring in Architectural/Engineering.

Jeannine Mincher – 16 Years Experience – Library Media Specialist:

This is my 7th year at Rock Creek Elementary. What a great place to work and learn! I live in the Fort Zumwalt School District with my husband and my four children. I previously taught third grade for ten years in the Hazelwood School District, and then I taught fifth grade for four years here at Rock Creek. I earned my Bachelor's Degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and my Master's Degree is from SIU-Edwardsville. I consider myself a lifelong learner and an avid reader. I am very excited to be working in the library where I have a chance to meet all of the students and share my love of reading and books. I enjoy co-sponsoring the Rock Creek Book club and attending 5th Grade camp. I hope to instill a love of learning and reading in the students at Rock Creek.

Diane Monahan – 13 Years Experience – Fifth Grade:

This is my sixth year here at Rock Creek. I am very excited about teaching fifth grade. I had five years experience in another school before moving to O'Fallon. I have my Master's Degree from Truman State University. I have three children, Patrick, age 11, Meaghan, age 9, and Ryan, age 5. I love playing softball and volleyball, and I enjoy reading and travel. I help with the computer lab and computer club.

Debbie Mueller – 20 Years Experience - Administrative Assistant

My name is Mrs. Debbie Mueller. This is my 20th year working within the Fort Zumwalt School District. I have taught kindergarten, first, second and third grade. This is my second year as the Administrative Assistant at Rock Creek Elementary School. I am so very excited to have been given the opportunity to work with your children. When I am not at school, I enjoy gardening and spending time with my husband and three children.

Lisa Mueller – 12 Years Experience – Fourth Grade:

I enjoy teaching because I believe that all children can learn. By actively working as a team, parents, teachers, and children can achieve anything possible. I hope to use my Master's Degree in Computer Science in Education to enrich the lives of children. I believe that in an age of technology, students can employ new technologies and innovations to reach new heights. My husband, Scott, my two children, and I live in O'Fallon, and are excited to be a part of the Fort Zumwalt School District.

Cindy Myers – 13 Years Experience – Third Grade:

I am very happy to have the opportunity to teach at Rock Creek. I have spent the past 19 years in the Fort Zumwalt School District. I have worked in the early childhood department as a Parent Educator and have taught first grade. I am presently in my 12th year of teaching third grade. I have my Master's degree in Gifted Education from Lindenwood University. I truly enjoy working with children each and every day! I live in the district with my husband and three children. During my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

Ruth Nahmensen – 11 Years Experience – Fifth Grade:

This is my seventh year in the Fort Zumwalt School District and at Rock Creek Elementary School. I have taught a variety of grade levels, enjoying the uniqueness each one brings. It is my belief that every student has the ability to learn and grow. I make it my goal to help every one of my students achieve some successful experiences in school. This helps them to believe in themselves and blossom into better students.

Caryl O'Hearn – 15 Years Experience – Third Grade:

The past 15 years I have been fulfilling my childhood dream of being a teacher. As it turns out all my years have been in third grade. My love of children and learning are why I enjoy teaching. My goal is to have every child in my room experience the success of learning and have a sense of pride in accomplishing a task that may have involved taking a risk and working hard to reach the end goal. I completed my Masters degree in Elementary Education three years ago. I have a wonderful husband of 28 years and two sons aged 22 and 24. I enjoy reading, nature, shopping, Cardinals baseball, and spending time with family and friends. I look forward to a great 2007-2008 school year!

Vandana Patel – 3 Years Experience – Resource Teacher

I am very proud to have become a part of Rock Creek Elementary! It is wonderfully enjoying being in an environment with such caring and dedicated staff. I believe in creating opportunities where each child can be successful with their learning. During my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, reading, and traveling.

Wendy Pinkley - 8 Years Experience – Music:

I am so excited to be starting my 8th year at Rock Creek. The musical talent in this building is outstanding! Through different styles of music, activities, and movement; I hope to expand the students knowledge of music, as well as, sharing my joy and love of music.

Stacy Reynolds – 2 Years Experience – Second Grade:

I fulfilled a life long dream in December 2005 when I graduated from Lindenwood University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Now I live that dream everyday here at Rock Creek. I am so proud to be a part of a school family where all staff members are truly committed to the success of each student. When I'm not at

school, I enjoy reading, baking and spending time with my husband, Matt, and our two teenage boys.

Debbie Schimweg – 18 Years Experience – First Grade:

I love teaching first graders! It amazes me to see the amount of academic and social growth in just one school year. When not at school, my husband and I can be found watching our two sons at various sporting events. I also enjoy traveling, gardening and reading.

Alicia Soller - 10 Years Experience – Music:

I have enjoyed 10 musical years of teaching the incredible students of Rock Creek Elementary. It is always exciting to work with the children on learning how to read and play music, as well as, working together on concerts and programs. In addition to teaching music K-5, I have the pleasure of sponsoring our 3rd and 4th grade choir, “The Rocketunes”. I earned my Bachelor Degree in Music Education from Central Missouri State University and my Master’s Degree in Teaching from Lindenwood University. My husband and I live in St. Louis with our daughter Emma and our dog Molly.

Anne Soloman – 23 Years Experience – Fifth Grade:

I really enjoy teaching intermediate students. Fifth grade is an especially interesting and busy year with lots of learning and special activities. Away from school I love traveling with my husband and three children, reading, and doing cross-stitch projects. I’m looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Greg Soloman – 26 Years Experience – Fourth Grade:

My goal is to create a stimulating and motivating classroom environment using hands-on activities and cooperative learning. I enjoy the outdoors, and am active in the district Outdoor Education Program, as well as, being the K-5 Science Curriculum Coordinator. Traveling with my wife and children is one of my favorite out of school activities.

Sarah Spakowski – 8 Years Experience – Learning Resource Teacher:

I enjoy working with my students in small groups and getting to know their personalities in addition to their unique learning styles. I believe that a positive attitude and reinforcement can help any student soar to new heights. The students and staff make Rock Creek a place like no other. I enjoy everyday I am at school and learn so much from my students. I love creating life long learners each and every day.

Laura Thorp – 19 Years Experience – Second Grade:

Since I was a young girl, I knew that I would be an elementary school teacher. I love my job here at Rock Creek! It is a privilege to get to see the “light bulbs” of learning go on in my students’ minds. There is no feeling quite like it! My husband, children and I love to go camping, bowling, and play games. I have my Master’s Degree in Elementary Education. I look forward to working with the students at Rock Creek. The children grow so much during second grade.

Ruth Williams – 32 Years Experience – Physical Education:

I feel fortunate to teach at Rock Creek and spend my day with great teachers, staff and students. I graduated from Northwest Missouri State University and received my Masters from Lindenwood University. My husband and I live in St Charles. We enjoy traveling and spending time with our two grown children. I love teaching physical education and try to provide opportunities for each child to feel successful as they grow and learn.

Jennifer Wilson – 7 Years Experience – Speech/Language Pathologist:

It has been rewarding to work in the Fort Zumwalt School District. Though I work both at Rock Creek and at North High, I feel I have developed solid relationships with my students. I know if a problem arises, we can work together as a team to solve it. I hope I have many years to enjoy in the Fort Zumwalt School District.

Maggie Wilson – 19 Years Experience – Speech/Language Pathologist:

I have been working for the Fort Zumwalt School District in the Communication Disorder field. I have greatly enjoyed working with children with a great variety of needs and gifts. In my class talking is therapeutic!

Rebecca Wolverton – 4 Years Experience – Learning Resource Teacher:

When it comes to teaching, it's all about the kids. I always say that I wouldn't be here if it weren't for your children. They are the motivating force that keeps us all working together, so that our future generations can be proud and successful. Teaching is about helping students learn how to become independent and caring people. I greatly enjoy having the opportunity to work with you and your children at such a wonderful school. When I'm not in school, I enjoy singing in my church choir, and spending time with close friends and family.

Mary Beth Zoellner - 16 Years Experience – Fourth Grade:

It is my goal to provide my students with a variety of learning experiences to prepare them for the future. My past experiences include teaching fifth grade for nine years, and serving as a Reading Specialist for three years. I earned my Master's Degree in Elementary Education with Special Reading Certification from SIU –E. I am thrilled to be a part of the Rock Creek Community. My husband and I have two children, and we live in the O'Fallon area.